

Amir, Sudan Transitional Sovereignty Council Chairman discuss ties

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani held a meeting at the Amiri Diwan yesterday with Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of the sisterly Republic of Sudan, H E Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah Al Burhan, during which they discussed relations between the two countries and strengthening them across a variety of fields of bilateral cooperation, as well as regional developments and the efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region.

At the outset of the meeting, H H the Amir welcomed the Chairman of the Sudanese Transitional Sovereignty Council and the accompanying delegation, expressing his thanks to His Excellency for responding to the invitation to take part in the Arab-Islamic Emergency Summit, and His Highness's pleasure at this visit, which reflects the depth of the

H H the Amir expressed his appreciation for Sudan's supportive position toward Qatar and its people.

brotherly relations between the two countries.

Al Burhan underscored his country's full solidarity with Qatar and its people, affirming that Sudan backs all measures Qatar takes to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity. He stressed that the cowardly Israeli attack represents a breach of Qatar's sovereignty and flouts all international laws and norms, praising the efforts of H H the Amir and the State of Qatar to achieve peace and stability in the region and the world.

In this context, H H the Amir expressed his utmost appreciation to His Excellency for his solidarity and fraternal heartfelt

sentiments, as well as Sudan's supportive position toward Qatar and its people.

During the meeting, H H the Amir and His Excellency shared viewpoints on regional and global developments of common concern, particularly the current situation in the Middle East and the latest developments in Sudan.

Chief of the Amiri Diwan, H E Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Khulaifi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H E Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi, and a number of Their Excellencies high-ranking officials attended the meeting.

From the Sudanese side, the meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs, H E Muhi Al Din Salem, alongside several high-ranking officials who were members of the delegation accompanying the Chairman of the Sudanese Transitional Sovereignty Council. — **QNA**



Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani meeting Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of Sudan, H E Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah Al Burhan at the Amiri Diwan yesterday.

Kuwait Cabinet lauds GCC Supreme Council statement on Israeli aggression

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Cabinet yesterday commended the GCC Supreme Council's final statement issued on Monday following an extraordinary session, in response to Israel's September 9 assault on the State of Qatar.

The extraordinary session convened in Doha to discuss the repercussions of the blatant violation of Qatar's sovereignty,

which targeted residential facilities housing members of Hamas' negotiating delegation amid mediation endeavours led by Doha to reach an agreement on Gaza.

The Supreme Council strongly condemned the aggression, condemning the hostile act as a dangerous and unacceptable escalation and a grave breach of the principles

of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

The Council also reaffirmed GCC member states' full solidarity with the State of Qatar in all measures it takes to confront this aggression, stressing that the security of GCC states is indivisible and that any aggression against one of them is considered an aggression against all, in accordance with

the GCC Charter and the Joint Defense Agreement.

The Council affirmed the GCC states' readiness to support the State of Qatar and protect its security, stability, and sovereignty against any threats. The GCC leaders also directed the GCC Joint Defense Council to convene an urgent meeting in Doha, preceded by a Supreme Military Committee meeting to

assess the defensive posture of GCC states and sources of threat, in light of the Israeli aggression against the State of Qatar.

The Unified Military Command was tasked with taking the necessary executive measures to activate joint defense mechanisms and Gulf deterrence capabilities. — **QNA**

Amir congratulates President of Mexico

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to President of the United Mexican States H E Claudia Sheinbaum on the anniversary of her country's Independence Day. — **QNA**

Amir congratulates Governor-General of Independent State of Papua New Guinea

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to Governor-General of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea H E Sir Bob Dadae 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 Independent State of Papua New Guinea H E James Marape on the occasion. — **QNA**

Arab Human Rights Network urges action after Israeli attack on Qatar

DOHA: The General Assembly of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions has called for urgent political and legal measures in response to the recent Israeli airstrike on Qatar, describing it as a serious violation of international law and human rights.

In an emergency meeting held yesterday in Doha — convened by Qatar's National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) — the assembly recommended supporting the outcomes of the Arab-Islamic Summit held in Doha on Monday, particularly the call to suspend Israel's UN membership under Article 5 of the UN Charter.

The network also urged the activation of political and diplomatic pressure to halt Israeli violations, accelerate international accountability processes, and expand legal efforts to include the attack on Qatari territory.

The statement voiced strong support for the independence of international

courts and stressed the need to protect judges and legal professionals from political pressure and global bullying.

NHRC Chairperson H E Maryam bint Abdullah Al Attiyah condemned the Israeli strike in her opening remarks, describing the attack as a deliberate assault on densely populated areas, including schools, kindergartens, diplomatic missions, and other civilian facilities in Doha.

This brutal aggression resulted in severe human rights violations, most notably the killing of six civilians, including a member of the internal security force who died while performing a public duty, she said.

Her excellency added that many others, including police officers and civilians, sustained injuries-some in critical condition.

Al Attiyah added that the NHRC had documented all violations and highlighted the psychological toll on the



NHRC Chairperson H E Maryam bint Abdullah Al-Attiyah (left) and NHRC Secretary-General H E Sultan bin Hassan Al-Jamali during the meeting yesterday.

civilian population, particularly children, women, and vulnerable groups. She noted a worsening of health conditions for patients with chronic illnesses such as heart disease, hypertension, and diabetes, exacerbated by fear and trauma.

The attack also temporarily disrupted access to education for over 1,000 students, as several schools were damaged and families were gripped by fear, further affecting children's mental wellbeing and right to education.

The emergency session was described as a collective response by Arab human rights institutions to a clear breach of international law and an attack on Qatar's sovereignty and stability.

Al Attiyah emphasized that the meeting reflects a shared commitment to human rights and accountability, especially amid the ongoing failure of the international community to take decisive action against Israel's repeated violations and culture of impunity. — **QNA**

Arab Parliament welcomes outcomes of Doha summit

CAIRO: The Arab Parliament welcomed the outcomes of the Arab-Islamic Emergency Summit, held in Doha.

The Arab Parliament affirmed that the summit reflected the unity of the Arab and Islamic ranks in confronting the arrogance of the Israeli entity.

In a statement, President of the Arab Parliament Mohamed bin Ahmed Al Yamahi praised the summit's outcomes, saying that they embodied a unified Arab and Islamic stance against the brutal aggression carried out by the occupying entity against Qatar, as well as a rejection of the ongoing genocide committed against the Palestinian people for the past two years. — **QNA**

‘Türkiye stands by Qatar's side with all its capabilities’

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Republic of Türkiye in Qatar, represented by its Ambassador Dr. Mustafa Göksu (pictured), strongly condemned the recent Israeli attack in the harshest terms, affirming that this assault “targeted the security and safety of the brotherly State of Qatar and deliberately destabilised the region.”

Ambassador Göksu stressed that Türkiye stands with all its capabilities by the side of Qatar, its ally, strategic partner, and friend.

He stated: “Israel's rejection of a truce and its desire to undermine all mediation efforts are once again clearly manifested through its targeting of the Hamas negotiation delegation while working on the proposal put forward by US



President Donald Trump.”

Göksu pointed out that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan emphasised that “in the face of this attack, which constitutes a clear violation of international law and of Qatar's sovereignty, Türkiye stands with all its capabilities alongside

its Palestinian brothers and its strategic partner and ally, the brotherly State of Qatar. This attack demonstrates Israel's intention to deepen instability in the region.”

Göksu added: “I would like to reiterate what our President has stressed: Those who have

turned terrorism into state policy will never achieve their goals.” He further noted that Türkiye will continue its firm and resolute stance against Israel's brazen attacks that aim to drag the region into catastrophe. “Regardless of the cost, we will persist in defending peace, international law, and the freedom of our Palestinian brothers.”

Concluding his statement, the Ambassador underlined that Türkiye considers Qatar's security an integral part of its own national security and will not hesitate to support Doha politically and diplomatically in international forums. He said: “This attack will not deter our two countries from upholding truth and justice, nor will it succeed in destabilising the region or breaking the will of its peoples.”

Saudi delegation briefed on Qatar's advance in education

DOHA: Several department directors from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education met with a delegation from the Saudi Export Authority, currently visiting the country, as part of strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

The delegation reviewed Qatar's pioneering achievements in the education sector at various levels.

They also explored opportunities for partnership and joint cooperation with a number of sectors in the country, and studied business opportunities for leading Saudi companies in the fields of education and modern technology.

Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Maha Zayed Al Qaqa Al Ruwaili, reviewed the objectives of the visit. The delegation provided a detailed explanation of the companies' work and objectives in various educational and technical fields.

The Saudi delegation, headed by Eng. Saud Al Qablan, Executive Vice President of Services Exports, included Abdulaziz Al Talasi, General Manager of Services Exports; Abdulaziz Al Subaie, Senior Director of Services Exports; and Nouf Al Mayman, Senior Services Exports Specialist.

The delegation also included representatives from several specialised companies. — **QNA**

Qatar reiterates condemnation of Israeli attack at UNHRC emergency session

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The Minister stressed that this attack constitutes a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law by targeting a purely civilian area, and represents an assault on a fully-fledged member state of the United Nations, amounting to state terrorism and posing a direct threat to regional and international peace and security.

She added that what makes the crime even more dangerous is that it targeted a state playing a mediating role in coordination with the United States and the Arab Republic of Egypt

to reach a ceasefire in Gaza. Targeting the mediating state is an attack on the principle of negotiation itself and a deliberate sabotage of peace efforts.

Al Misnad explained that Qatari mediation had previously contributed to tangible results, including the safe release of 135 hostages, which restored reassurance to hundreds of Israeli families.

Qatar also played a prominent role in achieving the truce agreement that gave civilians in Gaza a chance to breathe, and the humanitarian mediation allowed the entry of food aid for children suffering from

starvation and bombardment, deprived of their most basic rights.

Al Misnad noted that these experiences confirm that Qatari mediation was never a symbolic act, but a genuine practice that saved lives, restored rights, and instilled hope in the possibility of reaching peaceful solutions to conflicts. Therefore, targeting the mediating state not only undermines the negotiation process but also diminishes the chances of saving more lives and achieving peace.

The Minister stated that this attack was not an isolated

incident, but part of a broader campaign aimed at distorting Qatar's role and obstructing its diplomatic efforts. This was confirmed by statements from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who clearly announced continued threats to other countries, in a dangerous escalation that threatens to drag the region and the world into systematic violations of international law. She pointed out that what happened in Doha could be repeated in any other capital if the international community does not act responsibly.

Regarding the Arab, Islamic,

and international stance through the Security Council meeting, she referred to the Emergency Arab-Islamic summit held in Doha, which unanimously condemned the brutal aggression and rejected any attempt to justify it.

The summit considered it a blatant violation of international law and the United Nations Charter, reaffirmed the concept of collective security and shared destiny, and emphasized that international legitimacy and UN resolutions are the fundamental reference for achieving security and peace.



Deputy PM meets Afghanistan’s Minister of Defence

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs H E Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan Al-Thani met with Minister of Defence of Afghanistan H E Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid, and the accompanying delegation, during his visit to Qatar. The two sides discussed topics of mutual interest and ways to enhance and develop them.

Tajik President: Israeli aggression a flagrant breach of UN charter

DOHA: President of the Republic of Tajikistan H E Emomali Rahmon affirmed that the Israeli aggression against the State of Qatar constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter.

In his address at the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit held in Doha on Monday, H E President Rahmon described the attack on the State of Qatar as deplorable, stressing that it represented an assault on the

sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

He explained that any act of violence in the region today only escalates tensions, fuels the outbreak of new conflicts, and, in particular, obstructs the processes of negotiation and dialogue aimed at achieving lasting peace and stability.

The President noted that despite widespread condemnation of such provocative actions by the international community, military attacks and

President Rahmon expressed deep regret that over the past two years the international community has witnessed the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, while the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people remain an urgent and unresolved issue on the international agenda.

violations of the sovereignty of member states have continued over the past three months.

President Rahmon expressed deep regret that over the past two years the international

UK slams Israeli attack on Qatar in UNHCR emergency session

GENEVA: The United Kingdom condemned the Israeli strike on September 9 that targeted residential compounds housing several Hamas leaders in Doha, and expressed full solidarity with the State of Qatar.

Speaking at the UN Human Rights Council’s emergency session in Geneva on the Israeli attack, UK’s Permanent Representative to the WTO and the United Nations in Geneva Kumar Iyer said that the UK strongly denounces the Israeli airstrikes on Doha, stands firmly in solidarity with Qatar, and extends condolences to the family of the Qatari security officer who was killed as well as sympathy to the families of the injured.

He said the attacks pose a serious threat to ongoing mediation efforts in Gaza and risk further escalation in the region.

Iyer also affirmed the United Kingdom’s strong support for the efforts led by Qatar, the United States, and Egypt to secure a ceasefire in Gaza, facilitate the release of hostages, and bring an end to the war, stressing that all parties must continue working purposefully toward a negotiated agreement.

He added that the airstrikes on Qatar were unacceptable and would do nothing to advance peace in the Middle East, urging a political resolution as the only path to lasting peace and security for both Palestinians and Israelis.— QNA

Israeli attack on Qatar flagrant violation of Arab sovereignty: Sudan



DOHA: Chairman of Sudan’s Transitional Sovereignty Council, H E Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah Al Burhan, has affirmed full solidarity with Qatar over the blatant Israeli attack, labelling it as a flagrant violation of sovereignty, international law and the UN charters.

In his speech at the emergency Arab-Islamic Summit in Doha on Monday, Al Burhan noted that it undermines sincere efforts aimed at reaching a settlement that ends the humanitarian tragedy in Gaza and weakens the chances of success of any efforts to achieve calm.

He stressed that the only way to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is through the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, appreciating the honourable positions taken by Qatar in support of just causes, foremost among them the Palestinian cause, and its humanitarian and political support for the Palestinian people.— QNA

Unity demonstrated during summit most significant outcome: Kazakh envoy

M MAZHARUL HAQUE THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The extraordinary summit in Doha held on September 15 will be remembered as far more than another meeting of leaders. It stood out as a defining moment, showing that even in the face of mounting challenges, nations can find common ground and speak with one voice, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Qatar H E Arman Issagaliyev told The Peninsula.

For Kazakhstan, the unity demonstrated during the summit is the most significant outcome. In a time when fragmentation often dominates

global politics, seeing countries come together in solidarity is not just encouraging — it is essential for safeguarding justice, sovereignty, and peace.

“The discussions on September 15 carried exceptional weight. Delegates did not limit themselves to abstract principles; the voices raised in Doha expressed shared resolve and collective responsibility. The summit sent a clear message that the use of force cannot be accepted, that sovereignty is inviolable, and that humanitarian considerations must guide decisions above all else. From Kazakhstan’s perspective, the event demonstrated that the countries of the region have

both the moral authority and political will to act as a stabilizing force on the global stage,” Ambassador Issagaliyev said.

“Equally striking was the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation that permeated the discussions. It was not rhetoric but genuine solidarity, rooted in shared values and historical ties. Kazakhstan sees this as a foundation for long-term collaboration — ranging from humanitarian support to mediation efforts, and even the collective defence of international law. The outcomes of the summit confirm that when united, external pressures cannot erode our principles,” he added.



H E Arman Issagaliyev

“The gravity of the circumstances that prompted the meeting cannot be ignored. The escalation in the Middle

East, particularly the strikes against the State of Qatar, represents a clear violation of sovereignty and the norms of international law. Kazakhstan, following the position articulated by H E President Tokayev, firmly rejects these unlawful actions. No pretext can justify them; they threaten not only Qatar but the principle of sovereign equality among all nations,” the Kazakh envoy elaborated.

“The humanitarian tragedy in Gaza also demands attention. Kazakhstan has consistently called for a ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian access, he said. “We have provided financial and material support,

including through the Organization for Food Security in Astana, and we urge all the OIC member states to expand assistance to the Palestinian people. The two-state solution endorsed by the UN Security Council remains the only viable path to lasting peace.” Ambassador Issagaliyev said.

“Looking back at the summit of September 15, one message is unmistakable: it reaffirmed that countries of the region can stand firm, uphold their values, and contribute to a fairer international order. Kazakhstan is proud to be part of this collective voice for peace, justice, and sustainable development,” he concluded.

Kuwait reiterates condemnation of Israeli aggression against Qatar

GENEVA: The State of Kuwait reiterated its strong condemnation and denunciation of the brutal and cowardly Israeli aggression that targeted residential headquarters of several Hamas leaders in Doha on September 9.

This came in Kuwait’s statement Tuesday before the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) during the emergency session dedicated to discussing the Israeli aggression against Qatar, which was called for by the State of Kuwait on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, alongside Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), as part of the 60th session of the Council held in Geneva.

Kuwait emphasized that this treacherous aggression is a blatant violation of all international laws and norms, a serious threat to the region’s security and stability, and a direct undermining of international peace and security.

The State of Kuwait affirmed its unwavering support for the State of Qatar in the measures it takes to preserve its security, stability, sovereignty, and the safety of its citizens and residents.

Kuwait also reiterated its position calling for the United Nations and the international community to assume their responsibilities in preserving international peace and security, and to take serious and effective steps to stop Israel’s systematic aggression against countries in the region and to hold the perpetrators of these crimes against unarmed civilians accountable. — QNA

EAA, QFFD and TFL to empower 23,425 vulnerable students

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, in collaboration with Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), has partnered with Teach For Lebanon (TFL) to launch a groundbreaking initiative titled ‘Resilience Through Education: Empowering Vulnerable Students in Lebanon with SEL and Inclusive Learning.’

The project is designed to respond to the urgent educational and psychosocial needs of children affected by Lebanon’s ongoing crises, providing inclusive, trauma-informed, and emotionally supportive education to over 23,000 vulnerable students across the country.

Lebanon’s education system continues to face mounting challenges amid overlapping economic, social, and humanitarian crises. This initiative seeks to ensure that marginalised children are not left behind and can access quality education that also nurtures their emotional well-being. Through three core interventions, the programme will provide holistic support to learners in need.

The first component includes in-school support led by TFL Fellows who have been trained in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and trauma-informed approaches. These Fellows will deliver both academic instruction and



emotional support directly in classrooms across Lebanon. Secondly, the initiative will roll out a toll-free Call and Learn Hotline offering over 59,500 academic support calls to students from kindergarten to Grade 9.

In addition to direct student support, the initiative also focuses on teacher capacity-building. A total of 301 educators, including TFL Fellows, hotline teachers, and other local teachers, will be trained using the Education Above All Foundation’s ‘Let Kids Be Kids’ SEL toolkit. This resource includes over 100 activity-based modules designed to promote emotional resilience, positive routines, and life skills through engaging, interactive methods.

“At Education Above All Foundation, we remain committed to finding innovative ways to reach children where they are, ensuring that no learner is left behind,” said Janhvi Kanoria, Executive Director of Innovation Development at Education Above All Foundation. “This partnership with Teach For Lebanon and the Qatar Fund for Development is helping us reach more than 23,000 vulnerable students across Lebanon with the academic and socio-emotional support they need to thrive. From in-school support to the Call and Learn hotline and the provision of essential learning materials, these interventions are creating new pathways for children to access inclusive, quality education.”

Aid convoy of 24 trucks with food, medicine dispatched to Syria

DOHA: As part of Qatar’s ongoing efforts to support the brotherly Syrian people, a humanitarian aid convoy was dispatched to the Syrian Arab Republic on Thursday, September 11, in cooperation with the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), Qatar Charity (QC), and the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO).

The convoy comprised 24 trucks carrying food, medicine, and medical supplies to address urgent humanitarian and health needs in Syria and alleviate the suffering of displaced persons and the affected groups.

— QNA



Muslim World League welcomes communique of Doha summit

MAKKAH AL MUKARRAMAH: The Muslim World League has welcomed the outcomes of the final communique issued by the Arab-Islamic Emergency Summit, which was held in Doha.

Secretary-General of the League, Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al Issa, praised the summit and its statement for embodying values of solidarity and unity in the face of Israeli aggression against Qatar, describing it as an attack on all Arab and Islamic countries. He emphasized the firm rejection of any attempts to justify this aggression under any pretext.

At the same time, Dr. Al Issa highlighted the summit’s outcomes, which hold the Israeli government responsible for undermining any prospects for peace in the region through its aggressive policies, including genocide, ethnic cleansing, starvation, blockades, settlement activities, and its expansionist policies - leading up to the recent treacherous attack on Qatari territory. He noted Qatar’s role as a key mediator in efforts to secure a ceasefire and end the war on Gaza, describing this as a dangerous escalation and an attack on diplomatic efforts to restore peace.

Dr. Al Issa also stressed the importance of the statement’s rejection of Israeli occupation rhetoric, which employs “Islamophobia” to legitimize its violations of international law and distort the image of Arab and Islamic countries.

He further commended the UN General Assembly’s adoption of the “New York Declaration” regarding the implementation of the two-state solution and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, viewing it as a clear expression of international support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.— QNA

Qatar renews condemnation of Israeli attack, announces financial contribution to IAEA

VIENNA: Qatar has renewed its condemnation of the treacherous Israeli attack that targeted its territories on September 9, and considered it a flagrant violation to its sovereignty and security and a clear breach of the UN Charter and international law.

Minister of Environment and Climate Change H E Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie delivered a speech at the 69th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), held in Vienna, Austria, during which Qatar affirmed that this aggression was met with widespread rejection from the international community and widespread solidarity with Doha, which



Minister of Environment and Climate Change H E Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie addressing 69th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in Vienna, Austria.

stressed that it would take all necessary measures to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and work with its partners to ensure that Israel is held accountable for the crime it has committed.

He announced that Qatar will make a financial contribution of \$600,000 to support the agency's resources for the period 2026-2027, expressing the country's appreciation for the agency's efforts to enhance nuclear security and develop the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies.

He also revealed that Qatar has submitted three new national projects within the cooperation cycle 2026-2027, in addition to participating in regional projects, most notably

the project to establish the largest secondary calibration laboratory of its kind in the region, with Qatari funding of EUR 2 million in cooperation with the agency.

The Minister stressed Qatar's firm position in supporting the nuclear non-proliferation regime and rejecting policies of force and threats of using nuclear weapons, calling for intensified efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, given Israel's continued refusal to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and subject its facilities to a comprehensive safeguards agreement.

He pointed out the seriousness of recent Israeli statements regarding the possible

use of nuclear weapons against the Palestinian people in Gaza, considering this a flagrant violation of international law and a direct threat to regional and international security.

He also noted that Qatar has made significant strides in responding to nuclear and radiological emergencies, commending IAEA's support for the country's efforts to develop nuclear safety and security strategies that ensure the protection of humans and the environment.

The Minister highlighted the Qatari scientific team's participation in the second International Nuclear Science Olympiad in Malaysia, pointing out that the team won three medals. — *QNA*

Indonesian FM: Israeli aggression against Qatar a blatant violation of international law

DOHA: Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia H E Sugiono affirmed that the aggression against Doha is unacceptable, as it represents a blatant violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the principles of the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

His Excellency said, in his speech during the emergency Arab-Islamic summit held in Doha on Monday, that his country renews its commitment to achieving peace in the Middle East, praising the efforts made by the State of Qatar to promote mediation, which deserve appreciation and praise. He also expressed Indonesia's condolences to the families of the victims, wishes for a speedy recovery to the wounded, and full solidarity with the State of Qatar.

He added that Indonesia condemns this aggression against the State of Qatar, noting that the matter is not limited to aggression targeting the sovereignty of the State of Qatar alone, but rather constitutes an attack on international peace and security, on dialogue and negotiation, and pointing out that what happened was not an isolated incident, but a continuation of a policy of impunity that has extended for decades.

He pointed out that the Palestinian issue is not a matter that concerns Palestine alone, but rather represents a matter of dignity for all the peoples and countries of the region, stressing that the summit must produce a collective response that reflects the principles of unity, and shows clear condemnation of Israeli attacks,



while urging the UN Security Council to assume its responsibilities and take urgent measures to prevent the recurrence of such attacks.

He stressed the importance of member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) assuming their responsibilities in confronting these barbaric attacks, and addressing the roots of the issue, represented in the continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, stressing that no solution can be reached without the establishment of an independent State of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions.

He also affirmed that the time has come for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to remain steadfast in defending international law, and to work side by side with member states within the framework of international legitimacy. — *QNA*

Gambia Vice-President condemns Israel's aggression against Qatar

DOHA: Vice-President of the Republic of Gambia H E Muhammed Jallow, stressed his country's condemnation of the brutal attack on Qatar's territory on September 9, which violated its sovereignty, as well as the principles of international law.

During his speech at the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit in Doha Monday, the Vice-President of Gambia expressed his country's solidarity with Qatar in these critical times and its deep appreciation for its mediation efforts to resolve conflicts around the world, particularly the war on the Gaza Strip.

He affirmed Gambia's firm and unwavering commitment to dialogue and peaceful coexistence among countries in order to enhance regional and international efforts aimed at maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East and beyond. He also called on the international community to take immediate and deterrent measures against Israel to ensure accountability and prevent impunity for the

crimes it commits against innocent people and civilians.

Regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Vice-President Muhammed Jallow highlighted his country's support for the Arab Peace Initiative and the establishment of a free, independent, and sovereign State of Palestine.

He noted that the ongoing war in Gaza has been prolonged and must stop, especially given the large number of innocent victims and the loss of children's access to education and health opportunities, which has long-term consequences.

He called on Arab and Islamic countries to mobilize resources and energies to support the Palestinian people in Gaza and enable them to access humanitarian aid without restrictions or conditions. He stated that Gambia joins the international community in condemning the construction of any settlement in the occupied Arab territories, considering it a violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions. — *QNA*

MoL Undersecretary meets IOM Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa

DOHA: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour, H E Sheikha Najwa bint Abdulrahman Al-Thani, met yesterday with International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, H E Othman Belbeisi, currently visiting the country.

The meeting reviewed cooperation between the State of Qatar and the International Organization for Migration, and discussed ways to enhance and expand it in the coming period, particularly in protecting migrant workers' rights, exchanging expertise, and developing joint initiatives that support Qatar's national priorities and international commitments, thereby contributing to the promotion and advancement of the work environment. — *QNA*

Kazakhstan reaffirms steadfast support for Qatar, condemns Israeli aggression

DOHA: Chairman of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan H E Yerlan Koshanov affirmed that the State of Qatar is one of Kazakhstan's most important partners in the Middle East and the Arab world as a whole.

In a speech delivered during the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit in Doha on Monday, he indicated that the State of Qatar, through its consistent mediation policies, contributes significantly to enhancing stability and security at the global level and plays an important role in consolidating trust, dialogue, and peace globally. He said that they appreciate the constructive initiatives and ongoing efforts made by the State of Qatar, which have received wide recognition from the international community.

He said that the Republic of Kazakhstan strongly condemns the military actions carried out by Israel against the State of Qatar, stressing Kazakhstan's unwavering support for the State of Qatar.

He added that whatever the stated objectives of such attacks, these actions must be absolutely unacceptable, as they violate the sovereign rights of the State of Qatar and contradict the principles of international law.

He indicated that resorting to military force would only lead to new waves of violence, pointing to the tragic events taking place in the Gaza Strip, where civilians are suffering the ravages of conflict.

He pointed out that Kazakhstan has consistently called for a ceasefire and the provision of urgent humanitarian aid to its population since the beginning of the conflict in Gaza. — *QNA*

Kyrgyz FM: Israel's brutal aggression against Qatar is source of deep concern for all

DOHA: Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, H E Jeenbek Kulubaev, stressed that Israel's brutal aggression against the State of Qatar is a matter of deep concern for all, noting that Israel violated international law, particularly the United Nations Charter.

In his address to the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit hosted by Doha on Monday, Kulubaev stated that the Kyrgyz Republic strongly condemns Israeli attack on Doha and emphasized that such violations must be confronted.

He highlighted that Qatar holds significant influence in the international community, given its long-standing commitment to peace and active role in international mediation. Doha has become a center for peace and a platform for global dialogue; in this context, the attack on Doha constitutes a blatant violation of international law and undermines global peace efforts.

Kulubaev stressed that Israeli attacks hinder the prospects for peace in the region, and therefore a unified stance



and concrete measures must be adopted to confront these violations.

He noted that as Israel continues to use force against Palestinian people and destabilize the region, there can be no just peace without the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital and an effective government. The ongoing aggression in Gaza and

the resulting humanitarian crisis require urgent and immediate action by the international community.

Kulubaev renewed his call for the international community to stand against Israeli violations, stating that all joint initiatives aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace and ending regional conflicts should be supported. He added that in these tragic circumstances, collective efforts are needed to address this crisis and take urgent measures to reach a sustainable solution. — *QNA*

MoPH launches seasonal influenza vaccination campaign

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has announced the launch of the National Seasonal Influenza Vaccination and Awareness Campaign today in cooperation with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), and public, semi-government, and private healthcare facilities.

The campaign aims to enhance community protection and reduce influenza-related health complications. It forms part of the Ministry's efforts to raise public awareness of the importance of influenza vaccination, particularly in winter. This season usually witnesses a rise in infection rates. The campaign also seeks to correct misconceptions about influenza and highlight its risks, especially for those most vulnerable to health complications.

The MoPH stressed that the influenza virus undergoes ongoing mutations from one year to another, which makes annual vaccination necessary to ensure adequate protection. It emphasised that influenza is not merely a simple cold, but may lead to serious complications such as

pneumonia, exacerbation of chronic diseases, and in some cases, it may even result in death or permanent disability.

The campaign targets explicitly the groups most at risk, particularly individuals with chronic diseases such as diabetes, asthma, heart and lung conditions, kidney disease, and those with weakened immunity, in addition to senior citizens over the age of sixty, children aged between six months and five years, pregnant women, and healthcare workers.

The MoPH has urged citizens and residents, especially those belonging to the groups mentioned above, to take the seasonal influenza vaccine as early as possible. The Ministry also encourages all community members to get vaccinated, given its key role in safeguarding public health and limiting the spread of infection.

The influenza vaccine is available free of charge at all PHCC Centres, as well as at healthcare facilities affiliated with the Ministries of Interior and Defence, Qatar Energy, all private hospitals, and more than fifty private healthcare facilities across the State of Qatar.

Qatar Tourism showcases cruise sector growth at Seatrade Cruise Europe 2025

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Tourism, in collaboration with leading public and private sector partners, participated in Seatrade Cruise Europe 2025 in Hamburg from September 10-12. The Visit Qatar pavilion at the exhibition served as a collaborative platform, bringing together key government entities such as the Ministry of Interior (Immigration Department and the Permanent Committee for Seaport Affairs), Mwani Qatar, Old Doha Port, and the General Authority of Customs. It also featured leading private sector representatives, including Qatar Airways, Discover Qatar, Doha

Bus, Qatar International Tours, Travel Designer, and Al Tawfeeq Travel.

Together, the delegation showcased the opportunities for international cruise lines to collaborate with Qatar and support the sector's continued growth, reaffirming the country's commitment to developing cruise tourism and positioning Doha as a leading regional hub for marine travel.

Throughout the exhibition, the Qatar delegation engaged in selected conference sessions, held strategic one-to-one meetings with leading cruise operators, and welcomed distinguished visitors to the Visit Qatar pavilion.

Omar Al Jaber, Chief of the

Tourism Development Sector at Qatar Tourism, stated: "Cruise tourism is a vital pillar of our strategy and aligns closely with Qatar National Vision 2030 by diversifying our offerings, attracting international visitors, and supporting economic growth. Year after year, this sector continues to grow, and last season Doha Port welcomed nearly 360,000 visitors, a clear reflection of rising demand. As we look forward to the new cruise season beginning this November, we remain committed to positioning Doha as a premier regional hub for marine tourism, forging new partnerships and showcasing the unique experiences that Qatar has to offer."



Representatives of Qatar Tourism and partners at Seatrade Cruise Europe 2025 in Hamburg.



Al-Muraikhi bids farewell to Saudi Ambassador

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs H E Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi yesterday met with Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Qatar H H Prince Mansour bin Khalid bin Abdullah Al-Farhan Al-Saud Al Saud, on the occasion of the end of his tenure in the country. Al-Muraikh expressed his thanks to the Saudi Ambassador for his efforts in strengthening bilateral relations.

Uzbek FM: Attack on Qatar blatant threat to peace in entire Middle East

DOHA: Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan H E Bakhtiyor Saidov affirmed that the Israeli attack on Doha posed a blatant threat to peace in the entire Middle East, expressing his country's full solidarity with the State of Qatar.

In his address to the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit Monday, His Excellency said, "Our hearts were shaken by the Israeli attack on Doha, a city dear to our hearts."

This represents a threat to the sovereignty of Qatar, which is committed to achieving peace and resolving conflicts through diplomatic means, he stressed, adding that the attack came at

a time when the parties were discussing new plans for a ceasefire in Gaza.

It is a vicious blow to dialogue and diplomacy, a blatant disregard for regional security, and a flagrant violation of international norms and laws, he stressed. He referred in this context to the Security Council statement on the attack on Qatar, which demonstrated the seriousness and gravity of this situation.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan praised the wisdom of H H the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani in addressing the current developments. He affirmed that these developments have

demonstrated that H H the Amir is a wise and responsible leader who is deeply committed to the security, safety, and stability of the region.

He stressed that the State of Qatar has the full right to protect its territory from any attacks and to take the necessary measures in this regard.

He noted that this painful event represents a serious threat and a major test for international peace as a whole.

His Excellency reiterated his country's condemnation of these aggressive actions and affirmed its firm stance against any attempts to threaten stability and peace in the Middle East. — QNA

Sheikh Hamad Award delegation visits Chinese Embassy in Doha

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: In celebration of the selection of the Chinese language as one of the languages of the Award's twelfth session in 2026, and as part of preparations for a major cultural tour to China, a delegation from the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding visited the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Doha.

The delegation included the Award's Executive Director, Labib Al-Nahhas, Media Officer Abdulrahman Al-Marri, and members of the media team, Laila Mohammed and Mohammed Al-Dumeiri. They were received by Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of China in Qatar Wang Ying.

The visit reaffirmed the Award's position as a leading global platform for building bridges between cultures and underscored Qatar's role in promoting dialogue and international understanding through translation.

During the meeting, the delegation presented the programme of the official tour to China, scheduled for September 16–25, 2026. The tour will include visits to leading universities and cultural institutions specialising in Arabic studies and translation in both Beijing and Shanghai.

The programme also features visits to major historical and cultural landmarks in China such as the Great Wall, the Imperial Palace (Forbidden City), and the Summer Palace. One of the highlights of the tour will be a landmark cultural event in Beijing: the first-ever international conference on the Arabic-Chinese translation movement organized by a non-Chinese institution, in cooperation with the University of Foreign Studies.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Labib Al-Nahhas, the Executive Director of the Award, presented a copy of the book "The Tenth Anniversary of the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding," which documents a decade of cultural achievements and contributions in the fields of translation and cross-cultural dialogue.

Speaking on the occasion, Al-Nahhas said, "The inclusion of the Chinese language in the 2026 session reflects our commitment to supporting translation as a bridge between civilizations. We are confident that the upcoming tour to China, with its rich academic and cultural programme, will open new horizons for dialogue and further enhance Qatar's cultural presence on the international stage."



Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of China in Qatar Wang Ying receiving members of the Sheikh Hamad Award delegation.

For her part, Wang Ying praised the value of the initiative, saying, "We welcome close cooperation with the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding, and we consider the selection of the Chinese language in the upcoming session an important step toward strengthening cultural exchange between China and the Arab world.

"We look forward to the forthcoming tour and the planned academic conference as opportunities to deepen mutual understanding and strengthen cultural relations between our countries." Both sides agreed to step up meetings in the coming months and coordinate joint events to further support cultural relations and knowledge exchange.

Azerbaijan affirms support for Qatar, lauds its mediation efforts

DOHA: Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H E Jeyhun Bayramov, described the Israeli attack on the State of Qatar as a brutal assault and a serious threat that will exacerbate the situation in the Gaza Strip and deepen the humanitarian tragedy there.

In his speech at the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit in Doha Monday, he affirmed his country's full support for the State of Qatar in confronting the aggression, praising Doha's mediation efforts to end the aggression on Gaza and reach a peaceful settlement to the crisis. He also called for respect for the UN Charter and called for an end to the war in Gaza through dialogue and the adoption of necessary measures to avoid undermining security in the region.

He said that all concerned parties must make efforts to reach an immediate ceasefire, promote dialogue, and de-escalate the situation.

He stressed the need to seek a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue based on a two-state solution, in accordance with international law and relevant UN resolutions, calling for respect for the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people. — QNA

QRDI Council host Media City Qatar for strategic innovation talks

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation (QRDI) Council welcomed a delegation from Media City Qatar to its headquarters for a strategic engagement session, bringing together Media City Qatar's group of licensed companies and stakeholders alongside representatives from local large enterprises (LLEs), universities, and research institutions.

The visit aimed to provide an overview of QRDI Council's national innovation priorities, encourage collaboration opportunities, and build connections across Qatar's RDI ecosystem.

Bader Al-Saai, Director of Strategic Partnerships at QRDI Council, said, "As we advance Qatar's innovation agenda, strategic dialogues like this are key to unlocking new value across emerging sectors. Engaging with Media City Qatar and its

partners allows us to surface shared ambitions, identify opportunities, and encourage the kind of cross-sector partnerships that accelerate national progress. At QRDI Council, our focus remains on enabling systems that turn ideas into

impact, and positioning Qatar at the forefront of global innovation."

Thair Khaled Al-Anani, Director of Business Development at Media City Qatar, added, "Media City Qatar is home to over 250 companies,

including a significant number of startups, working alongside leading local and international media organisations. At its core, Media City Qatar prioritises supporting these companies by providing a comprehensive work environment, stimulating

opportunities, and fostering productive and thriving partnerships.

"The ability to keep up with cutting-edge technologies and innovative approaches remains a significant challenge for startups, as they seek to produce high-quality, impactful content that reinforces Qatar's position as a regional and global hub for the media industry. In this context, our partnership with QRDI Council, which leads efforts to organise and develop the research and innovation ecosystem in the country, comes as a fundamental step towards empowering media startups and SMEs. This partnership focuses on launching targeted programs that offer technical and financial support to pioneering media projects, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030."

The agenda featured opening remarks by Bader Al-Saai, Director of Strategic

Partnerships at QRDI Council and Thair Khaled Al-Anani, Director of Business Development at Media City Qatar, followed by a presentation on QRDI Council's strategy and priority innovation clusters. QRDI Council's Open Innovation team presented key funding and piloting opportunities, along with details on eligibility and application processes.

A panel discussion on open innovation and agentic AI brought together voices from across the media sector, featuring Mohammad Ali Abbaspour, Founder & CEO of Sponix Tech, Ashrith Makam, Digital Director at WPP Media, and Ali Abbas, Founder & CEO of Arigatou. The day concluded with a networking session designed to encourage meaningful dialogue between Media City Qatar stakeholders and Qatar's broader research and innovation community.



QRDI Council officials and members of the Media City delegation during the visit.

Israel has committed genocide in Gaza Strip, UN Commission finds

FROM PAGE 1

In establishing the genocidal acts, the Commission examined the Israeli military operations in Gaza, including killing and seriously harming unprecedented numbers of Palestinians; imposing a total siege, including blocking humanitarian aid leading to starvation; systematically destroying the healthcare and education systems in Gaza; committing systematic acts of sexual and gender based violence; directly targeting children; carrying out systematic and widespread attacks on religious and cultural sites; and disregarding the orders of the International Court of Justice.

In establishing genocidal intent, the Commission applied the 'only reasonable inference' standard set forth by the International Court of Justice in the case of Bosnia v. Serbia. The Commission analysed statements made by Israeli authorities and concluded that those statements are direct evidence of genocidal intent. The Commission also analysed the pattern of conduct of Israeli authorities and the Israeli security forces in Gaza, including imposing starvation and inhumane conditions of life for Palestinians in

Gaza, and found that genocidal intent was the only reasonable inference that could be concluded from the nature of their operations.

"Israel has flagrantly disregarded the orders for provisional measures from the International Court of Justice and warnings from Member States, UN offices, human rights organisations and civil society groups, and continued the strategy of destruction of the Palestinians in Gaza," said Pillay. "The Commission finds that the Israeli authorities had no intention to change their course of actions. On the contrary, Israeli authorities have persisted and continued with their genocidal campaign in Gaza for almost two years now. Israel must immediately end the genocide in Gaza and comply fully with the orders for provisional measures of the International Court of Justice."

The acts of Israeli political and military leaders are attributable to the State of Israel. The Commission therefore concluded that the State of Israel bears responsibility for the failure to prevent genocide, the commission of genocide and the failure to punish the perpetrators of genocide against the Palestinians in

the Gaza Strip. The Commission also concluded that Israeli President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and then Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, have incited the commission of genocide and that Israeli authorities have failed to take action against them to punish this incitement. The Commission has not fully assessed statements by other Israeli political and military leaders and considers that they too should be assessed to determine whether they constitute incitement to commit genocide.

The Commission urges the Government of Israel to comply immediately with its international legal obligations, including to end the genocide in the Gaza Strip and fully implement the provisional measures orders of the International Court of Justice.

Israel must end its policy of starvation, lift the siege and facilitate and ensure the unimpeded access of humanitarian aid at scale and unhindered access of all United Nations staff, including UNRWA and OHCHR international staff, and all recognised international humanitarian agencies delivering and coordinating aid. The Commission calls

on Israel to immediately end the activities of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation.

The Commission recommended that Member States cease the transfer of arms and other equipment that may be used for the commission of genocidal acts to Israel; ensure individuals and corporations in their territories and within their jurisdiction are not involved in aiding and assisting the commission of genocide or incitement to commit genocide; and take action on accountability through investigations and legal proceedings against individuals or corporations that are involved in the genocide directly or indirectly.

"The international community cannot stay silent on the genocidal campaign launched by Israel against the Palestinian people in Gaza. When clear signs and evidence of genocide emerge, the absence of action to stop it amounts to complicity," said Pillay. "Every day of inaction costs lives and erodes the credibility of the international community. All States are under a legal obligation to use all means that are reasonably available to them to stop the genocide in Gaza."

Broad international, UN solidarity with Qatar at HRC debate

GENEVA: United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights H E Volker Turk condemned the military attack launched by Israel on the State of Qatar on September 9, affirming that targeting Qatar represents a shocking breach of international law, an assault on regional peace and stability, and a blow to the integrity of mediation and negotiation efforts around the world.

This condemnation came during the emergency debate held Tuesday in Geneva by the Human Rights Council (HRC60) in its 60th session to discuss the serious developments resulting from the Israeli attack on Doha.

Volker Turk stated that targeting parties engaged in internationally supported mediation on their own soil undermines Qatar's central role as a mediator and facilitator of peace, and civilians not directly involved in hostilities must never be targeted.

He added that when states disregard the rules of war, they undermine the protection of all civilians everywhere, stressing that the Israeli attack on Doha coincided with other actions that destroy any hope for a two-state solution, the only path to sustainable peace.

He pointed to the displacement order of nearly one million people from Gaza City as part of a new phase of the Israeli assault on the Strip, highlighting that the Hamas delegation was present in Qatar to negotiate a ceasefire, which he described as a vital step toward peace. — QNA

President of Supreme Judiciary Council, Syrian Justice Minister review digital transformation

DOHA: President of the Supreme Judiciary Council and President of the Court of Cassation H E Dr. Hassan bin Lahdan Al Hassan Al Mohannadi met with Minister of Justice of the Syrian Arab Republic H E Dr. Mazhar Abdul Rahman Al Wais and his accompanying delegation, who are on a visit to the State of Qatar.

The Syrian Minister of Justice's visit to the Supreme Judiciary Council was intended to review the experience of digital transformation for the judiciary system, as well as the commercial judiciary with respect to investment disputes. He met

with President of the Investment and Trade Court H E Judge Khalid bin Ali Al Obaidli, and toured the court's halls, where he reviewed the effective operation mechanisms the court pursues, along with its critical role in creating a judicial environment conducive to investment.

At the premises of the Court of Appeal and Cassation, Dr. Al Wais was briefed on the experience of the constant digital transformation journey to bolster justice systems, through a presentation that pitched the key steps the Supreme Judiciary Council

takes to accelerate the judicial proceedings and ensure swift and effective justice.

The presentation was delivered by H E Judge Khaled Al Mansoori, a Vice-President at the Court of Appeal, with President of the Court of Appeal, H E Judge Sultan Matar Al Dosari, in attendance.

Upon wrapping up the visit, both sides underscored the depth of relations between the State of Qatar and the Syrian Arab Republic, along with the outcome of this visit in terms of a joint commitment to forging both legal and judiciary cooperation and sharing expertise. — *QNA*



President of the Supreme Judiciary Council and President of the Court of Cassation H E Dr. Hassan bin Lahdan Al Hassan Al Mohannadi and Minister of Justice of the Syrian Arab Republic H E Dr. Mazhar Abdul Rahman Al with other officials during the meeting.



NCSA President meets UK Prime Minister's AI Advisor

President of the National Cyber Security Agency, H E Engineer Abdulrahman bin Ali Al Farahid Al Malki, met Advisor to the Prime Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Chief Executive Officer of the UK Artificial Intelligence Institute, H E Dr. Jade Leung. The meeting highlighted the Agency's efforts to strengthen cybersecurity at both national and international levels, with a particular focus on its initiatives in Artificial Intelligence, including issuing 'Guidelines for the Secure Adoption & Usage of Artificial Intelligence'.

Arabic–Chinese translation conference to be held in China

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Beijing is preparing to host, on Thursday (September 18, 2025), the first international conference of its kind on Arabic–Chinese translation, organized by the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding.

The event comes as part of the Award's cultural tour in China, following the inclusion of the Chinese language among the official languages of the Award's 2026 session.

The conference, titled "The Reality and Challenges of the Arabic–Chinese Translation Movement," will be held at the School of Arabic Studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University from 14:00 to 17:30. This unprecedented cultural achievement marks the first academic event on Arabic–Chinese translation ever organized in China by a non-Chinese institution, reflecting the Award's pioneering role in building cultural bridges between East and West.

The sessions will open

with welcome remarks by Dr. Liu Xinlu, Vice President of the University, and Abdulrahman Al-Marri, Media Officer of the Award.

The first session, which will take place from 2:30pm to 4pm, will focus on translation, literature, and heritage. Professors from Beijing, Guangzhou, and the University of International Business and Economics will present papers on the translation of Arabic and Islamic literature and the Holy Qur'an, as well as on the presence of Chinese heritage in Arabic works.

The second session, scheduled from 4:10pm to 5:30pm, will explore translation as a bridge for education and civilization. It will include an Arabic artistic performance by students, along with research presentations on teaching Arabic in Chinese universities, civilizational cooperation, and the experience of the Zhou Kai Educational Fund in supporting the translation movement.

The conference will bring together a distinguished group of scholars and translators in China.

Al Wakra Hospital achieves highest level age-friendly health system recognition

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Hamad Medical Corporation's (HMC) Al Wakra Hospital has advanced to the highest level of recognition from the U.S.-based Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), receiving the prestigious Age-Friendly Health System Level 2 "Committed to Care Excellence for Older Adults" award. This marks significant progress from the Level 1 "Participant" status the hospital was awarded earlier this year.

The new recognition highlights Al Wakra Hospital's commitment to advancing care standards for patients aged 60

and above. By achieving the Committed to Care Excellence level, the hospital joins Rumailah Hospital as a Level 2 facility in embedding international best practices for age-friendly care across HMC, ensuring older adults receive safe, personalized and high-quality services.

Dr. Hanadi Khamis Al-Hamad, HMC's Deputy Chief for Long-Term Care, Rehabilitation and Geriatrics, said: "We are honored that Al Wakra Hospital has progressed from Participant status to the higher Committed to Care Excellence level in such a short time. This recognition reflects the

dedication of our teams to deliver timely, high-quality services for older patients. As Qatar's senior citizen population grows, we remain committed to expanding specialized health services and supporting healthy aging."

Dr. Omar Mohd Al Qahtani, CEO and Medical Director of Al Wakra Hospital, said: "By applying these care practices, Al Wakra Hospital has improved outcomes for elderly patients and set an example for healthcare providers in the region. Achieving the Committed to Care Excellence award reflects our team's determination to provide age-friendly

healthcare services at the highest level. We will continue working closely with the geriatrics department to ensure elderly patients receive the compassionate, personalized care they deserve."

Nasser Al Naimi, Chief of Patient Experience and Director of Hamad Healthcare Quality Institute, added: "I congratulate the Al Wakra Hospital team for reaching this higher level of recognition in elderly care. Our partnership with IHI has helped raise standards across HMC's health system and this award ensures our patients benefit from care aligned with the best international practices."

Oktoberfest returns to Doha bigger and better than ever

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: InterContinental Doha Beach & Spa has announced the return of its highly anticipated Oktoberfest celebration, a highlight of the hotel's annual calendar. Taking place over two weekends, October 2–3 and 9–10, 2025, the popular festival promises an authentic Bavarian experience in the iconic Wiesn Tent. Tickets are priced at QR285 per person, and guests must be 18 years or older with a valid QID or passport.

Festival-goers can indulge in a traditional German buffet, enjoy Munich's world-famous beverages, and dance and sing along with the lively Sweet Chili Oktoberfest Band during an



Musicians performing in an earlier edition of the festival.

evening filled with live music, games and performances.

In Qatar, Oktoberfest at InterContinental Doha Beach & Spa has long been one of the city's most eagerly anticipated events, offering guests the unique opportunity to

experience the true spirit of this world-famous festival. This year's edition promises a vibrant Oktoberfest atmosphere, complete with traditional music, authentic cuisine, lively performances, and a wide selection of premium beverages.

Ministry of Municipality organises 'Cleanliness is Everyone's Responsibility' seminar

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: As part of the celebrations marking World Clean-Up Day, the Ministry of Municipality, represented by the Public Services Affairs Sector, organised a seminar yesterday under the title "Cleanliness is Everyone's Responsibility."

The event took place at the theater hall of the Ministry's main building with the participation of a distinguished group of speakers and experts from various sectors, and with the support and sponsorship of Sea-shore Group.

The seminar was opened by Eng. Abdullah Ahmed Al-Karany, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Services Affairs at the Ministry of Municipality, who emphasized in his welcoming speech that public cleanliness is

both a national priority and a civilized behavior that reflects the values of Qatari society.

Participants included Member of the Shura Council H E Khalid Kamal Al-Emadi who underlined the importance of legislation and regulations that encourage positive behavior and place responsibility on all members of society to maintain public cleanliness. Iman Al-Fadala, Assistant Director of the Command and Control Center at Qatari Diar, stressed the role of the private sector in supporting national initiatives on cleanliness through investment in smart solutions and sustainable technologies.

Dr. Ayesha Al-Qahtani, Islamic preacher and family relations expert, highlighted the need to instill values of cleanliness within the family and

society as part of moral and religious education, and to pass these values on to future generations.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mohammed Saif Al-Kuwari, environmental expert and International Ambassador for Social Responsibility, drew attention to current environmental challenges and the importance of uniting institutional and community efforts to promote sustainability and protect the environment through responsible daily practices.

Mogbil Mazhur Al-Shammari, Director of the General Cleanliness Department at the Ministry of Municipality, affirmed the Ministry's continued efforts to develop awareness campaigns. The seminar was moderated by journalist Taysir Abdullah.

Conference of Sahodaya School Complexes to be held on Nov 4-5

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Emirates Sahodaya Schools Complex UAE, along with Gulf Sahodaya under the aegis of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), are set to host a historic gathering of educators and thought leaders at the 1st International and 31st Annual Conference of Sahodaya School Complexes 2025, scheduled to be held in Dubai, UAE on November 4 and 5, 2025.

Bringing together more than 1,000 school leaders, CBSE officials, ministry representatives, regulators from the Gulf region, and distinguished global education practitioners, the conference promises to be a transformative dialogue on the future of Indian education.

The theme, "Rooted in Wisdom, Rising with Vision: Reimagining Education through NEP 2020", highlights the blending of India's rich

educational ethos with global aspirations. An executive committee is steering the conference, including Vineet M K Vasu, CEO, Indian High School, Dubai (Patron); Dr. V Binumon, Principal, Indian Community School, Kuwait (General Convenor); and Meenal Bakshi, Principal, DPS Monarch International School, Doha & Convener, Gulf Sahodaya – Qatar Chapter (President), alongside senior education leaders from across the Gulf countries.

Speaking about the event, the organisers emphasised, "This is not just a conference—it is a movement towards integrated learning, innovation, and resilience in Indian education on a global stage."

The conference is expected to set new benchmarks for collaboration and excellence in education, while aligning CBSE schools worldwide with the transformative vision of NEP 2020.

BPS records stellar wins at CBSE National Athletics meet

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Athletic team at Birla Public School (BPS) has once again brought glory to the institution by securing TWO Silver Medals at the CBSE National Athletics Meet, held from 9 to 15 September 2025 at Sant Atulanand Convent School, Koirajpur, India.

Facing a competition between top student-athletes of 1250 schools across the nation, the BPS contingent demonstrated exceptional talent, perseverance, and sportsmanship throughout the championship.

Major highlights - Dwijaraj Thaippurayil Arunkumar (VIII-I), who soared high in the U14 Boys High Jump, securing a proud Silver Medal and the U17 Boys 4x100m relay team, whose electrifying speed and flawless coordination earned them a prestigious Silver Medal. The dynamic team included: Abdullah Waheedy (XI-O), Faiz Najeed Haneefa (XI-L), Shriyansh Ranjan Pattanayak (XI-G), Johann Mathew Jacob (IX-A), and Mohammed Qais Shanil Mookkathayil (X-K).

Adding to the impressive showing, the U14 Boys 4x100m relay team—featuring Dwijaraj Thaippurayil Arunkumar (VIII-I), Yoghav Naidu (VIII-L), Steven Joash Jossan



Medal winners with school officials.

(VIII-M), and Shayan Mohammed (VIII-B)—put forth a commendable performance to finish in Fifth Place in the competition.

In total, eleven talented athletes represented Birla Public School at this prestigious national-level Athletic Meet, a testament to the school's unwavering focus on holistic development, discipline, and excellence in co-curricular pursuits.

The School Management, Principal and

faculty of BPS extended their hearty congratulations to all the participating students, medalists, and to Coach Noby C.C for their relentless efforts and remarkable accomplishments that have brought laurels to the school community. The entire BPS community celebrates these achievements that continue to elevate the school's standing in both national and international arenas.

Israel launches ground assault on Gaza City, UN slams it as ‘carnage’

GAZA CITY: Israel launched its long-anticipated ground offensive in Gaza City yesterday, prompting widespread international alarm, with the UN condemning it as "carnage".

A United Nations commission accused Israel of committing "genocide" in the Palestinian territory, saying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other senior officials had incited the crime.

The Israeli military unleashed a massive bombardment of Gaza City overnight as its troops moved deeper into the territory's largest urban hub.

UN chief Antonio Guterres said Israel was "determined to go up to the end". Israel was "not open to a serious negotiation for a ceasefire, with dramatic consequences from Israel's point of view", he said.

An AFP journalist saw many people, including children, sleeping in front of a hospital in Gaza City after fleeing their homes.

"The people do not have money to move to the south or even to move internally," said Youssef Shanaa, who had taken refuge at the hospital.

People spoke of relentless bombing in Gaza City, much of which is already

The European Union said the assault on Gaza City would worsen an already "catastrophic" humanitarian situation, while Britain said it would bring only "more bloodshed, kill more innocent civilians and endanger the remaining hostages".

in ruins after nearly two years of Israeli strikes. Only huge piles of rubble remained of a residential block in the north of the city hit by overnight bombing.

"Why kill children sleeping safely like that, turning them into body parts?" said Abu Abd Zaqout. "We pulled the children out in pieces."

The assault was "systematic ethnic cleansing targeting our people in Gaza", Hamas said in a statement.

Gaza's civil defence, a rescue force operating under Hamas authority, said at least 44 people had been killed by Israeli fire on Tuesday.

Media restrictions in the territory and difficulties in accessing many areas mean AFP is unable to independently

verify the details provided by the civil defence or the Israeli military.

Yesterday, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI) found that "genocide is occurring in Gaza and is continuing to occur", commission chief Navi Pillay told AFP.

"The responsibility lies with the State of Israel."

The investigators said explicit statements by Israeli civilian and military authorities along with the pattern of Israeli forces' conduct "indicated that the genocidal acts were committed with intent to destroy... Palestinians in the Gaza Strip as a group".

The report concluded that Netanyahu, President Isaac Herzog and former defence minister Yoav Gallant have "incited the commission of genocide". UN rights chief Volker Turk told AFP and Reuters that: "It's for the court to decide whether it's genocide or not, and we see the evidence mounting."

He also condemned the assault on Gaza City, saying it was "absolutely clear that this carnage must stop".

The European Union said the assault on Gaza City would worsen an already "catastrophic" humanitarian situation, while Britain said it would



Displaced Palestinians move with their belongings southwards on a road in the Nuseirat refugee camp area in the central Gaza Strip following renewed Israeli evacuation orders for Gaza City yesterday. (AFP)

bring only "more bloodshed, kill more innocent civilians and endanger the remaining hostages".

This month France is leading a UN summit in which several Western governments, angered by what they see as Israeli intransigence, plan to recognise a Palestinian state.

Israel's military campaign in Gaza has killed at least 64,964 people, also mostly civilians, according to figures from the territory's health ministry that the United Nations considers reliable. — **AFP**

UN says over 10,000 children with acute malnutrition in Gaza City

GENEVA: More than 10,000 children need treatment for acute malnutrition in Gaza City, the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) reported.

"The forced and massive displacement of families from Gaza City is a deadly threat to the most vulnerable," said Tess Ingram, a Unicef spokeswoman in southern Gaza's Al-Mawasi zone.

Speaking to journalists at a televised UN press briefing in Geneva, Ingram warned of worsening rates of child malnutrition.

"We estimate that 26,000 children in the Gaza Strip currently require treatment for acute malnutrition, including more than 10,000 in Gaza City alone," she said.

She explained that in

August, more than one in eight children examined in the Gaza Strip suffered from acute malnutrition, "the highest level ever recorded". In Gaza City, that figure was one in five.

Nutrition centres in Gaza City have been "forced to shut this week due to evacuation orders and the military escalation", Ingram added.

The Israeli army claims

those evacuating southward to the Al-Masawi area will find food, tents, and medicine.

However, nearly two years into the war, Israel has frequently bombed so-called "humanitarian zones" in the Gaza Strip, claiming to target Hamas fighters there.

"It is inhumane to expect nearly half a million children, battered and traumatised by

over 700 days of unrelenting conflict, to flee one hellscape to end up in another," Ingram noted.

Around 150,000 people have fled Gaza City to the south since August 14, Ingram said.

According to Unicef's team on the ground, people are still moving "inside and around" Gaza City, unable to seek refuge elsewhere. — **AFP**

Omani Cabinet commends outcomes of Doha summit

MUSCAT: The Omani Cabinet praised the outcomes of the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit hosted in Doha on Sep. 14 and 15 and the resolutions it produced.

The Cabinet, which convened yesterday under the chairmanship of H M Sultan of Oman Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, expressed its condemnation of the Israeli aggression against the State of Qatar, considering it a blatant violation of its national sovereignty and of all international laws and norms. The Cabinet also affirmed its full solidarity with Qatar and complete support for all measures it takes in this regard.

The Omani Cabinet reiterated Oman's firm stance on the Palestinian cause and the situation in the occupied territories, denouncing the ongoing aggression against the besieged Gaza Strip and firmly rejecting the continued deliberate targeting of innocent civilians, medical and relief teams, journalists, and the infrastructure in the Strip. The Cabinet also condemned the persistence of starvation crimes against the population in Gaza, the prevention of aid from reaching them, and attempts to forcibly displace them. — **QNA**

China, Philippines coast guards trade blame over incident

MANILA: The Philippines said one person was injured yesterday when a water cannon attack by a China Coast Guard vessel shattered a window on the bridge of a fisheries bureau ship near a disputed shoal in the South China Sea.

Two Chinese ships used water cannons while in pursuit of the BRP Datu Gumbay Piang as it delivered rations to Filipino fishermen near the Beijing-controlled Scarborough Shoal, a Philippine Coast Guard spokesman said in a statement.

"This aggressive action lasted for about 29 minutes, resulting in significant damage, including shattered glass from the aft window of the bridge" and "damage to the captain's cabin partitions", said Commodore Jay Tarriela. The China Coast Guard yesterday evening released its own statement saying the Philippine ship had "deliberately rammed" a Chinese vessel. Chinese ships had "taken control measures" on multiple vessels that had "insisted on illegally invading China's territorial waters of Huangyan Dao", China's name for the Scarborough Shoal, they said. An accompanying video showed the Philippine vessel making contact with one of the Chinese ships after it was hit by the water cannon. — **AFP**

India says trade talks with US ‘positive’

MUMBAI: India said trade talks with the United States yesterday were "positive" and added that both countries had decided to "intensify efforts" to clinch a deal.

Indian and US trade officials held discussions in the capital New Delhi.

The US delegation included Brendan Lynch, assistant trade representative for South and Central Asia.

"Acknowledging the enduring importance of bilateral trade between India and the US, the discussions were positive and forward looking covering various aspects of the trade deal," an Indian commerce ministry statement said. "It was decided to intensify efforts to achieve early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Trade Agreement," the statement added. Despite being one of the first few countries to start trade negotiations with Washington, India has so far failed to secure a deal that would ease its tariff burden.

Exporters in the world's most populous country have already warned of cancelled orders and potentially significant job losses. — **AFP**

Landslides kill 12 in eastern Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR: At least 12 people were killed in landslides in Malaysia's Sabah state after heavy rains battered the Borneo island region for the past week, news reports said yesterday.

More than 2,000 people living in low-lying areas including around the capital Kota Kinabalu have been evacuated due to recent flooding, rescue authorities said. The worst incident happened on Monday, when debris hit an informal dwelling on the outskirts of the capital, killing eight people including four children, the New Straits Times reported.

Three others, including a 10-year-old girl were killed in another landslide at Gana, about 100 km east of Kota Kinabalu, also Monday, while a 97-year-old man was buried by mud at Penampang last week, outside the city. Heavy downpours have hit Sabah on northeastern Borneo for the past 10 days, flooding low-lying areas, causing landslides and damage to homes and infrastructure in Malaysia's poorest state. — **AFP**

Syria unveils plan with Jordan, US to restore calm in Suwayda

DAMASCUS: Syrian forces have withdrawn heavy weapons from the country's south, a military official said yesterday, as Damascus announced a roadmap for restoring calm in a violence-hit southern province.

"Syrian forces have withdrawn their heavy weapons from southern Syria," the military official told AFP on condition of anonymity, adding the process began around two months ago after the violence.

A diplomatic source in Damascus told AFP, also on condition of anonymity, that the

withdrawal covered the country's south up to about 10 kilometres (six miles) outside the capital.

After toppling of longtime Syrian ruler Bashar Al-Assad in December, Israel deployed troops to a UN-patrolled buffer zone on the Golan Heights that has separated the countries' forces since an armistice that followed the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. Israel has also repeatedly bombed Syria since Assad's fall.

Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani announced yesterday a plan backed by Jordan and the United States to restore calm in

the area. "The Syrian government has laid out a clear roadmap for action... that supports justice and builds trust," Shaibani said in a press conference, adding that the plan involves holding accountable those who attacked civilians, compensating the people affected and "launching a process of internal reconciliation".

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, present at the event with US envoy Tom Barrack, said a "joint Syrian-Jordanian-American mechanism" would ensure the plan's

implementation.

Barrack said the steps taken by the Syrian government yesterday were "historic".

Earlier yesterday, Syrian authorities announced the creation of a new internal security chief position for Suwayda city, naming a member of the Druze community to the post.

The new chief, Suleiman Abdel Baqi, leads a local armed group that is seen favourably by the new authorities. The Syrian military official said security personnel in Suwayda would comprise people from the province. — **AFP**



Voters queue to vote at a polling station in Lilongwe during Malawi's presidential and parliamentary elections yesterday. (AFP)

Malawi holds presidential, parliamentary vote

LILONGWE: Malawians voted yesterday in elections overshadowed by soaring prices and crippling fuel shortages, with the economic gloom a challenge to President Lazarus Chakwera's bid for a second term.

In a crowded field of 17 candidates, observers said Chakwera's closest rival was his predecessor, 85-year-old Peter Mutharika, a law professor who has spent decades living outside of the southern African nation, one of the poorest countries in the world.

While many mainly younger voters said they wanted change, others were willing to give Chakwera a second chance to fix an economy bogged down by inflation at above 27 percent and a chronic foreign exchange shortage that has forced limits on imports of fuel, fertiliser and food. Long queues formed at outdoor polling stations across the largely rural nation as polls opened but the election authority said that by early afternoon turnout was only 51 percent. — **AFP**

World in brief

Israel strikes Houthi-held Yemeni port

HODEIDA: Israel struck Yemen's Huthi-held Hodeida port yesterday. The rebels' Al-Masirah television said "12 Israeli enemy air strikes targeted the port of Hodeida".

Military spokesman Yahya Saree said the group's air defences were "currently confronting Israeli enemy aircraft launching an aggression against our country".

On Wednesday, Israeli air strikes hit the Huthi armed forces' media operation in Sanaa and other targets in Jawf province, killing 46 people and wounding more than 160, according to the group. In August, Israeli air strikes near Sanaa killed Huthi prime minister Ahmed Galeb Nasser Al-Rahawi, nine ministers and two cabinet officials. — **AFP**

Jordan thwarts infiltration attempt at border

AMMAN: Jordan thwarted an infiltration attempt by four individuals across the northern border within its area of responsibility, after they attempted to cross the border illegally.

Jordan news agency (Petra) reported yesterday that Jordanian border guards deployed a rapid reaction patrol, arrested the infiltrators, and transferred them to relevant authorities. Jordanian authorities periodically announce the arrest of infiltrators, particularly along the northern and eastern borders. — **QNA**

Jordan, Belgium discuss strengthening military ties

AMMAN: Jordan's Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Major General Yousef Ahmed Al Huneiti discussed yesterday with Chief of Defence of the Belgian Armed Forces General Frederik Vansina, who is visiting Amman, joint coordination and ways to strengthen bilateral relations to serve the interests of the armed forces in both countries. The two sides also discussed the latest developments on the regional and international arenas. — **QNA**

China urges US, Japan to withdraw Typhon missile system

BEIJING: China urged Tokyo and Washington yesterday to withdraw the US-developed Typhon missile system, after it was unveiled in Japan for the first time during joint military exercises. Japan and the United States began the "Resolute Dragon" military drills on Thursday, and they will last until September 25, Tokyo's defence ministry said on X.

Japan's Self-Defense Forces

confirmed to AFP that the missile system had been showcased for the first time in the country over the course of the exercises, though it said the weapon would not be fired.

Beijing's foreign ministry yesterday called on the United States and Japan to "promptly withdraw" the missile system.

"The United States and Japan, disregarding China's solemn concerns, have insisted

on deploying the Typhon mid-range missile system in Japan under the pretext of joint exercises," spokesman Lin Jian told reporters at a regular briefing.

"China expresses strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to this," he added.

The United States' Typhon missile system is part of the army's long-range precision strike "modernisation portfolio", according to an April

report on the US Naval Institute's website. The system "leverages existing Raytheon-produced SM-6 missiles and Raytheon-produced Tomahawk cruise missiles and modifies them for ground launch", it added. It is "a truck-based, trailer-loaded system that is able to be employed throughout rugged and austere positions", US Colonel Wade Germann told reporters Monday. — **AFP**

US kills three in strike on alleged drug boat from Venezuela: Trump

WASHINGTON: The US military on Monday conducted a new attack on alleged drug smugglers from Venezuela, killing three people, President Donald Trump said on social media.

“This morning, on my orders, US military forces conducted a SECOND kinetic strike against positively identified, extraordinarily violent drug trafficking cartels and narcoterrorists,” Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social that included video of a small boat suddenly erupting in flames. “The strike occurred while these confirmed narcoterrorists from Venezuela were in international waters transporting illegal narcotics ... headed to the US.”

In remarks delivered later to reporters at the White House, the president suggested his administration was preparing to take military action against Latin American cartels that move illicit drugs over land, too, presumably via Mexico. Trump did not identify any specific groups, saying only, “We’re going to be stopping them the same way we stopped the boats.”

The Pentagon referred questions to a social media post from Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, who said that the Trump administration would “stop

at nothing” to defend the US homeland and its people from drug traffickers. “We will track them, kill them, and dismantle their networks throughout our hemisphere – at the times and places of our choosing,” he added.

Monday’s strike follows another deadly operation on Sept 2, in which US forces targeted an alleged drug boat from Venezuela that carried 11 people in the Caribbean Sea. All on board were killed, Trump has said.

The action marked a dramatic escalation in how the United States counters drug trafficking that originates in Latin America, prompting lawmakers and legal analysts to question its legality.

Upon entering office in January, Trump signed an executive order designating drug cartels and other Latin American criminal groups as foreign terrorist organizations. Legal experts viewed this as an attempt to justify any future decision by the president to authorize military action, and the president’s critics in Congress have said that the Trump administration itself acknowledged in past congressional testimony that such a designation alone does not permit the use of lethal force.

The White House — which

has disclosed little about how either operation came together, the legal authorities under which they were carried out, or how officials assembled information leading to the strikes – has insisted its actions are “fully consistent with the law of armed conflict.”

In both cases, the use of lethal force appears to have occurred in international waters outside of an armed conflict. Traditionally, the US government has relied on the Coast Guard, which has law enforcement authorities, to intercept boats suspected of hauling illegal drugs and take their crews into custody.

While administration officials have discussed for months how to better counter drug trafficking, it has pivoted sharply on the issue in recent weeks. Last month, the Pentagon assembled an armada of at least eight warships and dispatched them to the region, describing the move as part of an “enhanced counternarcotics operation.”

The Trump administration also has made moves to use Puerto Rico as a launchpad and logistics hub. Last week, Hegseth and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Dan Caine made an unannounced visit to the island territory, and F-35 fighter jets were



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro speaks with his wife Cilia Flores during a press conference with international media at Hotel Eurobuilding in Caracas on September 15, 2025. (AFP)

spotted arriving there on Saturday.

Before Trump announced Monday’s strike, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro was still questioning the veracity of the video of the first attack. During a news conference in Caracas, Venezuela’s capital, he called for the US to investigate the matter. The Maduro government has not commented on the latest strike.

“It is a diplomatic aggression and is on its way to becoming a military

aggression,” Maduro said.

The boat targeted in the first military strike, on Sept 2 appeared to be turning around to head back to shore before the US launched its attack, according to two people familiar with the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter. The crew, these people said, realized their vessel had been detected by the US aircraft. Those details were reported earlier by the *New York Times*. — **THE WASHINGTON POST**

US decertifies Colombia as ally in drugs fight

BOGOTÁ: The United States said on Monday it has decertified Colombia as an ally in the fight against drugs, a decision that could cost Bogota hundreds of millions of dollars in US military support.

After decades of close alliance in the so-called war on drugs, US President Donald Trump denounced his Colombian counterpart Gustavo Petro for not only failing to curb cocaine production, but overseeing its surge to “all-time records”, according to a signed determination the White House sent to Congress on Monday.

“Under President Petro’s leadership, coca cultivation

and cocaine production have reached record highs while Colombia’s government failed to meet even its own vastly reduced coca eradication goals, undermining years of mutually beneficial cooperation between our two countries against narco-terrorists,” Trump wrote. The Trump administration has repeatedly pressured Petro, the first leftist elected to lead Colombia, and voiced hope for a shift after elections next year.

Washington has conducted assessments annually since 1986 on the anti-narcotics efforts of some 20 drug-producing and distributing countries. — **AFP**

Italian court orders extradition of Ukrainian in Nord Stream case

ROME: An Italian court yesterday ordered a Ukrainian man arrested over the 2022 sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines linking Russia with Europe to be extradited to Germany to face charges.

Serhii Kuznietsov, arrested in Italy last month on a German warrant, denies involvement and will appeal the ruling, his lawyer Nicola Canestrini told *AFP*. Kuznietsov, who says he was a member of the Ukrainian armed forces at the time, is accused of being part of a cell which placed explosives on the underwater pipelines in September 2022.

He faces up to 15 years in jail if found guilty in Germany, according to the ruling by the court in the northern Italian city of Bologna.

The pipelines that for years shipped Russian gas to Europe were damaged by huge blasts just months after Russia’s February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Western powers who back Kiev were initially quick to blame Russia, which in turn accused them. German investigations have identified a Ukrainian cell of five men and one woman as the perpetrators of the blasts. — **AFP**



World in brief

Denmark to invest over \$250m in Greenland

COPENHAGEN: Denmark has signed an agreement with Greenland for infrastructure development in the autonomous territory, coveted by the United States, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said yesterday.

In the 2026 budget proposal to parliament, Denmark’s government has allocated 1.6 billion kroner (\$253m) for 2026 to 2029. Under the new agreement, Denmark will fund the construction of a new runway in Ittoqqortoormiit, in eastern Greenland, and a new deepwater port in Qaqortoq, in the south, the Danish government said in a statement. Additionally, Denmark will, in the future, bear the costs of treatment for Greenlandic patients in Danish hospitals. — **AFP**

Serbia indicts ex-minister over train station tragedy

BELGRADE: Serbian prosecutors filed an updated indictment yesterday against 13 people, including a former minister, over a fatal railway station roof collapse that has triggered a wave of anti-government protests. The prosecution said all those indicted, among them former construction minister Goran Vesic, face charges of “serious crimes against public safety” over the tragedy that killed 16 people last November. — **AFP**

Trump files defamation case against NYT

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump filed a defamation lawsuit on Monday against the *New York Times* and several of its reporters, accusing the newspaper of libelling him in several articles in the lead-up to last year’s presidential election.

Trump’s attorneys listed examples of the reporters’ coverage that touched on a range of subjects, including his wealth, business empire and rise to national prominence. “At the time such statements were made by Defendants, they knew or should have known that they were false and defamatory,” the lawsuit read. — **THE WASHINGTON POST**

Belarus frees more dissidents under pressure

WARSAW: Belarus yesterday freed 25 people, including dissidents, in the second such release in under a week as US President Donald Trump pressures Minsk to release the more than 1,000 political prisoners rights groups say are behind bars.

“Alexander Lukashenko made a decision to pardon 25 people, including those convicted on extremism charges,” his office said in a statement. — **AFP**

Tesla faces US auto safety investigation

WASHINGTON: US auto safety regulators opened an investigation into whether some Tesla Inc. vehicle doors are defective, citing incidents in which exterior handles stopped working and trapped children inside. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said yesterday it’s opening a preliminary evaluation of Tesla’s electrically powered door handles becoming inoperative due to issues with certain vehicles’ low-voltage batteries. While the probe specifically focuses on an estimated 174,290 Model Y SUVs, the regulator said the investigation could widen. — **THE WASHINGTON POST**

2025 summer was Spain’s warmest on record

MADRID: Spain this year sweltered through its hottest summer ever, the national meteorological agency AEMET said Tuesday, the latest in a string of global temperature records. The average temperature settled at 24.2C, smashing the previous record of 24.1C set in 2022, and the highest figure since records began in 1961, AEMET spokesman Ruben del Campo told a news conference. Nine of the 10 hottest summers in Spain since 1961 have occurred in the 21st century, he added. — **AFP**

Luxembourg to recognise Palestinian State

BRUSSELS: Luxembourg has said it will join a raft of countries recognising the State of Palestine at a United Nations summit in New York next week.

French President Emmanuel Macron is spearheading the drive on recognising a Palestinian state as international condemnation grows of Israel over its nearly two-year offensive in Gaza.

Speaking to journalists late Monday, Luxembourg’s Prime Minister Luc Frieden said that “the situation on the ground has deteriorated considerably in recent months”.

“A movement is now emerging in Europe and around the world to demonstrate that the two-state solution is still relevant,” Frieden said.

“That is why the Luxembourg government intends to join those who recognise the State of Palestine at next week’s conference on the two-state solution.”

Countries including Britain, Australia, Canada and Belgium have said they plan to recognise a Palestinian state at the meeting at the UN General Assembly.

Israel’s war on Gaza has killed at least 64,905 people, also mostly civilians, according to figures from the territory’s health ministry that the United Nations considers reliable. — **AFP**

Europe slow to match economic rivals US, China: Draghi

BRUSSELS: The European Union is “failing to match the speed of change” in the United States and China and must act urgently on economic reforms to avoid falling further behind, a key report’s author said yesterday.

One year after former European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi delivered stark warnings — and hundreds of recommendations — in a milestone 400-page report for the bloc, he urged Europe to break its “complacency”.

While Draghi welcomed the EU executive’s push on competitiveness, which Brussels has made its top priority along with defence, he said citizens were “disappointed by how slowly the EU moves.”

“They see us failing to match the speed of change elsewhere,” said Draghi, a former Italian prime minister.

“Competitors in the US and China are far less constrained, even when acting within the law,” he said during a conference in Brussels, warning not to blame “inertia” on the complexities of European policymaking.

“That is complacency,” he said, warning Europe needed to deliver “results within months, not years”.

One year on, the challenges Europe faces have only grown more acute, Draghi warned, with the global trade order shifting since the arrival of US President Donald Trump in January. Trade tensions, high public debt among EU countries and the exposure of Europe’s

high dependencies on other countries have reminded the bloc, “painfully, that inaction threatens not only our competitiveness but our sovereignty itself,” he said. The data, according to one Brussels-based think tank, demonstrates just how much more the EU needs to do to heed Draghi’s call.

Of his 383 recommendations, only around 11 percent have been fully implemented while around 20 percent have been partially fulfilled, the European Policy Innovation Council found.

“Overall progress is mixed — no game changers, but some substantial reforms,” Deutsche Bank’s Marion Muehlberger and Ursula Walther wrote in a note this month.

The EU has, however, advanced on defence.



Italian economist and former European Central Bank President Mario Draghi (left) and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen attend a press conference to review progress one year after the “Draghi report” on the Future of European Competitiveness, at the EU headquarters in Brussels yesterday. (AFP)

Personal data of 1.5 million people leaked in Swedish data breach

STOCKHOLM: Sweden’s prosecution authority said yesterday the personal data of 1.5 million people had been leaked online after a cyberattack against an IT systems provider.

Swedish media said town and city councils and private companies had been affected.

The number of people targeted represents nearly 15 percent of Sweden’s population of 10.6 million. The attack against systems provider Miljodata occurred during the weekend of August 23-24, the prosecution

authority said in a statement. “The data stolen in connection with the attack on the system supplier has now been leaked.

“This concerns data belonging to more than 1.5 million private individuals,” prosecutor Sandra Helgadottir said, adding that an investigation into the data breach was ongoing. Helgadottir said a group going by the name of Dat-acarry had claimed responsibility and the investigation focused on identifying the individual or individuals responsible.

“There is currently no evidence to suggest the involvement of a foreign power,” she said.

Swedish media had reported that the hackers had demanded 1.5 bitcoin (roughly \$170,000) when they threatened to release the data. Miljodata said over the weekend that the data had been published on the darknet.

The company said the type of data leaked included names, addresses and contact details.

The Swedish Authority for Privacy Protection said in late

August it had received 250 reports from affected parties.

According to the authority, at least 164 municipalities and four regional authorities had been affected by the attack.

Public broadcaster SVT reported that employees, especially in the city of Gothenburg, had been affected by the hack.

A number of private companies had also seen their data compromised, including truck-maker Volvo, airline SAS and plane engine maker GKN Aerospace. — **AFP**

French prosecutors probe culture minister over luxury jewellery

PARIS: French prosecutors said yesterday they had launched a probe following reports that Rachida Dati, the outgoing culture minister who is aiming to become the mayor of Paris next year, failed to declare luxury jewellery.

Dati has served as culture minister since January 2024.

In April, French daily Liberation reported that Dati had not declared jewellery and watches worth €420,000 upon

taking ministerial office.

In a comment to *AFP*, the public prosecutor’s office said an investigation had been launched “following reports alleging the possible offence of failure to declare jewellery.”

Dati, 59, is a high-profile political figure and mayor of the French capital’s chic 7th district who holds ambitions to become the mayor of Paris next year. — **AFP**

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PRAYER TIMINGS

FAJR 4:03AM	ASR 2:57PM
SUNRISE 5:20AM	MAGHRIB 5:38PM
DHUHR 11:29AM	ISHA 7:08PM

WEATHER TODAY

25°C

Minimum

42°C

Maximum

Hazy at places with some clouds becomes hot daytime.

“

In choosing *The Voice of Hind Rajab*, a powerful film, to open the festival, DFI affirms its belief in cinema as a force that can pierce through indifference, carry voices across continents, and remind us of our shared humanity.

”

Doha Film Festival 2025 to open with ‘The Voice of Hind Rajab’ movie

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Doha Film Institute (DFI) yesterday announced that the 2025 Doha Film Festival will open with *The Voice of Hind Rajab* (Tunisia, France) by award-winning director Kaouthar Ben Hania, marking a powerful start to Qatar’s spotlight of global cinema.

A recipient of the Institute’s grants programme, the profound film captures the final moments of an innocent child, Hind Rajab, whose voice shook the conscience of the world. Hind’s story is not just one of unimaginable loss, it is a testament to courage, a reminder of the human cost of silence, and a call for compassion that transcends borders. The film won the Silver Lion Grand Jury Prize at the recently concluded 82nd Venice Film Festival.

In choosing this powerful film to open the festival, DFI

affirms its belief in cinema as a force that can pierce through indifference, carry voices across continents, and remind us of our shared humanity. This selection reflects the Institute’s mission to champion truth, give voice to the unheard, and boldly confront the realities that shape our world.

Fatma Hassan Alremiahi, Festival Director and Chief Executive Officer of DFI, said, “To open our festival with *The Voice of Hind Rajab* is to honour truth — fragile, heartbreaking, and urgent. Hind’s voice, trembling yet unyielding, speaks to every one of us. It is the story of all children, women, and men of Palestine whose lives have been shattered by violent aggression of the Israeli occupation and whose resilience continues to inspire global conscience.

“This powerful film demonstrates cinema’s unique role in

amplifying voices that matter, reflecting the pain and courage of the Palestinian people, and the extraordinary efforts of the unsung heroes who tried to save an innocent child. By honouring Hind’s memory and that of countless others, we hope to awaken empathy, inspire justice, and remind the world that no story, however painful, should be left untold.”

Ben Hania has established herself as one of the Arab world’s most compelling filmmakers. Her remarkable journey includes studies at Tunisia’s Ecole des Arts et du Cinéma and Paris’s prestigious La Fémis.

Daughters (2023), which won the L’Œil d’or prize at Cannes and received an Academy Award nomination for Best Documentary Feature.

Taking place from November 20–28, 2025, Doha Film Festival (DFF) represents



A scene from the movie *The Voice of Hind Rajab*.

the bold next chapter in Doha Film Institute’s mission to nurture regional talent and champion urgent and authentic stories in cinema.

The festival will transform

iconic locations across Doha, including Katara Cultural Village, Msheireb Downtown Doha, and the Museum of Islamic Art, into vibrant hubs of cultural exchange, bringing together

filmmakers, storytellers, and audiences from every corner of the globe, to reaffirm art’s power to heal, to unite, and to spotlight voices that deepen our shared understanding.

GU-Q scholar, boundary-breaking filmmaker representing Sudanese women on screen

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) scholar and filmmaker Dr. Suzi Mirgani reached a cultural milestone last weekend when her debut feature film *Cotton Queen* was screened during International Critics’ Week of the Venice Film Festival.

The film follows teenage Nafisa, who comes of age in a Sudanese cotton-farming village under the watchful eye of her grandmother, as modern ambitions clash with deep-rooted traditions.

Dr. Mirgani, who creates under the moniker Suzannah Mirghani, is one of only a few Sudanese women to write and direct a feature-length drama about Sudan, and the first to do so for Cinema. “There are only around ten feature length dramas ever shown in theatres by Sudanese filmmakers, none by women,” she noted.

With the war in Sudan ongoing since April 2023, the film is also a production triumph. “I waited for over a



Screening of *Cotton Queen* at the Venice Film Festival.

year for the war to finish so I could film in Sudan. I wanted to spend the considerable film budget in my country, but eventually chose to film in Egypt, where my Sudanese actors had taken refuge.”

Born to Sudanese and

Russian parents, Dr. Mirgani spent her formative years in Sudan before moving with her family to Doha at 16, where she went on to build her career as both a filmmaker and academic. Due to the intersection of her subject matter and life in the

Gulf region, the film secured support from every major film grant-maker in the Middle East—including the Doha Film Institute (DFI), Red Sea Film Fund, and the Arab Fund for Art and Culture.

“I am indebted to my mentor at DFI, Annemarie Jacir, who encouraged me to bring this story to light and became my creative producer, and the support from GU-Q, which allowed me not to have to choose between my academic and creative work,” said Mirgani.

Her filmmaking emerged from her academic research as Assistant Director for Publications at GU-Q’s Center for International and Regional Studies. “The idea for the film emerged from a research project on Food Security in the Middle East,” she explains, adding: “I became interested in the connections between Africa and the Gulf region, home to a large Sudanese diaspora, and how remittances and exchange have mutually contributed to development.” She developed a film

short “Al Sit,” which now streams on Netflix, and is the author and editor of a number of books examining the intersection of politics and popular culture.

Dr. Mirgani’s cinematic voice, rooted in rich imagery and deep cultural insight, arrives at a critical moment for Sudanese storytelling. Alongside her film work, she is at the helm of GU-Q’s upcoming Hiwaraat conference, “Seeing Sudan: Politics through Art.” The three-day event, which kicks off on September 18, will gather leading artists, academics, authors, journalists, and activists to confront Sudan’s devastating war that has displaced nearly nine million people, and caused widespread famine and death.

With *Cotton Queen* sharing Sudanese stories on the global stage and Seeing Sudan convening critical dialogue in Doha, Dr. Mirgani continues to bridge worlds—illuminating her homeland’s struggles and strengths through both art and scholarship.

Japan political party to install AI leader

TOKYO: An upstart Japanese political party said yesterday it will install an artificial intelligence as leader after its maverick founder quit following a disastrous showing in recent elections.

The Path to Rebirth party, which was launched in January by Shinji Ishimaru, a former mayor of a small city in western Japan, does not have a policy platform and its members are free to set their own agendas.

Ishimaru unexpectedly came second in the 2024 Tokyo gubernatorial election thanks to a successful online campaign but he quit the party after it failed to pick up any seats in this year’s upper house elections.

“The new leader will be AI,” Koki Okumura, a doctoral student of AI research who described himself as an assistant to the new leader, told a news conference.

Details about the AI are yet to be decided, including when and how it will be implemented, said the 25-year-old student at Kyoto University, who will nominally be the party’s leader.

The AI will not dictate political activities of party members but will focus on decisions such as distribution of its resources among members, for example, said Okumura, who recently won a party contest to succeed Ishimaru. While attracting media attention, the party has struggled to win seats. — **AFP**

Cinema legend Robert Redford dies at 89

LOS ANGELES: Cinema legend Robert Redford, a screen great both in front of and behind the camera whose career spanned six decades, died early yesterday morning at his home in Utah, his publicist said. He was 89.

Redford died in his sleep, and a specific cause was not given, according to a statement by Cindi Berger, the chief executive of publicity firm Rogers & Cowan PMK.

“Robert Redford passed away on September 16, 2025, at his home at Sundance in the mountains of Utah -- the place he loved, surrounded by those he loved,” Berger said.

The tousled-haired and freckled heartthrob made his breakthrough alongside Paul Newman as the affable outlaw in the Western “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” in 1969.

After 20 years as an actor, he moved behind the camera, becoming an Oscar-winning director and co-founding the flagship Sundance festival for aspiring independent filmmakers.



A committed environmental activist, Redford also fought to preserve the natural landscape and resources of Utah, where he lived.

Born Charles Robert Redford Jr. on August 18, 1936, in Santa Monica, California, he was the son of an accountant.

Redford had four children with his first wife, Lola Van Wagenen, one of whom died as an infant.

He married German artist and longtime girlfriend Sibylle Szaggars in 2009.

A household name in English-language cinema around the world, Redford won a directing Oscar for his 1980 film “Ordinary People,” as well as an honorary award in 2002.

“Robert Redford’s work as an actor, director and producer always represents the man himself: the intellectual, the artist, the cowboy,” Barbra Streisand said in 2002 when presenting him with the Lifetime Achievement honorary Oscar.

Tributes began to pour in yesterday for the screen great.

“One of the lions has passed. Rest in peace my lovely friend,” said Meryl Streep, in a brief emailed statement.

Jane Fonda mourned Redford, a fellow activist, as “a beautiful person in every way.” “It hit me hard this morning when I read that Bob was gone. I can’t stop crying. He meant a lot to me and was a beautiful person in every way. He stood for an America we have to keep fighting for,” she said.

President Donald Trump hailed the actor as “great.” “Robert Redford had a series of years where there was nobody better,” Trump told reporters as he left the White House after a journalist told him that Redford had died. — **AFP**

Germans turn to health apps as insurers foot the bill

SCHLEIDEN: German doctors are increasingly prescribing smartphone health apps alongside pills and therapy to patients, marking a growing trend towards digital healthcare.

Civil servant Mona Noe, 30, has long kept close watch over her diet in order to reduce cramps and bloating caused by irritable bowel syndrome.

Noe managed to persuade her doctor to prescribe her the app Cara Care, where she receives wellness tips and keeps a food diary to identify her pain triggers.

“It is difficult to do it by yourself,” she said, preparing a vegetable stir fry without peppers or tomatoes at her home in Schleiden in western Germany, as per the app’s instructions.

“The app has transformed my cooking by helping me avoid certain foods.” Applications that help patients quit smoking, fight obesity or improve their mental health often cost hundreds of euros a month, but insurance companies are helping by footing the bill.

The programme Noe uses

is one of 56 now covered by German health insurers, signalling the country’s turn towards digital health over traditional pen and paper options.

The digital health tools, known as “DiGA” in Germany, have been available on prescription since 2020, typically on three-month renewable subscriptions.

In the five years since the programme began, more than one million prescriptions have been written, according to a study by digital healthcare sector association SVDGV.

Johannes Patze, a doctor in Frankfurt, said he prescribes them “almost daily” -- particularly for mental health support while patients are on a waiting list for a therapy appointment. The apps provide patients with personalised mood tracking, online consultations with professionals, meditation sessions and motivational notifications.

The benefit is that “they’re available around the clock, 24/7”. But they come with a cost. A three-month health app subscription costs €600 (\$705) on average. — **AFP**

China launches test satellite for Internet

BEIJING: China successfully sent a test satellite for satellite Internet technology into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, located northwest of the country, yesterday.

The satellite was launched aboard a Long March-2C carrier rocket, with the Yuanzheng-1S (Expedition-1S) upper stage attached to the rocket.

The satellite has successfully reached its preset orbit.

This was the 595th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series. — **QNA**

TRENDING IN QATAR

On The Peninsula social media platforms

Luxembourg says will recognise Palestinian State

Luxembourg has said it will join a raft of countries recognising the State of Palestine at a United Nations summit in New York next week.

Australia says social media ban will not age test all users

Australia will not require social media giants to verify the ages of all users under its ban on under-16s using the platforms, Canberra said.

'We pulled the children out in pieces'

As drones buzzed overhead in the morning sun, Palestinians gently lifted from the rubble a blanket holding a body.

Tesla faces US auto safety investigation over handles

US regulators opened an investigation into whether some Tesla vehicle doors are defective, citing incidents in which exterior handles stopped working.