



SUNDAY
07 DECEMBER 2025
16 JUMADA II 1447

The Peninsula



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HAYYAKOM TO QATAR



Amir inaugurates Doha Forum

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani inaugurated the 23rd edition of the Doha Forum 2025, held under the theme "Justice in Action: Beyond Promises to Progress" at the Sheraton Doha Hotel yesterday.

The opening ceremony was attended by a number of Their Highnesses and Excellencies, heads of state and government, and chiefs of regional and international organizations.

The ceremony was also attended by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Speaker of the Shura Council H E Hassan bin Abdullah Al Ghanim, a number of Their Excellencies ministers, heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the State of Qatar, and forum guests.

During the ceremony, H H the Amir presented the Doha Forum Award to Alex Thier and Saad Mohseni, recognizing their contributions to supporting children's education in Palestine and Afghanistan, in partnership with the Education Above All Foundation.



The Doha Forum is being held this year amid regional and international circumstances that require all efforts to come together to reduce tensions and support peace and sustainability in our region and the world, through upholding justice, promoting human development, and advancing the principles of peaceful solutions to various conflicts. I wish the forum's guests success and extend a warm welcome to them in Qatar.



H E the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs delivered a speech on the occasion. H E Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft, also delivered a keynote address on this occasion. — QNA



Justice fundamental pillar for safeguarding world peace: PM

DOHA: Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani affirmed that the State of Qatar believes that justice is not merely a political aspiration, but a fundamental pillar for safeguarding international peace and entrenching stability.

In his address at the opening session of the 23rd edition of the Doha Forum 2025, held this morning, he stated that Qatar's policies are driven by a conviction that actions must match words, that principles must guide practice, and that the country's international responsibilities must be upheld impartially and in service of humanity and human dignity.

He added that, in line with this approach, the State of Qatar continues to play an active mediating role—one of the cornerstones of its foreign policy—by initiating channels of dialogue, providing credible negotiation platforms, and facilitating understandings between disputing parties.

He highlighted that Qatar's track record of



successful mediation efforts, and the confidence the international community places in its role in achieving peace, demonstrate that mediation is neither a political luxury nor a utilitarian choice for Qatar, but a deeply rooted doctrine pursued with sincerity—grounded in the belief that genuine peacebuilding begins with inclusion rather than exclusion, and through expanding common ground rather than deepening division.

He emphasised that this

approach was clearly reflected in the achievement reached yesterday, as the State of Qatar, in cooperation with its partners Norway, Spain, and Switzerland, secured a breakthrough between the Government of Colombia and the self-designated "EGC" group. The agreement, he noted, offers a genuine opportunity to enhance the safety and dignity of Colombians and to provide conflict-affected communities with a tangible glimmer of hope after years of violence.



State of Qatar continues to play an active mediating role—one of the cornerstones of its foreign policy—by initiating channels of dialogue, providing credible negotiation platforms, and facilitating understandings between disputing parties.

He explained that the agreement also opens the door to an organised political process aimed at disarmament, combating the production and trafficking of narcotics, and building sustainable peace within an agreed framework capable of restoring stability to conflict-stricken areas.

He stressed that this progress reaffirms that sincere and responsible mediation can protect civilians and pave the way for peace grounded

in responsibility, trust, and the commitment of all parties to what best serves their peoples.

He underscored that the world does not need more promises, but rather justice practised by all without double standards, responsibility borne collectively without favouritism, and courage that transforms words into action.

Highlighting the role of the forum, he noted that the Doha Forum stands as a leading global platform bringing together policymakers, thought leaders, and experts from across the world, serving as an influential space for dialogue on major global challenges and the formulation of practical solutions.

He stated that this year's theme, 'Justice in Action: Beyond Promises to Progress,' captures a reality evident to all: that the divide between stated commitments and actual implementation is growing, and that justice is increasingly absent from the workings of international law in a world where interests overshadow principles and force supplants legal norms. — QNA ➔ P3

Negotiations launched for Qatar-EU SPA

DOHA: Following the meeting between Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani and the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission H E Kaja Kallas on the sidelines of the Doha Forum, the State of Qatar and the European Union announced the launch of negotiations process for a Qatar-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA).

This announcement underscores the strength of Qatar-EU partnership and offers mutually beneficial opportunities for both sides to further expand and deepen cooperation.

The two parties reaffirmed their shared determination to work more closely to uphold regional peace, prosperity and security. — QNA



Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani with other panelists during a session held yesterday at Sheraton Grand Doha. (AFP)

Qatar's mediation role lauded at Doha Forum

IRFAN BUKHARI
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The participants of a high-level session, 'Mediation in a time of fragmentation,' lauded Qatar's mediation efforts for the resolution of conflicts in the region and beyond.

The session was attended by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye H E Hakan Fidan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain H E Jose Manuel Albares, and European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission H E Kaja Kallas.

Minister of Foreign Affairs

of Türkiye H E Hakan Fidan said that Türkiye is ready and prepared to do whatever is necessary to contribute to ongoing peace efforts in the Gaza Strip.

"Broad discussions are currently underway regarding the formation of an international stabilisation force to be deployed in the Gaza Strip... we should be realistic on the mandate of this force... the joint force faces major challenges in its establishment, including the countries contributing troops, the command structure, logistical arrangements, and many other agreed-upon details."

Fidan also highlighted Türkiye's mediation and peace initiatives in the region, including Gaza, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and Syria.

On Russia-Ukraine war, he

noted that the best way to end the war in Ukraine is through the engagement of all conflict parties in peace negotiations conducted with sincerity, determination, and innovative solutions. "The peace talks do not end the war immediately, but they help reduce human suffering."

In the same session, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain H E Jose Manuel Albares, also took part, and he lauded Qatar's mediation efforts in conflict resolution. "The armed conflicts are incapable of settling disputes... Qatar's engagement in sensitive mediation tracks has emerged as a notable example of how diplomacy can pave the way for peaceful solutions." ➔ P2

Sri Lankan Minister says Qatar's humanitarian aid 'beyond monetary value'

FAZEENA SALEEM
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Sri Lanka's Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning H E Anil Jayantha Fernando lauded Qatar's humanitarian response to the devastating cyclone that struck Sri Lanka recently, describing it as "a gesture that goes far beyond its monetary value."

In an exclusive interview with *The Peninsula* yesterday Minister Fernando said the assistance "really entails humanity and global cooperation. It is much more than a material gift, and we would like to maintain this good relationship and friendship with Qatar in the future as well," referring to the urgent humanitarian aid announced by the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) for communities affected by the deadly cyclone in Sri Lanka.

He is on a three-day official visit to Qatar, mainly to participate in the Doha Forum 2025. Describing this year's Doha Forum theme, 'Justice in Action: Beyond Promises to Progress,' as timely, the Minister stressed that countries must collectively re-evaluate why global commitments often fail to translate

into meaningful action.

He emphasised that countries often return home from global summits to face domestic challenges that shift priorities and delay progress.

"National politics, identity politics, and limited economic and technological capacities all come into play," he said. "We must find ways to reach global consensus while temporarily keeping aside national politics if we truly want social justice in action."

Commenting on Qatar's expanding role as a mediator and humanitarian actor, Minister Fernando said the country has continually gained global respect, noting that its engagement is marked by neutrality and sincerity.

"We should really highly commend their role in bringing global peace and a conducive environment to the world," he said. "In Qatar's intervention, I see that the geopolitical essence is either very minimal or zero. That creates an opportunity for countries and global organisations to play a democratic and natural role."

On the opening day of the Doha Forum, Minister Fernando



Countries must collectively re-evaluate why global commitments often fail to translate into meaningful action.

H E Anil Jayantha Fernando

participated in a panel titled "The Digital Dimensions of Human Trafficking: Emerging Threats, Innovations, and Global Responses." The discussion explored how digital transformation is reshaping the global fight against human trafficking and highlighted how governments, international organisations, and the private sector can ethically and effectively use technology to safeguard vulnerable communities. ➔ P2

Regional stability integral to Qatar's security: PM

DOHA: Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh H E Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani affirmed that Qatar is committed to the stability of the region, seeing it as an essential component of its own national security.

He cautioned, however, that Qatar does not aspire to project power through military means, but rather through diplomacy, investment, and strategic partnerships - an approach he described as Qatar's defining contribution in this field.

Speaking in a session titled "Mediation in a Fragmented World" during the Doha Forum 2025, he noted that Qatar works to resolve conflicts through mediation in an increasingly fractured international landscape. He stressed that Qatar consistently seeks to keep channels of communication open with all parties and refrains from taking sides, because without such openness, no dispute can be meaningfully resolved. He added that all progress achieved by Qatar in this sphere since 2013 has stemmed from its engagement with every stakeholder.

He explained that mediation



Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh H E Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani during the discussion. (AFP)

inherently involves stepping in to help resolve disputes between two parties or among several states - something he described as natural practice in international relations. He lamented, however, that divisions within the region often arise among states and factions alike, and for that reason Qatar keeps its lines of communication active with all sides to find solutions acceptable to everyone - an approach that has repeatedly

proven effective over the years.

Responding to a question, he pointed to Qatar's success in mediating between the United States and the Taliban in Afghanistan, noting that Doha facilitated the talks and invested sustained, long-term efforts spanning more than seven years to help achieve the desired outcome and move both sides towards peace.

He also underscored that Qatar's achievements from 2023



onward in efforts related to peace in Gaza - culminating in the 2025 peace agreement - were made possible only because it engaged with every relevant actor. Despite this, he noted, Qatar continues to face politically motivated criticism for hosting Hamas.

In a related context, HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani explained that each conflict has its own unique dynamics; therefore, mediation between the United States and Afghanistan cannot be equated with mediation between Israel and Hamas. He emphasized that a major challenge in the latter case was that the United States, as one of the mediators, initially engaged only with the Israeli side. Once Washington began speaking with both sides, he said,

this shift enabled meaningful progress toward securing the Gaza ceasefire. He added that the ceasefire cannot be regarded as fully in effect unless Israeli forces withdraw entirely, stability is restored in Gaza, and people can move in and out of the territory without obstruction.

He stressed that the conflict extends beyond Gaza and encompasses the West Bank as well as the Palestinian people's aspirations for statehood. He expressed hope that the Israeli government will cooperate toward realizing these aspirations.

"We are at a decisive moment with respect to the Gaza ceasefire," he observed, noting that mediators are currently working together on the second phase of the agreement, which he described as another interim step. He added that

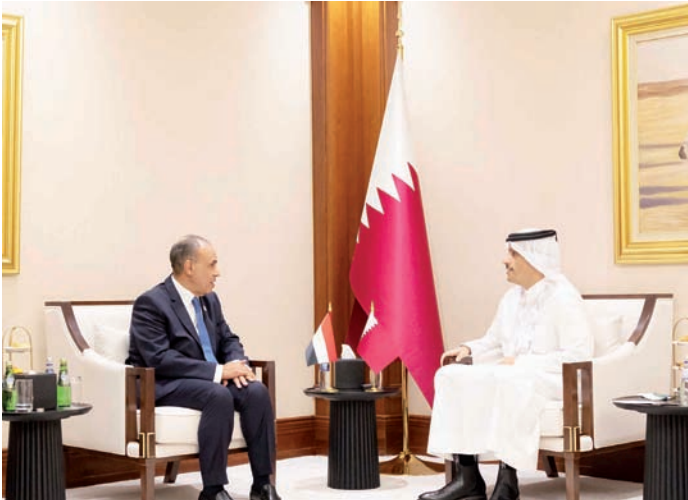
Amir congratulates President of Finland

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 Finland H E Alexander Stubb on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani also sent a cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland HE Petteri Orpo on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. — *QNA*

Qatar, Turkiye, Egypt, and the United States are jointly shaping the trajectory of this next phase.

He underscored the importance of addressing the root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict - an endeavour that must go beyond ending the catastrophe in Gaza to include the situation in the West Bank and the fulfillment of Palestinian national aspirations. — *QNA*

Prime Minister meets leaders, heads of delegations and dignitaries



Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani meeting with High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission H E Kaja Kallas.

DOHA: Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani met yesterday with Prime Minister of the sisterly Lebanese Republic, H E Dr. Nawaf Salam on the sidelines of the 23rd Doha Forum 2025.

During the meeting, they

discussed cooperation relations between the two countries and ways to support and develop them, and exchanged views on the topics included in the forum's agenda, in addition to a number of topics of common interest.

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh

Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani met Saturday with Vice President of the Yemeni Presidential Council H E Dr. Abdullah Al Alimi.

Held on the margin of the Doha Forum 2025, the meeting discussed the countries, cooperation, and ways to develop them. The two sides also exchanged viewpoints on topics on the Forum's agenda and a host of topics of mutual interest.

Besides, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani yesterday met separately with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkiye H E Hakan Fidan; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt H E Dr. Badr Abdelatty; Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain H E Jose Manuel Alvarez; Minister of

Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic H E Georgios Gerapetritis; Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus H E Dr. Constantinos Kombos; and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission H E Kaja Kallas, on the sidelines of the 23rd Doha Forum 2025.

During the meetings, they discussed cooperation relations and ways to support and develop them, and exchanged views on the topics on the forum's agenda, in addition to a number of topics of common interest.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani met yesterday with a parliamentary delegation from the French Republic, which included Deputy H E Estelle Yousseouffa, Deputy H E Laurent Mazure, Deputy H E

Romain Daubie, Deputy H E Belkhir Belhaddad, Deputy H E Vincent Eble, Deputy H E Jean Nocquet, Deputy H E Helene Conway-Mouret, and Deputy H E Edwige Diaz.

The meeting took place during the 23rd iteration of the Doha Forum 2025 deliberations.

His Excellency also met with a delegation from the Parliament of the United Kingdom, which included H E PM John Grady, H E MP Alex Ballinger, H E MP Dan Carden, H E MP Sir John Whittingdale, H E MP Uma Kumaran, H E MP Florence Eshalomi, H E MP Melanie Ward, HE MP Sarah Champion, H E MP Sir Andrew Mitchell, and H E MP Marsha De Cordova on the sidelines of the forum.

In addition, His Excellency met with a delegation from the Government of Jersey (a British Crown dependency), headed by Minister for External Relations H E Deputy Ian Gorst, H E Vice

Admiral Sir Jeremy Kyd, Lieutenant Governor of Jersey, Joe Moynihan, CEO of Jersey Finance, Principal External Relations Officer H E Joe Pinfold, and Chief of Staff to the Lieutenant Governor of Jersey, H E Major Justin Aldridge.

Discussions during the meetings focused on bilateral cooperation and ways to support and advance it. They also shared viewpoints on the forum's agenda and a variety of subjects of shared interest.

Besides, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani met yesterday with co-founder of Microsoft H E Bill Gates, on the sidelines of the Doha Forum 2025. The meeting discussed bilateral cooperation relations and exchanged views on the items on the forum's agenda, in addition to touching on a number of topics of mutual interest — *QNA*

Justice is fundamental pillar for safeguarding world peace: PM

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He warned that the world is witnessing an unprecedented escalation of crises, not due to a lack of resources or knowledge, but due to the absence of accountability and the continuation of conflicts without just solutions, posing a direct threat to international

peace and security.

He pointed out that when crises are managed through the logic of force rather than law, and when aggressors evade accountability, the international order begins to resemble a system built on promises that remain unfulfilled.

He further noted that

successive tensions have revealed that crisis management at its bare minimum, or the preservation of temporary international consensus without addressing root causes, is no longer a viable option. "Crises that are not resolved through fair and lasting solutions inevitably return more complex, extending

beyond their borders; temporary agreements do not halt the movement of history but merely postpone its obligations." In this regard, he stressed that only just solutions can build sustainable peace and prevent the perpetuation of conflict and division.

He warned that the absence of accountability remains one

of the gravest flaws in the international system-manifest in the region through the plight of the Palestinian people under flagrant violations of international law, and the tragedies unfolding in Sudan, including massacres and grave abuses.

Speaking on Syria, he stated that after harsh years marked

by the absence of justice, the Syrian people are moving on a path they hope will lead to recovery-within a framework of transitional justice that reinforces cohesion and rejects sectarianism, paving the way for a peace that turns the page on the past and is rooted in participation and justice.

Qatar announces signing of ‘Commitment to Peace’ by Colombian govt, EGC group

DOHA: The State of Qatar announced on Friday the signing of a “Commitment to Peace” by the Colombian government and the Self-Designated EGC Group, following two rounds of mediation in Doha.

The signing ceremony was attended by Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H E Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh Al Khulaifi.

Also present from international partners were State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, H E Andreas Kravik; Assistant Foreign Minister of the Swiss Confederation, H E Tim Enderlin; and Assistant Foreign Minister of Spain, H E Alberto Ucelay.

The ‘Commitment’ reflects consensus, responsibility, and a commitment to alleviating the suffering of the civilian population, ending the armed conflict, and paving the way for both parties to build a sustainable peace.

The ‘Commitment’ reflects consensus, responsibility, and a commitment to ending the armed conflict, and paving the way for both parties to build a sustainable peace.

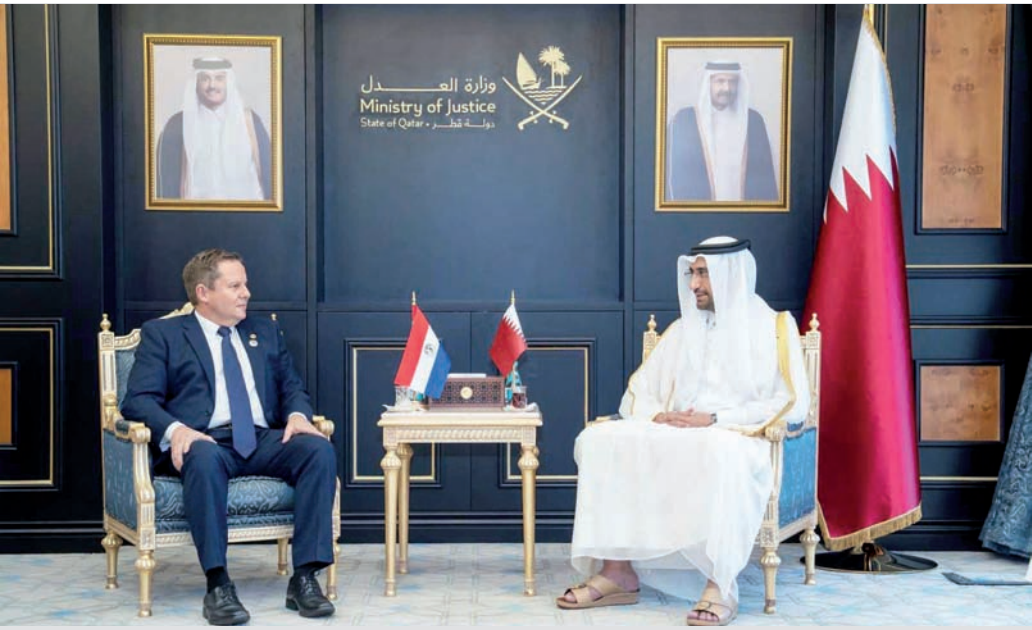
In this context, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the State of Qatar’s full appreciation for the positive spirit demonstrated by both parties during the two rounds of mediation, stressing the need for all parties to commit to working towards the success of the peace process.

The Ministry also expressed Qatar’s gratitude to its international partners, particularly Norway, Spain, and the Swiss Confederation, for their continued efforts that contributed to the signing of the pledge and strengthened the path of dialogue and sustainable peace in Colombia. — **QNA**

Special Envoy of Minister of Foreign Affairs meets officials at Doha Forum

DOHA: Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Ambassador Faisal bin Abdullah Al Hanzab met, separately yesterday with H E Director General for Global Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden Mikaniel Lindvall; H E Political Director and Director General for Middle East Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ireland Gerard Kyon; H E Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia James Swan; H E EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa Annette Weber; and H E African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Bankole Adeoye, on the sidelines of Doha Forum 2025.

During the meetings, they discussed bilateral cooperation, as well as a number of issues of common concern. — **QNA**




Minister of Justice meets Paraguay judicial delegation

Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs H E Ibrahim bin Ali bin Issa Al Hassan Al Mohannadi met with Minister of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Paraguay, H E Dr. Alberto Martinez Simon, and Vice Minister of Justice of the Republic of Paraguay, H E Juan Rafael Caballero Campos. Held on the margin of Doha Forum 2025, the meeting discussed advancing bilateral legal cooperation between the two countries.

MoFA Secretary General meets Finnish delegation

DOHA: Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs H E Dr. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi met yesterday with a delegation from Finland, headed by Ambassador-at-Large for the Middle East and Gulf Unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, H E Harri Kamarainen.

The meeting reviewed bilateral relations. — **QNA**



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation


No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	SUP/C/MNT/7389/25 PROVISION TO REFURBISH AND UPGRADING OF GTG BUSDUCTS ON CALL OFF BASIS	03/12/2025 to 15/12/2025	0	0	22/12/2025

Scope of Work:
This tender is for the refurbishment and upgrading of resin impregnated busducts for GTG equipment at Qatar Energy LNG facilities on call out basis. CONTRACTOR's scope of works shall includes but not limited to dismantling of existing busducts, transportation to workshop, fabrication of mould, removal of existing resin, inspection of copper conductors, resin casting of the busducts, testing and re-installation of the busducts etc. at the specified location(s).

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.



INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
QF-RFQ-1080	Provision of certification services on accredited management systems for Qatar Foundation on call-off basis for 3 years with option to extend for one (1) more year	500.00	N/A	8 th January 2026, 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-1090	Data Lifecycle Management for Qatar Foundation	500.00	N/A	12 th January 2026, 2:00 PM
QNL-RFQ-48	Design and Production of Motion Graphics and 2D Animation Videos on Qatari History for QNL	500.00	N/A	6 th January 2026, 2:00 PM
QNL-RFQ-47	Supply of All-in-One Desktop PCs for QNL	1,000.00	N/A	8 th January 2026, 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-1097	PR and Communications Agency for QSTP	500.00	N/A	7 th January 2026, 2:00 PM

Qatar Foundation (QF) Procurement Directorate is inviting companies to participate in the above listed public tenders. To receive the tender documents, please follow the below steps:

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

Tender Fee: Interested bidders can Sign in by visiting this link <https://suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract> and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online.

All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.

Tender Fee Payment Dates: Payment of Tender Fee online will be from **7th December until 11th December 2025**.
- All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.
- Technical and commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier Portal as per instructions provided in the “Supplier Portal” work instruction.
 - The commercial bid must be valid for **180 days** from Bid Closing Date.
 - The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **180 days** from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents).
 - The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
 - Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

Note: All work instructions for Supplier registration and Supplier portal can be found in below link: <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration>

Doha Forum achieves continuous success: Lebanon Minister

DOHA: Lebanon’s Minister of Information H E Dr. Paul Morcos praised the valuable initiatives that Qatar consistently launches across various fields, noting that all eyes remain fixed on Doha as it works to achieve the desired stability in the region, enhance regional cooperation, and strengthen investment.

In exclusive remarks to QNA on the sidelines of Doha Forum 2025, he commended the Forum’s objectives and activities, its achievements throughout previous editions, and its anticipated role in upholding the supremacy of justice over force, reinforcing Arab solidarity, and supporting joint Arab action, an area in which Qatar plays a key role.

He also expressed appreciation for Qatar’s substantial support and assistance to Lebanon and its people, affirming that Lebanon, its leadership and citizens, holds deep respect and gratitude for the leadership and people of Qatar, who have stood by Lebanon at all times, especially amid the challenges it currently faces.

He stressed that Lebanon always looks forward to Qatar’s continued role and strengthened engagement in this regard. — **QNA**

Panel discusses power of media

DOHA: The Doha Forum 2025 in cooperation with the International Media Office, held a panel discussion yesterday titled “The Power of Media and the Search for Truth.”

The session featured CEO and Co-founder of the Tucker Carlson Network, Neil Patel; journalist, co-host of the political show ‘The Rest Is Politics’, Rory Stewart; CEO of X Strategies, Alex Bruesewitz; and renowned author Nika Soon-Shiong. The panel was moderated by journalist Yalda Hakim of Sky News.

At the outset of the discussion, participants saluted the struggle and courage of journalists working on the ground in Gaza. They also underscored the growing importance of new media – particularly social media platforms that are ever-present on smart devices and mobile phones – which have revolutionized the dissemination of news and information in the modern era.

The speakers stressed the significance of these platforms in amplifying and accelerating the distribution of news content produced by traditional media, including newspapers, radio stations, news agencies, and television networks. — **QNA**



QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO) INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER FEE RECEIPT SUBMISSION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFQ 6000004453	Supply of mast climbing platforms Q2, Q4	500/- (non-refundable)	24,000/- (twenty-four thousand Qatari Riyals)	7-12-2025 8-12-2025 9-12-2025 10-12-2025 11-12-2025 14-12-2025 15-12-2025	21-12-2025

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company’s following Account at any QNB branch:
 - Account Name : **QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)**
 - Account Number : **0013-025828-058**
 - IBAN : **QA51QNBAA000000000013025828058**
 - Bank Name : **QATAR NATIONAL BANK**
- The interested Bidders shall mention their company’s name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder’s name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender (**Very Important**), during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.
- Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to purchase@qafco.com.qa on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (nonrefundable) and to jsaade@qafco.com.qa.
- After submission of the above documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately.
- For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the submission Tender Fee receipt at the QAFCO Housing Section, you may contact at purchase@qafco.com.qa or on 44227793.
- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.
- The Tender shall be strictly submitted using the QAFCO’s Supply Chain Portal – SAP / Ariba, on or before the “Tender Closing Date”. Tenderers who fail to adhere to this requirement will result in the disqualification of their Tender.



الهلل الأحمر القطري Qatar Red Crescent Medical Affairs Division

Tender Announcement :-

Sr. #	Tender No.	Description	Temporary Tender Bond (Q.R)	Documents Fees (Non-Refundable) (Q.R)	Closing Date
1	QRC/EMS/04-2025	Supply and Installation of Tablet Devices for Red Crescent Ambulance Vehicles	15,000	500	28-12-2025
2	QRC/EMS/05-2025	Supply Uniform for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Medical Staff	15,000	500	28-12-2025
3	QRC/EMS/05-2025	Medical Equipment and items (Ambulance Section)	100,000	1000	28-12-2025

The documents can be collected from Medical Affairs Division, Ain Khalid Area, Sunday to Thursday from 07:00 am to 01:00 pm till the closing date or by sending email along with the requested documents below.

Required Documents:

- Authorization letter to receive tender documents + ID copy of the person will be receiving the documents.
- Company’s Commercial registration copy.
- Bank deposit voucher with the value of documents not refunded & account details:
 - Account Name: Qatar Red Crescent.
 - Bank: Al Rayan.
 - Account Number: 0003-100689-200
 - IBAN Number: QA09MAFR000000000003100689200

For more information: Please call (50044554), or Email: whc.tenders@qrccs.org.qa



Al Muraikhi meets Uruguay Foreign Minister
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs H E Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi meeting yesterday with Minister of foreign Affairs of Uruguay H E Mario Lubetkin (pictured) on the sidelines of the Doha Forum 2025. He also met Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Panama H E Carlos Hoyos. Al Muraikhi also met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina H E Elmedin Konakovic. The meetings discussed cooperation between the two countries and ways to support and develop it, in addition to a number of topics of common interest.

Gulf-EU partnership on mediation, energy security essential: Al-Ansari

ARSALAN ALTAF
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar has called for a deeper and more structured partnership between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union (EU) in the fields of mediation, conflict resolution, and energy security. Speaking at the Doha Forum 2025 yesterday, Advisor to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H E Dr. Majed Al Ansari (pictured), said the Gulf and Europe are natural partners facing increasingly intertwined challenges. He noted that both regions share long-standing cooperation in investment, economy, and energy, but their relationship now needs to evolve to respond to rapidly changing global realities. “The two blocs, Gulf and EU, enjoy a lot of similarities. They have been working a lot on investment, economy, energy. The issues of our region end up being the issues of Europe. Whether through migration patterns, conflicts, or coalition against terrorism; in all of these issues, we find ourselves neighbors living next to each other and suffering from similar fates with everything that’s happening,” he said. Dr. Al Ansari stressed that mediation and conflict resolution have emerged as the most promising areas for strengthening partnership. “It is now mainly conflict resolution and mediation where Europe and the Gulf can come together,” he said, pointing to



the peace agreement between the Colombian government and the EGC group signed in Doha on Friday. He said the deal was mediated by Norway, Spain and Qatar, demonstrating how cross-regional collaboration can deliver concrete results. “These consortiums for peace that we need developed from all of these conflicts around the world can only be formed around not only like-minded countries, but those countries that have the capacity, the experience, the financial stability, and the political stability to act as mediators and to act in conflict resolutions. We in Qatar right now are mediating in 10 different conflicts. In Europe, I’m sure, a lot of conflicts are being mediated in different capacities,” he added. Touching on shifts in global geopolitics, Al Ansari referenced the newly-announced US National Security Strategy, noting that Washington’s focus is moving away from both Europe and the Middle East. “And we have the depth of experience when it comes to mediation in the EU, and the depth of the political decision

and political will in the Gulf to go on with these mediations. It’s very important to start working on these issues,” he said. Energy security, he argued, is another major area requiring joint action. He said recent global disruptions have revealed vulnerabilities that extend far beyond any single region. “What has happened between Russia and Ukraine, what has happened in maritime security, in a number of instances in the past, including the Red Sea, has merited a discussion that goes beyond the typical when it comes to energy security around the world today,” he said. Dr. Al Ansari also addressed the stalled GCC-EU Free Trade Agreement, describing it as one of the longest-running negotiations on any such agreement. “Our bureaucracies need to sit together and decide how to take this forward. One of the main problems in that front was always the fact that on both sides you don’t have a technical relationship that goes beyond the leadership relationships between the two sides. You need a technical relationship between the bureaucrats, between people who work in investment and business, that formulates an understanding on what it means for our leaders to be partners.” The session titled Gulf-EU Relations in the Age of Strategic Isolation also featured Dr. Norbert Röttgen, Dr. Paolo Magri, and Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, and was moderated by Caroline Kanter of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

Sheikha Al Mayassa, Bill Gates call for ‘homegrown’ innovation to drive humanity’s next chapter



Chairperson of Qatar Museums H E Sheikha Al Mayassa, Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Bill Gates and President of the Dangote Foundation Aliko Dangote during the panel discussion.

VICTOR BOLORUNDURO
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: In a landmark panel discussion titled “Humanity’s Next Chapter: Innovation and Impact from the Global South,” three of the world’s most influential figures — H E Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad Al Thani, Bill Gates, and Aliko Dangote — urged the Global South to seize control of its own narrative through culture, technology and African-led industrialisation. Moderated by Al Jazeera’s Folly Bah Thibault, the session highlighted how strategic investments in creativity, health, education and agriculture as the bedrock of sustainable empowerment. H E Sheikha Al Mayassa, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, described culture as the most potent form of soft power that ultimately fuels hard economic transformation. “When we started building museums years ago, culture was seen as ‘nice-to-have.’ Today it is the first sector nations turn to when redefining identity and dignity,” she said. She pointed to the Doha Film Institute (celebrating its fifteenth anniversary) and M7 fashion incubator as proof that consistent, long-term vision can create globally competitive creative industries. “Who will tell

our stories if not us?” she asked, stressing the importance of authentic storytelling from Arabia, Africa and Southeast Asia. Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, framed the demographic reality bluntly: by mid-century, most children born on earth will be African. “That is either the world’s greatest dividend — in creativity, sport, fashion, science — or its greatest burden,” he warned. Gates argued that eradicating diseases like malaria, scaling primary-health systems and deploying AI-driven agricultural advisors could turn Africa into a net food exporter within two decades. Crucially, he promised that new AI tools — virtual doctors, tutors and farm advisors accessible free via mobile phones — would leapfrog traditional infrastructure gaps. “The cloud cost is modest; rich countries and philanthropies should cover it so no one in the Global South pays,” he declared. Aliko Dangote, President of the Dangote Foundation and Africa’s wealthiest individual, announced plans to launch a \$700 million education fund next week, supporting 155,000 students from secondary school through university over ten years. He described building industrial ecosystems that prioritize local employment and

training, noting that his 650,000 barrel-per-day refinery employed 50,000 Nigerians compared to just 17,000 foreign workers. Dangote emphasized agriculture’s potential, establishing rice mills with processing capabilities while providing farmers with fertilizers and guaranteed purchases. He advocated for tax incentives encouraging corporate investment in creative industries, noting that over 70 percent of Africa’s population is under 35. “Nobody from outside will come and do it for us. We Africans must start first; then partners will follow,” he said. All three panellists agreed that technology, particularly AI, must not deepen the North-South divide. Sheikha Al Mayassa revealed Qatar’s “Applied Imagination” initiative, which uses cultural spaces to humanise technology and is developing Arabic-language AI applications and games that feel authentically local rather than imported. The session closed on an optimistic note: when culture reclaims identity, when health and education unlock human potential, and when African entrepreneurs and Gulf visionaries collaborate rather than compete, the Global South is not merely catching up — it is writing humanity’s next chapter.

Qatar Chemical Company Limited
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ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TENDER

No.	Document No.	Description	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1.	QC/TC/SEC/125/25	Outsourcing of Security Personnel for Five Years	QAR 955,500/-	15:00 hrs. on 04 th January 2026

Brief Scope:
The Company requires services from an MOI-approved, experienced Contractor to supply 24/7 Security Personnel, along with all materials and tools needed to secure Company premises and administer the plans and procedures as directed by the Site Security Supervisors in each location for Q-Chem, Q-Chem II, RLOC and RLP at Mesaieed and Ras Laffan Industrial Cities.

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 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 tadvertising@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 7th December 2025 to 11th December 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.

MWANI QATAR

مواني قطر

TENDERS AND AUCTIONS COMMITTEE

TENDERS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tenders and Auctions Committee of Mwani Qatar hereby announces the below tenders with the following terms and conditions:

SL no.	TENDER FOR	TENDER NO.	TENDER BOND	DOC FEES	CLOSING DATE	Remarks
1	MWANI QATAR MANAGED SERVICES FOR PORT OPERATION SYSTEMS, ICT OPERATIONS, PREVENTIVE & CORRECTIVE MAINTENANCE, AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT	MQ\TAC/TEN \442\2025	QRS. 8,000,000	QRS. 12,000	31.12.2025	Two envelope
2	REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SUPPORT SERVICES FOR MWANI PORTS SECURITY SYSTEMS FOR 5 YEARS	MQ\TAC/TEN \440\2025	QRS. 5,000,000	QRS. 10,000	14.12.2025	Two envelope
3	DESIGN, SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF CONCRETE FLOATING PONTOON AT AL RUWAIS PORT	MQ\TAC/TEN \443\2025	QRS. 30,000	QRS. 300	29.12.2025	Two envelope

1 - Tender documents can be obtained (via Email) from the Finance and Accounting Department Tel No. (40453724/568) , after depositing the non-refundable amount mentioned above at MQ A/C No. (0850 - 102030 - 060) at QNB and submitting the bank depositing receipt and copy of the Commercial Registration to : (tender.secretary@mwani.com.qa) Tel. (40453724 / 568 - 31265655 / 30121037) .

2 - Offer should be accompanied with a Tender Bond / issued by one of the Banks operating in Qatar for the amount shown in the above table and valid for 120 days from the closing date. The offer which is not accompanied by the Tender Bond will not be considered. The successful bidder should submit a Performance Bond of 10% of the total Tender value, which should be valid for (90) days after the expiry of the contract period.

3 - Offers should be valid for ninety (90) days commencing from the tender closing date and MQ has the right (after Tenders and Auctions Committee approval) to increase or decrease the items/services by 20% of the contract value according to its conditions and prices.

4 - The deadline for submitting offers will be **02:00 pm** of the date shown above. Any offer arriving thereafter will not be considered.

5 - The offers should be deposited in the Tenders and Auctions Committee Box of MQ as per the address given above. It should be in closed envelopes, sealed with red wax and addressed to the Chairman, Tenders and Auctions Committee of MQ , writing the number and subject of the Tender. The tender submitting party should confirm that he has received the receipt for delivering the tender

6 - The offers must be submitted in **Two envelope system, (Technical original and copy one envelope + Commercial original and copy one envelope)** The envelopes should not bear any mark denoting the name of the Company. **The original Tender bond and copy of the ICV certificate must be attached with the Original Technical offer.**

7 - Every tenderer should attach document showing previous similar experience in the field of the required items/servicer.

8 - For more clarification, please contact Tenders Secretary .

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Minister of State for International Cooperation meets Assistant to President of Azerbaijan for Foreign Affairs

Minister of State for International Cooperation H E Dr. Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad met yesterday with Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Foreign Affairs H E Hikmet Hajiyev, on the sidelines of the 23rd Doha Forum 2025. The meeting dealt with discussing bilateral cooperation and the means to enhance it, in addition to several issues of joint interest.

Doha Forum discusses regional security

DOHA: A session of the Doha Forum 2025 held yesterday discussed defense policy, security, mediation in conflicts, and peacebuilding, under the title “Iran and the Changing Regional Security Environment.”

The session featured GCC Secretary-General H E Jassem Mohamed AlBudaiwi, former Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Mohammad Javad Zarif, and Director of the Institute of International Affairs in Italy Nathalie Tocci. The session was moderated by

Executive Vice-President of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft in Washington. Dr. Trita Parsi.

The GCC Secretary-General affirmed the Council’s keenness on Iran’s stability and prosperity, stressing that no one in the GCC wished to see Iran collapse.

AlBudaiwi noted that the Gulf states had, over the past seven to eight decades, transformed into the world’s ninth-largest economy, and expressed the GCC’s desire to share these development experiences with

Iran. Zarif affirmed that Iran was capable of overcoming crises despite the challenges it had faced throughout history.

He said that Iran had always been willing to engage in dialogue, referencing his 2017 proposal for a Regional Dialogue Forum (RDF) based on the UN Charter, good neighbourliness, non-interference, and the peaceful settlement of disputes. He stressed the need to institutionalise the ongoing discussions between Iran and the GCC states and to build a shared vision for the future. — *QNA*

Qatar’s partnership has boosted global health empowerment, poverty reduction: Bill Gates

DOHA: Microsoft Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Gates Foundation) Bill Gates emphasised that the strategic partnership between his foundation and the State of Qatar has greatly contributed to supporting programs in health, social development, and global poverty reduction.

In his speech at the opening of the Doha Forum, he stated that Qatar is one of the world’s foremost supporters of social development programs, including health and poverty alleviation.

He revealed the launch of a new partnership between the Gates Foundation and the Qatar Development Fund aimed at enhancing economic empowerment, particularly supporting farmers, alongside initiatives in education and health.

He highlighted Qatar’s pivotal role in supporting international efforts to provide vaccines, including its support for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (Gavi) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, describing this role as an investment reflecting a genuine commitment to the world’s most vulnerable populations.

Thanks to Qatar’s humanitarian efforts, he noted, the country not only helps resolve conflicts worldwide but also provides resources that benefit humanity.

He explained that joint efforts between institutions and donor countries, including Qatar, have helped reduce child



Microsoft Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Bill Gates addressing Doha Forum yesterday.

mortality from 10 million to about 5 million annually, the fastest improvement rate in human history.

He noted that last year, 4.6 million children died, compared with 4.8 million this year, but despite this decline, the numbers remain high, requiring continuous monitoring of gains and innovation in health systems.

He stated that building an effective health system in poor countries requires no more than USD 100 per person per year, which could prevent 95 percent of deaths from treatable or preventable diseases.

He warned that progress

remains fragile, as over 100 million people live in conflict zones, complicating access to healthcare services.

He revealed that modern technologies, including artificial intelligence, will provide humanity with a historic opportunity to achieve exceptional health milestones, such as developing vaccines against HIV/AIDS and malaria, eradicating polio as humanity’s second disease to eliminate, and creating AI-based tools to improve healthcare delivery and connect patients in deprived countries with doctors remotely in multiple languages. — *QNA*

France’s Crisis Support Centre seeks deeper, long-term cooperation with Qatar

FAZEENA SALEEM
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Director of the Crisis and Support Centre at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Philippe Lalliot (pictured) praised Qatar’s growing global leadership in humanitarian action and mediation, calling its role “distinctive, influential, and irrepressible” during an interview with The Peninsula, yesterday.

Lalliot, in Qatar for the Doha Forum 2025, said the theme ‘Justice in Action: Beyond Promises to Progress,’ highlights the urgent need for fairness, equality, and accountability which core principles for crisis response and international cooperation.

“Justice is not optional or negotiable,” he said. “We must stand firm on the values we believe in: respect for

international law, humanitarian law, multilateralism, solidarity and generosity. These principles must translate into concrete measures, not just declarations.” He noted that discussions on the first day of the forum reflected a growing consensus for action-oriented humanitarian work.

Lalliot confirmed that Qatar and France are already engaged in several joint humanitarian initiatives particularly in Lebanon, Gaza and Afghanistan, but highlighted that both sides are now exploring a shift toward long-term, structural cooperation.

“We do a lot already, but I’m sure we can do more,” he said adding that several meetings are scheduled with Qatari officials during his stay in Qatar.

Among the new areas under discussion Lalliot said that Qatar and France are considering creating a annual fund, equally



financed, to support global crisis response. “It’s a more sophisticated approach, we put the money first, and then jointly decide where it should go,” Lalliot he said.

France is also evaluating locations in the Gulf for a new emergency-response stockpile, to ensure faster deployment to crises in the Middle East, East Africa and beyond.

“We want to hear Qatar’s views,” he said. “These stocks

“We must stand firm on the values we believe in: respect for international law, humanitarian law, multilateralism, solidarity and generosity. These principles must translate into concrete measures, not just declarations.”

are expensive but essential. They save time and time saves lives.” Lalliot said the Centre is currently focused on several “structural crises” including Gaza, Syria, Lebanon, Ukraine and Sudan.

“These crises are very close to both of us, Qatar from the south, Europe from the north,” he said. “They shape our security and how we see the world.” He also warned that several devastating crises

receive far less global attention including in Haiti, Myanmar and Afghanistan.

“Unfortunately, compared to two or three years ago, we now have more crises, more violence, more brutality,” he said. “The list has no end, which is a shame and a pity.” Asked how France is ensuring aid reaches the most vulnerable, Lalliot emphasised the need for broad partnerships.

“We work with UN agencies, NGOs, strong state partners like Qatar, and also private companies and foundations,” he said. He credited France’s network of 170 embassies and consulates for its ability to operate close to crisis zones.

“Without these people in the field we could do absolutely nothing,” he said. “Humanitarian response is an ecosystem, and cohesion is essential, even if difficult.” To highlight Qatar’s

expanding global role, Lalliot emphasised the country’s growing commitment to humanitarian assistance and conflict resolution.

“Qatar has become one of the biggest donors in the world,” he said. “Qatar is not only a major donor. It is an influential humanitarian actor and one of the most respected mediators,” he said. “What is impressive is how Qatar moved from mediating in its own region to mediating in the Great Lakes, a completely different context and then even in Colombia.” He described Qatar’s global role as a “distinctive footprint” and “a very impressive scorecard on complex, painful issues.” “In a nutshell,” he said, “Qatar’s contribution to stability and peace in the world is exceptional. We all hope Qatar continues a s s u m i n g t h e s e responsibilities.”

'Doha Forum 2025 a timely platform centred on justice amid escalating geopolitical tensions'

VICTOR BOLORUNDURO
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: South Africa’s Director-General of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), Zane Dangor (pictured), has underscored the urgent need for global accountability and equitable diplomacy, describing this year’s Doha Forum as a timely platform centred on justice amid escalating geopolitical tensions.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Forum, Dangor said the 2025 edition stood out for its strong emphasis on ensuring that “justice must be seen to be done,” especially as the world grapples with widening conflicts and what he described as growing impunity in international affairs.

He warned that the ongoing war in Gaza risked becoming “the graveyard of international law,” citing the scale of civilian suffering and lack of accountability in the conflict.

Dangor, who serves as South Africa’s G20 sherpa, also reflected on the country’s recent chairing of the G20 summit, describing the negotiations as “brilliant” despite the voluntary absence of one member state.

“The summit successfully produced a declaration championing priorities critical to



Africa, including the beneficiation of critical minerals at source and strategies to address mounting debt burdens across the continent,” he said.

He noted, however, that the United States’ subsequent stance barring South Africa from future participation contradicted established G20 protocols.

Qatar’s presence as a guest at the summit received notable praise from the South African diplomat, who highlighted the shared values between Doha and Pretoria.

“We both share a commitment to justice and peace,” Dangor said, noting that both nations are increasingly coordinating on mediation efforts and exploring ways to expand their cooperation beyond traditional bilateral relations.

On the Gaza crisis, Dangor emphasised a close alignment between the two countries,

Dangor said the 2025 edition stood out for its strong emphasis on ensuring that “justice must be seen to be done.”

describing an active exchange of perspectives. Qatar, he said, continues to play a central role in mediation, working with all stakeholders toward a ceasefire.

South Africa, meanwhile, has focused on the “justice and accountability” dimension—an approach he stressed as essential to achieving durable peace. Both nations agree that any resolution “cannot just be peace; it has to be peace and justice.”

“This joint model of mediation and accountability is now being explored for application in other conflict zones, including Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Ukraine, with shared efforts aimed at preventing outcomes that reward aggressors,” he said.

While much of his time in Qatar is spent in meetings, Dangor described Doha—particularly Lusail’s Al-Andorra district—as a vibrant and welcoming environment that naturally fosters dialogue. “It is the kind of space that lends itself to bringing people together,” he said.

WFP calls for renewed support as crises intensify

JOEL JOHNSON
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The World Food Programme (WFP) took part in this year’s Doha Forum, using the global policy platform to draw attention to rapidly worsening food insecurity and to push for greater humanitarian support.

In an interview with *The Peninsula*, Carl Skau (pictured), Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the World Food Programme, said the Forum has become an essential venue for humanitarian advocacy and coordination as global hunger reaches unprecedented levels.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Skau said participating in Doha is strategically important for the agency’s mission.

“The Doha Forum has really established itself as one of the key diplomatic moments of the year in the diplomatic calendar,” he said. “So it’s key for us to be here, of course, to bring attention to the needs of food insecurity across the world globally, but also to specific crises.” While the organisation is responding to multiple emergencies globally, Skau said Sudan currently demands the most urgent attention.

“In Sudan, it’s terrifying, really, what’s happening,” he said. “I was just recently there. I spoke to people who had



many problems getting out, to flee, and they were bearing witness to terrible atrocities.” He warned that unless pressure and support increase, the violence observed in El Fasher could spread rapidly.

“We need to make sure that what happened in El Fasher does not happen in the southern Kordofan and cities like Kadugli, Dilling, but even El Obeid,” he said, calling for immediate action to support civilians trapped in besieged areas.

Skau highlighted progress in Gaza during the current ceasefire window, where WFP has expanded food distribution and restarted digital cash support.

“We have now established some 25 bakeries, we have hundreds of distribution points, we have been able to again start off with our e-wallet, the cash assistance,” he explained.

In November alone, humanitarian teams reached

1.4 million people, but Skau cautioned that access remains unstable and needs continue to grow.

The official said, “It’s fragile, obviously, and the needs are massive. More aid is needed, not least to prepare for the winter.”

Skau also raised alarm about deteriorating conditions in Yemen, where 29 WFP staff members are currently being detained by Houthi authorities, a situation he described as deeply concerning. He noted that Syria and other long-running crises remain heavily underfunded.

Meanwhile, partnership with Qatar is another focus of WFP’s presence at the Forum. “We already have an excellent partnership with Qatar, but we hope to deepen and further that partnership even more,” Skau said, mentioning Qatar’s role now includes innovation, frontline access negotiations, and diplomacy, not just financial support.

Globally, Skau warned that 320 million people are now acutely food insecure, a figure he compared to the population of a large nation.

He further added, “We’re talking here of needs at historic proportions. Yet despite growing urgency, WFP funding has fallen 40 percent, forcing difficult rationing and reduced support to vulnerable communities.

Calls for action to consolidate Gaza truce, advance pathways to peace

SANAULLAH ATAULLAH
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: A high-level ministerial panel at the Doha Forum convened under the theme “The Gaza Reckoning: Reassessing Global Responsibilities and Pathways to Peace”, brought together foreign ministers and senior officials from Spain, Norway, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.

The session, moderated by CEO & President, International Crisis Group Dr. Comfort Ero, delivered a unified warning that the fragile ceasefire in Gaza cannot endure without rapid international actions to stabilise the situation, deliver humanitarian aid, and advance political arrangements anchored in a two-state solution.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation, Kingdom of Spain H E José Manuel Albares voiced concern over continued violations of the ceasefire, emphasising that the humanitarian crisis is worsening each week. “We have a glimpse of hope at this moment,” he said, “but we must move very quickly to phase two, and that starts with consolidating the ceasefire. It is unacceptable that we



FROM LEFT: Spain's Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares, Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and Norway's Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide during the opening of the Doha Forum 2025 yesterday. (AFP)

have a ceasefire continuously violated, with dozens of innocent Palestinians still being killed every week. This has to stop.”

Albares called for massive humanitarian assistance to enter Gaza and stressed the central role of UN agencies in distributing aid impartially and

independently. Ensuring regular access to food and basic needs for Gaza's civilians, he added, must become an international priority.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration, and Egyptian Expatriates of Egypt H E Dr. Badr Abdelatty urged immediate steps to strengthen the

“The Gaza Reckoning: Reassessing Global Responsibilities and Pathways to Peace”, brought together foreign ministers and senior officials from Spain, Norway, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.

ceasefire and accelerate the move toward the second phase of the 20-point peace plan. He stressed the need to “flood Gaza with humanitarian and medical aid” ahead of winter, noting the severe destruction and lack of shelter after months of conflict.

He called for deploying the stabilization force “as soon as possible” to monitor ceasefire compliance, describing it as a peacekeeping, not peace-enforcing, mission. He emphasised that the Palestinian technocratic committee must oversee daily services, law enforcement, health care, and basic needs until the PA fully returns to Gaza. “Gaza and the West Bank are an integral part of the independent Palestinian state,” he stated, reiterating that displacement of Palestinians is

unacceptable and that border crossings, including Rafah, should function solely for humanitarian access, not as a channel for forced movement.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Norway H E Espen Barth Eide echoed the urgency of sequencing and implementing the transitional institutions outlined in the peace plan. He cautioned that the fragile current situation cannot hold for long. “We can either move forward or backward—we cannot stay many more weeks like this,” he said. Ensuring clarity on what steps occur first, he added, is essential to prevent parties from delaying actions by citing the lack of progress from others.

Minister Plenipotentiary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia H E Dr. Manal Radwan began by thanking Qatar for hosting what she described as a vital forum that reflects Qatar's ongoing commitment to regional and global stability. Dr. Radwan clarified that the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution emerged from extensive diplomatic engagements, with Spain playing an early leadership role.

UDST marks Qatar National Day by unveiling ‘Success Story’ book

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) celebrated Qatar National Day with a vibrant on-campus event that brought together students, faculty members and staff to honour the Nation's rich heritage and values.

Held as part of the official Qatar National Day celebrations at the University, the event took place in the presence of H E Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al-Naimi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Mohammed Yousef Al-Mulla, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Managing Director and CEO of Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO)

and Dr. Abdulatif Al Khal, Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Director of Medical Education at Hamad Medical Corporation and

As part of the celebration, UDST “Success Story” Book was officially launched.

This commemorative publication traces the history of UDST, from the leadership's visionary decision to establish Qatar's first applied university to the remarkable achievements the institution celebrates today.

The book also highlights inspirational stories and university milestones from students, alumni and faculty members, showcasing academic excellence, innovation projects, community

engagement initiatives and professional achievements, and reflecting the University's role in shaping highly skilled graduates who support Qatar's development. Complementing the book, a curated exhibition brought the “Success Story” theme to life, offering visitors an immersive journey through UDST's institutional milestones and achievements.

Reflecting on the importance of the occasion, Dr. Salem Al-Naemi, President of UDST, said: “Qatar National Day is a moment to celebrate how far our country has come and to renew our commitment to the values of unity, resilience and progress. In it, we reaffirm our promise to the values of unity, resilience, and progress under



Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education H E Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al-Naimi and President of UDST Dr. Salem Al-Naemi with other officials during the event.

our wise leadership, led by His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar may God protect and bless him.”

He added: “We are proud to launch UDST Success Story

and to feature an opening word from Her Excellency Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater, Minister of Education and Higher Education in this book, and we are equally honored by the way she describes UDST. We wish to

extend our appreciation to the Ministry led by Her Excellency for their continued support.

Through the launch of this publication, we aim to document a story that will endure for generations to come.



Panellists during a discussion on international justice system and rule of law.

Experts discuss ways to uphold international justice system

M MAZHARUL HAQUE
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: A session themed, ‘Upholding International Justice and the of Rule Law’ as part of Doha Forum 2025 on December 6 discussed intensifying global rivalries and conflicts, and international justice systems coming under growing pressure.

The session organised in partnership with French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs, brought together diplomats and experts to assess whether international justice can still serve as a stabilising force in a fractured global landscape, and whether it can deliver on its promise of accountability amid shifting power dynamics.

The discussions explored how international justice can avoid being perceived as a tool of the powerful, and how it can be more effectively integrated with transitional justice in post-conflict settings, and whether meaningful reform is essential to its long-term legitimacy and impact.

One of the panellists, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives H E Dr. Adhulla Khaleel said, “The Maldives has taken a principled stand in support of accountability for the atrocities faced by the Rohingya, including through international legal proceedings in the ICJ. As a nation with deep belief in the

rule of law, we can't remain indifferent when an entire population is denied basic rights and forced into displacement. Their plight underscores why international justice must be accessible to all, especially the most marginalised.

“The Maldives firmly believes and remains firmly committed to a rule-based international order, and to multilateral cooperation, and to global justice that protects the weak and restrains the powerful. We believe that international justice is strongest when it is universal, impartial, and accessible, and when it restores hope to those who have suffered the most.” Another panellist, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina H E Elmedin Konaković said, “The equal justice for all countries and individuals is the most important issue if we want to talk about international law and international order. Today what we see in Gaza, in Ukraine, and Sudan is just opposite. Big players, strong players, geopolitically strong countries, and individuals are hiding themselves behind their power and they are not being held responsible for the crimes they are doing.” Secretary-General, Digital Cooperation Organisation H E Deemah AlYahya, said, “I wanted to emphasise the importance of the integrity of the information and the content that we are receiving

right now. So if we look at the integrity of international justice, it has been always dependent on one fundamental assumption. And that assumption is that we can distinguish between truth and false news. Today, that assumption is under unprecedented strain and stress. And in conflict zones where facts are already constrained, the rise of cynical realities threatens justice.” Secretary General, Palestinian National Initiative Dr. Mustafa Barghouti, said, “The world is facing probably the biggest challenge since World War II when it comes to the issue of international law or justice in principle. I think that Gaza and Palestine in general has become the parameter according to which one can measure whether there is respect for international justice.

“There is the first question that every Palestinian asks, and so many other people in this world ask, where is international justice, when more than 70,000 Palestinians were slaughtered, 83% of them were civilians, and thousand of them were children. Together that figure is 12% of the population of Gaza. It's not just genocide, it's also the collective punishment which continues. People are starving, children are malnourished, and epidemics are spreading because of lack of clean water, and food.”

BRICS-GCC ties take center stage as global order shifts



Panellists during the discussion. PIC: SALIM MATRAMKOT/THE PENINSULA

JOEL JOHNSON
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: A high-level panel at the Doha Forum explored how shifting global alliances between BRICS and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are reshaping the geopolitical and economic landscape, signaling what several speakers described as a transition toward a more multipolar world order.

The session, entitled ‘BRICS, GCC, and Evolving Relations for a Changing Global Order’, convened senior policymakers and geopolitical analysts, including Dr. Ebtessam AlKetbi, President of the Emirates Policy Center, Brazil's Secretary of Multilateral Political Affairs, H E Carlos Márcio Bicalho Cozendey, Senior Fellow at the Center for International Government Innovation, Einar Tangen, and moderator Dr. Gustavo de Carvalho from the South African Institute of International Affairs.

Speakers highlighted the recent expansion of BRICS, which now includes the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, as a pivotal moment in global diplomacy. With additional candidates such as Bahrain, Chile, and Colombia under consideration, the bloc is now emerging as a major political and economic counterweight to traditional Western-led institutions.

Officials discussed ongoing

BRICS deliberations over financial alternatives, including talk of a shared currency as a mechanism to reduce dependence on the US dollar in global trade. These conversations tie directly into a broader trend of South-South cooperation and financial diversification.

Brazil's representative, H E Cozendey, emphasised that the group's evolution is not about replacing existing systems but complementing them, stating the changing structure of BRICS reflects a broader push for inclusivity in global governance. “BRICS is not a political coalition; it's a cooperation space. Its members are not required to share the same opinions or positions. Within that space, there are nearly 300 working groups, some already producing concrete results, others still exploratory,” he said.

The panel underscored the growing role of Gulf states as geopolitical intermediaries, linking emerging power centers in Asia, Africa, and Latin America with established Western markets and institutions.

Dr. AlKetbi noted that the GCC's expanding cooperation with BRICS reflects shared ambitions around investment corridors, technological advancements, and long-term energy transition frameworks, areas where Gulf economies are

increasingly assertive actors.

She said, “The accelerating fragmentation of the international system has placed middle powers like my country and other GCC states such as Qatar and Saudi Arabia at the center of global transition.”

Panelists debated whether the growing ties between BRICS and the GCC represent a stable move toward multipolar governance or signal deeper structural fragmentation in the international system.

Einar Tangen argued that what emerges next will depend on the ability of both blocs to institutionalize cooperation, rather than relying solely on political alignment or economic momentum. He stressed, “Everything is shifting downward toward regional groups and middle powers like Brazil, the GCC, China, and others who are increasingly shaping global dynamics.”

As the discussion concluded, speakers agreed that the coming years will define whether these alliances evolve into permanent pillars of global diplomacy or remain informal collectives shaped by shifting geopolitics.

Additionally, the delegates stated that platforms like BRICS are no longer ‘peripheral actors’ but increasingly central to decisions shaping economics, technology, security, and global governance.



Special Envoy meets representative of Uzbek President

Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Ambassador Faisal bin Abdullah Al Hanzab met with Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Afghanistan H E Dr. Ismatulla Irgashev, on the sidelines of the Doha Forum 2025. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation between the two countries and developments in the Afghanistan.

Al Faleh Educational Holding concludes Annual Ordinary General Assembly; Extraordinary Assembly on Dec 11

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Al Faleh Educational Holding successfully convened its Annual Ordinary General Assembly on Thursday, December 04, 2025, in the presence of the Company's Chairperson and Founder Dr. Sheikhha Aisha bint Nawaf Al Thani; Chief Executive Officer, Sheikhha Anwar bint Nawaf Al Thani; and members of the Board of Directors.



Chairperson and Founder Dr. Sheikhha Aisha bint Faleh Al Thani, Chief Executive Officer Sheikhha Anwar bint Nawaf Al Thani and members of the Board of Directors attending the Annual Ordinary General Assembly.

The quorum for the Ordinary General Assembly was achieved. However, the Extraordinary General Assembly did not reach the legal quorum and has therefore been postponed to December 11, 2025.

Dr. Sheikhha Aisha welcomed all shareholders and expressed her appreciation for their continued trust and support before the meeting proceeded with the Ordinary Assembly agenda.

Resolutions of the Annual Ordinary General Assembly The Annual Ordinary General Assembly approved the following resolutions: The report of the Board of Directors of the Company's activities for the year ended 31 August 2025 and discussing the Company's future plans.

Discussion and approval of the External Auditors' Report for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2025.

Hearing and ratifying the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2025.

Discussing the auditors'

report on the appropriateness and effectiveness of internal control systems implemented in the Company for the year ended August 31, 2025. Approval of the Board of Directors' recommendation to distribute dividends to the shareholders equivalent to QR0.0125 per share for the year ended August 31, 2025.

Addressing the shareholders, Dr. Sheikhha Aisha Bint Faleh Al Thani expressed her appreciation to all participants and highlighted that the year 2025 represented an important milestone in the Company's continued growth. She noted that Al Faleh Educational Holding's strong and stable presence on the Main Market of the Qatar Stock Exchange reflects its advancement as a leading national model in private education and higher education.

Dr. Sheikhha Aisha emphasized that the Company remains committed to providing high-quality educational environments that encourage leadership, innovation, and academic excellence across all its schools and higher education institution. She expressed her appreciation to the community

for their ongoing commitment during the 2025/2026 academic year and reaffirmed the Company's dedication to enhancing learning environments across all stages of education.

Presenting the Company's performance for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2025, she highlighted the solid financial results, including: An improvement in Earnings per Share, reaching QR0.058 compared to QR0.052 the previous year.

A 13% increase in net profit, reaching QR14,026,553, reflecting stronger operational efficiency and the collective efforts of the Board, management, and teams across the Company.

Dr. Sheikhha Aisha Bint Faleh Al Thani also announced the launch of several newly approved academic programmes in higher education, including: Bachelor's Degrees with Honours: LLB International Law and Comparative Law, Bachelor of Real Estate Management with Honours and MEng Computing Science (Cybersecurity). Postgraduate Programmes: MSc International Relations and MSc Artificial Intelligence

Doha Forum explores how shifts in global aid are reshaping fragile states



Panellists attending 'How Shifts in Global Aid Are Reshaping Fragile States' session yesterday.

**SANAULLAH ATAULLAH
THE PENINSULA**

DOHA: The Doha Forum convened a high-level session titled "How Shifts in Global Aid Are Reshaping Fragile States," bringing together leading figures from humanitarian organizations, international agencies, and policy think tanks.

The panel examined the mounting challenges facing fragile states as global crises intensify and humanitarian funding declines, and explored how new strategies, partnerships, and technologies may help bridge critical gaps.

Moderated by Mona Yacoubian, Director and Senior Adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the session featured H E Yousef Ali Al-Khater, Chairman of the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS); Tjada D'Oyen McKenna, CEO of Mercy Corps; Lisa Doughten, Director at OCHA; and Fadi Chehade, Chair of the PAX Foundation.

Yousef Ali Al-Khater highlighted how QRCS is adapting its strategy to meet the rapidly evolving landscape of global crises. He emphasised the organisation's shift from emergency response to long-term sustainability, noting that QRCS' work now focuses heavily on strengthening livelihoods and supporting vulnerable communities through sustainable projects.

"Our strategy is based on balanced local and national

abilities," he said, explaining that this approach has enabled QRCS to form extensive partnerships with UN agencies and expand its global reach. Last year alone, QRCS programmes benefited over one million people across more than 20 countries, spanning regions well beyond the Middle East.

He detailed initiatives in waste management, portable water supply, and community-level development. Investing in local partnerships, Al-Khater noted, has improved coordination, strengthened governance, and increased trust between national societies and international actors.

"Our strategy must be flexible because crises change," he added, pointing to the growing funding gap and the protracted nature of modern conflicts. Accurate impact measurement, transparency, and adaptability, he said, are key to sustaining effective humanitarian response.

Representing the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Lisa Doughten delivered a stark assessment of today's global humanitarian landscape.

She described the moment as one "of profound consequence," as needs across fragile states escalate sharply while available funding declines.

"Conflicts are multiplying, they're more protracted, and we have climate emergencies that are escalating," she said.

Offering a perspective on innovation, Fadi Chehade of the PAX Foundation underscored

how technology, particularly artificial intelligence, is transforming aid delivery. AI tools, he explained, are helping design projects, streamline proposals, track field teams, and analyse satellite imagery to monitor progress remotely.

These advancements, he said, significantly reduce inefficiencies: "This allows us to deliver every dollar, every euro from the donor to the ground, to the beneficiary, with less than 5 percent leakage." Chehade described this as a model for scalable and accountable humanitarian funding, enabling donors to track impact more accurately and in real time.

Mercy Corps CEO Tjada D'Oyen McKenna focused on the human consequences of disrupted aid systems. She noted that when humanitarian operations stall or withdraw, communities are often left suddenly "stranded with nowhere to go," exposing the fragility of systems many governments did not realise they relied upon.

McKenna stressed the need for a fundamental shift toward empowering local actors. "We need to help governments, civil society, and other local actors take the lead themselves," she said, calling for debt relief, capacity-building initiatives, and meaningful consultations that bring affected people into the decision-making process.

More coordinated planning, she argued, is essential to ensure aid truly meets the needs on the ground.

Al Khor and Al Thakhira join UNESCO's Learning Cities Network

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Al Khor and Al Thakhira Municipality has officially joined UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities, completing the inclusion of all municipalities in the State of Qatar within this prestigious international network. This milestone strengthens Qatar's global standing in lifelong learning and highlights its leadership in sustainable devel-

opment and human development.

This achievement reflects Qatar's sustained efforts to promote the concept of a learning society and advance sustainability through initiatives that foster innovation, community engagement, and enhanced quality of life.

It also demonstrates the successful integration of national efforts between the Ministry of Municipality, the

Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, and other relevant national institutions—all working collectively to reinforce sustainable development principles and embed lifelong learning as a core pillar of Qatar National Vision 2030.

UNESCO granted membership to Al Khor and Al Thakhira Municipality after it met all required criteria.

Al-Ahli Hospital hosts RCOG's first conference in Qatar

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) hosted the 1st Conference of the Qatar Representative Committee in Doha - a distinguished platform for advancing women's health, sharing knowledge, and shaping the future of obstetrics and gynaecology in Qatar.

Hosted by Al-Ahli Hospital, the two-day event from December 5-6, 2025 brought together leading clinicians, specialists, and healthcare professionals to advance women's health through expert discussions, knowledge exchange, and professional networking.

The conference features a comprehensive programme covering key developments and emerging topics in obstetrics, gynaecology and women health, offering participants an opportunity to enhance clinical practice and improve patient outcomes.

The event also honoured Dr. Zeenat Rizvi, a Member of the RCOG and an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Al-Ahli Hospital, in recognition of her services.

The Peninsula spoke to the conference organisers and senior officials at Al-Ahli Hospital and RCOG.

RCOG President Prof. Ranee Thakar said the inaugural Qatar meeting reflects RCOG's global



Al-Ahli Hospital and RCOG officials at the conference.

mission to advance women's health beyond the UK.

"This conference is about women's health, and we're absolutely delighted that this is the first meeting we have had," she said. "We have a very good relationship as a college based in London, but we consider ourselves a global college. We have 50% of our members outside the UK, so it's really important that we have meetings like this in other parts of the world."

Speaking about the importance of regional relevance in healthcare discussions, she added, "Different parts of the world have different problems in women's health. What we need to do is talk about the things that are really relevant to this country. Defining the major health issues here and finding solutions is essential. I'm very against just admiring the problem but I would like to find solutions."

Professor Thakar said her own contribution to the conference includes a lecture on pelvic floor disorders, an area she described as "very neglected, especially in the Middle East and globally as well."

Al-Ahli Hospital, the host of the conference, sees the event as part of its long-term investment in advancing healthcare education and services in Qatar.

Deputy CEO and Director of Projects at Al-Ahli Hospital, Jamal Hammad said the hospital is proud to support such a significant scientific gathering.

"Al-Ahli Hospital is committed to excellence in health care services," he said. "This conference is the very first of its type for the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology here in Qatar, and it is hosted by Al-Ahli Hospital as a testament to our dedication and commitment in enhancing

women's health care in Qatar and the region."

Hammad added that such events bring invaluable momentum, "Bringing speakers, researchers, clinicians creates a vibrant community that focuses on enhancing women's health care. It helps us in attracting doctors and even in attracting business. We encourage all private providers to follow suit because this complements the services done by Hamad Medical Corporation and public hospitals."

The two day conference was a 13.50 CPD accredited event.

Conference Chair and Senior Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist and RCOG Representative in Qatar, Dr. Osman Ortashi highlighted the significance of hosting the event in Doha.

"This is one of the landmark and milestone conferences in Qatar," he said adding that the



RCOG President Prof. Ranee Thakar and Deputy CEO and Director of Projects at Al-Ahli Hospital Jamal Hammad honouring Dr. Zeenat Rizvi. PICS: SALIM MATRAMKOT

conference plays a critical role in strengthening international collaboration.

"This conference will help exchange knowledge and best clinical practice between the United Kingdom and Qatar. We have top presenters from the UK, including the President of RCOG, delivering very up-to-date knowledge and evidence-based medicine."

The event, he noted, includes five sessions over two days, featuring more than 20 speakers and over 150 delegates from both public and private sectors, including nurses and midwives.

RCOG Chief Executive Officer Kate Lancaster emphasised Qatar's appeal as a hub for international medical events.

"Qatar is a wonderful country

within the Middle East, and we are delighted to be here," she said. "Qatar is uniquely placed in that it's so well connected, and there is a real focus here on improving the health of women and girls."

She added that RCOG has recently held similar meetings across the region.

"We've recently held meetings in Jordan and Oman, and we're very active within the Middle East and the Gulf more generally."

Lancaster said the conference aims to ensure healthcare professionals leave energised with new insights. "I expect the delegates to go away with new knowledge and enthusiasm for going back to their hospitals to deliver the best services for their patients."

NHRC Chairperson meets UN officials, Diplomats

DOHA: Chairperson of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC), H E Maryam bint Abdullah Al Attiyah met separately yesterday with Special Representative of the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, H E Vanessa Frazier. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, H E Richard Bennett; and Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the State of Qatar, H E Dr. Ali Salehabadi. During her meeting with H E Vanessa Frazier, Al Attiyah discussed the NHRC's role and priorities, particularly protecting the rights of the child and empowering vulnerable groups. She also presented the NHRC's mandate in accordance with the Paris Principles and its

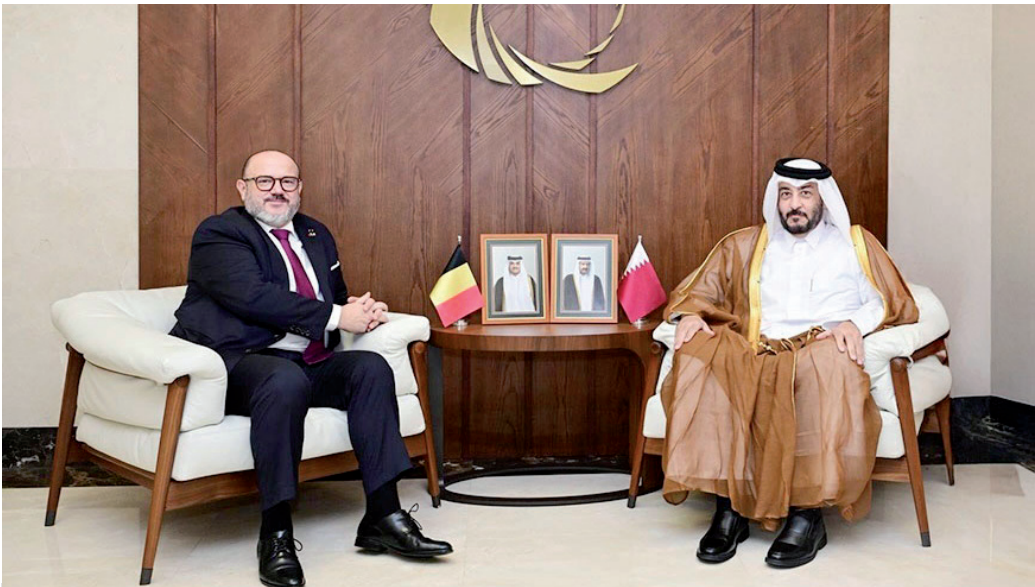
independence. He noted that the NHRC places children's rights, especially the rights of children with disabilities, at the top of its priorities, as they are among the groups most in need of support and protection. Adding that the State of Qatar has taken an important step by passing the Law on Persons with Disabilities, which promotes this group's empowerment and full participation in society. Al Attiyah praised Qatar's support for the United Nations' efforts in protecting children affected by conflicts and addressed the current challenges related to violations of children's rights in conflict zones, including deprivation of education, violence, and psychological trauma. The meeting reviewed

avenues of bilateral cooperation, including organising joint workshops or seminars on protecting children in conflicts, holding an exchange of expertise among national and UN specialists in monitoring and documentation, participating in specialised training programmes for national stakeholders in Qatar, and the possibility of hosting advanced events or meetings in Doha related to children and armed conflict. The meeting between Al Attiyah and Richard Bennett, on the other hand, addressed several topics related to human right efforts in Afghanistan, In addition to discussing the NHRC's work and its role nationally and internationally. Al Attiyah touched on the Special Rapporteur's most prominent reports and



Chairperson of the National Human Rights Committee H E Maryam bint Abdullah Al Attiyah with Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the State of Qatar H E Dr. Ali Salehabadi during the meeting.

initiatives regarding the human rights situation in Afghanistan, especially those concerning the rights of women and girls, including education, work, and freedom of movement, as well as the protection of minorities and the freedom of the press. — QNA



NCSA President, Belgium minister discuss cooperation

President of the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) H E Eng Abdulrahman bin Ali Al Farahid Al Malki, received Minister of Security and the Interior of the Kingdom of Belgium H E Bernard Quintin, during an official visit to discuss cooperation in cyber security and exchange expertise. During the meeting, the NCSA outlined key national experiences and practices in developing Qatar's cyber security infrastructure. Both sides discussed shared cross-border challenges, ways to enhance digital readiness, and future initiatives of mutual interest.

QGIRCO wins two prestigious awards at Global Economics Awards

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Company (QGIRCO) is proud to announce it has received two prestigious awards at The Annual Global Economics Awards 2025, organised by The Global Economics. The awards have been won in the categories of 'Best Integrated Conventional & Takaful Insurance Provider - Qatar 2025' and 'Excellence in Insurance Profitability & Sustained Performance - Qatar 2025', in recognition of QGIRCO's performance data, which was carefully evaluated by the organising committee. "It is always humbling yet gratifying to be acknowledged for our efforts. These awards reflect the dedication and vision of our entire team as we

transform QGIRCO into a technology-driven, customer-focused insurer," said Mr. Aimen Azara, Group CEO of QGIRCO. "Our digital transformation journey and com-



mitment to financial stability have positioned us for sustainable growth, and we remain focused on delivering exceptional value to our customers and stakeholders." Under the leadership of Aimen Azara, QGIRCO has achieved strong, sustained performance, powered by disciplined

financial management and a clear, ongoing focus on technology modernisation. Over the past year, the company has undergone significant transformations, diversified its investment portfolio, and strengthened cash reserves to enhance liquidity and overall financial resilience. On the technology front, QGIRCO has rolled out best-in-class digital platforms across its operations, including Azentio eData for AI-enabled underwriting, Joclaims for automated motor claims, and Insursa Digibiz for customer-facing digital services. These solutions, together with modern ERP systems supporting medical and HR functions, are delivering greater efficiency and accuracy.

Al Messila, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, Doha welcomes Kazem Shamas as GM

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Al Messila, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, Doha, proudly announces the appointment of Kazem Shamas as its new General Manager. Bringing over two decades of distinguished hospitality experience, Kazem joins the resort with a proven track record of strategic leadership, operational excellence, and business transformation across

some of the region's most prestigious properties. A hospitality executive with dual degrees in Hotel Management and Business Administration, Kazem has spent more than 20 years with Marriott International, building an exceptional career defined by growth and innovation. Beginning in Food & Beverage and Events Management, he quickly advanced to Director of Food & Beverage, earning regional recognition for his

leadership and creativity. Starting his career in Lebanon and later relocating to Doha, Qatar, Kazem played a key role in the post-renovation repositioning of the iconic Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel, first leading the commercial team before taking charge of operations. Following his tenure as Acting General Manager, he now continues his journey with Marriott International as General

Manager of Al Messila, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, Doha. Kazem's leadership philosophy is anchored in innovation, operational excellence, and an unwavering commitment to guest satisfaction. His strengths in communication, business strategy, and organisational development uniquely position him to steer Al Messila into its next chapter of success. "It is an honour to join Al Messila, a Luxury Collection

Resort & Spa, Doha—an icon of Qatari hospitality and refined well-being. I look forward to working alongside the talented team to further elevate the guest experience and continue positioning Al Messila as one of Doha's most distinguished destinations," said Kazem Shamas. Under Kazem's leadership, Al Messila is set to continue its legacy as a haven of luxury, wellness, and exceptional service.



Kazem Shamas .

Safari to open seventh hypermarket at Ezdan Mall, Gharafa on Dec 10

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Safari Hypermarket, which has been scripting a remarkable success story in Qatar for the past two decades, will open its newest outlet at Ezdan Mall in Gharafa on December 10. The Safari Group, which launched its first Safari Hypermarket on Salwa Road on May 5, 2005, is an organisation that was born and nurtured in Qatar itself. Unlike several large retailers that entered Qatar only after becoming major companies abroad, Safari stands apart by introducing unique promotions and activities from the very beginning rather than imitating others. With the objective of delivering quality products to customers through its own marketing approach while maintaining reasonable profits margins, Safari has steadily grown into a trusted retail brand. Safari launched its "visit safes through the "reward and Win" promotion, giving away one kilogram of gold without any purchase requirement. Whenever a new outlet is opened, Safari continues this tradition by offering every visitor a chance to win without making a purchase. Over the years, Safari has conducted numerous promotions in which winners received a variety of prizes, including cars and rewards starting from hundred thousand riyals, a practice that continues even today. Safari Group Deputy Chairman and Managing Director Zainul Abideen stated at a press conference that the

As part of the new outlet's inauguration, Safari has arranged two mega raffle draw promotions.

company is extremely happy to extend its services to more people through this new outlet. Safari Group Chairman Hamad Dhafer Al Ahbabi; General Manager Surendra Nath; Regional Director Operations and Planning Biju Kasim; and Assistant General Manager Public Relations Tamer El Said were also present at the press conference. At the opening of the Safari Hypermarket on Salwa Road in 2005, Safari awarded one kilogram of gold through a raffle draw without any purchase requirement. Since then, Safari has earned a permanent place in people's hearts by awarding several cars and luxury vehicles, gold prizes, cash rewards, home appliances, gadgets and many other gifts. In 2010, Safari created retail history by awarding one million Qatari riyals as the first prize through a raffle draw. Every year, Safari introduces massive prize schemes for customers through its Buy and Win promotions, offering rewards such as one million Qatari riyals, 30 cars and 10 kilograms of gold in various formats. Over the past 20 years, The 10, 20, 30 Promotion was a campaign introduced by Safari in Qatar's retail sector that offered all essential items under a single promotion at extremely low prices without compromising on quality. Even today, this promotion remains highly beneficial to the public, as branded products



Safari Hypermarket officials addressing the press conference.

are made available repeatedly throughout the year. All festivals and special occasions are celebrated by Safari along with its customers. By standing close to its shoppers, Safari celebrates Eid, Christmas, New Year, Onam, Pongal, Qatar National Day and Qatar Sports Day with them without any barriers of nationality, language, or other differences. This is the first time Safari is opening an outlet inside another shopping mall. Ezdan Mall in Gharafa, spread across 35,000 square metres, is among the largest malls in Qatar and provides parking facilities for more than 2,000 vehicles, including basement parking. The mall also features a spacious food court, prayer hall, money exchange, jewellery outlets, exclusive fashion stores, Fun Ville kids' playing zone, international coffee shops and several branded outlets. The addition of Safari Hypermarket offering top quality products at minimal cost - will serve as an added highlight of Ezdan Mall.

On the same day as the inauguration of Safari Hypermarket, the ninth branch of Safari Mobile Shop and the eighth branch of Europe Travels will also be inaugurated at Ezdan Mall, Gharaffa. Having earned a place in people's minds by offering customers their preferred brands and models of mobile phones and other accessories at huge discounts, Safari Mobile Shop is presenting massive offers and price reductions on the opening day. In addition, Europe Travels, which provides travel services including tour packages, visas, ticketing, and more, will also begin operations at Ezdan Mall along with Safari Hypermarket. The inauguration of this outlet has been planned on a grand scale with a wide range of events and promotions. As part of the new outlet's inauguration, Safari has arranged two mega raffle draw promotions. Under the 'Visit and Win' promotion, anyone who visits Safari Hypermarket at

Ezdan Mall will receive a coupon without making any purchase, and two Tesla Model Y cars will be awarded through the raffle draw. This is the first time in Qatar that two Tesla vehicles are being given away through a mega raffle draw in which anyone can receive a free coupon without a purchase. The first draw will be held on January 8, 2026 and the second draw on February 19, 2026 at Safari Hypermarket in Ezdan Mall. In addition, Safari's latest mega promotion, offering thirty Bestune cars, will also begin. For every purchase of QR50 from any Safari outlet, customers will receive an e-raffle coupon, through which 30 Bestune cars will be awarded. Four Bestune cars will be given away in each draw, and five in the final draw. This Shop and Win promotion will be available across all Safari outlets. The first draw will take place on January 5, 2026, and the final draw on September 13, 2026. This new Safari outlet promises to deliver a fresh

This is the first time Safari is opening an outlet inside another shopping mall.

experience to customers. A wide range of categories has been designed to meet all the needs of a family under one roof. Along with fresh food and groceries, premium-quality fruits and vegetables, meat and fish, all types of spices, daily freshly prepared meals and a bakery and hot food section offering international flavours will be available. Non-food categories including cosmetics, ready-made garments, electronics and IT products, toys, stationery, and household items will also be offered with excellent collections at attractive prices. Self-checkout counters and a dining area near the bakery and hot food section have also been arranged. Without compromising on quality, Safari continuously strives to maintain the lowest prices compared to other hypermarkets. Along with affordability and quality, excellent customer service is one of Safari's key strengths. Efficient billing systems and well-trained staff who are always ready to assist make shopping at Safari easier and more enjoyable. The opening of this new outlet at Ezdan Mall in Gharafa marks a significant milestone in Safari's growth. With the official inauguration on December 10, Safari Hypermarket assures customers in Gharafa, Umm Salal Mohammed and nearby areas of an outstanding shopping experience.

Israeli strikes on Gaza continue despite ceasefire

GAZA: Israeli occupation forces carried out heavy air and artillery bombardment across several areas of the Gaza Strip overnight and into the morning, in a renewed violation of the ceasefire agreement that entered into force on October 10.

The Palestinian news agency (WAFA) reported that Israeli helicopters opened intense fire inside the so-called “yellow line” in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, while Israeli artillery shelled the northeastern areas of the city. Israeli warplanes also carried out strikes on neighborhoods in Gaza City in the

north, Rafah in the south, and the Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza, directly targeting homes and infrastructure.

At the same time, Israeli naval vessels opened fire off the coast of Khan Younis, further escalating tensions along the coastal enclave.

WAFA added that earlier on Thursday, Israeli occupation forces carried out a heavy and sustained bombardment on Rafah, alongside extensive demolition operations.

Since the ceasefire took effect on October 10, Israel has continued to violate the agreement on a near-daily basis — **QNA**

US talks trade with Canada, Mexico at World Cup draw

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump met Friday with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, with the talks partly focused on the future of a North American free trade deal.

The leaders met in Washington on the sidelines of the draw for the 2026 World Cup, co-hosted by Canada, Mexico and the United States.

“The three leaders met for approximately 45 minutes,” Carney spokesperson Audrey Champoux said in an email.

“They’ve agreed to keep working together on CUSMA,” she added, using the Canadian acronym for the existing free trade deal between the three

Trump said that the United States had worked closely with Mexico and Canada over the tournament, the coordination and friendship and relationship has been outstanding.

countries, which Americans call the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

The USMCA deal was struck during Trump’s first term.

Trump has slapped steep tariffs on exports from Canada and Mexico that do not fall

under the USMCA, which Washington is seeking to renegotiate next year.

Friday’s talks were the first between Trump and Sheinbaum.

Carney has visited the White House twice since Trump’s return to power, but it will be his first encounter with Trump except for a brief meeting at a summit in South Korea since the US leader suspended trade talks in a bizarre row over an anti-tariff ad.

Trump has also threatened further punishment if they fail to curb cross-border migration and drug trafficking and irked Sheinbaum by saying he would be “OK” with air strikes on Mexico to tackle traffickers.

She has vowed the strikes will never happen.

Canada also was outraged by Trump’s calls earlier this year for it to become the 51st US state.

Carney drew criticism at recent G20 meetings in South Africa when, asked by a reporter when he last spoke to Trump, answered, “Who cares?” The three countries launched their joint World Cup bid in 2017 during Trump’s first term in the White House.

Trump said Friday that the United States had worked closely with Mexico and Canada over the tournament, adding “the coordination and friendship and relationship has been outstanding.” — **AFP**

UN Security Council delegation urges all sides to stick to Lebanon truce

BEIRUT: A United Nations Security Council delegation on Saturday urged all parties to uphold a year-old ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah, expressing support for a state weapons monopoly at the end of a Lebanon visit.

A November 2024 ceasefire was supposed to end more than a year of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah militants, but Israel has kept up strikes on Lebanon.

Israel has mainly said it is targeting the Iran-backed group, and has maintained troops in five south Lebanese areas it deems strategic. “We came to Beirut at a pivotal time for the implementation of... the

cessation of hostilities agreement of November of last year,” Slovenian UN ambassador Samuel Zbogar, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the UN body, told reporters.

“All parties must uphold the November 2024 cessation of hostilities agreement, and we recognise progress achieved by Lebanon this year,” he said.

“We reaffirm the council’s support for Lebanon’s territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence.” “We also reaffirm commitment to the full implementation of Resolution 1701 in support of Lebanon’s security and sta-

bility,” he added.

Under heavy US pressure and fears of expanded Israeli strikes, Lebanon’s government has committed to disarming Hezbollah, and the army is set to dismantle the group’s military infrastructure near the border by year end before tackling the rest of the country.

“We support the Lebanese government’s decision to ensure the state’s monopoly of arms,” Zbogar said, also urging “intensified international support” for Lebanon’s army.

The delegation met senior officials including President Joseph Aoun, and on Saturday went to conflict-hit south Lebanon near the Israeli

border, visiting peacekeepers from the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

In August, the Security Council voted to extend UNIFIL’s mandate until the end of 2026 and then withdraw the force from Lebanon by the end of the following year.

The visit was a chance to “examine options for the implementation of Resolution 1701 following UNIFIL’s departure from Lebanon”, he said.

Zbogar also emphasised that the “safety of peacekeepers must be respected and that they must never be targeted”, after Lebanon’s army said it arrested six people



Slovenia's permanent representative to the United Nations and president of the Security Council Samuel Zbogar (Centre) along with his delegation and other officials in Beirut, Lebanon (AFP)

following an attack by gunmen on UNIFIL personnel this week.

Aoun told the delegation on Friday that Lebanon does not want war with Israel, days after civilian representatives from both sides held their first talks in decades. — **AFP**



World in brief

18 killed in central Myanmar airstrike

MYANMAR: Eighteen people were killed in an airstrike on a town in central Myanmar, according to a local official.

Myanmar has been rocked by civil war since the military snatched power in a 2021 coup, and its battles with numerous anti-coup fighters have brought frequent airstrikes that often kill civilians.

Two bombs were dropped on Tabayin township in Sagaing region, with one hitting a busy teashop, 18 people were killed and 20 were wounded in the attacks. — **AFP**

India announces caps on rising airfares

NEW DELHI: The Indian government yesterday invoked regulatory powers and announced a cap on fares to control the rising airline ticket prices, amid IndiGo’s chaos that resulted in mass flight cancellations and skyrocketing airfares.

The federal civil aviation ministry issued a directive to all airlines mandating strict adherence to all fare caps that it has prescribed to protect passengers from any form of willful pricing.

The ministry said it will continue to closely monitor fare levels through real-time data and active coordination with airlines and online travel platforms. — **XINHUA**

Poland sends jets up after Russia hits Ukraine

WARSAW: Poland scrambled jets to safeguard national airspace following Russian airstrikes on Ukraine, the Operational Command of the Polish Armed Forces said early yesterday.

Poland had activated necessary forces, with fighter jets airborne and ground-based air defence and radar systems placed on alert, the command said on social media platform X. The measures were described as preventive, aimed at ensuring airspace security, particularly near potentially threatened areas.

The command later announced that the operation was concluded and that the systems were returned to normal, with no violation of Polish airspace detected. — **XINHUA**

Afghanistan, Pakistan trade fire in border area

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani security forces exchanged fire with Afghan Taliban forces along the border in Pakistan’s southwest Chaman district, Pakistani security sources told Xinhua.

Pakistani troops responded with precision to the unprovoked firing, reinforcing that any violation of the country’s territorial integrity will be met with immediate and decisive action, said the sources. — **XINHUA**

South Africa hostel shooting leaves 11 dead: Police

JOHANNESBURG: Gunmen stormed a hostel in South Africa’s capital Pretoria yesterday, killing 11 people including a three-year-old child, police said.

The attack is the latest in a string of mass shootings that have shocked the crime-weary country of 63 million people.

“I can confirm that a total of 25 people were shot,” police

spokeswoman Athlenda Mathe said, adding that 14 had been hospitalised.

Ten had died at the scene in Saulsville township, 18 kilometres (11 miles) west of Pretoria, while another died in hospital, she said.

Three gunmen entered the premise at around 4:30 am (0230 GMT) and indiscriminately fired at a group of men

who were drinking. One 12-year-old and a 16-year-old were also killed in the attack.

“Quite an unfortunate incident. Police were only alerted to this incident at around 6 o’clock,” said Mathe.

The motive of the shooting was unknown and no arrests had been made.

South Africa, the continent’s most industrialised nation, is

grappling with entrenched crime and corruption driven by organised networks.

Many people own licenced fire arms for personal protection, but there are many more illegal guns in circulation.

Some 63 people were killed each day between April and September, according to police data. — **AFP**

Hondurans await election results

TEGUCIGALPA: Hondurans waited on Friday for results from a tight presidential race held five days earlier, with a technical tie persisting between a right-wing candidate favored by US President Donald Trump and a conservative rival.

The vote count after Sunday’s election has progressed slowly, with interruptions and amid allegations of fraud by Liberal Party (PL) candidate Salvador Nasralla, a 72-year-old television presenter.

The gap in votes between Nasralla and Nasry Asfura, Trump’s favored candidate, remains too close to call.

With 88 percent of votes counted, Asfura, of the National Party (PN), has 40.20 percent compared to 39.47 percent for Nasralla, according to the National Electoral Council (CNE). The TV presenter questioned whether the CNE would be able to have the final results ready before December 30, the deadline to announce them — **AFP**



Students give French president rockstar greeting in China

French President Emmanuel Macron made his way through crowds of young fans screaming in excitement at a university in southern China yesterday, receiving a greeting more reminiscent of a rockstar than a politician. Hundreds of students and local residents lined up outside a university sports hall in the city of Chengdu to welcome Macron, some waiting hours for the president’s arrival. (AFP)

Food thrown at UK Crown Jewels, four arrested

LONDON: Metropolitan Police said four people were arrested yesterday after food purportedly apple crumble and custard was thrown at a display case containing Britain’s priceless Crown Jewels in the Tower of London.

Officers responded “following reports of criminal damage to a display case, containing the State Crown” and that “four protesters threw suspected food onto the case before two left the scene”.

A little-known, self-proclaimed civil resistance group called Take Back Power claimed responsibility, saying its members had thrown apple crumble and custard at the case.

It posted a video of the incident on social media showing a young woman planting a foil tray containing the crumble up against the glass pane, followed by a young man splattering custard from a tub on top of it. The Imperial State Crown, worn by King Charles III at the end of his 2023 coronation ceremony and at formal occasions like the State Opening of Parliament, could be seen shimmering inside the case.

Both suspected perpetrators in the footage wore t-shirts with “take back power” and a logo plastered on the front. “Democracy has crumbled!” the young woman yelled, as the custard-throwing man added “Britain is broken.” “We’ve come here, to the jewels of the nation, to take back power,” he added.

The Jewel House was closed while the investigation continued, police said. Officers worked closely with City of London Police and security officers and four people have been arrested on suspicion of criminal damage. — **AFP**

Sri Lanka unveils cyclone aid plan as heavy rains persist

COLOMBO: Disaster-hit Sri Lanka has unveiled a major compensation package to rebuild homes damaged by a deadly cyclone, even as the island prepared yesterday for further landslides and flooding.

The government has confirmed 611 deaths, with another 213 unaccounted for and feared dead, in what President Anura Kumara Disسانayake has called the country’s most challenging natural disaster.

The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) issued fresh landslide warnings in several areas of the worst-affected Central Province, with the northeast monsoon gathering over the island and bringing more rain.

More than two million people nearly 10 percent of the population have been affected



Commuters drive through a flooded street amid heavy rains in Colombo yesterday. (AFP)

by last week’s floods and landslides, the worst this century.

Survivors will be offered up to 10 million rupees (\$33,000)

to buy land in a safer location and build a new house, the finance ministry said in a statement late on Friday.