QATAR ↘ 04
QATAR CULTURAL ATTACHE IN UK CELEBRATES GRADUATION OF 156 STUDENTS



BUSINESS ↘ 09
LAND TRANSACTIONS SEE 157 REALTY DEALS WORTH QR758M IN JUNE



SPORT ↘ 15
LUSAIL GEARS UP FOR GRAND PRIX OF QATAR 2026



EDITORIAL ↘ 02
SIDRA'S STRIDES IN ADOLESCENT CARE

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THURSDAY
31 JULY 2025
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The Peninsula

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Speaker reaffirms Qatar's role in peaceful conflict resolution

GENEVA: Speaker of the Shura Council H E Hassan bin Abdullah Al Ghanim affirmed the State of Qatar's continued pioneering role in supporting and establishing the principle of dialogue and conflict resolution through mediation and peaceful means, stating that this approach is a consistent choice enshrined in the State's constitution and is based on international laws and conventions.

The Speaker, in a speech delivered during his participation in the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament held in Geneva under the title "A world in turmoil: Parliamentary cooperation and multilateralism for peace, justice, and prosperity for all," expressed Qatar's commitment to international partnership and cooperation.

This is embodied in its readiness to host the second World Summit for Social Development next November and through its keenness to strengthen social cohesion, achieve comprehensive and sustainable development, and support the most vulnerable groups, especially in light of escalating economic and climate crises.

Speaker of the Shura Council emphasized the responsibility of parliamentarians to confront the escalating humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, which has been subjected to genocide crimes by the Israeli occupation forces for more than twenty-two months amid the international community's inability to stop them or protect civilians.

He pointed out the increasing challenges facing the world, especially as the expansion of conflicts and security threats highlights the failure of the international system and raises doubts about the effectiveness of its institutions in enforcing compliance with international law and halting violations, particularly in conflict zones, foremost among them Gaza and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories.



Speaker of the Shura Council H E Hassan bin Abdullah Al Ghanim addressing the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament held in Geneva yesterday.

He emphasised the responsibility of parliamentarians to confront the escalating humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, which has been subjected to genocide crimes by the Israeli occupation forces for more than twenty-two months amid the international community's inability to stop them or protect civilians.

He condemned the ongoing killings, the comprehensive blockade imposed on the Strip, and the systematic starvation policy used by Israel against civilians, stressing that the world's silence on the cries of children and the suffering of mothers undermines the values of justice and humanity.

He, in his speech, called for restructuring international organizations that have failed to fulfill their role in achieving international peace and security and restoring the ethical and humanitarian dimension in international positions and championing justice.

He also pointed out that the responsibility of parliaments requires a clear stance on the wars and tragedies the world is witnessing, especially famine and the deliberate targeting of women and children in Gaza, saying in this regard that the death of children from hunger is a disgrace on the forehead of the international community and humanity, and let parliamentarians around the world have a word of truth in stopping the crimes and killings in Gaza. — ***QNA***

Qatar Airways increases flights to over 15 destinations in winter

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Airways has introduced increased flights to over 15 global destinations for this year's winter season. The airline is facilitating demand for its services for travellers from all around the globe and continues to offer greater choice and connectivity through its Doha hub, Hamad International Airport.

The airline has also announced its landmark frequency to London. Qatar Airways marks up to 10 daily flights to London as its highest-ever frequency, which is complemented by British Airways' double daily flights.

Qatar Airways Chief Commercial Officer, Thierry Antinori, said: "Qatar Airways is consistently witnessing a steady rise in demand for our 5-star services to some of the most prominent destinations in the world, most notably for London, Dublin, Cape Town, and São Paulo. This winter, in partnership with Qatar Airways, Virgin Australia will launch flights from Melbourne to Doha, increasing capacity to three daily flights between the two cities. Qatar Airways will also restart services to Canberra, reinforcing its commitment to enhance connectivity between Australia and the world.

"The latest increase in flight frequency is testament to our continual and unmatched enhancements of experiences for our passengers travelling through the Best Airport in the Middle East – our hub, Hamad International Airport."



Qatar Airways is consistently witnessing a steady rise in demand for their 5-star services to some of the most prominent destinations in the world, most notably for London, Dublin, Cape Town, and São Paulo.

Passengers have greater choice when travelling with Qatar Airways this winter: Abu Dhabi – increased from five daily flights to up to six, Berlin – increased from 18 weekly flights to up to 21, Cape Town – increased from 10 weekly flights to up to 12, Casablanca – increased from four weekly flights to five, Dublin – increased from 14 weekly flights to 17, Frankfurt – increased from 18 weekly flights to up to 21, Johannesburg – increased from 14 weekly flights to 18, London Heathrow – increased from eight daily flights to up to 10, Madrid – increased from 14 weekly flights to 17, Maldives – increased from three daily flights to up to four, Manchester – increased from 21 weekly flights to up to 24, Phuket – increased from three daily flights to up to four, São Paulo – increased from 14 weekly flights to 18, Sharjah – increased from three daily flights to up to seven, Tokyo Narita – increased from 11 weekly flights to up to 14, Toronto – increased from five weekly flights to seven.

The airline's global connectivity is supported by its diverse fleet of young aircraft that includes 54 Boeing 777s equipped with ultra-high-speed Starlink on-board Wi-Fi that is free for all passengers. Qatar Airways is first airline in the world to fully equip and operate over 50 widebody aircraft with Starlink, and the only carrier in the MENA region offering the service. Passengers in both Premium and Economy cabins enjoy free, gate-to-gate Wi-Fi speeds of up to 500 Mbps per aircraft. The airline is now equipping its Airbus A350 fleet, aiming to complete Starlink installation within the next year.

Qatar aims to multiply patent output tenfold by 2030

SANAULLAH ATAULLAH
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: As part of its national strategy to build a knowledge-based economy, Qatar is setting an ambitious goal to increase its number of patents filed per billion dollars of GDP by tenfold by 2030.

Director of the Research and Policy Support Department at the Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation Council (QRDI Council) Dr. Mohammed Al-Hosani said, "We believe that one of the main indicators of innovation is the number of patents per billion dollars of GDP. Our ambition is to increase this metric tenfold by 2030," he stated.

Speaking to Qatar TV yesterday, he emphasized that this key indicator reflects the country's commitment to turning innovative ideas into protected intellectual property that fuels sustainable economic growth and global competitiveness.

Al-Housani said that QRDI Council is committed to advancing innovation and entrepreneurship in the country through the launch and expansion of its Intellectual Property (IP) Clinics initiative.

He said that the IP Clinics initiative has been tailored to meet the specific needs of Qatar's innovation ecosystem. It offers entrepreneurs and small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) individualized support to assess the potential of their ideas, understand IP tools, and develop strategies to protect and commercialize their innovations. ➔P3

QRDI Council is committed to advancing innovation and entrepreneurship in the country through the launch and expansion of its Intellectual Property (IP) Clinics initiative.

"Most people associate intellectual property with patents, but it also includes trademarks, copyrights, and industrial designs," Dr. Al-Housani explained. "These tools are vital for startups and SMEs to convert their innovations into valuable economic assets, strengthen their competitiveness, and expand internationally."

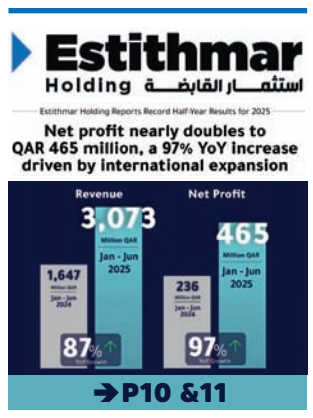
The IP Clinics are part of a broader multi-phase strategy: Short-term goals: Raise awareness about the importance of intellectual property among SMEs and entrepreneurs, and equip them with the tools they need to convert ideas into economic opportunities.

Medium-term goals: Empower Qatari companies to expand internationally with greater confidence, armed with legal protections for their innovations. This, in turn, enhances Qatar's appeal as a destination for foreign investment. Long-term goals: Contribute to Qatar's Third National Development Strategy by strengthening its innovation-driven economy and solidifying its status as a global hub for intellectual capital. ➔P3

Qatar welcomes UK's intention to recognise State of Palestine

DOHA: The State of Qatar welcomed the announcement by Prime Minister of the United Kingdom H E Keir Starmer regarding his country's intention to recognize the sisterly State of Palestine and its support for the two-state solution. Qatar considered this announcement a significant development that aligns with international legitimacy and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and contributes to fostering prospects for realizing a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed that this announcement aligns with the consensus reached by countries participating in the High-Level International Conference on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, which supports a roadmap aimed at expanding international recognition of the State of Palestine. — ***QNA*** ➔P2



Local festival sells nearly 80 tonnes of dates, attracts 36,000 visitors in six days

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The 10th Local Date Festival, organised by the Ministry of Municipality in collaboration with the Agricultural Affairs Department and Souq Waqif Administration, has recorded exceptional success during its first week, achieving both impressive sales volumes and a strong public turnout.

From the opening day on Thursday, July 24, through Tuesday, July 29, the festival recorded total date sales of 79,421 kilograms. Among the varieties sold, Ikhlas dates topped the chart with 33,181 kilograms, followed by Shishi with 17,139 kilograms, Khenizi with 16,645 kilograms, and Barhi with 7,036 kilograms. An additional 5,420 kilograms were made up of other local date varieties. Alongside dates, the festival also witnessed the sale of 978 kilograms of fresh fruit, further underlining its appeal as a hub for local produce.

This year's edition of the festival features the participation of 114 local farms, a significant increase that reflects the continued growth and diversification of Qatar's agricultural production. This expansion not only demonstrates the sector's resilience but also its ability to meet increasing consumer demand for fresh, high-quality, locally-grown products.

Public response has been overwhelmingly positive, with approximately 36,300 visitors attending the festival within its first six days. The large turnout highlights the growing trust in Qatari agricultural products and the community's enthusiasm for supporting local farmers. Families, tourists, and residents alike have flocked to Souq Waqif's eastern square to explore the rich variety of dates and other produce on offer.



Beyond the commercial aspect, the festival also serves as an important cultural and social event, celebrating Qatar's deep-rooted agricultural traditions. It provides a platform for farmers to showcase their hard work and innovations, encourages knowledge exchange, and fosters greater awareness about the nutritional and economic value of dates in Qatari society.

Running through August 7, the festival is open daily from 4pm to 9pm (Sunday to Thursday), and until 10pm on weekends (Friday and Saturday). The organizers have ensured a vibrant and family-friendly atmosphere, complete with shaded stalls, tasting areas, and activities for children, making it a must-visit event for all age groups.

With its record-breaking start, the 10th Local Date Festival is not only a commercial success but also a testament to Qatar's commitment to food security, sustainable agriculture, and community engagement.

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EDITORIAL

Sidra's strides in adolescent care

SIDRA Medicine, a cornerstone of Qatar Foundation's commitment to world-class healthcare, has emerged as a trailblazer in adolescent medicine, addressing the unique physical, emotional, and psychological needs of young people aged 8 to 18.

Its recent advancements, particularly the establishment of Qatar's first comprehensive Adolescent Eating Disorders Clinic, mark a significant leap forward in regional paediatric care. This editorial explores how Sidra Medicine is setting a global standard for adolescent healthcare through innovation, compassion, and multidisciplinary expertise.

The Adolescent Eating Disorders Clinic, launched in 2025, is a landmark achievement. As Qatar's only comprehensive programme for eating disorders, it tackles conditions like Anorexia Nervosa, Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID), and co-occurring mental health challenges such as anxiety and depression. The clinic's holistic approach integrates pediatricians, psychologists, dietitians, and social workers, employing evidence-based therapies like Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Eating Disorders (CBT-E) and Family-Based Therapy. With over 90% of patients achieving long-term recovery, the clinic exemplifies the power of coordinated care. Success stories, such as a 13-year-old patient recovering from severe malnutrition to excel academically, highlight the programme's life-changing impact.

Beyond eating disorders, Sidra Medicine's Adolescent Medicine programme fosters a safe, confidential space for addressing diverse health concerns. By prioritising trust, open communication, and family involvement while respecting adolescent confidentiality, the programme empowers young people to manage their health proactively. Its adherence to American Academy of Paediatrics guidelines ensures world-class standards, while inpatient services provide critical support for those needing intensive care.

Sidra's strides extend to research and innovation, such as developing an AI-powered tool for predicting Type 1 Diabetes risk, enabling earlier interventions. These efforts underscore Qatar's growing role as a hub for advanced healthcare in the MENA region. By blending cutting-edge medicine with empathetic care, Sidra Medicine is not only transforming adolescent health but also inspiring hope for healthier, more fulfilling lives.



Al Khulaifi meets members of International Fellowship Programme at Qatar Leadership Centre

Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs H E Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al Khulaifi met yesterday with members of the International Fellowship Programme at Qatar Leadership Centre's Young Leaders Programme. During the meeting, His Excellency outlined the key features of the State's foreign policy, highlighting Qatar's recent achievements in international mediation. He encouraged the members of the programme to benefit from the experience of working at the United Nations, which will significantly enrich their practical expertise. His Excellency wished them all the best and continued success.

Qatar secures bronze medal at Physics Olympiad in Paris

PARIS: The State of Qatar has clinched the bronze medal at the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO 2025) held in Paris, France, with the participation of 90-plus countries from across the globe.

This achievement adds a new milestone to the nation's rich record in international scientific arenas and reflects the advanced level attained by Qatari students in science and technology.

Anujraghava Thirukonda Sivakumar, from Doha Modern Indian School (DPS), secured the bronze medal as part of the Qatari team participating in the Olympiad, which also included Saeed Ali Al Marri and Mohammed Abdullah Ameeruddin from Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys, Anas Rami Alsalkawi from Ali Bin Jassim Secondary School for Boys, and Mohammed Rehan Iqbal from Belgravia High School.

This participation is a product of a systematic preparation which commenced with screening tests at public, private, and international schools to figure out the best students who determine those who would make the cut, followed by an extensive training program that featured practical and theatrical lectures overseen by in-the-know local and international trainers.

Having been launched in 1967, the Olympiad broadly intends to advance student critical thinking capabilities and lay out solutions for complex scientific problems, in addition to encouraging them to delve into science.

The participating secondary school students will compete in two five-hour extensive practical and theatrical tests. Such kinds of global contests literally help promote cultural exchange among students hailing from various nations and build bridges of communication among the next generations' mentors. — *QNA*



Members of the Qatari team at the Olympiad in Paris.

Amir congratulates King of Morocco

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to H M King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco on the occasion of Throne Day. — *QNA*

Amir congratulates President of Vanuatu

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to President of the Republic of Vanuatu H E Nikenike Vurobaravu, on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day.

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani also sent a cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu H E Jotham Napaty. — *QNA*

Qatar welcomes UK's intention to recognise State of Palestine

FROM PAGE 1

The announcement also represents a meaningful affirmation of the legitimate rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, enabling them to exercise their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state along the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The Ministry reiterated the State of Qatar's call on all countries that have not yet recognised the State of Palestine to take similar steps, reflecting their commitment to international law and support for the historical and inalienable rights of the brotherly Palestinian people on their national land.





MoI Undersecretary hosts Acting Charge d'Affaires of German Embassy

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) H E Abdullah bin Khalaf bin Hattab Al Kaabi met yesterday with Acting Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Hans-Udo Muzel. The meeting discussed cooperation relations in the security areas of common interest and ways to enhance them.

Qatar Goodwood Festival presented by Visit Qatar kicks off with Visit Qatar showcasing world-class destination experience on-site

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Qatar Goodwood Festival presented by Visit Qatar has officially commenced, with the Al Shaqab Goodwood Cup Stakes (Group 1) marking the first of several Visit Qatar-sponsored races during the event.

A world-class field of eight elite runners from leading international stables took part in the two-mile race, delivering an exhilarating showdown on the Goodwood Racecourse. Scandinavia claimed victory in a hard-fought finish. The trophy was presented by Chairman of Qatar Tourism and Chair of the Board of Directors of Visit Qatar H E Saad Bin Ali AlKharji.

Beyond the track, Visit Qatar is bringing the spirit of Qatar to West Sussex through an interactive experience designed to showcase Qatar's hospitality, unique culture, and tourism offerings to international festival goers.



Chairman of Qatar Tourism and Chair of the Board of Directors of Visit Qatar H E Saad Bin Ali Al Kharji (second left) presenting a trophy to one of the winners.

Guests visiting the Visit Qatar activation are welcomed with traditional refreshments including Arabic coffee and dates. Immersive visual elements throughout the space highlight Qatar's diverse tourism offerings, using striking imagery and compelling storytelling to inspire travel and bring the destination to life. The Qatar Goodwood Festival presented by Visit Qatar continues throughout the week with more headline races.

WWRC receives Gold Certification for Excellence in Person-Centered Care by Planetree International

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: In a remarkable achievement that reflects Hamad Medical Corporation's (HMC) ongoing commitment to enhancing the quality of healthcare services, the Women's Wellness and Research Center (WWRC) has been awarded the prestigious Gold Certification for Excellence in Person Centered Care by Planetree International.

This global certification recognises institutions that demonstrate outstanding dedication to placing patients at the heart of the care process.

With this milestone, WWRC becomes the first organization in the world to receive this certification based on Planetree's new 2024 criteria and accreditation process and is now among an elite group of only 115 healthcare institutions worldwide to hold this distinguished recognition.

As Qatar's largest tertiary hospital dedicated to women's health, WWRC provides comprehensive care covering every stage of a woman's reproductive life from preconception to childbirth, postnatal care, and overall wellness – while addressing physical, emotional, and social needs in an integrated, holistic manner.

The Gold Certification is granted to healthcare institutions that demonstrate a genuine and measurable commitment to person centered care. This includes active patient and family engagement in decision making, as well as embedding the values of compassion, transparency, and respect across all levels of service,



Managing Director of HMC Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Suwaidi

ensuring a healthcare experience that is both human-centered and high quality.

Managing Director of HMC, Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Suwaidi expressed his pride in this global recognition: "This achievement is more than a certificate, it is a true reflection of our unwavering humanitarian mission that every patient is a person first. We believe exceptional healthcare begins with listening, understanding the patient's needs, acknowledging their emotions, and empowering them as partners in their treatment journey."

With this milestone, WWRC becomes the first organization in the world to receive this certification based on Planetree's new 2024 criteria and accreditation process and is now among an elite group of only 115 healthcare institutions worldwide to hold this distinguished recognition.

"Our goal is not just to provide medical treatment, but to ensure every individual feels cared for and supported at every step. This is what drives us to continuously innovate and raise the standards of care to meet and exceed patient expectations," he added.

HMC's Chief of Patient Experience and Director of the Hamad Healthcare Quality Institute, Nasser Al Naimi emphasised the importance of this achievement: "Receiving the Gold Certification from Planetree is a testament to our commitment to building strong partnerships between healthcare providers, patients, and families throughout the care journey. Person centered care is a fundamental pillar in delivering high-quality healthcare that meets the highest international standards."

President of Planetree International, Michael Giuliano stated: "Planetree Certification is the only accreditation that honors excellence in person-centeredness across the entire continuum of care. The Women's Wellness and Research Center earning this recognition is proof of its deep commitment to patients and the broader community. The Center prioritizes partnership with patients and families, while ensuring their comfort, dignity, empowerment, and wellbeing which are the foundation of world-class healthcare."

Qatar aims to multiply patent output tenfold by 2030

FROM PAGE 1

QRDI has already launched a series of workshops, including an inaugural seminar that saw strong participation from startups and entrepreneurs. These sessions cover key topics such as the Madrid Protocol, which simplifies the international patent filing process by allowing businesses to secure protection in over 110 countries through a single application.

The flagship feature of the initiative is the IP Clinic itself — a one-on-one consultation model that runs over a period of three to six months. Participants receive personalized guidance from global IP experts to identify, protect, and economically leverage their intellectual assets. Registration remains open through QRDI's website and social media platforms.

Dr. Al-Housani noted that creating a robust IP infrastructure also supports Qatar's broader economic diplomacy. "We aim to present Qatar not only as a market, but as a regional gateway for innovation and investment. A transparent, well-regulated IP environment gives international investors the confidence to bring their businesses here." He also hinted at upcoming partnerships with new stakeholders in Qatar's innovation landscape, reflecting the Council's openness to collaboration and responsiveness to evolving needs. "In today's fast-paced world, ideas have a short shelf life. If you don't act on an idea, someone else will," said Dr. Al-Housani. "That's why IP is no longer optional — it's essential. It's the backbone of economic diversification and national competitiveness."

To recall, QRDI Council recently announced a new partnership with Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to empower Qatari small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through strategic intellectual property (IP) management and innovation. This collaboration, which marks a significant milestone in Qatar's innovation journey, aims to embed IP as a core business driver for the nation's entrepreneurs and innovators.

Qatari students gain real-world experience through Ministry of Awqaf's Summer Training Program

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Dozens of Qatari students have expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for providing them with a valuable opportunity to participate in its 2025 Summer Training Program, which successfully bridged the gap between academic learning and practical work experience.

The program, designed and supervised by the Training and Administrative Development Section at the Human Resources Department, featured immersive training across four key departments within the ministry.

A total of 77 high school and university students took part in the initiative, where they were distributed according to their preferences among the following departments: Information Systems, Da'wah and Religious Guidance, Zakat Affairs, and the General Department of Endowments. Students were mentored by departmental supervisors and given hands-on experience, enabling them to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings.

Participants praised the professional and organizational standards of the ministry, noting that the skills and practical experience gained during the training significantly enhanced their personal development and prepared them for the demands of the evolving labor market. The program also included field workshops, which the students said boosted their confidence, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities.

In their testimonials, the students highlighted how the training helped them make meaningful connections between theory and application. Saad Mohammed Al-Dosari, a student from Al Sheehaniya School who trained at the Da'wah and Religious Guidance Department, said the program allowed him to learn how to complete various administrative tasks and participate in diverse workshops. "The supervisors were very supportive and gave us plenty of opportunities to practice real work. I gained practical insights that I will carry with me going forward," he said.



Participants taking part in an activity during the programme.

Sultan Khalid Al-Haidous from Ibn Taymiyyah Secondary School shared his experience in the Information Systems Department, where he learned how to troubleshoot technical issues and support system users. "The program perfectly balanced theory and practice and helped me connect academic learning to professional applications," he said.

Zayed Ajab Al-Hajri from Al-Wakra Secondary School trained in the Da'wah and Religious Guidance Department, gaining firsthand exposure to the ministry's community engagement efforts. He noted the value of the experience in shaping his professional aspirations.

Other students echoed similar sentiments. Mubarak Mohammed Al-Muhannadi from Abdullah bin Nuaim School highlighted how the program instilled core values like teamwork, initiative, and efficient task completion. Ahmad Sami Al-Hajj and Mohammed Sami Al-Hajj, both from Al-Andalus School, reflected on their training in the Information Systems Department, where they were introduced to artificial intelligence tools, device maintenance, and call center operations.

Qatar marks World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2025



Officials and dignitaries during the event.

DOHA: The State of Qatar yesterday observed the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2025, held annually on July 30.

The event, themed "Human Trafficking is Organised Crime - End the Exploitation", was organized by the Ministry of Labour and the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, with wide participation from government, security, and judicial bodies, international organizations, diplomatic missions, and civil society.

The commemoration reflects Qatar's ongoing commitment, through the Ministry of Labour, to combat human trafficking in accordance with Islamic values that uphold human dignity, as well as its obligations under international law and support for global anti-trafficking efforts.

Qatar has established a comprehensive legal and institutional framework that supports prevention, protection, and prosecution, aligned with the UN Global Plan of Action. The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, established by Cabinet Decision No. 15 of 2017, coordinates efforts across local and international partners, runs specialised training programs for enforcement officers, and works to raise awareness of the crime's patterns and response methods.

Assistant Undersecretary for Migrant Labour Affairs Hamad Faraj Dalmouk opened the event by highlighting Qatar's integrated and progressive approach to combating human trafficking, notably the launch of the 2024-2026 National Plan. The plan focuses on four pillars: prevention, protection, prosecution, and cooperation, both national and international, led by the National Committee to ensure an effective and sustainable response.

He outlined legislative, institutional, and procedural reforms taken as part of Qatar's broader labour market transformation. Internationally, Qatar continues to strengthen cooperation with labour-sending countries via agreements and MoUs, joint worker protection committees, and recruitment oversight. Dalmouk noted Qatar's recent agreement with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to establish an international centre for training and research in combating human trafficking.

He affirmed that the Ministry of Labour places top priority on addressing human trafficking and forced labour, in alignment with Qatar's Third National Development Strategy (2024-2030). With Qatar a major destination for migrant workers, the ministry has adopted a range of proactive measures to prevent exploitation and uphold a fair and lawful working environment.

Head of the ILO Office in Qatar Max Tunon emphasized the day's global significance as a reminder of the international community's responsibility to combat exploitation and forced labour. He noted that around 50 million people worldwide continue to suffer under such conditions, calling it a gross violation of human rights and decent work standards. He reaffirmed the ILO's commitment to partnering with governments and private stakeholders to address root causes, support victims, and hold perpetrators accountable.

Tunon praised Qatar's progress, including legal reforms to the sponsorship system, enhanced complaint mechanisms, and expanded services for victim support. He described the 2024-2026 National Plan as "a comprehensive document grounded in local realities and a deep understanding of the structural risks facing some workers."

Acting Chief of the IOM Mission in Qatar Roula Hamati praised the Ministry of Labour for its firm commitment to combating trafficking, particularly among vulnerable worker groups. She acknowledged the challenge of properly identifying victims, who are sometimes misclassified as offenders, and highlighted Qatar's advanced policy approach focused on dignity and protection. — ***QNA***

Qatar Cultural Attache in UK celebrates graduation of 156 students

LONDON: The Cultural Attache of the State of Qatar to the United Kingdom organised a graduation ceremony for 156 Qatari students studying in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland for the 2024-2025 academic year.

The event, which was attended by a large number of outstanding students and their parents, was organised as part of the Cultural Attache's commitment to supporting scholarship students and strengthening academic and cultural relations between the State of Qatar and leading higher education institutions in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The ceremony was attended by a number of representatives of the diplomatic corps at the Embassy of the State of Qatar in London, along with cultural attaches from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. This reflects the importance of strengthening educational and cultural ties and consolidating academic cooperation between the State of Qatar and fraternal and friendly countries.

The ceremony began with a speech delivered by Qatar's Cultural Attache to the United Kingdom Fahad Al Kuwari, in which he expressed his pride in the outstanding academic achievements of the Qatari students and affirmed the Cultural Attache's commitment to providing them with continuous support throughout their academic journey.

Director of the Scholarships Department at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Noora Mohammed Al Ansari delivered a speech congratulating the graduates and their families, appreciating their efforts and determination to excel and continue to give throughout their years of scholarship.

The ceremony also honoured representatives of British and Irish universities in recognition of their pivotal role in supporting scholarship students and their fruitful cooperation with the Cultural Attache during the current academic year.

The ceremony also included a distinguished photography exhibition, during which graduating students presented their artistic and photographic works that embodied their educational and cultural experiences during their studies abroad.



Officials and graduating students during the ceremony.

This honour reflects the depth of academic cooperation and strategic partnerships that contribute to enhancing scientific and cultural exchange between the State of Qatar and both the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. — *QNA*

MoPH trains occupational health and safety officers in firms on heat stress prevention

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has concluded a training workshop on heat stress during the summer season, attended by approximately 250 occupational health and safety officers from companies operating in Qatar.

The workshop forms part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to raise awareness of occupational health and safety in workplace environments.

This workshop complements the field awareness campaigns carried out by the Ministry of Public Health in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour. These campaigns include the production of educational materials in multiple languages to ensure they reach the widest possible segment of the workforce.

Through the organisation of workshops and awareness campaigns, the Ministry of Public Health seeks to implement the Workplace Wellness Support and Follow-up Project, one of the projects under the "Occupational Health and Safety" initiative within the National Health Strategy 2024–2030. The aim is to create workplaces free from occupational diseases and injuries.

The two-day workshop aimed to raise awareness among occupational health and safety officers in companies about the importance of taking necessary preventive measures to avoid heat stress injuries, and to enable them to pass this knowledge on to workers within their companies.

The workshop covered several important topics, including definitions and types of heat stress, methods of prevention, first aid to be administered at work sites, the impact of sunlight on the eyes, and laws related to working in open spaces during the summer.



Director of the Health Promotion Department at the Ministry of Public Health Dr. Salah Abdulla Alyafei speaking during the workshop.

In his opening remarks, Director of the Health Promotion Department at the Ministry of Public Health, Dr. Salah Abdulla Alyafei said, "Heat stress remains one of the most significant risks to workers' health and safety. Rising temperatures and humidity during the summer pose an increasing challenge.

"Given the diversity of the workforce, many workers may be unaware of the dangers or unfamiliar with proper protective measures."

Dr Alyafei added, "Each year, the Ministry of Public Health, through its Occupational Health Section, runs a dedicated heat stress programme targeted at company health and safety managers and supervisors.

"This initiative is aimed at improving awareness of heat stress symptoms and preventive actions. As part of the programme, multilingual educational materials are distributed across workplaces, highlighting ways to prevent heat-related issues during the summer.

"We greatly value the strong collaboration between the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Labour in organising these joint awareness campaigns."

It is worth noting that the enforcement of Ministerial Decision No 17 of 2021 on the necessary precautions to protect workers from heat stress has significantly contributed to reducing related injuries.

The regulation prohibits outdoor work, or work in unshaded or unventilated areas, from 10am to 3pm between June 1 and September 15 each year, in a bid to safeguard workers from the dangers of summer heat stress.

Jumbo Electronics launches Nothing Phone 3 , bringing London's coolest smartphone to market

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Jumbo Electronics, the exclusive distributor of Nothing in Qatar, has officially launched the highly anticipated Nothing Phone 3, marking the arrival of the London-based technology company's first true flagship smartphone and design-forward smartphone to date.

Known for its distinctive transparent hardware and minimalist software philosophy, Nothing continues to disrupt the smartphone market with a device that combines cutting-edge performance with striking aesthetics. The Phone (3) reinforces the brand's commitment to offering innovation that's both functional and bold.

Proudly bearing Nothing's commitment to pushing boundaries in design, performance, and user experience, the two devices aim to deliver Nothing's distinct approach to personal technology. Rishi Kishor Gupta, Regional Director of Nothing Middle East and Africa, shared, "We wanted to bring something different to Qatar — devices that don't just look good but feel personal and exciting to use. The Nothing Phone 3 and Headphone 1 reflect who we are as a brand: bold, innovative, and playful. We're proud to offer technology that breaks away from the ordinary and invites people to express themselves in new ways."

Nothing Phone 3 redefines what a flagship smartphone can be, blending bold design, cutting-edge hardware, and innovative features that empower users to create, connect, and express themselves like never before.

Nothing Phone 3 builds on Nothing's iconic design language with a refined tri-column layout inspired by modern architecture. Its ergonomic R-angle shape improves comfort, while uniform 1.87mm bezels frame a stunning 6.67" AMOLED display for an immersive edge-to-edge experience. The new Glyph Matrix, a micro-LED interface on the back, introduces smarter



notifications, app-specific alerts, and playful tools like Glyph Toys, which include Stopwatch, Solar Clock, and Spin the Bottle.

"Tech has become boring; every phone looks the same, feels the same, does the same. That's why we took our time. Nothing Phone (3) is our answer: a flagship built to make tech feel personal again," said CEO of Nothing Carl Pei.

Powered by the latest Snapdragon 8s Gen 4 chipset, Nothing Phone 3 delivers next-gen image processing, faster AI performance, and ultra-smooth gaming. Compared to Phone 2, it offers a 36% increase in CPU power, an 88% GPU boost, and 125% faster image recognition. Paired with up to 16GB of RAM and a high-density 5150mAh silicon-carbon battery, Nothing Phone (3) ensures seamless multitasking and all-day power. It supports 65W wired fast charging (full charge in just 54 minutes) and 15W wireless charging.

Director & CEO of Jumbo Electronics - Qatar, C V Rappai said: "We're proud to bring Nothing's bold innovation to Qatar. The Phone (3) is unlike anything else in the market—designed to stand out and perform. As exclusive distributors, we're excited to offer our customers a flagship that truly redefines what a smartphone can be."

EU Youth Short Film Festival returns in November

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The EU Youth Short Film Festival is back for its highly anticipated second edition, taking place on November 24–25, 2025 at the vibrant Doha Sands Beach.

This year's festival promises another unforgettable celebration of creativity, cultural storytelling, and youth voices from Qatar and the European Union. With a special thematic spotlight on "Women in Focus: Empowerment Through Storytelling" on the second day, the festival will continue to explore bold ideas and human stories through the lens of young filmmakers.

The Delegation of the European Union to the State of Qatar in a statement has invited Qatari filmmakers under the age of 35 to submit their short films for consideration.

As part of the festival, a panel of international and local experts will award prizes in two categories: Best Picture and Best Screenplay.

Last year's Best Picture award went to Olayan by Qatari filmmaker Khalifa Al Marri, a touching story of a young Bedouin boy and his camel. The Best Screenplay award went to It's Nice in Here by Dutch filmmaker Robert-Jonathan Koeyers.

Two Qatari films, *Through Her Eyes* by Lolwa Al Jassim and *A Simple Cut* by Maha Al Jufairi, received Honourable Mentions for their powerful storytelling and social themes. This year's winners will be celebrated during an award ceremony on the closing night of the festival.

Application is open to Qatari nationals or residents under 35 years of age and films must be 20 minutes or less. It must include English subtitles if not in English and all genres are welcome including fiction, documentary, animation, experimental.

Films must be submitted by email to: ghada.kofa@eeas.europa.eu and the deadline for submissions is August 30, 2025.

More exciting programming will be announced soon, including opportunities for youth engagement and expert-led masterclasses.

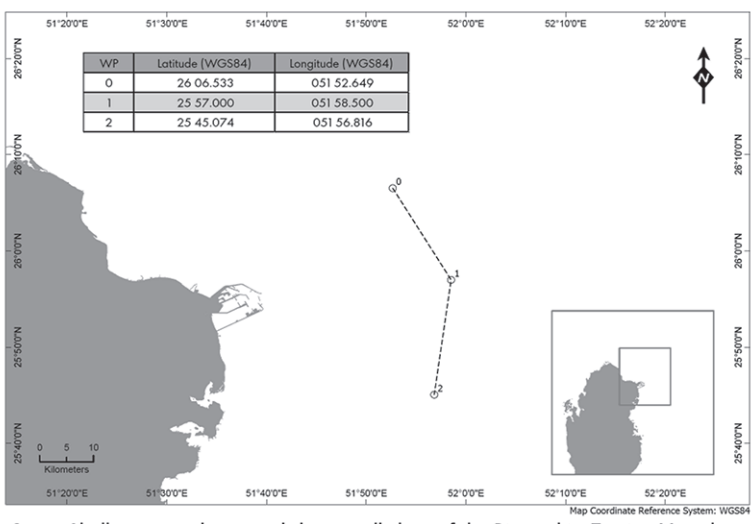
Qatar Shell Service Company W.L.L.

Public Announcement to Fishermen and Mariners Rig Move and Drilling Operations Qatar Waters.

In pursuant and under directives from the Ministry Of Transport, Seafarers and registration department, Doha, Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Fishermen and Mariners that Qatar Shell Service Company W.L.L intends to carry out a Rig Move of the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit, "Les Hat" in Qatari waters.

"Mobile Drilling Unit Les Hat" will be towed from Location 0 to Location 2.
Towing will commence between **25th July and 10th** August inclusive.
On completion of the Towing Operation, "Les Hat" will be stationary at Location 2 until a further announcement.

WP	Latitude (WGS84)	Longitude (WGS84)
0	26 06.533	051 52.649
1	25 57.000	051 58.500
2	25 45.074	051 56.816



Qatar Shell requests that vessels keep well clear of the Rig and its Towing Vessels while on Tow and Fishermen are requested to remove their equipment and keep away from the area.

Vessels ignoring this announcement will be responsible for all liabilities arising out of their actions (including any damage to equipment and delay time).

Qatar Shell Service Company assumes no responsibility for damage or loss of equipment following this advertisement.

For more details contact
Tel: 44957777, Fax: 44957778

QatarEnergy LNG
Tender Invitation

قطر للطاقة QatarEnergy LNG

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/FMD/7252/25 PROVISION OF HVAC MAINTENANCE AND SERVICES FOR COMPANY'S BUILDING FACILITIES	31/07/2025 to 05/08/2025	0	500,000	25/08/2025

Scope of Work:
The purpose of this Tender is to award Contract to provide COMPANY with HVAC Maintenance and services for Company's Building Facilities, which include Building heating, ventilation, air conditioning systems; mechanical systems maintenance and minor projects (Inspections, Surveillance, Preventive maintenance, Corrective maintenance, Minor modifications, Refurbishment, Equipment replacement/ Retrofit). The Scope of Services will cover HVAC maintenance, minor HVAC equipment upgrades/ replacements and general support services for COMPANY's building and facilities and any future facilities installed/added to the existing facilities during the term of the contract within Qatar. The CONTRACTOR shall provide the services on a call-off basis. The services provided shall include the supply of required manpower, materials, tools, equipment and plant.

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

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

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

Damaan Islamic Insurance Company
Q.P.S.C

بيمه
Beema

شركة الضمان للتأمين الإسلامي
(شركة مساهمة عامة قطرية)

CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT
FOR THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT

To the Shareholders
Damaan Islamic Insurance Company "BEEMA" (Q.P.S.C.), Lusail – Qatar

Introduction
We have reviewed the accompanying condensed interim statement of financial position of Damaan Islamic Insurance Company "BEEMA" (Q.P.S.C.) (the "Company") as at 30 June 2025 and the related condensed interim statements of policyholders' revenues, expenses and other comprehensive income, policyholders' surplus, shareholders' income statement and other comprehensive income, changes in shareholders' equity and cash flows for the six-month period then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of this interim financial information in accordance with the FAS 41 Interim Financial Reporting issued by the Accounting and Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions ("AAOIFI") ("FAS 41"). Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on this condensed interim financial information based on our review.

Scope of review
We conducted our review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements 2410, "Review of Interim Financial Information Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity". A review of interim financial information consists of making inquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion
Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the accompanying condensed interim financial information is not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the FAS 41, "Interim Financial Reporting".

Doha – Qatar
30/7/ 2025

For Deloitte & Touche
Qatar Branch
Joseph Khalife
Partner, License No. 433
QFMA Audit Registration 120156

CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 30 June 2025

	Notes	30 June 2025 QR (Reviewed)	31 December 2024 QR (Audited) (Restated)	1 January 2024 QR (Audited) (Restated)
Policyholders' assets				
Cash and bank balances	3	**253,886,053**	182,050,916	76,890,544
Investments at fair value through equity	4 (a)	**494,021,745**	452,306,628	427,481,383
Investments at fair value through income statement	4 (b)	**6,281,034**	6,254,312	11,475,535
Re-takaful arrangement assets	2.1/5	**66,386,726**	97,755,863	78,931,884
Takaful arrangement assets	2.1/5	**503,550**	315,637	1,004,936
Property and equipment		**3,083,300**	4,147,513	6,214,446
Other receivables	2.1	**8,343,200**	11,673,827	6,412,912
Total policyholders' assets		**832,505,608**	754,504,696	608,411,640
Shareholders' assets				
Cash and bank balances	3	**43,610,216**	61,638,159	50,685,709
Investments at fair value through equity	4 (a)	**382,779,460**	369,813,340	335,822,659
Investments at fair value through income statement	4 (b)	**8,987,674**	8,928,697	19,497,979
Prepayments and other receivables		**4,478,472**	6,309,666	4,885,837
Due from policyholders		**120,325,351**	87,576,000	51,591,014
Right-of-use assets		**2,659,490**	2,721,339	2,845,037
Property and equipment		**109,883,712**	111,987,297	114,979,955
Total shareholders' assets		**672,724,375**	648,974,498	580,308,190
TOTAL ASSETS		**1,505,229,983**	1,403,479,194	1,188,719,830
Policyholders' liabilities				
Takaful arrangement liabilities	2.1/5	**474,311,055**	437,189,209	353,404,518
Re-takaful arrangement liabilities	2.1/5	**1,353,110**	482,336	2,461,245
Other payables	2.1	**21,556,765**	24,451,474	13,655,301
Murabaha finance		**-**	-	1,006,116
Due to shareholders		**120,325,351**	87,576,000	51,591,014
Distributable surplus payable		**69,231,250**	63,033,707	61,115,196
Total policyholders' liabilities		**686,777,531**	612,732,726	483,233,390
Policyholders› surplus				
Fair value reserve		**(8,535,442)**	(13,847,169)	(19,934,682)
Equalization reserve		**90,000,000**	90,000,000	90,000,000
Retained surplus	2.1	**64,263,519**	65,619,139	55,112,932
Total policyholders' surplus		**145,728,077**	141,771,970	125,178,250
Total policyholders' liabilities and surplus		**832,505,608**	754,504,696	608,411,640
Shareholders' liabilities				
Provisions and other payables		**83,993,882**	77,642,367	61,897,092
Due to related parties	6 (b)	**6,093,342**	5,998,418	6,174,565
Net Ijarah liability		**2,864,600**	2,932,037	2,973,442
Employees' end of service benefits		**5,398,677**	4,808,023	4,291,220
Total shareholders' liabilities		**98,350,501**	91,380,845	75,336,319
Shareholders' equity				
Share capital		**200,000,000**	200,000,000	200,000,000
Legal reserve		**200,000,000**	200,000,000	200,000,000
Fair value reserve		**(1,628,484)**	(5,448,602)	(11,557,398)
Retained earnings		**176,002,358**	163,042,255	116,529,269
Total shareholders' equity		**574,373,874**	557,593,653	504,971,871
Total shareholders' liabilities and equity		**672,724,375**	648,974,498	580,308,190
TOTAL LIABILITIES, POLICYHOLDERS' SURPLUS AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		**1,505,229,983**	1,403,479,194	1,188,719,830

Sheikh. Jassim Bin Hamad Bin Jassim J. Al Thani
Chairman

Nasser Rashid Al Misnad
Chief Executive Officer

CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF POLICYHOLDERS' REVENUES, EXPENSES AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
For the six-month period ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	For the three-month period ended 30 June 2025 QR (Reviewed)	For the three-month period ended 30 June 2024 QR (Restated & reviewed)	For the six-month period ended 30 June 2025 QR (Reviewed)	For the six-month period ended 30 June 2024 QR (Restated & reviewed)
Recognised takaful contributions	2.1/7	**141,144,030**	111,644,487	**256,500,745**	200,303,186
Recognised takaful costs	2.1/7	**(98,708,685)**	(73,671,950)	**(187,165,807)**	(142,110,231)
Re-takaful net results	2.1/7	**(27,086,431)**	(34,733,195)	**(48,981,016)**	(53,479,590)
Takaful gross margin	7	**15,348,914**	3,239,342	**20,353,922**	4,713,365
Amortisation of deferred cost (related to provision of takaful arrangements)	2.1/7	**(8,420,752)**	(6,743,984)	**(14,881,493)**	(11,866,628)
Amortisation of deferred income (related to retakaful arrangements held)	2.1/7	**1,451,454**	1,614,569	**3,248,021**	3,214,574
Net amortisation of deferred cost		**(6,969,298)**	(5,129,415)	**(11,633,472)**	(8,652,054)
Net takaful result	7	**8,379,616**	(1,890,073)	**8,720,450**	(3,938,689)
Depreciation of property and equipment		**(572,559)**	(557,228)	**(1,064,213)**	(1,041,773)
Fair value (loss)/gain on investment at fair value through income statement		**(67,331)**	34,235	**26,722**	109,751
Reversal for impairment of investment at fair value through equity	4	**27,037**	32,664	**78,818**	187,454
Investment income		**7,684,940**	5,770,610	**14,719,560**	9,393,226
Investment expenses		**(393,414)**	(365,464)	**(781,228)**	(728,215)
Mudarib share		**(4,755,444)**	(3,829,907)	**(9,327,183)**	(6,273,006)
Other income		**12,915**	(28)	**1,945,096**	2,099,720
Other expenses		**(3,007,743)**	(1,559,570)	**(6,110,825)**	(3,133,119)
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period	2.1	**7,308,017**	(2,364,761)	**8,207,197**	(3,324,651)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME					
Items that may be subsequently reclassified to statement of Policyholders' revenue and expenses					
Net change in fair value of debt-type instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income		**1,436,795**	286,649	**5,311,727**	2,261,921
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD		**8,744,812**	(2,078,112)	**13,518,924**	(1,062,730)

CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF POLICYHOLDERS' SURPLUS
For the six-month period ended 30 June 2025

	Retained surplus QR	Fair value reserve QR	Equalization reserve QR	Total QR
Balance at 1 January 2024 (Audited)	79,424,085	(19,934,682)	90,000,000	149,489,403
Effect of FAS 43 adoption – Note 2.1	(24,311,153)	-	-	(24,311,153)
Balance at 1 January 2024 (Restated)	55,112,932	(19,934,682)	90,000,000	125,178,250
Net surplus for the year (as restated)	19,329,697	-	-	19,329,697
Net change in fair value of investment at fair value through equity	-	6,087,513	-	6,087,513
Total comprehensive income for the period	19,329,697	6,087,513	-	25,417,210
Surplus distribution to policyholders during the period	(8,823,490)	-	-	(8,823,490)
Balance at 31 December 2024 (Restated)	65,619,139	(13,847,169)	90,000,000	141,771,970
Balance at 1 January 2024 (Audited)	79,424,085	(19,934,682)	90,000,000	149,489,403
Effect of FAS 43 adoption – Note 2.1	(24,311,153)	-	-	(24,311,153)
Balance at 1 January 2024 (Restated)	55,112,932	(19,934,682)	90,000,000	125,178,250
Net deficit for the period (as restated)	(3,324,651)	-	-	(3,324,651)
Net change in fair value of investment at fair value through equity	-	2,261,921	-	2,261,921
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the period	(3,324,651)	2,261,921	-	(1,062,730)
Surplus distribution to policyholders during the period	(8,823,490)	-	-	(8,823,490)
Balance at 30 June 2024 (Restated)	42,964,791	(17,672,761)	90,000,000	115,292,030
Balance at 1 January 2025 (Restated)	65,619,139	(13,847,169)	90,000,000	141,771,970
Net surplus for the period	8,207,197	-	-	8,207,197
Net change in fair value of investment at fair value through equity	-	5,311,727	-	5,311,727
Total comprehensive income for the period	8,207,197	5,311,727	-	13,518,924
Surplus distribution to policyholders during the period	(9,562,817)	-	-	(9,562,817)
Balance at 30 June 2025 (Reviewed)	**64,263,519**	**(8,535,442)**	**90,000,000**	**145,728,077**

CONDENSED INTERIM SHAREHOLDERS' INCOME STATEMENT AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
For the six-month period ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	For the three-month period ended 30 June 2025 QR (Reviewed)	For the three-month period ended 30 June 2024 QR (Restated & reviewed)	For the six-month period ended 30 June 2025 QR (Reviewed)	For the six-month period ended 30 June 2024 QR (Restated & reviewed)
Income					
Income from shareholders' investments		**4,874,808**	3,346,923	**9,872,348**	6,708,317
Wakala fee		**39,644,640**	31,983,933	**69,535,720**	57,197,017
Mudarib share		**4,755,444**	3,829,907	**9,327,183**	6,273,006
Other income		**315,000**	362,926	**726,397**	677,983
Total income		**49,589,892**	39,523,689	**89,461,648**	70,856,323
Staff cost		**(11,184,968)**	(8,673,830)	**(21,540,529)**	(19,389,014)
Depreciation of property and equipment		**(1,748,593)**	(1,733,937)	**(3,282,077)**	(3,122,031)
Fair value (loss)/gain on investment at fair value through income statement		**(73,728)**	64,210	**58,977**	169,033
Reversal for impairment of investment at fair value through equity	4	**11,018**	180	**63,123**	148,454
General and administrative expenses	8	**(7,216,268)**	(4,152,339)	**(11,066,491)**	(7,173,972)
Finance cost		**(6,440)**	(81,218)	**(87,383)**	(88,124)
Investment expenses		**(325,081)**	(301,951)	**(647,165)**	(599,969)
Total expenses		**(20,544,060)**	(14,878,885)	**(36,501,545)**	(30,055,623)
Profit before tax for the period		**29,045,832**	24,644,804	**52,960,103**	40,800,700
Tax expense		**-**	-	**-**	-
Net profit for the period		**29,045,832**	24,644,804	**52,960,103**	40,800,700
Basic/diluted earnings per share in Qatari Riyal	12	**0.145**	0.123	**0.265**	0.204
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME					
Net profit for the period Items that may be subsequently reclassified to shareholders' income statement					
Net change in fair value of debt-type instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income		**1,060,211**	564,031	**3,820,118**	2,346,212
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		**30,106,043**	25,208,835	**56,780,221**	43,146,912

CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY
For the six-month period ended 30 June 2025

	Share Capital QR	Legal reserve QR	Fair value Reserve QR	Retained earnings QR	Total QR
Balance at 1 January 2024 (Audited)	200,000,000	200,000,000	(11,557,398)	116,529,269	504,971,871
Net profit for the period	-	-	-	40,800,700	40,800,700
Net change in fair value of investment at fair value through equity	-	-	2,346,212	-	2,346,212
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	2,346,212	40,800,700	43,146,912
Dividends paid*	-	-	-	(36,000,000)	(36,000,000)
Balance at 30 June 2024 (Reviewed)	200,000,000	200,000,000	(9,211,186)	121,329,969	512,118,783
Balance at 1 January 2025 (Audited)	200,000,000	200,000,000	(5,448,602)	163,042,255	557,593,653
Net profit for the period	-	-	-	52,960,103	52,960,103
Net change in fair value of investment at fair value through equity	-	-	3,820,118	-	3,820,118
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	3,820,118	52,960,103	56,780,221
Dividends paid*	-	-	-	(40,000,000)	(40,000,000)
Balance at 30 June 2025 (Reviewed)	**200,000,000**	**200,000,000**	**(1,628,484)**	**176,002,358**	**574,373,874**

* Dividend declared amounting to QR. 40 million at the rate of QR. 0.20 per share (2023: QR. 36 million at the rate of QR. 0.18 per share) was approved by the Shareholders at the Annual General Assembly meeting held on 18 February 2025.

CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the six-month period ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	For the six-month period ended 30 June 2025 QR (Reviewed)	For the six-month period ended 30 June 204 QR (Reviewed) (Restated)
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Shareholders' profit for the period		**52,960,103**	40,800,700
Policyholders' surplus/(deficit) for the period	2.1	**8,207,197**	(3,324,651)
		61,167,300	37,476,049
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation of property and equipment		**4,346,290**	4,163,804
Amortization of right-of-use assets		**61,849**	61,849
Net reversal of impairment of financial investments		**(141,941)**	(335,908)
Realized gain from investments		**(24,591,908)**	(16,101,543)
Gain on disposal of property and equipment		**108**	2,574
Amortization of deferred cost		**75,023**	76,059
Fair value gain on investments at fair value through incomestatement		**(85,699)**	(278,784)
Provision for employees' end of service benefits		**718,567**	729,085
Operating profit before changes in working capital		**41,549,589**	25,793,185
Change in takaful and re-takaful arrangements	2.1	**69,173,846**	28,759,013
Change in prepayments and other receivables	2.1	**5,161,821**	(2,445,237)
Change in provisions and other payables	2.1	**3,551,732**	3,570,903
Net cash generated from operations		**119,436,988**	55,677,864
Employees' end of service benefits paid		**(127,913)**	(255,732)
Net cash generated from operating activities		**119,309,075**	55,422,132
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Acquisition of property and equipment		**(1,178,902)**	(152,556)
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment		**300**	850
Investment in fixed deposits		**(42,201,200)**	(51,385,818)
Net movement in investments		**(45,407,452)**	44,014,042
Realized gain from investments		**24,591,908**	16,101,543
Net cash (used in) / generated from investing activities		**(64,195,346)**	8,578,061
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Policyholders' surplus paid during the period		**(3,365,275)**	(2,976,413)
Dividends paid		**(40,000,000)**	(36,000,000)
Repayment of gross Ijarah liability		**(142,460)**	(96,506)
Murabaha finance		**-**	(1,006,116)
Net cash used in financing activities		**(43,507,735)**	(40,079,035)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		**11,605,994**	23,921,158
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		**29,737,475**	40,676,253
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 30 JUNE (Note 3)		**41,343,469**	64,597,411

PUE Ability Friendly Programme hosts annual Recognition Awards Ceremony

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Foundation's Pre-University Education Ability Friendly Programme hosted its annual Recognition Awards Ceremony to honour the achievements of its participants and acknowledge the vital role their families play in providing continuous support throughout the year.

Events Coordinator at Qatar Foundation's (QF) Pre-University Education (PUE) Ability Friendly Programme, Nigel D'Souza emphasised that the event goes beyond simply presenting awards. It seeks to foster a sense of belonging, enhance self-confidence, and strengthen the bonds between participants and their families — reflecting the programme's deeply rooted social and human-centred values.

"The annual recognition awards serve as an opportunity to celebrate the dedication, hard work, and achievements of our participants and their families throughout the year.

"More than just a formal recognition, the event highlights the essential role parents play in supporting and accompanying their children across various activities," D'Souza explained.

"Through this recognition, we aim to ensure that every participant feels valued and understands the importance of their role within our community."

He added, "The moment they walk onto the stage to receive their medal is a true point of pride – for them and their families.

"Beyond the awards, the ceremony helps foster a sense of belonging and offers a valuable opportunity for social interaction and connection among participants, especially those who may not regularly experience such inclusive gatherings. For many, this event is one of the most anticipated and meaningful moments of the year."



Participants during the ceremony.

D'Souza noted that in recent years, many participants have shown remarkable positive growth. "One inspiring example is a group of students who took part in our winter camp for the first time last year," he said.

According to the families, just one week of participation led to noticeable improvements in their energy levels, social engagement, and involvement in other after-school activities.

"Stories like these highlight that the programme's impact goes far beyond sports or learning – it reaches into participants' self-confidence, social behaviour, and overall quality of life."

He added that the programme also fosters a strong sense of community, with participants developing meaningful friendships that extend beyond the sessions, while families build closer relationships through shared experiences and continued engagement.

The annual recognition awards serve as an opportunity to celebrate the dedication, hard work, and achievements of participants and their families throughout the year.

He concluded by emphasizing the role of families: "Families play a fundamental role in the development of their children's abilities – whether through direct participation or moral support.

"Their consistent presence helps reinforce the behaviours and values our coaches strive to instil, ensuring the programme's impact extends beyond the sessions and into the home."

Indian community in Qatar extends solidarity to Wayanad flood victims with Rs5m contribution to CMDRF

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: In a remarkable demonstration of compassion and unity, the Indian community in Qatar has come together to support the victims of the 2024 Wayanad disaster, contributing Rs5m to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF).

Following the devastating floods and landslides that struck the Wayanad district in Kerala last year, claiming lives and causing extensive damage to property and livelihood, the Embassy of India in Qatar convened a special meeting on August 3, 2024, at the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC).



Shanavas Bava, President of ICBF; Thaha Muhammed, President of Indian Business and Professionals Council; and CV Rappai, Director of NORKA presenting the donation to Kerala Chief Minister H E Pinarayi Vijayan.

The meeting was addressed by Ambassador of India to Qatar H E Vipul, and attended by representatives of the Indian community and Apex Bodies under the aegis of the Embassy — ICC, ICBF, ISC, and IBPC.

Based on the collective resolution of the meeting, a joint relief initiative was launched.

The Indian Community Benevolent Forum (ICBF) took the lead role in mobilising support and coordinating efforts in association with other apex organisations.

A Wayanad Relief Committee was also formed to carry forward the campaign, which saw overwhelming participation from Indian expatriates across Qatar.

The total amount collected through this humanitarian drive was officially handed over to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF) on July 27, 2025, at Cliff House, Trivandrum, Kerala.

The contribution was presented by Shanavas Bava, President of Indian Community Benevolent Forum (ICBF), Thaha Muhammed, President of Indian Business and Professionals Council (IBPC), and C.V. Rappai, Director of NORKA.

This significant contribution reflects the deep-rooted sense of solidarity and responsibility the Indian diaspora in Qatar continues to uphold during times of crisis back home.

The Apex Bodies and the Embassy of India have expressed heartfelt gratitude to all individuals and organizations who came forward with generous contributions.

Yutong, Mowasalat hold 'Energy Saving Driving Competition 2025'

THE PENINSULA



DOHA: Yutong Qatar in partnership with Mowasalat Company organised the third edition of the Energy Saving Driving Competition 2025, a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing fuel and energy-efficient driving across public transport fleets.

Held at the Mowasalat Driving School, this year's edition includes 30 drivers operating both diesel and electric buses, reflecting a comprehensive approach to optimising driving practices across all vehicle types.

The competition features two main components: a theoretical exam assessing drivers' knowledge, and a hands-on skill assessment evaluating their ability to operate vehicles efficiently in real conditions.

The competition culminated in a prize-giving ceremony on July 28, 2025, at Mowasalat Headquarters, where the top-performing drivers were honoured in the presence of senior management from both Yutong and Mowasalat. The event celebrated not only individual excellence but also the collaborative drive toward greener and more cost-effective mobility solutions in Qatar.

This annual initiative has become a cornerstone in building a culture of operational excellence and environmental responsibility within Qatar's public transport ecosystem.

Al Rayyan Municipality hosts workshop on problem-solving

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: As part of its summer park activation programme, Al Rayyan Municipality organized a specialised workshop titled "Problem-Solving and Decision-Making" for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Ambassadors. The training was held at the learning hall in Al Luqta Park.

The workshop focused on key themes, including the classification of problems and effective strategies for addressing them through logical thinking tools. It also featured practical exercises and modern educational games aimed at enhancing analytical thinking and strengthening participants' abilities to tackle challenges efficiently.

This initiative reflects Al Rayyan Municipality's role as a member of the Unesco Global Network of Learning Cities and aligns with its commitment to supporting the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda — particularly Goal 4 (Quality Education) and Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Through such programmes, the municipality continues to promote inclusive, resilient, and lifelong learning opportunities, reinforcing its vision of creating sustainable and knowledge-driven urban communities.

Al Jazeera Media Institute concludes sports presentation course

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Al Jazeera Media Institute concluded last week a "sports presentation course" led and trained by journalist Ali Al-Maslamani for ten trainees of different ages and experience levels.

Over the course of five days, participants undergone intensive training that covered basics of sports presentation, where the coach focused on highlighting differences between sports broadcaster and presenters of other types of programmes, analysing performance of professional broadcasters, in addition to practical exercises on preparing sports bulletins, using proper Arabic language, paying attention to body language and how to stand or sit in front of the camera.

Al-Maslamani stressed that practical exercises were always present, as participants were practically trained on skills of reading sports bulletins, conducting dialogues with guests and reporters, in addition to simulating how to communicate with the control room in cases of breaking news.

Regarding the impact of having trainees of different levels and experience, the trainer explained that diversity of ages and backgrounds gave the course a special dynamism, as the class included trainees of different ages, including a 17-year-old and a trainee with practical experience as a producer at Al Jazeera.

Al-Maslamani considered that this diversity constitutes an added value, as participants benefited from experience exchanging among themselves in addition to learning from the lecturer.

One of the exciting situations witnessed in the course, Al-Maslamani recounts that one of the trainees, on the first day, expressed his dream of working at be IN Sports, and the coach advised him on importance of gradualism and gaining experience step by step, stressing that success in sports media requires continuous efforts and going through stages before reaching major channels.

For his part, trainee Khalid Al-Kuwari expressed his appreciation for practical exercises in the course, noting that the "surprise test" undergone by participants was a great experiment and fruitful exercise, as it allowed him to deal with momentary errors and unexpected situations in studio.

He also praised the seamless methodology adopted by the trainer in explaining professional presentation scenario, which strengthened his confidence in his abilities to deal with requirements needed for appearing in front of the camera.

On the final day, each trainee presented a graduation project that simulates an integrated sports bulletin in presence of social media influencer Mohammed Adnan as a real guest.

The course ended by evaluating trainees' performance and distribution of certificates in recognition of their efforts and their skills development in the field of sports presentation.

Israel starves more Palestinians to death in Gaza as attacks continue

GAZA CITY: Gaza hospitals have recorded seven new deaths from "famine and malnutrition" raising the total hunger-related death toll to 154 since October 2023, said *Al Jazeera* yesterday.

Israeli attacks continued with at least 22 Palestinians, including 15 aid seekers, were killed since dawn across the Gaza Strip, it said in report.

Twenty Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded in Israeli airstrikes on Wednesday on several areas in Gaza, including starving civilians waiting for aid in the north, center, and south of the strip, said a report by *QNA*.

Medical sources said that two civilians were killed and others were injured when Israeli warplanes targeted a group of citizens near Al Zahraa School in the Al Daraj neighbo ɛrhood in central Gaza City. Another person was killed in an Israeli airstrike on a group of citizens near the Latin Monastery Church in the Al Zeitoun neighbourhood, the report added.

Another citizen also succumbed to his injuries after his home in the Nadim area of the Al Zeitoun neighbourhood was targeted by Israeli warplanes on Tuesday, joining his four sons who died instantly.



Palestinians carry humanitarian aid they received at the Rafah corridor as they walk in the Mawasi area of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. (AFP)

In the central Gaza Strip, Al Awda Hospital reported the death of four citizens and the injury of 13 others as a result of the occupation targeting gatherings of citizens near the aid distribution point on Salah Al Din Street, south of the Wadi Gaza area. Five citizens were killed and others were injured as a result of artillery shelling targeting those waiting for aid near the Netzarim axis in the central Gaza Strip, while a child was killed as a result of shelling on the New Camp area, north of Nuseirat.

In the south, sources said that six citizens were killed and more than 40 others were injured by Israeli forces' fire near an aid centre north of Rafah. Seven others were also injured when an Israeli drone bombed a group of citizens while they were filling water in the Al Mawasi area west of the city.

Meanwhile, Belgium will take part in a multi-country operation coordinated by Jordan to airdrop aid to Gaza, the government announced Wednesday, as UN agencies warn the Palestinian territory is slipping into famine, said an *AFP* report.

A Belgian plane carrying medical supplies and food worth some 600,000 euros ($690,000) will fly "soon" to Jordan, and will remain on stand-by to conduct air drops in coordination with Amman, the defence and foreign ministries said in a statement. Belgium joins a string of Western nations including France, Spain and Britain looking to send aid into Gaza by air as fears mount of mass starvation in the territory.

"These airdrops are a first step, but they can in no way be a cover for the urgent need to facilitate access by land," Belgian foreign minister Maxime Prevot said. — ***AGENCIES***

UAE begins pipeline project to ease Gaza water shortage

JERUSALEM: The United Arab Emirates has begun construction on a major pipeline to carry desalinated water from Egypt to southern Gaza, according to multiple sources.

Technical teams sent by the UAE have started transporting equipment needed for the project, the Emirati state news agency WAM reported yesterday.

The nearly seven-kilometre (4.5-mile) pipeline aims to help alleviate what WAM described as a "water crisis" in the Gaza Strip.

Earlier this week, COGAT — the Israeli defence ministry body overseeing civil affairs in the Palestinian territories — said construction of the pipeline would begin in the coming days and was expected to take weeks.

The project would link a desalination plant in Egypt to the Al-Mawasi area along Gaza's coast and could supply about 600,000 people daily, COGAT said. WAM said the UAE had launched "several initiatives to drill and rehabilitate potable water wells".

Access to clean drinking water is extremely limited across Gaza, forcing its 2.4 million residents to rely on salty, often undrinkable water or irregular aid deliveries.

More than 80 percent of Gaza's water infrastructure has been damaged during the war between Israel and Hamas, according to estimates from the Palestinian Water Authority. — ***AFP***

Thailand, Cambodia trade allegations of breaching truce deal

BANGKOK: Thailand and Cambodia exchanged allegations yesterday of breaching a ceasefire deal which has largely halted the open combat that engulfed their frontier.

The nations agreed a truce starting Tuesday after five days of clashes killed at least 43 people on both sides, as a long-standing dispute over contested border temples boiled over into fighting on their 800km boundary.

But Thailand's foreign ministry said its troops in Sisaket province "came under attack by small arms fire and grenade assaults launched by Cambodian forces" in an offensive which continued until Wednesday morning.

"This represents a flagrant violation of the ceasefire agreement," said a foreign ministry statement.

Thai government spokesman Jirayu Huangsab also reported overnight clashes but said "the Thai side maintained control of the situation" and conditions along the border were "reported to be normal" from 8am (0100 GMT).

Yesterday, a Cambodian defence ministry official accused Thailand of twice breaching the ceasefire, intended to end fighting which has seen the two countries evacuate a total of more than 300,000 people from the border region.

UN rights chief Volker Turk urged the neighbouring nations to implement their ceasefire deal in full, and take rapid steps to build confidence and peace.

"This crucial agreement must be fully respected, in good faith, by both sides, as diplomatic efforts continue, in a bid to resolve the root causes of the conflict," Turk said. At a temple in Thailand's Surin city serving as a shelter and field kitchen 50 kilometres away from the frontier, volunteer Thanin Kittiworranun said evacuees remain in limbo.

"We don't believe Cambodia will hold the ceasefire," the 65-year-old told AFP.

But an AFP journalist on the Cambodian side who heard a steady drumbeat of artillery fire since fighting began on Thursday reported hearing no blasts between the start of the truce and Wednesday morning.

Beijing said deputy foreign minister Sun Weidong hosted a meeting with Thai and Cambodian officials in Shanghai, where both "reaffirmed to China their commitment to abide by the ceasefire consensus". The armistice got off to a shaky start in the early hours of Tuesday, with Thailand accusing Cambodia of continuing attacks in "a clear attempt to undermine mutual trust" -- before peace generally prevailed.

Meetings between rival commanders along the border -- scheduled as part of the pact -- went ahead, with Thailand's army saying de-escalation steps were agreed including "a halt on troop reinforcements or movements that could lead to misunderstandings".

But later in the day a foreign affairs spokeswoman for Bangkok's border crisis centre, Maratee Nalita Andamo, warned the situation -- in the early days of the truce -- remained "fragile".

Jets, rockets and artillery have killed at least 15 Thai troops and 15 Thai civilians, while Cambodia has confirmed only eight civilian and five military deaths.

The flare-up has surpassed the death toll of 28 in violence that raged sporadically from 2008 to 2011 over the territory, claimed by both nations because of a vague demarcation made by Cambodia's French colonial administrators in 1907.

The peace pact was sealed in Malaysia after intervention from US President Donald Trump -- who both Thailand and Cambodia are courting for a trade deal to avert his threat of eye-watering tariffs. — *AFP*



Military attaches and diplomats from 13 countries observe the implementation of the Cambodia-Thailand ceasefire agreement next to a destroyed building by the An Ses border checkpoint in Cambodia's Preah Vihear province yesterday.

Shanghai evacuates 283,000 people as typhoon hits

SHANGHAI: Shanghai had evacuated almost 283,000 people from vulnerable coastal and low-lying areas as Typhoon Co-May made landfall in the Chinese financial hub yesterday evening, bringing lashing rains and winds.

The city's meteorological observatory issued an orange rainstorm alert, the second-highest warning level, yesterday afternoon as sheets of water inundated the city.

Almost a third of flights from Shanghai's two international airports were cancelled, the city's news service said, totalling around 640, with ferries and some train services also disrupted.

Authorities had evacuated 282,800 people to more than 1,900 temporary shelters across the city from Tuesday, state media said.

"I hope to return home only after the danger passes and the typhoon is gone... After all, it's much safer here," 57-year-old watermelon farmer Yang Xiaoping told AFP at a shelter in southern Fengxian district.

She was sitting in a large hall that normally functions as a community activity centre, about four kilometres (2.5 miles) from the coastline.

When AFP visited on Wednesday night, around 20 mostly elderly people were sitting on iron beds or gathered around tables to eat dinner, along with local community staff. "Basically, we conduct an evacuation every year, sometimes even two or three times," said staff member Gong Huiyan. — *AFP*

Kenya court orders 'shallow graves' exhumed in starvation cult county

NAIROBI: A Kenyan court granted police permission yesterday to exhume several "shallow graves" discovered in the same county as an infamous starvation cult that came to light in the east African nation in 2023.

More than 400 people died in one of the world's worst cult-related tragedies, which became known as the "Shakahola Forest Massacre", discovered inland from the Indian Ocean town of Malindi.

The case rocked the country and made headlines globally, with the self-proclaimed pastor at the centre of the case currently on trial in the coastal city of Mombasa. He has pleaded not guilty to multiple counts of manslaughter.

Yesterday, a court in nearby Malindi gave the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) the go-ahead for the exhumation of several bodies "believed to be buried in shallow graves" near the town's outskirts.

Prosecutors said in a statement that "investigators suspect multiple individuals were murdered through starvation and suffocation... as a result of adopting and promoting extreme religious ideologies." It added that "survivors rescued from the area were unable to account for the whereabouts of several children".

Eleven suspects are being investigated, the prosecutor's office said. Shakahola led the government to move towards tighter control of fringe religious groups, after accusations that it could have prevented the deaths. — *AFP*

India committed to 'fair, balanced' trade with US: New Delhi

NEW Delhi: India yesterday said it was committed to negotiating a "fair, balanced" trade deal with Washington, after US President Donald Trump said Indian goods would face steep tariffs and New Delhi would be penalised for purchases of Russian weapons and energy.

Months of trade negotiations between India and the United States have failed to seal a deal, with sticking points including Trump's sweeping demands and New Delhi's reluctance to fully open its agricultural and dairy sectors.

Two days before Trump's August 1 tariffs deadline, the US president announced that imports from India would be hit with a 25 percent tariff.

The Indian government said it had "taken note" of Trump's announcement and was "studying its implications". "India and the US have been engaged in negotiations on concluding a fair, balanced and mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement over the last few months. We remain committed to that objective," it said in a statement, also noting that it was determined to protect the welfare of Indian farmers and entrepreneurs.

"The Government will take all steps necessary to secure our national interest, as has been the case with other trade agreements including the latest Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with the UK." — *AFP*

Burkina Faso protest demands 'justice' over pro-junta influencer's death in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN: Thousands demonstrated in Burkina Faso yesterday demanding "truth and justice" over the death of a pro-junta influencer in Ivory Coast while in detention on spying accusations.

Alain Christophe Traore, also known as Alino Faso, was found dead in his cell in the Ivorian economic capital Abidjan last week.

The 44-year-old influencer had been detained since his arrest in January for "collusion with agents of a foreign state that could harm the military or diplomatic situation of Ivory Coast".

The two west African neighbours have had frosty relations since Burkina Faso's junta chief, Captain Ibrahim Traore, seized power in a September 2022 coup.

Burkina Faso has called for "light to be shed" on the death.

Ivorian prosecutors say Alino Faso "hanged himself with the help of his bedsheets after having tried without success to open the veins in his wrist".

Thousands heeded a call by the National Coordination of Citizen Monitoring Associations (CNAVC) to take to the streets of the Burkinabe capital Ouagadougou, according to videos on social media and what local sources said. — *AFP*

Nearly 10,000 Afghan prisoners set free from Pakistan, Iran in 12 months

KABUL: A total of 9,951 Afghan nationals who had been imprisoned in Pakistan and Iran have been set free and returned to their homeland, Afghanistan, over the past 12 months, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation announced yesterday.

Among them, 9,541 had been detained in Pakistan due to a lack of legal documents, while an additional 410 were freed from prisons in Iran, said Mawlawi Mahmud-ul-Haq Ahadi, head of planning and policy for the ministry, during an accountability programme.

The official stated that upon their return, they were supported by the ministry in coordination with aid organizations and transported to their home provinces.

Right now, over 10,000 Afghan citizens are imprisoned abroad, the majority of whom are being held in Iran and Pakistan, according to data released last week by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — *XINHUA*



Huge quake off Russia sparks Pacific tsunamis

CHIBA: One of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded struck Russia's sparsely populated Far East yesterday, causing tsunamis up to four metres (12 feet) high across the Pacific and sparking evacuations from Hawaii to Japan.

The magnitude 8.8 quake struck off Petropavlovsk on Russia's Kamchatka peninsula, and was the largest since 2011 when one of magnitude 9.1 off Japan caused a tsunami that killed more than 15,000 people.

Almost two million people in Japan were told to head to higher ground and tsunami warnings were issued across the region, before being rescinded or downgraded -- though scientists warned of the danger of powerful aftershocks.

A tsunami had already hit and flooded the port town of Severo-Kurilsk, crashing through the port area and submerging the local fishing plant, officials said. Russian state television footage showed it sweep buildings and debris into the sea.

Authorities said the population of around 2,000 people had been evacuated.



Emergency service specialists inspecting a kindergarten damaged by an earthquake in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskyi, Russia, yesterday. (AFP)

The waves reached as far as the town's World War II monument about 400 metres from the shoreline, said Mayor Alexander Ovsyannikov.

Several people were injured in Russia by the quake, state media reported, but none seriously.

"The walls were shaking," a Kamchatka resident told state media Zvezda.

"It's good that we packed a suitcase, there was one with water and clothes near the door. We quickly grabbed it and ran out... It was very scary," she said.

Later yesterday, the authorities in the Kamchatka peninsula announced the tsunami warning had been lifted.

Officials from countries with a Pacific coastline in North and South America — including the United States, Mexico, Ecuador and Colombia — issued warnings to avoid threatened beaches and low-lying areas. In Japan, nearly two million people were advised to evacuate, and many left by car or on foot to higher ground.

One woman was killed as she drove her car off a cliff as she tried to escape, local media reported.

A 1.3-metre high tsunami reached a port in the northern prefecture of Iwate, Japan's weather agency said.

By yesterday evening, the agency had downgraded its tsunami alerts — issued for much of the archipelago — to advisories.

In Hawaii, governor Josh Green said flights in and out of the island of Maui had been cancelled as a precaution. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center later downgraded the alert for Hawaii to an advisory and local authorities cancelled a coastal evacuation order. — ***AFP***

Portugal grapples with 39 wildfires as blazes spread across country

LISBON: A total of 39 wildfires are currently active across Portugal, including nine major blazes stretching from the north to the south of the country, the National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection (ANEPC) reported yesterday. The most critical situations have been identified in Penamacor, Arouca, Santarem, and Ponte da Barca, where nearby populations are considered at risk.

Commander Elisio Pereira of the ANEPC told Lusa news agency that protecting communities remains a top priority, saying that the presence of threatened populations "requires a dispersion of resources to prevent fires from reaching homes, which in turn makes firefighting efforts more difficult." — ***XINHUA***

Belarus air defence downs drone carrying explosives

MINSK: A drone with explosives was intercepted and shot down early Tuesday morning in Minsk, the Belarusian capital, local authorities said.

Air defence forces detected the unmanned aerial vehicle around 2 a.m. Tuesday local time (2300 GMT Monday) and neutralised it using electronic warfare, the Defence Ministry said on its Telegram channel.

The drone reportedly crashed near a house in northwestern Minsk, damaging several vehicles parked nearby, the country's Investigative Committee said. No injuries were reported. The drone did not detonate but was carrying a warhead filled with trinitrotoluene, commonly known as TNT, and metal ball projectiles, the committee said. — ***XINHUA***

Trump's former personal lawyer confirmed as US judge

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer was confirmed by the Senate on Tuesday to become a federal appellate judge in a 50-49 partisan vote.

The Republican-led Senate confirmed Emil Bove as a judge on the 3rd US Circuit Court of Appeals, a lifetime appointment, despite fiery opposition from Democrats, who walked out of a Senate committee meeting in protest earlier this month.

Two GOP Senators — Alaska's Lisa Murkowski and Maine's Susan Collins — voted against the nomination, but Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the chamber and were able to carry the vote anyway. A former federal prosecutor, Bove, 44, was nominated by Trump while serving as the third-ranking official in the Justice Department. — ***AFP***

France, 14 other nations urge recognition of Palestinian state

PARIS: France and 14 other Western nations called on countries worldwide to move to recognise a Palestinian state, France's top diplomat said yesterday.

The foreign ministers of 15 countries late Tuesday issued a joint statement following a conference in New York, co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia, aimed at reviving a two-state solution between Israelis and the Palestinians.

"In New York, together with 14 other countries, France is issuing a collective appeal: we express our desire to recognise the State of Palestine and invite those who have not yet done so to join us," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot wrote on X. President Emmanuel Macron announced last week he would formally recognise Palestinian statehood in September, provoking strong opposition from Israel and the United States. France is hoping to build a momentum around the formal recognition of a Palestinian state.

In the statement, 15 nations including Spain, Norway, and Finland affirmed their "unwavering commitment to the vision of the two-state solution." — ***AFP***

Trump says imposing 25% tariff on Indian imports

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said yesterday that imports from India will face 25 percent tariffs, while also announcing an unspecified "penalty" for New Delhi's purchases of Russian weapons and energy.

The measures will kick in on Friday, Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

"Remember, while India is our friend, we have, over the years, done relatively little business with them because their Tariffs are far too high, among the highest in the World, and they have the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary Trade Barriers of any Country," Trump said. He also posted in an all-caps message that the United States has a "massive" trade deficit with India.

He added that India has "always bought a vast majority of their military equipment from Russia, and are Russia's largest buyer of ENERGY, along with China, at a time when everyone wants Russia to STOP THE KILLING IN UKRAINE." Trump did not specify what the penalty he referred to for Russia trade will be.

The measure comes as the 79-year-old Republican has signaled he intends to tighten US pressure on Moscow to halt fighting in Ukraine and negotiate a peace deal. On Tuesday, Trump said he was giving Russian President Vladimir Putin 10 days — which would mean the end of next week — to change course in Ukraine or face unspecified punishment.

"We're going to put on tariffs and stuff," he said, but "I don't know if it's going to effect Russia because obviously he wants to keep the war going." India, the world's most populous country, was one of the first few major economies to engage Washington in broader trade talks.

But six months later, Trump's sweeping demands and India's reluctance to fully open its agricultural and dairy sectors have so far prevented New Delhi from sealing a deal that would shield it from punitive tariffs. — ***AFP***

US, India launch powerful Earth-monitoring satellite

WASHINGTON: A formidable new radar satellite jointly developed by the United States and India launched yesterday, designed to track subtle changes in Earth's land and ice surfaces and help predict both natural and human-caused hazards.

Dubbed NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar), the pickup truck-sized spacecraft blasted off around 5:40 pm (1210 GMT) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre on India's southeastern coast, riding an ISRO Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle rocket.

Livestream of the event showed excited schoolchildren brought to watch the launch and mission teams erupting in cheers and hugging.

Highly anticipated by scientists, the mission has also been hailed as a milestone in growing US-India cooperation between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Our planet surface undergoes constant and meaningful change," Karen St Germain, director of NASA's Earth Science division, told reporters ahead of launch.

"Some change happens slowly. Some happens abruptly. Some changes are large, while some are subtle."

By picking up on tiny changes in the vertical movement of the Earth's surface — as little as one centimeter (0.4 inches) — scientists will be able to detect the precursors for natural and human-caused disasters, from earthquakes, landsides and volcanoes to aging infrastructure like dams and bridges.



This NASA image obtained on July 29, 2025 shows part of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite resting in a thermal vacuum chamber, meant to mimic the conditions found in space, at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. (AFP)

"We'll see land substance and swelling, movement, deformation and melting of mountain glaciers and ice sheets covering both Greenland and Antarctica, and of course, we'll see wildfires," added St Germain, calling NISAR "the most sophisticated radar we've ever built."

India in particular is interested in studying its coastal and nearby ocean areas by tracking yearly changes in the shape of the sea floor near river deltas and how shorelines are growing or shrinking.

Data will also be used to help guide agricultural policy by mapping crop growth, tracking plant health, and monitoring soil moisture. — ***AFP***

Germany unveils 2026 budget draft with record investment plans

BERLIN: Germany's cabinet yesterday approved the federal budget draft for 2026, marking the second consecutive year of record-high investment as the government aims to modernize infrastructure and bolster national security.

The draft, presented by Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil, sets expenditures at €520.5 billion ($597 billion) for 2026, a 3.5 percent increase over the 2025 budget, which is yet to be approved by parliament.

In office since May, the government has made structural reform and public investment its central priorities to revive Germany's economic momentum.

According to the draft, total investment is projected to rise to €126.7 billion next year, setting a new record for the second straight year after an all-time high in 2025. Defence spending will see a sharp increase, alongside higher funding for transportation and housing. — ***XINHUA***

Rome summons Russian envoy over Italy president on 'Russophobe' list

ROME: Italy yesterday summoned Russia's ambassador after Moscow included Italian President Sergio Mattarella on a list of Western officials critical of the Kremlin.

Relations between Rome and Moscow — already strained by the Kremlin's Ukraine invasion — have dipped further in recent days, with Italy cancelling a concert last week of a pro-Kremlin maestro.

Italy's foreign ministry said it considered "the inclusion of the head of state in this list a provocation against the republic and the Italian people".

Moscow included Mattarella on its foreign ministry list of Western officials whom it accuses of using "the language of hatred" against Russia. — ***AFP***

London court rules oligarch liable in $1.9bn Ukraine loan scheme

LONDON: Ukrainian oligarch Igor Kolomoisky and his former business partner are likely to be forced to repay $1.9 billion they "unlawfully" appropriated from a Ukrainian bank they owned, London's High Court ruled yesterday.

Judge William Trower found that Kolomoisky and Gennadiy Bogolyubov extracted more than $1.9 billion from PrivatBank, Ukraine's largest bank, in a "highly complex loan recycling scheme" between 2013 and 2014.

He added that the men were jointly liable to compensate the bank $1,911,877,385 less the real value of assets such as real estate, petrol stations and aircraft that were provided to the lender to reduce outstanding balances.

The two men must agree that figure with the bank, along with the lost interest due to the lender, in coming up with the final compensation package.

If it cannot be agreed, the court will decide at a later date.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko welcomed the ruling, calling it "a clear and undeniable victory for Ukraine".

"Once again, Ukraine has proven its ability to uphold justice and defend the interests of its citizens, even beyond our borders," Svyrydenko posted on social media. — ***AFP***

GOP House committee chair yet to issue a subpoena for Epstein files

WASHINGTON: A week after a House Oversight subcommittee voted to subpoena the Justice Department for records related to Jeffrey Epstein, the chairman of the full committee still hasn't issued the order.

The delaystands in stark contrast to the subpoena Rep. James Comer - the House Oversight chairman - issued and signed within 24 hours of a similar subcommittee vote that compelled Epstein associate Ghislaine Maxwell to testify before Congress. And it raises questions about Republicans' willingness to hold the Trump administration accountable for its failure to release the Epstein files in the face of significant backlash from the president's GOP base.

Comer is no longer in Washington after the House recessed for five weeks following the subcommittee vote. Under House rules, the full panel must then issue the subpoena. The chairman is physically required to sign each subpoena, but there is no deadline by which Comer must issue the subpoenas, according to House rules.

"Chairman Comer has been clear that subpoenas will be issued in the near future," a spokeswoman for the House Oversight Committee, Jessica Collins, said in a statement on Tuesday. — ***THE WASHINGTON POST***

Moldovan President warns of Russian interference in Sept vote

CHISINAU: Moldova's pro-European President Maia Sandu yesterday accused Russia of seeking to meddle in the September national elections, warning that Moscow was planning "unprecedented" action to "get its people into the next parliament".

Sandu, a vocal critic of Russia, in particular since the start of its invasion of Ukraine in 2022, has repeatedly accused Moscow of political interference in the former Soviet republic that lies between war-torn Ukraine and EU and NATO member Romania.

Fears of Russian meddling have been looming large as Sandu has been steering Moldova toward official EU accession talks that started in June 2024.

"The Russian Federation wants to control Moldova from the fall and is preparing an unprecedented interference in the September elections," including by vote buying and illicit financing through cryptocurrencies for which "100 million euros" have been earmarked, Sandu told a press conference yesterday. — ***AFP***

France's President says EU-US deal 'not the end of it'

PARIS: France's President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday the European Union had not been "feared" enough in negotiations with the United States towards a trade deal, pledging to be "firm" in follow-up talks.

"It's not the end of it," Macron told ministers during a cabinet meeting, according to participants.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen clinched the framework accord with US President Donald Trump on Sunday after dashing to Scotland as the August 1 deadline loomed for steep levies that threatened to cripple Europe's economy.

EU exports are now set to face tariffs of 15 percent on most products — higher than customs duties before Trump returned to the White House, but much lower than his threatened 30 percent. "Europe does not see itself enough as a power yet. To be free, you have to be feared. We were not feared enough," said Macron."France has always held a stance of being firm and demanding. It will continue to do so," he added.

The European Union could obtain "new exemptions" in follow-up talks to firm up the deal in details, he said. — ***AFP***