QATAR ↘ 03
QATAR REAFFIRMS ITS FIRM COMMITMENT TO UN CHARTER



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QNB ACHIEVES ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFICATION



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PLAYING IN THE FIFA U-17 WORLD CUP WILL BE AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE



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QATAR IN TOP GEAR

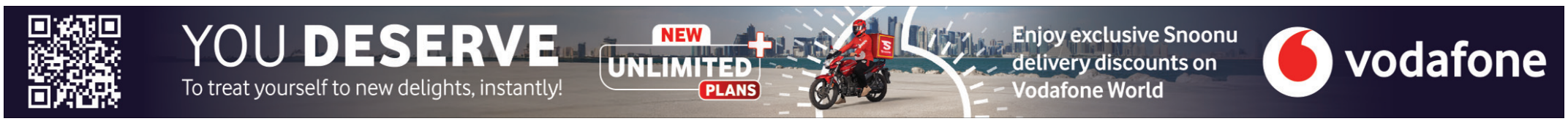
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The Peninsula

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Trump praises Amir's role in supporting peace, security in region

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani met yesterday with President of the United States of America, H E Donald Trump, at Al Udeid Air Base.

At the outset of the meeting, H H the Amir welcomed the US President and his accompanying delegation, expressing his pleasure at meeting the President during his stopover in Qatar, and reaffirming his enduring commitment to further advancing the bilateral relationship between the two friendly nations and elevating it to new heights, while wishing H E the President and his delegation a successful trip.

For his part, the US President expressed his thanks and gratitude for meeting H H the Amir, commending His Highness's role and the State of Qatar's supportive efforts toward peace and security in the region, as well as the strong bilateral relationship between Qatar and the United States, and expressing his aspiration to deepen cooperation across various fields.

During the meeting, both sides discussed avenues for strengthening strategic cooperation between the two countries across different areas of partnership, along with key regional and global issues, particularly the current developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, with a focus on supporting peace in the region and reinforcing the agreement to end the war in Gaza and ensure the implementation of all its provisions by the parties.





Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani meeting President of the United States of America H E Donald Trump at Al Udeid Air Base, yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Chief of the Amiri Diwan H E Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Khulaifi, along with several senior officials.

On the US side, the meeting was attended by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and a number of members of the official delegation accompanying the US President. — *QNA*

Government Service Centers deliver over 146,000 services in Q3 2025

SANAULLAH ATAULLAH
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Government Service Centers have demonstrated strong and consistent performance throughout the third quarter of 2025, completing a total of 146,470 services across July, August, and September.

The results reflect the ongoing commitment of government entities to improving service efficiency, enhancing public satisfaction, and advancing the goals of the Third National Development Strategy (2024–2030).

According to the figures released by the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau (CGB) recently, in September 2025, the centers achieved a notable milestone by delivering 50,173 services, reaffirming a steady rise in productivity and responsiveness.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs led all participating entities with 20,070 services, highlighting its high-demand portfolio and continuous development of digital and in-person solutions designed to simplify procedures for citizens and residents.

It was followed by the Ministry of Justice, which recorded 11,117 completed transactions, and the Ministry of Labour, which delivered 6,670 services. The performance reflects the dedication of public employees to ensuring streamlined and accessible services with reduced processing times.

According to the figures released by the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau (CGB) recently, in September 2025, the centers achieved a notable milestone by delivering 50,173 services, reaffirming a steady rise in productivity and responsiveness.

The month of August 2025 showcased similarly strong results, with 43,895 services completed at Government Service Centers. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs again topped the list with 19,190 services, while the Ministry of Justice followed with 9,397 services, and the Ministry of Labour recorded 5,963 services. August's performance builds on continuous service enhancement programmes carried out across government entities, focusing on more efficient workflows and customer-centric delivery models. ➔P2

QPHI aims to make precision health part of routine care over next decade

FAZEENA SALEEM
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Qatar Precision Health Institute (QPHI) is setting its sights on a bold transformation to make precision health part of routine care for people in Qatar over the next decade. This vision marks a defining shift toward a more personalised, preventive, and data-driven health system that reflects the country's growing investment in science and innovation.

"Our priority is to make precision health part of everyday care," said Acting Director of the Qatar Genome Program at QPHI, Dr. Radja Badji, in an interview with *The Peninsula*.

"We will start where Qatar's needs are greatest and show measurable gains in clinical care, from safer prescribing and earlier diagnosis to better outcomes," she added.

Dr. Badji outlined a vision that puts patients and prevention at the centre of Qatar's health system, blending genetics, lifestyle insights, and clinical data to deliver more personalised care. "We aim to shift the system upstream by weaving genetics and lifestyle insights into routine checkups and targeted programs, so prevention becomes personal," she said.

QPHI plays a pivotal role in advancing Qatar National Vision 2030 and the National Health Strategy, both of which emphasise innovation, sustainability, and population well-being.

At the heart of this strategy lies a strong commitment to privacy, trust, and local capacity-building. "All of this rests on public trust, by promoting gold-standard privacy, responsible data governance, and real support for participants," said Dr. Badji. "To sustain impact, we will grow local talent by training clinicians and scientists, deepening collaborations, and partnering with industry without compromising public benefit."

According to Dr. Badji, QPHI plays a pivotal role in advancing Qatar National Vision 2030 and the National Health Strategy, both of which emphasise innovation, sustainability, and population well-being.

"QPHI is one of the engines to get us there," she said. "We turn cutting-edge science, like genomics and data science, into better prevention, earlier diagnosis, and safer treatments. In simple terms, we help the country move from 'one-size-fits-all' care to truly precision health."

Dr. Badji described QPHI's approach as a "tight feedback loop" between research and practice. "We learn from large-scale cohort data, including health records, genomics, lifestyle and then test what is promising in small, well-designed pilots inside the health system," she said.

"When a pilot clearly improves safety or outcomes, we scale it with our clinical partners. It's a living cycle: science serving patients, and patient outcomes sharpening the science."

One of the most promising frontiers is pharmacogenomics, which tailors drug prescriptions based on a patient's genetic profile. "Working with cardiologists and pharmacists, we use genetic insights to inform prescriptions of key cardiovascular medicines such as clopidogrel, warfarin, and statins," said Dr. Badji. "The aim is to ensure each patient gets the right drug at the right dose, with less trial and error." ➔P2

Qatar joins UN Convention against Cybercrime

HANOI: The State of Qatar signed the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime during an official ceremony held yesterday in Hanoi, Vietnam, with broad international participation.

The Convention was signed on behalf of the State of Qatar by Minister of State for International Cooperation H E Dr. Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad.

In a speech during the ceremony, the Minister of State for International Cooperation said that the adoption of the UN Convention against Cybercrime represents an important turning point in the international system and reflects a collective will to protect the security of peoples in the digital space, noting that cybersecurity is no longer merely a technical issue, but has become a pillar of international peace and security.

Her Excellency further said that the State of Qatar was among the first to support the development of a comprehensive agreement based on international cooperation, protecting infrastructure, and strengthening national capacities, especially in developing countries.

She noted that the agreement fills a gap in the international legal system and enables countries to work together to confront cyber threats that affect human security and the stability of societies.

Combating cybercrime is an act of peace, Her Excellency said, noting that protecting the digital space contributes to preventing conflicts, building trust, and supporting dialogue between countries.

From this standpoint, she added, the State of Qatar's commitment to cybersecurity aligns with its established role in mediation, building bridges, and promoting peaceful solutions. Just as Qatar works to resolve conflicts in the real world, it also strives to prevent conflicts in the digital realm, believing that true peace encompasses all dimensions of human life. — *QNA* ➔P2

Qatar Embassy in Washington celebrates opening of new building

WASHINGTON: Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the United States H E Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani inaugurated the new building of the Qatari Embassy in Washington, DC, in a ceremony attended by a number of members of the US administration and Congress, prominent political, economic, and social figures, policy advisors, think tank representatives, and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps.

In his address during the ceremony, His Excellency affirmed that the opening of the new embassy building is a clear reflection of the strong and enduring relations between the State of Qatar and the United States of America.

He expressed hope that the new mission premises would serve as a new milestone in the ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation between the two countries across all fields.

The Ambassador reiterated Qatar's continued commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, and educational spheres, noting that the new embassy building serves as a platform for promoting engagement and mutual understanding.

He emphasized the importance of the ongoing and steadfast coordination between the State of Qatar and the United States in establishing stability and peace, and in achieving prosperity and well-being for the peoples of the region through cooperation based on the principles of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the sovereignty of states.



Ambassador of Qatar to US H E Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani speaking during the inauguration of the new building (right) of the Qatari Embassy in Washington.



Held in partnership with Qatar Foundation, Qatari Ministry of Defense, Qatar Airways, and Formula One, the ceremony featured a musical performance by Qatari composer and artist Dana Al Fardan, whose work reflected Qatari culture and folk heritage. The new building is located in the heart of Washington, DC, occupying the historic administrative building of the Carnegie Institution for Science.

Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965, the building is considered one of the most significant architectural landmarks in the city.

The facility includes dedicated spaces for diplomatic engagement, cultural and educational programs, consular services, and community outreach, enhancing the embassy's mission to deepen ties between the peoples of both nations and to promote cooperation in trade, security, education, and cultural exchange. — *QNA*

The Peninsula
ESTABLISHED IN 1996

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EDITORIAL

Qatar in top gear

QATAR is accelerating on the global motorsport map with a packed calendar of world-class events and a growing focus on nurturing young talent. According to a recent announcement, endurance racing will return to Lusail International Circuit (LIC) next year as the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) kicks off the 2026 season with the Qatar 1812km race from March 26 to 28.

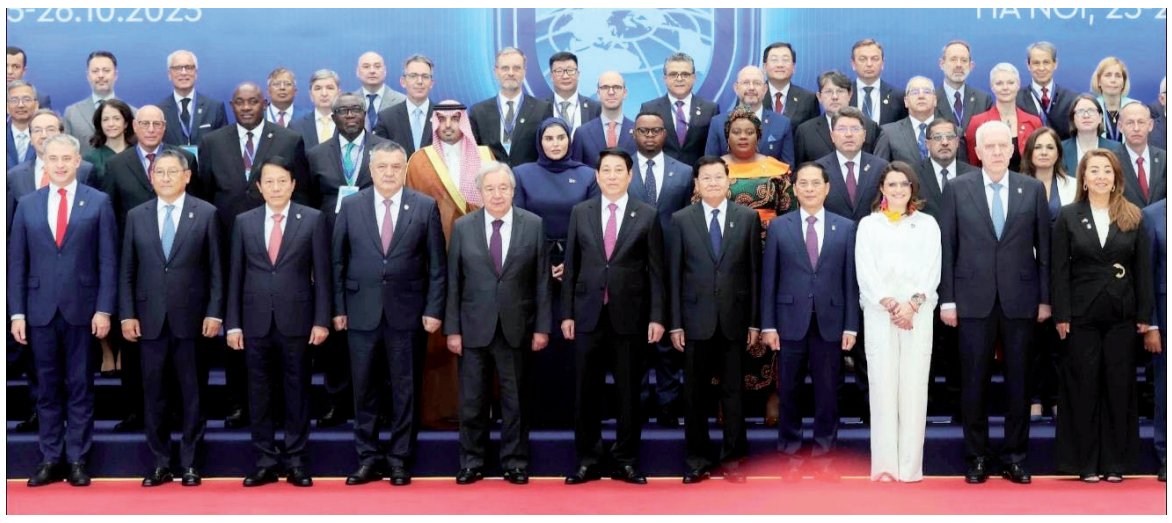
Named in honour of Qatar National Day, the endurance challenge will see Hypercars and LMGT3 machines battle for up to ten hours, testing drivers' speed, strategy and stamina in one of the world's premier long-distance competitions. From MotoGP to Formula 1, the LIC consistently attracts international attention and growing crowds. Tickets for the 2026 MotoGP Qatar Airways Grand Prix, running from April 10 to 12, went on sale last week, building anticipation for the night race, a unique spectacle in the MotoGP calendar. Fans will see stars such as Marc Marquez, Francesco Bagnaia and rising talent Pedro Acosta competing under the lights, making it one of the most visually stunning events of the season.

Before MotoGP, all eyes will be on Formula 1, returning to Lusail from November 28 to 30, 2025, for the Qatar Grand Prix. The weekend promises non-stop action with the F1 Sprint, Formula 2 and Porsche Carrera Cup, alongside live concerts by Metallica and Seal. A vibrant fan zone will celebrate Qatari culture, adding a local touch to this global spectacle.

Qatar is also supporting motorsport at the grassroots level. The MENA Karting Championship Nations Cup 2025 concluded at Lusail Karting Circuit yesterday, bringing together over 150 drivers from 18 countries in a thrilling competition. FIA President and Nations Cup Founder Mohammed Ben Sulayem highlighted that the event reflects the growth of motorsport in the region while creating new opportunities for young talent. Abdulrahman bin Abdullatif Al Mannai, President of QMMF and Lusail International Circuit, emphasised Qatar's pride in providing a platform for young drivers to develop their skills and passion for the sport. He also praised the dedication of competitors, teams, officials and marshals, whose efforts are crucial to the success of such events.

From endurance racing and MotoGP to Formula 1 and karting, Qatar is shifting into high gear. Its state-of-the-art circuit, international events and strong focus on nurturing emerging talent position the country as a leader in global motorsport. Fans and competitors alike can look forward to a season of thrilling races, unforgettable moments and a growing culture of speed, precision and teamwork across the region.

Qatar joins UN Convention against Cybercrime



Minister of State for International Cooperation H E Dr. Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad with other participants in Hanoi, Vietnam. BELOW: H E Al Misnad signing the UN Convention against Cybercrime on behalf of Qatar.

FROM PAGE 1

She noted the establishment of the UN Regional Centre for Combating Cybercrime in Doha, which will contribute to capacity building and strengthening international cooperation, particularly in serving developing countries, in preparation for the implementation of this Convention.

She affirmed the State of Qatar's commitment to being a reliable international partner in building peace and protecting security, in both the real and digital worlds, out of its conviction that protecting human beings and preserving their dignity is the essence of all security and peace.

The Convention iis the first UN criminal justice treaty adopted in more than 20 years, and the first global treaty on



cybercrime and the exchange of electronic evidence related to serious crimes.

QPHI aims to make precision health part of routine care over next decade

FROM PAGE 1

She added that QPHI plans to integrate pharmacogenomic decision support directly into electronic medical records so that "information appears precisely when needed." With genomics comes responsibility, especially in how data are collected, used, and shared.

Dr. Badji emphasised QPHI's rigorous ethical framework. "We start with informed, granular consent in clear, everyday language," she said. "Participants can choose what they want to share and learn, and they can change those choices later. We keep data in-country under strict governance, with oversight



Dr. Radja Badji

by ethics committees."

QPHI's Return of Genomic Information programme also reflects this participant-first approach. "We only return findings that can change care now in Qatar, selected gene results with available screening or prevention, and pharmacogenomic results that guide safer prescribing," Dr. Badji said. "Results are confirmed in accredited labs, explained by genetic counsellors, and linked to the right clinical follow-up."

Recruitment for QPHI's national cohort is community-based and voluntary. "We meet people where they are at clinics, universities, workplaces, and outreach events," said Dr. Badji. "Trust starts with plain-language consent and continues with transparent communication, real support, and clear guidance about how data are protected and used."

Looking ahead, QPHI also aims to strengthen precision health leadership across the MENA region. Dr. Badji highlighted Tanawwo, a knowledge-sharing network whose name means "diversity," as a cornerstone of that effort.

"Through Tanawwo, we're bringing together ministries, hospitals, and universities to share expertise and co-design solutions," she said. "Our joint work focuses on regional priorities like cardiovascular risk, diabetes, rare diseases, and pharmacogenomics, so science translates into safer prescribing and better prevention for everyone."

'Employee-first practices put Qatar's hospitality firms on regional map'

JOEL JOHNSON
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar's hospitality sector has emerged as a regional frontrunner, setting itself apart through innovative human resource practices and a commitment to continuous development.

In its latest ranking Great Place to Work, the global authority on workplace culture, has unveiled this year's list of GCC countries in the hospitality category including Qatar-based entities, such as McDonald's Qatar, Marriott International, and Harvest Coffee, listed in the top 25 rankings for fostering high-trust environments and prioritising employee well-being in one of the region's most dynamic industries.

"Qatari hospitality organisations have distinguished themselves in the region through strategic practices that prioritise employee support and effective management," Jules Youssef, Managing Director for Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, and Bahrain at Great Place To Work Middle East, told *The Peninsula*. "According to recent data, 93 percent of employees report being provided with the necessary resources and equipment to perform their job effectively, and 90 percent state they receive training or development opportunities, underscoring the sector's focus on career growth and skill enhancement."

Experts note that these initiatives have driven exceptional service quality in positioning Qatar as a leader in "employee-centric" hospitality management. "Great Place to Work Middle East assessed the Best Workplaces in the Hospitality sector by leveraging the comprehensive capabilities of our Emprising platform and Trust Index survey, which are designed to capture in-depth insights into employee experiences and workplace culture," Youssef said.

Meanwhile, the Trust Index survey gathers anonymous feedback directly from employees, providing a robust measure of the level of trust and the quality of the organisational environment. The official said, "By analysing the data, we identified companies that excel in fostering a positive and high-trust culture, critical factors in creating a great workplace within the hospitality industry."

The report also revealed that leadership plays a pivotal role in defining the best workplace. Youssef said, "Our findings show that 91 percent of employees feel management clearly communicates expectations, while another 91 percent say they can approach management with any reasonable question and receive a straightforward answer. Additionally, 90 percent believe management effectively supports their needs, reflecting an open, transparent, and responsive leadership culture."

Industry leaders also signal that such leadership practices built on clarity, openness, and support are key to enhancing employee engagement and ensuring consistent service excellence in hospitality operations.

As the country's hospitality market continues to expand, the industry faces both opportunities and challenges in adapting to rapid economic and technological shifts. "Qatar's hospitality market is experiencing significant growth, driven by a dynamic environment that demands resilience and adaptability from organisations," Youssef explained.

He further stated, "Our research highlights that 92 percent of employees in Qatar's hospitality sector quickly adapt to changes necessary for their organisation's success. This agility enables companies to respond swiftly to market shifts, adopt new technologies, and meet evolving customer expectations, all while maintaining exceptional service standards."

"By cultivating a resilient workforce and embracing change as an opportunity rather than a threat, Qatar's hospitality firms are positioning themselves for sustained growth and competitive advantage amid global uncertainties." Youssef added.

Government Service Centers deliver over 146,000 services in Q3 2025

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, performance peaked in July 2025, during which the centers completed 52,402 services. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributed 23,190 services, maintaining the highest transactional outputs for the quarter. The Ministry of Justice completed 11,031 services, while the Ministry of Labour delivered 8,480 services, reflecting heightened demand and proactive service availability during the summer period.

To recognize the teams driving these achievements, the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau extended appreciation to employees who demonstrated exceptional performance in September. Their role in maintaining quality and efficiency across service centers highlights a strong public-sector culture built on professionalism, accountability and continuous improvement. The Bureau emphasized that service evaluation remains a cornerstone of government development efforts. Beneficiaries are encouraged to assess their experience through post-service surveys that directly inform operational enhancements. The feedback system allows the government to continuously align services with the needs and expectations of the community, ensuring faster response times and higher reliability across transactions.

As part of its ongoing mission, the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau continues to track and measure performance across all Government Service Centers. The Bureau reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining service excellence, supporting workforce development and adopting innovative technologies that elevate the standard of government service provision nationwide.

As part of its ongoing mission, the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau continues to track and measure performance across all Government Service Centers. The Bureau reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining service excellence, supporting workforce development and adopting innovative technologies that elevate the standard of government service provision nationwide.

The strong achievements seen in the third quarter of 2025 reinforce Qatar's broader transformation agenda, demonstrating measurable progress in strengthening institutional performance, elevating government efficiency and advancing national development priorities. With growing service demand and rising public expectations, Government Service Centers remain a vital platform for accessible, seamless and responsive public services across the country.

Amir condoles with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani, and Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani sent on Friday cables of condolences to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the death of HRH Princess Nouf bint Saud bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. — ***QNA***

Amir condoles with Saudi Arabia's King

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani, and Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani sent yesterday cables of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the passing of H H Princess Haifa bint Turki bin Mohammed bin Saud Al Kabir Al Saud. — ***QNA***

Amir congratulates Kazak President on Republic Day

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H E Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, on the anniversary of the Republic 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 HE Prime Minister of tKazakhstan Olzhas Abayevich Bektenov on this occasion. — ***QNA***

Amir greets Zambia President on Independence Day

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani, and Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani sent on Friday cables of congratulations to HE President of the Republic of Zambia Hakainde Hichilema on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. — ***QNA***

Al Misnad meets Vietnamese Deputy FM

HANOI: Minister of State for International Cooperation H E Dr. Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad met Friday in Hanoi with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam H E Nguyen Minh Hang.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with cooperation relations between the two countries and means to support and develop them, in addition to a number of topics of common interest. — ***QNA***

Al Khulaifi, Norwegian counterpart hold talks

DOHA: Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs H E Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh Al Khulaifi met on Friday with State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway H E Andreas Kravik, currently visiting the country.

During the meeting, they discussed the strategic cooperation between the two countries and ways to support and enhance it, as well as developments in the region, particularly in Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories, Sudan, Afghanistan, and the Latin American continent, in addition to a number of issues of common interest.

The Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed the State of Qatar's support for all international efforts aimed at achieving peace and stability in the region.

For his part, the State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway expressed his deep appreciation for Qatar's efforts in mediation and conflict resolution, praising the active role it plays on the international stage and the close partnership relations that bind the two countries. — ***QNA***

Qatar reaffirms continued support, firm commitment to UN Charter

NEW YORK: Qatar has renewed its unwavering commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, affirming its continued support for the international organisation, the strengthening of its partnerships, and its backing of reform efforts aimed at enhancing the UN's effectiveness and responsiveness to global challenges.

This came in the statement delivered by Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations H E Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani, during the Open Debate of the Security Council on "The United Nations Organization: Looking into the Future," held at the UN Headquarters in New York.

She noted that over the past eighty years, the United Nations has served as an indispensable global platform for promoting multilateralism and realising the purposes of the Charter. It has achieved notable successes in preventing and containing numerous conflicts around the world, reflecting the organization's critical role in maintaining international peace and security.

Qatar has remained a strategic partner committed to the Charter and objectives of the United Nations.

Sheikha Alya emphasized that Qatar has remained a strategic partner committed to the Charter and objectives of the United Nations, highlighting its leading role in mediation efforts, peaceful conflict resolution, and de-escalation in various regions across the globe.



Permanent Representative of Qatar H E Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani speaking at the UN.

She outlined Qatar's recent achievements, notably its successful mediation, alongside Egypt, Turkiye, and the United States of America, which led to a ceasefire agreement and the end of the war in Gaza, signed on the 13th of this month.

This agreement was the result of two years of tireless efforts aimed at halting bloodshed, ending humanitarian suffering, and securing the release of prisoners and hostages.

Sheikha Alya added that Qatar continues its efforts in mediation and de-escalation, pointing to its hosting earlier this month of delegations from the Government of Pakistan and the caretaker government of Afghanistan, as part of its initiative to facilitate dialogue and promote stability between the two countries, in cooperation with Turkiye.

She also highlighted Qatar's outreach to the African continent, noting that in March, it hosted a dialogue between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

These efforts culminated in the signing of a mechanism for monitoring and verifying the ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on October 14, in accordance with the "Doha Declaration of Principles" signed in July 2025. She expressed gratitude to the United States for its fruitful partnership in this regard.

Sheikha Alya stressed Qatar's call for a comprehensive review of the United Nations system, focusing on modernizing working methods and ensuring the implementation of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions in a way that guarantees accountability and avoids selectivity. — ***QNA***

Arab Cultural House opens book fair in Germany

BERLIN: The Arab Cultural House "Al Diwan" of the Embassy of Qatar in Germany, inaugurated its third annual Arabic Book Fair in Berlin.

The three-day event features participation from approximately 100 Arab and international publishing houses.

Ambassador of Qatar to Germany H E Abdullah bin Ibrahim Al Hamar stated in his opening remarks that Al Diwan Book Fair embodies Qatar's vision of building bridges of communication between nations.

He emphasised Al Diwan's commitment to engaging leading Arab and international authors and publishers in the fair's activities.

He noted that Qatar's vision for fostering dialogue is rooted in extensive experience in managing and leading conversations and creating conducive environments, whether on the political and diplomatic level or in cultural, artistic, and creative domains.

The opening ceremony included speeches by Director of Libraries at the Ministry of Culture and Director of the Doha International Book Fair, Jassim Al Buainain; Claudia Kaiser, representative of the Frankfurt International Book Fair; Secretary-General of the Arab Publishers Association Bachar Chebaro; and Head of Culture, Society and Media Relations for North Africa, Near and Middle East at the German Federal Foreign Office, Carsten Wilms.


Ambassador of Qatar to Germany H E Abdullah bin Ibrahim Al Hamar and other dignitaries at the book fair in Berlin.

The accompanying programme features panel discussions, highlighting the role of book fairs in cultural exchange between nations, the challenges of translation between Arabic and German, and a seminar on the Qatari novel model as part of broader dialogues on contemporary Gulf literature.

Participants include Dr. Noora Al Khunji, Professor of Arabic Literature and Criticism at Qatar University, and renowned translator Dr. Claudia Ott.

The fair also hosts a distinguished panel on classical and Nabati poetry. — ***QNA***

Health Care Endowment Fund boosts national blood services with QR2.5m mobile unit

THE PENINSULA

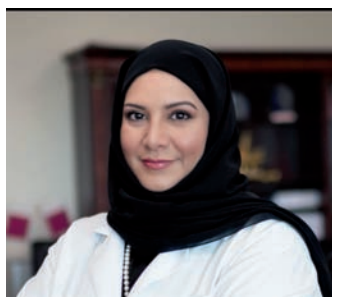
DOHA: In an outstanding model of institutional integration between government sectors, the strategic partnership between the General Directorate of Endowments at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has resulted in qualitative achievements in enhancing blood donation efforts.

This was achieved through the Health Care Endowment Fund's support for the Mobile Blood Unit with a value of QR2.5m, which enabled medical teams to reach multiple areas and implement successful field campaigns.

Chair of HMC's Department of Medical Laboratories and Pathology Dr. Enas Al-Kuwari **(pictured)** affirmed that the endowment support represented a vital feeder for developing blood donation services and strengthening the national inventory.

She noted that the number of donors reached 13,788 people, and 9,404 blood units were collected, reflecting the direct positive impact of the endowment initiative in supporting the health sector's needs and bridging logistical gaps for field campaigns.

Al-Kuwari added that the relationship between the two institutions transcended the concept of financial support, transforming into a developmental partnership based on a



sustainable vision for serving human health. She emphasised that the General Directorate of Endowments has become a true institutional partner that contributes to achieving HMC's goals and enhances the values of solidarity and social responsibility.

She clarified that the Mobile Endowment Unit provided by the General Directorate of Endowments is not merely a means of transport, but a mobile endowment project that embodies the spirit of Islamic giving and primarily serves human health. She indicated that the initiative contributed to raising the readiness of medical institutions for emergencies and complex surgeries.

She stated that the endowment project helped to bridge the logistical gaps that medical teams faced during the organisation of external campaigns. It also contributed to raising community awareness among citizens and residents about the importance of blood donation.

She revealed that both parties have future plans to expand the scope of joint initiatives, considering the current partnership model a foundation for new, qualitative health partnerships.

Al-Kuwari thanked and appreciated the benefactors and supporters of the Health Care Endowment Bank.



GISR hosts talks on Ukraine war's implication for Gulf region

THE PENINSULA



Ambassador Dr. Mohamed Ali Chihi with other officials at the roundtable.

DOHA: The Global Institute for Strategic Research (GISR) at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) concluded a high-level policy roundtable examining the implications of the Ukraine war for the Gulf region.

Held at Education City's Minaretein, the event titled "The Ukraine War Through a Gulf Lens" gathered experts, academics, and international observers to analyze critical intersections between the conflict and Gulf interests, particularly in food security, energy markets, and humanitarian diplomacy. The event was also attended by ambassadors and heads of mission from embassies based in Doha.

The Ukraine war has created unprecedented global disruptions that resonate deeply across the Gulf region, which stands at the crossroads of global supply chain vulnerabilities and shifting geopolitical realignments. As major energy exporters and food importers, the Gulf states face both opportunities and risks as a result of this development.

Additionally, Qatar's successful mediation efforts in various international crises uniquely position it to lead conflict resolution, particularly in addressing the humanitarian dimensions of family separation and civilian protection.

Following opening remarks by Ambassador Dr. Mohamed Ali Chihi, Executive Director, GISR, proceedings moved on to a roundtable titled "Exploring Common Interests: Ukraine and the Arab States". The session explored historical foundations and current Ukraine-Qatar relations, with a focus on Qatar's role as a mediator. It also analyzed President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's recent diplomatic outreach on Palestine, Syria, and Sudan as a strategic bridge for engagement with Arab and Gulf states and mapping future areas for Ukraine-Arab collaboration. This was followed by a roundtable on "Lessons from Ukraine: Regional & International Security".

Reflecting on proceedings, Ambassador Dr. Chihi stated: "This event holds particular significance as it reflects Qatar's role as a major diplomatic actor, committed to advancing dialogue and peaceful solutions to some of the world's most complex crises. In the context of the Russia–Ukraine conflict, it also reinforces HBKU's position as a leading hub for public policy dialogue, championing independent analysis, engaging policymakers, and fostering a diversity of thought to address pressing global challenges through an Arab perspective and a forward-looking vision."

Another roundtable, "Regional Vulnerabilities: Energy Security in the Shadow of War," spotlighted the impact of the war on global energy markets and implications for Gulf producers. It also assessed the geopolitics of energy infrastructure, examining the short and long-term impacts of primary and secondary sanctions on Russian oil and gas. A subsequent roundtable titled, "Regional Vulnerabilities: Food Security in the Shadow of War" assessed the impact of the war on global grain markets and Gulf food import strategies and explored regional cooperation mechanisms for crisis response.

Sharjah Museums Authority opens 'Shaped by Stones: The Tools that Made Prehistoric Qatar' exhibition

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: In a remarkable cultural event that revisits humanity's earliest beginnings in the region, Sheikh Majid bin Sultan bin Saqer Al Qasimi, Chairman of Districts Affairs Department, inaugurated "Shaped by Stones: The Tools that Made Prehistoric Qatar" exhibition at the Sharjah Archaeology Museum, organised in collaboration between Sharjah Museums Authority and Qatar Museums.

The opening was attended by Aisha Rashid Deemas, Director General of the Sharjah Museums Authority, and Maissa Saif Al Suwaidi, Director of the Sharjah Museums Authority, along with Halima Humaid Al Owais, Vice Chairman of the Sharjah Consultative Council, and Issa Yousef, Director General of the Sharjah Archaeology Authority, in addition to representatives from the Qatari Consulate and Qatar Museums, as well as a number of specialists in the fields of archaeology and culture. The exhibition will run from October 20, 2025, to April 30, 2026.

The exhibition showcases a carefully curated selection of stone tools that defined human life in prehistoric Qatar, revealing their role in the evolution of civilization, modes of living, and adaptation to the environment in ancient times.

Organised as part of the Authority's ongoing commitment to solidifying Sharjah's position as a cultural and intellectual beacon, the exhibition introduces audiences to the depth of human heritage while emphasizing the long-standing cultural ties that have connected Gulf societies to millennia.

Aisha Rashid Deemas, Director General of Sharjah Museums Authority, said: "This exhibition offers a unique window into the earliest chapters of human history in the region, reviving the stories of early mankind through stone tools that stand as enduring witnesses to human development, adaptability, and creativity."

QatarEnergy LNG
Tender Invitation

قطر للطاقة QatarEnergy LNG

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (USD)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/ITD/7154/25 Replacement of legacy PAGA System and establishment of a long-term Service Support Agreement (SSA)	24/10/2025 to 06/11/2025	0	500,000	24/11/2025

Scope of Work:
The Contractor shall be responsible for the replacement of the legacy PAGA system at all onshore sites and the complete Page/Party system at all offshore sites with a new, state-of-the-art PAGA system. The replacement shall include all necessary design, engineering, procurement, installation, software configuration, testing and commissioning activities. Following system commissioning, the Contractor shall provide comprehensive technical support and maintenance services under a long-term service support agreement (SSA).

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

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

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

Media City Qatar, Euronews announce four new programmes from Doha

THE PENINSULA



DOHA: Media City Qatar and Euronews, Europe's leading news organization, have announced the launch of four new original programs to be produced in Doha, facilitated by Media City Qatar. Building on their 2021 partnership, the productions represent the new step in contributing to Qatar's positioning as a hub for world-class content production and in expanding Euronews' coverage of the country and the wider region.

The line-up of four original programs includes Qatar in Motion, which looks beyond headlines to spotlight people and progress in the State; Grand Voyager, a travel series blending bucket-list destinations with hidden gems; Cult, which captures the pulse of art, music, fashion, and entertainment; and Focus, offering in-depth reporting on business developments in Qatar and their global connections.

Speaking on the occasion, Eng. Jassim Mohamed Al Khori, CEO of Media City Qatar, said: "Over the past four years, we have worked closely with Euronews to bring world-class media expertise to Qatar. This step comes as an extension of our strategic partnership, where we produce original programs from Doha, showcasing stories and experiences from Qatar and the region that reach a global audience. Our collaboration is aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030, driving diversification through the creative industries while supporting the next generation of talent who will carry our media sector forward."

Pedro Vargas David, Chairman of Euronews, added: "The Middle East is a region of growing global importance, with stories that resonate far beyond its borders. Through our partnership with Media City Qatar, Euronews is deepening its presence here to ensure these perspectives are shared with international audiences. This collaboration allows us to showcase the richness, diversity, and innovation of Qatar and the wider region, strengthening our mission to connect cultures and bring global stories to life. Euronews is proud of its presence in Doha and counts itself as a partner in showcasingthe present and the future of the State of Qatar"

Since the start of the partnership in 2021, Media City Qatar and Euronews have co-produced five programs from Doha: The Exchange, Qatar 365, Scenes, Football Now, and The Dialogue. Together, these shows delivered 558 episodes, generating 11.3 billion TV impacts and 58 million views on YouTube, with audiences reaching 61 million viewers annually in their last year. With the conclusion of these productions, Media City Qatar and Euronews are building on this strong foundation to launch the next chapter of their collaboration.

In October 2024, Media City Qatar also partnered with Qatar University to deliver the Euronews Business Media Training, which gave students practical experience in journalism, production, and broadcasting. Media City Qatar also continues to support an international internship program that connects students from Qatar with Euronews's global offices.

Media City Qatar continues to advance its vision of building a vibrant media ecosystem that connects local talent with global platforms, fosters innovation, and strengthens Qatar's role in shaping the future of storytelling across the region and beyond.

مركز قطر للمال Qatar Financial Centre

Tender Announcement

Qatar Financial Center Authority ("QFCA") would like to invite competent local Service Providers for the following open Tender/s:

Tender Title	Tender No.	Non-refundable Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond (QAR)	Bid Submission Closing Date
QFCA Facilities Management Services	RFP-2025-A-0113-M	4,000.00	400,000.00	25 November 2025
QFCA Security Services	RFP-2025-A-0114-M	2,000.00	200,000.00	20 November 2025

In accordance with the following conditions:

1. The Tender Documents will be available from 29 October to 04 November 2025.
2. Tender Documents will be issued electronically only upon submission of the following requirements to tenders@qfc.qa
   - Copy of deposit slip for the non-refundable tender fee (as mentioned above), stamped by Commercial Bank
   - Copy of the Authorization Letter signed by the authorized person from the company
   - Copy of the Commercial Registration (CR)
   - Copy of the Trade License and Computer ID
3. The non-refundable Tender fee must be deposited to the following account:

Beneficiary Account Name:	Qatar Financial Centre Authority
Bank Name:	Commercial Bank
Bank account number:	4010-103883-201
IBAN	QA33CBQA00000000040101038832O1
SWIFT CODE	CBQAQAQA

4. A Tender Bond valid for 120 days from the tender closing date must be submitted. The original Tender Bond must be delivered to the QFCA Procurement Department. Bids submitted without a valid Tender Bond will be rejected.
5. All bids must remain valid for 120 days from the closing date and must be submitted in two (2) separate files: one for the Technical Proposal and one for the Commercial Proposal.
6. The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond in accordance with the requirements outlined in the tender documents.
7. QFCA's Tendering Terms and Conditions apply. For any inquiries, please contact us at tenders@qfc.qa.

Qatar Financial Centre Authority • PO Box 23245 • Doha, Qatar
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QChem Qatar Chemical Company Limited
Al Dafna – Amwal Tower – First Floor
P.O. 24646 Doha / Qatar – Tel. 44847111 – Fax 44847695

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TENDER

No.	Document No.	Description	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1.	RLP/TC/P/110/25	Four Years Stocking & Supply Agreement of Commodity Chemicals for Water Treatment for RLP Plant on Call-Off Basis	QAR 318,500	12:00 hrs. on 04th December 2025

Brief Scope:
Proposals are invited for the stocking & supply of commodity chemicals for water treatment for RLP plant site in Ras Laffan under a call-off purchase order agreement, for a duration of four years. Deliveries are to be made on 24/7 basis, including weekends and holidays, as and when required.

Tender Documents for the above description can be obtained as follows:

A. Pay to Bank and send the original receipt with authorization letter via email.

For each tender pay **a non-refundable document fee (cash only) of QR 1,000/-** Payable to Q-Chem, Bank Account (Contract Services - Tender) – Account Number **001-242007-003** with **HSBC Bank)** and submit the original receipt with an Authorization letter on Tenderer Company Letterhead with ID copy of the Tenderer representative **via email to tadvertisement@qchem.com.qa** In the authorization letter Tenderer shall nominate a single focal point with contact mobile number, **official email address,** office number, fax number for the communications related to this tender for the transfer and receipt of the tender documents. **The Bank receipt must indicate the tender number and the tenderer name (company name).**

B. Date and Time of Tender documents issuance via email

Tender documents issuance from 26th October 2025 to 30th October 2025, 8am-12noon.

C. Proposal details

Proposals should be valid for **240** days from the tender closing date.

D. Submission of Proposals

Guidelines for Electronic Bids Submission is attached in the Tender documents.

Municipalities intensify pest control campaigns

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: In an ongoing effort to enhance public health and reduce the spread of harmful insects, municipalities across Qatar continue to implement extensive pest control campaigns. The initiative aims to ensure a safe, clean, and healthy living environment that supports improved quality of life in alignment with the Qatar National Vision 2030.

According to the Ministry of Municipality, a total of 5,342 pest control service requests were handled across various municipalities from September 26 to October 16.

Doha Municipality topped the list with 1,148 requests, followed by Al Rayyan with 1,362 requests, Al Daayen with 1,034, Al Wakra with 584, and Umm Slal with 802. Meanwhile, Al Khor and Al Thakhira registered 195 requests, Al Sheehaniya 117, and Al Shamal 100 service requests.

The Ministry highlighted the rapid interaction with public reports, noting that service requests were received through multiple channels. More than 3,447 requests were submitted via the "Oun" mobile application, 1,832 requests came through the unified call center, and 63 were made through the Ministry's website.

Conference highlights advances in proteomics, bioinformatics

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar's 3rd Qatar Proteomics Conference brought together world-renowned academic scientists, researchers and scholars for a dynamic exchange of the latest findings, technologies and innovations in proteomics and bioinformatics.

Building on the success of previous editions, this year's conference featured engaging sessions, focused on groundbreaking technologies and the critical health challenges of our time, including diabetes, obesity, cancer, infectious diseases, and more.

Proteomics is the comprehensive study of proteins, focusing on their structure, function, and interactions within an organism. Proteomics research seeks to reach better understandings of the biology of a cell or disease, which has the potential to lead to new therapeutic targets and better diagnostic tools.

Key topics included mass spectrometry-based technologies, affinity-based platforms, and their applications to investigation of complex health conditions. Additional sessions explored the transformative role of proteomics in population health, showcased insights from the Human Proteome Organisation (HUPO), and highlighted regional developments shaping the field of proteomics in the Gulf region.

Leading national, regional and international scientists appeared as expert speakers at the conference, sharing their latest findings and experiences in proteomics and highlighting new developments in the field. The conference was coordinated by WCM-Q's Dr. Frank Schmidt, director of the proteomics core and associate professor of biochemistry and biophysics; and Dr. Karsten Suhre, professor of physiology and biophysics, assistant dean for intercampus research partnerships, and director of the bioinformatics core, along with members of their team, including instrumentation supervisor Dr. Sunkyu Choi, and laboratory supervisor Muna Al-Noubi. Dr. Schmidt and Dr. Suhre were both among the expert speakers at the conference, as was Dr. Khaled Machaca, WCM-Q professor of systems and computational biomedicine and vice dean for research, innovation and commercialisation.



This year's conference featured engaging sessions, focused on groundbreaking technologies and the critical health challenges.

Dr. Schmidt said, "We were very pleased to welcome so many world-class proteomics researchers to Qatar to share their expertise, discuss the latest developments in the field, and explore future collaborative projects. The potential for combining proteomics with other -omics technologies to increase our understanding of complex diseases is vast, and this can pave the way for improved diagnostic techniques and more effective treatment strategies."

The conference also featured poster presentations and networking opportunities, creating a collaborative environment designed to bridge disciplines and accelerate discovery. Thanks to the high-profile researchers who attend each year, the Qatar Proteomics Conference has become a landmark regional event at the forefront of global proteomics and cross-omics research, fostering collaboration, innovation and impactful scientific exchange.

Proteomics research seeks to reach better understandings of the biology of a cell or disease, which has the potential to lead to new therapeutic targets and better diagnostic tools.

Dr. Suhre said, "We are very happy that the conference has helped to build upon Qatar's leading role in proteomics research, drawing attention to the country's growing position as a regional and global hub for very high-quality science in this rapidly developing field.

"Bringing world-class experts in proteomics together here in Qatar to share their experiences is a very effective way to foster collaboration and drive advances in discovery."

'NMoQ embodies spirit and history of nation'

JOEL JOHNSON
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) stands as more than an architectural landmark as it embodies the spirit of the nation itself, an official has said.

Serving as both a symbol of Qatar's rich heritage and a guardian of its collective memory, the museum continues to preserve and narrate the country's unfolding story for generations to come.

Last week, the NMoQ unveiled a landmark exhibition, taking visitors on a journey through five decades of the museum's evolution since its inception to its contemporary reinvention.

Entitled 'A Nation's Legacy, A People's Memory: Fifty Years Told', the exhibition reflects on the institution's enduring role in preserving and narrating Qatar's national story.

Speaking to *The Peninsula* on the launch, Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al Sulaiti, Deputy Director of Research and Collections at NMoQ, said, "Before focusing on the artefacts themselves, it's important to focus on the exhibition as a whole. This exhibition tells the story of fifty years of the National Museum of Qatar's legacy from its establishment in 1975 to the present day."

The exhibition was inaugurated by H E Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, in the presence of Mohammed Saad Al Rumaihi, CEO of Qatar Museums, and Sheikh Abdulaziz Al Thani, Director of NMoQ, offering a rare glimpse into the museum's past. Located in Temporary Gallery 13, it traces the institution's origins, development, and cultural milestones through archival photographs, documents, and personal stories of those who contributed to its legacy.



Items displaced in the exhibition at National Museum of Qatar, which reflects on the institution's enduring role in preserving and narrating Qatar's national story.

"As I mentioned earlier, it has long been a dream to create an exhibition that narrates the history of this museum," Dr. Al Sulaiti said. "Many people assume that the museum is a new institution, represented only by the striking modern building they see today, especially visitors and newcomers to Qatar."

Dr. Al Sulaiti stressed that the museum's roots extend far beyond its reopening in 2019, highlighting its foundation and the visionary collaboration that shaped it. He noted, "We want to emphasise that the museum's story goes much further back."

"The original museum was established in 1975, and this exhibition highlights the significant events that took place within that historic building. It also pays tribute to the visionaries who first conceived the idea of the museum, beginning with the work of the Michael Rice Company, which developed the design and oversaw the creation of the main building," Dr. Al Sulaiti said.

In addition to chronicling institutional milestones, the exhibition features contemporary installations by Qatari artists Shouq Al Mana and Khalifa Al Thani, bridging past and present to reflect on Qatar's evolving identity.

The exhibition will be on view until February 7, 2026, inviting visitors to explore the National Museum of Qatar's legacy and its enduring role in preserving the nation's cultural heritage. Dr. Al Sulaiti added, "While we cannot yet say how many people will visit this exhibition, it is certainly one that every visitor should experience to truly understand the history of the museum. This building is not only a symbol of Qatar's heritage but also a custodian of the nation's entire historical narrative."

Awqaf Ministry holds training course for Muezzins to boost performance

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Department of Da'wah and Religious Guidance at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, represented by the Institute of Da'wah and Islamic Sciences, organised the first specialised course on enhancing the quality of the Adhan (call to prayer) and improving vocal performance.

The course was held over three days, from October 20 to 22, in the hall of the Imam Muhammad Ibn Abd Al-Wahhab Mosque, with the participation of 30 Muezzins from the country's mosques. It was presented by Sheikh Ahmad Jalal Yahya as part of the Ministry's plan to develop the Muezzins' performance and elevate the quality of the Adhan according to the highest vocal and jurisprudential standards.

The course aims to raise the Muezzins' efficiency while performing the act of worship of the Adhan, improve vocal quality and performance, focus on proper vocal techniques, familiarise participants with jurisprudential and vocal performance errors in the Adhan and how to correct them, and enable them to perform the Adhan in the most complete manner. This stems from the Ministry's recognition of the Muezzin's importance and role in glorifying the rituals of Allah and establishing the prayer at its proper time.

The course topics were distributed over three training days, including practical workshops and specialised vocal applications. The first day covered vocal fundamentals, vocal division in the Adhan, methods for controlling breathing, and correcting common mistakes.

The second day was dedicated to introducing and practising Arabic vocal Maqamat (melodic modes) and selecting the appropriate Maqam for the Muezzin's voice. The third day included a practical aspect for evaluating participants by recording their Adhan, analysing their performance, and granting certificates to the distinguished participants.

Head of the Institute of Da'wah and Islamic Sciences Section Omar Oqla Al-Ruwaili, explained that this course is part of the Ministry's continuous plan to qualify personnel working in mosques, in cooperation between the Department of Da'wah and Religious Guidance and the Department of Mosques. This is within the framework of the project to develop Muezzins, Imams, and Preachers, which includes jurisprudential, skill-based, knowledge-based, and vocal tracks.

He pointed out that the Ministry of Endowments attaches great importance to Muezzins, believing in the spiritual and social role they play in populating mosques and spreading tranquillity among people. He clarified that developing their vocal performance skills contributes to raising the level of quality and mastery in the Adhan, which is a great act of worship and a sublime ritual of Islam.

QM to host Alecso conference on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in Arab World

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Museums, in collaboration with the Arab Organisation for Education, Culture and Science (Alecso) has announce the hosting of the 27th session of the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Arab World conference under the theme "Sustainability of Cultural Heritage: Challenges and Future Strategies" from October 28 to 30, 2025.

This year's edition will feature the First Arab Youth Forum for Sustainable Heritage, the first edition of its kind in the region held from October 26-30, 2025, which empowers young researchers and university students in the fields of archaeology and in the protection of cultural Arab heritage.

Qatar Museums CEO Mohamed Saad Al Rumaihi said, "Hosting this important conference in a landmark year when Qatar Museums is celebrating its 20th anniversary underscores Qatar's commitment to safeguarding cultural heritage and advancing knowledge exchange across the Arab world. Through dialogue, innovation, and shared expertise, we aim to strengthen regional collaboration and ensure the sustainability of our collective heritage for future generations."

Qatar will preside over the conference, taking over from Morocco which hosted the previous session, reflecting Qatar's growing leadership in promoting regional cooperation and advancing sustainable practices in heritage preservation across the Arab world.

Among the distinguished attendees are the Minister of Education and Higher Education H ELolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khater; QM's CEO Saad Al Rumaihi; the Director-General of Alecso Dr. Mohamed Ould Amar; and Director of International Cooperation & Government Affairs in Qatar Museums Dr. Fatema Al Sulaiti.

The conference is a key platform for scientific dialogue, policy exchange, and strategic planning in sustainable heritage management. It will bring together policymakers, experts, and academics to address shared challenges.

QF's Ability Friendly Programme celebrates athletic talents of PWDs

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Foundation's Ability Friendly Programme, under Pre-University Education, organised a two-day swimming competition aimed at promoting inclusion through sport and empowering people with disabilities (PWDs).

The competition brought together around 70 participants and their families as part of an initiative that reflects Qatar Foundation's (QF) Ability Friendly Programme and its commitment to providing sports and recreational activities that offer participants equal opportunities to showcase their skills and build self-confidence.

The event was sponsored by Sasol, reaffirming its commitment to empowering people with disabilities. The partnership with QF aims to promote sports as a platform for rehabilitation, empowerment, and community inclusion.

VP Qatar Country Management at Sasol, Lourens Jacobs said: "At Sasol, we believe that true progress is measured not only by innovation and growth, but by how inclusive and equitable our communities become.

"Through our long-standing collaboration with Qatar Foundation and our Accessible Qatar initiative, we continue to champion opportunities that empower every individual to participate fully and equally in society. This Ability Friendly Swimming Competition reflects a shared belief that when barriers are removed, talent, courage, and determination shine through.



One of the participants with his medals.

Jacobs emphasised that sport serves as a universal language, one that celebrates ability, strengthens communities, and inspires change. He highlighted that the athletes competing in the event demonstrate that inclusion is not about accommodation, but about creating environments where everyone can excel.

He concluded by extending his congratulations to all participants and their families, noting that their determination, courage, and team spirit embody the very essence of inclusion and prove that, with the right support and belief, every challenge can be transformed into an opportunity to shine.

Aisha Jassim Al-Ali, the mother of Jassim Al-Sulaiti, one of the participants with Autism, said, "For Jassim, swimming has become a source of confidence and independence. He joined the Ability Friendly Programme eight years ago, and since then, we've witnessed a remarkable transformation in his personality, one that has had a positive impact on his daily life, behavior, and self-confidence."

Al-Ali noted that her son eagerly looks forward to every training session and speaks with great enthusiasm about his coaches and friends, explaining: "This experience is not just about learning to swim; it has helped him manage his time better, strengthen his social skills, and significantly improve his health and physical fitness."

"As a mother, seeing Jassim in an environment where he feels supported, encouraged, and appreciated for who he is means the world to me. That's why I always make sure he takes part in every event, it helps him grow, connect with others, and develop a true sense of belonging. The programme has given him confidence and a community that embraces him and believes in his potential."

What it takes to earn the coveted Taste of Qatar certification

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: In Qatar's fast-growing dining scene, excellence isn't just about serving delicious food, it's about delivering a complete experience that meets the highest national standards.

Dining becomes more than a meal, it's a celebration of culture, community, and artisty in the kitchen. From bustling souq cafés to elegant fine-dining establishments, every table tells a story. And now, through Taste of Qatar, those stories are being recognised, celebrated, and shared with the world.

Taste of Qatar, launched by Qatar Tourism following the debut of the *MICHELIN Guide Doha 2025* and developed in collaboration with the global research firm Ipsos, is the nation's official restaurant rating programme, a mark of distinction awarded to establishments that deliver not only exceptional cuisine but truly unforgettable dining experiences.

For diners, spotting the Taste of Qatar plaque at an entrance is a promise that every detail has been perfected, every plate prepared with care, and every guest welcomed with the warmth and hospitality Qatar is known for.

Earning a Taste of Qatar certification is a journey of dedication. Restaurants, cafés, and local dining concepts are awarded a 1–3 star rating, with the coveted 3-star status reserved for those who consistently achieve a 90% or above rating in multiple inspections throughout the year.

These inspections are more than a checklist, they are moments that capture the essence of an outlet's service, quality, and hospitality. Mystery dining visits ensure that every experience is authentic, while aggregate scores reflect a commitment to excellence over time.

To be considered, outlets must first, register and remain active on the program's official portal, pass the Ministry of Public Health's Watheq inspection and demonstrate consistent quality across food, service, and ambiance.

Every year, 3-star certified outlets will be honoured at the Taste of Qatar Certification Ceremony. The celebration brings together chefs, owners, to recognise their achievements, receive their official plaque, and enjoy the spotlight as part of Qatar's vibrant dining scene.

Death toll from Israeli aggression on Gaza rises to 68,519: Ministry

GAZA: The death toll from the Israeli aggression on Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, has risen to 68,519 martyrs, in addition to 170,382 injured.

The Ministry of Health in Gaza reported that hospitals in the Strip received the bodies of 19 martyrs over the past 48 hours, four killed in direct Israeli occupation attacks and 15 whose bodies were recovered, along with seven injuries.

The ministry added that since the ceasefire took effect earlier this month, 93 Palestinians have been martyred and 324 others injured, while the bodies of 464 martyrs have been recovered. It further noted that 220 martyrs have been added to the cumulative death toll after their data was verified and approved by the judicial committee responsible for tracking reports and missing persons.

The Ministry of Health in Gaza says 93 Palestinians have been martyred and 324 others injured since the ceasefire took effect earlier this month.

Moreover, the ministry confirmed that 64 bodies have so far been identified out of 195 bodies handed over by the Israeli occupation authorities as part of a prisoner exchange deal.

A ceasefire agreement between Hamas and the Israeli occupation was reached in the Egyptian city of Sharm El-Sheikh and came into effect on October 10. Meanwhile, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa discussed in a phone call on Friday with Belgian Foreign Minister Maxime Prevost the latest developments in Palestine, particularly regarding the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and developments on the ground in the West Bank, including Jerusalem. — ***QNA***



A photograph shows tents at a makeshift displacement camp in the Mawasi area of Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday. (AFP)

Afghanistan, Pakistan seek to firm up truce in Istanbul talks

ISTANBUL: Afghan and Pakistani negotiators were locked in talks to address security issues and establish a lasting ceasefire along their shared border after an outbreak of unexpectedly intense bloody clashes.

The confrontation — which resulted in dozens of deaths, among them civilians — began two weeks ago following explosions in central Kabul, which the Taliban government blamed on its Pakistani neighbour, launching a retaliatory offensive at the border.

Vowing a strong response, Islamabad then carried out "precision strikes" against armed groups on Afghan soil which are at the heart of the dispute, security sources said.

After further clashes that left soldiers and civilians dead, both sides declared an initial 48-hour ceasefire which collapsed two days later, with Kabul blaming Islamabad.

A second truce took shape on Sunday following talks in Doha thanks to mediation by Qatar and Turkiye, which appears to have held, although the terms remained unclear.

At Saturday's talks, negotiators were expected to detail the "mechanisms" for ensuring the return to stability that were announced in Doha.

It was not clear when the talks would begin nor where they were meeting in Istanbul.

The Afghan delegation, which left for Turkiye on Friday, will be led by its deputy Interior Minister Haji Najib. Islamabad has not said who it is sending for the talks.

For the Taliban government, the goal is to ensure Afghanistan's territorial integrity.

For Islamabad, the negotiations must address "the menace of terrorism emanating from Afghan soil towards Pakistan," its foreign ministry spokesman Tahir Hussain Andrabi said on Friday.

Turkiye has not confirmed any details about the meeting beyond hailing their joint decision in Doha "to establish mechanisms to strengthen peace and stability" and pledging to "continue to support the efforts" to achieve that. — ***AFP***

Egypt, Dutch FMs discuss Gaza situation

CAIRO: Egyptian Foreign Minister, Badr Abdelatty, held a telephone conversation with his Dutch counterpart David van Weel, during which they discussed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and ways to support regional security and stability.

In a statement, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the two ministers reviewed the outcomes of the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit, which witnessed the signing of an agreement to end the war in the Gaza Strip. Abdelatty affirmed the importance of adhering to the text of the agreement and implementing all its provisions, stressing that respecting the agreement represents an essential step toward achieving security and stability in the region and alleviating the humanitarian suffering of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. — ***QNA***

Thailand's former queen Sirikit dies aged 93

BANGKOK: Thailand's former Queen Sirikit, the mother of the current King Vajiralongkorn and wife of the nation's longest-reigning monarch, died late Friday at the age of 93, the palace said.

"It is a great loss to the nation," said Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul yesterday, adding that he would delay his departure to a weekend summit of Southeast Asian leaders in Malaysia.

Throughout her 66-year marriage to King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Sirikit carved a dual reputation as a fashionista and the nation's caring matriarch — with some Western media featuring her on magazine covers and comparing her to former US first lady Jackie Kennedy.

Sirikit had "suffered several illnesses" while hospitalised since 2019, including a blood infection this month, the palace said in a statement.

"Her majesty's condition worsened until Friday and she passed away... at Chulalongkorn hospital at age 93," it added.



A mourner holds a portrait of Thailand's former queen Sirikit and Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej, in Bangkok yesterday. (AFP)

King Vajiralongkorn has assigned members of the royal family to begin a year-long mourning period, the palace said.

From early yesterday, Thai news anchors were seen wearing black during broadcasts, a sign of public mourning.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej's lengthy reign from 1946 until 2016 was bookended by World War II and the first inauguration of US President Donald Trump.

Though Bhumibol's son inherited the throne about nine years ago, many still revere him as the nation's most steadfast figurehead — and Sirikit as his constant companion. — ***AFP***

World in brief

Lebanon says one killed in Israeli strike on vehicle

BEIRUT: Lebanon's health ministry said that one person was killed and another wounded in an Israeli strike that hit a vehicle in the country's south, the latest attack despite a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

In a statement, the ministry said that an "Israeli enemy strike on a car in Haruf, Nabatiyeh district" killed one person and wounded another. Israel has repeatedly bombed Lebanon despite a November ceasefire that sought to end over a year of hostilities with Hezbollah. The Israeli military has intensified its attacks over the past week, killing two people in two strikes on Friday.

A series of Israeli raids on south and east Lebanon killed four people on Thursday, including an elderly woman. — ***AFP***

UNRWA calls for urgent entry of aid into Gaza

RAMALLAH: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) yesterday called for the urgent entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip as the winter season approaches. In a post on X, UNRWA said, "As winter approaches in Gaza, people are increasingly in need of shelter and warmth. Shelter materials and winter supplies for displaced families are sitting in UNRWA warehouses in Jordan and Egypt, blocked from entry." After two years of war, UNRWA added, displaced people are facing dire conditions in tents that lack the most basic means of protection. They are searching for shelter and warmth, while several, especially children, have died from the severe cold of the past two winters. — ***QNA***

National Museum of Korea to open permanent space dedicated to Islamic culture

SEOUL: The National Museum of Korea will open a new permanent exhibition dedicated to Islamic history and culture next month, offering visitors a glimpse into one of the world's most influential civilizations. In collaboration with the Museum of Islamic Art in Qatar, the Islamic gallery will open on November 22 on the third floor of the museum's World Art Gallery. This marks the first time the museum has established a permanent space devoted to Islamic culture. — ***QNA***

Japan PM: Had 'candid' conversation with Trump

TOKYO: Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said she spoke with US President Donald Trump yesterday, just days before a planned visit to Tokyo on a regional tour. Takaichi, who assumed office this week, said in a post on X that she "had a good and candid conversation" with Trump, adding: "Together with him, I am determined to elevate the Japan-US alliance to even greater heights." — ***AFP***

Iran declares major lender bankrupt

TEHRAN: Iran declared one of the country's largest private banks bankrupt with its assets absorbed by the state, official media reported yesterday, in a rare move in the country grappling with international sanctions.

Founded in 2012, Ayandeh Bank had a network of 270 branches across the country, including 150 in the capital Tehran alone. But it had more recently been crippled by debt, with accumulated losses amounting to the equivalent of about $5.2bn and roughly $2.9bn in debts, according to the ISNA news agency.

Yesterday, queues of customers could be seen outside a former Ayandeh Bank branch in Tehran, with police also present, an AFP journalist reported.

The state-owned Melli Bank has absorbed the assets of the now-defunct Ayandeh Bank, following a decision by the Central Bank, which has given assurances that depositors will be able to recover their savings.

"The transfer from Ayandeh Bank to Melli Bank is now complete," said Melli Bank director Abolfazl Najarzadeh on state television yesterday.

On Thursday, Iranian Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh said Ayandeh Bank customers had "nothing to worry about".

An official at the Central Bank of Iran, Hamidreza Ghaniabadi, said "bad debts" had prompted the bankruptcy.

He told Iran's IRNA news agency that "more than 90 percent of Ayandeh Bank's funds were allocated either to parties related to the bank or to projects managed by the bank itself," which were never repaid.

Ayandeh Bank had been behind lavish projects such as the immense Iran Mall shopping complex in Tehran, which includes an ice rink and cinemas. — ***AFP***

Liberia agrees to take in Salvadoran from US

MONROVIA: The west African country of Liberia said yesterday it would take in a Salvadoran man at the centre of a deportation row denounced by opponents of President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown.

Liberia's government said in a statement it would receive the man, Kilmar Abrego Garcia, "on a strictly humanitarian and temporary basis, following a formal request from the government of the United States of America".

The US government said in a court filing Friday it planned to deport Abrego Garcia to the "thriving democracy" of Liberia within a week.

Trump's government accuses him of being a violent MS-13 gang member involved in smuggling other undocumented migrants.

He was already wrongly deported to El Salvador in March, then sent back to the United States in June.

A lawyer for Abrego Garcia said the man had no connection to Liberia, and that floating that as a deportation destination was "cruel and unconstitutional".

The lawyer, Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, said Costa Rica was willing to take him in as a refugee.

Liberia said the decision to receive Abrego Garcia was arrived at "after extensive consultations" and tracked with its commitment to principles of "human dignity, international solidarity, and compassion in times of distress".

The country — which was founded to take in freed American slaves — noted its "longstanding friendship" with the United States, with which it would "continue to engage... to ensure that all assurances and arrangements between the two countries are fully observed". — ***AFP***

Ouattara set for fourth term as Ivory Coast holds presidential election

ABIDJAN: Ivorians voted yesterday to pick a new president, with incumbent Alassane Ouatarra a shoo-in for a controversial fourth term, pitted against a divided opposition further hobbled by the barring of two leading candidates.

Ouattara, 83, has wielded power in the world's top cocoa producer since 2011, when the country began reasserting itself as a west African economic powerhouse.

Nearly nine million Ivorians were eligible to vote in the polls, which close at 6:00 pm (1800 GMT), choosing between five contenders.

Turnout was to be a key factor. Polling stations in the economic capital Abidjan visited by AFP in the afternoon were not crowded but there were many more voters in the second city Bouake, a Ouattara stronghold.

Roads were cut off in some parts of the country's south and west but no disturbances were reported at polling stations.

In Lopou, a town of some 9,000 people west of Abidjan, the mood was tense after police fired tear gas to quell protests against Ouattara before election day. "There will be no voting in here in Lopou," an elderly man said.

"Ouattara's candidacy is unconstitutional," added a youth.



Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara casts his ballot at a polling station in Cocody, Abidjan, yesterday. (AFP)

Many voting centres in pro-opposition areas were nearly empty, AFP reporters said.

Ouattara's leading rivals — former Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo and Credit Suisse ex-CEO Tidjane Thiam — have been barred from standing, Gbagbo for a criminal conviction and Thiam for acquiring French nationality.

With the opposition calling for protests and unrest turning deadly in recent days, the government has slapped a nighttime curfew in some areas and deployed 44,000 security forces. "We are voting today in peace. Our hope is for the day to pass without incident," said Severine Kouakou, a 46-year-old voter in Bouake.

"It is hard to imagine any surprise at the end of this election... since opposition heavyweights aren't present," Gilles Yabi of think tank Wathi told AFP.

Four people, including one policeman, have died in political unrest in recent weeks, while on Monday, an independent electoral commission building was torched.

The government has responded by banning demonstrations, and the judiciary has sentenced several dozen people to three years in prison for disturbing the peace.

The security forces were deployed across the country of 30 million to keep protests in check, especially in former opposition fiefdoms in the south and west. — ***AFP***

Russian strikes on Ukraine kill four, wound 20

KYIV: Russian overnight drone and missile strikes killed four people and wounded some 20 others in the Ukraine capital Kyiv and several other regions, authorities said yesterday.

The attack comes as Kyiv's Western allies ratchet up pressure on Russia as the war enters its fourth winter.

"One rescuer was killed and another wounded as a result of a repeated missile strike on the Petropavlivska community in the Dnipropetrovsk region," the internal affairs ministry said on social media. A woman was also killed, and seven people were injured in the eastern region, the ministry added, reporting damage to fire trucks, residential buildings, and shops. — ***AFP***

Connolly wins Ireland's Presidential election

DUBLIN: Left-wing independent Catherine Connolly yesterday won the race to be Ireland's new president, comfortably beating her centrist opponent in a contest marred by record numbers of spoilt ballots.

Connolly, 68, secured more than 63 percent of the votes, well ahead of Heather Humphreys of the Fine Gael party on 29.5 percent, according to the official count.

But the seemingly comprehensive victory was marred by the number of spoilt votes and criticism over the lack of right-wing candidates, amid frustration over issues including immigration and crime. — ***AFP***

Trump heads to Asia for Xi talks, eyes Kim meeting

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump headed yesterday for Asia and high-stakes trade talks with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, saying that he would also like to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on his trip.

Trump is set to meet Xi in South Korea on the last day of his regional swing in a bid to seal a deal to end the bruising trade war between the world's two biggest economies.He will also visit Malaysia and Japan on his first trip to Asia since he returned to the White House in January in a blaze of tariffs and international dealmaking.

Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One that he hoped for a "very good meeting" with Xi, adding that he expected China to make a deal to avoid further 100 percent tariffs that are due to come into effect on November 1.



US President Donald Trump speaks to members of the media aboard Air Force One on October 24, 2025, in flight. (AFP)

A US Treasury spokesman told AFP that US and Chinese officials in Malaysia concluded a day of "very constructive" trade talks, which are expected to resume today. As he left Washington, Trump added to speculation that he could meet Kim for the first time since 2019 while on the Korean peninsula. "I'm open to it," Trump said aboard the presidential plane. "I had a great relationship with him."

Asked if he was open to North Korea's demand to be recognized as a nuclear state as a precondition for talks, Trump replied: "Well, I think they are sort of a nuclear power... They got a lot of nuclear weapons, I'll say that."

The two leaders last met in the Demilitarized Zone that separates the two Koreas during Trump's first term. Kim has said he would also be open to meeting the US president if Washington drops its demand that Pyongyang give up its nuclear arsenal. Seoul's reunification minister has said there is a "considerable" chance that Trump and Kim will meet while the US leader visits South Korea. — ***AFP***

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Argentina votes in midterms critical for Milei's agenda

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina holds midterm elections Sunday that will determine whether President Javier Milei enters the second half of his term bolstered or diminished as economic troubles abound despite unprecedented US aid.

Milei's Liberty Advances (LLA) party has less than 15 percent of seats in Congress — a share he would like to boost to at least a third, which would offer protection from opposition attempts to thwart his budget-slashing agenda.

A former TV pundit, Milei came to power in December 2023 promising shock therapy for Argentina's long-ailing economy, revving a chainsaw as a symbol of his plan to slash state spending.

He cut tens of thousands of public sector jobs, froze public works, cut spending on health, education and pensions, and led a major deregulation drive. Nearly two years of austerity were blamed for initially plunging millions of Argentines deeper into poverty. But the policies did slow inflation by two-thirds, although at a cost of faltering economic growth, consumption and manufacturing.

Economists also warn that a heavily-overvalued peso is damaging Argentina's competitiveness.

"You cannot fix a hundred years of decline in 20 months," Milei retorted to critics this week.

Argentines will vote to renew half the 257-member Chamber of Deputies and a third of 72 senators.

Milei's approval numbers are down and his allies suffered a blistering rejection in bellwether provincial elections in Buenos Aires in September. So it appears unlikely the president's party will achieve the third of seats he is targeting. — ***AFP***

Lithuania reopens border checkpoints with Belarus

VILNIUS: Traffic through Lithuania's border with Belarus reopened at noon on Saturday, more than 12 hours after a balloon intrusion led to a temporary suspension late Friday.

According to the State Border Guard Service (VSAT), checks and crossings for people and vehicles at the Medininkai and Salcininkai checkpoints have resumed. Traffic at both checkpoints was halted around 930 p.m. (1830 GMT) on Friday following reports of some meteorological weather balloons flying towards Lithuanian airspace. — ***XINHUA***

Envoys of Trump, Putin to meet in Miami after new US sanctions

WASHINGTON: Kirill Dmitriev, Russian President Vladimir Putin's special envoy for investment and economic cooperation, will meet US President Donald Trump's Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff yesterday in Miami, Florida, US media reported.

The meeting comes days after Trump cancelled his plan to meet Putin in Budapest, Hungary and the US Treasury Department announced sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil, the two largest Russian oil producers, in a bid to press for a ceasefire deal on Ukraine. Dmitriev said on social media X that his visit was "planned a while ago based on an invitation from the US side."

The Russian envoy said on CNN on Friday that the sanctions, the first during Trump's second term, would not be a big issue for Russia but lead to higher gasoline prices in the United States, reiterating Putin's position that Russia will never yield to pressure. Dmitriev also said he believes a Trump-Putin summit will happen but "probably at a later date." "The Russia-US dialogue will continue, but it is certainly only possible if Russia's interests are taken into account and treated with respect," he said. — ***XINHUA***

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