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Four-day public mourning declared

The Amiri Diwan announces a period of public mourning in Qatar for HH the late Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani for a period of four days, commencing Sunday, July 12, 2026. Work will be suspended in all ministries, government agencies, and public institutions starting Monday, July 13, 2026, with employees resuming work on Sunday, July 19, 2026. Flags will be flown at half-mast throughout.

Amir bids farewell to Father Amir

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani participated in the funeral procession for the forgiven, by Allah's will, HH the late Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, may Allah have mercy on him, at Lusail Cemetery yesterday.

Also attending the funeral procession were HH the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani; HE Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad al-Thani; HH Personal Representative of the Amir Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani; HE Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Khalifa al-Thani; His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Thani; His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al-Thani; HE Sheikh Jassim bin Khalifa al-Thani; HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani; HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem; Their Excellencies the sons of the HH the late Father Amir; Their Excellencies Sheikhs and Ministers; senior officials; dignitaries; a number of members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the State; and a large crowd of citizens. May Allah encompass HH the late Father Amir with His boundless mercy and forgiveness and grant him a place in His spacious Paradise. (QNA)

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and all of them performed the funeral prayer at the Imam Muhammed ibn Abd Al Wahhab Mosque. (QNA)



Many countries declare official mourning

Grief over the passing of HH the late Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani swept across the Arab world and beyond yesterday, as fraternal states and friendly nations declared official mourning and ordered flags lowered to half-mast in tribute to the leader who reshaped Qatar and left a lasting imprint on the region.

Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain,

World leaders react
→ **Page 78**

Architect of modern Qatar
→ **Page 81**

Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and India were among those announcing mourning periods, with several extending the gesture to their embassies and dip-

lomatic missions abroad.

In Kuwait, the Amir Diwan said the Amir Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah had ordered four days of official mourning and flags flown at half-mast throughout the period. The Diwan prayed that Allah Almighty bestow His mercy and forgiveness upon the late Father Amir and reward him abundantly for his enduring contributions to his nation. **To Page 77**

A nation's father



From Editor-in-Chief Faisal al-Mudahka, the management, and staff of the *Gulf Times*

With hearts heavy with grief, we offer our deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani; HH the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani; HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser; HH Sheikh Mishaal bin Hamad al-Thani, HH Sheikh Fahad bin Hamad al-Thani, HH Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, HH Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad al-Thani, HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, HH Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad al-Thani, HH Sheikh Thani bin Hamad al-Thani, HH Sheikh al-Qaqa bin Hamad al-Thani, and to the ruling family and the noble people of Qatar in this immense loss.

This bereavement belongs to all of us, and it cuts deep, for we have lost the father of us all: our beloved Sheikh Hamad. He was a father to me, as he was to every Qatari. He lifted the standing of every citizen of this country. **To Page 77**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ اجْرِعِي إِلَىٰ بَيْتِي رَاضِيَةً مُّقْتَصِدَةً وَأَعِزِّي لِعِبَادِي وَأُخَيَّاتِي

We extend our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to

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on the passing of the great leader,

His Highness
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Father Amir

May Allah have mercy upon the deceased and grant him a place in his spacious paradise.

اَنَا اَللّٰهُ قُلْنَا اِلَیْهِ رَاجِعُوْنَ

Farewell, Our Beloved Father Amir

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ



HH the Father Amir
Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani
(1952 — 2026)



A lifetime of service: The enduring legacy of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani



Amir HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and his wife HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser hold a replica of the World Cup trophy he received from FIFA president Sepp Blatter (unseen) after the announcement that Qatar will be the host nation for the FIFA World Cup 2022, in Zurich. **(Reuters/File Photo)**



Amir HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani (right) and HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, consort of the Amir, wave to eventing medal winners as they depart the arena at the 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, on December 8, 2006. **(Reuters/File Photo)**



Heir apparent HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani is greeted by Lord Hesketh, representing Queen Elizabeth II, on his arrival for an official visit at Heathrow Airport in London, Britain, on March 20, 1988. **(Reuters/File Photo)**



Amir HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani (right) stands next to his son Heir Apparent His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani before the Amir Cup final match between Al Sadd and Al Rayyan at Khalifa stadium in Doha, on May 18, 2013. **(Reuters/File Photo)**



Palestinian President Yasser Arafat receives Amir HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani during the first visit of a Gulf Arab head of state to self-ruled Gaza Strip on August 8, 1999. **(Reuters/File Photo)**



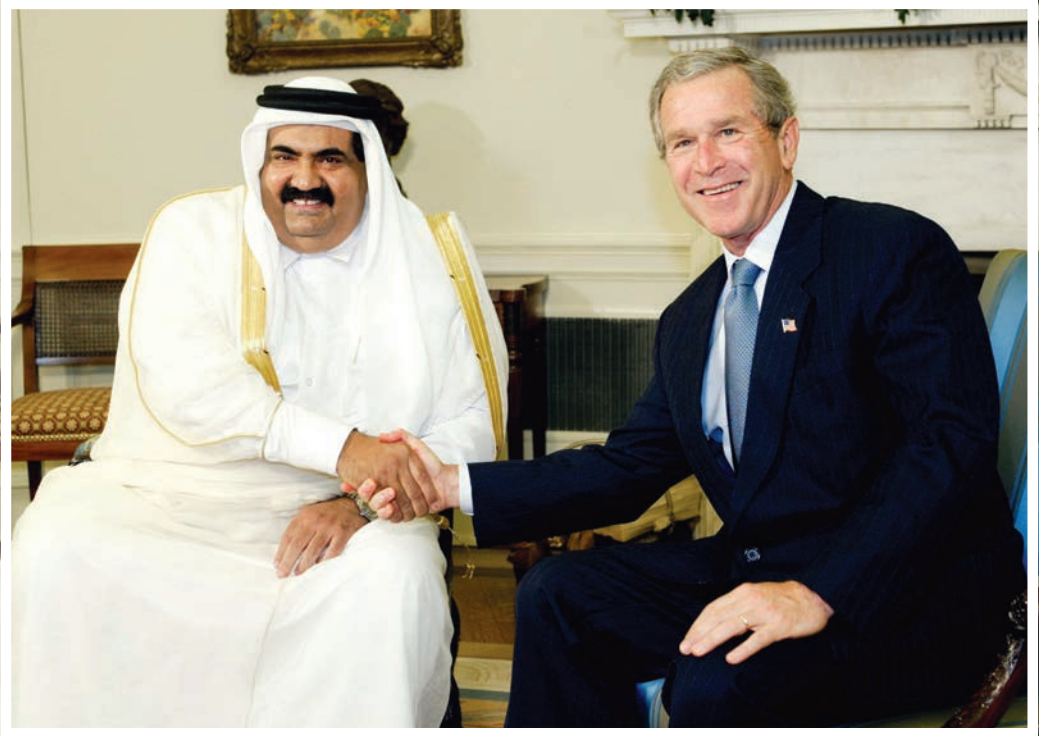
US President Barack Obama and Amir HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani at their bilateral meeting in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on April 23, 2013. **(AFP/File Photo)**



Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh (right) greets HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani during the Arab summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on March 29, 2007. **(Reuters/File Photo)**



US Secretary of State John Kerry (right) shakes hands with Amir HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani during a meeting at Wajbah Palace in Doha, on June 23, 2013. **(AFP/File Photo)**



US President George W Bush shakes hands with Amir HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani in the Oval Office of the White House, Washington, DC, on May 8, 2003. **(Reuters/File Photo)**



EXCLUSIVE FROM THE *GULF TIMES* ARCHIVES



Leader of Qatar’s Modern Renaissance

Key milestones in the life of HH the Father Amir

During the reign of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Qatar witnessed a remarkable transformation in its economy and energy sector, with the North Field driving a major expansion in natural gas production.

1995

Established the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development by Amiri decree.

1996

Began exporting natural gas from the North Field.

1996

Founded Al Jazeera television channel, opening new horizons for freedom of opinion and expression.

1996

Held the first elections for the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

1999

Conducted the first Municipal Council elections in March.

2001

Established the Supreme Council for Economic Affairs and Investment and assumed its chairmanship.

2004

On 8 June, Qatar issued its first permanent Constitution.

2006

Qatar became the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

2010

Qatar's LNG production capacity reached 77 million tonnes per year.

2010

Qatar won the bid to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup.



Under the leadership of His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Qatar's foreign policy achieved numerous accomplishments by the grace of God.

1996

In April, the Qatari Committee for the Rescue of Jerusalem was established to support Jerusalem and the Palestinian cause.

2005

Qatar was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for a two-year term.

100

Qatar provided a US\$100 million grant to the United States following Hurricane Katrina.

Mediation in Afghanistan

Qatar hosted and sponsored talks between the Taliban movement in Afghanistan and the United States.

2008

Qatar successfully brokered the Lebanese national reconciliation, resulting in the Doha Agreement.

2010

Qatar sponsored the peace agreement signed between the Republic of Djibouti and the State of Eritrea.

2011

The Doha Document for Peace in Darfur was signed following more than two years of Qatari mediation.

Successful Mediation

His Highness led mediation efforts that helped resolve the dispute between Sudan and Eritrea.

2011 – 2012

Qatar assumed the Presidency of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

2012

His Highness became the first head of state to visit Gaza while it was under blockade.

2012

The Doha Declaration was signed, achieving reconciliation among Palestinian factions.

2013

His Highness chaired the 24th Ordinary Session of the Arab League Summit, hosted by the State of Qatar.



During the reign of HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Qatar witnessed unprecedented economic, cultural, and civilizational growth and openness.

1995

He assumed leadership of the country and launched a broad agenda of developmental and reform programs.

2013

He announced the transfer of power to the Heir Apparent, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.

1977

On 31 May, the late Sheikh was appointed Heir Apparent and Minister of Defense.

1989

On 10 May, he became Chairman of the Supreme Planning Council.

Military Career

He joined the Qatari Armed Forces and rose through the military ranks until attaining the rank of Major General.

He played

a pivotal role in the development and modernization of the Qatari Armed Forces.

1952

Born in January 1952 in Doha.

1971

Graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the United Kingdom.

Honors

His Highness the Father Amir received numerous decorations and honors from Arab and foreign countries.

Under the leadership of His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Qatar placed great emphasis on developing and strengthening its healthcare sector.

By 2012, Qatar had 13 hospitals, up from just 4 in 1998.

2005

Construction began on Hamad International Airport.

2004

Sidra Medicine and Research Center project launched.

2010

Laid the foundation stone for the Msheireb Downtown Doha project.

2007

Approved the launch of the New Doha Port project.

2011

Introduced the comprehensive national health insurance system for Qatari citizens.

2011

Established the committee to oversee the implementation of the Qatar Rail project.

2011

Opened the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), one of the largest convention centers in the Middle East.

The value added of the hydrocarbon sector reached QAR 403 billion, up from QAR 11 billion

Qatar's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by more than 24 times, while GDP per capita rose by six times.



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فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي“
صدق الله العظيم

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and

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

and the honorable members of the Al Thani family
and the people of Qatar

on the passing of the Great leader,

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

May Allah have mercy upon the deceased and grant
him a place in His spacious Paradise.

The Chairman and members of the Board of Directors,
the Group Chief Executive Officer, and all employees of QNB Group.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم ((يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي)) صدق الله العظيم

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"إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ"

**The Chairman, Board of Directors, Group Chief Executive Officer
and all employees of Commercial Bank**

**البنك التجاري
COMMERCIAL
BANK**





بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
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Chairman, Board of Directors,
Group Chief Executive Officer and all employees of
Qatar Islamic Bank



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ إِنَّهُمُ رَضُوا بِمَوْلَانَا عِمَارٍ وَآلِهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ
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talabat



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قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy

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The Board of Trustees and Staff of the
Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah International Foundation
for Energy and Sustainable Development

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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The Board Members, Chief Executive Officer,
and all employees of



غزال
Gasal

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HBK
Contracting Company

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Chairman, Board of Directors,
 Acting Chief Executive Officer and all employees of
QInvest

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ إِنَّ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَالْأَئِمَّةَ وَالْمُرْتَدِّينَ وَالْخَالِئِينَ مِنَ الْمَرْغَبَاتِ وَالْمَرْغُوبَاتِ وَالْأَرْوَاحَ وَالْجَسَدَاتِ وَالْأَعْيُنَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ وَالْأَلْسِنَةَ وَالْأُذُنَ وَالْأَيْدِيَ وَالْأَرْجُلَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ وَالْأَلْسِنَةَ وَالْأُذُنَ وَالْأَيْدِيَ وَالْأَرْجُلَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ وَالْأَلْسِنَةَ وَالْأُذُنَ وَالْأَيْدِيَ وَالْأَرْجُلَ

صدق الله العظيم

CONDOLENCES

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His Highness

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Amir of the State of Qatar

and to

His Highness

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani

Deputy Amir

And to the honorable members of the Al Thani family
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on the sad demise of the nation's leader

His Highness

Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani

Father Amir

May Allah envelop the deceased in His vast mercy and
grant him a place in His spacious Paradise

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ





يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الطَّيِّبَةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ الرَّحِيمِ وَتَغَاوِي عِبَادِي وَالْأَعْيُنُ حَنِينُ

صَلَاةُ اللَّهِ الْعَظِيمَةِ

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QATAR ALUMINIUM LIMITED



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيَّتُهَا النَّفْسُ الطَّيِّبَةُ اجْعِي إِلَىٰ بَلَدِ ضَيْتَةٍ مُضَيَّةٍ فَأَخْلِي عَمَّا وَارَخَلِي جَنَّتِي
صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْخَطِيرَ

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ExxonMobil

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
((يَا أَيَّتُهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي))
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شركة قطر للكيماويات المحدودة
QATAR CHEMICAL COMPANY LTD



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيَّتُهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي
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ناقلات NAKILAT

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ إِنَّهُمُ رَضِيَ عَنْهُمْ فِي عِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِمْ
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يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفِيرُ الطَّيِّبُ اجْعَلِي إِلَى بَرٍّ أَوْ صَبْرٍ أَوْ حِلٍّ فِي عِبَادِكُمْ وَأَجْنَابِكُمْ

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يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ إِنَّ فِي رَأْسِ الْبَيْتِ رَأْسُكُمْ رَأْسُكُمْ فَارْتَدُّوا فِي عِيَارِي وَالْأَيْمَانِ حَمْدِي

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قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy
LNG



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

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شركة قطر للإضافات البترولية المحدودة
QATAR FUEL ADDITIVES COMPANY LIMITED

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ إِنَّ فِي رَأْسِ الْبَيْتِ الرَّسْمِ مِنْكُمْ خَيْرٌ مِنْ عِبَادِي وَالْأَيْمَانِ حَمْدِي

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اللجنة العليا
للمشاريع والبرث
Supreme Committee
for Delivery & Legacy





يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّكَ رَجَعْتَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

صَلَّىٰ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ

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المشرق mashreq

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمَطْمَئِنَّةُ اجْعِي إِلَى بَرِّئِ رَأْسِيَّةٍ صَبِيَّةٍ مَبْرُوءَةٍ فِي عِبَادِكُمْ وَاجْنَلِي

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EMBASSY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN
AND
THE PAKISTANI COMMUNITY IN QATAR

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
((يَا أَيَّتُهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي))
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MAHA CAPITAL PARTNERS

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ إِنَّ فِي رَأْسِ الْبَيْتِ الرَّسْمِ مِنْكُمْ تَفَارِقَ تَحْمِلُونَ فِي عِيَارِي وَالْأَيْمَانِ حَمْدِي

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ConocoPhillips



يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الطَّيِّبَةُ رَحِمَكَ اللَّهُ رَبُّكَ الرَّسْمُ خَيْرٌ مِنْ عِبَادِي وَالْإِيمَانُ خَيْرٌ مِنْ

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**Saad bin Khalaf bin Hattab Al Kaabi, Chairman
and all employees of**



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
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TotalEnergies

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Board of Directors, Executive Team, and all employees of Dukhan Petroleum Group of Industries



Dupco

مجموعة مصانع دخان للبترول
Dukhan Petroleum Group of Industries

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
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"إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ"

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمَطْمَئِنَّةُ اجْعِي إِلَىٰ بَرِّكَ أَمِيرِنَا وَرَحْمَتِهِ عِلِّيَّ عِبَادِكُمْ وَأَرْجَائِي

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and

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CEO and all employees

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
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**Weill Cornell
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
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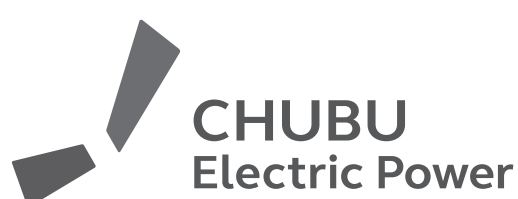
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Tel: +974 4483 6680 / 4483 6830 Fax: +974 4483 4841
Head Office: 1, Higashi-shincho, Higashi-ku, Nagoya, 461-8680, Japan

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mitsui & co.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

((يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي))

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الطَّيِّبَةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ الرَّحِيمِ وَتَعْلَمِينَ عِيَارِيَّ وَالْأَيْمَنِيَّ عَمْدِيَّ

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ﴿ يَا أَيَّتُهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَأَدْخُلِي جَنَّتِي ﴾

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دوحة فستيفال سيتي
Doha Festival City





يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّكَ رَأْسُ الْفِرْقَةِ الْخَالِدَةِ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَفِي السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالْأَرْضِ

صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

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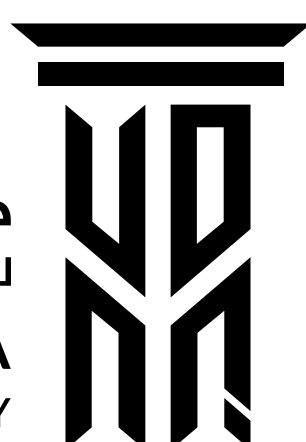
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جامعة الدوحة
للعلوم والتكنولوجيا
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
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شركة شيفرون فيليبس للكيماويات
Chevron Phillips Chemical

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يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الطَّيِّبَةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ الرَّحِيمِ وَتَعْلَمِينَ عِيَارِي وَآلِيَهَا عَمْدِي

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The Chairman of the Board of Directors, the
Chief Executive Officer, and all employees

أريـان
ARIANE





يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الطَّيِّبَةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ الرَّحِيمِ وَتُخْلِينِي عِيَارِي وَلَا تَغِيْبِي جَنَّتِي

صَلِّ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْعَظِيمِ

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يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ إِنَّ فِي رَأْسِ الْبَيْتِ رَأْسُكُمْ رَأْسُكُمْ وَفِي رَأْسِ الْبَيْتِ رَأْسُكُمْ وَفِي رَأْسِ الْبَيْتِ رَأْسُكُمْ

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يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ إِنَّ فِي رَأْسِ الْبَيْتِ الرَّسْمِ مِنْكُمْ تَغَارُ حَمَلُونا بِعِيَارِ وَالِدِنَا عَمِيدٍ
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Chairman, Board of Directors and all employees of
Qatar Navigation Q.P.S.C "Milaha"

@Qatarnavigation



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
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Shiekh Mohd Hamad A M Al-Thani

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Ocean Basket


Nando's

ORYX
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يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُرْتَبَةُ بِرَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِلَى رَبِّهِ الرَّحِيمِ رُفِعَ رُفْعًا عَظِيمًا وَنُفِصَ نَفِصًا عَظِيمًا

صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمَ

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يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ إِنَّ فِي رَأْسِ الْوَيْسِمْ رَسْمًا تَعْلَمُونَ مِنْ عِبَارَةِ وَالِدِي عَمِّي

صدق الله العظيم

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to

His Highness

Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani

Amir of the State of Qatar

and to

His Highness

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani

Deputy Amir

And to the honorable members of the Al Thani family
and the people of Qatar
on the sad demise of the nations great leader

His Highness

Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani

Father Amir

May Allah envelop the deceased in His vast mercy,
grant him a place in His spacious Paradise,
and bless his family and loved ones with patience and solace.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

Khalid bin Thani bin Abdullah Al Thani

Chairman of the Board

The members of the Board of Directors,
the Chief Executive Officer, and all employees

QIIB



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الإسلامي

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
((يَا أَيَّتُهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي))
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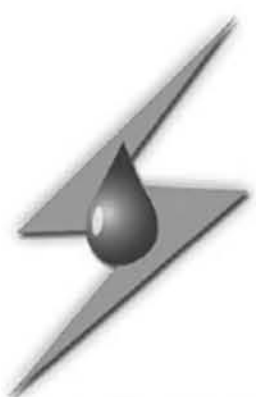
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani

Father Amir

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grant him a place in His spacious Paradise

((إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ))

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يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ إِنَّ فِي رَأْسِ الْوَقْدِ خَيْرًا وَمِنْ عِبَارَاتِ وَالِدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ
صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

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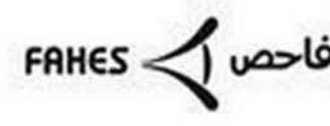
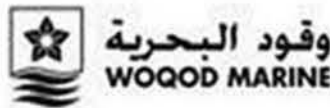
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
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QTERMINALS

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
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يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ! اطَّعُوا اللَّهَ وَاطَّعُوا رَسُولَهُ وَاعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاحْبِبُوا رَسُولَهُ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

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Bawabat Al-Shamal
Real Estate Company W.L.L.



**شركة بوابة الشمال
العقارية ذ.م.م.**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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"إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون"



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جامعة جورجيتاون قطر
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY QATAR

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Kent Group of Companies



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Jotun Paints Qatar

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Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

and the honorable members of the Al Thani family and the people of Qatar
on the passing of the great leader,

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

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"إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ"



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
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Amir of the State of Qatar

and

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Deputy Amir

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and bless his family and loved ones with patience and solace.

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Hassan Nasser Hussain Al Haji Al-Naimi (Chairperson)
Nasser Hassan Nasser Al Haji Al-Naimi (CEO)


RTAN
HOLDING

City
University
Qatar

Uster
University
Qatar

قطر سكيلز
QATAR SKILLS

مدرسة الصداقة البريطانية
DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL
SINCE 1997

ACES
Arabian Consulting and Educational Services

ميراج
MIRAGE

HAI
House of Architecture & Interiors

primepower

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POWER INTERNATIONAL
- H O L D I N G -

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ASSETS
GROUP

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يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمَطْمَئِنَّةُ اجْعِي إِلَى بَرِّكَ رَبِّكَ وَأَمْرٍ فَإِنَّ جَنَّتَ عِبَادُكَ وَأَنْ جَنَّتَ

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LARSEN & TOUBRO

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علي بن علي القابضة
Ali Bin Ali Holding



Minister receives copy of credentials of ambassadors from Korea, Hungary, Albania

HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi has received copies of the credentials of ambassadors Hong Ji-pyo (Republic of Korea), Ferenc Korom (Hungary) and Jeta Kreka (Albania). HE al-Muraikhi wished the envoys success in their duties, emphasising utmost support to enhance bilateral relations and foster closer co-operation in various fields. - **QNA**

Ministry suspends maritime activities

The Ministry of Transport (MoT), in a circular issued yesterday, called on all owners and users of marine vessels, including leisure boats, fishing boats, jet skis, and other similar marine craft, to temporarily suspend sailing and carrying out maritime activities, effective from the date of issuance of the circular until further notice, in the interest of public safety.

The ministry exempted vessels subject to international maritime conventions, which continue their

operations in accordance with regulations and procedures.

The MoT also urged everyone to fully comply with the circular, affirming that any updates will be announced in co-ordination with the competent authorities through official channels.

This temporary precautionary measure comes based on co-ordination with the relevant security authorities. - **QNA**

Qatar intercepts Iran missiles; three injured

The Qatari Armed Forces intercepted a number of ballistic missiles that targeted the state, the Ministry of Defence announced yesterday, as three people, including a child, were injured by falling debris from the interception operations.

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) confirmed the injuries, noting that those hurt are receiving the necessary medical care.

“As part of its continuous monitoring of developments on the ground, the Ministry of Interior confirms that security authorities and Civil Defence teams initiated their response procedures in accordance with the approved emergency plans following the Iranian attacks,” the ministry said in a statement.

It clarified that national public safety and emergency alerts are activated only when circumstances require the implementation of additional urgent precautionary measures to safeguard public safety.

The ministry urged the public

to obtain information solely from official sources and to refrain from circulating rumours or sharing unverified information, images or video clips, in order to avoid legal accountability.

The MoI’s competent security authorities continue to operate with full readiness around the clock, ensuring a rapid response, safeguarding the security and safety of the community, and maintaining the uninterrupted provision of services, the statement confirmed.

Qatar strongly condemned the renewed attacks launched by Iran against its territory, as well as the territories of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait, considering them a blatant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the targeted countries, and a flagrant breach of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and the principles of good neighbourliness.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed that the continuation of these attacks constitutes a dangerous escalation

that will complicate de-escalation efforts and undermine political and diplomatic endeavours aimed at achieving security and stability in the region.

Qatar held Iran fully and legally responsible for the attacks and their resulting repercussions and consequences.

The ministry emphasised that Qatar reserves its full right to respond, in accordance with the provisions of international law and Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and to take all necessary measures to protect its sovereignty, security, territorial integrity and citizens.

Qatar reiterated its full solidarity with the affected nations and its support for all legitimate measures they take to preserve their sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.

The ministry stressed the necessity of an immediate and complete cessation of all military actions and attacks that threaten the region’s security and stability. - **QNA**

GCC, Arab League, Arab Parliament, OIC slam repeated attacks by Iran

Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi has expressed his strongest condemnation and denunciation of Iran’s continued conduct that undermines the security and stability of the region, its repeated brutal targeting of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and Jordan, as well as its serious attacks on commercial vessels.

The GCC secretary-general said in a statement yesterday that Iran’s conduct constitutes a grave violation of the principles of international law, the United Nations Charter, and UN Security Council Resolution 2,817, and undermines the security and freedom of navigation.

He also noted that these repeated and brutal Iranian attacks not only obstruct efforts aimed at achieving security and stability in the region, but also reveal a systematic insistence on entrenching chaos, in blatant defiance of international law and the international will seeking to establish peace.

He affirmed that the GCC supports all measures taken by Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and Jordan to enhance their security, safeguard their sovereignty, and protect their people

and residents on their territories

The Arab League issued a similar statement.

Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Fahmy said the attacks were unjustifiable and stressed that the security of Arab states is indivisible.

He added that any violation of the sovereignty of an Arab country requires a united and decisive Arab response.

The Arab Parliament has similarly condemned the Iranian missile and drone attacks targeting Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, and Jordan.

Arab Parliament Speaker Mohammed bin Ahmed al-Yamahi said in a statement that the attacks represent a serious violation of the sovereignty of Arab states and a breach of international law and the UN Charter.

He reaffirmed the Arab Parliament’s full solidarity with the countries targeted by the attacks and its support for all measures they take to safeguard their sovereignty, protect their national security, and ensure the safety of their citizens and residents.

The Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) General Secretariat also issued a statement condemning the Iranian actions. - **QNA**

Iran’s targeting of Gulf states, Jordan widely condemned

The renewed Iranian missile and drone attacks targeting Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Jordan have been widely condemned.

Saudi Arabia’s ministry of foreign affairs expressed its strongest condemnation and denunciation of the continued Iranian attacks on the Gulf states, Jordan and commercial vessels, and reiterated its categorical rejection of Iran’s violation of the sovereignty of the sisterly states and its continued threat to the security and stability of the region.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) ministry of foreign affairs described the attacks as a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the targeted countries and a threat to their security and stability, and reaffirmed the UAE’s full solidarity with the affected countries and its support for all measures aimed

at safeguarding their security and preserving their stability.

Kuwait’s ministry of foreign affairs expressed the nation’s strong condemnation and denunciation of the Iranian attacks, and stressed that the continuation of these practices threatens the security and stability of the region.

Yemen’s ministry of foreign affairs said the Iranian attacks constitute a violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and the Charter of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC).

Jordan’s ministry of foreign affairs expressed its condemnation of the Iranian and affirmed Jordan’s absolute solidarity with the sisterly countries and its support for all measures they take to protect their sovereignty, security, and the safety of their citizens and residents.

Egypt’s ministry of foreign affairs also condemned the Iranian attacks, and affirmed the nation’s full solidarity with the sisterly Gulf states and its support for them in the face of anything that undermines their security and territorial integrity.

Lebanon’s Prime Minister Nawaf Salam said in a statement that Lebanon condemns the Iranian attacks on the Gulf states and Jordan, and reaffirmed his country’s full solidarity with Arab states and its continued support for them.

The State of Palestine expressed its condemnation and rejection of the Iranian attacks, and affirmed Palestine’s support and full solidarity with the targeted Arab countries in confronting the acts of aggression aimed at undermining the security, sovereignty and stability of the sisterly Arab states. - **QNA**

Pakistani PM due in Doha today to condole Father Amir’s passing

GT Report
Doha

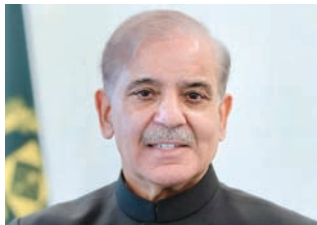
Pakistan’s Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif travels to Qatar today on a day-long official visit to convey condolences to the Qatari leadership over the passing of His Highness the late Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

Sources in the Prime Minister’s Office said the premier will meet His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani during the visit.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and other senior officials will accompany him.

The premier is also expected to discuss the fresh exchange of strikes between the US and Iran that has apparently undone months of painstaking diplomacy given that both Pakistan and Qatar have played important mediation roles.

The two countries had worked in tandem as the principal go-betweens in the US-Iran track, with Doha lending the diplomatic channels and regional trust it has long cultivated, and Islamabad leveraging its own lines to



Tehran, an effort that had underpinned the earlier de-escalation framework before the latest flare-up unravelled it.

The renewed hostilities lend the visit an added weight, coming as they do at a moment when the loss of HH the late Father Amir – himself an architect of Qatar’s tradition of quiet, patient mediation – is felt across a region already on edge.

Earlier yesterday, Sharif, President Asif Ali Zardari and Dar extended condolences to the royal family, HH the Amir, and the government and people of Qatar on behalf of the Pakistani government and nation.

“Deeply saddened by the passing away of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani,” the prime minister posted on X, remembering the former Amir as a great leader and statesman whose wisdom, foresight and

The Pakistani government also declared official mourning today. In an official statement, the government said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had declared a national day of mourning to express the fraternal solidarity of the government and people of Pakistan with the ruling family, the government, and the people of Qatar following this loss. The statement added that flags would be lowered to half-mast across the nation throughout the day of national mourning.

dedication to public service had transformed Qatar into a modern, prosperous and globally respected nation.

He said Pakistan would always cherish the late Amir’s warmth, kindness and deep affection for the country, and the fond memories of his many visits.

Dar recalled that HH Sheikh Hamad had played a pivotal role in Qatar’s modern development and in strengthening the bonds of friendship with Pakistan, describing his visionary leadership and contributions to regional peace as long to be remembered.

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M.E.S INDIAN SCHOOL
DOHA-QATAR





Father Amir's legacy 'a beacon for future generations'

Editors-in-chief and media leaders reviewed the journey of His Highness the late Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and the national renaissance he achieved for Qatar during his reign.

They also highlighted his leadership role at the Arab, regional and international levels.

They affirmed that the wise governance embodied by HH the late Father Amir throughout his achievement-filled national journey granted Qatar a regional standing with global presence, built on a strong economy, investment in people, advancement of education, attraction of major international events, and openness to knowledge and the best global experiences, turning Doha into one of the world's most important platforms for dialogue, mediation and peace-making.

Abdullah Talib al-Marri, editor-in-chief of *Al Raya* newspaper, said that the legacy left by HH the late Father Amir is a major turning point in the history of modern Qatar.

He said that HH the late Father Amir established a comprehensive national project that elevated the country to the ranks of the most influential states regionally and internationally through a far-reaching strategic vision that made Qatar a development model.

Speaking to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Marri said that HH the late Father Amir led a comprehensive renaissance during his reign.

He said this contributed to consolidating the concept of a modern state based on institutions and the rule of law, noting that the adoption of the Permanent Constitution represented a pivotal milestone that strengthened the path of good governance and institutional work.

Al-Marri added that one of the most prominent aspects of HH the late Father Amir's legacy was investment in people, stemming from his belief that true wealth lies in minds and capabilities.

This was embodied in the establishment of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, which became a global knowledge institution reflecting his vision of building a knowledge- and innovation-based economy and making people the



Mourners gather at the Imam Mohammed ibn Abd al-Wahhab Mosque for prayers after the announcement of the passing of His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. - AFP

focus and purpose of development.

He said that Qatar witnessed historic transformations during the reign of HH the late Father Amir, whose impact remains evident today.

Among the foremost was the major advancement of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) sector, as he adopted an ambitious vision to develop the North Field, strengthening Qatar's position as one of the world's leading energy powers and contributing to the creation of a strong economy that provided stability and prosperity for successive generations.

Al-Marri noted that the period also witnessed the launch of strategic projects to develop infrastructure, including ports, airports, road networks and modern facilities, in addition to elevating Qatar Airways to become one of the world's leading airlines, providing a strong foundation for continued comprehensive development.

He pointed out that the establishment of the Qatar Investment

Authority in 2005 represented a strategic milestone in the country's economic development.

It contributed, al-Marri said, to diversifying national income sources, enhancing economic sustainability and safeguarding the rights of future generations through high-quality sovereign investments around the world.

He affirmed that HH the late Father Amir's vision contributed to strengthening Qatar's international standing through the adoption of an independent and balanced foreign policy that made Doha a platform for dialogue, mediation and peace-making.

He said this helped bring closer the views of parties on many regional and international issues and enhanced Qatar's position as a trusted partner in supporting security and stability.

Al-Marri added that HH the late Father Amir recognised early on the importance of soft power in strengthening international presence.

He supported media, culture,

education and sports, launched the Al Jazeera network, and laid the foundations that paved the way for Qatar to win the right to host the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, a historic achievement for the Arab and Islamic worlds.

He also built an extensive network of political, economic and security partnerships with countries around the world.

Al-Marri said that the legacy of HH Sheikh Hamad represents a comprehensive model of strategic leadership and nation-building, emphasising that a clear vision, confidence in humanity, and decisive action are key drivers of major transformations.

He noted that Qatar's experience demonstrates that a nation's stature is defined by its vision, ambition, and ability to turn potential into tangible achievements.

Al-Marri added that HH the late Father Amir established a development model that balances the preservation of Arab and Islamic identity with openness to knowledge and global best practices.

He also embodied the principles of sustainable development through his historic decision to hand over the reins of power in 2013 to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, ensuring the continuity of Qatar's development journey and the advancement of its achievements.

Although HH the late Father Amir is no longer with us, al-Marri stated, his legacy remains deeply rooted in the state's institutions, projects, and accomplishments.

His name will continue to be associated, al-Marri added, with the modern renaissance that established Qatar as a strong, confident, and influential state regionally and internationally.

Qatar Press Centre (QPC) director-general Sadiq Mohammed al-Amari said that while all of Qatar's leaders have contributed greatly to the nation's development, His Highness Sheikh Hamad left a lasting legacy in Qatar's history, having played a pivotal role in strengthening Qatar's regional and international standing.

Al-Amari highlighted HH the late Father Amir's contributions to the media sector, particularly the decision to abolish the Ministry of Information, which expanded the space for media freedom and enabled the press to carry out its professional role in covering events and issues.

He also pointed to the launch of Al Jazeera in 1996 as a major milestone that transformed Arab and international media through its wide-reaching coverage and role in conveying the perspectives of Arab citizens, particularly during conflicts and crises.

He further highlighted HH the late Father Amir's support for the Gaza Strip and his historic visits there as the first Arab leader to do so.

Al-Amari also referred to Qatar's sporting achievements during HH the late Father Amir's era, including the establishment of sports media platforms that have gained millions of followers worldwide, as well as Qatar's successful bid to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup in 2010.

He noted that achievements across the scientific, educational, healthcare, social, and cultural sectors have contributed to Qatar's emergence as a leading nation globally.

Meanwhile, *Al-Watan* editor-in-chief Mohammad Hajji said that HH the late Father Amir elevated Qatar's position among the world's leading nations through major achievements across political, media, sports, health, social, and cultural fields.

He described HH the late Father Amir's legacy as an embodiment of visionary national leadership that transformed Qatar into a global hub and a source of pride for its people.

Hajji said that HH the late Father Amir strengthened Qatar's role in addressing global challenges by supporting humanitarian initiatives, providing aid, facilitating mediation efforts to resolve conflicts, and maintaining an active presence in international forums, helping establish Qatar as a trusted and respected global partner.

He added that HH the late Father Amir left a significant mark on history through his dedication to Qatar's progress and prosperity, guided by a vision and humanitarian approach that reached beyond the country's borders.

Hajji highlighted the growth of the LNG sector, which established Qatar as a leading energy producer, along with major advancements in urban development, infrastructure, and aviation.

He also praised HH the late Father Amir's contributions to the media sector, which helped position Qatar's media as an international platform, with Al Jazeera Network and sports media among its most prominent examples.

Hajji noted that the late leader recognised the significance of media as a form of soft power to promote humanitarian values and support important causes.

Education City and the world-renowned universities it hosts, he added, are a reflection of His Highness Sheikh Hamad's commitment that stemmed from the conviction that human capital is the cornerstone of countries' development.

Future generations will remember HH the late Father Amir for many years to come, Hajji said, having left his imprint across various sectors and his commitment to developmental, humanitarian, social, and cultural initiatives, establishing an unprecedented national model and firmly positioning the State of Qatar on the global stage.

Al Arab editor-in-chief Faleh al-Hajri said that HH the late Father Amir left behind a legacy that extended far beyond individual projects, encompassing the very building of the state itself.

During his reign, Qatar evolved from a promising nation into one with a global presence.

This legacy, al-Hajri said, continues to serve as the foundation of the Qatar of today.

Speaking to the QNA, al-Hajri pointed out that Qatar underwent a comprehensive transformation during the reign of HH the late Father Amir.

He said that the country modernised its infrastructure, it became the world's leading exporter of LNG, Qatar Foundation and Education City were founded, Al Jazeera was launched, the Permanent Constitution was adopted, and Qatar's successful bid to host the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 crowned a long-term strategic vision.

Al-Hajri noted that these transformations have become an integral part of everyday life in Qatar.

With regard to HH the late Father Amir's wise vision in enhancing Qatar's regional and international standing, al-Hajri said that HH Sheikh Hamad believed that a nation's influence is measured by its vision and role rather than its size.

Accordingly, HH the late Father Amir pursued a foreign policy based on dialogue, mediation, and openness, strengthening Qatar's role in regional and international affairs until Doha became a platform for dialogue and a hub for mediation efforts, enabling Qatar to attain an international stature that exceeded its geographical size.

The most important lesson future generations can draw from HH the late Father Amir's rich and distinguished experience in state building, al-Hajri stated, is that it begins with investing in people and that the most profound and enduring investment is that in education and knowledge.

He added that the experience of HH the late Father Amir demonstrates that long-term vision, bold decision-making, and confidence in the capabilities of the nation's people can propel countries to new horizons.

Al-Hajri concluded by recalling HH the late Father Amir's enduring words, which encapsulate this philosophy: remain steadfast in upholding what is right and stay true to the path, no matter how times and circumstances may change. - QNA



Public Announcement



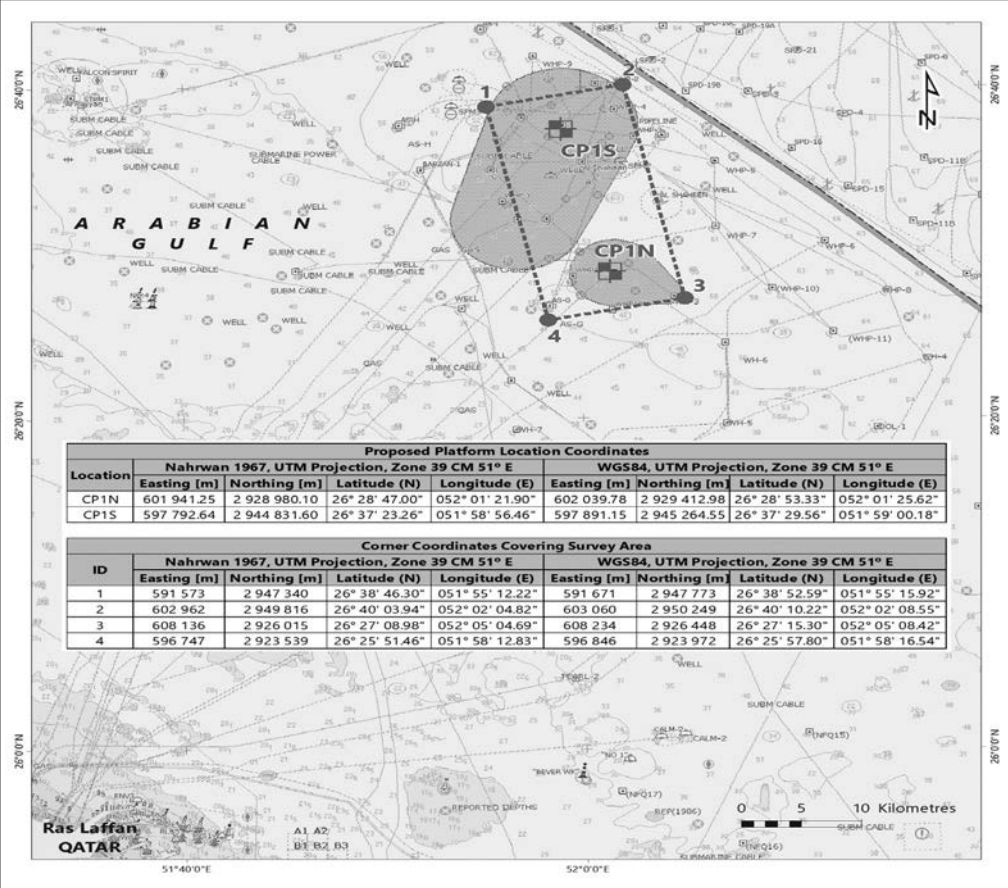
To all Ships, Fisherman, and Mariners
Subsea Survey Works Offshore in "North Field"
By the Vessel "Fugro Proteus"

Subsea Survey Works Offshore Qatar from
15th Jul 2026 to 31st Jul 2026

In pursuant and under directives from the Marine Safety Department, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners, and Fisherman that "QatarEnergy LNG" formerly known as Qatar Gas Operating Company Limited intends to undertake geophysical survey by the vessel "Fugro Proteus" in North Field locations, bound by the coordinates and location map shown below.

All Vessels, Mariners, and Fishermen are expected to keep clear of the survey locations during the operations.

QatarEnergy LNG takes no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to outside parties in association with this operation following the publication of this notice.



For more details contact 33033020



Invitation to Tender

Tender / Auction Number	Subject	Tender / Auction Document Fees (Non-refundable)	Tender / Auction Bond	Tender/Auction Offer	Closing Date
AL-AWALIA/TD/2026/24	Completion of remaining works for the two gabbro quarries and construction of an exporting jetty at Khatmat Milaha, sultanate of Oman ("Works")	3,000 QAR 308.66 OMR	10,000,000 QAR 1,028,880.68 OMR	Two Bids (Technical & Commercial)	20 July 2026 01:00 PM

In accordance with the following conditions:

- Tender Documents can be collected online by sending email to tender@qpmc.qa along with requested documents in point No.2.
- Tender Documents will be shared only after delivery of signed Expression of Interest and Deposit Slip Stamped by Commercial Bank along with Authorization Letter to the delegated person signed by authorized person as per Computer ID, Copy of commercial Registration (CR), Business License and Computer ID.
- Bids are to be submitted in two sealed (in red wax) envelopes (Technical & Commercial) and addressed to Tenders and Auction Committee, Tender reference number and subject are to be clearly written on the envelopes, provided that the last date for submitting bids is one o'clock in the afternoon on the closing day. Any bids submitted after this date and time will not be accepted.
- Tenderers shall submit the proposals to our head office located at Lusail, Building No. 108, St. No. 303, Burj Marina Tower, 17th Floor before the closing date. (To get the map of the new building, please scan the QR code below).
- Tender Fees are nonrefundable and can be transferred online to Account of Qatar Primary Material Company- Bank A/C (4050-651111-006) at Commercial Bank of Qatar IBAN No. (QA 18 CBQA 0000 4050 651111 006). Tender reference number and subject are to be written on the deposit slip.
- Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee/ Manager Cheque) must be valid for 120 days after closing date and must be submitted in separate & sealed envelope along with technical bid and a photocopy is to be attached with commercial bid. Bids without tender bond will be rejected.
- Bids must be valid for 90 days after the closing date.
- Any queries relating to the Tender Documents must only be raised in writing, preferably by email, to the address specified in the respective Tender Document. Any response issued by Qatar Primary Material Company will be in the form of a question and answer and will be distributed to all Tenderers without revealing the identity of the originator of the query(ies) in the Form of Tender Bulletins. Queries must be received at the address specified in the respective ITT Documentation at least five (5) calendar days prior to the Tender closing date. Any queries received after such a date will be ignored.
- The amount of the Performance Bond to be provided by the awarded bidder is (10% of the contract value) and its validity period must remain valid under the contract implementation period and the guarantee period according to the terms of the tender.
- The Technical Bids shall be opened within one week of the closing date.
- Qatar Primary Material Company has the right, during the contract period, to request an increase or decrease in the amounts of the items, works or services by a percentage not exceeding (20%) of the contract value with the same conditions and prices, provided that the increase is of the same type of contracted items, works or services.
- Qatar Primary Material Company's tendering terms and conditions apply.
- For any inquiries about the tender except collecting the documents, please contact tender@qpmc.qa
- Location of the new building



For further Inquiry, please send your queries at Fax Number: 44479559 or email to tender@qpmc.qa or visit Qatar Primary Material Company website @ www.qpmc.qa

شركة قطر للمواد الأولية (ش.م.خ.ق) مركزها الرئيسي: الدوحة - قطر، منطقة لوسيل، برج مارينا، رقم 303، 108 | هاتف: 4447 9411 | فاكس: 4447 9559 | بريد إلكتروني: tender@qpmc.qa | الموقع الإلكتروني: www.qpmc.qa | رأس المال المصرح به 200,000,000 ريال قطري | رأس المال المدفوع 200,000,000 ريال قطري | رأس المال المدفوع 200,000,000 ريال قطري | رأس المال المدفوع 200,000,000 ريال قطري



Shura Council, Qataris mourn Father Amir

Qatar has lost an exceptional leader and visionary figure with the passing of His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, a number of Shura Council members and Qatari citizens have said, highlighting his historic role in shaping the country's modern development and strengthening its position regionally and internationally.

They stressed that HH Sheikh Hamad's leadership marked a defining chapter in Qatar's history, during which the country witnessed comprehensive economic, social, cultural, and institutional transformation.

Members of the Shura Council noted that Qatar achieved a prominent position in the Arab and international arenas during the era of HH the late Father Amir, whose strategic vision laid the foundations for a modern state built on development, investment, and global engagement.

They noted that during his leadership, Qatar's gross domestic product (GDP) increased more than 24-fold, while GDP per capita rose nearly six times.

They also highlighted the major expansion of the hydrocarbon sector, with its added value increasing from QR11bn to QR403bn.

The Council members said that HH

Sheikh Hamad's era was characterised by broad economic, cultural, and social openness, transforming Qatar into a major destination for hosting political, economic, cultural, and scientific conferences.

They also pointed to the growth of Qatari diplomacy and its active role in mediation, conflict resolution, and supporting stability in various regions of the world.

They stressed that the achievements Qatar enjoys today are rooted in the vision established by HH the late Father Amir, a path that continues under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

Shura Council member and chairman of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, Mohamed bin Yousef al-Mana, extended his deepest condolences to HH the Amir, the Royal Family, and the Qatari people.

He described HH Sheikh Hamad as an exceptional leader whose historic vision brought about one of the greatest transformations in Qatar's modern history.

Al-Mana highlighted HH the late Father Amir's decision to invest heavily in the natural gas sector at a time when its future potential was not widely recognised, saying this strategic choice became one of

the foundations of Qatar's unprecedented economic growth.

He said HH Sheikh Hamad dedicated his life to serving his country and elevating its standing, leaving behind a national legacy that will remain present in the memory of Qatar and its people.

He also pointed to several major achievements during that period, including Qatar's successful bid to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup, making Qatar the first Arab and Muslim country to organise the global sporting event.

Meanwhile, Qatari citizens described HH the late Father Amir as a leader whose legacy would remain deeply embedded in the nation's history, noting that his 18-year leadership witnessed a period of rapid transformation and development.

They said HH Sheikh Hamad guided Qatar toward becoming one of the most advanced countries in the region through strategic investments in energy, infrastructure, education, healthcare, and public services.

They highlighted major national projects developed during his tenure, including modern road networks, bridges, tunnels, the Doha Metro, Hamad International Airport, and other infrastructure

initiatives that strengthened Qatar's global standing.

Citizens also recalled his close relationship with the people, describing him as a leader who was regarded with affection and respect, saying he was seen by many as "a brother to the elder and a father to the younger" because of his accessibility and dedication to serving the nation.

Former Shura Council member Abdullah bin Fahad bin Gharab al-Marri said HH the late Father Amir left a national and humanitarian legacy that would continue to influence Qatar and the wider region.

He praised HH Sheikh Hamad's role in supporting the Arab and Islamic causes, noting his contributions to humanitarian efforts and his positions on regional issues, including support for Palestine and other Arab causes.

Al-Marri highlighted several institutions and projects established during HH Sheikh Hamad's leadership, including investments in the natural gas industry, the creation of Qatar Investment Authority, the establishment of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, the launch of Al Jazeera Media Network, and the strengthening of Qatar's national carrier.

He said these initiatives played a significant role in building Qatar's global presence and creating institutions that continue to contribute to the country's development.

Qatari citizen Taleb Ali al-Mehanna al-Marri said HH Sheikh Hamad's achievements inside Qatar and across the Arab and Islamic worlds were too extensive to fully capture.

He stressed that HH the late Father Amir's leadership moved Qatar into a new phase of comprehensive development, supported by major strategic projects and the modernisation of national infrastructure.

He also highlighted HH Sheikh Hamad's humanitarian positions and support for Arab and Islamic causes, particularly the Palestinian cause and Al Quds Al Sharif, saying these commitments reflected Qatar's longstanding approach to regional issues.

Across official institutions and among citizens, HH Sheikh Hamad is being remembered as the architect of modern Qatar, a leader whose vision transformed the country's economic landscape, expanded its international role, and left a lasting legacy for future generations. – QNA

Many countries declare official mourning A nation's father

From Page 1

The UAE likewise declared four days of official mourning, with flags lowered nationwide and at all its embassies and missions abroad.

The Presidential Court said the mourning would run from Sunday through Wednesday, praying that Allah envelop the late Father Amir in His boundless mercy and grant him a place in Paradise.

Bahrain announced four days of mourning on the orders of King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, with flags at half-mast throughout, the Royal Court said.

Jordan declared four days of mourning from yesterday.

By order of King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein, the Royal Hashemite Court announced the period effective Sunday, July 12, praying that Allah

grant the deceased His vast mercy, admit him to Paradise, and inspire his family and the brotherly people of Qatar with patience and solace.

Lebanon declared four days of official mourning, from Sunday through Wednesday, ordering flags lowered on all government departments, public institutions and municipalities.

The cabinet said Prime Minister Nawaf Salam had issued a memorandum outlining the decision and amending the normal programming of radio and television stations to suit the solemn occasion, praying that Allah envelop the deceased in His boundless mercy and grant him eternal Paradise.

The Palestinian Presidency declared three days of mourning across the State of Palestine, beginning today, and ordered flags at official headquarters and institutions lowered to half-staff.

The Pakistani government also declared official mourning today.

In an official statement, the government said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had declared a national day of mourning to express the fraternal solidarity of the government and people of Pakistan with the ruling family, the government, and the people of Qatar following this loss.

The statement added that flags would be lowered to half-mast across the nation throughout the day of national mourning.

India announced that today would be observed as a day of official mourning.

The Ministry of External Affairs said flags would be flown at half-mast on all buildings where they are hoisted, and that official recreational events would be cancelled during the day.

From Page 1

He gave us education, and he laboured so that we might live the finest life any human being on this earth could hope to live.

We, the people of Qatar, were blessed in our Father Amir.

Today, my family and I, and every soul who calls this good land home, grieve together, for, we have lost a man the like of whom his age rarely produced.

He loved the Arab and Islamic peoples.

He stood beside the oppressed wherever they were, and gave his life to their defence.

He made Qatar a beacon of development and peace, and planted those values so deep that they became the bedrock of our homeland.

In his wisdom, he was father to us all; he treated us, always, as a father treats his own children.

May Allah shower His mercy upon the Father Amir, grant him the vastness of His paradise, and grant Qatar, its leadership and people, patience and solace.

ANNOUNCEMENT I, JOANNA GRACE DANY JONATH holder of India Passport No. V5289703 QID No. 31235603436 hereby change my name from JOANNA GRACE DANY JONATH to JOANNA GRACE DANY Any objection, please contact THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS within 15 days from the publication of this notice.	ANNOUNCEMENT I, KAREN EVANGELISTA FLORES holder of PHILIPPINES Passport No. P2264663D QID No. 28860813475 hereby change my name from KAREN EVANGELISTA FLORES to KAREN FLORES CAPPELLE Any objection, please contact THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS within 15 days from the publication of this notice.	ANNOUNCEMENT I, MD MAHMUDUL HASAN SHOHEL holder of BANGLADESH Passport No. A21532616 QID No. 29405027958 hereby change my name from MD MAHMUDUL HASAN SHOHEL to MAHMUDUL HASAN IDRIS MIAH Any objection, please contact THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS within 15 days from the publication of this notice.	ANNOUNCEMENT I, REZEL GRACE ALVAREZ VERGARA holder of PHILIPPINES Passport No. P6805829B QID No. 29360805201 hereby change my name from REZEL GRACE ALVAREZ VERGARA to REZEL GRACE VERGARA ALVAREZ Any objection, please contact THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS within 15 days from the publication of this notice.
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Embassies pay rich tributes in honour of Father Amir

Messages of condolence have continued to pour in from ambassadors and diplomatic missions in Doha following the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. Envoys from across the world paid tribute to his visionary leadership, enduring contributions to Qatar’s transformation, and his role in strengthening bilateral ties and promoting regional and international peace, while extending their deepest sympathies to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Royal Family, and the people of Qatar.

By Gulf Times Reporting Team
Doha

Turkiye

The ambassador of Türkiye to Qatar, Dr Mustafa Göksu, has conveyed his condolences, as well as those of the Turkish leadership and people, to Qatar, saying: “With hearts that submit to the will and decree of Almighty God, we received with profound sorrow the news of the passing of the HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, may Allah bestow His infinite mercy upon him, who passed away in Doha this morning, leaving behind an enduring legacy of achievement and nation-building, and a distinguished record among the world’s great statesmen.”

He noted that: “As we mourn today one of the greatest leaders of Qatar, the Islamic world, and the wider region, we remember a towering figure in contemporary history. HH the late Father Amir was a statesman of exceptional stature who led his country through a defining period of its history, laying the foundations of a modern and confident nation. Under his visionary leadership, Qatar emerged as a respected global actor, a distinguished presence on the international stage, and a steadfast voice on the issues of greatest importance to the Arab and Islamic worlds.”

Dr Göksu stressed: “His Highness was not merely a ruler; he was the architect of a national renaissance, a patron of knowledge and progress, and a decisive leader endowed with remarkable foresight. His vision anticipated the future, while his wisdom enabled him to understand the world’s changing dynamics long before they unfolded.

“Throughout his life, HH the late Father Amir remained a steadfast champion of Islamic causes, advocating with conviction for justice and righteousness. In Palestine, his voice stood firmly in support of the Palestinian people and as a pillar of solidarity with Gaza. His unwavering commitment to Jerusalem reflected his enduring principles, and wherever injustice prevailed, he stood as a leader of courage and integrity, never wavering in his support for what was right. He embodied the belief that the dignity of nations is safeguarded by the steadfastness of their principles rather than the size of their territories.”

He said: “His greatness was equally reflected in his humanity, humility, and closeness to his people, who held him in genuine affection and deep respect. To the people of Qatar, he was a father before he was their Amir, sharing in both their joys and their sorrows. His generosity and humanitarian initiatives extended far beyond Qatar’s borders. He carried the concerns of his nation and the wider Islamic world with sincerity and worked tirelessly to promote peace, resolve conflicts, and advance stability and prosperity.

“As I stand before this profound loss in my capacity as Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to the sisterly State of Qatar, I recall with the deepest appreciation the historic friendship that united HH the late Father Amir with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. During the period when President Erdoğan served as Prime Minister of the Republic of Türkiye, the two leaders worked with determination and a shared strategic vision to elevate Turkish-Qatari relations to an exceptional level.”

Czech Republic

The ambassador of the Czech Republic to Qatar, Petr Chalupický, has expressed his profound sadness and condolences following the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

In a statement of tribute, Chalupický described HH the late Father Amir as a great personality distinguished by exceptional insight, kindness, and wisdom, whose leadership had a profound impact on the unprecedented development witnessed by the State of Qatar.

The envoy highlighted HH Sheikh Hamad’s role in advancing Qatar’s progress while promoting good-neighbourly relations, friendship, and stability across the region and beyond.

“HH the Father Amir will be missed,” Chalupický said, expressing his heartfelt condolences and praying for the eternal peace of his soul.

The Czech ambassador conveyed his sympathy to the leadership, the Ruling Family, and the people of Qatar during this period of mourning.

Ukraine

Ukraine has conveyed its condolences to Qatar, honouring HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani as “a statesman of historic stature”.

“On behalf of the embassy of Ukraine in the State of Qatar and on my own behalf, I extend my deepest condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Al-Thani family, and the people of Qatar on the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani,” ambassador Andrii Kuzmenko said yesterday.

Kuzmenko said: “HH the late Father Amir was a statesman of historic stature whose visionary leadership shaped modern Qatar and strengthened its standing on the regional and international stage.

“Ukraine will always remember with gratitude his personal contribution to laying the foundations of Ukrainian-Qatari relations, built on friendship, mutual respect and sincere partnership.”

The envoy added: “In recognition of this contribution, he was awarded the Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise, First Class, one of Ukraine’s highest state honours. His legacy will endure in Qatar’s achievements and continue to inspire generations to come.”

Poland

The embassy of Poland in Doha would like to convey its most heartfelt condolences to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, members of the Ruling Family, as well as the Nation of Qatar on the passing of HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the Father Amir. - Ambassador Tomasz Sadziski.



Azerbaijan

Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Qatar Dr Adish Mammadov has extended his deepest condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the members of the Ruling Family, and the people of Qatar following the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

In a statement of tribute, Dr Mammadov described HH the late Father Amir as one of the greatest figures in Qatar’s modern history, whose legacy would remain engraved in golden letters in the nation’s history.

The envoy highlighted that during HH Sheikh Hamad’s tenure as Head of State, Qatar witnessed major reforms and transformative initiatives that laid the foundations for the country’s development and contributed to its emergence as an influential and indispensable country in the region.

He emphasised that HH the late Father Amir devoted his life and efforts to Qatar’s progress and prosperity and to improving the well-being of the Qatari people, leaving behind a lasting legacy of national development and advancement.

Dr Mammadov also praised the deep-rooted friendship and brotherly relations between Azerbaijan and Qatar, noting that the foundations of these ties were established through the efforts of Azerbaijan’s National Leader Heydar Aliyev and HH Sheikh Hamad. “Today, the people of Qatar have suffered a great loss as they bid farewell to one of the greatest sons of the nation, whose heart always beat for Qatar,” Dr Mammadov said.



Croatia

Drago Lovric, ambassador of Croatia to Qatar said: “On behalf of the government of Croatia, I extend my deepest condolences on the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. HH Sheikh Hamad will be remembered for his leadership and his significant contribution to the development and progress of Qatar. Our thoughts and prayers are with His Highness’ family, the government, and the people of Qatar during this period of mourning.”



Italy

Italy pays tribute to the memory of HH the late Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, whose visionary leadership and lifelong dedication to the service of Qatar made an extraordinary contribution to the development, prosperity and international standing of this Nation, the Italian embassy in Doha has said. He was a true friend of Italy, and our sorrow is deep; he will be missed deeply.

President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni have expressed their heartfelt condolences.

It was with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of the Father Amir of Qatar, HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Meloni has said.

HH Sheikh Hamad was one of those rare leaders who changed the course of his nation’s history. With extraordinary vision, courage and determination, he laid the foundations for modern-day Qatar, strengthening its institutions and giving it a voice and a standing that stretched well beyond its borders. The Qatar we know and admire today bears the unmistakable mark of his leadership.

Both personally and on behalf of the Italian government, I wish to extend my sincerest condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, to all of his family and to the people of Qatar. My thoughts and prayers are with them at this time of deep sorrow.



Finland

The ambassador of Finland to Qatar, Juha Mustonen, has expressed his deep sorrow following the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, extending his heartfelt condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Al-Thani family, and the people of Qatar.

In a statement, Mustonen described HH Sheikh Hamad as a visionary leader whose leadership played a significant role in transforming Qatar and enhancing its position on the global stage.

The envoy stressed that HH Sheikh Hamad was committed to dialogue, co-operation, and mutual understanding in dealing with all related issues.

“His legacy will endure in Qatar and beyond,” Mustonen said, adding that his thoughts remain with the people of Qatar during this period of mourning.



France

The embassy of France in Qatar extends its heartfelt condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and his family, to the Qatari authorities and to the people of Qatar on the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

HH the late Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, was the architect of Qatar’s remarkable modernisation and rapid development. Guided by a bold and forward-looking vision, he led profound transformations across the country’s economic, political, cultural, sporting, media, and diplomatic sectors during his reign from 1995-2013.

Driven by a steadfast determination to elevate his nation on the world stage, he pursued a visionary foreign policy that established the State of



Qatar as a central international mediator and a key regional actor.

HH the late Father Amir also placed his ambition at the service of the exceptional friendship between France and Qatar.

He was a driving force in deepening a bilateral relationship that has since grown into a strong and strategic partnership. His historic state visit to France in 1999 gave a renewed momentum to a relationship of trust that continued to deepen over the years.

Under his leadership, French-Qatari co-operation expanded across a wide range of fields, including defence, economy, energy, education, culture, sport, and investment, significantly deepening the strategic partnership that unites the two countries today.

“I am deeply saddened by the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. At this time of mourning, our thoughts are with His Highness the Amir, his family, and the people of Qatar. France has lost a partner and a friend who played a decisive role in building a strong and enduring French-Qatari partnership founded on mutual trust. His legacy will live on” - Arnaud Pescheux, ambassador of France to Qatar.

Sweden

Sweden has paid rich tributes to the contributions of HH the late Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

Guatam Bhattacharyya, ambassador of Sweden to Qatar, said: “On behalf of the government and people of Sweden, I extend my deepest condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Royal Family, the government, and the people of Qatar. HH Sheikh Hamad’s visionary leadership helped drive Qatar’s remarkable transformation and strengthen its role on the international stage. His enduring legacy will continue to inspire future generations. At this time of national mourning, our thoughts are with the people of Qatar.”



Germany

Germany has offered its deep condolences on the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

In a statement, Olaf Malchow, Chargé d’Affaires a.i at the German embassy in Qatar, said, “HH Sheikh Hamad will be remembered as a visionary statesman whose leadership and dedication laid the foundations for Qatar’s remarkable development and prosperity. He was also a steadfast friend of Germany and played an important role in strengthening the close and enduring partnership between our two countries.”

Malchow also extended his country’s deepest condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, to the Royal Family, to the government and the people of Qatar, stating, “Our thoughts are with all those mourning this great loss.”



Australia

Australia has extended condolences on the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. Ambassador of Australia to Qatar, Shane Flanagan, said: “We express our deepest condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani; members of the Royal Family; the State of Qatar; and people of Qatar; on the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. HH the late Father Amir was a visionary leader who led Qatar into the prosperous nation it is today. We especially commend how he laid the foundations of Qatar’s commitment to mediation.”



The United States of America

The US has expressed deep condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Al-Thani family, and the people of Qatar on the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

Mo Barghouty, Chargé d’Affaires at the US embassy in Doha, said in a statement: “We mourn the great loss of HH the Father Amir whose visionary leadership shaped modern Qatar and transformed the country into a pivotal global partner of the United States. His legacy will continue to inspire Qataris for generations to come. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Qatar.”



Cuba

Cuba has extended condolences to the Qatar government and people, as well as to the Al-Thani family, on the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

“This great leader will always be remembered as a great friend of the Cuban people and as the promoter of friendly relations and cooperation between both countries and peoples,” said Enrique Enríquez, ambassador of Cuba to Qatar.

Enríquez noted that HH the late Father Amir will always be remembered as a great friend of the Cuban people and as the promoter of friendly relations and co-operation between both countries and peoples.

“HH the late Father Amir played a historic role in building modern Qatar, driving its development, prosperity, and international prestige. His legacy will remain a model for present and future generations,” affirmed the ambassador.



Peru

Peru has offered condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Royal Family, and the people of Qatar on the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

“HH the late Father Amir dedicated his life to the advancement of Qatar with an unparalleled vision, laying the foundations of a modern nation built on strength, prosperity, and progress. His enduring legacy will continue to inspire future generations in Qatar and beyond,” said Gonzalo Voto Bernales Gatica, ambassador of Peru to Qatar.

“The embassy also warmly recalls HH the late Father Amir’s official visit to Peru, which paved the way for subsequent high-level exchanges and contributed significantly to the development of the strong and constructive relations that today unite both countries,” added the envoy.



Embassies pay rich tributes in honour of the Father Amir

Messages of condolence have continued to pour in from ambassadors and diplomatic missions in Doha following the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

Envoys from across the world paid tribute to his visionary leadership, enduring contributions to Qatar's transformation, and his role in strengthening bilateral ties and promoting regional and international peace, while extending their deepest sympathies to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Royal Family, and the people of Qatar

By Gulf Times Reporting Team
Doha

Kuwait

The ambassador of Kuwait to Qatar, Ahmed Abdulrahman al-Shuraim, has expressed profound sorrow over the passing of His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

In a statement of condolences, al-Shuraim conveyed the sincere sympathies of His Highness Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait; Sheikh Sabah al-Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah, Crown Prince; Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Prime Minister; and Sheikh Jarrah Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Amir of Qatar; His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani, Deputy Amir; the esteemed Al-Thani family, the Government of Qatar, and the Qatari people.

The envoy described HH the late Father Amir as an exceptional leader and distinguished statesman whose visionary leadership laid the foundations for Qatar's modern renaissance.

He noted that His Highness spearheaded a comprehensive development journey that transformed the country's economy, education, healthcare, and infrastructure, helping position Qatar among the region's and the world's leading nations.

He further highlighted HH the late Father Amir's enduring role in strengthening the historic bonds between Kuwait and Qatar. According to the envoy, HH Sheikh Hamad was deeply committed to strengthening the close fraternal relations between the two countries and advancing Gulf co-operation through greater solidarity, integration, and co-ordination among the GCC member states, in pursuit of the shared interests of the region's peoples.

Egypt

Egypt's ambassador to Qatar Walid El-Feki has expressed his deepest condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and the Qatari people following the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

In a statement of tribute, El-Feki recalled the late leader's distinguished Arab and national positions across various fields, describing HH Sheikh Hamad as a statesman whose vision extended beyond the borders of Qatar to embrace wider Arab, Islamic, and humanitarian causes.

The envoy highlighted that HH the late Father Amir was not only dedicated to the affairs and progress of his homeland but also showed a strong commitment to supporting Arab and Islamic nations, as well as communities around the world in need of assistance and solidarity.

El-Feki praised HH Sheikh Hamad's leadership in guiding a comprehensive national development project focused on building and advancing Qatar across multiple sectors.

He noted that the late leader's vision and ambitions contributed to significant transformations in the country's economic, social, and developmental landscape, while strengthening Qatar's regional and international standing.

Expressing his sorrow over the loss of what he described as a great figure for Qatar, El-Feki prayed that Allah Almighty would grant HH the late Father Amir mercy and place him in paradise, while offering his heartfelt condolences to his family and the people of Qatar and wishing them patience and solace.

Algeria

It was with profound sorrow and deep sadness that we received the news of the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Algerian ambassador to Qatar Saleh Attia Ma Mohamed has said. May Almighty Allah envelop him in His infinite mercy and grant him eternal peace.

On this grievous occasion, I extend, on behalf of Algeria, its leadership, government and people, our sincerest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, as well as to the Government and the brotherly people of Qatar. We pray that Allah, the Almighty, grants the departed leader His boundless mercy and forgiveness, and admits him into the highest ranks of Paradise in the company of the righteous, the martyrs and the faithful.

The sisterly State of Qatar has not only lost an exceptional national leader and an eminent Arab and international statesman, renowned for his wisdom, foresight, distinguished diplomacy and unwavering dedication to the causes of his people and the Arab and Islamic nations. The world has also lost a humanitarian figure whose generosity and vision transcended borders.

HH the late Father Amir devoted much of his life to building a comprehensive renaissance that transformed Qatar across every sphere of national life. Under his enlightened leadership, the country attained the distinguished regional and international standing it enjoys today.

His enduring legacy also lives on through his steadfast support for Arab causes, his commitment to the welfare of Islamic peoples, and his pioneering humanitarian and charitable initiatives, whose benefits reached communities across the globe, improving the lives and well-being of millions. These noble contributions will forever remain etched in their memory.

As President Abdelmadjid Tebboune noted in his message of condolence on this painful occasion: "The HH the late Father Amir enjoyed a special relationship with Algeria, a country he loved and which reciprocated that noble affection.

He forged deep bonds with Algeria through his blessed visits, with which he graciously honoured us time and again."

Pakistan

Pakistani ambassador to Qatar, Muhammad Aamer, expressed his deepest condolences to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, and to all citizens and residents of Qatar on the passing of HH the Father Amir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

He said that His Highness was a visionary leader whose courage, wisdom and devotion to his people helped shape modern Qatar. His leadership placed the country on an extraordinary path of prosperity, progress and global prominence, leaving behind a legacy that will endure for generations.

"At this moment of profound grief, the people of Pakistan stand in solidarity with their Qatari brothers and sisters. We pray that Allah Almighty, in His infinite mercy, accepts his service to his people, elevates his ranks in the Hereafter and grants him the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous. May Allah grant patience and strength to His Highness the Amir, the bereaved royal family and the people of Qatar."

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has extended profound grief on the passing of HH the Father Amir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Qatar, Sithara Khan, said: "The government and people of Sri Lanka extend deepest condolences on the passing away of HH the late Father Amir. As Qatar mourns the loss of this great statesman, the people of Sri Lanka stand in solidarity with His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Royal Family, the Government, and the people of Qatar."

The envoy said that HH the Father Amir will be remembered as a visionary statesman whose leadership transformed Qatar. "Under his stewardship, Qatar rose to become a country of global standing, admired for its leadership, its diplomacy and its role as a trusted bridge between peoples and nations in times of conflict and crisis. We honour the memory of a leader whose vision continues to shape the nation he loved.

The ambassador stated that the contributions of HH the late Father Amir to regional and global diplomacy, his enduring friendship with Sri Lanka, and the strong diplomatic support extended to us at our time of need, will never be forgotten. "His Highness held a special place in his heart for Sri Lanka, visiting the country twice and his warmth extended generously to the thousands of Sri Lankans who have built their lives, careers, and families in Qatar over the years. For the Sri Lankan community here, he was a leader whose compassion and hospitality gave them a true home away from home. That legacy of goodwill remains one of the most cherished aspects of the deep friendship between our two nations," added the ambassador.

Japan

On behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, I extend my deepest condolences to His Highness the Amir, the Royal Family, the Government, and the people of the State of Qatar on the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

HH the late Father Amir was a visionary leader whose wisdom and foresight laid the foundations of modern Qatar. Under his wise leadership, Qatar achieved remarkable progress, and its role as an influential member of the international community was accentuated. His enduring legacy will continue to inspire future generations.

HH the late Father Amir played a pivotal role in strengthening the friendship and co-operation between Japan and the State of Qatar. In 1997, under his leadership, Japan became the first country in the world to import LNG from Qatar, marking the beginning of a trusted and enduring energy partnership between our two countries. Since then, our bilateral relationship has expanded steadily beyond energy to encompass a wide range of areas, including trade, infrastructure development, education, culture, and people-to-people exchanges. His generous initiatives to aid the devastated areas in the difficult time of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 and to support the Japanese community in Qatar on other occasions will live on in the memory of the Japanese people forever. The close partnership that Japan and Qatar enjoy today stands as a testament to His Highness's vision and commitment. —
Ambassador of Japan to Qatar Naoto Hisajima

Vietnam

The ambassador of Vietnam to Qatar, Nguyen Huy Hiep, has expressed his condolences, saying: "On behalf of the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the State of Qatar, I wish to convey our deepest condolences on the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. This is a moment of profound sorrow for the leadership and people of the State of Qatar. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to His Highness the Amir, the esteemed members of the Royal Family, the Government, and the friendly people of Qatar during this time of bereavement."

He added: "HH the late Father Amir will be remembered as a statesman of remarkable vision whose lifelong devotion to his country helped lay the foundations for Qatar's progress and development. His unwavering dedication to serving his people, together with the values of wisdom, foresight and steadfast leadership that he embodied, has left an enduring legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come."

He concluded stressing that "At this difficult time, we stand in solidarity with the people of Qatar and pray that they find strength and comfort in the cherished memory of His Highness. May he rest in eternal peace."

Singapore

Singapore has condoled the passing of HH the Father Amir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and paid rich tributes to his contributions.

"I extend my sincere condolences to His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Royal Family, and the people of Qatar. We will remember HH the late Father Amir for the bridges he built, and the heart and warmth with which he built them," said, Pong Kok Tian, ambassador of Singapore to Qatar.

The envoy continued: "HH the late Father Amir was instrumental in forging the warm and enduring friendship between Singapore and Qatar. It was at his suggestion that the Qatar-Singapore High-Level Joint Committee was established in 2006. It is an enduring legacy that continues to bring mutual benefits to Singapore and Qatar, as our countries continually explore new areas to leverage our complementarities."



India

Government of India has expressed its deepest condolences on the passing away of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

Ambassador of India to Qatar, Vipul said: "We join His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Royal family and people of Qatar in mourning this profound loss. We pay the highest respects to the departed leader whose vision and foresight was instrumental in building a developed and prosperous Qatar which is known across the world today for its energy production as well as exceptional infrastructure."

"HH the late Father Amir would also be known for the great strides taken by Qatar in the fields of education, culture, sports and human resource development which has propelled Qatar to newer heights. His progressive policies transformed Qatar into a dynamic nation and established it as a key player in international diplomacy. The Indian community remembers him as a compassionate leader who cared for the welfare of every resident of Qatar," noted the ambassador.

"India and the Indian community will always cherish the love and support received from HH the late Father Amir. As Qatar's then Amir, His Highness visited India thrice in 1999, 2005 and 2012 and also paid many personal visits. I had the good fortune and privilege of attending a meeting between PM Modi and HH the late Father Amir during the former's visit to Qatar in February 2024. HH the late Father Amir's legacy will continue to inspire us to further strengthen our enduring ties of friendship," he stated.

The envoy added that the prime minister of India, Narendra Modi, in a message, has mourned the passing away of HH the late Father Amir, remembering him as a visionary leader who led Qatar to great levels of development and prosperity and a true friend of India. A one day national mourning has been declared in India in honour of HH the Father Amir, added the envoy.

Malaysia

Malaysia has extended its deepest condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the members of the royal family, and the people of Qatar on the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

"On behalf of the Embassy of Malaysia and the Malaysian community in Qatar, I wish to extend my deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies," ambassador Faizal Razali said yesterday.

HH the late the Father Amir was "a visionary statesman of monumental stature," whose transformative leadership elevated the State of Qatar into a nation of global significance, the ambassador stressed.

According to Razali, HH the late Father Amir has modernised the country and championed peace, as well as progress on the international stage, "throughout his historic reign."

"His profound contributions to his country's development, regional stability, and the welfare of the wider Islamic world constitute an enduring legacy that will be remembered by generations to come," the ambassador pointed out.

Razali said Malaysia holds the memory of HH the late Father Amir "in the highest esteem," remembering him not only as a steadfast leader but also as a deeply respected voice of wisdom across the Islamic world.

"His monumental achievements have laid the foundational pillars of the close, fraternal, and enduring ties that unite our two brotherly nations today," he stated.

The envoy added: "In this hour of immense national grief, the government and the people of Malaysia stand in complete solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Qatar. We pray that Allah the Almighty showers the soul of HH the late Father Amir with His boundless mercy and grants him the highest station in Jannatul Firdaus.

South Africa

South Africa has expressed its condolences to Qatar, with President Cyril Ramaphosa joining in mourning the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

South African ambassador Ghulam Hoosein Asmal described HH the late Father Amir as "a distinguished statesman whose vision, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to the socio-economic progress and prosperity of his nation and the Global South left an enduring legacy."

The envoy said HH the late Father Amir will be remembered for his invaluable contributions to Qatar's development and for his efforts to advance peace, dialogue, and co-operation among nations.

He added: "We pray that Almighty Allah, in His infinite mercy, forgives his shortcomings, accepts his righteous deeds, and grants him the highest place in Jannat al-Firdaus. May Allah envelop him in His mercy and blessings, illuminate his grave, and reward him abundantly for his service to his people.

"The Government and People of the Republic of South Africa stand in solidarity with the leadership, government, and people of the State of Qatar during this difficult time. We pray that Allah (SWT) grants patience, strength, and solace to the Royal Family and all those who mourn this great loss."

Ethiopia

The Embassy of Ethiopia in Doha has expressed its deep sorrow over the passing of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

In a condolence message, ambassador Faysal Ali Ibrahim extended heartfelt sympathies to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, the esteemed al-Thani family, and the people of Qatar.

The ambassador described HH the late Father Amir as a distinguished leader whose wisdom and visionary leadership played a pivotal role in Qatar's remarkable progress and development.

He noted that HH the late Father Amir devoted his life to serving his nation and advancing its prosperity, leaving behind a lasting legacy of achievement and statesmanship.

The envoy also praised the late Father Amir's contributions to regional stability and international co-operation, emphasising that his leadership earned him widespread respect across the Arab, African, and Islamic worlds.

On behalf of the Ethiopian government and people, Ibrahim expressed sincere condolences to the leadership and people of Qatar, praying that Almighty Allah grant HH the late Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani His boundless mercy and admit him into Paradise.

The statement concluded with prayers for patience and solace for the family of His Highness and the people of Qatar during this time of mourning.



Architect of modern Qatar

His Highness the late Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani leaves behind a legacy of remarkable achievements during which Qatar emerged as a leading regional model for development and progress across all sectors.

During his reign from 1995 to 2013, Qatar attained a prominent position both regionally and internationally, witnessing sweeping economic, social, and cultural transformation.

His Highness Sheikh Hamad was born in Doha in January 1952, where he was raised and educated.

He then joined the British Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. After his graduation in 1971, he joined the Qatar Armed Forces where he reached the rank of major-general.

He played a central role in developing and modernising the Qatari Armed Forces.

On May 31, 1977, he was appointed His Apparent and minister of defence.

On May 10, 1989, he became chairman of the Supreme Council for Planning, the body responsible for formulating the country's social and economic policies.

He assumed power on June 27, 1995, and immediately embarked on an ambitious programme of development and reform.

During his reign, Qatar witnessed broad economic, cultural, and civilisational openness.

The country became a leading venue for political, economic, cultural, and scientific conferences and attained a distinguished regional and international standing.

Qatari diplomacy also assumed a pioneering role in resolving disputes and containing conflicts in various parts of the world.

On June 25, 2013, His Highness the late Father Amir handed over the reins of leadership to his Heir Apparent Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

Permanent Constitution of the State of Qatar

One of the most notable achievements during the reign of His Highness the late Father Amir was the adoption of the country's Permanent Constitution.

On July 13, 1999, His Highness Sheikh Hamad issued Amiri Decree No. (11) of 1999 on the formation of a committee for the drafting of the permanent constitution that would reflect the country's progress and development.

His Highness the late Father Amir received the draft of the new constitution on July 2, 2002.

A public referendum on the Draft Permanent Constitution was held on April 29, 2003.

The large turnout at the ballot boxes clearly reflected the response of the Qatari people to the appeal of His Highness the late Father Amir, with 96.6% voting in favour of the draft.

On June 8, 2004, the Permanent Constitution of the State of Qatar was promulgated, which stipulates that the people are the source of authority, provides for the separation of powers, and vests legislative authority in the Shura Council.

Foreign Policy Based on Peace and Security

His Highness the late Father Amir also laid the foundations of Qatar's foreign policy based on the principle of consolidating international peace and security, promoting peaceful settlement of international disputes, mutual respect and common interests, peaceful coexistence and international co-operation, adherence to the values of justice and openness, and respect for human rights.

The foreign policy of Qatar during the era of His Highness the late Father Amir accomplished many feats, including establishing the Qatari Committee for the Rescue of Jerusalem in April 1996 to support the Palestinian cause and defend Islamic holy sites in Palestine, sponsoring talks between the Taliban in Afghanistan and the US in order to find a solution to the conflict in Afghanistan, and mediating the Lebanese reconciliation in 2008 with the Doha Agreement.

Additionally, Qatar received the non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for two years in October 2005 and chaired the UNSC in October 2006, as well as held the presidency over the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2011-12.

The country also sponsored several international and regional conferences and establishing international forums to promote the principle of dialogue and understanding between nations and peoples, such as the US-Islamic World Forum, the Doha Forum on Democracy, Development and Free Trade, and the Doha Interfaith Conference which led to the establishment of the Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue by Amiri Decree on June 1, 2010 with the aim of

promoting peaceful co-existence among adherents of religions and activating religious values to address problems and issues of concern to humanity.

In March 2013, His Highness the late Father Amir chaired the 24th ordinary session of the Arab League Council at the Summit Level hosted by Qatar, where the National Coalition for Revolutionary Forces and the Syrian Opposition held Syria's seat in the League of Arab States.

At the summit, His Highness Sheikh Hamad launched an initiative to establish a fund for the support of Jerusalem with a capital of \$1bn to fund projects and programmes that preserve the Arab and Islamic identity of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and to strengthen the steadfastness of its people and to enable the Palestinian economy to develop its own capacity, to disassociate itself from the Israeli economy, and to counter the policy of isolation and siege.

Qatar contributed \$250mn to the fund.

Qatar National Vision 2030

Another prominent achievement during the reign of His Highness the late Father Amir was the Qatar National Vision 2030, prepared under his guidance in 2007 and approved in 2008.

The National Vision prompted a more modernised way of thinking, opened new horizons, and defined the features of the society that the government and people of Qatar aspire to establish.

The success achieved by Qatar in developing its energy sector was the result of extensive national efforts, ambitious aspirations and bold decisions led with wisdom and determination by His Highness Sheikh Hamad.

These efforts required overcoming numerous challenges.

The 1980s witnessed a sharp decline in oil production due to the ageing of oil fields, with output falling from 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) in the 1970s to 300,000bpd in 1987.

However, the intensive efforts undertaken by the state since His Highness the late Father Amir assumed power raised production to 680,000bpd in 2000 and 760,000bpd in 2005.

The first shipment of LNG was exported in late 1996, ushering in a major economic breakthrough, which became evident in 2006 when Qatar became the world's largest LNG exporter and in 2010, when its production capacity reached 77mn tonnes annually.

At a ceremony held in Ras Laffan Industrial City, His Highness Sheikh Hamad said: "Qatar is celebrating the achievement of one of its historic goals with a feat that will be forever etched in the history of the international gas industry as the day when Qatar officially became the world's leading producer of liquefied natural gas."

Currently, Qatar exports gas to markets in Asia, Europe, the Americas and Africa.

In 1989, His Highness the late Father Amir decided to establish the Ras Laffan Industrial City as a centre for the gas industry in Qatar to export LNG.

At the time, he was faced with two choices: either establishing an industrial city in Mesaieed or in Ras Laffan.

He chose the latter for its proximity to gas fields, which allows it to be in line with Qatar's goals of gas production.

Ras Laffan Port is now the largest facility of its kind in the world.

Mesaieed meanwhile became the second largest industrial city in Qatar, housing many industrial facilities.

The state has converted gas to liquids (GTL) for the sake of having an integrated system for gas production and exportation to benefit from the opportunities in the world markets; and to that end has set up the Oryx and Pearl projects.

Launched in 2006, the Pearl began its export activities in 2011 and boasts the world's largest GTL plant.

The development of the energy sector included projects in oil and petrochemicals based on partnerships with international oil companies through oil production sharing agreements and through joint venture agreements with companies that specialise in petrochemicals.

The development of the northern fields gave additional impetus to the expansion of the petrochemical industry.

Additional quantities of methane increased the production capacity of ammonia and urea and enabled the state to move to downstream industries.

Additional quantities of ethane also contributed to the addition of new ethylene plants and the emergence of new industries such as the production of low- and high-density polyethylene, and many other products.

Communications and media

Among the most notable achievements during the tenure of His Highness the late Father Amir, was Qatar's transformation in the field of communications and media, which had a profound impact locally, regionally and internationally.

Censorship of the local press was lifted in October 1995 and Law No. (25) of 1995 was issued on the protection of intellectual works and copyright.

In 1996, Al Jazeera News was established, ushering in a new era in the region.

In 2006, it expanded to become Al Jazeera Media Network with several channels under its umbrella.

On May 3, 1997, His Highness Sheikh Hamad established the Qatar General Authority for Radio and Television, which on March 18, 2009, became the Qatar Media Corporation, which governs all audiovisual media in the state.

On March 30, 1998, His Highness the late Father Amir abolished the Ministry of Information to make room for the freedom of the media and the press.

In 2004, the Supreme Council for Information and Communication Technology was established to organise the information and communications technology (ICT) sector, build a knowledge-based society and create a sophisticated technological infrastructure.

On October 6, 2010, His Highness Sheikh Hamad established the Qatar eGovernment Steering Committee to ensure the highest performance rates in governmental electronic transactions.

Focus on Education

In the education sector, human development was the central pillar of the strategy of His Highness the late Father Amir as affirmed by Qatar National Vision 2030.



Shoppers walk past a portrait of His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani at a mall in Doha, after the announcement of his passing. - **AFP**

Qatar has launched a wide educational renaissance characterised by an increase in the number of schools and universities, the development of curricula and teaching methods, the provision of modern educational means, and the openness to international experiences in education.

Specialised colleges and technical schools have emerged; Education City was inaugurated in 2003 and includes several educational, scientific, research and cultural institutions.

As per Decree Law No. 24 of 2008, 2.8% of government revenues in the state budget were allocated to support scientific research.

In 1995, Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development was established.

Now Qatar Foundation houses a number of leading international universities and research centres, among them is the Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) established in 2010.

Healthcare

Under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Hamad, Qatar has paid great attention to developing the health sector and bolstering its performance.

The number of hospitals in the country increased from only four in 1998 to 13 in 2012: Al Khor Hospital (opened 2005), Al Amal Hospital (2006), the Heart Hospital (2011), Cuban Qatari Hospital (2012) and Al Wakra Hospital (2012).

Aspetar Hospital is considered the first hospital in the region specialised in orthopaedic and sports medicine.

It includes highly skilled international experts in the field of sports medicine and orthopaedics. It was chosen as FIFA Medical Centre of Excellence in 2008.

His Highness the late Father Amir's tenure also witnessed nu-

merous achievements in the health sector, including the implementation of the comprehensive health insurance system for citizens in 2011 and the development of Hamad Medical Corporation to provide the best health services.

Infrastructure Developments

Infrastructure projects also advanced significantly during His Highness the late Father Amir's reign, with numerous projects implemented across various sectors.

These included opening the way for the construction of high-rise towers in the West Bay district to provide a business environment suited to the country's diverse sectors, as well as the construction of Hamad International Airport, one of the largest airports in the region.

Construction began in 2005, and the airport commenced operations in April 2014.

On June 6, 2011, His Highness Sheikh Hamad established the Qatar Railways Steering Committee (Rail) which later on became Qatar Rail.

It is a mega project comprising three major projects: Doha Metro, Lusail Light Transit, and the Long Distance Rail for the transport of people and goods.

In 2007, His Highness the late Father Amir ordered the launch of the New Doha Port project and allocated QR27bn for its construction.

The project was inaugurated on February 26, 2015, and named Hamad Port.

In December 2011, the Qatar National Convention Centre, the largest of its kind in the Middle East, was inaugurated.

Another landmark project was Lusail City, whose construction began in December 2005.

Another flagship infrastructure project was Msheireb Downtown Doha, for which His Highness

try sponsored numerous cultural festivals and intellectual forums while establishing a broad network of cultural and heritage institutions dedicated to preserving, revitalising, and showcasing Qatar's history and cultural heritage.

Among the most prominent cultural projects undertaken during his reign was Souq Waqif, one of Qatar's leading heritage, tourism, and commercial landmarks.

Originally established as a traditional marketplace and gathering place for Qataris in the 1920s, the souq stands as a testament to the country's pearling era.

It was carefully restored in a manner that harmoniously blends authentic architectural heritage with modern functionality, preserving its historic character while reinforcing its position as one of Qatar's premier cultural destinations.

Another landmark achievement during his reign was the establishment of Qatar Museums in 2005 to oversee and develop the country's museum sector.

This initiative paved the way for the opening of the Museum of Islamic Art in 2008, one of the region's defining architectural landmarks.

It also spearheaded the redevelopment of the National Museum of Qatar, a landmark cultural project that celebrates Qatar's heritage while connecting its past with its present.

Designed by renowned French architect Jean Nouvel, the museum draws inspiration from the desert rose and is built around the historic palace of Sheikh Abdullah bin Jassim al-Thani, grandfather of His Highness the late Father Amir, which served as the family's residence and the seat of government for 25 years.

His reign also witnessed the establishment of several landmark cultural institutions, including Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, which opened in 2010, and Katara Cultural Village, established in 2005.

As one of the country's largest cultural projects, Katara was created to advance Qatar's cultural landscape, foster creativity, and provide a vibrant platform for artistic expression and intellectual dialogue.

Rapid Economic Expansion

The non-hydrocarbon economy also witnessed remarkable expansion during His Highness the late Father Amir's reign.

Underpinned by robust hydrocarbon revenues, the sector's contribution to GDP at current prices rose from approximately QR18.7bn at the beginning of his reign to nearly QR332bn by its conclusion, representing an average annual growth rate of 17.3% at current prices and 12% at constant prices.

Between 1995 and 2013, key non-hydrocarbon industries recorded sustained and broad-based growth.

Manufacturing expanded at an average annual rate of 9.4% at constant prices, while the construction sector emerged as one of the fastest-growing segments of the economy, posting annual growth of 17.8%.

The wholesale and retail trade, hotels, and restaurants sectors also delivered strong performance, with average annual growth reaching 18% at current prices and 13.1% at constant prices.

The transport and communications sector also maintained robust growth, recording an average annual growth rate of 17.6% at constant prices.

During the same period, final government consumption expenditure rose from approximately QR9bn to around QR99bn, representing an average annual increase of 14.3% at current prices.

Final household consumption expenditure likewise increased significantly, climbing from nearly QR8bn to approximately QR102bn, with an average annual growth rate of 15.2%.

The country's rapid economic expansion was accompanied by significant growth in foreign trade and a substantial increase in its trade surplus.

Exports of goods and services rose from approximately QR13bn to around QR538.5bn, representing an average annual growth rate of 22.9%.

This increase was driven primarily by the expansion of LNG production, higher crude oil output, and rising global energy prices.

Imports of goods and services also increased markedly, climbing from approximately QR12.8bn to around QR214.6bn, with an average annual growth rate of 17%, reflecting higher imports of consumer goods and materials required for the country's major development projects.

As a result, the merchandise trade surplus expanded from QR1.7bn to nearly QR387bn, recording an average annual growth rate of 35%.

Social Security and Labour

On the social front, Qatar witnessed major advances during the reign of His Highness Sheikh Hamad.

Among the most notable

achievements was a 50% increase in social security benefits in 1996 for eligible groups, including widows, divorced women, families in need, persons with disabilities, orphans, individuals unable to work, senior citizens, families of prisoners, deserted wives, and families of missing persons.

As part of the vision to build a prosperous society, pension benefits were increased by 40% in 2006.

Civilian public-sector employees also received salary increases equivalent to 40% of their basic pay.

This commitment to enhancing citizens' welfare continued in 2011, when the salaries of civilian government employees were increased by 60%, while military personnel received salary increases of 120%.

In 2007, His Highness Sheikh Hamad established the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, replacing the Ministry of Civil Service and Housing Affairs.

The ministry was tasked with formulating labour policies and workforce planning strategies, managing the labour market, developing an integrated labour market information system, resolving labour disputes in accordance with the law, contributing to national workforce localisation policies and employment programmes, providing social welfare services, administering social security benefits to eligible beneficiaries, and overseeing the distribution of social assistance.

Support for Youth and Sport

In 2010, the Social and Sport Contribution Fund (Daam) was established to support sports, cultural, social, and charitable initiatives by providing grants and financial assistance to government entities, institutions, associations, and organisations operating in these sectors.

During the reign of His Highness the late Father Amir, Qatar's youth and sports sector witnessed remarkable development, particularly in sports infrastructure.

The country hosted a succession of major regional and international sporting events that set new benchmarks for organisational excellence and reinforced Qatar's position as a leading sports destination in the region.

These included the World Table Tennis Championships in 2004, the World Weightlifting Championships in 2005, the 15th Asian Games Doha 2006, the IAAF World Indoor Championships Doha 2010, the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011, the 12th Pan Arab Games Doha 2011, and the 9th World Conference on Sport and the Environment, also held in 2011.

In 2008, Aspire Zone was established to provide a world-class sporting environment, enhance athletic performance, and develop talent across a wide range of sports disciplines to meet Qatar's evolving needs and advance its sporting ambitions at both the regional and international levels.

Perhaps the most significant sporting achievement of his reign came in 2010, when Qatar won the bid to host the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, marking a historic milestone for both the nation and the wider Middle East.

Investment Sector

The investment sector also featured prominently among the State's priorities during the reign of His Highness the late Father Amir.

In 2000, the Supreme Council for the Investment of State Reserves was established to oversee the management and investment of the State's reserve funds.

This was followed on October 23, 2001, by the establishment of the Supreme Council for Economic Affairs and Investment, which was mandated to oversee matters related to the economy, energy, and investment, while formulating national policies in the economic, financial, commercial, and energy sectors.

On June 23, 2005, His Highness the late Father Amir established the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), operating under the Supreme Council, to manage and invest the State's reserve funds and other assets entrusted to it by the Council.

On February 20, 2011, also established the Qatar Authority for the Development of SMEs to encourage the establishment of new enterprises, support the development of existing ones, and increase the contribution of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to the country's GDP.

The Authority was subsequently incorporated into Qatar Development Bank.

Visionary Leadership Laying the Foundations

The achievements realised during the reign of His Highness Sheikh Hamad laid the foundations for Qatar's comprehensive development and transformed the country into a modern state with a diversified economy, advanced infrastructure, and growing regional and international influence.

His visionary leadership established the pillars upon which Qatar has continued to build its progress across the political, economic, social, cultural, educational, and sporting spheres. - **QNA**



Father Amir: The leader who taught a nation to dream big

Nations, like men, are measured not by what they inherit but by what they dare to imagine. HH the late Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, who passed away yesterday at 74, imagined more for Qatar than geography or history had any right to promise – and then, with a builder's patience and a visionary's impatience, he delivered it.

Consider the country he assumed in June 1995: oil output in decline, a peninsula on the margins of the world's attention. Consider the country he handed over on June 25, 2013: the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas, its GDP multiplied 24-fold, its voice carried into every Arab home by a broadcaster he willed into being, its flag destined to fly over the first World Cup on Arab and Muslim soil. Eighteen years – one lifetime's ambition compressed into less than a generation.

The figures are staggering, but figures were never the point. Sheikh Hamad understood that gas beneath the seabed is merely potential; it becomes destiny only when converted into schools,

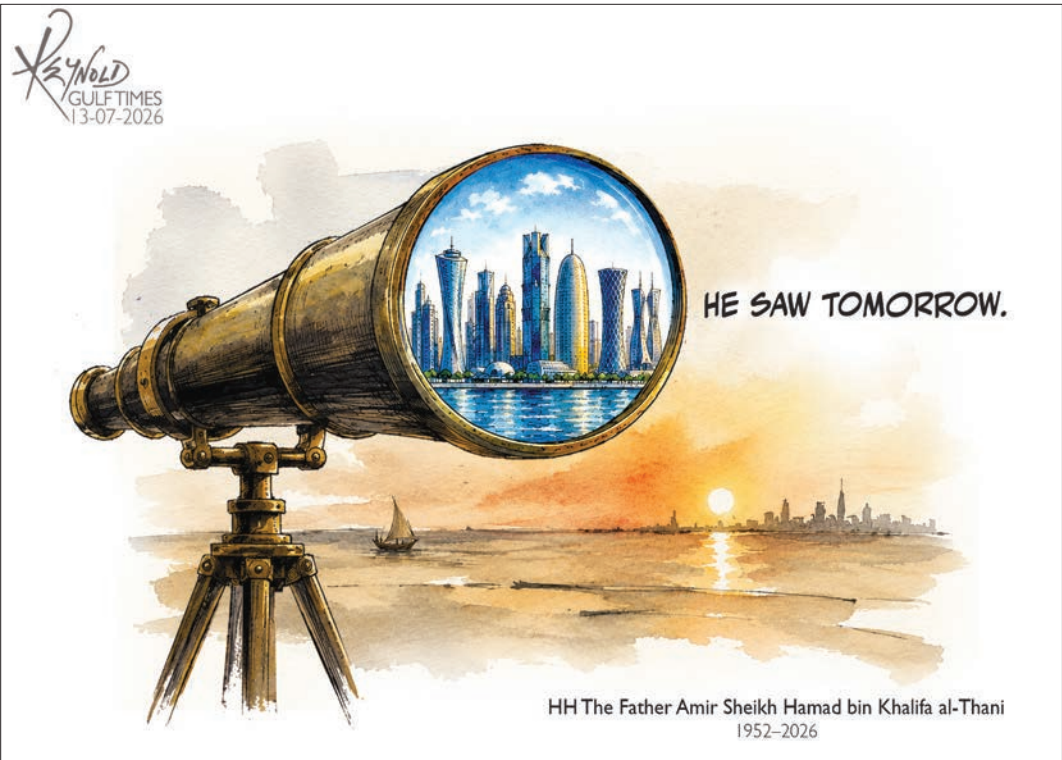
hospitals, museums and moral standing. Ras Laffan was one monument. Education City another. The Museum of Islamic Art, rising from the water like a prayer in stone, a third.

And he understood something rarer: that a small state's greatest export can be its conscience. The Doha Agreement that pulled Lebanon back from the abyss in 2008. The patient diplomacy between Djibouti and Eritrea, between Palestinian factions, between the Taliban and Washington. And in October 2012, when Gaza suffocated under siege and the world averted its gaze, he became the first head of state to walk its broken streets.

Today the flags hang heavy, and grief sits in every Qatari majlis. But grief must share the room with gratitude. The towers of West Bay, the trains beneath Doha, the very confidence with which this nation carries itself – all of it bears his signature.

The nation he taught to dream now owes him its finest tribute: to keep dreaming, and to keep building, exactly as he showed us how.

May Allah rest his soul in eternal peace.



A Rubicon crossed: Trump, FIFA and the politics of red card

By Kristian Coates Ulrichsen

As the 2026 FIFA World Cup enters its final stages, the competition had been going well, both on and off the field. On the pitch, the performance of nations such as Cape Verde and the Democratic Republic of Congo captivated fans and justified the controversial expansion to 48 teams from the previous 32.

Thrilling games proved the adage that in all World Cup the football does the talking once the matches begin. Off the pitch, the stadiums were largely full and worries that Immigration and Customs Enforcement might target vulnerable communities at games were unmet, despite a sharp rise in ICE arrests more generally.

Above all, US President Donald Trump had refrained from commenting on the games even as the US team performed strongly and won the group to advance to a Round of 32 clash with Bosnia and Herzegovina. While the US cruised to a 2-0 win that marked their first victory in a knockout round since 2002, the game was marred by a red card for star US striker Folarin Balogun, who had scored the opening goal in the match.

As anger mounted over the sending off, Trump suddenly took credit for a FIFA decision to suspend Balogun's one-match ban that freed him to play in the Round of 16 against Belgium.

In the furore that followed, a sharp divide opened up between American commentators, who praised FIFA for reversing a harsh decision, and international fans, mainly from Europe, who condemned FIFA president Gianni Infantino for bowing to political pressure. As with so much of the discourse around Trump, there was little in the way of middle ground, as further comments by Trump, calling into question the character of the Brazilian referee who had sent Balogun off, and by Senator Lindsay Graham thanking Trump for intervening, added further fuel to the flames. Belgium's subsequent 4-1 win dampened the debate, but the events cast a shadow over the 2026 World Cup and Infantino's leadership.

Infantino spent much of the 18 months preceding the World Cup developing a personal relationship with Trump that he may have hoped would translate into political capital during the tournament were it to become necessary to seek Trump's assistance. And yet, at several critical junctures, this approach appears to have failed, notably when Somali referee Omar Artan was denied entry to the US despite being on the FIFA list of approved referees for the World Cup and in possession of a valid visa. If there was



US President Donald Trump and FIFA president Gianni Infantino, at the Oval Office of the White House, Washington, on August 22, 2025. (AFP/File Photo)



ever an occasion for Infantino to use the relationship he had cultivated with Trump it was then, particularly as Infantino had given assurances in 2025 about access for all participants. The restrictions placed on Iran's team also reflected poorly on Infantino's seeming inability to pressure the White House on an issue as basic as ensuring fair treatment of all nations.

FIFA will survive the controversies of 2026 although Infantino, who is seeking election for a third term as president, may emerge weakened if

UEFA, the European governing body, and individual football federations, such as Norway or Germany, increase their scrutiny of him. The outcome of the vote, to take place at a FIFA Congress in Rabat in March 2027, is hardly in doubt as the expansion of the World Cup and the record levels of revenue expected to be distributed to the 211 member federations has won Infantino widespread support. However, the intensity of European backlash to Infantino may only deepen the splits within world football between 'legacy' and 'frontier' markets that became so evident and vocal during the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and may be so again ahead of Saudi Arabia in 2034.

What is perhaps more unusual is that the brazen nature of Trump's phone call and appeal to Infantino to reverse Balogun's red card, while in character for the most transactional and unconventional president in modern times, should have happened at all.

Few had Trump and the White House publicly boasting of their role in getting a refereeing decision overturned on their list of potential issues before the tournament began. While it is not the first time that a World Cup has been overshadowed by direct political intervention, the two most direct parallels were long in the past and believed to belong in the history books rather than have any contemporary relevance to the global game in the twenty first century.

Thus, the second World Cup, which took place in fascist Italy in 1934, was marred by allegations that Benito Mussolini had intervened to secure favourable refereeing outcomes in Italy's games in both the quarter-final and the semi-final, although match-fixing was never proven. Forty-four years later, another host nation, Argentina, went into their final game in the second-round group in 1978 needing to beat Peru by a minimum of four goals to advance to their first World Cup final at the expense of great rivals and three-time champions, Brazil. Peru duly lost 6-0 as it emerged that General Videla, the president of military-run Argentina, had visited the Peruvian changing room before the game, again sparking allegations, never fully dispelled, of political interference at the highest level.

The lasting significance of Trump's action, and the perception that it worked, given that the red card was rescinded, may be that it sets a precedent for other leaders who may be tempted to make a similar intervention in future competitions. Already this week, a Labour member of parliament wrote to Britain's outgoing Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, to request that the government raise with Infantino the red card given to an English player during their Round of 16 game against Mexico. While that particular intervention was frivolous and more of a populist stunt than anything else, a Rubicon has been crossed for political leaders who may seek relief in high-stakes clashes in coming World Cups. It will certainly be harder for FIFA to push back against any such attempts, given the events of the past week, which only further reinforce how sport and politics remain so deeply intertwined.

• The writer is a leading scholar specialising in Gulf politics and international political economy, and a fellow at the Baker Institute and co-director of the Middle East Energy Roundtable.

The umbrella that leaked: 10,000 troops and no cover



By Jasim Al-Azzawi

On Valentine's Day 1945, aboard the destroyer USS Quincey anchored in Egypt's Great Bitter Lake, an ailing Franklin Roosevelt sat across from King Abdulaziz Ibn Saud and struck history's most consequential handshake in the Gulf: American security guarantees in exchange for reliable oil. Roosevelt later told Congress he had learned more about the Middle East in five minutes with the king than in two or three dozen letters. Eighty-one years later, on 28 February 2026, that bargain was tested as never before, and by most honest accounts, found wanting.

That morning, American and Israeli warplanes killed Iran's Supreme Leader. They opened a war that, within 24 hours, saw Iranian missiles and drones strike all six GCC capitals, and along with Amman, Jordan, the first time in history that every Gulf monarchy absorbed direct fire in a single day. The Pentagon's own forward headquarters at Al Udeid, home to some 10,000 American troops, had already taken a direct hit the previous June, forcing a humiliating evacuation before the wider war even began. Kuwait, which hosts 13,500 US personnel, and Bahrain, home to the Fifth Fleet's roughly 9,000 personnel, fared no better. The question Gulf capitals and Washington planners now ask, gently in public and bluntly in private, is whether the American security umbrella still covers anyone at all.

"No-one in their right mind would ever put the CENTCOM forward headquarters 100 miles away from Iran, yet that's where it is." – General Frank McKenzie (ret.), former CENTCOM commander

The interception numbers, when disclosed, tell their own story. The UAE says it shot down 165 ballistic missiles and 541 drones in the opening barrage alone, yet 35 drones still got through. Kuwait downed 97 missiles and 283 drones. Saudi Arabia, the region's largest spender, has not released comparable figures at all. These are not the statistics of a defense architecture; they are the statistics of six countries each improvising on its own under fire.

Retired General Frank

McKenzie, who commanded CENTCOM until 2022, has answered with rare bluntness. Basing the region's nerve center a hundred miles from Tehran, he said recently, is something no one in their right mind would do. McKenzie now argues for pulling the "necklace of bases" westward, into Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, putting distance between American forces and Iranian missiles that have only grown faster and more accurate. Michael Rubin of the American Enterprise Institute goes further, arguing that it is time to close US bases in the Middle East, since they have become more of a liability than an asset.

Yet the numbers cut against complacency. The six GCC states together spend more than \$130 n a year on defence, a sum exceeding the annual budgets of most mid-sized nations, and still could not produce a joint command, a shared radar picture, or common rules of engagement when the missiles came. Each fought its own war in its own airspace, phoning its own American liaison officer. Riyadh's arsenal cannot speak to Abu Dhabi's; Doha's cannot speak to Kuwait's. Money bought quantity. It did not buy unity. And unity, not hardware, is what small, wealthy, thinly populated states need most when facing a country of ninety million that has spent four decades mastering the art of imposing costs it need never fully absorb itself.

Here, the strategist's oldest warning applies: a vacuum left by a great power is rarely filled by nothing. Riyadh has already begun hedging, signing a mutual defence pact with nuclear-armed Pakistan last September, days after Israeli strikes on Doha rattled the entire peninsula.

Muhanad Seloom of the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies captures the Gulf mood more precisely than most: the Gulf states, he writes, are not pivoting to China, nor are they asking the United States to leave; they are

simply informing Washington that presence without protection is no longer an acceptable trade.

The old bargain, in which hosting brought presence more reliably than protection, has been exposed by weeks of incoming fire.

That is the paradox confronting American planners as they eye the Indo-Pacific and a rising China. Every dollar and destroyer redirected toward containing Beijing is a dollar and destroyer not defending Manama or Muscat. But an American withdrawal, however partial, does not return the Gulf to some neutral equilibrium. Though bloodied and besieged by months of conflict, Tehran remains unbowed. It now holds the exact prize eighty years of American bases were designed to deny: absolute proximity to the world's vital oil chokepoint, resilient staying power, and neighbouring Gulf capitals left with nowhere else to look for leverage. Ibn Saud never asked Roosevelt for democracy or nation-building. He asked for a guarantee that his sovereignty and his oil fields would be protected, and got it, verbally, in the course of a single afternoon.

Today's Gulf rulers are asking a version of the same question with far more urgency, having watched Patriot batteries and THAAD radars strain against Iranian salvos in real time. Washington's planners can withdraw from the region, redistribute forces westward, or double down, but what they cannot do, if the last war taught anything, is pretend that hosting American troops still automatically means those troops can protect the people hosting them. The Quincey bargain assumed American power was close to absolute. Eight decades and a dozen wars later, that assumption is the one now up for renegotiation.

• The writer is a prominent news anchor, programme presenter and media instructor.



Representative photo of US soldiers. (AFP)

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PUBLIC SHOOTING

2 dead, 3 hurt in Toronto shooting, attacker at large

Police in Toronto were searching Saturday night for an active shooter who had killed two people and wounded three in an area lined with shops and restaurants. "Please avoid the area immediately and follow all directions from police," Toronto police said in a X post. "Police have secured the scene," authorities later said in a follow-up post. Local media reported the shooting took place in an area where a salsa festival was being held. The incident comes soon after another shooting in Montreal late last month, where two people, including a police officer, were killed by an assailant who was then shot dead by law enforcement. **(AFP)**

FATAL ACCIDENT

Driver in Chile runs over and kills six people at festival

A driver plowed into people at a street festival yesterday in Chile, killing at least six, police said. The man reportedly lost control of the vehicle at the festival in the coastal city of Vina del Mar, Jorge Guaita, a police official, told AFP. Another seven people were injured but their lives were not in danger, he said. Early reports said the driver was speeding on a road running alongside the festival site. He was detained and will be tested for alcohol consumption, Guaita said. The driver was an off-duty naval petty officer, the Chilean Navy said. According to initial reports, the driver was not under the influence of alcohol. **(AFP)**

CATASTROPHE

Venezuela quake death toll rises to 4,490: government

Nearly 4,500 people have died as a result of the devastating twin earthquakes that hit Venezuela last month, an updated official toll showed yesterday, in an increase of about 200 from the day prior. The Venezuelan government, in a post on its official Telegram channel, said at least 4,490 people had died and 16,740 were injured in the June 24 quakes, while more than 19,500 people were now living in temporary camps. According to UN assessments estimate, the country which is mourning the dead and those who are buried in the rubble, has direct physical damage amounting to roughly \$6.7 billion. **(AFP)**

HEATWAVE

South Korea issues first emergency heatwave warning

South Korea issued its first-ever emergency heatwave alert yesterday under a new warning system launched this year, advising people to halt outdoor activities and keep cool. The new warning system was introduced to better deal with a rising number of heatwaves in South Korea, which have become longer and more intense, officials said. An emergency alert is issued when areas experiencing a heatwave are forecast to hit perceived temperatures of 38C or an actual temperature of 39C for one day. "This marks the first time it has been issued since the system took effect," said agency chief Lee Mi-seon at a press briefing. **(AFP)**

US senator Lindsey Graham dies aged 71

AFP
Washington

Senator Lindsey Graham, an influential ally of President Donald Trump and advocate of hawkish US foreign policy, has died unexpectedly aged 71, his office said yesterday.

Graham was a staunch supporter of the Iran war, and in recent years urged both Trump and the Biden administrations to back Kyiv's fight against Russia's invasion.

He bitterly opposed Trump a decade ago, but came around to support him. Graham did so even after the 2021 Capitol insurrection in which lawmakers feared for their lives as a pro-Trump mob ran amok at the seat of US democracy.

The Republican senator from South Carolina's office said in a statement on his official X account that he "passed away from a brief and sudden illness" on Saturday evening.

NBC News reported that emergency services responded to a call for cardiac arrest at Graham's Capitol Hill home on Saturday night, according to police scanner audio obtained by NBC and other outlets. Graham had been scheduled to appear yesterday morning on the NBC news talk show "Meet the Press."

Trump paid tribute to Graham on that same show, calling him a natural-born, hard-working politician who was skilled at dealing with people from both major US parties. "He's a tough one to lose. He was great. He was unique in every way, actually," Trump said by telephone.

Trump said they had spoken only just Saturday evening as Graham returned from a trip to Ukraine sounding tired, and they made tentative plans to meet on



US Senator Lindsey Graham. **(AFP)**

yesterday (Sunday).

"It could have been his last call," Trump said.

Graham made a failed bid for the presidency in 2016, warning at the time that Republicans should not back Trump because he was a "race-baiting, xenophobic, religious bigot."

Their relationship was again strained by the January 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection, with Graham saying his Republican colleagues should "count me out, enough is enough" — although he later voted against convicting Trump in his impeachment trial.

Graham reconciled their relationship and backed his re-election bid. He was also a strong supporter of Israel and the Iran war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he was deeply saddened by the death of Graham, whom he met in Kyiv as recently as Friday.

"He visited Ukraine ten times during the years of Russia's full-scale invasion and was here with our people when it was most needed... America and the world have

lost a determined leader," Zelensky said in a Facebook post.

Graham had recently won a primary election to seek a fourth Senate term in the November mid-terms.

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster will have to appoint a successor for the remaining months of Graham's term while another primary will need to be held.

Graham was first elected to the US House of Representatives in 1994, before being elected to the Senate in 2002.

He was re-elected to the Senate in 2008, 2014 and 2020 and most recently served as chairman of the Senate Budget Committee.

Raised in the town of Central, South Carolina, where his parents ran a restaurant and pool hall, Graham was the first in his family to go to college, according to his biography on the Senate website.

He served as a military lawyer and attained the rank of Air Force colonel, an experience that informed his interventionist stance in foreign affairs.

Syrian parliament holds first session

AFP
Damascus

Syria's transitional parliament began its first session on yesterday, state television reported, tasked with drafting the country's new constitution and laying the groundwork for democracy after decades of authoritarian rule.

Syria's new authorities dissolved the country's rubber-stamp legislature after toppling ruler Bashar al-Assad in December 2024, and adopted a temporary constitutional declaration to cover a five-year transition period.

In October last year, in a process criticised as undemocratic, local committees appointed by the electoral commission — which in turn was appointed by President Ahmed al-Sharaa — began selecting two-thirds of the 210 members of the new parliament. Al-Sharaa appointed the remaining 70 members last week.

The session began yesterday with 206 members, excluding those from Druze-majority Sweida province in the south, which has not designated its members following sectarian bloodshed there last year. The selection process was held in formerly Kurdish-run areas of the north and northeast earlier this year, after the Damascus authorities assumed control and signed a deal on integrating Kurdish institutions into the state.

Representatives were sworn in and elected Abdelhalim al-Awwak, a legal expert from Hasakeh province and one of the drafters of last year's constitutional declaration, as speaker of parliament with 99 votes. In his opening remarks, al-Sharaa called on lawmakers



President Ahmed al-Sharaa speaks during the inaugural session of Syria's newly formed People's Assembly in Damascus yesterday **(Reuters)**

ers to be "models of responsibility and competence, and to contribute to establishing a culture of dialogue, the rule of law, and respect for institutions", adding that the country was writing "a new chapter in its history".

Claudio Cordone, deputy UN special envoy for Syria, called the parliament's first session "a key milestone in the country's political transition", adding that they "will follow its work closely and stand ready to support" it.

During its renewable 30-months mandate, the parliament is expected to undertake several tasks — most notably forming a committee to draft the constitution, approving the budget, and proposing and amending laws.

But major challenges related to the legislature's independence and the separation of powers remain, according to analysts.

Syrians have criticised the mechanism for forming parliament, citing the absence of direct elections.

Iraq PM with delegation to meet Trump in US: Official

Iraq's Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi will be in the US today to meet President Donald Trump in his first international visit since taking office, his government spokesperson said.

Al-Zaidi, who came to power this year with Trump's blessing, assumed office amid growing US pressure on Baghdad to disarm pro-Iran armed groups that have frequently targeted US facilities in Iraq. In Washington, Zaidi hopes to attract US investments to the country, which urgently needs to boost its economy, especially after significant revenue losses caused by the halt in oil exports during the Middle East war.

Al-Zaidi is "heading to Washington on Monday, leading a high-level delegation, at the invitation of the US president," government spokesperson Haidar al-Aboudi said.

The talks will focus on "strengthening economic relations and investments", especially in the oil and power sectors, he added. The state's monopoly on arms is a necessary requirement to "ensure internal stability... and attract investments capable of boosting" the economy, Aboudi said. Al-Zaidi has vowed to ensure pro-Iran armed groups hand over their weapons, but he is facing pushback from some factions.

Oil-rich Iraq has long walked a tightrope between the competing influences of its allies, neighbouring Iran and the US. It has been recently trying to move past decades of war and unrest, but it still suffers from poor infrastructure, failing public services, mismanagement and endemic corruption. In recent months, Iraq has signed several deals with US companies.

During his one-week trip to Washington, al-Zaidi is expected to sign several more agreements, including a deal to establish a fund into which Iraq will deposit half a million barrels of oil per day in exchange for boosting the country's electricity supply. **(AFP)**

Nine dead as Russia, Ukraine exchange fire

Russia fired a wave of drones and missiles at Ukraine overnight, killing four people, while Ukrainian strikes on Russia and Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine killed five, officials said yesterday. The strikes came a day before Ukraine's allies were set to meet in Paris for talks on pressuring Russia to end its more than four-year war. US-led diplomatic efforts to end the fighting have stalled in recent months, as Washington has shifted focus to its war with Iran. Moscow has meanwhile escalated its campaign of ballistic missile strikes on Ukraine, killing dozens of people including in the capital Kyiv since July. Three people were killed in Russian attacks on Ukraine's central region overnight, including two in a strike on an "industrial enterprise" in the city of Kryvyi Rig, regional officials said. A separate drone attack on the southern city of Kherson killed a 48-year-old, mayor Yaroslav Shanko. Ukrainian strikes on the Russian-occupied part of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region meanwhile left four dead. **(AFP)**

Slow restoration of Cuba power grid after latest blackout

Cuba worked to revive its electrical grid Saturday after a second nationwide blackout in less than a week, with repairs hampered by a fuel shortage caused by a US blockade, authorities said.

The Caribbean island is reeling from its worst economic crisis in decades — one made worse by the fuel blockade imposed by US President Donald Trump in January as part of a pressure campaign aimed at ending six decades of communist rule. About 12% of households in Havana, a city of

1.7mn, had power as of Saturday night, up from 7% at midday, according to the state UNE electricity utility. "Restoration is proceeding gradually, as conditions allow," it said on X.

It was the fourth nationwide blackout in less than six months and the ninth since late 2024 for the island nation which has a population of 9.6 mn. The grid failed Friday afternoon, two days after authorities reconnected the system following a nationwide outage on Monday last week.

Cuban residents vented their

frustration at the power situation. "What can I do? I can't do anything, just adapt to continue living in this country unfortunately, that's it, I can't do anything else," Eneyda Gomez, 71, said.

"We're already living under an almost unbearable amount of stress...the population can't take any more," said Pedro Martinez, 63, who added he sees no "solutions in short term."

President Miguel Diaz-Canel said in a social media post on Saturday the situation was "very complex due to the genocidal oil

blockade" imposed by Washing-

ton. Washington authorised in January the arrival of only one Russian tanker — carrying 100,000 tons of crude — which came in March. Those reserves have since been exhausted. Cuba's electrical grid suffers from frequent total or partial blackouts due to aging infrastructure and fuel shortages.

The utility company said the fuel shortage also complicates restoration work, as it prevents the use of backup generators. **(AFP)**

Political violence shadows Bangladeshi PM Tarique Rahman's new government

AFP
Dhaka

Bangladesh's new government won power promising to end political violence, but six months after Prime Minister Tarique Rahman took office, the killings continue.

Rahman, who leads the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), pledged during February's elections to end the state-backed violence that marked Sheikh Hasina's rule before her ouster in the 2024 revolution.

Rights groups say political rivalries, weak law enforcement and a culture of impunity are driving continued violence after the elections brought Bangladesh's first elected government to power since the uprising.

Prominent rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) recorded at least 66 politically related killings, along with 61 deaths in police custody, 11 extrajudicial killings and other alleged human rights abuses over the last six months.

"Deaths in jail and police custody appear to be rising," ASK

senior official Abu Ahmed Faijul Kabir told AFP. The government disputes that.

It insists the situation is improving and argues that the increase in reported killings reflects historic cases because surviving relatives only now feel secure enough to report them to police.

"After the current government assumed office, we are in a historically improved position on most indicators," Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed told parliament in late June.

Others tell a different story. In June, 17-year-old Mohammed Suman joined a rally held by Hasina's Awami League.

The rally was banned — Hasina is a convicted fugitive hiding in neighbouring India and facing a death sentence in absentia — and Suman vanished.

Three days later, police recovered the teenager's rotting corpse from the Turag River in Dhaka, along with the bodies of two others. "We were not even aware that Suman was involved in politics," his uncle Jewel Babu told AFP, saying he was a hardworking teenager who worked night shifts at a



Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman during an election rally in Dhaka in February. **(AFP)**

kitchen market while studying for school.

Suman's family said they pieced together what happened from friends, who said police and a mob broke up a flash Awami League rally, forcing them to flee by boat across the river.

"We have heard that, after being chased by local BNP leaders, they crossed the river only to encounter police," said Supreme Court lawyer Arif Sarkar Pavel, who is repre-

senting seven men arrested during the same incident and held under anti-terrorism laws.

"Some people also beat them with bamboo sticks after they jumped into the river," he added. "Police are trying to bury the truth." Police have denied accusations of brutality and said that there was "no incident" of killing. AFP could not independently verify how Suman died.

Police spokesman AHM Shaha-

dat Hossain said authorities were investigating all reported incidents of violence.

"In some cases, political party members were killed over personal feuds or land disputes," Hossain told AFP. "However, because the victims were involved in politics, the incidents are labelled as political violence."

He added that authorities expected tensions to rise ahead of local polls later this year.

"Past records show that we experience more violence during local government elections," Hossain said.

BNP spokesperson Shairul Kabir Khan said Rahman had already expelled party members guilty of political violence.

"He has instructed both the Home Ministry and the Law Ministry to remain neutral and ensure justice for victims — regardless of their political affiliation," Khan said. "Unfortunately, violence is part of politics in the subcontinent, and Bangladesh is not immune to that culture," he added.

The violence has included local power struggles within political parties. On June 9, local BNP of-

ficial Billal Hossain Talukdar was stabbed to death during a meeting.

On June 12, Masudul Haque, a local BNP leader and businessman in Chattogram, was shot dead by gunmen who arrived in a motor-rickshaw.

And on July 6, attackers hurled petrol bombs at an opposition rally in Savar, outside Dhaka, wounding four activists from the National Citizen Party.

The political violence comes against a backdrop of continued violent crime, with police statistics recording an average of at least 10 murders a day, including 1,238 murders between March and June. "If the government wants to remain popular, it should ensure the rule of law — regardless of the identity of the perpetrators," said Muhammad Sazzad Hossain Siddiqui, a professor of peace and conflict studies of the University of Dhaka.

Siddiqui said periods of political transition typically trigger violence from two groups — those seeking to reclaim lucrative illicit income streams from rivals and those competing for local dominance.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
﴿يَا أَيَّتُهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّتِي﴾

We extend our sincere condolences and
deepest sympathy to

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar

and

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

and the honorable members of the Al Thani family
and the people of Qatar

on the passing of the great leader,

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
The Father Amir

May Allah have mercy upon the deceased and
grant him a place in his spacious paradise.

”إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ”

