

Qatar’s Ambassador participates in launch of urgent international funding appeal for Lebanon

BEIRUT: Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Lebanon H E Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani (pictured) has participated in the launch of an international appeal aimed at mobilising funding to address the country’s growing humanitarian needs.

The appeal was held at the Grand Serail of Beirut (Government Palace) in the presence of Prime Minister of Lebanon H E Dr. Nawaf Salam, Secretary-General of the United Nations H E Antonio Guterres, alongside ministers, ambassadors of donor countries, and represent-



atives of international organisations and UN agencies.

The move comes within a comprehensive framework for a coordinated response, aimed at securing funding to support Lebanon and address the growing humanitarian needs during and after the current crisis.— QNA

Families encouraged to create calm environment to support mental well-being

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has called on the public to maintain psychological balance and deal calmly with current developments, emphasising the importance of following supportive mental health practices to navigate such circumstances with reassurance and stability.

In a video message published on the social media platform X, First Lieutenant Abdullah Mursal Al Shammari from the MoI said that some people may experience anxiety as they follow ongoing events, stressing the need to approach the situation with awareness and composure.

He advised the public to regulate their consumption of news and rely only on official sources, warning that excessive monitoring of information may increase stress and anxiety. Maintaining regular daily activities and adopting a healthy lifestyle, he noted, can help reduce psychological pressure and promote a sense of reassurance.

The official also highlighted the crucial role of families in supporting mental well-being, describing the family as the first line of defense in maintaining psychological stability. He urged families to create a calm home environment based on dialogue and reassurance, while avoiding exaggeration or unnecessary

alarm. Special attention should be given to children, he added, as they may be easily affected by what they hear or see. Parents are advised not to display anxiety in front of them and to explain events in simple and reassuring language. Monitoring behavioural changes among children and the elderly is also important, with any concerns addressed with care and understanding.

Concluding his message, First Lieutenant Al-Shammari emphasised that staying connected with relatives and friends and strengthening cooperation within the community can play a key role in helping society overcome challenges with confidence and peace of mind.

Kahramaa urges drivers to avoid parking near transmission and distribution stations

VICTOR BOLORUNDURO
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) has issued a clear and urgent appeal to all motorists, reminding them not to stop or park vehicles in front of electricity transmission and distribution stations across the country.

In an official advisory posted on its social media channels and supported by a prominent visual campaign yesterday, Kahramaa emphasised that such practices must be avoided to protect public safety and guarantee the smooth running of vital utility operations.

The message, delivered in both Arabic and English, calls on every driver to respect safety instructions and guidelines without exception.

Electricity transmission and distribution stations form the backbone of Qatar’s reliable power network, supplying high-quality electricity to homes, businesses and essential services throughout the nation. Parking or stopping directly in front of these facilities can block critical access routes for technical teams, maintenance crews and emergency responders.

Any delay in reaching these sites could hinder swift repairs during faults or outages, while high-voltage equipment in the vicinity poses additional risks to unauthorised vehicles and passers-by.

The corporation, which is responsible for delivering sustainable electricity and water services that support a better quality of life, has consistently placed public safety at the heart of its operations. This latest reminder forms part of Kahramaa’s ongoing awareness efforts to educate the community and prevent avoidable disruptions. Clear signage, including no-parking symbols and warning notices, is displayed at all stations, along with the emergency hotline 991 for immediate assistance or reporting.

By complying with these simple yet essential rules, residents and road users contribute directly to the uninterrupted flow of electricity and the overall resilience of national infrastructure.

Kahramaa noted that collective adherence helps maintain high standards of efficiency and ensures that critical works proceed without obstruction or risk.

The initiative aligns fully with Qatar’s national priorities for safety,

smart infrastructure and sustainable development under the Qatar National Vision 2030. As the country continues to grow, protecting utility assets becomes increasingly important to sustain the high level of services demanded by a modern, dynamic society.

Kahramaa operates an extensive network of advanced stations equipped with state-of-the-art technology and security measures. Regular inspections and community outreach programmes further reinforce its commitment to safety. The corporation encourages all citizens and expatriates to share the advisory widely and to remain vigilant on the roads.

This proactive step by Kahramaa once again demonstrates its dedication to safeguarding both people and infrastructure. Through such timely campaigns, the corporation continues to foster a culture of responsibility and awareness, ensuring that Qatar’s electricity supply remains secure, efficient and accessible for all.

With full public cooperation, the nation’s utilities sector will maintain its exemplary record of reliability and safety, supporting Qatar’s journey towards a brighter and more sustainable future.

‘Abu Samra border crossing ensures smooth entry of goods, commodities into country’

FROM PAGE 1

These include the Ministry of Municipality, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Qatar General Organization for Standards and Metrology.

In this context, the Minister of Municipality praised the high level of readiness at the Abu Samra border crossing, stressing that the crossing represents one of the vital pillars ensuring the smooth entry of goods and commodities into the country under various circumstances.

He also commended the important role played by the General Authority of Customs in facilitating procedures and accelerating inspection and clearance processes, thereby enhancing the efficiency of food supply chains.

He further highlighted the efforts of the Permanent Committee for the Management of Abu Samra Border Crossing in organizing operations and facilitating movement at the crossing, as well

Combined efforts of the relevant entities at Abu Samra and other state entry points contribute to strengthening the stability of local markets and ensuring the sustainability of food supplies.

as maintaining continuous coordination among concerned entities to ensure smooth workflow and achieve the highest levels of operational efficiency.

At the conclusion of the tour, the Minister of Municipality affirmed that the combined efforts of the relevant entities at Abu Samra and other state entry points contribute to strengthening the stability of local markets and ensuring the sustainability of food supplies, supporting the achievement of food security and keeping pace with the requirements of sustainable development in the State of Qatar.

عید مبارک

We extend our heartiest greetings to

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

And to all the honorable people of Qatar on the occasion of
Eid Al-Fitr

We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion and wish that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness The Amir



ExxonMobil

France stands as ‘reliable, predictable and determined’ partner to Qatar: Envoy

FROM PAGE 1

“There is ongoing coordination between France and Qatar, as it should be between strategic partners,” he said, adding that the discussions focus on how France could support Qatar.

Ambassador Pescheux said discussions currently focus on two main aspects: military support, diplomatic engagement, and coordinated international efforts to de-escalate tensions.

“The first is military support, how France can support Qatar’s defence and what military resources our Qatari friends may need,” he said.

At the same time, the ambassador stressed that both countries view diplomacy as the only viable path to resolving the crisis.

“We do not believe a solution can be found through military action, and Qatar does not believe so either. We think the only solution is diplomatic,” he said.

He praised Qatar’s role as a global mediator and said France also seeks to play a constructive diplomatic role.

“Qatar is very active in mediation, and we very much value Qatar as a mediation power. France is what we call a balancing power,” he said.

Ambassador Pescheux acknowledged that both

Ambassador Pescheux said discussions currently focus on two main aspects: military support, and diplomatic engagement. “The first is military support, how France can support Qatar’s defence and what military resources our Qatari friends may need.” At the same time, the ambassador stressed that both countries view diplomacy as the only viable path to resolving the crisis.

countries maintain channels of communication with a wide range of international actors, placing them in a unique position to help facilitate renewed dialogue.

As the crisis enters its third week, the ambassador acknowledged the complexity of the situation but emphasised the importance of perseverance in diplomacy.

Quoting the Italian philosopher Antonio Gramsci, he said, “You can be pessimistic by reason, but you must be optimistic by will.”

“This is the task of diplomats to remain optimistic by will and never give up,” Ambassador Pescheux said.

He pointed to the broader regional context, including military developments and tensions affecting the Strait of Hormuz, as well as the potential global economic impact on energy markets.

“Of course, we don’t have many reasons to be optimistic right now,” he said. “But we choose to remain optimistic by will because we believe it is our responsibility as a permanent member of the UN Security Council and as a country that

wants to contribute to solutions.”

Ambassador Pescheux also outlined France’s recent defence deployments aimed at strengthening regional security and supporting its partners.

He said additional Dassault Rafale fighter jets had been deployed in the region to assist allies, including Qatar, in defensive operations.

“We also sent radars and air-defence systems to the region,” he added.

He further noted that the aircraft carrier strike group led

“We feel a lot of admiration and recognition for the Qatari Armed Forces,” he said, adding that Qatar had effectively established a protective shield over the population. More than 90 percent of the missiles, fighter jets and drones targeting Qatar since February 28 have been intercepted by the air-defence systems.”

by the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle had been deployed to the eastern Mediterranean.

“This represents a strong display of solidarity but also a strong display of force by my country,” he said.

The French embassy is also maintaining close coordination with Qatari authorities to ensure the safety and well-being of the French community in the country.

“Our main entry point is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and we coordinate with them daily,” Ambassador Pescheux said.

He noted that around 6,000 French nationals reside in Qatar, while approximately 2,000 others were temporarily in the country when the crisis began.

“Most of those temporary visitors have now left the country, either through Riyadh or via flights departing from Doha,” he said.

The embassy communicates with citizens through direct contact, its official website and social media channels, while a network of community representatives also helps relay information.



Ambassador of France to Qatar H E Arnaud Pescheux during an exclusive interview with *The Peninsula* yesterday. PIC: HANA RAMADAN/THE PENINSULA

Ambassador Pescheux also commended Qatar’s handling of the crisis, particularly the efforts of the country’s armed forces in protecting civilians and maintaining essential supplies.

“We feel a lot of admiration and recognition for the Qatari Armed Forces,” he said, adding that Qatar had effectively established a protective shield over the population.

“More than 90 percent of the missiles, fighter jets and drones targeting Qatar since February 28 have been intercepted by the air-defence systems,” he said.

“As a result, there have been no fatalities and around 26 injuries,” he added, noting that the country has also maintained

uninterrupted supplies of food, water and other essentials.

While acknowledging that it may be too early to fully assess the long-term implications of the crisis, the ambassador said France and Qatar remain committed to strengthening their cooperation.

“The potential between France and Qatar is enormous, and we are more than willing to continue developing our partnership once circumstances allow.”

Ambassador Pescheux concluded with a message to the French community and businesses in Qatar, saying, “Stay calm, remain as resilient as you have been so far, and stay confident in Qatar and in its ability to protect you.”

Ministry of Awqaf receives QR400,000 endowment to support charity

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The General Directorate of Endowments at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has announced the receipt of a new investment cash endowment valued at QR400,000, donated by a generous benefactor under the supervision of the Directorate.

The initiative reflects the deep-rooted culture of charitable endowments in Qatari society and the continued commitment of philanthropists to supporting community development while seeking lasting spiritual reward.

According to records of the General Directorate of Endowments, the donor is among the well-known benefactors who have previously contributed endowments. This continued generosity highlights the strong confidence donors place in the Qatari endowment system and in the Directorate’s commitment to implementing the conditions set by donors with



transparency and accuracy.

Under the terms of the endowment, the returns generated from the QR400,000 fund will be allocated to three key charitable channels. Twenty-five percent of the revenue will support the Endowment Fund for Charity and Piety, another 25 percent will be directed to the Endowment Fund for Mosque Construction, while 50 percent will be dedicated to supporting the Department of Zakat Affairs.

This distribution aims to

strengthen social solidarity and diversify charitable support across multiple sectors.

The General Directorate of Endowments will invest the endowed amount in accordance with Sharia-compliant and economically sound investment practices, ensuring the preservation of the endowment’s capital while maintaining a sustainable flow of returns.

The generated revenue will then be distributed to the designated beneficiaries using modern administrative standards that maximise the impact of endowment funds and expand the circle of beneficiaries.

On this occasion, Assistant Director of Endowment Funds Affairs at the General Directorate of Endowments Ali Hamad Al-Mohannadi Al-Marri, (pictured) praised the generous initiative, noting that repeated endowments by benefactors reflect their firm belief in the value of endowments as an ongoing charity whose benefits

extend across generations.

He explained that the donor’s decision to distribute the endowment returns among the Charity and Piety Fund, the Mosque Construction Fund, and Zakat Affairs demonstrates a strong awareness of community needs and a desire to support a wide range of humanitarian, social, and religious initiatives. He emphasised that the Directorate serves as a trusted supervisory authority responsible for implementing donors’ conditions with precision and integrity.

Al-Marri also highlighted that such charitable endowments align with the institutional vision adopted by the state in managing endowments and directing them toward impactful sectors. He added that the Endowers Affairs Centre within the Directorate continues to provide comprehensive services to donors, from consultation to the documentation of official endowment deeds.

Mol highlights public safety guidelines

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Interior (Mol) has confirmed that competent security agencies continue to perform their field duties around the clock within a fully integrated operational framework.

These efforts are carried out in continuous coordination with all relevant entities, ensuring the highest levels of readiness and rapid response to any situation.

The Ministry emphasised the importance of parents’ behaviour during emergencies, noting that calm and responsible actions directly influence children’s sense of safety and stability. By remaining composed, parents can help reduce anxiety and fear, allowing children to cope with challenging situations with reassurance.

Citizens and residents are urged to follow official safety guidance, select secure locations inside their homes to

The Ministry emphasised the importance of parents’ behaviour during emergencies, noting that calm and responsible actions directly influence children’s sense of safety and stability, and help reduce anxiety and fear.

protect children, and strictly adhere to instructions issued during alerts or official notices. Compliance with these measures, particularly in public spaces such as markets and shopping malls, enhances personal safety and contributes to the protection of the wider community.

The Ministry of Interior reiterated its commitment to maintaining public security while encouraging everyone to act responsibly during emergencies to ensure collective safety.

UDST introduces early acceptance opportunity for high-achieving students

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) has announced the launch of its Early Acceptance initiative for the Fall 2026 semester, offering outstanding high school students the opportunity to secure a place at the University before completing their final examinations.

Prospective students interested in the Early Acceptance opportunity are encouraged to submit their applications online through the University’s official website. Through this initiative, high-achieving students currently enrolled in their final year of high school can apply for Early Conditional Admission based on their academic performance in Grade 11 and the first semester of Grade 12.

Students who meet the eligibility criteria may receive an early admission offer, allowing them to reserve their seat in their chosen programme while they complete their final high school examinations.

While the specific requirements vary depending on the programme of study, students are expected to

demonstrate strong academic performance and high overall averages in their school transcripts.

Once admitted through early acceptance, students must successfully complete their final examinations and meet the University’s official admission requirements to confirm their place before the start of the academic semester.

The deadline to apply for Early Acceptance for Fall 2026 is April 20, 2026, providing students with an opportunity to plan their academic future earlier and secure their place at UDST.

Dr. Salem Al-Naemi, President of the University of Doha for Science and Technology, highlighted the importance of this initiative in supporting ambitious students: “At UDST, we are committed to empowering talented students and recognising academic excellence early on. Our Early Acceptance provides motivated students with the confidence to plan their academic journey while continuing to focus on achieving strong results in their final year of school.”

He added: “As Qatar’s national applied university,

we continuously strive to attract high-potential students and provide them with a learning environment that connects knowledge with practice. By securing their place early, students can look forward to joining a vibrant community that prepares them to become work-ready and world-ready graduates.”

UDST offers over 80 innovative programmes across its five colleges such as the College of Engineering and Technology, the College of Business, the College of Computing and Information Technology, the College of Health Sciences, and the College of General Education.

The University’s applied learning model combines

classroom instruction with hands-on experience in advanced laboratories, industry projects, and real-world simulations, preparing students to graduate career-ready and highly competitive in the job market.

Students benefit from a comprehensive student success ecosystem, including personalised advising and career development services supported through UDST’s Student Success Management System. High-achieving students may also participate in the University Skills Summer Programme, providing an early start to university life and helping them build the academic, professional, and leadership skills needed to excel from their very first semester.





Tender Announcement
Qatar Central Securities Depository (Edaa)

Qatar Central Securities Depository (Edaa) invites qualified companies to submit bids for the following tender:

Tender No	Project	Submission Method	Bid Submission Deadline
1/2026	Data Center Infrastructure Upgrade Project for Edaa	Three-envelope system (Technical Proposal, Financial Proposal, and Bank Guarantee)	Monday, 23 April 2026 at 12:00 PM

Tender Documents

Tender documents may be obtained from the Procurement Department at Edaa Headquarters during official working hours within five (5) working days from the date of this announcement, subject to submission of the following:

- Copy of valid Commercial Registration (CR)
- Authorization letter from the company to collect the tender documents
- Copy of QID of the authorized representative

Bid Bond

Bidders must submit an initial bank guarantee equivalent to 5% of the bid value, issued by a local bank, valid for 90 days from the bid closing date.

Additional Conditions

- Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly indicating the tender number and subject.
- Bids must remain valid for 120 days from the closing date.
- The successful bidder shall provide a final bank guarantee of 10% of the contract value within 10 days of award notification.
- Edaa reserves the right to increase or decrease the scope of work by up to 20% at the same tender prices.
- Edaa reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond if the successful bidder withdraws after award.

Bids must be deposited in the Tender Box at Edaa Headquarters before the deadline.

For Inquiries
Email: Procurement@Edaa.Gov.QA



Outreach programmes continue in multiple languages

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The outreach programmes organised by the Sheikh Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Center continued at several locations across the country, with hundreds of attendees from different communities of non-Arabic-speaking Muslims participating in the lectures.

- Key programmes**
- Al Wakra Hospital
 - A lecture titled “Healing and Mercy” was attended by more than 100 people.
 - A lecture titled “From Darkness to Light” was attended by 120 participants.
 - A lecture titled “The Impact of Intention and Seeking Reward” was attended by 80 participants.
- Lectures in mosques**
- A lecture titled “Making the Most of the Last Ten Nights” at a mosque in Madinat Khalifa South, was attended by 40 members of the Malabari community.
 - A lecture titled “Striving in Acts of Worship” at Qatar Cool Mosque was attended by 40 participants.
- Correctional institutions**
- A lecture titled “Making the Most of the Last Ten Nights” at the Central Prison, was attended by 60 inmates.
- Educational programmes**
- The launch of a Quran recitation

correction programme for the Tamil community, with participation from several members of the community.

These programmes come as part of the mission of the Sheikh Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Center to enhance religious awareness among non-Arab communities and encourage them to make the most of the holy month of Ramadan through worship and devotion.



Center hosts Ramadan Forum for English speakers

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Sheikh Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Center organised a lecture for English speakers titled “Ramadan: The Month of Mercy and Forgiveness.”

The lecture was held on February 27, 2026, and was attended by more than 160 participants from non-Arab communities.

The lecture aimed to introduce attendees to Islam, its culture, and the customs of Qatari society during

the month of Ramadan.

Key topics of the lecture

The lecture addressed several important themes, including:

- The concept of mercy in Islam and how it is directed toward all humanity.
- The connection between mercy and moral values in Islam.
- Ramadan as an opportunity for change and self-reform.
- The virtues of the blessed month, including repentance, for-

giveness, and righteous deeds

The lecture also introduced participants to some of the customs and traditions observed in Qatar during Ramadan.

The Ramadan Forum is organised as a programme dedicated to non-Arabic-speaking communities, aiming to familiarise them with the holy month and the noble human values it promotes, encouraging positive and constructive behaviour.



Over 100 non-Arab Muslims attend Itikaf activities



THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The activities of the last ten nights Itikaf during Ramadan commenced at the Sheikh Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Center, with the participation of more than 120 non-Arabic speaking Muslims representing eight different communities.

The Itikaf aims to educate and raise awareness among non-Arab Muslims about the importance of the last ten nights of Ramadan and how to make the best use of them through worship and devotion.

The programme includes a variety of spiritual and educational activities, such as:

- Quran recitation learning circles and recitation correction sessions
- Dhikr gatherings and night prayers (Qiyam)
- Preaching and guidance lessons
- Question-and-answer sessions with participants

Several preachers from the Center are also participating in the Itikaf programme. Each preacher supervises a specific community, providing guidance sessions and responding to participants’ questions. This programme comes as part of the Center’s efforts to offer seasonal educational initiatives aligned with Islamic occasions, aiming to support non-Arab Muslims and enhance their benefit from these spiritually significant periods.



TEST YOUR ISLAMIC KNOWLEDGE & WIN QR300

Weekly Islamic Knowledge Contest

Think you know Islam? Put your knowledge to the test and win QR300 shopping voucher every week!

This Week’s Question:

Which mosque is considered the first mosque built in Islam?

(A) Masjid al-Haram — (B) Masjid al-Aqsa
(C) Masjid Quba — (D) Masjid an-Nabawi

- How to Join:**
- Every Monday, a new Islamic question will be published.
 - Scan the QR code to submit your answer.
 - One lucky winner will be selected from the correct entries.
 - Submission deadline: Thursday at 11:59pm



Know the answer?

Scan, submit, and win!

A new chance to win every Monday – Don’t miss out!

Ramadan Noor Lectures

الجمهورية الكريمة،
تم تأجيل المحاضرة إلى إشعار آخر

Dear valued audience,
The lecture has been postponed until further notice.

Dr. Omar Suleiman
Your Family in Ramadan

AWQAFM
www.islam.gov.qa

visit KATAR QATAR

Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs

WCM-Q students study biodiversity on Purple Island

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: First-year pre-medical students at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) in February explored Qatar's rich biodiversity during a field trip to the mangrove forest at Jazirat Bin Ghannam, also known as Purple Island.

Divided into three groups, the students visited the island on three separate days, where they identified and collected invertebrates and observed how local flora and fauna have adapted to the environment.

Under the supervision of Dr. Kuei-Chiu Chen, a professor of biology at WCM-Q, the students collected invertebrate animals and brought the specimens to WCM-Q's state-of-the-art laboratory. There, they will process the tissue samples and extract deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) sequences from selected genes, which will then be used to identify the species.

The students identified various marine invertebrates, including clams, snails, crabs, sponges, moss animals,

segmented worms, sea stars, and shrimp, all of which lack a backbone. To minimize the impact on the animal population, each pair of students collected only one specimen.

In addition to marine life, the students studied plant species found on the island, including gray mangrove (*Avicennia marina*), *Zygophyllum qatarense*, and glaucous glasswort (*Arthrocaulon macrostachyum*), all of which are adapted to the dry environment near the sea and can tolerate salt.

The students also learned about sea lavender (*Limonium axillare*), a plant with purple flowers that blooms in spring.

Additionally, they learned about the desert hyacinth (*Cistanche phelypaea*), a parasitic plant with yellow flowers that lacks chlorophyll.

The annual field trip was part of the biology class, the first in a sequence of three laboratory classes, during which students were introduced to DNA barcoding as a method for identifying species.



WCM-Q students collect specimens on the Purple Island.

Dr. Chen said, "This was an opportunity for the students to see the diversity of organisms in their natural habitat and observe how animals and plants interact with each other. We used this opportunity to collect samples and connect outdoor

activities with benchtop laboratory procedures, using technology to understand species diversity. We introduced the students to a technique called DNA barcoding. Using this technique, students can learn about species identification."

Talking about her experience, student Noof Al Malik said: "The Purple Island trip was truly a remarkable experience where we were able to connect classroom theories to the wonders of nature. Along with our amazing guides, the biology team, we learned

Divided into three groups, the students visited the island on three separate days, where they identified and collected invertebrates and observed how local flora and fauna have adapted to the environment.

about the interconnectedness of biology, evolution and even Qatar's history."

Another student, Minu Kim, said: "The trip to Purple Island was filled with the excitement of observing and interacting with the complex ecosystems thriving there and the joy of exploring the beauty of the island with peers and tutors. The trip allowed me to engage directly with ecosystems that once seemed dull in textbooks, making learning far more vivid and meaningful."

The collection of invertebrate specimens was approved by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.



The department has set an integrated plan to ensure Zakat Al-Fitr reaches eligible recipients within the Sharia Zakat banks.

Zakat Affairs Department funnelling Zakat Al-Fitr contributions to beneficiaries

DOHA: The Zakat Affairs Department at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has embarked on implementing its annual plan to funnel Zakat Al-Fitr contributions to eligible recipients in a timely manner, according to the guidelines put out in Islamic Sharia, and ultimately to materialize the aims of this Islamic ritual: enriching the lives of the needy and bringing joy to their homes as Eid Al-Fitr approaches.

Director of the Zakat Affairs Department, Mal Allah Abdulrahman Al Jaber, underscored the importance of ensuring the timely distribution of Zakat Al-Fitr, consisting of the staple food items commonly used in the local community, following the Sunnah of the Prophet.

He clarified that the department prepares and packages these essential food items into dedicated food parcels for distribution to eligible families.

The department has set an integrated plan to ensure Zakat Al-Fitr reaches eligible recipients within the Sharia Zakat banks. The process begins by calculating the number of beneficiaries and verifying that they are indeed eligible, Al Jaber pointed out.

Al Jaber further explained that food parcels are then prepared based on precise criteria, ahead of the distribution process, which is carried out by onsite work teams to ensure these items reach recipients before Eid prayer, in realization of the Sharia aim of this blessed ritual.

He underlined that the department gives the distribution process overriding priority to safeguard beneficiaries' dignity and achieve justice in delivering Zakat to these segments.

Work teams are undertaking constant efforts throughout these blessed days

to ensure the distribution process is accomplished according to the highest standards of organization and accuracy, delivering parcels to homes in collaboration with professional delivery companies, Al Jaber noted.

Al Jaber recalled that delivering these parcels directly and confidentially ensures beneficiaries' comfort, protects their privacy, and simultaneously enhances distribution efficiency and speed.

He called for paying Zakat Al-Fitr through the department, noting that there are multiple easy channels to do so, whether through ubiquitous collectors deployed to shopping malls and various areas nationwide, or via the department's website and application, to facilitate the performance of this prescribed ritual and funnel it to eligible beneficiaries in a timely manner according to Islamic Sharia. — *QNA*

QU pharmacy students complete training in Malaysia, Scotland, and New Zealand

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar University (QU), represented by its College of Pharmacy, announced that a group of fourth-year pharmacy (P4) students successfully completed international experiential training rotations in Malaysia, Scotland, and New Zealand.

The initiative reflects QU's commitment to preparing globally competent, practice-ready graduates and strengthening experiential education through international partnerships that enhance professional competencies and global exposure.

As part of the Structured Pharmacy Experiential Education Program (SPEP), the international placements aim to expose students to diverse pharmacy practice models, strengthen clinical and professional competencies, and bridge academic learning with real-world healthcare practice.

Commenting on the initiative, Dr. Ziad Nasr, SPEP Program Coordinator, stated, "International experiential education enables our students to expand their clinical, professional, and cultural competencies while representing the College of Pharmacy and Qatar University on an international platform. These placements foster adaptability, leadership, and a more profound understanding of pharmacy's evolving global role in improving patient outcomes and healthcare systems."

During their industrial pharmacy rotation at IKOP Pharma in Kuantan, Malaysia, students gained hands-on exposure to pharmaceutical manufacturing in a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)-

compliant environment.

They observed the production of semi-solid dosage forms and engaged with Quality Assurance (QA), Quality Control (QC), production, regulatory affairs, and sales and marketing teams. The experience

in Qatar."

Students completing their community pharmacy rotation at Mint Pharmacy in Scotland described the experience as enriching and transformative. Through active participation in patient counseling, clinical



strengthened their understanding of quality systems, validation processes, stability studies, and regulatory compliance under NPRA guidelines. It also enhanced competencies in quality assurance, risk awareness, traceability, structured problem-solving, teamwork, and interprofessional communication while reinforcing the importance of patient safety and continuous improvement in pharmaceutical practice.

Reflecting on the experience, students Osama Mohamed, Ahmed Tehemar, Khaled Teleb, and Mohamed Gasimelseed noted, "This experience strengthened our professional discipline and broadened our perspective on global industry standards, motivating us to contribute to advancing pharmacy practice

observations, and dispensing workflows, they strengthened their competencies in patient assessment, communication, and medication safety.

Exposure to pharmacist-led services such as travel health consultations and adherence support programs further enhanced their clinical confidence and reinforced a patient-centered approach to care.

Students Shahd Jadalla and Mariem Cheikh Rouhou stated, "This experience expanded our global perspective on pharmacy practice and inspired us to apply these insights to enhance pharmaceutical care within our future professional settings."

Similarly, students undertaking their rotation in New Zealand experienced community pharmacy practice within a highly collaborative healthcare environment.

QRCS improves access to food for vulnerable Syrian families

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: As part of its relentless efforts to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the humanitarian crisis in Syria, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has launched a humanitarian project to improve access to food for the most vulnerable Syrian families, amidst the ongoing food insecurity there.

Implemented in

cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), the project involves the provision of essential food assistance for poor families in towns and rural villages across Idlib and Aleppo Governorates.

Currently, diverse food parcels are being distributed to improve food security among the target beneficiaries.

The project benefits 6,125 families, or 30,625 people,

including displaced families, low-income families, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

It responds to the worsening living conditions of Syrian families, due to rising poverty rates, lower purchasing power, and increasing number of people requiring humanitarian aid.

The food parcels contain grains, legumes, vegetable oil, sugar, and other necessary

food items to help meet everyday life needs and provide a regular source of nutrition for the recipient families.

Out of commitment to its humanitarian mission in Syria, QRCS will continue to work together with local and international partners to make a difference in the lives of the affected populations and enhance the resilience of the communities most in need.



Rafah crossing to reopen from March 18

GAZA: Israeli occupation authorities announced yesterday the reopening of the Rafah land crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt in both directions, starting next Wednesday, for limited movement of people.

The crossing will operate according to the mechanism in place before its closure. Travellers will depart and enter through the Rafah crossing in coordination with Egypt, after obtaining prior security approval, and under the supervision of the European Union mission.

The Israeli occupation army closed the

Gaza Strip crossings, including the Rafah land crossing and the Kerem Abu Salem commercial crossing, on February 28.

The closure of the Rafah crossing, which was partially reopened for the movement of people, was subject to strict Israeli security restrictions and complications at the beginning of February. This halted the entry of humanitarian and medical aid into the Gaza Strip and disrupted the travel of patients and wounded individuals awaiting medical evacuation for treatment outside Gaza, further deteriorating the humanitarian and health conditions of thousands. — *QNA*

WHO slams targeting of health workers in Lebanon

GENEVA: The World Health Organization (WHO) has denounced yesterday the killing of 14 health workers in southern Lebanon over the past 24 hours, demanding the necessity of protecting medical personnel and health facilities at all times.

In a press statement, Director-General of the WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said that these losses of life represent a tragic development amid the escalating crisis in the Middle East,

emphasizing the need for urgent measures to de-escalate the crisis and protect the health of people across the region.

Ghebreyesus noted that these incidents highlight the ongoing attack on the healthcare system in Lebanon, which serves as a vital pillar for the population.

The WHO confirmed the deaths of 12 doctors, paramedics, and nurses in an attack that occurred last night on the Burj Qalaouiyyeh Primary Healthcare Center in

southern Lebanon, while two paramedics were killed in attacks on a health facility.

Since the situation in Lebanon worsened on March 2, amid continuing Israeli attacks on various areas, the WHO has documented 27 attacks on healthcare facilities, resulting in 30 deaths and 35 injuries. According to international humanitarian law, medical personnel and health facilities must never be attacked or militarized. — *QNA*

Thousands benefit from services of Sheikh Jassim bin Jabr Al Thani Primary Health Care Center at Azraq Camp in Jordan

- Paediatric, women’s, and dental clinics receive hundreds of patients monthly.
- Nearly 3,000 prescriptions were dispensed to camp patients in February.

The Sheikh Jassim bin Jabr Al Thani Primary Health Care Center continues to provide medical services to refugees residing in the Azraq Camp in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as part of humanitarian efforts to deliver comprehensive, high-quality primary healthcare.

The center also continually works to develop its services to meet the growing health needs of the camp’s residents.

The center is keen to enhance the level of healthcare services by organising various awareness programmes and activities, in addition to introducing new medical services that contribute to improving the health conditions of camp residents. The center also regularly hosts visiting physicians from different medical specialties to provide advanced diagnostic and treatment services.

Statistics and figures:

A statistical report issued by the center on the medical services provided during February 2026 revealed that the total number of patients who visited the various specialised clinics reached 3,993.

According to the report, the paediatric clinic received 992 children, while 424 women benefited from the services of the women’s clinic.

Meanwhile, the dental clinics treated 783 patients during the same period.

The report also noted that the center’s pharmacy dispensed a total of 2,958 prescriptions during the month, as part of efforts to provide medications free of charge to patients and visitors.

Comprehensive medical services:

The center offers a wide range of medical services through specialised clinics including paediatrics, gynaecology, general medicine, and dentistry, in addition to an emergency and ambulance department, a dedicated vaccination and immunisation unit, and a pharmacy that provides medications to patients at no cost.

The Jassim and Hamad bin Jassim Charitable Foundation continues to work on developing these healthcare services to ensure a rapid and effective response to the various medical conditions faced by refugees, in accordance with the highest medical standards.

The foundation also conducts regular field visits to the center to assess growing needs and provide the necessary medical specialties, helping ensure the delivery of comprehensive healthcare services that address most cases requiring specialised medical intervention.



The center is keen to enhance the level of healthcare services by organising various awareness programmes and activities, in addition to introducing new medical services that contribute to improving the health conditions of camp residents.

The center offers a wide range of medical services through specialised clinics including paediatrics, gynaecology, general medicine, and dentistry, in addition to an emergency and ambulance department, a dedicated vaccination and immunisation unit, and a pharmacy that provides medications to patients at no cost.

Jassim and Hamad bin Jassim Charitable Foundation distributes 1,150 food baskets on advent of Ramadan



As part of its ongoing efforts to support the local community and promote the spirit of social solidarity, the Jassim and Hamad bin Jassim Charitable Foundation launched a charitable initiative marking the advent of the holy month of Ramadan, distributing 1,150 food baskets to beneficiaries. The baskets contained a variety of essential food items commonly used for the Ramadan table.

The initiative included the distribution of 800 food baskets to workers of Doha Municipality, and 350 baskets to workers affiliated with the Mechanical Equipment Department at the Ministry of Municipality in Doha. The initiative aimed to recognise their daily efforts in serving the community and to help ease their living burdens during the blessed month.

This initiative comes as part of a series of charitable and humanitarian programmes carried out annually by the foundation during Ramadan to

The initiative included the distribution of 800 food baskets to workers of Doha Municipality, and 350 baskets to workers affiliated with the Mechanical Equipment Department at the Ministry of Municipality in Doha. The initiative aimed to recognise their daily efforts in serving the community and to help ease their living burdens during the blessed month.

support different segments of the local community and strengthen the values of solidarity and social cohesion. Through such initiatives, the foundation seeks to highlight humanitarian values of cooperation, as the holy month represents an important opportunity to reinforce these principles.

Jassim and Hamad bin Jassim Charitable Foundation distributes 28 tonnes of dates

Aid initiative covers Nepal, Somalia, and Gaza Strip

Marking the advent of the holy month of Ramadan, the Jassim and Hamad bin Jassim Charitable Foundation has distributed 28 tonnes of dates in several countries, including Nepal, Somalia, and the Gaza Strip, as part of a humanitarian initiative aimed at strengthening solidarity and supporting communities in need around the world.

As part of the distribution efforts, two tonnes of dates were sent to the Nepalese capital Kathmandu in cooperation with the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Nepal. In Somalia, five tonnes were distributed in collaboration with the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Somalia in Mogadishu.

Meanwhile, 21 tonnes were delivered to the Gaza Strip through the Qatari Committee for the Reconstruction of Gaza.

The foundation affirmed that this initiative comes as part of its ongoing efforts to support vulnerable communities, particularly during the holy month of Ramadan.



GCC nations intercept drones, missiles amid Iranian aggression

RIYADH/ABU DHABI/KUWAIT/ MANAMA: Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Defense yesterday said that a drone was intercepted and destroyed in the Eastern Region.

This came in a statement by the Ministry's Spokesperson Major General Turki Al Maliki.

Earlier yesterday, the Ministry had announced that four drones have been intercepted and destroyed in the Riyadh Region, in addition to another 10 drones in the Riyadh and Eastern regions.

The UAE air

defenses yesterday intercepted four ballistic missiles and six drones originating from Iran.

A statement by the UAE Defense Ministry highlighted that since the start of the Iranian offensives, the air defenses have engaged 298 ballistic missiles, 15 loitering projectiles, and 1,606 drones.

These assaults have resulted in six fatalities involving nationals from the UAE, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh, along with minor and moderate injuries to 142 individuals of various nationalities,

In UAE, the assaults have resulted in six fatalities involving nationals from the UAE, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

the statement read.

The ministry confirmed that it is on swivel to deal with any potential threats and resolutely deter anything that would destabilise the state security, ensuring the protection of the nation's sovereignty, security, stability, and national interests.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's

Ministry of Defense announced yesterday that the armed forces detected 14 hostile drones that violated the country's airspace over the past 24 hours, eight of which were destroyed.

Official spokesperson for the ministry Saud Al-Atwan said during a media briefing on the latest field developments in light of the Iranian aggression on Kuwait that falling debris from the destroyed drones caused some material damage and left three members of the armed forces with minor injuries.

The spokesman noted that

three hostile drones targeted the Kuwait International Airport, causing damage to the radar system without any human casualties, while three other drones fell outside the threat area and posed no danger.

He also said that a task force from the Kuwait National Guard managed to intercept and destroy five hostile drones within its areas of responsibility as part of coordination and cooperation among military bodies.

The General Command of the Bahrain Defense Force

announced that the air defense systems had successfully intercepted and destroyed 211 drones and 125 projectiles since the start of the Iranian aggression against Bahrain.

The command further reaffirmed that using ballistic missiles and drones to target civilian objects and private property amounts to a brazen violation of international law and the UN Charter, stressing that these savage and random offensives pose a direct threat to regional peace and security. — **QNA**

Eight Palestinians killed in Israeli airstrike on Gaza

GAZA: Eight Palestinians were killed and others wounded yesterday in an Israeli airstrike that targeted a vehicle on Salah Al-Din Street in the central Gaza Strip.

Medical sources at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir Al-Balah reported that eight people were killed and others wounded in the Israeli airstrike targeting a Palestinian police vehicle. In a statement, the Ministry of Interior in Gaza stated that Israeli warplanes targeted a police vehicle on Salah Al-Din Street near the entrance to Al-Zawayda in the central governorate, resulting in several casualties.

The Ministry reported that among the dead was the head of the intervention police in central Gaza, Iyad Abu Yousef, along with seven other police officers and personnel, all of whom were killed in the Israeli airstrike.

The death toll from the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, has risen to 72,239, with 171,861 injured.

Since the ceasefire last October, the total number of martyrs has reached 663, the Gaza Ministry of Health reported, adding that the total number of wounded reached 1,762, while the total number of bodies recovered from under the rubble was 756. — **QNA**

The death toll from the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, has risen to 72,239, with 171,861 injured.



Debris is strewn along a street and after a residential apartment block was struck in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut's southern suburb of Haret Hreik yesterday. (AFP)

Death toll from Israeli aggression on Lebanon rises to 850, over 2,000 injured

BEIRUT: The death toll from the Israeli aggression on Lebanon has risen to 850, with 2,105 injured.

In a statement regarding the developments of the Israeli aggression on Lebanon, the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health stated that

the total number of fatalities since the start of the Israeli attacks on March 2 has reached 850, with 2,105 wounded.

The Ministry also reported that the daily count of child fatalities has risen to 107. — **QNA**

Iraq warns of strikes near prison housing IS detainees

BAGHDAD: Iraq warned yesterday that drone attacks near Baghdad airport threatened the security of the nearby prison housing Islamic State group suspects recently brought from Syria.

In February, the United States completed the transfer of 5,700 IS detainees from Syria to Iraq.

They have been held since

in Baghdad's Al-Karkh prison, once a US Army detention centre known as Camp Cropper, which is part of Baghdad airport's complex.

Justice ministry spokesperson Ahmed Laibi said in a statement that "the areas surrounding Baghdad International Airport and the airport prison (Al-Karkh Central) have been subjected to repeated strikes".

Some strikes hit "near the facility, raising concerns regarding the impact on the security of a prison that houses high-risk terrorist inmates", Laibi added. The most intense strikes took place on Saturday hitting "in very close proximity to the prison", he said.

Since the start of the Middle East war, armed groups have been claiming daily drone and

rocket attacks against US bases in Iraq. Baghdad airport houses a US diplomatic facility and until recently also hosted troops from the US-led international coalition against IS. Laibi said while security measures were in place to "ensure stability", "the frequency of these attacks and the proximity of falling projectiles remain a cause for concern". — **AFP**

Pakistan says hit military facilities in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said yesterday its forces had attacked military facilities in southern Afghanistan, as well as "terrorist hideouts", in the latest strikes between the two sides.

Security sources said troops "effectively destroyed technical support infrastructure and (an) equipment storage facility in Kandahar", which is home to the Taliban administration's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada.

Another strike targeted a tunnel in Kandahar purportedly used by the Afghan Taliban and the Pakistani Taliban militant group or TTP, which Islamabad blames for a wave of strikes, they added.

The military later said that four civilians — all brothers — were killed when Afghan shelling hit a house in Bajaur, on the Pakistan side of the border. Another person was seriously injured.

Local residents in Kandahar told AFP they saw jet planes flying over the city and heard explosions during the night. An air strike was also heard in Spin Boldak, southeast of Kandahar, residents said, while authorities in the eastern border province of Khost said there were clashes on Saturday night. Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told AFP that the strikes caused some damage to a drug rehabilitation centre and an empty container in Kandahar. One person was meanwhile killed when a "civilian home" was hit by Pakistani shelling, Afghan government deputy spokesperson Hamdullah Fitrat said on X. — **AFP**

Kazakhstan holds referendum on sweeping constitutional changes

ALMATY: Kazakhs began voting yesterday in a constitutional referendum that authorities brand as democratising — though several proposed amendments appear to strengthen presidential powers in Central Asia's richest country.

The vote on changing around 80 percent of the country's basic law has been pushed by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who seeks to balance the resource-rich former Soviet republic's ties between the European Union, Russia and China.

More than half of the country's approximately 12.5 million registered voters had cast their ballots by 2:00 pm local time (0900 GMT), according to electoral authorities.

After 2022 protests over the cost of living escalated into riots and left 238 people dead, the president pledged to liberalise the political system to build a "just Kazakhstan".

Announcing the amendments in February, he said: "Kazakhstan is once and for all moving away from a

super-presidential form of rule and transitioning to a presidential republic with a strong parliament." Tokayev, a Soviet-educated former diplomat who speaks fluent Chinese, said his proposals would essentially create a "new system of state governance" that would "allow for the redistribution of power" and "strengthen the checks and balances system".

However, several proposals indicate the opposite: the president would be able to appoint top officials such as the heads of the central bank, the intelligence services and the constitutional court.

The positions currently require approval from the Senate, the parliament's upper chamber, which would be abolished under the amendments.

Instead, a new single-chamber assembly, the Kurultai, would be created. But the head of state would be able to dissolve it and rule by executive orders if the parliament refuses to approve presidential nominees to key posts twice. — **AFP**

North Korea conducts rocket launcher drills after missile launches

PYONGYANG: North Korea has carried out military exercises using high-precision 600mm multiple rocket launchers, a day after launching more than 10 ballistic missiles toward the sea, state media reported.

According to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), a long-range artillery unit of the North Korean army in the country's western region conducted the drills using 12 high-precision 600mm multiple rocket launchers and two artillery companies. The exercises were overseen by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. On the previous day, the military of South Korea detected the launch of multiple missiles from near the North Korean capital Pyongyang toward the East Sea. The missiles reportedly travelled about 350km.

Officials in Seoul said the launches were viewed as a response by Pyongyang to annual joint military exercises conducted by South Korea and the US. — **QNA**



People queue before casting their ballots inside a voting station in Hanoi yesterday. (AFP)

One-party Vietnam holds parliamentary election

HANOI: Voters in Vietnam cast their ballots yesterday for members of the National Assembly, the country's top legislative body that serves mainly to ratify decisions by the ruling Communist Party. The Southeast Asian nation of 100 million is both an economic success story, boasting eight percent growth last year, and a repressive one-party state that often jails its critics.

Out of 864 candidates for the 500-seat parliament, only 65 are not members of

the Communist Party — down from 74 in the last vote five years ago. State media said more than 99 percent of 79 million eligible voters had cast their ballots as of yesterday evening — a typically high official turnout.

Polling stations were scheduled to officially close at 7pm (1200 GMT), with results not expected for at least a week.

Among the new parliament's first tasks when it sits next month will be to confirm senior leaders

already selected by the party at its twice-a-decade congress in January.

Top leader To Lam was reaffirmed as general secretary, but he is widely expected to become president as well — a post that requires approval by lawmakers. Lam has implemented dramatic changes in nearly two years at the helm, slashing bureaucratic red tape and pushing major infrastructure investments as he aims to boost economic growth. — **AFP**



World in brief

Saudi Foreign Minister discusses regional developments with French, Indian counterparts

RIYADH: Saudi Foreign Minister H H Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah discussed regional developments and ongoing efforts in two separate phone calls yesterday with his French counterpart, Jean-Noel Barrot, and Indian counterpart, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. The calls also addressed the latest developments and their implications for regional and international security and stability. — **QNA**

Kuwait and UAE FM's review regional escalation

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Foreign Minister has held talks with his counterpart from the United Arab Emirates to discuss rising military tensions in the region and their potential impact on regional and global stability.

According to a statement, Kuwait's Foreign Minister, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, held a phone call yesterday with the UAE's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

During the call, the two officials discussed the increasing military escalation in the region and the implications it could have for security and stability. They also addressed Iranian aggression against countries in the region and the serious consequences it could have at both the regional and international levels.

The ministers reviewed the latest developments and exchanged views on the potential risks posed by the ongoing tensions, according to the statement. — **QNA**

Bahrain Interior Ministry says five individuals nailed over passing critical information to IRGC

MANAMA: The Bahraini Ministry of Interior announced yesterday that five individuals had been busted, while the sixth is still on the run outside the country, for engaging in collecting and passing over sensitive and accurate information to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

In a statement, the ministry outlined that the General Administration of Investigations and Criminal Evidence nailed the five individuals for their involvement in capturing photos and coordinates of some critical sites, as well as some hotels in Bahrain, and submitting this information to the IRGC, which helped target those sites during the savage Iranian aggression.

The statement added that all essential legal actions have been taken and the defendants have been referred to the public prosecution. — **QNA**

India arrests another suspect in Bangladesh uprising leader's killing

KOLKATA: Indian police said yesterday they had arrested a Bangladeshi man for allegedly helping two fellow nationals, accused of murdering a popular student leader in Dhaka, enter India illegally. Sharif Osman Hadi, a vocal India critic who took part in Bangladesh's 2024 mass uprising, was shot by masked assailants in Dhaka on December 12 and later succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in Singapore.

West Bengal police named Faisal Karim Masud and Alamgir Hossain as the prime suspects in the killing and said they allegedly fled Bangladesh through the Haluaghat border with India shortly after Hadi's attack. India arrested the pair on March 8 and they remain in police custody.

Yesterday, West Bengal's Special Task Force Superintendent Indrajit Sarkar told AFP that Philip Sangma had been arrested on suspicion of helping Masud and Hossain enter the state of West Bengal through its porous border. — **AFP**

'Bandit' attack in central Nigeria kills 20

JOS: Gunmen killed 20 people and stole cattle from a village in central Nigeria in a "bandit" attack, a local development organisation said on Saturday.

Kidnap gangs, referred to as "bandits" by locals, regularly carry out mass kidnappings for ransom and loot villages in Nigeria.

The latest attack took place in the country's central Plateau state on Friday, the Kanam Development Association (KADA) said in a statement, when gunmen ambushed soldiers on a routine patrol. "In the unfortunate exchange of gunfire that followed the ambush, our nation lost brave defenders who paid the ultimate price in the line of duty," KADA said, adding 12 security personnel and eight people who joined them to protect their communities had died. The gunmen then stormed a nearby community and stole property, including cattle.

"This further compounds the suffering of already vulnerable rural communities," KADA said. — **AFP**

Hungary pre-election showdown draws crowds amid foreign interference claims

BUDAPEST: Huge crowds joined rival marches staged by Hungarian premier Viktor Orban and his main opponent Peter Magyar in Budapest yesterday, as both push allegations of foreign interference just four weeks before tightly fought elections.

Orban who faces an unprecedented challenge to his 16-year rule has sought to portray the opposition leader as a “puppet” of Brussels and Kyiv, while Magyar has accused the Moscow-friendly premier of seeking the Kremlin’s help to stay in power ahead of the April 12 elections.

Orban has accused Kyiv of blocking a key pipeline transporting Russian oil through Ukraine to Hungary.

Tens of thousands of people attended both rallies, according to *AFP* journalists on site. — *AFP*



Canadian, Nordic leaders deepen collaboration for Arctic security

Canadian and Nordic leaders yesterday announced that they would deepen collaboration, especially in the area of defence and Arctic security, a region where tensions are rising. After a meeting in Oslo, Iceland’s Prime Minister Kristrun Mjoll Frostadottir, Sweden’s Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, Canada’ Prime Minister Mark Carney, Norway’s Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, Denmark’s Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Finland’s Prime Minister Petteri Orpo in a joint statement reaffirmed their commitment to cooperation “at a time characterised by heightened geopolitical tension, war and a multitude of crises”. (*AFP*)

War-related oil squeeze ‘short-term pain:’ US official

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump’s top energy official said yesterday that Americans will have to endure the “short-term pain” of higher prices at the pump as US forces conduct their war against Iran.

Now in the third week of a multi-dimensional Middle East conflict that has seen US and Israeli forces pound Iran’s military targets, and Tehran responding with missile and drone attacks against several neighbouring states, global energy prices have soared.

And concern has swelled that a lengthy blockage by Iran of the critical Strait of Hormuz could send crude prices through the roof.

“President Trump needed to act now to stop the killing of American soldiers, to stop the destabilisation of the region, and to end Iran’s ability to threaten energy markets,” US Energy Secretary Chris Wright told ABC

News talk show “This Week.” He said economic conditions would grow dramatically worse without the ongoing military operation “to defang the Iranian regime” and ensure it can no longer threaten the world with nuclear weapons.

“This is short-term pain to get through to a much better place where the Middle East can no longer be held hostage by the one rogue nation in Iran,” Wright added. The energy secretary also said he predicted the war could end “in the next few weeks, and we’ll see a rebound in (fuel) supplies and a pushing down of prices after that.”

Since the war began, gas prices have soared in the United States, where Trump in 2024 campaigned relentlessly on a vow to lower fuel costs for Americans. The issue is a critical one for US voters, who head to the polls in November for the country’s mid-term congressional elections. — *AFP*

US, Chinese trade delegations meet in Paris ahead of Trump-Xi summit

WASHINGTON: Officials from China and the United States met for trade talks in Paris yesterday, state media said, less than three weeks before President Donald Trump’s expected summit with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent was meeting Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng to hash out trade issues between the world’s two largest economies before Trump’s expected official visit to

China at the end of the month.

China’s state broadcaster CCTV said the talks, which the US side said would last for two days, were being held at the OECD headquarters in Paris.

The diplomatic engagements come at a tumultuous time for the global economy, with energy markets sent spinning by the impact of the US-Israeli war with Iran.

China’s commerce ministry said in a statement on Friday

that officials in Paris would “conduct consultations on economic and trade issues of mutual concern”, without giving further details about the content of the talks.

Bessent, who was to be accompanied by US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, said in a statement on Thursday that “economic dialogue” between the countries “is moving forward”.

China and the United States fought a bruising trade war for

much of 2025, with reciprocal tariffs reaching triple digits at one point and export restrictions threatening to wreck global supply chains for critical minerals.

Chinese exports to the United States fell 11 percent in the first two months of the year compared with the same period in 2025, data showed this week, although overall exports surged by almost 22 percent.

Tensions between the two economic titans cooled after

Trump met Xi in Busan, South Korea, in October, but new US probes into Chinese industrial overcapacity and forced labour announced on Wednesday threaten more instability.

China’s commerce ministry criticised the probes as “a typical act of unilateralism that severely undermines the international economic and trade order”.

Washington has also launched trade investigations into 60 economies including

China to look for “failures to take action on forced labour”, the US Trade Representative office said.

The Paris gathering, which is due to last two days, is seen as setting the stage for Trump’s expected visit to China later this month.

Washington has said Trump will visit China from March 31 to April 2, although Beijing has yet to confirm those dates in line with its usual practice. — *AFP*

Zelensky: EU pressure to open Russian oil pipeline is ‘blackmail’

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told his European allies that pressure to re-open the Druzhba oil pipeline carrying Russian supplies was like “blackmail”, he said in remarks released yesterday.

The Soviet-era pipeline that crosses Ukraine was damaged in a Russian strike in January, Kyiv says. Ukraine says repairs could take up to six weeks, angering both Hungary and Slovakia, which depend on the pipeline for much of their energy needs.

Hungary and Slovakia have threatened to block EU aid to Ukraine unless it swiftly

re-opens the pipeline, while the European Commission has proposed a mission to inspect the damage, further pressuring Kyiv.

The war in the Middle East has brought the issue of oil deliveries into sharp focus, with countries worldwide looking for ways to release more supplies onto the market to ease prices.

“If we have decided to restore Russian oil supplies, then I want them to know that I am against it but if I am given conditions that Ukraine will not receive weapons, then, excuse me, I am powerless on this issue, I told our friends in Europe that this is called blackmail,”

Zelensky told reporters, including *AFP*, when asked about re-opening the pipeline.

Zelensky also hit out at Hungary in his remarks, accusing its government of spreading “anti-Ukrainian sentiment”.

Tensions between Kyiv and Budapest over the pipeline have erupted in recent weeks, with Zelensky and Hungary’s nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban trading barbs.

“We will work with any leadership in Hungary... We are ready to work amicably, provided this person is not an ally of Putin, specifically the aggressor state,” Zelensky said. — *AFP*

France loans revolutionary painting to Greece

ATHENS: France has loaned to Greece a painting by Eugene Delacroix depicting the fall of Missolonghi, one of the most famous episodes of the Greek war of independence, officials said Saturday.

“Greece on the Ruins of Missolonghi” was created in 1826, just months after the end of the siege of Missolonghi, one of the bloodiest episodes of the 1821-1830 war.

It has been loaned to the city’s Archaeological Museum by the Museum of Fine Arts of Bordeaux for an exhibition running from April to November. — *AFP*

Moldova issues oil spill alert

CHISINAU: Moldova has triggered an environmental alert following a fuel spill in the Dniester River triggered by a Russian military strike in Ukraine, the government said yesterday.

Authorities have “declared a state of environmental alert in the Dniester River basin for 15 days, effective March 16, 2026”, the CNMC government crisis management centre said in a statement.

The fuel spill is thought to have been caused by a Russian attack on the Dniester Hydroelectric Power Plant in Ukraine on March 7.

Ukrainian authorities first reported contamination in the river on March 10 near Lyadova

and other settlements, calling the incident a “manifestation of Russia’s environmental aggression”.

The pollution quickly moved downstream into Moldova, where emergency teams have installed absorbent barriers and urged residents to follow official guidance while the situation remains unstable.

Moldovan authorities have urged several communities not to drink, cook with or otherwise use water from the Dniester River until further notice, and in some areas water supply has been suspended. Romania deployed a 10 member emergency team to the area on March 14 with specialised equipment and materials after Moldova formally asked the EU for assistance. — *AFP*

US moves JDAM munitions from B-1 Bomber at UK Base



US military personnel moving Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) from a US Air Force B-1 Lancer bomber at RAF Fairford in southwest England yesterday. The base is one of two locations, that the United Kingdom has authorised the United States to use for “specific defensive operations into Iran” aimed at destroying Iranian missiles at their source, according to the British defence minister. (*AFP*)

Venezuela opposition leader denounces ‘selective’ amnesty

CARACAS: Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado on Saturday accused the Caracas government of “selective justice” under its amnesty programme, saying her own lawyer had yet to be released.

The amnesty law was passed by interim leader Delcy Rodriguez after US forces captured former leader Nicolas Maduro in January. It aims to turn the page on nearly three decades of state repression, and mark an early milestone in the post-Maduro transition.

But Machado, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year, said her close ally and lawyer Perkins Rocha has been in custody since August 2024. — *AFP*

Ukraine announces shooting down of 90 Russian drones

KYIV: The Ukrainian air defences shot down 90 of 97 drones Russia launched toward Ukrainian territory, the Ukrainian forces announced in a statement yesterday.

The statement added that the Russian offensive was thwarted by the air defence, cyberwarfare, and drone units. — *QNA*



Explosions hit Russian LNG tanker adrift in Mediterranean

A Russian LNG carrier, Arctic Metagaz, was left adrift between Malta and Lampedusa after explosions and a massive fire, according to Libyan port authorities. The tanker, sanctioned by the United States and the European Union as part of Russia’s “shadow fleet,” had all 30 crew members rescued, Moscow said. Russia accused Ukraine of carrying out a “terrorist attack.” (*AFP*)

France picks mayors in test of political mood ahead of 2027 polls

PARIS: French voters went to the polls yesterday to pick mayors and councillors in elections widely seen as a barometer of France’s political mood ahead of the high-stakes 2027 presidential race.

Marine Le Pen’s ascendant party views next year’s contest as its strongest chance yet to take power, with President Emmanuel Macron constitutionally barred from running again.

The elections in 35,000 villages, towns and cities take place over two rounds held on consecutive Sundays.

While nearly 90 percent of the French communes are small rural constituencies where local elections are traditionally depoliticised, the races could nonetheless reveal key trends and dynamics, said political scientist Nonna Mayer.



A resident casts a ballot during the first round of France’s 2026 municipal elections at a polling station yesterday. (*AFP*)

“In large towns, national issues will matter more, and they can give some hints on the electoral dynamic of the main parties,” Mayer, who is affiliated with Sciences Po university and

scientific research centre CNRS, told *AFP*.

Who will win cities like Paris, Lyon, Marseille and Nice will matter, she added.

All eyes are also on the

battle for Paris, where Rachida Dati, a combative former culture minister and one-time protege of now convicted ex-president Nicolas Sarkozy, hopes to wrest control of the city from the left, which has run the French capital for the last quarter-century.

Dati goes neck-to-neck with left-wing candidate Emmanuel Gregoire, 48, and the loss of Paris would be a blow to the Socialist Party ahead of the presidential campaign.

The week between the two rounds is expected to see political parties negotiating deals with rivals and joining forces against strong opponents.

Results from the first round are expected late yesterday, but the outcome in major cities looks uncertain. — *AFP*



All your insurance. One powerful app.





DOWNLOAD NOW





PRAYER TIMINGS

FAJR 4:25AM	ASR 3:09PM
SUNRISE 5:42AM	MAGHRIB 5:46PM
DHUHR 11:44AM	ISHA 7:16PM

WEATHER TODAY

19°C

Minimum

35°C

Maximum

Hazy at places at first, relatively hot daytime.

“

Beyond social media, OpenClaw can also be used to manage email, schedule appointments, gather market intelligence, or plan travel itineraries, handling repetitive and time-consuming tasks that normally fill a workday.

In OpenClaw frenzy, should we be cheery or worried?

BEIJING: For years, the idea of an artificial intelligence (AI) assistant like J.A.R.V.I.S., the ever-present helper to Iron Man, has lingered on the edge of reality. In early 2026, the sudden rise of OpenClaw is prompting many to wonder whether that moment has finally arrived.

Standing out from other mainstream AI systems like ChatGPT, DeepSeek and Claude, which largely operate through a conversational prompt-response model, OpenClaw is designed to take action, carrying out tasks for users in the digital world.

Most people have been reacting with a mix of awe and unease while marveling at its abilities, users also worry about data security and fear that their work will be stolen one day.

What is OpenClaw?

The project was originally published last November by Austrian coder Peter Steinberger as Clawdbot, which he claimed to be “a playful pun” on US AI company Anthropic’s Claude chatbot with a lobster’s claw.

Anthropic, however, seemed to be less amused. After a trademark dispute, the project was renamed Moltbot in late January -- and three days later

became OpenClaw, with “Open” referring to its open-source nature and “Claw” a nod to its lobster-themed heritage.

With the name settled, it quickly took off, attracting two million visitors in a single week, and has so far collected over 309,000 stars on code repository GitHub.

Though configuration could be tricky for those who are not tech-savvy, the AI agent can be installed with a single line in the terminal and run tasks autonomously. It integrates with messaging platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram, Slack, Discord and iMessage, letting users give orders in plain language.

Fu Sheng, CEO of Cheetah Mobile, said he built a team of eight OpenClaw agents while recovering from a skiing injury. In 14 days, they became a round-the-clock operation: sending New Year greetings to over 600 contacts in four minutes, publishing social media posts that drew more than a million views and even designing and launching a website -- all while he was asleep.

Beyond social media, OpenClaw can also be used to manage email, schedule



The screen of a mobile phone running the open-source AI agent OpenClaw at Wuxing, east China’s Zhejiang Province.

appointments, gather market intelligence, or plan travel itineraries, handling repetitive and time-consuming tasks that normally fill a workday.

AI leaders are paying close attention. Andrej Karpathy, a founding member of OpenAI, said on X that OpenClaw is “the most incredible sci-fi takeoff-adjacent thing” he has recently seen. Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang went further, calling it “probably the single most important release of software, probably ever.”

Perils behind promise?

X’s owner Elon Musk,

however, has weighed in on the risks of handing AI agents sweeping control.

Late February, he posted an image of a monkey being handed a rifle on X, captioned: “People giving OpenClaw root access to their entire life.” Similarly, Microsoft warned that OpenClaw should be treated as “untrusted code execution with persistent credentials,” as in an “unguarded deployment,” users risk having their passwords and other personal data stolen, or having their agent “induced” into running malicious code.

“It is not appropriate to run

on a standard personal or enterprise workstation. If an organization determines that OpenClaw must be evaluated, it should be deployed only in a fully isolated environment,” it said.

Mishaps have shown this to be true.

Summer Yue, director of Alignment at Meta Superintelligence Lab, has shared an incident in which OpenClaw deleted and archived hundreds of her personal emails while completely ignoring her commands to stop.

“Nothing humbles you like telling your OpenClaw ‘confirm before acting’ and watching it speedrun deleting your inbox,” she wrote on X. “I couldn’t stop it from my phone. I had to RUN to my Mac mini like I was defusing a bomb.” In another staggering case, a US-based software engineer Scott Shambaugh said “an AI agent of unknown ownership” called MJ Rathbun penned a “thousand-word rant” accusing him of discrimination, prejudice and hypocrisy, only because he, as a volunteer maintainer for a Python data-visualization library, rejected a submission it made to the open source codebase. — **XINHUA**

‘Snow White,’ ‘War of the Worlds’ top Razzies

HOLLYWOOD: Dopey? Creepy? Unnecessary? Bizarre remakes of “Snow White” and “War of the Worlds” have topped the Razzies, the anti-Hollywood awards show that annually shames the industry’s very worst films.

Disney’s latest live-action remake of “Snow White” had been mired in controversies years before its disappointing release nearly a year ago.

Its star Rachel Zegler enraged Disney fans for comments denigrating the beloved 1937 original -- even labeling its Prince a stalker.

And the casting of a Latina actress was slammed as “woke” in some corners of social media.

But ultimately it was the film’s bizarre computer-generated dwarfs that drew the most flak, and earned the movie two Razzies.

“Described as frightening, actually terrifying and garishly fake, the winner of the Worst Supporting Actor goes to all seven artificial dwarves,” Razzies organizers said Saturday.

“AI doesn’t have to cost over \$250m -- maybe \$20.50, or a seven day free trial period,” they added, referring to the Disney’s film’s reportedly enormous budget.

The seven cartoonishly gnome-like magical creatures were also named “worst screen combo.”

“War of the Worlds” -- very loosely based on H G Wells’ seminal novel, but told entirely through Zoom calls -- was named 2025’s worst movie, with worst actor honoree Ice Cube also among the film’s five “wins.” The Amazon-released movie was slammed for its awkward product placement -- not least its climactic scene in which a Prime Air drone saves humanity from an alien invasion.

Despite -- or perhaps because of -- utterly scathing reviews, the film became an unlikely hit for Amazon, thanks to a phenomenon that critics dubbed “hate-watching” by “bored masochists.” — **AFP**

‘Hoppers’ tops North American box office

LOS ANGELES: “Hoppers,” the latest original animated film from Disney’s Pixar, maintained its position atop the North American box office with \$28.5m in ticket sales in its second weekend, industry estimates showed yesterday.

The adventure comedy, which tells the story of young animal lover Mabel who uses technology to transfer her consciousness into a robotic beaver so she can better communicate and protect wildlife, has now pulled in \$165m worldwide, according to Exhibitor Relations.

The voice cast features Meryl Streep, Jon Hamm, Kathy Najimy and Piper Curda as Mabel.

Debuting at number two was Universal’s romance “Reminders of Him,” based on the novel by Colleen Hoover and starring Maika Monroe and Tyriq Withers. It earned \$18.2m in the United States and Canada. “This is an excellent opening for an original romance picture, at well above average levels for the genre,” wrote analyst David A Gross of Franchise Entertainment Research.

Another new arrival, the horror flick “Undertone” distributed by A24, came in third, with \$9.3m in ticket sales. The it’s-coming-from-inside-the-house scare-fest, complete with a deeply unsettling soundscape, narrowly bested the latest in an iconic series of the genre, “Scream 7.” — **AFP**

Have trouble falling or staying asleep? Try cognitive shuffling

WASHINGTON: When Luc Beaudoin was in college, he was having trouble falling asleep.

Beaudoin was studying cognitive science and psychology, so he started experimenting on himself, and he developed a method that consciously copies what the brain seems to do naturally as we doze off.

“If you wake people up as they’re falling asleep, they often report that they’re having these little microdreams,” said Beaudoin, who is a cognitive scientist and professor at Simon Fraser University in Canada. These can be seemingly random images or scenes that you may not remember when you wake up, unless you’re interrupted in the process of falling asleep.

Beaudoin developed a technique to mimic this kind of “dreamlike” thinking -- with the hope that he could trick his brain into falling asleep faster. He calls it a serial diverse imagining task or cognitive shuffling, because it’s almost like shuffling a mental deck of cards, each one with a different image or thought.

“I use it and it works for me,” Beaudoin said. In his research he has

demonstrated that the technique works for other people, too, though he and other experts emphasized that more studies need to be done to better establish how well it works and why.

There is a paradox inherent in sleeping, said Rafael Pelayo, a sleep medicine doctor at Stanford University. We have a biological need to sleep, but we’re also more vulnerable while we’re sleeping. So we protect ourselves by frequently waking up -- at least once every hour-and-a-half between sleep cycles, with even more frequent mini-arousals.

“It’s a misconception to think that people sleep through the night,” Pelayo said. “Nobody ever really sleeps through the night.” If you generally have no problems sleeping, you probably won’t remember these brief bouts of wakefulness. But if you’re feeling anxious, you may have trouble getting out of that hypervigilant mode -- making it difficult to fall asleep and stay asleep.

If you often find yourself lying awake in the middle of the night worrying, sleep experts say that cognitive shuffling might be worth a try.

Start by thinking of a word

-- something neutral or positive, like the word “house.” Then, think of as many words as you can that start with the first letter: horse, harmonica, honey. Try to picture each object or idea for 5 to 15 seconds, maybe even imagining a scene with yourself in it. Beaudoin recommends against finding connections between the words. Just let the images wash over you. Whenever you find yourself having a hard time coming up with another word, move on to the next letter -- in this case, o -- owls, oasis, ocean and so on. Come up with images for each letter in your original word until you fall asleep. If you run out of letters before you fall asleep, pick a new word.

“It’s hard to think of random material, but this little technique helps people,” Beaudoin said. (He also developed an app called MySleep-Button for people who want help with the technique.) In addition to mimicking the kind of thinking that happens right before sleep, the method also requires a certain amount of brain power enough to interrupt the worrying or problem-solving that often keeps us awake. — **THE WASHINGTON POST**

Cowboy boots and line dancing: Country music fever grips UK young

LONDON: Trinity Smith has been wearing her cowboy boots all week to break them in ahead of a weekend of non-stop dancing.

The 24-year-old teacher is one of tens of thousands of British fans flocking to a London country music festival, as the genre enjoys a surge in popularity among young adults.

At the O2 Arena in east London, the sheer number of cowboy hats, fringed jackets, denim shorts and rhinestone boots on display makes you wonder if the spot should be renamed “Nashville-on-Thames”.

From Friday to Sunday, stars from Keith Urban to Zach Top -- along with up and coming artists, including several from Britain -- are performing at the Country to Country (C2C) festival.

Organisers say the event, the biggest of its kind in the UK, has drawn around 45,000 people, many in their 20s and 30s.

“We’ve been learning line dancing all year to be able to come here,” said Smith, who came to the festival from Peterborough, in central England, with

her partner. “I like stomping my heels,” she added.

C2C has existed for several years but has been continuously expanding with sister events in Glasgow and Belfast. Manchester will come on board next year.

In mid-May, the historic Royal Albert Hall, one of London’s best known venues, will also host another country music festival.

Country has long since spread beyond its US homeland.

But in the UK -- home of the Beatles, Rolling Stones and Oasis -- the genre’s rise has been especially striking in recent years.

“It’s the fastest growing music genre in the UK, and the UK has the fastest growth anywhere in the world,” said John Finch, director of the UK Country Music Association.

Country accounts for only a small part of the British music market, but its popularity rose by almost 11 percent in the past year.

For Finch, this is “massive”. Moreover, he says, the growth was

mainly driven by the “younger generation” discovering it for the first time “rather than the older generation like me who’s been in country for some time”.

A recent report by the British Phonographic Industry highlighted the “spectacular” growth of country music, driven in part by artists such as Beyonce.

Other influences have been Morgan Wallen and Post Malone. And, of course, Taylor Swift, who first rose to fame as a country singer.

TikTok has turbo-charged the trend, allowing aspiring artists to find global audiences overnight.

For Lewis Pittam, a 26-year-old actor and singer living near London, the appeal is obvious: “I think it’s so much more modernised now especially with the up-and-coming artists that are around,” he said.

William Martin, 22, and Cameron Fulton, 23, friends from the northeastern city of Newcastle, said it was the lyrics that hooked them.

“You’ve got the sad songs, heartbreak songs, and then party in the summer,” said Fulton, a mechanic.



Organisers say the country music festival, the biggest of its kind in the UK, has drawn around 45,000 people. (AFP)

Alyssa Flaherty, who at 22 is already well known, travelled from Nashville, the undisputed capital of country music, to perform yesterday.

She still marvels at the enthusiasm of British crowds.

Playing her first English gig last

August in York in the northeast, she said she had “no idea if these people are even going to know who I am or what they’re coming to see.”

“People were singing my songs back to me and I was like what is this?” — **AFP**

TRENDING IN QATAR



On *The Peninsula* social media platforms

Israel systematically destroyed over 93% of Gaza Strip cemeteries

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor (Euro-Med Monitor) said it has documented that the Israeli army destroyed 93.5% of cemeteries in the Gaza Strip.

CBSE cancels Class XII exams for students in Qatar

The Embassy of India in Doha has announced that the Central Board of Secondary Education has cancelled all Class XII examinations.

Five individuals in Bahrain arrested for passing information

The Bahraini Ministry of Interior announced that five individuals had been busted, while the sixth is still on the run.

Moldova issues oil spill alert after strike on Ukraine

Moldova has triggered an environmental alert following a fuel spill in the Dniester River triggered by a Russian military strike in Ukraine, the government said.