QATAR ↘ 08
STUDENT-LED PROJECTS AT QF'S EARTHNA SUMMIT PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



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SPORT ↘ 17
AL SADD SEEK TO TURN DOMESTIC DOMINANCE INTO ASIAN SUCCESS



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AMIR CUP SPARKS EXCITEMENT

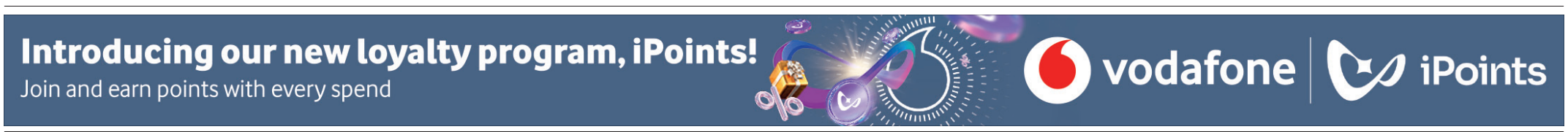
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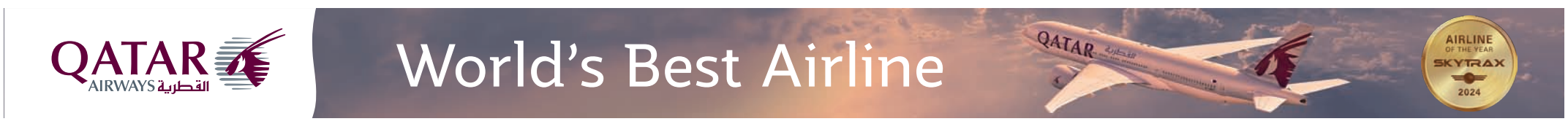
The Peninsula

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PM conveys Amir's condolences at Pope Francis funeral

ROME: Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani conveyed the condolences of Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, to His Eminence Cardinal Kevin Joseph Farrell, Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Catholic Church, on the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis of the Vatican.

The condolences were as well conveyed by H E Sheikh Thani bin Hamad Al-Thani.

This came during the participation of Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and H E Sheikh Thani bin Hamad Al-Thani, in the official funeral of His Holiness Pope Francis, held in Rome yesterday. — ***QNA***



Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani and H E Sheikh Thani bin Hamad Al-Thani arrive for the funeral of Pope Francis, in Rome yesterday.

UN lauds Qatar's role in facilitating joint declaration between DRC, M23

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General's Spokesperson H E Stephane Dujarric said the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has lauded Qatar's role in facilitating the signing of the Joint Declaration between representatives of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Congo River Alliance March 23 Movement (M23) in Doha. The spokesperson noted that the UN mission welcomed the signing of the Joint Declaration, describing it as an important step toward de-escalating the conflict in the eastern region of the country. — ***QNA***

Global Security Forum 2025 from tomorrow

DOHA: Qatar will once again serve as a global platform for high-level security dialogue from April 28 to 30 as it hosts the 2025 edition of the Global Security Forum. Held under the patronage of Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, the invitation-only event will take place at Raffles and Fairmont – Katara Towers, in Lusail. — ***THE PENINSULA***

Qatar-UK Strategic Dialogue today

DOHA: Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani and Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom H E David Lammy will co-chair the second Qatar-UK Strategic Dialogue in Doha today.

Held under the theme "Partners for the Future," the dialogue stands as another milestone in advancing partnership between Qatar and the UK, reaffirming the two sides' unflagging commitment to further strengthening cooperation across various fields. The dialogue comes following the visit by Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani to London in December 2024, on the invitation by His Majesty King Charles III, along with Amir's talks with Prime Minister H E Keir Starmer. — ***QNA*** ➔P5

Conference on orientalism promotes balanced dialogue

SANAULLAH ATAULLAH
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: With the participation of over 300 researchers from 50 countries, the first edition of the International Conference on Orientalism began in Doha yesterday.

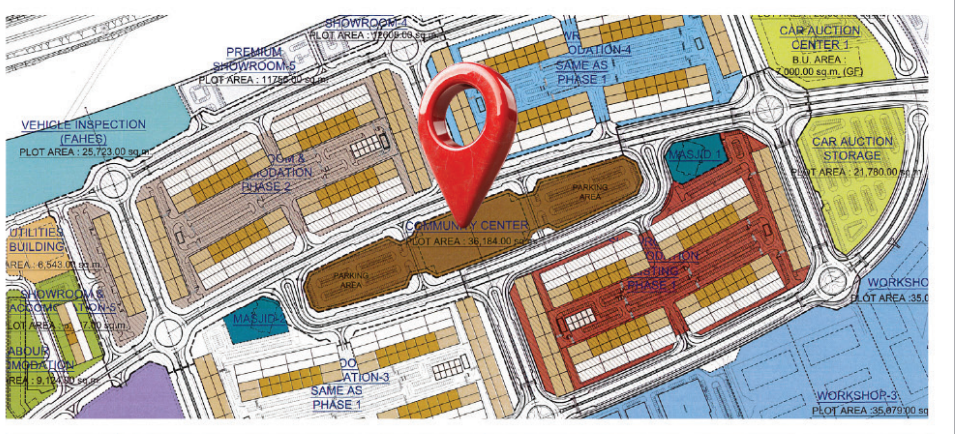
The two-day event, with the theme 'Towards Balanced Civilizational Engagement,' is being organised by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, QatarDebate, in partnership with the Permanent Committee for Organizing Conferences at MoFA. It brings together leading scholars, researchers, and intellectuals from around the world to explore evolving perspectives and contemporary debates within the field of Orientalist studies.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Lolwah bint Rashid Al Khater said: "We meet today to create a safe space for deep, serious intellectual discussions without sensitivities." She said that the conference seeks to achieve the magical balance created by Tolstoy in his famous epic, "War and Peace," by striking an intellectual balance between popular sentiment and specialised literary criticism. "Through the conference, we will learn about the relationship between the conference and the novel by Russian author Leo Tolstoy," said the Minister.

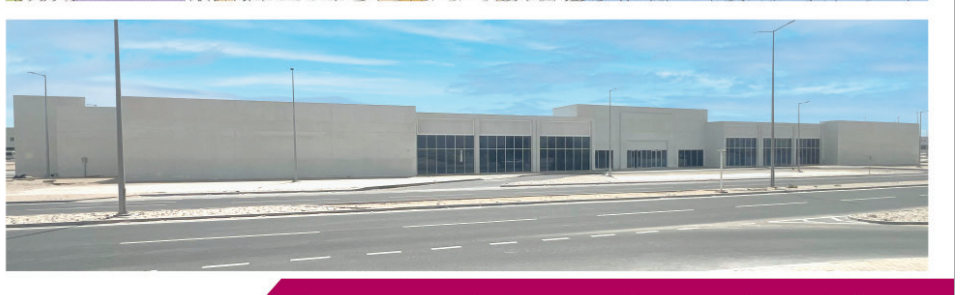
She said this idea came in 2021, when Europe and Muslim-majority countries were swept by a wave of events and protests centred around the insult to Islamic religious symbols, and the subsequent actions and events. ➔P6



Waseef is pleased to announce an exclusive opportunity for companies to lease a premium space located at the heart of Madinat Mawater.
This strategically located property boasts a land area of **36,184** m2 , with a built-up area of **9,890** m2 and a remarkable **512** parking spaces.
Interested companies are invited to submit their proposals, specifying rental rates and detailed operational plan, in a sealed envelope by **6th May 2025**.



Location: Madinat Mawater
Lease Term: Minimum **5** years
Grace Period: **6** months
Rental escalation during the lease term must be provided through out the lease term.
The building will be leased as shell and core without any interior fit-out.



Required Documents:
- Commercial registration
- Establishment registration
- Municipality license
- Sponsor's QID copy
- Bank statement for the last six months
- Audited financial statements for the last three years (2022, 2023, 2024)
- Credit report from the Qatar Credit Information Center

Important Notes:
Submission should be done in 2 hard copies and 2 electronic copies through CD or USB.
Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

For more information or inquiries, please contact:
55005310
66861149

LET US MANAGE YOUR WORLD

THE VIEW HOSPITAL | In Affiliation With Cedars Sinai

The View Hospital Marks Patient Experience Week with a Bold Step Forward



A specialized seminar held to inspire, educate, and elevate the future of patient experience

"Patient experience is no longer a side initiative—it's a strategic priority that begins at the very top," said **Dr. Fatih Mehmet Gul, Chief Executive Officer of The View Hospital.** "As a leader, it's essential for me to remain close to both patients and care teams. That's why we've prioritized direct communication channels, invested in smart tools like the patient portal and mobile app, and continuously implement real-time service enhancements based on patient feedback. Every interaction counts, and every idea—from leadership to the front line—contributes to shaping care that is seamless, responsive, and genuinely centered around the patient."

"This seminar is a continuation of our unwavering commitment to that vision. At The View, we take pride in being at the forefront of this dialogue, especially through our ongoing collaboration with Cedars-Sinai, as we work together to elevate the standards of person-centered care across the region."



In a milestone event for healthcare collaboration in the region, The View Hospital, in affiliation with Cedars-Sinai, hosted a transformative seminar this week focused on enhancing patient-centered care through global best practices. Held on April 17, the seminar brought together healthcare professionals, executives, and experience leaders from across Qatar and beyond for a full day of knowledge sharing, reflection, and strategy.

The agenda featured interactive masterclasses and 'Train the Trainer' sessions led by Alan Dubovsky, Vice President and Chief Patient Experience Officer at Cedars-Sinai, and Max Nicholson, Associate Director of Patient Experience.



The seminar, titled "Elevating Patient Experience", was designed to provide more than inspiration—it delivered real-world tools and strategies that attendees could immediately apply in their departments.

Opening the event, Dr. Fatih Mehmet Gul, CEO of The View Hospital, emphasized the need to redefine excellence beyond clinical outcomes.

The program emphasized communication, emotional intelligence, service recovery, and building a culture where patient experience is everyone's responsibility. Participants joined small-group discussions, roleplay exercises, and collaborative brainstorming to develop skills that will strengthen both teamwork and care delivery.

A highly engaging Q&A interactive session gave attendees the opportunity to raise real-world questions and learn directly from the Cedars-Sinai team, while a fun and interactive "Patient Experience Innovation Challenge" encouraged participants to think creatively about solving everyday experience gaps. The challenge brought a lively, competitive spirit to the day and showcased just how powerful collective thinking can be in shaping better care.







Nasser Al Naimi, Chief of Patient Experience at Hamad Medical Corporation and Director of the Hamad Healthcare Quality Institute, delivered a powerful keynote on the future of patient experience in Qatar.

> "I've seen firsthand how fear surrounds patients, even in something as routine as a hospital visit," said Nasser Al Naimi "That fear—of not coming back home—is real, and it's why we're committed to person-centered care. When patients are involved in decisions, when they're truly heard, it changes everything."
> He added, "This seminar is an important step in that journey—bringing minds together to elevate the voice of the patient and build care models that truly respect their needs. At HMC, we're proud that by the end of this year, nine of our hospitals will be accredited in person-centered care. It's not just a goal—it's a responsibility."



The afternoon continued with a private, invite-only workshop, offering a deeper dive into advanced patient experience practices. The session began with a focused discussion on the Patient and Family Advisory Committee (PFAC), exploring the vital role that patient voices play in shaping healthcare policies and service delivery. Later, members of The View Hospital and Cedars-Sinai's patient experience teams took part in an exclusive 'Train the Trainers' (TOT) masterclass, designed to empower frontline leaders with the tools, confidence, and frameworks needed to lead internal transformation and embed a sustainable culture of patient-first care.

"This was not a one-time event," said Farah Aboul Housn, Director of Patient Experience at The View Hospital. "This is part of a long-term movement to lead with heart, to listen more deeply, and to deliver care that stays with patients long after they leave our doors."

At the end of the Patient Experience Seminar, a simple yet profound question was posed:

"What does patient-centered care really mean?"
The answers were not theoretical or rehearsed—they came straight from the heart, reflecting real experiences and deeply held beliefs.

Dr. Jassim Fakhro, Medical Director of Qatari Physicians, The View Hospital, Qatar, shared his perspective, saying: "When I provide exceptional care to a patient, it means they return to me—again and again—because they trust the experience and feel assured that their health is in safe hands."

Dr. Aaesha Al-Harmi, Dentist, Dubai Health, UAE:
"Patient-centered care starts with us. With you, with me, with our families and with the entire community."

"Every detail matters," said **Lama Jibaii**, Deputy General Manager, AL Sahel General Hospital Lebanon: "It's the small things that build trust—and that trust is what ultimately drives high patient satisfaction."

Adan Dubovsky, Chief Experience Officer, Cedars-Sinai, USA, emphasized the importance of partnership in care, stating: "Patient-centered care means no decision is made without the patient and their caregivers being part of it. This shared responsibility is what makes the experience truly meaningful—and truly human."

Different voices. Diverse backgrounds. Yet all united by a single truth: that real care isn't just built on protocols and systems—it begins with listening, is shaped by empathy, and endures through compassion. It's a human journey, long before it becomes a clinical one.
As part of its ongoing affiliation with Cedars-Sinai, The View Hospital continues to lead initiatives that redefine quality, compassion, and innovation in healthcare—not just in Qatar, but across the wider region.

For Location
For WhatsApp
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THEVIEWHOSPITAL.COM

Amir congratulates President of Tanzania on Union Day

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to President of the United Republic of Tanzania H E Samia Suluhu Hassan, on the occasion of her country's Union Day.

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania H E Kassim Majaliwa, on the occasion of his country's Union Day. — ***QNA***

Amir sends condolences to President of Iran on port explosion victims

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani, and Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani sent a cable of condolences to President of the Islamic Republic of Iran H E Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian on the victims of the explosion at Bandar Abbas port in southern Iran, wishing a speedy recovery for the injured. A powerful explosion ripped through a key port in southern Iran yesterday. — ***QNA***

Biodiversity, wildlife conservation top sustainable development priorities: Environment Minister

DOHA: Minister of Environment and Climate Change, H E Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie affirmed that biodiversity and wildlife conservation are top priorities within Qatar's environmental policy and form an integral part of the country's efforts to achieve balanced sustainable development in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030.

Speaking at the opening of the 71st General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), held in Doha, His Excellency highlighted that Qatar's hosting of this major international environmental event reflects its renewed commitment to supporting global efforts aimed at protecting wildlife, preserving ecosystems, and achieving environmental balance.

He emphasized that accelerating environmental challenges, chief among them biodiversity loss, necessitate intensified global cooperation and unified efforts to ensure the planet's sustainability for future generations.

His Excellency noted that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has launched several initiatives to strengthen wildlife protection, expand the network of nature reserves, and rehabilitate natural habitats. In addition, the ministry has enacted strict legislation to protect endangered species as part of the National Environment and Climate Change Strategy (2024-2030), which is grounded in principles of environmental leadership, diversity, and sustainability.

Minister of Environment emphasised that investing in biodiversity is an investment in the future of humanity and called for fostering a culture of environmental responsibility while empowering local communities to preserve nature's balance.

He further stated that convening the CIC General Assembly in Doha provides a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, scientific discussion, and the sharing of best practices in environmental conservation. The participation of representatives from more than 80 countries, he said, underscores growing global recognition of biodiversity as a central element in climate action and environmental security.

H E Dr. Al Subaie also underscored Qatar's close collaboration with international partners and environmental organizations to enhance frameworks for cooperation and contribute meaningfully to global wildlife conservation projects. He stressed that today's challenges, particularly the rapid degradation of natural habitats and rising extinction rates, place a collective responsibility on the international community to safeguard the planet's resources.

He called on participants to actively engage in the assembly's sessions and accompanying workshops to develop practical recommendations and action plans that advance global wildlife conservation efforts and promote integration between environmental and developmental policies.

His Excellency reiterated Qatar's steadfast commitment to its regional and international role in environmental protection. He emphasized that investing in biodiversity is, ultimately, an investment in the future of humanity and called for fostering a culture of environmental responsibility while empowering local communities to protect and preserve nature's balance. — ***QNA***

MWANI QATAR مـوانـي قـطـر

AUCTIONS COMMITTEE

AUCTION NO. (MQ /AC/AUCT/17/2025)

FOR SALE OF floating Ponton, tiles, granite, furniture, aluminum windows, coal, firewood, household utensils and other miscellaneous goods

Mwani Qatar Auction's committee announces a public auction for the sale of goods mentioned above according to the following terms: -

Document fees	last Date for		Time & Date of Sale
	Document collection	Inspection of Goods	
QAR 500	12/05/2025	14/05/2025	Saturday 09:00 AM 17/05/2025

1.	Document collection	Documents for the above mentioned auction can be obtained from the Finance and Accounting Department of MQ, via Email, Tel No. (40453724/568 - 31265655 / 30121037) , after depositing the non-refundable amount mentioned above at MQ A/C No. (0850 - 102030 - 060) at QNB and submitting the bank depositing receipt and copy of Qatari ID for personal bidder / the Commercial Registration for companies . (07:30 - 14:30) . **EMAIL Tender.secretary@mwani.com.qa**
2.	Goods inspection	Hamad Port , Messaied (CT3 / LCL2) after issuing of gate pass (as per the rules and regulations) For only one person , (07:30 - 14:30) .
3.	Auction Place	MQ, main building Hamad Port, Messaied, 1st floor
4.		Successful bidder for any item has to pay 10% of the awarded value in Qatari Riyals by Debit or Credit Card only (cash is not accepted), immediately , and to complete the balance within maximum 5 working days after the Auction date. If the bidder fails to pay during the allocated period, the Auction committee reserves the right to confiscate the deposit and resale the goods without notifying the buyer.
5.		The inspection permit and the Auction Card will be issued for One person only , after paying the documents fees and port entry permit fees . No inspection will be without the inspection permit and it is not allowed to attend the Auction without the Auction Card.
6.		Goods will only be delivered to the winning bidder, and the resale is not allowed in the Auction yard.
7.		Safety measures will be applied at all stages of the auction (preview, sale, receipt of goods) and all bidders must abide by the instructions for tour safety and to facilitate the auction procedures.
8.		For further information you can call the following number: (**55528788, 31330300**) during working hours.

Mwani Qatar @Mwaniqtr Mwani.qatar Mwani.Qatar Mwani Qatar www.mwani.com.qa

KATARA HOSPITALITY

RFP Announcement

RFP No.	Subject	Document Sale Period		Closing Date	Fees QR.
		Start Date	End Date		
KH/RFP/017-25/DRC	Replacement of Malfunction Bars / Joints within the Existing Bus Bar System, complete with Associated Accessories and Civil / M.E.P. Works at Ritz Carlton Doha Hotel	27/04/2025	08/05/2025	15/05/2025	450.00

CONDITIONS

- Vendors should be Kahramaa approved Contractors Only.
- Interested MEP Works Contractors are invited to register their Company online and obtain a Supplier Registration ID, a requirement for the issuance of RFP Documents by Katara Hospitality.
- A payment of non-refundable document fees should be deposited to Katara Hospitality Bank Account No. 0013-038587-060 with Qatar National Bank.
- Documents may be collected during the Document Sale Period only. RFP document requests submitted after the specified Document Sale Period will not be considered.t
- Bank receipt together with valid Company Commercial Registration and Computer Card must be submitted via KH.onlinetender@katarahospitality.com only. Documents will be sent electronically within 24 hours during working days from receipt of complete requirements.
- Proposal to be submitted in sealed envelopes as per the RFP Documents requirements in (HARD COPY) & (SOFT COPY on USB).
- The successful vendor is required to submit a performance bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar equivalent to 10% of the contract sum and shall be valid to 90 days after the expiry of Maintenance Certificate.
- Offers should be valid for 120 days commencing from the closing date (as stated above).t
- Katara Hospitality has the right to increase or decrease the scope of services by 20% with the same terms, conditions.
- Katara Hospitality is not bound to accept the lowest bidder or any other participant and is under no obligation to show reasons thereof.
- Bids must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon on the specified closing date. All submission should be delivered to the 30th Floor Reception of Katara Hospitality Head Office, Burj Marina Tower, Lusail City and quoting the RFP Number and Subject.
- Offers arriving thereafter may not be considered.

REGISTER YOUR COMPANY ON OUR WEBSITE UNDER E-SOURCING TAB TO ACCESS ALL ACTIVE TENDERS THAT CAN BE VIEWED ON KATARA HOSPITALITY WEBSITE "WWW.KATARAHOSPITALITY.COM

Tel: 44237778 / 44237774 / 44237870 Fax: 44237734

Roundtable held to follow up on AutismTech 2025 outcomes

NEW York:The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, in collaboration with Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), Autism Speaks, and the American Autism Association (AAA), organised a high-level roundtable at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

This event aimed to follow up on the outcomes of the AutismTech 2025 Conference, hosted by HBKU in Doha from April 14 to 16, 2025, to mark World Autism Awareness Day.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the roundtable, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations H E Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani underscored the State of Qatar's enduring commitment to ensuring the rights of individuals with autism to be fully included in the community.

Her Excellency pointed out that the overarching approach Qatar pursues is evidently based on an integrated system of legislative frameworks, national policies, and specialised programs that aim to empower this segment and support its active engagement across various domains of life.

This approach is laser-focused on the State of Qatar's strategic investment in comprehensive education, the provision of expedited healthcare, and the enhancement of advanced scientific research, as part of a long-term vision spearheaded by Chairperson of the Education Above All Foundation H H Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, which gives foremost priority to espousing autism causes and enhancing the opportunities of inclusion in the community, Her Excellency underlined.

Research, Development, and Innovation Advisor to the Chairperson of Qatar Foundation Prof. Hilal A. Lashuel stated that Qatar sees that its advancement is contingent upon unlocking the full potential of its people, including individuals with autism. — ***QNA***

مؤسسة قطر Qatar Foundation

INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
HBKU-RFQ-1079	DocuSign Subscription services for QF-HBKU on Call Off basis for 3 years	500	20,000	27th May-2025, 2:00pm
HBKU-RFQ-1080	Provision for Supply of Logistics support Services to Qatar Foundation-HBKU on Call-Off Basis for 3 years	500	20,000	27th May-2025, 2:00pm
HBKU-RFQ-984-2	Tech Refresh/ Laboratory Environment Management System	500	7,000	27th May-2025, 2:00pm
HBKU-RFQ-1114	Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) (KS).	500	7,000	27th May-2025, 2:00pm

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

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

   Tender Fee: Interested bidders can Sign in by visiting this link https://Suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online.
   All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.
   Tender Fee Payment Dates: Payment of Tender Fee online will be from **27-Apr-25** Until **15-May-25**

2) All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.

3) Technical and Commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier portal as per the instructions provided in the "Supplier Portal" work instruction.

- The Commercial bid must be valid for **180 Days** from the Bid Closing Date.
- The Commercial bid must be accompanied by a Bank Guarantee (Tender Bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **180 days** from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents)
- The successful tenderer will be required to submit a Performance Bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
- Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

Note: All work instructions for Supplier registration and Supplier portal can be found in the link below

https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration

شبكة الجزيرة الإعلامية ALJAZEERA MEDIA NETWORK

Al Jazeera Media Network announces the following tender:

Sr. No.	Tender Ref. No.	Description	Tender Bond (QAR)	Tender Fee Non-Refundable (QAR)	Bid Closing Date and Time
1	GTC008-25	Cleaning Services 3-Years and 3 Months	120,000/-	1,000/-	02-June-2025 (13:00 Hrs)

Tenderer qualification requirement:

- **The Tenderer must have a minimum of 10 years of proven experience in the cleaning services field, all proposed staff must be under the sponsorship of the Service Provider as per Qatar's labor and immigration regulations. Each cleaner must have at least 2 years of verifiable experience in Qatar in the cleaning services field. The Service Provider must demonstrate relevant experience in a similar project, including at least one contract involving a minimum of 87 cleaners and supervisors under a single agreement. The Service Provider must be capable of deploying all required staff and commencing service delivery on the effective contract start date: January 1st, 2026.**
- **Tender documents can be collected from Al Jazeera Media Network, Procurement & Contracts Directorate Building 1st Floor, behind Al Jazeera Media Institute Building, TV Intersection Area, Doha by submitting an authorization letter showing the tender number and ID number of collecting person under the company letterhead, after paying the tender fee (as applicable) at QIB Branch inside Al Jazeera's Support Services building.**
- **Tender documents are to be collected from 27-April-2025 to 05-May-2025, between 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM (excluding Friday & Saturday).**
- **The Bid must be submitted with a Tender Bond issued by a Qatari Bank or by a bank operating in Qatar and should be valid for a period of 180 days from bid closing date.**
- **The offer must be valid for a period of 180 days from the bid closing date.**
- **The Technical and Commercial offers shall be submitted as per the instructions in the tender documents which shall bear the tender number and bid closing date.**
- **The last date for accepting the Tender offers shall be 01:00 PM of the bid closing date.**
- **For more information, please call 44897131.**

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Deputy PM crowns winners of Meqdam Shooting

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs H E Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali Al-Thani honoured the winners at the conclusion of the first edition of the Meqdam Shooting Championship, held at the Lusail Shooting Range. On the final day, the shotgun event took place, and the first winner was Hamad Mohammed Al Mannai from the Ministry of Defence, Class of 2020 (Batch 16), and the second place was Nasser Abdulaziz Al Nasr from Aspire Academy, Class of 2020 (Batch 12), while the third place went for Saud Ali Al Janahi from Visit Qatar, Class of 2018 (Batch 10). Additionally, Bader Kifah Al Yousef from the Ministry of Finance, Class of 2022 (Batch 19), was awarded the title of "The Sniper" for achieving the highest overall score across all three shooting disciplines. The event concluded in the presence of several senior officers of the Qatar Armed Forces.

Qatar-UK Strategic Dialogue today

FROM PAGE 1

Throughout these talks, both sides agreed on pathways to foster partnership in the areas of trade, investment and cooperation to address global challenges, as well as the progress made in the reciprocal growth, technological innovation, transition to the sustainable green, the domain of life sciences, the creative industries, and cultural cooperation, in addition to the continuation of their close collaboration and the exchange of knowledge regarding conflict resolution.

The dialogue is set to deliberate on cooperation between the two countries primarily on four key themes, namely future prosperity, a secure future, a more just future and the future of relations between the two peoples.

Falling under these pillars are eight working groups tasked with the fields of defence, security, counterterrorism, trade and investment, science, technology and innovation, development, mediation, culture, education, heritage, and health.

In addition, the dialogue will feature the launch of a working group in the field of technology, innovation, and science, alongside a working group in the field of health, in parallel with exploring prospects to propel bilateral cooperation across the domains of advanced technology, artificial intelligence, and future opportunities, including their role in bolstering healthcare applications and health data.

The dialogue will unequivocally deepen the Qatar-UK partnership in economy, trade and investment, defence and security, as well as cooperation in counterterrorism, in addition to bolstering coordination and bilateral cooperation to address global challenges.

The first strategic dialogue was convened in February 2023, in London, during which the two sides underscored their rock-solid and close partnership, in pursuit of jointly navigating regional and global challenges, expressing their commitment to increasing the pace of cooperation in a group of shared priorities.

The two nations are bound by significant trade and investment relations, with the volume of bilateral trade exceeding QR10bn in 2023, including QR6.1bn in Qatari exports to the UK.

Qatari investments in the British economy have reached £40bn, distributed by way of example across Heathrow Airport, Harrods, British Airways, and other distinguished British brands.

Qatar to host 2025 Global Security Forum: Exploring 'The Impact of Non-State Actors on Global Security'

GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM™ منتدى الأمن العالمي

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: From April 28 to 30, Qatar will once again serve as a global platform for high-level security dialogue as it hosts the 2025 edition of the Global Security Forum. Held under the patronage of H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, the Forum returns for its seventh edition under the theme: "The Impact of Non-State Actors on Global Security." This invitation-only event will take place at the iconic Raffles and Fairmont – Katara Towers, in Lusail City.

This seventh edition of the 2025 Global Security Forum will convene world leaders, senior government officials, security professionals, academics, and civil society actors to examine the growing influence of non-state entities on global peace and stability. As the international security environment evolves, the Forum will explore how actors such as transnational terrorist groups, private military companies, criminal syndicates, and digital disruptors are challenging state-based security frameworks and reshaping geopolitical dynamics.

As in previous years, the findings and key takeaways from GSF 2025 will be compiled into a strategic insights report. This will serve as a resource for global stakeholders, offering forward-looking policy recommendations across the domains of counterterrorism, cybersecurity, international diplomacy, and more.

Confirmed speakers and attendees include ministers, national security advisors, intelligence officials, internationally recognized experts, senior academics, and renowned media personalities from around the world.

In parallel, GSF 2025 will host a diverse series of side events, with many focusing on community engagement, emerging technology, and regional diplomacy. These include discussions on post-conflict reconstruction in Syria, Artificial Intelligence (AI) in security, mediation frameworks under international humanitarian law, and a special session hosted by Qatar University on global governance.

As in previous years, the findings and key takeaways from GSF 2025 will be compiled into a strategic insights report. This will serve as a resource for global stakeholders, offering forward-looking policy recommendations across the domains of counterterrorism, cybersecurity, international diplomacy, and more.

The Global Security Forum 2025 is organized by the Qatar International Academy for Security Studies (QIASS) and The Soufan Center, in cooperation with several high-level institutions serving as strategic partners, including the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), New America, Arizona State University, Defense One, and The Soufan Group. This year's edition continues to reinforce Qatar's position as an essential hub for strategic security dialogue and a catalyst for cross-border cooperation.

Audiences around the world will be able to join the Global Security Forum 2025 virtually through the Forum's official platform at www.globalsecurityforum.com.



Conference on orientalism promotes balanced dialogue

FROM PAGE 1

"This idea was not originally concerned with a conference on Orientalism, but rather began with the idea of launching an open, pivotal space that would bring together East and West, to deconstruct what began as a state of identity and cultural war," said Al Khater.

She added: "The East and Orientalism should not be reduced to Islam, the Arabs, and the Middle East. From this standpoint, we were keen to have significant participation from Asia, Eurasia, Russia, and other regions." The Minister said that the very division between East and West needs a profound and serious revision in the age of globalisation.

"We need to create safe spaces for deep, serious, and frank intellectual discussions and interactions, as these spaces are unfortunately becoming increasingly narrow in today's world," said Al Khater.

The conference brought together more than 300 researchers representing 50 countries from around the world, forming a rich intellectual mosaic reflecting the diversity of visions and approaches to the concept of Orientalism and its role in building bridges of communication between civilizations.



Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Lolwah bint Rashid Al Khater delivering the opening remarks during the conference.

The conference also featured a speech by the guest of honour, H E Professor Ibrahim Kalin, a Turkish academic and politician, and a high-level individual dialogue session with him, presented by media personality Sami Zidane.

As part of the conference activities, a dialogue session was organized entitled "Towards a Balanced Civilizational Communication," which hosted Minister of Culture of Lebanon H E Professor Ghassan Salame; Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Gambia H E Dr. Mamadou Tangara; and Director of the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies at Oxford University, Professor Dr. Eugene Rogan.



Minister of Culture of Lebanon H E Ghassan Salameh, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Gambia H E Dr. Mamadou Tangara, and Director of the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies at Oxford University Professor Dr. Eugene Rogan, and moderator Jamal Shiyal during a session at the conference.

The session was moderated by the media figure Jamal Shiyal, who raised several questions about the topic of the session, and how to maintain a balance between cultural values and avoid conflicts.

The session was a fruitful opportunity to open important discussions about balanced cultural communication and its impact on building strong relationships between individuals in various fields.

Professor Mahmoud Al-Hamza, head of the scientific committee, said: "This conference is the first of its kind in the Arab region, and will focus primarily on the new Orientalism that emerged some 50 years ago.

"This new Orientalism goes beyond classical Orientalism's concerns with religion, culture, and history to encompass the study of political, economic, and social issues in the East in general, and the Arab Levant in particular." Featuring a rich programme that combines academic depth with human interaction, the conference includes specialised scientific discussion sessions, along with accompanying cultural events that reflect the cultural and civilizational diversity of the participants.

The conference also features youth dialogue sessions representing the voice of the future, aiming to engage the new generation in cultural dialogue and enhance communication between cultures.

HMC launches study to identify effective treatments for shisha smoking cessation

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: In a significant move towards tackling the increasing rate of shisha smoking, Hamad Medical Corporation's Tobacco Control Centre – WHO Collaborating Centre has announced the launch of the first clinical study of its kind in Qatar and the region.

The study, conducted in collaboration with the Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Council, aims to evaluate the most effective methods to help individuals quit shisha smoking. The research initiative comes as part of national efforts to prevent tobacco use and support healthier lifestyles in the country.

The Tobacco Control Centre's 2019 survey showed that 25.2% of adults in Qatar use tobacco products, with shisha ranking as the second most prevalent kind at 8.3%. These statistics underpinned the decision to carry out this study and the findings demonstrated the critical need for targeted clinical interventions aimed at quitting shisha smoking.



Dr. Ahmad Mohamed Al Mulla

The research initiative comes as part of national efforts to combat tobacco use and promote healthier lifestyles in the country. It specifically targets the citizens and residents in Qatar aged 18 and above who are regular shisha users. The study team is actively recruiting participants through field visits to government offices, hospitals, universities, and primary healthcare centers.

Dr. Ahmad Mohamed Al Mulla, Director of the Tobacco Control Centre, stressed the importance of addressing persistent misunderstandings within the community, "Despite Qatar's strict tobacco control laws, such as Law No. 10 of 2016 and ongoing awareness campaigns, many people continue to believe that shisha is less harmful than cigarettes. Scientific evidence proves otherwise — shisha smoking exposes users to high levels of nicotine and toxic substances, often exceeding those of a single cigarette in just one session. Moreover, withdrawal symptoms experienced by shisha users during cessation mirror those of cigarette smokers, and the addictive nature of shisha tends to increase over time, making quitting very difficult."

Dr. Al Mulla added that the findings of the study will help shape data-driven national policies for tobacco cessation and contribute to improving public health. "We believe this research will be crucial in providing scientifically validated treatment options and enhancing the quality of life for individuals looking to quit shisha smoking."

Hamad Medical Corporation encourages all shisha users in Qatar to take part in this significant study, which represents a vital step toward a tobacco-free future.

Reyada launches Oral and Maxillofacial Department to elevate dental wing

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Reyada Medical Centre has unveiled its new Oral and Maxillofacial Department, marking a significant advancement in the expansion of its dental services. This new initiative is part of the centre's mission to transform its dental wing into a state-of-the-art facility.

The newly launched Oral & Maxillofacial department will be led by renowned expert Dr. Samer Aziz Aljanzir, who brings over 20 years of experience in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Implantology. This department will offer a comprehensive range of services including general dental procedures, smile makeovers, dental implants, treatment of maxillary complex and mandibular problems, soft tissue injury care, impaction management, vestibuloplasty and more.

Managing Director of Reyada Medical Centre, Jamsheer Hamza commented on the launch, stating, "At Reyada, our mission has always been to provide compassionate and quality healthcare. The addition of the Oral and Maxillofacial Department is a reflection of our ongoing dedication to excellence and innovation in patient care."

Executive Director of Reyada Medical Centre, Dr. Abdul Kalam added, "We are proud to welcome Dr. Samer to lead this new department. His expertise and dedication align perfectly with our vision of offering advanced, patient-centered services across all specialities."



Reyada officials during the launch of Oral & Maxillofacial Department.

Reyada's dental department already includes a diverse team of Orthodontists, Endodontists, and General Dentists, providing a wide range of services and operating 7 days a week. This strategic expansion underlines Reyada's commitment to delivering advanced and comprehensive oral healthcare to the community.

Reyada Medical Centre, a JCI-accredited multi-speciality healthcare facility, located on C- Ring road, Doha, Qatar, stands as a beacon of excellence in medical care with 15+ specialties and a dedicated team of 25+ expert doctors. The centre offers an extensive range of services, including Radiology, Laboratory, Pharmacy, Optical, Physiotherapy, and more, all designed to provide patients with comprehensive, affordable and quality care.

Qatar welcomes signing of Declaration of Principles between DRC, Rwanda

DOHA: The State of Qatar has welcomed the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda in Washington, DC.

The agreement, which emphasizes mutual respect for the sovereignty of both nations and a firm commitment to resolving disputes through peaceful and negotiated means, is seen by Qatar as a positive and important step toward fostering stability and peace in the region. Qatar commends the constructive engagement and the commitment to dialogue and diplomacy, which reflect a genuine desire to de-escalate tensions and advance the interests of the peoples of both countries and the wider region.

Qatar values the diplomatic efforts undertaken by the United States, which are part of the broader international community's initiatives aimed at resolving the conflict and promoting security and stability in the Great Lakes region.

These efforts are in line with the progress achieved at the joint summit of the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on February 8, 2025, as well as the trilateral meeting between the leaders of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Rwanda, and the State of Qatar, held in Doha on March 18, 2025.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirms Qatar's support for all joint efforts and initiatives aimed at promoting peace. It also reiterates the State's consistent position advocating for the resolution of conflicts through dialogue and peaceful means, and its commitment to upholding the principles of international law; foundations that are essential to strengthening stability and reinforcing international peace and security. — *QNA*

Qatar National Library launches a 'Library in Miniature' in Al Khor

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar National Library (QNL) has introduced the first book-borrowing station of its kind in Qatar, letting library members in Al Khor browse and borrow books with ease and convenience.

The initiative is essentially a library in miniature and marks a significant step in the Library's ongoing efforts to promote literacy and accessibility and bring QNL services closer to the community.

The book-borrowing station operates like a vending machine but is entirely free for members. Borrowers can select up to six books at a time, just as they would at the Library itself. The first station has been installed on the ground floor of Al Khor Mall near the main entrance and is the first of more planned installations across Qatar.

"The launch of our first book borrowing station is a milestone in our mission to make knowledge more accessible to the community," said Katia Medawar, QNL's Director of Research and Learning Services. "By taking our services beyond the Library's walls, we are expanding opportunities for readers to engage with our collections, encouraging a culture of literacy and lifelong learning across Qatar."

To borrow a book, Library members simply swipe their card, or enter their membership number, and enter their password, after which they can browse the station's catalogue and select their desired book. The selection of books available will be regularly updated to ensure a diverse and dynamic reading experience for users. The service is available during regular mall hours, providing added convenience.

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The initiative is part of Qatar National Library's broader vision to create a more inclusive and culturally enriched society and aligns with its mission to foster lifelong learning while offering a more efficient and accessible borrowing experience.



The book-borrowing station operates like a vending machine but is entirely free for members.

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EDITORIAL

Amir Cup sparks excitement

As the dust settles on the Qatar Stars League season and anticipation builds for the Qatar Cup final, the spotlight now shifts to the country's most cherished domestic competition – the Amir Cup. With the Round of 16 draw unveiled in Doha on Thursday, fans can expect a string of intense clashes, underlined by history, rivalry and ambition.

At the centre of it all is defending champions Al Sadd, who begin their quest for a record-extending 20th Amir Cup title against Al Kharaitiyat. Fresh off their league triumph and a spot in the Qatar Cup final, Al Sadd have their sights set firmly on a domestic treble. Their May 6 clash at Al Thumama Stadium promises to be anything but routine – Al Kharaitiyat, who battled past Al Bidda SC in a penalty shootout, arrive with nothing to lose.

Al Duhail, still smarting from missing out on the league title but buoyed by a thrilling Qatar Cup semi-final win over Al Gharafa, take on Al Sailiya on May 5. The Second Division champions are not to be underestimated, making this an early litmus test for Christophe Galtier's side, who are chasing their fifth Amir Cup crown.

Al Gharafa, who ended the QSL season in third place, face a determined Al Khor. Meanwhile, the clash between Al Ahli and last year's finalists Qatar SC is shaping up to be one of the most evenly matched contests in the round. Al Ahli's top-four league finish gives them an edge, but Qatar SC have proven capable of springing surprises on the big stage.

Al Rayyan, chasing their first Amir Cup title since 2013, will begin against Lusail with renewed determination. "The format doesn't allow many mistakes. We must start strong," their coach Artur Jorge said. Also in action are Al Wakrah vs Umm Salal, Al Shahania vs Mesaimeer, and Al Shamal vs Al Arabi, all promising competitive football as teams aim to etch their name into the tournament's rich history.

Adding grandeur to the competition, the iconic Khalifa International Stadium will host the Amir Cup final on May 24, with Al Thumama, Jassim Bin Hamad, and Abdullah Bin Khalifa stadiums also staging matches in the knockout rounds. The Amir Cup has long been known for drawing passionate crowds, with fans from across the country turning out in large numbers to support their clubs. With the Qatar Cup final between Al Sadd and Al Duhail also set for May 10, May is football at its finest in Qatar – packed with tradition, glory, and the hunger to win.

Peru and Qatar: Enhancing diplomatic ties for mutual prosperity



ELMER SCHIALER,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF PERU

IN today's world, where global challenges are ever-present, strengthening bilateral relations is vital for achieving shared sustainable development. As I look ahead to our growing ties, I am inspired by the potential of the relationship between Peru and Qatar. Over time, this bilateral relationship has flourished, opening promising avenues for economic cooperation—driven by our shared commitment to global integration and enriched by our cultural bonds.

Strategically located on the Pacific coast of South America, Peru offers an exceptional gateway to both regional and global markets. With a population of over 34 million and an area of 1.28 million square kilometres, the country recorded solid economic performance in 2024, with GDP growth of 3.3%, inflation of 1.97% and exports of US$74.66 billion. Backed by more than three decades of sound economic policies, Peru offers a stable, investor-friendly environment, supported by a robust legal framework that guarantees equal treatment for foreign investors and compliance with international protection mechanisms such as ICSID and MIGA. The country's trade-led growth is further strengthened by more than 20 Free Trade Agreements and 32 Bilateral Investment Treaties, which provide preferential access to markets that account for 87% of its exports.

As a major logistics hub in Latin America, Peru plays a critical role in facilitating international trade through its advanced port infrastructure. Ranked 37th in the Maritime Connectivity Index (LSCI) in 2024, the country is the third most connected nation in South America. The Port of Callao, one of the largest on the Pacific coast of South America and the main export gateway for Peruvian goods, continues to expand its operational capacity. In addition, the inauguration of the Port of Chancay in November 2024 is expected to improve trade corridors and further integrate Peru into global supply chains. These advantages position Peru as an ideal gateway for Qatari investment and trade expansion in our region.

Bilateral relations between Peru and Qatar began in 1989 with the establishment of diplomatic relations. Since then, bilateral relations have expanded. Milestones include the opening of the Qatari Embassy in Lima in 2011 and the Peruvian Embassy in Doha in 2012. These institutional steps, along with the implementation of political consultation mechanisms, have facilitated dialogue and strengthened economic and political cooperation, paving the way for negotiations and new agreements, such as the project for a Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments Agreement and the project for an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement. As a result, both countries can explore opportunities for collaboration in infrastructure, mining and renewable energy.

Qatar stands as an important partner for Peru across multiple dimensions. As one of the world's leading energy producers and a global hub for financial and technological innovation, Qatar presents substantial opportunities for investment, knowledge sharing, and joint economic initiatives. Notably, the Qatari national development plan, "Qatar National Vision 2030," which focuses on sustainable development, aligns with Peru's own development objectives. This convergence creates a favorable setting for bilateral initiatives in key areas of mutual interest.

> *Qatar stands as an important partner for Peru across multiple dimensions. As one of the world's leading energy producers and a global hub for financial and technological innovation, Qatar presents substantial opportunities for investment, knowledge sharing, and joint economic initiatives.*



This context highlights the clear complementarity between the two economies. Peru exports high-quality agricultural products with high nutritional value, such as fresh fruit and quinoa, while Qatar supplies industrial chemicals. Expanding this dynamic opens up promising avenues in agriculture, logistics, energy, mining and industrial investment, areas that can foster sustainable and mutually beneficial growth.

Peru offers a wide range of cross-sector investment opportunities. Notable projects include the El Galeno project in mining; the Southern Integrated Gas Transportation System (SITGAS) in energy and hydrocarbons; and opportunities in wind, solar, biomass and geothermal energy through private sector initiatives. Infrastructure projects such as the Chimbote International Terminal and desalination plants in Lambayeque, Paita and Talara are also important for sustainable development. These large-scale initiatives offer promising prospects for Qatari investors, contributing to Peru's economic transformation while ensuring sustainable and profitable investments.

The Peru–Qatar relationship is becoming increasingly strong and multidimensional, driven by economic complementarity, shared development goals, and a firm commitment to international cooperation. As both nations deepen ties, Peru warmly invites Qatari investors, entrepreneurs, and decision-makers to discover the vast potential this dynamic relationship holds. Together, Peru and Qatar are well positioned to open new economic frontiers and shape a future of shared progress and lasting prosperity.

I am convinced that my visit will contribute to strengthening ties with the State of Qatar, promoting deeper cooperation across key sectors, and reaffirming our shared commitment to advancing a stronger and more dynamic relationship.

On China and Russia, Trump's tactics appear to fall flat



ISHAAN THAROOR
THE WASHINGTON POST

PRESIDENT Donald Trump began his second term styling himself as a great "peacemaker" and dealmaker. But almost 100 days since his inauguration, he is struggling to forge peace amid a thicket of raging conflicts – not least in Gaza and Ukraine – and has few artfully brokered deals to show after causing global panic with the threat of sweeping tariffs on exports to the United States. In particular, his efforts to persuade Russia (via negotiations over Ukraine) and confront China (through an escalating trade war that's seen triple-digit tariffs slapped onto Chinese exports) don't appear to be delivering the intended results.

This week, the Trump administration was on the back foot. Dozens of trade and finance ministers gathered in Washington for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund, where officials offered gloomy prognostications on the state of the global economy. Trump's tariffs – or the specter of them – are expected to be a drag on economic growth and may contribute to a "significant slowdown," according to the IMF. At a Washington Post event this week, Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank, said she was already seeing "some softening of growth numbers" on the continent and warned of an "across-the-board effect on GDP" around the world. The likely spike in costs for U.S. consumers may arrive in a few weeks.

China's retaliatory measures have spooked U.S. business leaders and even senior administration officials, who, my colleagues reported Thursday, were scrambling to mitigate the damage from Chinese restrictions on rare-earth exports that are critical for production in key U.S. industries. Trump has touted the many bilateral trade negotiations underway with various countries to resolve his grievances over perceived trade imbalances, but it's unclear how much stock foreign governments may place in these deals given Trump's penchant to scrap existing agreements.

"The only certainty is uncertainty," a visiting senior Southeast Asian official told me, speaking on the condition of anonymity to frankly assess his government's approach to Trump. The official cast doubt on the rest of the world's confidence in investing in the United States because of the volatility of the administration and was skeptical about the U.S.'s ability to thrash out new trade agreements with dozens of countries.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent signaled an apparent softening toward China, suggesting that current tariff levels are not "sustainable" and that "de-escalation" could be around the corner. But Beijing is digging in its heels, sensing growing leverage over Washington, while Trump and his allies are desperate to save face as their gambit flounders.

Trump may see his tariffs on China as the initial provocation that spurs a grand bargain with Beijing. But many analysts reckon a deeper realignment and separation may be underway.

"The U.S. and China are in a state of economic decoupling and there do not seem to be any guardrails to prevent escalations in trade tensions from spreading to other areas," Rick Waters, a former senior U.S. diplomat at the Carnegie Endowment for Global Peace, told the Wall Street Journal. "It's becoming more difficult to argue that we're not in a new Cold War." Chinese President Xi Jinping has seized the moment to cast China as a stable upholder of a rules-based order that undergirds globalization, challenged by a destabilizing, protectionist America. At home, major stimulus packages for the Chinese economy may better insulate China from the blow of U.S. tariffs. "Tolerance for the pain that's going to be caused is greater in China than it is in the United States," Andy Rothman, chief executive of Sinology, a California-based consultancy, told my colleagues. "In the U.S., you have so many consumer items ... where there is no ready replacement.

> *Trump may see his tariffs on China as the initial provocation that spurs a grand bargain with Beijing. But many analysts reckon a deeper realignment and separation may be underway.*

Are people willing and able to pay double ... for shoes for their kids?" Kurt M. Campbell and Rush Doshi, two former Biden administration officials who focused on China policy, argued in a recent Foreign Affairs essay that the best strategy to compete with China involved a more calibrated wielding of punitive measures and careful diplomacy that strengthens economic and security cooperation with other countries. Trump's "America First" pugilism offers neither.

"If anything, the United States – particularly in the era of President Donald Trump – risks overestimating unilateral power and underestimating China's ability to counter it," they wrote.

In the case of Russia, Trump has taken an altogether gentler approach. The White House's attempts to force a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine appears to have hit an impasse. In public, there's been more friction between the Trump administration and Ukraine – which is resisting a full-fledged Russian invasion – than with the Kremlin. Trump has repeatedly berated Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as the figure with "no cards to play," while seemingly echoing Russian talking points on the origins of the conflict.

Trump envoy Steve Witkoff will be in Moscow for meetings with top Russian officials, but it's unclear what, if any, concessions the White House wants to extract from the Kremlin. The framework of a potential deal offered by the Trump administration "would rule out NATO membership for Ukraine, include U.S. acceptance of Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea, leave the Russian army with nearly all the territory it has taken so far and not give any real security guarantees for Ukraine," my colleagues reported. "The elements would be deeply damaging to Zelensky if he accepted." Zelensky's frustration with Trump's ongoing moves was palpable Thursday, as Kyiv reeled from deadly Russian airstrikes that killed 12 people and injured dozens more in the Ukrainian capital. He cut short a visit to South Africa and returned home, citing the latest Russian attacks as reason to be skeptical of Trump's claims that Russian President Vladimir Putin wants a ceasefire.

"What is puzzling is all the pressure has been on Ukraine, and all the conciliation has been for Russia," Lord Mark Sedwill, chair of geopolitical advisory at Rothschild & Co., told me. Sedwill, who served as Britain's national security adviser for much of Trump's first term, argued that Trump's current approach on multiple fronts downplays U.S. strength and clout. "The whole agenda is Make America Great Again, and yet, paradoxically, he underestimates American power," he said. "Why does he treat Putin as an equal? Putin is nowhere near an equal." At a time when both China and Russia are conjuring visions of American decline, Trump is "almost willfully accelerating this multipolarity, as though he sees the world in that sort of sense of 19th-century spheres of influence, and accepts that America's sphere of influence is rather more constrained than actually is the case," Sedwill added.

–Ishaan Tharoor is a foreign affairs columnist at The Washington Post, where he authors the Today's WorldView newsletter and column.

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President of Venezuela meets Al Khulaifi

President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela H E Nicolas Maduro met with Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs H E Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh Al Khulaifi in Caracas. The meeting dealt with discussing bilateral relations and the means to strengthen them in all fields.

MECC launches inspection campaigns of winter camps

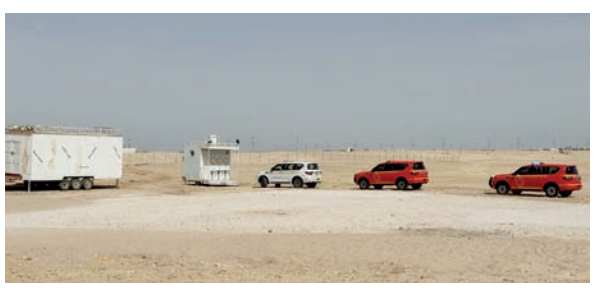
DOHA: The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC), represented by the Wildlife Protection Department, carried out comprehensive inspection campaigns throughout April, covering all winter camping areas across the country as part of its ongoing efforts to preserve and sustain the environment.

The campaigns, launched as the winter camping season draws to a close, covered the northern, central, and southern regions. They aimed to ensure cleanliness of camping sites, protect local ecosystems, and verify absence of environmental violations.

Director of the Wildlife Protection Department, Chairman of the Winter Camping Affairs Organization Committee at MECC Hamad Salem Al Nuaimi, emphasised that the campaigns seek to strike a balance between enjoying camping activities and safeguarding the environment. He urged all campers to adhere to environmental guidelines.

He added that the Ministry's efforts are focused on promoting environmental awareness and ensuring that campers are prepared to vacate their sites in a way that preserves natural resources. Al Nuaimi stressed that cooperation with relevant authorities is key to the success of the camping season.

These inspection campaigns are part of a broader set of regulatory measures and awareness activities conducted by the Ministry to protect Qatar's environment and its rich biodiversity. — *QNA*



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change urged all campers to adhere to environmental guidelines.

WCM-Q trainee doctors learn to handle youngsters at Cornell Stars programme

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Medical students at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) had the chance to enhance their key physicianship skills of interaction, communication, and performing basic clinical examinations for children through the Cornell Stars programme.

The annual event gave students who are entering the third year of the medical curriculum in Fall 2025 an opportunity to interact with babies, toddlers and children aged between one month and six years.

The annual event, held during clinical orientation week, prepares students for their full-time clinical experience in hospitals, where they will complete clinical blocks and rotations in various specialities. Each year, healthy children of WCM-Q faculty and staff are invited to participate, allowing students to develop skills in interacting with and examining young children in a simulated clinical environment.

Supervised by paediatricians and family physicians from WCM-Q, Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), and Sidra Medicine, the students practiced handling children at WCM-Q's state-of-the-art Clinical Skills & Simulation Lab, which features several mock clinics. The physicians demonstrated how to engage with children, communicate effectively with parents, and how to make the children to get interested in physical examinations.

A total of 22 children participated in the event, along with 40 WCM-Q students and 12 physicians. Attending paediatric consultants included Dr. Khaled Siddiq, Dr. Suzan Nassar, Dr. Khalid Zahraldin, Dr. Loai Elsaadany, and Dr. Anas AbdulKayoum. Paediatric fellows were Dr. Hadeel Alzoubi, Dr. Khadija Khudabakhsh, Dr. Saleha Abbasi, and Dr. Salha Abdelkhair, and paediatric resident Dr. Bassant Okab. WCM-Q faculty members included Dr. Stella Major, professor of family medicine teaching in medicine, and Dr. Reshma Bholah, assistant professor of paediatrics.



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Dr. Amal Khidir, associate professor of paediatrics at WCM-Q and organiser of the Cornell Stars programme, said, "This programme is designed to familiarise students, who are beginning their full-time clinical experience in hospitals, with handling children at an early stage. We aim to simulate a clinical setting by replicating real-life encounters of a child accompanied by a parent, a nanny, or both parents. Our goal is to demonstrate how to engage with children effectively using various tools and techniques and to equip students with practical skills.

"Through this initiative, students demistify their worry or fear of interacting with children and prepare them to working with children during their hospital rotations and may even be inspired to pursue paediatrics."

Student Reem Al Janahi said, "This experience has given me confidence as I enter the clinical setting. This was my first time interacting with children in such an environment, and I'm grateful to the parents who brought their children to help us learn and support our journey to becoming physicians."

Another student, Mohammed Al-Bishri, said, "This experience will be invaluable as we transition into our clinical years and begin our paediatric rotations. We learned how conducting physical examinations on children differs from adults and how to approach children, make them feel comfortable and safe, and perform the examination effectively."

Dr. Aisha Madani Al-Malki, a WCM-Q employee who brought her six-year-old daughter to the event, said, "I feel proud to support the students in their clinical practice as they learn to become physicians. When I see them in the future after they have become doctors, I will be happy knowing that I contributed to their learning journey."

Astronomical start of Dhul-Qi'dah on April 29: Qatar Calendar House

DOHA: Qatar Calendar House announced that Tuesday, April 29, will mark the astronomical beginning of the month of Dhul-Qi'dah 1446 AH, while Monday, April 28, will be the completion of the month of Shawwal, according to precise astronomical calculations conducted by the House's experts.

Executive Director of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ansari Complex, Engineer Faisal Al Ansari, stated that the crescent of Dhul-Qi'dah 1446 AH will be born on Sunday, April 27 (the day of observation), at 10.32pm Doha local time (7.32 pm UTC).

Al Ansari added that since the crescent will not be born before sunset on Sunday, it would be impossible to sight the Dhul-Qi'dah crescent that evening over Qatar or most Arab and Islamic countries.

It is a well-established astronomical fact that the moon's movement around Earth determines the beginnings and endings of lunar (Hijri) months, while the Earth's movement around the sun determines the beginnings and endings of solar (Gregorian) months. — *QNA*

ICC Indian Carnival 2025 to begin on May 15

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Indian Cultural Centre in association with the Embassy of India will be presenting "Indian Carnival", a vibrant celebration of India's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

This grand two-day cultural extravaganza will be held on Thursday and Friday, May 15 and 16, 2025, from 4pm to 10pm, at the Ideal Indian School.

The highlight of the carnival will be a live musical concert by the renowned Anoop Shankar and his team, promising an electrifying evening of music and entertainment.

With an expected daily footfall of over 20,000 visitors, ICC Carnival 2025 is set to be one of the biggest cultural events of the year.

The event aims to foster Indo-Qatar friendship and strengthen ties among the Indian expatriate community through the celebration of Indian culture in all its diversity.

Attendees can look forward to colourful cultural performances including Live Orchestra, Chenda Melam, and Group Dances by talented performers from ICC Associated Organisations, Indian schools, and institutions.

There will be a spectacular Fusion Dance performance blending Thiruvathira from Kerala and the traditional Garba (Dandiya) from Gujarat. Cultural pavilions representing various Indian states, offering an immersive experience of their heritage and culture.

Besides, a dedicated pavilion will showcase Social Service Schemes from the Central and State Governments of India, and a vibrant bazaar with stalls will feature Indian handicrafts, traditional garments, jewellery, and a Food Court serving Indian delicacies.

The ICC will also mark this occasion with the unveiling of its new logo and the launch of the ICC Mobile App and ICC Privilege Card.

This mega event will be organised with the whole-hearted support and active involvement of various socio-cultural organisations of our community, associated with the Indian Cultural Centre, representing almost 800,000 members of the Indian Community residing in Qatar.

All efforts have been made by the Indian Cultural Centre, Qatar to make the event memorable.



ICC officials during a press conference to announce the carnival.

Student-led projects at Earthna Summit promote environmental awareness

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Students from Qatar Foundation's (QF) Pre-University Education participated in the second edition of the Qatar Foundation's Earthna Summit under the theme, "Building Our Legacy: Sustainability, Innovation, and Traditional Knowledge," where they showcased innovative projects focused on sustainability and recycling.

The Earthna Village at Barahat Msheireb hosted a community exhibition where students from Tariq Bin Ziad School, Qatar Academy Sidra, and Qatar Academy Al Wakra presented creative projects using recycled materials to promote environmental awareness. Academyati also participated with its Education City Honey initiative, highlighting the vital role of bees in the ecosystem.

Saleh Khalid Al-Mansouri, an eight-year-old student at Academyati, part of QF's PUE, expressed his excitement about participating in Earthna Village, saying, "I'm happy to be part of this event, explaining to children and visitors the importance of honey and how it is extracted.

At school, we visited bee farms, wore beekeeper suits, and learned how to extract honey. I was scared at first, but then I really enjoyed it. I'm happy that my school taught me this way, and today I'm proud to share what I learned about bees with others."

Yousef Al-Khater, a nine-year-old student at Tariq Bin Ziad School, part of QF's PUE, developed his passion for sustainability by creating simple solutions, including designing a plastic container to encourage people to adopt sustainable methods for watering plants, a step that reflects his awareness of the importance of reusing resources and reducing waste.

"I learned at school that sustainability means taking care of things and reusing them because it helps protect our environment and planet.

"I also realised that simple ideas can make a big difference. I feel very happy when I design projects using recycled materials because it allows me to apply what I learn in school in a fun and useful way. Yousef's mother, Lulwa Al-Buainain, said, "Since I noticed my son's interest in topics like sustainability and innovation, I've been keen to encourage him to participate in exhibitions and initiatives that nurture this passion.

"In a short period, I witnessed a transformation in his personality. He became more conscious of his responsibility towards the environment and society, developed stronger communication and teamwork skills, and grew more confident when presenting his ideas to others.



A student displays her project during the Earthna Summit.

"I realised that learning doesn't only happen in the classroom, these practical experiences truly shape a child's character. That's why I encourage every mother to give her children the opportunity to participate in such initiatives, as they open new horizons and instill values that will stay with them for life."

Hadeel Al-Sayed, National Programmes Teacher in the Primary Years Programme at Qatar Academy Sidra, part of QF's PUE, said, "At QF schools, we are committed to instilling the concept of sustainability in our students and highlighting its importance in their daily lives by raising awareness of simple practices such as recycling paper and clothing, and reducing food and water waste. Embedding this awareness from an early age helps make sustainability a natural part of their lifestyle.

We always strive to encourage students to participate in environmental initiatives and activities, motivating them to explore innovative solutions for reusing resources and protecting the environment. Our goal is not only to develop their skills in the classroom but also to prepare them to adopt a sustainable lifestyle that will stay with them in the future."

The Earthna Village at Barahat Msheireb hosted a community exhibition where students from Tariq Bin Ziad School, Qatar Academy Sidra, and Qatar Academy Al Wakra presented creative projects using recycled materials to promote environmental awareness. Academyati also participated with its Education City Honey initiative, highlighting the vital role of bees in the ecosystem.

Hadeel explained that these values are reinforced from both environmental and social perspectives, noting that participation in major events allows students to express their ideas and develop leadership and communication skills, enabling them to make their voices heard and contribute to building a more conscious and responsible future.

Awqaf opens new mosque in Muaither Al Wukair area

DOHA: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has inaugurated a new mosque in Muaither Al Wukair area.

The Amna bint Mohammed bin Mubarak Mosque covers an area of 2,909 square metres and accommodates 270 male and female worshipers. It also includes an attached imam's residence.

An Awqaf statement said the mosque, endowed by Sheikha Munira bint Ghanem bin Abdulrahman Al-Abdulrahman Al-Thani and her sisters, is part of the Ministry's plan to expand and develop mosques across the country, keeping pace with urban and population growth in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

The mosque includes an ablution space and many public parking spaces, some of which are designated for people with disabilities, with well-planned entrances and exits. — *QNA*

Ministry of Education, Unicef conclude programme on child rights

DOHA: The Ministry of Education and Higher Education, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), concluded a training programme on child rights Awareness, which was held over four days at the Ministry's training and development center, with the participation of 217 assistant administrative principals from public schools.

The programme was organised as part of the Ministry's efforts to promote awareness of children's rights within the school environment and to empower school leadership in supporting these rights, in alignment with the State of Qatar's international commitments in this field.

The programme, implemented under the supervision of experts from the training and development center, included interactive workshops, awareness lectures, and practical activities, based on the Unicef-issued Child Rights Awareness Activities Toolkit (CRAAT), which serves as a comprehensive educational reference specifically designed to support teachers and students across different age groups.

The toolkit's content was adapted to reflect the school context in Qatar, helping to enhance the effectiveness of its implementation within schools.

The programme is part of a series of targeted initiatives carried out by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in cooperation with its international partners, aimed at developing the capacities of educational staff and embedding a culture of child rights into daily educational practices. The effort is a true embodiment of the partnership between the Ministry and Unicef to enhance education quality and uphold the fundamental rights of children in the State of Qatar. — *QNA*

Doha Academy organises successful student-led national identity showcase

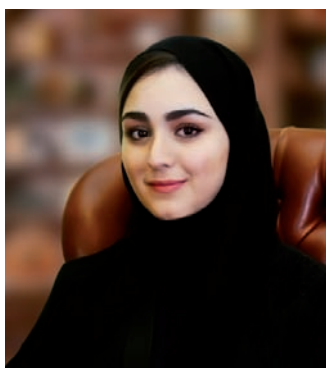
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Doha Academy Al Waab has hosted a vibrant and inspiring student-led event, celebrating Qatar's National Identity, cultural heritage, and the nation's ongoing journey of innovation and sustainability.

Organised by Marie Tabet, Head of French, the event brought together enthusiastic Secondary Girls students from Years 7 to 9, who showcased their creativity and understanding through engaging visual and digital projects aligned with Qatar's development goals and Vision 2030.

The celebration was made even more special by the presence of distinguished guests, including Sheikha Anwar bint Nawaf Al-Thani, CEO of Al Faleh Educational Holding, and representatives from the French Institute in Qatar, Imen DJEMEL and Morgane Hofstetter. School leadership also joined in support, including Edward Cooper, Principal of Doha Academy, Emma Christine Elegbe, Head of Secondary Girls, and Mr. James Benjamin McAleese, Head of Secondary — each of whom expressed their pride in the students' achievements and engagement.

The showcase featured confident bilingual presentations in French and English, reflecting



Sheikha Anwar bint Nawaf Al-Thani

the students' impressive linguistic skills and cultural awareness. The topics explored ranged from innovation, food and agriculture, and education, to economic development, culture, and sustainability — all supported by PowerPoint visuals that sparked insightful, student-led discussions.

Marie Tabet shared her thoughts on the event, saying: "It was inspiring to see our students embrace the French language and connect it so meaningfully with Qatar's identity. Their confidence and creativity show the true power of bilingual education."

Sheikha Anwar bint Nawaf Al-Thani added: "Integrating Qatar's National Identity into school life is essential in raising proud, well-rounded citizens. This event is a shining example of our students learning with purpose, creativity, and cultural awareness."

Reflecting on the occasion, James Benjamin McAleese said: "This event perfectly reflects the values we strive to instill at Doha Academy — confidence, cultural awareness, and excellence. I was incredibly impressed by the quality of the presentations and the depth of understanding shown by our students."



Students with an official at the event.

QU marks International Biomedical Laboratory Sciences Day

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The College of Health Sciences at Qatar University (QU) recently celebrated International Biomedical Laboratory Sciences Day under the theme, "Biomedical Laboratory Scientists Promoting Sustainability in Clinical Diagnostics." The event took place at the Ibn Al Baitar Building (I06) and brought together students, faculty, and key representatives from Qatar's healthcare sector.

Biomedical sciences students actively participated by designing and hosting interactive booths representing various modules of the program, including hematology, histopathology, and microbiology. These booths featured a range of hands-on activities and games aimed at educating the audience on fundamental biomedical science concepts.

In addition, Sidra Medicine, Hamad Medical Corporation (MHC), Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), and Gulfmed Medical Suppliers contributed to the event with dedicated booths showcasing the latest advancements in clinical laboratory techniques. These partners provided students and attendees with valuable insights into real-world applications of biomedical science, including live demonstrations of state-of-the-art equipment.

Prof. Asmaa Al-Thani, Vice President for Medical and Health Sciences at QU, added, "This celebration of International Biomedical Laboratory Sciences Day at QU underscores the critical role that biomedical laboratory scientists play in advancing healthcare. The collaboration with our healthcare partners has enriched the event, offering students and attendees firsthand exposure to the latest innovations in clinical diagnostics. I commend the students, faculty, and our healthcare partners for their dedication and innovative contributions to this event."

The Dean of the College of Health Sciences, Dr. Hanan Abdul Rahim, attended the event and expressed her appreciation for the vibrant atmosphere. She acknowledged the Department of Biomedical Sciences as one of the college's oldest and most valued programs. Dr. Abdul Rahim also took part in student-led activities and games, reflecting her support for student engagement.

Shouq Al-Rumaihi, a teaching assistant in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at QU and the event organizer, expressed pride in the students' creative showcases and highlighted the enriching collaboration with leading healthcare institutions.

Latin America and Caribbean Cultural Festival kicks off at Katara

DOHA: The Latin America and Caribbean Cultural Festival kicked off in Doha yesterday.

Organised by the Cultural Village Foundation-Katara, the event will continue until April 30 and draws broad participation from Latin American and Caribbean embassies accredited to the State of Qatar.

Deputy General Manager of Katara Saif Saad Al Dosari and a host of Their Excellencies the ambassadors from the participating countries attended the inauguration ceremony of this festival, which featured an exhibition showcasing art paintings at Building 47, Auditoriums 1 and 2, followed by a cinematic screening presented by the Embassy of Uruguay at Building 15 in Katara, offering visitors the opportunity to explore various aspects of Latin American and Caribbean culture and arts.

The programme features a diverse lineup of events, including musical performances, concerts, and art exhibitions, alongside art exhibitions showcasing the vibrant cultural heritage of the peoples of those nations.

Additionally, these concerts and exhibitions will be held at numerous zones at Katara, mainly Katara Drama Theatre and the Open Plaza at Building 47, where visitors will enjoy thrilling art experiences that demonstrate the spirit of this vibrant zone.

Chief Executive Officer of the Katara Public Diplomacy Center Maryam Al Saad emphasized that this festival is an extraordinary event that offers the folks in Qatar an opportunity to explore cultures that are geographically distant yet intricately connected on a human level. — *QNA*

QC hosts young entrepreneurs initiative for school students

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Qatar Chamber (QC) hosted recently, the third workshop of the 'young Entrepreneurs Initiative for School Students", an initiative which is under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

The initiative aims to engage middle school students in entrepreneurial activities and leadership skills by providing systematic training and application, contributing to the creation of an entrepreneurial mindset at an early age.

The workshop was delivered by Kholod Al Humaidi, a business entrepreneur and member of the Youth Entrepreneurship Club.

For her part, Nora Al Awlan, Director of the Research and Studies Department at Qatar Chamber, affirmed that the Chamber welcomes all initiatives that support entrepreneurs, stressing its belief in the vital role of entrepreneurship in strengthening the private sector and the national economy as a whole.

Emphasising the importance of the initiative, she noted that it is a modern and innovative effort aimed at engaging school students and educating them about the value of entrepreneurship. She pointed out that it introduces them to the private sector and its role in the economy and community service, while also fostering creativity, innovation, and an entrepreneurial mindset. The initiative helps students develop their ideas, understand how to establish projects, and learn how to maintain their development and progress.

Gharam Al Yafie, Founder and Leader of the Young Entrepreneurs Initiative, commended the Chamber's support for the initiative, highlighting that it received support from various entities, including the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Doha University for Science and Technology, the Youth Entrepreneurship Club, Qatar National Library and Qatar Chamber.

Al-Yafei stated that the third edition of the workshop is attended by over 200 male and female students from more than 40 public and private preparatory schools, noting that it aims to instill an entrepreneurial mindset in students from an early age.

The initiative also aims to promote creativity and innovation, invest in students' ideas, and foster entrepreneurial thinking. It seeks to develop students' skills and leadership abilities, strengthen their competitive spirit, and equip them with practical knowledge on how to establish and grow entrepreneurial projects.



School students attending the workshop.

Lulu Hypermarket supports 'Trade and Treasury Transformation Summit 2025' as silver sponsor

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Chamber recently announced that Lulu Hypermarket is supporting the 'Qatar Trade and Treasury Transformation Summit 2025' as a silver sponsor.

Held under the patronage of H E Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani, Minister of Commerce and Industry, the summit is organised by Qatar Chamber and the International Chamber of Commerce Qatar (ICC Qatar) and will take place on May 7 at the InterContinental Doha Hotel.

The summit brings together a host of key experts and speakers from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and beyond to discuss the latest trends and visions in the trade sector. It focuses on digital transformation in the area of banking transactions, along with its role in bolstering the capabilities of treasury staff in firms through the provision of innovative and smart cash and payment solutions.

It further aims to enhance innovation and digital evolution in Qatar, operating as a strategic platform to discuss the salient developments in trade finance, treasury, and payment practices.

Acting General Manager of Qatar Chamber Ali Bu Sharbak Al Mansori stated: "We are honoured to welcome Lulu Hypermarket as a Silver Sponsor for the Qatar Trade and Treasury Transformation Summit 2025. Their support reflects the vital role leading retailers play in enhancing the national economy and enhancing sustainable trade practices."

He also noted that this sponsorship underscores the private sector's commitment to supporting platforms that explore trade and treasury transformation, which are essential for fostering innovation and economic resilience in Qatar.

On his part, Dr. Mohamed Althaf, Group Director – Global Operations and Chief Sustainability Officer at Lulu Group International said: "We are proud to support this important summit, which aligns with our values of innovation, sustainability, and economic development. It presents a valuable opportunity to engage with key stakeholders and contribute to shaping the future of trade and finance in Qatar."

He added: "Lulu Group believes strongly in the power of collaboration between the private sector and leading institutions such as Qatar Chamber. Through initiatives like this summit, we can collectively drive progress and transformation across the region's trade and treasury landscape."

Lulu Hypermarket Trading Co, the fastest-growing retail chain in the region, has established a leading presence in Qatar's retail sector by offering a comprehensive shopping experience that caters to customers' daily needs under one roof. Since opening its first store in Al Saad on Al Rayyan Road in 2000, Lulu has become a trusted name in retail, import, and distribution of fresh, frozen, and staple goods.

Driven by its dynamic retail operations, Lulu's diverse portfolio includes Hypermarkets, Supermarkets, Department Stores, Express Stores, Shopping malls, the Lulu Webstore, and trading divisions. Today, Lulu Hypermarket Qatar operates 24 state-of-the-art stores and a shopping mall, strategically



Dr. Mohamed Althaf, Group Director – Global Operations and Chief Sustainability Officer at Lulu Group International

located across the country.

To ensure consistent supply of global products, Lulu has established Export Distribution Centers and Sourcing Offices in 23 countries, including the UK, USA, Spain, Italy, Australia, Poland, and Canada—securing popular international brands for its customers.

With a workforce of over 6,000 staff representing 16 nationalities, Lulu promotes a unified culture focused on excellence in customer service. Committed to quality and innovation, Lulu Hypermarket aims to remain at the forefront of organized retail, continually expanding its reach while delivering exceptional value to customers and stakeholders alike.

Al Mana Holding F&B Division celebrates Employee of the Month across 53 branches

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Al Mana Holding's Food and Beverage Division hosted a special celebration to honour the dedication and hard work of its outstanding team members across its 53 branches.

The Employee of the Month felicitation ceremony took place at a five-star hotel in Doha, recognising employees from all its leading brands under the division.

The event featured team-building activities, personalised gifts, and certificates of recognition, all designed to motivate and appreciate the efforts of frontliners and support staff alike.



Al Mana Holding's Food and Beverage Division officials and employees at the event.

"This celebration is a token of appreciation for the people who bring our vision to life every day. By recognising their efforts, we aim to create a culture of excellence, motivation, and loyalty within the organization," said the Marketing & Communicatins Manager Sabrine Mansouri.

The initiative reflects the company's ongoing commitment to employee engagement and excellence in service delivery across all its food and beverage brands.

Hundreds injured in major Iran port blast

TEHRAN: An explosion of unknown origin tore through Iran's most advanced container port yesterday, triggering a major fire, killing eight people and injuring hundreds, state media said.

Around 10 hours after the blast at Shahid Rajaee Port in southern Iran, state TV reported the fire had intensified.

With choking smoke spreading throughout the area, all schools and offices 23 kilometres away in Bandar Abbas, the Hormozgan provincial capital, have been ordered closed today, state TV said, to allow authorities to focus on the emergency effort.

Although the cause of the blast was not immediately clear, the port's customs office said in a statement carried by state TV that it probably resulted from a fire that broke out at the hazmat and chemical materials storage depot.

"The intensity of the fire in Shahid Rajaee Port has increased and it is possible that the fire could spread to other areas and containers", state TV said late yesterday. Strong winds were complicating efforts to extinguish the flames, a reporter for the broadcaster said.

Shahid Rajaee is the country's largest commercial port, located near the Strait of Hormuz through which a fifth of world oil output passes.

Images from the official IRNA news agency showed rescuers and survivors walking along a wide boulevard carpeted with debris after the blast.

Flames engulfed a truck trailer and blood stained the side of a crushed car, while a helicopter dropped water on massive black smoke clouds billowing from behind stacked shipping containers.

Citing local emergency services, state TV reported that "hundreds have been transferred to nearby medical centres", while the provincial blood transfusion centre issued a call for donations.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian expressed sympathy for the victims of the deadly blast, adding he had "issued an order to investigate the situation and the causes".

He said Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni would go to the area to look into the incident.

Speaking later at the scene, Momeni told state TV: "This incident has left eight people dead and 750 injured. All resources from other cities and Tehran have been dispatched... and we hope to be able to extinguish the fire in the coming hours."

Saturday is the start of the working week in Iran, meaning the port would have been busy with employees.

Three Chinese nationals were "lightly injured", China's state broadcaster CCTV reported, citing its Bandar Abbas consulate. Shahid Rajaee, more than 1,000km south of Tehran, is Iran's most advanced container port, according to IRNA. — ***AFP***



Thick, black smoke rises as rescuers arrive near the source of an explosion at the Shahid Rajaee port dock southwest of Bandar Abbas in the Iranian province of Hormozgan yesterday. (AFP)

Hamas says open to five-year Gaza truce, release of all hostages

CAIRO: Hamas is open to an agreement to end the war in Gaza that would see all hostages released and secure a five-year truce, an official said yesterday ahead of talks with mediators.

A Hamas delegation was in Cairo to discuss with mediators ways out of the 18-month war, while, on the ground, rescuers said an Israeli strike on a family home in Gaza City killed at least 10 people with more feared buried under the rubble.

The Hamas official, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, said the Palestinian group "is ready for an exchange of prisoners in a single batch and a truce for five years".

The latest bid to seal a ceasefire follows an Israeli proposal which Hamas had rejected earlier this month as "partial", calling instead for a "comprehensive" agreement to halt the war. The Israeli offer included a 45-day ceasefire in exchange for the return of 10 living hostages. Hamas has consistently demanded that a truce deal must lead to an end to the war, a full Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and a surge in humanitarian aid into the besieged territory — where on Friday the United Nations warned food stocks were running out. In Gaza City, in the territory's north, the civil defence agency said a strike on the Al-Khour family home killed 10 people, with an estimated 20 more trapped in the debris.

Umm Walid Al-Khour, who survived the attack, said that "everyone was sleeping with their children" when the strike hit. "The house collapsed on top of us," she told AFP.

"Those who survived cried for help but nobody came... Most of the deceased were children." Elsewhere in the city, three people were killed in Israeli shelling of a house in the Al-Shati refugee camp, civil defence official Mohammed Al-Mughayyir said. More strikes across the Gaza Strip killed four others.

Since March 18, according to the health ministry in the territory, at least 2,111 Palestinians have been killed, taking the overall war death toll in Gaza to 51,495 people.

On Friday, the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) — one of the main providers of food aid in the Palestinian territory — said the hot meal kitchens it was supplying food to "are expected to fully run out of food in the coming days".

Following the WFP warning, the World Health Organization's chief said medical supplies were also "running out" in Gaza while 16 WHO trucks waited outside the territory for permission to enter. "This aid blockade must end. Lives depend on it", Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on X. — ***AFP***

Abbas appoints aide as potential successor

RAMALLAH: Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas appointed a close aide as the first ever vice president of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) yesterday, positioning him as a potential successor to the veteran leader.

Hussein Al-Sheikh was appointed by Abbas, 89, after the vice presidency position was created during a convention held in Ramallah this week.

Founded in 1964, the PLO is empowered to negotiate and sign international treaties on behalf of the Palestinian people, while the Palestinian Authority (PA) is responsible for governance in parts of the Palestinian territories.

The PLO is an umbrella organisation comprising several Palestinian factions excluding Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Sheikh, 64, is a veteran leader of Abbas's Fatah movement, which dominates the PA, and is considered close to the president.

He spent more than 10 years in Israeli jails in the late 1970s and early 80s, during which he learned Hebrew.

In 2022, he was made the PLO Executive Committee's secretary-general. — ***AFP***

Pakistan says open to neutral probe into Kashmir attack

ISLAMABAD/NEW DELHI: Pakistan's Prime Minister said yesterday his nation was open to a neutral investigation into a deadly attack in Kashmir.

Shehbaz Sharif said the country was "open to participating in any neutral, transparent and credible investigation" into the attack.

Indian security forces have launched a giant manhunt for those responsible for the attack in Pahalgam, blowing up homes in Kashmir of Indian citizens suspected to be linked to the attack. Both sides have imposed a slew of diplomatic measures, and exchanged gunfire in Kashmir two times in as many days.

India's army said "unprovoked" small arms firing was carried out by "multiple" Pakistan army posts overnight. "Indian troops responded appropriately with small arms," it said in a statement, adding that no casualties were reported.

There was no confirmation from Pakistan, but both sides had confirmed gunfire between their respective forces the previous night. "Our valiant armed forces remain fully capable and prepared to defend the country's sovereignty," Sharif said at a military ceremony in Abbottabad.

India's information ministry yesterday warned broadcasters to "refrain from showing live coverage of defence operations" in the "interest of national security".

Iran's foreign ministry said yesterday that Tehran has offered to play mediator, a day after a senior Saudi official said Riyadh was trying to "prevent an escalation".

US President Donald Trump has downplayed the tensions, saying that the dispute will get "figured out, one way or another". — ***AFP***

US, Iran report progress in 'positive' nuclear talks

MUSCAT: The United States and Iran reported progress in their latest round of nuclear talks yesterday and agreed to meet again next week as they pursue a deal that could help ease soaring Middle East tensions.

A US official called the talks "positive and productive", and Iran's top diplomat said the two sides will study how to narrow their differences on a range of subjects before next week's fourth round. "There is still much to do, but further progress was made on getting to a deal," the senior US official said on condition of anonymity, adding that the next talks would be in Europe.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called yesterday's talks, which included technical-level teams for the first time, "serious and businesslike". "There are differences both in the major issues and in the details," he told Iranian state TV. "Until the next meeting, further studies are to be conducted in the capitals on how to reduce the differences."

Araghchi added: "I think our progress has been good so far. I am satisfied with the process of the negotiation and its speed. I think it is proceeding well and satisfactorily."

US special envoy Steve Witkoff again led the American delegation while Michael Anton, the State Department's head of policy planning, headed the US expert-level negotiators.

Deputy foreign ministers Kazem Gharibabadi and Majid Takht-Ravanchi led Tehran's technical team, according to Iran's Tasnim news agency.

The delegations were in separate rooms and communicated in writing via the hosts, Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei and Araghchi said. "The expert and technical talks... reached the stage of minute details about mutual demands and expectations," an Iranian state TV reporter said. Iran's defence and missile capabilities were not discussed, Baqaei told state TV, while an Iranian negotiator said the talks were "uniquely about sanctions and nuclear questions", according to Tasnim. Araghchi had earlier expressed "cautious optimism", saying this week: "If the sole demand by the US is for Iran to not possess nuclear weapons, this demand is achievable". — ***AFP***



The launch ceremony of a newly-built destroyer at the Nampo port in Nampo, North Korea. (AFP)

North Korea launches new destroyer

SEOUL: North Korea has unveiled a new warship it claims is a destroyer armed with the "most powerful weapons", at a launch ceremony attended by leader Kim Jong Un, state media said yesterday.

The warship, named "Choe Hyon" after a deceased North Korean anti-Japanese fighter, is a 5,000-ton destroyer-class vessel that took more than a year to build, according to Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency.

The North Korean navy can now serve as a "core service for national defence and a component of nuclear war deterrent", Kim said, according to KCNA, adding that the ship will "enter into operation early next year".

He also accused Washington of "conducting aggressive exercises that simulate nuclear strikes against" the North through its joint-military operations with the South.

At the launch ceremony, held at the Nampho Dockyard on the country's west coast Friday, the warship "received the honour of being first reviewed" by Kim, it added.

Images released by state media showed Kim was accompanied by his daughter Ju Ae at the event. — ***AFP***

India detains over 1,000 Bangladeshi migrants

AHMEDABAD: Indian police have detained 1,024 Bangladeshi migrants in a sweeping crackdown in the western state of Gujarat aimed at deporting people living there illegally, the state government said yesterday.

"Police forces collectively detained 1,024 illegal Bangladeshi nationals during an overnight operation," the Gujarat government said in a statement. Gujarat's Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi had given a two-day ultimatum for remaining Bangladeshis in the state illegally to surrender voluntarily, it added.

Police are also investigating a network based in West Bengal state for producing counterfeit identity documents. Following legal procedures, the detained individuals will be deported to Bangladesh, the statement said. Initial investigations have revealed that the detainees were involved in narcotics, human trafficking, and other illegal activities, police said.

Lax border controls have ensured the entry of millions of Bangladeshi nationals into India over the years. — ***AFP***

World in brief

Syria President discusses strengthening Iraq ties

DAMASCUS: Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa met with an Iraqi delegation led by the head of National Intelligence Service, Hamid Al Shatri, currently visiting Damascus. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and a range of regional issues.

During the meeting, the parties explored ways to expand mutual investments and boost trade deals between the two countries, particularly in the oil and grain sectors. They also agreed to establish joint committees to oversee the implementation of these agreements. — ***QNA***

Iraqi FM urges US to reassess travel warnings

WASHINGTON: Iraq's Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein called on the United States to reconsider its travel warnings regarding Iraq, emphasising that improved security conditions in the country have made it more attractive to foreign investors.

During a meeting with his US counterpart Marco Rubio, Hussein said that the security situation in Iraq is stable and has become an additional incentive for foreign investment. He noted that some European countries have already revised their security assessments of Iraq. Hussein also underscored the importance of strengthening security cooperation between Iraq and the US in the fight against terrorism. — ***QNA***

Uganda declares end of sixth Ebola outbreak

NAIROBI: Uganda declared the end of an Ebola virus outbreak yesterday, which has killed at least two people in the east African nation since late January.

The announcement came 42 days after the discharge of the last confirmed patient from hospital. "During this outbreak, 14 cases, 12 confirmed and two not confirmed through laboratory tests (probable), were reported. Four deaths, two confirmed and two probable, occurred. Ten people recovered from the infection," the World Health Organization said in a statement. — ***AFP***

Belgian top diplomat says no military solution in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

KAMPALA: Belgium's foreign minister told AFP that Rwanda's "legitimate" security concerns in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo could not justify its former colony's backing for the M23 armed group.

In an interview with AFP, Maxime Prevot urged both sides to negotiate an end to the conflict in the DRC's troubled east, where the M23 has seized swathes of territory from the Congolese government.

"There will be no military solution in the east of the Congo. We need dialogue," Prevot told AFP after meeting Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in the capital Kampala on Friday.

"The situation there remains extremely precarious and the local population pays the price every day," the minister added, raising concerns of human rights abuses. "There is an urgent need to act." Since the beginning of 2025 the M23 armed group has forced the Congolese army out of swathes of the DRC's mineral-rich east, triggering a worsening humanitarian crisis and displacing hundreds of thousands.

UN experts and some Western countries have accused Rwanda of backing the M23, whose lightning offensive has raised fears of a regional war.

President Paul Kagame's government denies offering the M23 military support, but argues it faces threats from armed groups linked to the 1994 Rwandan genocide present in the DRC's east.

Prevot said Rwanda's security concerns were understandable, but its actions in the eastern DRC were unacceptable. "I think that Rwanda, and it is legitimate, is looking for security," Prevot said.

"But I fully disagree with Rwanda considering the way it is acting in the east of Congo."

Prevot denied Belgium's position was linked to its colonial history. Belgium ruled Rwanda and neighbouring Burundi from 1916 to 1962.

Rwanda, which according to UN experts maintains 4,000 troops in the DRC to support the M23, severed diplomatic links with Belgium in March because of its stance on the conflict.

"We do not have any feeling of past colonialism regrets," Prevot said. "And certainly not for me. I have a lot of respect for Rwanda." Prevot welcomed mediation efforts by Qatar and the United States between the DRC, the M23 and Rwanda but cautioned against false optimism. — ***AFP***

Francis laid to rest as 400,000 mourn Pope 'with an open heart'

ROME: Pope Francis was laid to rest in Rome yesterday after a Vatican funeral for the "Pope among the people" attended by hundreds of thousands of mourners and world leaders including US President Donald Trump.

Around 400,000 people packed St Peter's Square and lined the streets in Rome to say goodbye to the Argentine pontiff, a champion of the poor who had led the world's 1.4 billion Catholics since 2013. After a solemn funeral in front of hushed crowds, Francis's plain wooden coffin — a testament to a life of humility — was driven slowly to Rome's Santa Maria Maggiore church, where he will be interred in a private ceremony.

Guatemalan Maria Vicente, 52, holding a rosary in her hands, cried as she watched the coffin being carried into Santa Maria Maggiore, the pope's favourite Rome church.

"It made me very sad. It's touching, that he left us like that," she said.

Fourteen white-gloved pallbearers carried the coffin into the church, as children placed baskets of flowers at the altar and a choir sang prayers.



Pallbearers carry the coffin of late Pope Francis at the end of the funeral ceremony at St Peter's Square in the Vatican, yesterday. (AFP)

The marble tomb of the Catholic Church's first Latin American leader is inscribed with just one word: "Franciscus", his name in Latin.

More than 50 heads of state were present at the funeral, including Trump — who met several world leaders in a corner of the basilica beforehand, notably Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky, in their first face-to-face since their Oval Office clash in February.

Francis, who died on Monday aged 88, was "a pope among the people, with an open heart", who strove for a more compassionate, open-minded Catholic Church, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re said in his homily.

There was applause from the masses gathered under bright blue skies as he hailed the pope's "conviction that the Church is a home for all, a home with its doors always open".

Francis sought to steer the centuries-old Church into a more inclusive direction during his 12-year papacy, and his death prompted a global outpouring of emotion.

Maria Mrula, 28, a student from Germany, said she drove 16 hours to be at the funeral. "Giving to the poor and being with the poor", Francis had inspired many, she said. "The Church is alive," she said. "It was great being here."

Italian and Vatican authorities mounted a major security operation for the ceremony, with fighter jets on standby and snipers positioned on roofs surrounding the tiny city state.

Red-robed cardinals and purple-hatted bishops sat on one side of the altar in St Peter's Square during the funeral, with world dignitaries sitting opposite.

In front of the altar lay the pope's simple cypress coffin, inlaid with a pale cross. The funeral sets off the first of nine days of official Vatican mourning for Francis, who took over following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI in 2013.

After the mourning, cardinals aged under 80 will gather for the conclave to elect a new pope from among their number. Many of Francis's reforms angered traditionalists, while his criticism of injustices, from the treatment of migrants to the damage wrought by global warming, riled many world leaders. Yet the former archbishop of Buenos Aires's compassion and charisma earned him global affection and respect. — ***AFP***

Group of 199 Venezuelan migrants return home from US

CARACAS: A group of 199 Venezuelan migrants returned home from the United States on Friday, reported state-run Venezolana de Television.

The flight carrying the repatriated Venezuelans was operated by a US commercial airline. The returnees were received by the Venezuelan authorities with medical, legal, and social assistance, said the report. Over 3,000 Venezuelans were repatriated in the first quarter of the year, it said. — ***XINHUA***

US reports over 800 measles cases so far this year

LOS ANGELES: The United States has reported 884 confirmed measles cases so far this year, marking a sharp increase compared to the previous year, according to the latest data released by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Friday. So far in 2025, 11 measles outbreaks have been recorded nationwide. The CDC defines an outbreak as three or more related cases. — ***XINHUA***

Trump, Zelensky meet on sidelines of pope's funeral

ROME: Donald Trump and Volodymyr Zelensky met briefly in St. Peter's basilica on the sidelines of Pope Francis's funeral in the Vatican on Saturday in their first encounter since a White House clash as the US president pushes the Ukrainian leader to make a peace deal with Russia.

The two agreed to further talks after the funeral, the Ukraine president's office said, after Zelensky's aide described the first meeting as "constructive" and the White House called it "a very productive discussion".

The Ukrainian presidency released photos of the two men sitting face to face, leaning forward in deep discussion in a corner of the basilica, before the start of the funeral.

Another photo showed the two leaders in a huddle inside the basilica with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Emmanuel Macron, the French president's hand on Zelensky's shoulder.

Outside in St Peter's Square, Trump rubbed shoulders with dozens of world leaders keen to bend his ear on the tariffs he has unleashed and other subjects.

But it was the meeting with Zelensky that drew the most interest as the US leader pushes the Ukrainian to make a peace deal with Russia. "The meeting took place and is already over," Zelensky's spokesman Sergiy Nykyforov told journalists without providing further detail.

White House communications director Steven Cheung also confirmed the meeting occured, calling it "a very productive discussion" and saying more details would follow.

Trump and Zelensky, both accompanied by their wives, sat in the front row of the funeral in the square outside but were separated by nearly a dozen leaders. Zelensky glanced Trump's way but they were not seen to meet in public. Both sides had kept the prospects of a meeting vague ahead of the funeral with Trump saying only it was "possible". — ***AFP***



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky meets with US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of Pope Francis's funeral at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican yesterday. (AFP)

Russia says retook Kursk from Ukraine with N Korean help

MOSCOW: The Russian army has fully liberated the border Kursk region from Ukrainian control with the help of North Korean soldiers, Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov said yesterday, admitting their participation in the conflict for the first time.

Gerasimov especially hailed the "heroism" of the North Korean soldiers taking part in the operation, who "provided significant assistance in defeating the group of Ukrainian armed forces".

But shortly after the Ukrainian army denied Russia's claim to have driven Kyiv's forces out of Kursk, saying that "statements by the enemy leadership about the 'defeat' of the Ukrainian troops are nothing more than propaganda tricks".

However, the Ukrainian Chief of Staff acknowledged the situation on the battlefield was "difficult", while insisting Ukrainian forces were still holding positions in Kursk.

The Ukrainian army said it was also continuing operations in some areas of Belgorod, another Russia's border region. — ***AFP***

Canada leaders make final pitches in campaign upended by Trump

MONTREAL: Canadian leaders campaigned in battleground districts yesterday, two days before a vote electrified by US President Donald Trump's threats, with Prime Minister Mark Carney favored after assuring voters he can stand up to Washington.

A victory for Carney's Liberal Party would mark one of the most dramatic turnarounds in Canadian political history.

On January 6, the day former prime minister Justin Trudeau announced his plans to resign, his Liberals trailed the Conservatives by more than 20 points in most polls, and Tory leader Pierre Poilievre looked certain to be Canada's next premier.

But in the weeks after that, Trump rolled out a barrage of stiff tariff policies while repeatedly talking about absorbing Canada into the United States.

Outraged Canadians have since booed the American anthem at sporting events and cancelled US travel plans.

When Carney replaced the unpopular Trudeau on March 14, he anchored his message squarely on the threats from Trump, claiming the United States "wants to break us, so they can own us."

The 60-year-old, who has never held elected office but led the central banks of Canada and Britain, has argued his global financial experience makes him the ideal candidate to defend Canada against Trump's volatile trade policies.

"President Trump's tariffs are a direct attack on Canadians and on Canada itself," Carney said yesterday.

"Throughout this campaign, Pierre Poilievre proved that he has no plan to stand up to President Trump."

Carney was criss-crossing the crucial province of Ontario on Saturday, making five stops in communities near Toronto that have previously swung between Liberal and Conservative.

He will close the day with a rally in Windsor — the hub of a Canadian auto industry hit hard by Trump's tariffs.

The Trump factor and the Trudeau-for-Carney swap unsettled Poilievre, a 45-year-old who has been in parliament for two decades. — ***AFP***

DOGE orders major cut to AmeriCorps funding, imperiling agency's work

WASHINGTON: Elon Musk's US DOGE Service has ordered AmeriCorps to terminate close to $400 million in grants - roughly 41 percent of the national service agency's total grant funding, according to three people with knowledge of the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss it publicly.

It's the latest blow to the organization, which deploys thousands of young people to work on community service projects across the United States. The decision to eliminate millions of dollars in grants affects 1,031 organizations, and 32,465 AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers, the people said.

The agency's 2025 annual operating budget is about $1 billion. AmeriCorps and the White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Termination notices for the grants started going out Friday. Recipients were told that their award "no longer effectuates agency priorities," according to notices reviewed by *The Washington Post.*

"You must immediately cease all award activities," the notice says. "This is a final agency action and is not administratively appealable."

In Kansas, for example, all funding for AmeriCorps State and National programs has been eliminated, according to a letter sent to the Kansas State Department of Education. The State and National branch of AmeriCorps provides grants to local and national organizations and agencies that offer direct community services such as after-school tutoring. — ***THE WASHINGTON POST***

EU asylum approvals up in 2024

BRUSSELS: The European Union granted protection to 437,900 asylum seekers in 2024, up seven percent on the previous year, the bloc's statistics agency said on Friday.

Three countries — Germany, France and Spain — accounted for almost two-thirds of the beneficiaries, Eurostat said.

As has been the case for several years, Syrians, Afghans and Venezuelans are the main beneficiaries of protection granted in the 27 member states.

However, many European countries, including Germany, have decided to suspend the examination of asylum applications from Syrians since the fall of Bashar al-Assad in December 2024. The EU is under pressure to tighten the screws on immigration. In recent weeks, Brussels has unveiled proposals to speed up the expulsion of illegal immigrants and limit asylum options available to nationals of some countries. — ***AFP***

Brazil ex-president Collor de Mello jailed for corruption

BRASÍLIA: Brazil's former president Fernando Collor de Mello was arrested and taken to prison Friday to begin serving a nearly nine-year sentence for corruption and money laundering, the latest former leader to face jail time. Collor de Mello, Brazil's first democratically elected president after a decades-long dictatorship, resigned in 1992 after Congress launched impeachment proceedings against him for allegedly taking bribes.

His arrest stems from a conviction over bribes taken two decades later while a senator, part of the sprawling "Car Wash" corruption scandal. The 75-year-old was detained in Maceio city in northeastern Alagoas state, where he served as a senator and governor, a federal police source told AFP. In 2023, Collor de Mello was found guilty of having received 20 million reais ($3.5 million dollars) in bribes while a senator between 2010 and 2014 to "irregularly facilitate contracts" between a construction company and a former subsidiary of Brazil's state oil company Petrobras. — ***AFP***

Spain awarded Israel defence firms 46 contracts since Gaza war: Report

MADRID: Spain has awarded 46 contracts worth more than one billion euros to Israeli defence firms since the outbreak of the Gaza war, breaking the leftist government's pledge not to trade arms with Israel, researchers said on Friday.

Their conclusions come after a now-cancelled deal with an Israeli company to supply bullets to the Spanish Civil Guard rocked the Socialist-led minority coalition government this week.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, one of the most outspoken critics of Israel's military operations in Gaza, halted weapons transactions with Israel after the start of the war following Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

But according to Centre Delas, a Barcelona-based think tank specialising in security and defence, the government has granted 46 contracts worth €1,044,558,955 ($1.2 billion) to Israeli companies based on data published on a public tenders platform.

Of the 46 contracts, which include deals for rocket launchers and missiles, 10 have not been formalised, the think tank said in a statement on Friday that previewed an upcoming report. — ***AFP***

US attorney for DC accuses Wikipedia of 'propaganda,' threatens nonprofit status

WASHINGTON: The acting US attorney for the District of Columbia sent a letter to the nonprofit that runs Wikipedia, accusing the tax-exempt organization of "allowing foreign actors to manipulate information and spread propaganda to the American public."

In the letter dated April 24, Ed Martin said he sought to determine whether the Wikimedia Foundation's behavior is in violation of its Section 501(c)(3) status. Martin asked the foundation to provide detailed information about its editorial process, its trust and safety measures, and how it protects its information from foreign actors.

"Wikipedia is permitting information manipulation on its platform, including the rewriting of key, historical events and biographical information of current and previous American leaders, as well as other matters implicating the national security and the interests of the United States," Martin wrote. "Masking propaganda that influences public opinion under the guise of providing informational material is antithetical to Wikimedia's 'educational' mission."

In the letter dated April 24, Ed Martin said he sought to determine whether the Wikimedia Foundation's behavior is in violation of its Section 501(c)(3) status.

The letter, which was earlier reported by the Free Press, is part of a broader campaign by the Trump administration and its allies, including Martin, against institutions, media outlets and online platforms they have accused of pushing liberal agendas or political views. It builds on growing conservative criticism of Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia that is collaboratively written and edited by thousands of volunteer contributors from around the world.

Some of the contentions in Martin's letter echoed a report published in March by the Anti-Defamation League, a leading Jewish civil rights organization, alleging "widespread antisemitic and anti-Israel bias on Wikipedia." — ***THE WASHINGTON POST***

Greece Ministry of Defence unveils major reserve force reform

ATHENS: Greece's Ministry of National Defence has announced a sweeping reform plan to overhaul the country's reserve system, aiming to have 150,000 active reservists by 2030, according to Defence Minister Nikos Dendias on Friday.

The initiative, part of the government's broader "Agenda 2030" strategy, was unveiled at the Hellenic Military Academy in Athens. According to the ministry, the reform seeks to modernize reservist training through the use of drones, simulators, and digital platforms.

Training cycles will be scheduled every three to five years, lasting between three and six days, with cumulative training totaling up to 80 days for enlisted reservists and 150 days for reserve officers.

The reform is part of a wider modernization effort under "Agenda 2030," which also includes upgrading Greece's air and naval forces, enhancing cyber and drone capabilities, restructuring military units for greater efficiency, and improving healthcare and housing services for military personnel. — ***XINHUA***





FAJR 3:39AM	ASR 3:01PM
SUNRISE 5:01AM	MAGHRIB 6:04PM
DHUHR 11:32AM	ISHA 7:34PM



The churn of fast fashion means that many items are discarded soon after they're purchased, which has contributed to eye-popping amounts of waste. Buying less clothing is an effective way to shrink fashion's footprint.

Napoleon's sword to be sold at auction in Paris

PARIS: A sword that belonged to Napoleon and was specially ordered for the personal use of the French emperor is to be auctioned in Paris next month, the auction house said.

Napoleon ordered the sabre in 1802 and kept it throughout his reign.

The Giquello auction firm said on Friday it expected the sword to reach 700,000 to one million euros ($800,000 to $1.1m) when it goes under the hammer in Paris on May 22.

Napoleon passed the sabre on to his close ally Emmanuel de Grouchy, who the French emperor named his last marshal of the empire.

The sword has been in Grouchy's family since 1815, the year of Napoleon's last defeat at the Battle of Waterloo.

A second copy, identical to this one and also commissioned by Napoleon, is kept at the Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Napoleon memorabilia regularly comes up for sale at auction in France in a flourishing trade marked by intense interest from collectors.

Two pistols that he once intended to use to kill himself were sold in France last July for €1.7m, while one of his trademark "bicorne" hats set a record price for his possessions when it was acquired for €1.9m in November 2023.



The last sword that belonged to French Emperor Napoleon before its auction on May 22 at Hotel Drouot in Paris. (AFP)

A hand-written letter from Napoleon denying his role in the kidnapping of Pope Pius VII in 1809 is to go under the hammer this weekend outside Paris and is expected to reach €12,000 to €15,000. — ***AFP***

Google tests new AI feature on YouTube

WASHINGTON: Google announced the launch of a new AI-powered feature on YouTube that provides visual summaries of videos, similar to the recently introduced AI Overviews in Google Search. The new feature, currently being tested with a limited number of YouTube Premium subscribers in the United States, uses Google's Gemini AI to highlight selected video segments relevant to users' search queries - particularly for topics like product reviews or travel destinations.

In a post on the YouTube Community Forum, the company explained that the feature uses AI to identify the most helpful parts of videos that match your search, such as when looking for the best noise-canceling headphones or top museums in San Francisco. Google has not yet disclosed how long the trial phase will last or whether the feature will be rolled out more widely in the future. — ***QNA***

Philippines eases entry of digital nomads

MANILA: The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has been authorised to issue digital nomad visas for foreign nationals seeking to temporarily reside and work remotely in the country, the Presidential Communications Office said.

Foreigners applying for the digital nomad visas must be at least 18 years old, show proof of remote work using digital technology and sufficient income generated outside the Philippines, and have an unblemished criminal record, said the office. Often relying on the Internet and mobile devices for connectivity, a digital nomad is described as a person who works remotely using technology. They travel and live in various locations while working. — ***XINHUA***

Hubble visits glittering cluster, capturing its ultraviolet light

FLORIDA: As part of ESA/Hubble's 35th anniversary celebrations, the European Space Agency (ESA) shared new images that revisited stunning, previously released Hubble targets with the addition of the latest Hubble data and new processing techniques.

ESA/Hubble released new images of NGC 346, the Sombrero Galaxy, and the Eagle Nebula earlier in the month. Now they are revisiting the star cluster Messier 72 (M72).

M72 is a collection of stars, formally known as a globular cluster, located in the constellation Aquarius roughly 50,000 light-years from Earth. The intense gravitational attraction between the closely packed stars gives globular clusters their regular, spherical shape. There are roughly 150 known globular clusters associated with the Milky Way galaxy.

The striking variety in the colour of the stars in this image of M72, particularly compared to the original image, results from the addition of ultraviolet observations to the previous visible-light data. The colours indicate groups of different types of stars. Here, blue stars are those that were originally more massive and have reached hotter temperatures after burning through much of their hydrogen fuel; the bright red objects are lower-mass stars that have become red giants. Studying these different groups help astronomers understand how globular clusters, and the galaxies they were born in, initially formed.



This NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope image features the globular cluster Messier 72 (M72). (ESA/Hubble & NASA)

Pierre Méchain, a French astronomer and colleague of Charles Messier, discovered M72 in 1780. It was the first of five star clusters that Méchain would discover while assisting Messier. They recorded the cluster as the 72nd entry in Messier's famous collection of astronomical objects. It is also one of the most remote clusters in the catalog. — ***NASA***

Fashion is next frontier for clean tech

WASHINGTON: The $1.7 trillion fashion industry is a major polluter: By one estimate, it's responsible for between 8% and 10% of annual greenhouse gas emissions, more than aviation and shipping combined. Clothes manufacturing relies on fossil-fuel-derived fibers like polyester and guzzles energy and water. And the churn of fast fashion means that many items are discarded soon after they're purchased, which has contributed to eye-popping amounts of textile waste.

Two textile-focused startups are among this year's BloombergNEF Pioneers award winners: Circ, in Danville, Virginia, turns mixed-fiber fabric back into its reusable raw materials, while Paris-based EverDye has developed a lower-impact textile dyeing process.

Much of the fabric produced today is a blend of cotton and polyester, which is more durable than pure cotton. But the blended fibers are extremely difficult to separate and therefore challenging to recycle.

"It's so hard to mechanically separate them. You can't comb it apart," says Sonja Salmon, a textile science professor at North Carolina State University. "A machine will think it's the same thing." That's why Circ turned to chemistry instead. Its technology uses water as a solvent, plus pressure, to break down large polyester molecules - polymers - into their building blocks, or monomers, says Peter Majeranowski, the company's president. This helps separate the two types of fiber. Circ then purifies the polyester monomers and the cotton so they can both be reused in textile production.

The startup has spent significant time "refining and developing our process to ensure that our materials are better than virgin, from a greenhouse impact," says Majeranowski.

In addition to venture and supply chain investment, Circ has received investment from Patagonia, Inditex (Zara's parent company) and the European fashion platform Zalando SE. The company would like brands to sign multi-year contracts to use material recycled with its technology. But making commitments for several seasons is uncommon in the industry, Majeranowski says - "a muscle that brands aren't used to." Dyeing the fabric that gets sewn into garments is an energy-intensive step in the manufacturing process. Conventionally, pigments are heated to very high temperatures so that the color can bind. EverDye says it's found a way to do this with room-temperature water.

Mineral pigments used for textiles are generally negatively charged, says Christelle Chauffeton, a research scientist at EverDye. The fabric is also negatively charged, so the two have no affinity and the colour won't adhere. That's why the dyeing process typically relies on additives, binders and high heat.

EverDye takes mineral pigment and "synthesizes it directly on a nanoparticle of biopolymer," says Chauffeton, that was chemically modified to be positively charged. When the biopolymer (or natural polymer) is put next to a negatively charged fabric, the pigment will go on the fabric without additives or the need for intense heat. Later, another application of heat causes the nanoparticles to come together and form a film on the surface of the fibers, trapping the pigment.

The startup can now dye fabrics brown, orange or yellow and is fine-tuning its approach to create blue, red and black hues. "It takes time to adapt the formulas," says Victor Durand, EverDye's head of operations.

"Our goal is to be a regular provider of dyes in the supply chain," Durand says.

EverDye and Circ join a host of firms innovating in pursuit of lower-impact textiles, such as Boston-based Galy, which grows cotton in a lab to reduce the crop's heavy water and fertilizer use, and Algaeing, an Israeli startup that makes biodegradable yarns and dyes out of algae.

Buying clothing secondhand - or just buying less of it - is an effective way to shrink fashion's footprint. But the global business of making new garments isn't going away anytime soon. Circ, EverDye and their peers are working to clean up the process step by step. — ***BLOOMBERG/THE WASHINGTON POST***

Tech meets culture: China's digital renaissance of ancient heritage

BEIJING: At the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, the over 600-year-old UNESCO World Heritage Site, an animation played guards of honor marching in perfect unison across a projector screen, their movements in lockstep with the graceful melodies of ancient rituals.

"Through virtual and digital display, cultural relics have become 'alive,' enabling viewers to immerse in the lives of ancient people," said Sun Xiaobing, deputy director of Art Exhibitions China.

In recent years, China has used science and technology to breathe new life into its cultural relics and heritage, enriching people's lives while also elevating the nation's cultural influence.

In archaeology, the National Cultural Heritage Administration said it aims to improve multidisciplinary collaboration and advance technological level, emphasizing genetic analysis, precision dating and other fields.

Zhang Zhiguo, deputy director of the National Centre for Archaeology, said technology has been widely adopted in submarine cultural heritage protection. Archaeologists cover the surface of some fragile artifacts with carbon fiber and epoxy resin to reinforce them, so that they can be extracted from the underwater environment safely.

He added that relevant spectroscopy technologies can detect the compound composition of rust or adherents on artifacts, and types and contents of salt on both the exterior and interior of cultural relics, contributing to targeted restoration solutions.

"Technology permeates every phase of conservation," said Zhang.

In cooperation with the China Academy of Sciences, the Palace Museum has developed special equipment for cultural relics conservation, incorporating technologies such as hyperspectral imaging and X-ray fluorescent spectroscopy.

"In the past, we only saw the surface of some cultural relics. Through X-ray scanning, we could observe their internal structure in the 3D digital model, precisely learn their abrasion and cracks, and eventually better understand their manufacturing process," said Qu Liang, director of the Conservation Standards Department of the Palace Museum. — ***XINHUA***



Lotus Lantern Festival in Seoul

Participants march with lanterns during a parade as part of a 'Lotus Lantern Festival' in Seoul yesterday. (AFP)

TRENDING IN QATAR

On *The Peninsula* social media platforms

Iranian FM voices satisfaction with 'process, pace' of talks with US

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi expressed satisfaction with the latest round of indirect talks between Iran and the United States.

China hits out at 'extreme selfishness' of tariffs

China's foreign minister has hit out at the "extreme selfishness" of tariffs, hinting at the steep levies imposed on Beijing by US.

Zelensky and Trump to hold second meeting

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and US President Donald Trump will hold a second meeting.

Russia says retook Kursk with North Korean help

The Russian army has fully liberated the border Kursk region from Ukrainian control with the help of North Korean soldiers.