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## Qatar and Canada discuss energy ties



The Minister of State for Energy Affairs H E Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi met in Doha yesterday with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada H E Anita Anand. Discussions during the meeting dealt with energy relations and cooperation between Qatar and Canada and means to enhance them.

## Qatar participates in 125th Meeting of Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee of GCC

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Minister of Finance H E Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari headed the State of Qatar's delegation participating in the 125th Meeting of the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which was held yesterday via videoconference, in the presence of Their Excellencies the ministers of the GCC member states.

During the meeting, the outcomes of the GCC Central Bank Governors Committee meeting, the meetings of the GCC Customs Union Authority, the meeting of the Committee of Heads and Directors of Tax Departments in the GCC member states, and the meeting of the GCC Common Market Committee were reviewed.

The meeting also considered the General Secretariat's report on the measures taken in light of the current circumstances, as well as key regional and international economic developments. In addition, it discussed the mechanism for implementing decisions related to measures to combat unfair practices in international trade.

The meeting further addressed the progress of negotiations on free trade agreements between the GCC member states and other countries and international blocs, and followed up on the latest



Minister of Finance H E Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari during the the 125th Meeting of the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee of the GCC held virtually yesterday.

developments regarding the achievement of economic unity among the GCC member states.

Meanwhile H E Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, Minister of Finance, headed the State of Qatar's delegation participating in the Ninth Meeting of the Permanent Preparatory Committee at the Ministerial Level of the Economic and Development Affairs Authority of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which was held yesterday via videoconference, in the presence of Their Excellencies the ministers of the GCC member states.

The meeting featured discussions on a number of priority economic and development issues within the framework of strengthening Gulf integration and supporting

sustainable development paths among the GCC member states. Participants reviewed the latest economic and developmental developments.

In addition to discussing areas of joint cooperation in achieving and implementing the economic visions of the GCC states, in a manner that contributes to enhancing economic competitiveness and supporting the Gulf region's growth and economic diversification efforts.

The meeting also addressed the annual report of the Office of the Economic and Development Affairs Authority and reviewed key initiatives and programmes aimed at strengthening joint Gulf action and advancing economic and development integration among the GCC member states.

## US, China discussing AI 'guardrails': Bessent

BEIJING: The United States and China were discussing setting up "guardrails" for the use of artificial intelligence (AI), US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent (pictured) told CNBC yesterday, with growing calls for regulation of the burgeoning technology.

"We're actually going to be discussing the AI guardrails with the Chinese because the Chinese are substantially behind us but they have a very advanced AI industry here," he said during US President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing.

Trump arrived in China with accolades for his host, calling President Xi Jinping a "great leader" and "friend" and extending an invitation to visit the White House in September.



The two sides have a number of outstanding trade disputes, including on US export controls on advanced AI technology to China.

Donald Trump is accompanied by several top leaders in the tech world, including Nvidia's Jensen

Huang and xAI's Elon Musk. Bessent said that the world's "two AI superpowers are going to start talking."

The Treasury secretary said Washington and Beijing would set up a "protocol" on the path forward on AI, particularly "to make sure non-state actors don't get a hold of these models."

He insisted, however, that Washington did not want to "stifle innovation" and that he was "very satisfied" with how leading tech companies had rolled out models so far.

Bessent said that given the US lead in AI technology, Washington would use "US best practices, US values" to determine the course forward "and then roll those out to the world." — *AFP*

## MoCI enhances digital services with new bulk product upload feature

DEEPAK JOHN  
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has introduced a new bulk product data upload feature for its "Adding Commodity without a Custom Release" service, marking another step toward enhancing digital transformation and streamlining business procedures in Qatar.

Through this new feature, the Ministry aims to improve efficiency, support compliance, and create a more organized and investment-friendly business environment across the country.

In a post on its X platform, yesterday, the Ministry stated, "MoCI has launched a new bulk product data upload feature for the 'Adding Commodity without a Custom release' service, as part of its efforts to enhance

Objectives of the service	Targeted audience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simplifying the process of product price registration, previously unregistered.</li> <li>Providing six-month grace period.</li> <li>Enhancing effectiveness of digital services offered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Companies</li> <li>Retail stores</li> <li>Suppliers</li> </ul>

digital procedures and simplify product price registration processes for companies, retail stores, and suppliers."

The feature aims to facilitate the registration of previously unregistered products, provide a flexible six-month grace period for product price registration, and enhance the efficiency of

digital procedures provided.

In an info graphic shared with the post, it outlined the steps to benefit from the feature, which include visiting the official Ministry of Commerce and Industry website at <http://moci.gov.qa>, selecting E-Services, then Digital Platform Services, and accessing the

Adding Commodity without a Custom release service.

The Ministry added that the conditions for benefiting from the feature include compliance with the product safety undertaking, adherence to applicable laws and regulations, and ensuring that products and their related data do not violate local customs and traditions.

The post further said, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry calls upon all companies and retail stores to benefit from the grace period provided and adhere to all procedures, ensuring the enforcement of an organised business environment that supports both businesses and the investment ecosystem.

In line with its ongoing digital transformation strategy, the Ministry emphasised that the newly launched bulk upload feature is designed to

significantly reduce the time and effort required for registering product prices.

By enabling companies, retail stores, and suppliers to upload large quantities of product data simultaneously, the Ministry aims to improve operational efficiency and accelerate registration procedures for products that were previously unregistered within the system.

The initiative forms part of broader efforts to modernise government services and strengthen cooperation with the private sector through advanced digital solutions. The move reflects the Ministry's commitment to supporting the business community while ensuring transparency and efficiency in market practices.

The Ministry also stressed the importance of adhering to all applicable regulations and product safety standards when using the service.

## Qatar Stock Exchange announces reconstitution of Index Committee

DOHA: The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) has announced the reconstitution of its Index Committee, in accordance with Board Resolution No. (11) issued during the first meeting of 2026.

The reconstituted Index Committee is chaired by Mansour Rashid Al Khater, with members including Sheikh Jassim bin Abdullah Al Thani, Abdullah Mohammed Al Ansari, Abdullah Hashim Al Sada, Dhubia Saad Al Kubaisi, Fatima Abdullah Al Emadi, and Dr. Alanoud Ali Al Maadid. A representative from the Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) will participate as an observer on the committee.

The reconstitution of the Index Committee underscores the QSE's ongoing commitment to enhancing governance, transparency, and institutional oversight of market indices. These efforts aim to strengthen investor and market confidence while improving market

efficiency and development in line with best practices.

QSE indices serve as a vital benchmark for investors, market participants, and listed companies, functioning as a key tool for measuring market performance across various sectors. The restructuring of the Index Committee reflects the QSE's dedication to establishing a transparent and structured institutional framework for index management, thereby boosting investor confidence and supporting the continued growth of Qatar's capital market.

The QSE will issue a market notice regarding the semi-annual index review, in line with approved index review procedures. This notice, published quarterly, forms part of the exchange's commitment to providing market participants with timely and relevant information, further enhancing transparency and communication. — *QNA*

## IMF sees risks to global growth forecast

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund warned yesterday that continuing disruptions due to the Iran war meant its global economic outlook was moving towards an "adverse" scenario, with growth pared down and greater risks to inflation.

Last month, the multilateral lender's World Economic Outlook predicted global growth would drop to 3.1 percent in 2026 in its "reference" scenario, but warned of a bleaker outlook if the war were to drag on.

In the "adverse" scenario, where oil prices remain higher for longer, inflation expectations become less stable and financial conditions tighten, growth would slow to 2.5 percent, the Fund said at the time.

On Thursday, the Fund's chief spokesperson said the global economy was headed towards this less auspicious situation.

"We are moving into the adverse scenario, but inflation expectations are still reasonably well anchored, and financial conditions still remain accommodative," Julie Kozack told reporters in Washington.

The Fund also has a "severe" scenario, in which growth slows to 2.0 percent and inflation flares to six percent.

An update of the World Economic Outlook is due in July.

The US-Israel war on Iran

has engulfed the Middle East in violence, with Tehran's retaliatory action targeting Washington's regional allies and virtually blocking the Strait of Hormuz.

The key waterway normally sees about a fifth of global oil and gas supplies pass through it, and the blockade has seen energy prices skyrocket worldwide. The IMF was in "active discussions" with member states over their needs,

and "many countries are actually asking us for support in the policy area," said Kozack.

During the IMF's spring meetings last month, Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said as many as 12 countries could require financial assistance from the Fund, with \$20-50 billion required in total.

Kozack said that discussions on that financial assistance were continuing, but that the Fund was not yet prepared to disclose which specific countries were involved.

The IMF spokesperson also warned of the risks to food security due to the war, with a third of the world's fertilizer supply also stopped due to the blockade.

"We know from history that when fertilizer prices increase, that it takes about six months or so for this to translate into increased food prices and, in some cases, reductions in yields and food security issues," she said. — *AFP*





### Minister of Communications and Information Technology discusses cooperation with Sudanese counterpart

Minister of Communications and Information Technology H E Mohammed bin Ali Al Mannai received Minister of Digital Transformation and Communications of the Republic of the Sudan H E Eng. Ahmed Al-Dirdiri Ghandour and the accompanying delegation, in the presence of Ambassador of the Republic of the Sudan to the State of Qatar H E Badr Eldin Abdullah Mohammed Ahmed. During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the fields of communications, information technology, and digital transformation, in addition to reviewing key initiatives and projects related to the development of digital infrastructure. The two sides also explored opportunities for exchanging expertise and experiences in areas of mutual interest, contributing to supporting digital transformation efforts in both brotherly countries.

## Egypt receives \$8.8bn in ITFC financing

CAIRO: Egypt has received about \$8.8bn in total financing from the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), which will help it import nearly 19 million tons of strategic food commodities, Minister of Supply and Internal Trade Sherif Farouk said yesterday.

The financing supports the import of key commodities, including wheat, oils, sugar, corn, meat, and poultry, contributing to market stability and the continuous availability of goods, Farouk said

during a meeting with ITFC CEO Adeb Yousuf Al-Aama, according to a statement from the Egyptian Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade.

The minister said the extended partnership with the ITFC represents "one of the main pillars supporting Egypt's food security system," stressing the importance of continued cooperation to provide the necessary financing to secure Egypt's needs of basic commodities and improve supply and distribution efficiency. — XINHUA

## Türkiye's central bank raises 2026 inflation target to 24% amid risks

ISTANBUL: The Central Bank of Türkiye yesterday raised its inflation forecast for 2026 to 24 percent, up from a previous estimate of 16 percent, citing external risks and persistent price pressures.

Speaking at a press conference in Istanbul to present the second inflation report of the year, Central Bank Governor Fatih Karahan said the bank had also revised its inflation targets to 15 percent for 2027 and 9 percent for 2028 to reflect the impact of fluctuations in global energy prices and heightened geopolitical risks on the disinflation process.

He noted that although inflation had declined significantly from its peak in May 2024, it remained elevated.

He pointed to tensions in the Middle East that began in February as a key source of negative supply shocks and a factor worsening the near-term outlook.

Despite the challenges, Karahan said the central bank would maintain a tight monetary policy stance until price stability is achieved, reiterating that the medium-term inflation target remains at 5 percent.

Türkiye's annual inflation rate rose to 32.37 percent in April from 30.87 percent in March. — XINHUA



The logo of the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye at the entrance of the bank's headquarters in the capital Ankara, Türkiye.

## Real estate trading exceeds QR550m in a week

DOHA: The volume of real estate trading in sales contracts at the Department of Real Estate Registration at the Ministry of Justice during the period from May 3 to May 7, 2026 reached QR586,055,471.

Meanwhile, the total sales contracts for residential units in the Real Estate Bulletin for the same period reached QR67,983,821.

The weekly bulletin issued by the Department shows that the list of real estate properties traded for sale included vacant land, residences, residential buildings, a residential complex, and residential units.

Sales were concentrated in the municipalities of Al Rayyan, Doha, Al Daayen, Al Khor and Thakhira, Umm Salal, Al Wakrah, and Al Shamal, as well as the areas of Lusail 69, The Pearl, Al Dafna 60, Ghar Thuailib, Al Wukair, Umm Al Amad, Al Kharaj, and Al Mashaf.

The volume of real estate transactions in sales contracts registered with the Real Estate Registration Department between April 26-April 30 exceeded QR550m. — QNA

## QC holds public speaking training programme



Officials pose for a group photo with the participants of public speaking training programme.

### THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Qatar Chamber recently (QC) organised a training programme titled "Speech Skills and Influential Public Speaking," aimed at developing communication and professional presentation skills.

Delivered by Abdullah Hamdan, the programme covered professional speaking skills, confident public speaking, persuasion techniques, and effective communication methods.

The programme comes as part of Qatar Chamber's efforts to offer specialised training initiatives that contribute to developing professional and personal

*The programme comes as part of Qatar Chamber's efforts to offer specialised training initiatives that contribute to developing professional and personal competencies and enhancing skills in line with labour market requirements.*

competencies and enhancing skills in line with labour market requirements.

For her part, Fatima Issa Al Kuwari, Head of the Training and Development Department at Qatar Chamber, said the Chamber

## Qatar and Norway explore strategic cooperation and investment ties

Talks focused on strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in trade, investment, advanced technology, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and other strategic sectors. Both sides stressed the importance of expanding the strategic cooperation between the two countries.



Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs at MoCI H E Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Sayed with Norway's Minister of Trade and Industry H E Cecilie Myrseth during the meeting.

OSLO: The State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Norway discussed opportunities for strategic projects and strengthening bilateral partnerships, as well as investment, economic, and trade opportunities in both countries.

This came during a visit by a Qatari delegation led by Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), H E Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Sayed, to Oslo.

According to a statement by MoCI, the Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs held meetings with senior Norwegian officials, including Minister of Trade and Industry H E Cecilie Myrseth, Finance Minister H E Jens Stoltenberg, Fisheries and Ocean Policy Minister Marianne Sivertsen

Næss, and State Secretary for Agriculture and Food Anette Steggegerdet Norberg.

Talks focused on strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in trade, investment, advanced technology, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and other strategic sectors.

Both sides stressed the importance of expanding the strategic cooperation between the two countries.

The Minister also

met executives from Norwegian companies in advanced technology, maritime industries, renewable energy, and financial institutions, as well as the Chief of Norges Bank, to explore joint investment opportunities.

The delegation comprised senior executives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Qatar Investment Authority, Invest Qatar, and Hassad Food. — QNA

## Aqarat Chairman meets officials of Saudi real estate institutions

RIYADH: Chairman of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Aqarat) Eng. Khalid bin Ahmed Al Obaidli met yesterday with CEO of the Real Estate General Authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Eng. Abdullah bin Saud Al Hammad, and CEO of the Saudi Real Estate Development Fund, Eng. Loaye Al Nahedh, separately, during His Excellency's visit to Riyadh, KSA.

Aqarat said that the two meetings addressed ways to enhance joint cooperation and activate the memorandum of understanding signed between the two sides, in addition to opportunities to develop the partnership and exchange experiences in the fields real estate



Chairman of Aqarat Eng. Khalid bin Ahmed Al Obaidli with CEO of the Real Estate General Authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Eng. Abdullah bin Saud Al Hammad during the meeting.

regulation and development. The meetings also reviewed

the best practices related to real estate governance,

digital transformation, and the development of real estate systems and legislation.

Cooperation in the areas of finance and real estate development was also discussed, along with the most prominent initiatives and experiences supporting the real estate sector, which contribute to raising the efficiency of the real estate system and keeping pace with the rapid growth witnessed by the sector in both countries.

These meetings come as part of efforts to enhance integration and cooperation in the real estate sector between the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. — QNA

## Lithium miner in Zimbabwe confirms resumption of exports

BIKITA Minerals, the local unit of China's Sinomine Resource Group, announced yesterday that it has resumed lithium concentrate exports after securing an export license from Zimbabwe's Ministry of Mines and Mining Development.

"This marks a milestone in our commitment to responsible mining, transparency and value addition," the company said via social media.

As part of its long-term beneficiation strategy, the firm is advancing plans for a

\$400m lithium sulfate processing plant in Zimbabwe.

The project aims to meet the 2027 deadline for ending unprocessed lithium exports, with preliminary works already underway.

The Chinese-invested firm reaffirmed its commitment to responsible mining, employee welfare, environmental stewardship and sustainable economic development.

The export resumption followed the

Zimbabwean government's suspension of raw mineral and lithium concentrate exports in February to promote local value addition and maximize value retention.

The Ministry of Mines and Mining Development has confirmed granting export quotas to six major lithium producers in the country.

The quotas will be reviewed next year based on the companies' progress in establishing acceptable beneficiation capacity. — XINHUA

## Microsoft boss to testify on his role in OpenAI's founding

OAKLAND: Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella (pictured) is expected to take the stand Monday in Elon Musk's lawsuit against OpenAI, to explain emails that revealed how his company funded the ChatGPT creator's shift from philanthropic organization to for-profit AI giant.

Nadella's testimony will precede that of OpenAI boss Sam Altman, whose questioning -- likely on Tuesday or Wednesday -- will be one of the final stages in a closely watched trial before a federal jury in Oakland, California.

The trial has laid bare the internal strife within a circle of elite Silicon Valley engineers, investors and executives in the years leading up to the high-profile launch of the ChatGPT chatbot in 2022.

In his lawsuit, Musk accuses OpenAI of betraying its original nonprofit mission and misappropriating his founding donations totalling \$38 million to build an empire valued at over \$850 billion.

The Tesla and SpaceX founder is calling for OpenAI to revert to its original status as a nonprofit -- a move that would impact its position in the



global artificial intelligence race against Anthropic, Google and China's Deepseek.

OpenAI counters that Musk left voluntarily after failing to seize majority control and has since become the company's direct competitor through his own AI venture, xAI.

An "advisory" jury is expected to reach a verdict on any actual wrongdoing by the week of May 18.

Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers will then make the final ruling on both liability and remedies after hearing the jury's opinion. She has indicated she will likely follow their advice.

If Gonzalez Rogers ultimately sides with Musk, OpenAI's initial public offering could be jeopardized. — AFP