

SATURDAY
30 MAY 2026
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The Peninsula

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THE PERFECT GIFT?

THE ONE THEY CHOOSE



Deputy Prime Minister attends opening ministerial reception of Shangri-La Dialogue 2026

DOHA: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs H E Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani attended the ministerial reception for the opening of the twenty-third edition of the Shangri-La Dialogue 2026.

The event organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, currently being held in the Republic of Singapore under the title "Asian Defense and Security Summit" from May 29 to 31, 2026.

Ambassador of Qatar to Singapore H E Abdulaziz bin Ahmed Al Malki Al Jehani also attended the reception. The opening ceremony featured a keynote address delivered by President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, H E To Lam

followed by discussions on evolving security challenges in Asia, alongside an assessment of the impact of international tensions, particularly in Iran and the Middle East, on US alliances and economic and military stability in the region.

It is noteworthy that the Shangri-La Dialogue this year saw the participation of 41 countries and 22 representatives at the ministerial level, and it is considered a governmental security summit held annually by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, with the participation of prime ministers, defense ministers, senior military leaders, and defense and security policymakers from various countries around the world. — QNA



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs H E Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani attending the ministerial reception for the opening of the twenty-third edition of the Shangri-La Dialogue 2026.

Amir congratulates Saudi King, Crown Prince on success of Hajj season

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani has sent cables of congratulations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Crown Prince and Prime Minister HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the successful completion of the Hajj season 1447 AH. HH the Amir praised the organization of the pilgrimage and wished the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continued progress and prosperity. Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani and Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani also sent congratulatory cables. — QNA

Large crowd attends Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah's funeral

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: A large number of citizens and residents yesterday attended the funeral of former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Industry H E Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah following Asr prayer.

The funeral prayer for the late leader was performed at the Nasser bin Abdullah Al-Attiah Mosque in the Al-Kharaitiyat area, before he was laid to rest

in the Al-Attiah Cemetery.

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani expressed condolences in a post on X yesterday writing, "We extend our deepest condolences to ourselves, our nation, and the esteemed family of the late father, Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, on his passing. He was among the loyal sons of the nation, whose distinguished



contributions played a prominent role in Qatar's journey of

development and progress. We pray that Allah envelop him in His vast mercy and reward him abundantly for his devoted service to his country. May Allah grant patience and solace to the people of Qatar in this time of loss."

Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah was regarded as one of Qatar's most influential figures in the energy sector, playing a pivotal role in strengthening the country's regional and

international standing through a distinguished career spanning more than five decades in energy, government administration and international affairs. He passed away on Wednesday in London after a long journey marked by dedication and achievement. He also held several senior government positions, including Second Deputy Prime Minister in 2003, before being appointed Deputy Prime Minister in 2007. → P19

Katara concludes Eid celebrations

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Katara Cultural Village Foundation concluded its Eid Al-Adha celebrations yesterday. The festivities, which began on Wednesday and continued for three days, transformed Katara into a lively destination, attracting thousands of visitors from within Qatar and abroad. → P20

CONDOLENCES

QatarEnergy

extends its heartfelt condolences to the family of

His Excellency Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiah
Former Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Energy and Industry

May Allah rest the departed soul in peace and give grace and fortitude to the bereaved family.



قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 (يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي)
 صدق الله العظيم

Condolences

The Board of Trustees and Staff of the
Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah International Foundation
 for Energy and Sustainable Development mourn
 the passing of its Founder and Patron,

His Excellency

Mr. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah



former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Industry,
 and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Al-Attiyah Foundation.

A visionary leader, distinguished statesman, and trusted mentor, H.E. Al-Attiyah played a pivotal role in shaping Qatar's energy sector and leading the historic transformation that established Qatar as the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas.

Through his exceptional leadership, foresight, and unwavering dedication, he elevated Qatar's standing on the global stage and inspired generations of leaders and professionals. Beyond his remarkable achievements, H.E. Al-Attiyah will be remembered for his generosity, integrity, and steadfast commitment to serving his nation and empowering others.

His enduring legacy will live on through the institutions he helped build, the countless lives he touched, and the future he helped shape.

As the Foundation mourns the loss of its Founder, it extends its deepest condolences and sincere sympathies to his sons **Hamad, Saud, Abdulaziz, and Nasser, as well as to the esteemed Al-Attiyah family,** his loved ones, colleagues, and all those who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside him.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُنْتَهِنَةُ اجْعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ صَبِيحَةَ مُضِيَّةٍ فَأَخْرِجِي عَنِّي وَأَخْرِجِي

صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَلِيمُ

CONDOLENCES

Qatar Fuel Company (WOQOD)

extends its heartfelt condolences

to the family of

His Excellency

Abdulla Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Former Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Energy and Industry

May Allah rest the departed soul in peace and give
grace and fortitude to the bereaved family.

((إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ))



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً

فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي ﴾

صدق الله العظيم

CONDOLENCES

Qatar Gas Transport Company Ltd. (Nakilat)

extends its heartfelt condolences to the family of

His Excellency Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Former Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Energy and Industry

May Allah rest the departed soul in peace and
give grace and fortitude to the bereaved family

﴿ إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ ﴾



Qatar Gas Transport Co. Ltd.
شركة قطر لنقل الغاز المحدودة

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

((يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ﴿٢٧﴾ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً ﴿٢٨﴾ فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي ﴿٢٩﴾ وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي ﴿٣٠﴾))

صِدْقَ اللَّهِ الْعَظِيمِ



condolences

Qatar Fertiliser Company (QAFCO)

mourns the loss of

His Excellency

Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

**Former Deputy Prime Minister and
Former Minister of Energy and Industry**

May God have mercy on him and grant him Paradise, and may He grant his family patience and solace.

To God we belong and to Him we shall return.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

((يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي))

صدق الله العظيم

All Staff of QAPCO (Q.P.J.S.C),
Qatofin (Q.P.J.S.C)
& QVC (Q.P.J.S.C)
express their heartfelt condolences
to the family of

H.E Abdulla Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy & Industry

May God rest his soul in peace
and give fortitude
to the bereaved family
to bear this great loss

((إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ))



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتُ إِنَّا نُنَادِيكُمْ بِالْحُزْنِ وَالْحُزْنِ
إِلَى آلِ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الْوَهَّابِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الْعَزِيزِ بْنِ عَبْدِ
مَنْفُورٍ تَعَالَى عَمَلُهُمْ وَتَعَالَى جَزَاءُ عَمَلِهِمْ

صَلَاةُ اللَّهِ الْعَظِيمَةِ

**All Staff of
Qatar Aluminium Limited**

express their heartfelt condolences
to the family of

His Excellency Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Former Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Energy & Industry

May God rest his soul in peace
and give fortitude
to the bereaved family
to bear this great loss

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ



الوطنيوم قطر
Qatalum

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ الْعِظَمَاءُ الرَّحِمِيُّ إِلَى رَبِّكَ رَأْسُكُمْ وَسِعَادُكُمْ خَيْرٌ مِنْ عِبَادِي وَالَّذِينَ هُنَا حَيْثُ

صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمِ

All Staff of QAFAC

express their heartfelt condolences

to the family of

His Excellency

Abdulla Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy & Industry

May God rest his soul in peace

and give fortitude

to the bereaved family

to bear this great loss

((إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ))



شركة قطر للإضافات البترولية المحدودة
QATAR FUEL ADDITIVES COMPANY LIMITED

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الشَّهِيدُ الطَّيِّبُ الْمُرْتَضَى اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَارْحَمْ خَدِيمَكَ الْعَبْدَ الْوَالِدِيَّ وَالْأَخِيَّ الْحَبِيبِيَّ

صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

We extend our heartfelt condolence and deepest sympathies to the sons of the deceased.

**Mr. Hamad bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Dr. Saud bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Mr. Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Mr. Nasser bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
and to all members of the respected
Al-Attiyah family,**

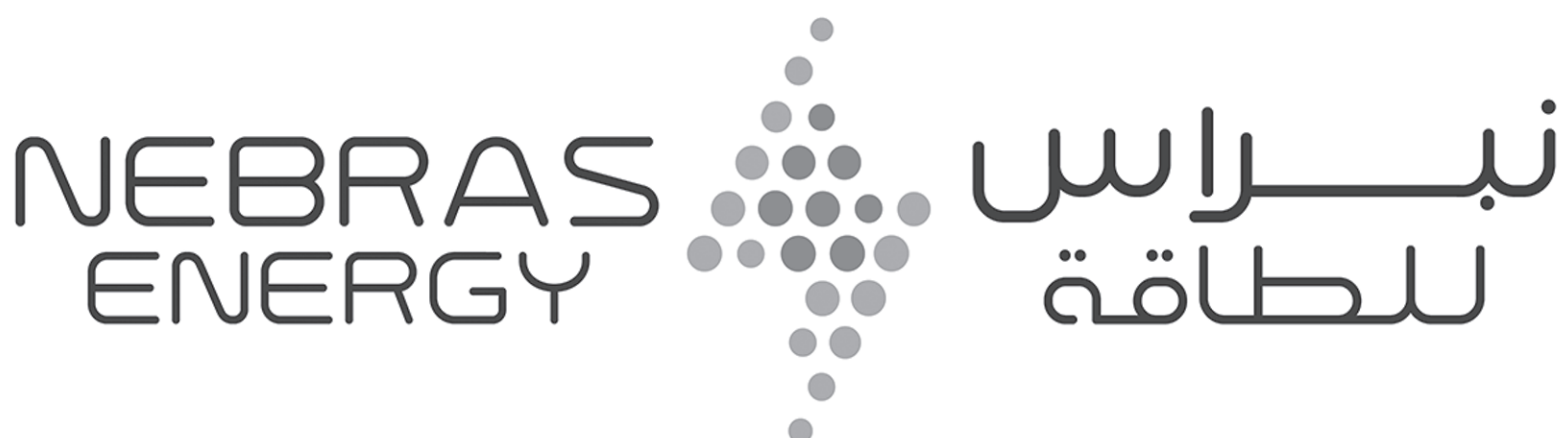
on the passing of the late, by God's will,

HE Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Former Deputy Prime Minister, Former Minister of Energy and Industry, Former Chairman and Managing Director of Qatar Petroleum, and member of the Board of Directors of Al-Attiyah Foundation.

May God have mercy upon the deceased and grant him a place in his spacious paradise, and grant his family and beloved ones patience and solace.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ إِنَّ الْمُسْلِمِينَ رَحِمَتِي إِلَى رَبِّكَ وَأُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ عِزِّي وَإِنَّ عِزِّي لَأَكْبَرُ

صدق الله العظيم

We extend our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies
to the sons of the deceased.

Mr. Hamad bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Dr. Saud bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Mr. Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Mr. Nasser bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

and to all members of the respected Al-Attiyah family,

on the passing of their father the late,

HE Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Former Deputy Prime Minister and Former Minister of Energy and Industry

May Allah have mercy upon the deceased and grant him
a place in his spacious paradise, and grant his family
and beloved ones patience and solace.

ام الحول للطاقة
UMM AL HOUL POWER



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتُ إِنَّ فِي رَأْسِ مَوْلَانَا مُحَمَّدٍ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ هَمَادٍ الْأَتِيَّاهِ وَوَالِدَيْهِ عَمَّا رَوَى وَالْأَيْمَانِ عَمَّنِي

صدق الله العظيم

We extend our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies
to the sons of the deceased.

Mr. Hamad bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Dr. Saud bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Mr. Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Mr. Nasser bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

and to all members of the respected Al-Attiyah family,

on the passing of their father the late,

HE Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Former Deputy Prime Minister and Former Minister of Energy and Industry

May Allah have mercy upon the deceased and grant him
a place in his spacious paradise, and grant his family
and beloved ones patience and solace.



مسيعة للطاقة
M POWER

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الطَّيِّبَةُ اجْعِي إِلَىٰ بَارِكِ ضَيْتِ مَضِيَّةٍ فَأَخْلِي فِي سَعْيِكَ وَأَخْلِي جَنَّتِي

صَلَّى اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمِ

We extend our heartfelt condolence and deepest sympathies to the sons of the deceased.

**Mr. Hamad bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Dr. Saud bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Mr. Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Mr. Nasser bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
and to all members of the respected
Al-Attiyah family,**

on the passing of the late, by God's will,

His Excellency Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Former Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Energy and Industry,
Former Chairman and Managing Director of Qatar Petroleum,
and member of the Board of Directors of Al-Attiyah Foundation.

May God have mercy upon the deceased and grant him a place in his spacious paradise, and grant his family and beloved ones patience and solace.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

ExxonMobil

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الطَّيِّبَةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ الرَّحِيمِ زَيْنَبُ بِنْتُ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الْمُطَّلِبِ
 صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

We extend our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the sons of the deceased

**Mr Hamad bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah,
 Dr Saud bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah,
 Mr Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah,
 Mr Nasser bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah,
 and to all
 members of the esteemed Al-Attiyah family,**

on the sad demise of the late

**His Excellency Abdullah
 bin Hamad Al-Attiyah,**

Former Deputy Prime Minister and
 Former Minister of Energy and Industry

May Almighty God have mercy upon the deceased, grant him a place in His vast paradise, and bestow upon his family and loved ones patience, comfort, and solace.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ



ConocoPhillips

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الطَّيِّبَةُ الْطَيِّبَةُ اجْعِي إِلَىٰ بَرِّكَ رَبِّكَ وَأَرْضِ صَبْرِكَ وَوَالِدَيْكَ وَأَجْنَابِكَ

We extend our heartfelt condolence and deepest sympathies to the sons of the deceased.

Mr. Hamad bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Dr. Saud bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Mr. Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Mr. Nasser bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
and to all members of the respected
Al-Attiyah family,

on the passing of the late, by God's will,

HE Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Industry,
 Former Chairman and Managing Director of Qatar Petroleum, and
 member of the Board of Directors of Al-Attiyah Foundation.

May God have mercy upon the deceased and grant him a place in his spacious paradise, and grant his family and beloved ones patience and solace.

"إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ"



EDITORIAL

Nation bids farewell to a loyal son

NATIONS are not built overnight, nor is progress achieved by coincidence. Behind every milestone of development stand men and women who devoted their lives, intellect, and energy to serving their homeland with sincerity and perseverance. Yesterday, the State of Qatar bade farewell to one of its most distinguished sons, a statesman whose name became closely associated with the country's modern renaissance and whose career reflected unwavering loyalty and exceptional service to the nation: H E Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy.

With deep sorrow and profound respect, Qatar, accompanied by a large gathering of citizens and residents, laid to rest H E on Friday at Al-Attiyah Cemetery in Al-Kharaitiyat. The scene of farewell was not merely the departure of a public official, but a moment of collective remembrance for a national figure whose journey mirrored the stages of Qatar's transformation, from a developing state to a global model of growth, prosperity, and stability.

The life of Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah stands as a testament to dedication in public service. Beginning his professional journey in 1972 at the Ministry of Finance and Petroleum, he embarked on a path that would span more than five decades of distinguished national service. Throughout these years, he assumed responsibilities of increasing significance, progressing through diverse positions in administration, energy, governance, and diplomacy, each role reflecting competence, commitment, and a deep sense of national responsibility.

His legacy is inseparable from the story of Qatar's energy sector, which emerged under the leadership of visionary figures into one of the strongest pillars of the national economy. Al-Attiyah played a pivotal role in strengthening Qatar's global position in energy markets, reinforcing its international credibility, and expanding its strategic influence in regional and global forums. His tenure as President of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) further reflected the trust and esteem he earned on the international stage.

As Qatar continues its march toward greater progress and achievement, it is fitting to remember that today's prosperity is the fruit of generations who carried the responsibility of nation-building with sincerity and resolve. It is the harvest of the efforts of the forefathers and those who followed in their footsteps, fulfilling their duty with competence and capability, while placing the interests of the nation above all else.

His passing is undoubtedly a great loss to the State of Qatar. However, great men leave behind legacies that endure far beyond their years.

Zimbabwean President receives credentials of Qatar's Ambassador

HARARE: President of Zimbabwe H E Emmerson Mnangagwa has received the credentials of H E Mubarak bin Nasser Al Khalifa as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (non-resident) of Qatar to the country.

During the ceremony, the ambassador conveyed greetings from Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, along with his wishes for the Zimbabwean President's health and for continued progress and prosperity for the country and its people.

Mnangagwa, in turn, asked the ambassador to pass on his greetings to H H the Amir, expressing his hopes for His Highness's wellbeing and for the State of Qatar's continued development and growth. — QNA

Amir sends condolences over passing of former Yemeni President

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani sent cables of condolences to Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council of the Republic of Yemen H E President Dr. Rashad Mohammed Al-Alimi on the passing of former Yemeni President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi.

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani also sent a cable of condolences to Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Republic of Yemen H E Dr. Shaya Mohsin Zindani on the passing of former Yemeni President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi. — QNA

Amir sends condolences to President of China over coal mine explosion

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani sent cables of condolences to President of the People's Republic of China H E Xi Jinping, over the victims of the coal mine explosion in northern China, wishing the injured a speedy recovery.

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani also sent a cable of condolences to Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China H E Li Qiang, over the victims of the coal mine explosion in northern China, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. — QNA



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs H E Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani meeting Singapore's Foreign Minister H E Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan. RIGHT: The Deputy Prime Minister meeting Malaysia's Minister of Defense H E Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin.



Deputy PM holds talks with ministers at Shangri-La Dialogue

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs H E Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani met with Singaporean Foreign Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan on the sidelines of His Excellency's participation in the Shangri-La Dialogue 2026, held in Singapore.

During the meeting, they reviewed the latest security developments and updates in the region and discussed avenues for cooperation and joint coordination amid the current circumstances.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs also met Malaysian

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Minister of Defense H E Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin on the sidelines of Shangri-La Dialogue 2026. During the meeting, they reviewed the latest security developments and updates in the region and discussed aspects of military cooperation and joint coordination in light of the current circumstances.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

State for Defense Affairs also met Singaporean Minister for Defense and Coordinating Minister for Public Service, H E Chan Chun Sing.

During the meeting, the latest security developments and developments in the region were reviewed, and aspects of military cooperation and joint coordination were discussed in light of the current circumstances.

The Deputy Prime Minister also met with Singapore's Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs H E K. Shanmugam.

The meetings were attended by Ambassador Qatar to Singapore H E Abdulaziz bin Ahmed Al Malki Al-Jehani along with a number of senior officers and officials from both sides.

Parents should let children follow passion: Qatari career coach

VICTOR BOLORUNDURO
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Many young people struggle with career choices not because they lack ambition, but because they are often pressured into following paths chosen by others, according to Qatari career coach Noora Salem Albuhammad Al-Dosari (pictured).

Al-Dosari, an experienced human resources professional and certified career coach, believes one of the biggest challenges facing young people in the region is parental pressure to pursue careers that align with family expectations rather than personal passion and aptitude.

Speaking in an interview with *The Peninsula*, Al-Dosari stressed the need for parents to support their children in discovering their own strengths and interests instead of imposing long-held family preferences.

"Let them be themselves," she said, reflecting on what she considers one of the most important conversations families should have about career development.

According to her, many students enter university programmes simply because they want to meet family expectations, often choosing professions such as law or medicine despite lacking genuine interest in those fields.

The conversation around careers should move beyond status, tradition and financial security toward personal fulfilment, self-awareness and long-term purpose.

"Sometimes, parents say, 'You have to go to law school' or 'You have to become a doctor,' and the child follows that path because they feel this is what the family wants, not necessarily what they want," she explained.

Al-Dosari said such pressure often leaves young people disconnected from their aspirations, eventually leading to dissatisfaction and career frustration.

Drawing from her coaching experience, she recalled the story of a student who approached her while preparing for university. Although his family wanted him to pursue law, career assessments revealed his strong interests and abilities lay in science and healthcare.

The student eventually decided to repeat part of his studies to reposition himself for a career aligned with his passion rather than continue down a path he believed would leave him unfulfilled.

"He told me he would rather



lose two years than regret losing many years doing something he did not want," Al-Dosari said.

For the Doha-based coach, the conversation around careers should move beyond status, tradition and financial security toward personal fulfilment, self-awareness and long-term purpose.

Al-Dosari's perspective is shaped partly by her own journey. Despite graduating from high school years earlier, she only completed her bachelor's degree in 2019 after navigating personal and academic interruptions.

Initially entering university because of parental expectations, she later dropped out as was not able to choose her career path before eventually returning to higher education through community college, graduating with honours.

That experience, she said,

strengthened her determination to help others avoid making career decisions without clarity or guidance.

"I do not want students to fall into the same trap," she said, adding that many young people struggle because they lack proper career direction and fail to distinguish between simply having a job and building a meaningful career.

Since becoming a certified career coach in 2022, Al-Dosari has worked with more than 20 clients, helping individuals better understand their interests, strengths and long-term goals.

She emphasised that coaching is not about telling people what to do but helping them discover answers for themselves.

For parents, her advice is simple: support children even when their choices may seem uncertain.

"Sometimes what they choose may not be correct, but they need to experience it and learn," she said. "If we always say yes, no, do this or do not do that, they will never learn." She also urged individuals contemplating career changes not to believe it is too late to start over.

"You go backwards like a bow before moving forward," she said. "Do it now rather than regret it later."

Qatari pilgrims praise organisation and services, laud Qatar Hajj Mission's role

QNA/THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatari pilgrims participating in the Hajj season of 2026 have praised the high level of organisation, integrated services, and spiritual atmosphere that accompanied their journey to the holy sites in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Pilgrims described this year's Hajj as a remarkable and seamless experience made possible through the coordinated efforts of the Qatari Hajj Mission, local Hajj campaigns, and the Saudi authorities.

From the moment of departure from Hamad International Airport until the completion of the rituals in Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalifah, pilgrims highlighted the smooth procedures, efficient transportation arrangements, and continuous support services that enabled them to focus entirely on worship and devotion.

Several pilgrims emphasised that this season represented a significant leap in the quality of services provided to Qatari pilgrims. They praised the advanced facilities in the holy sites, including fully equipped and air-conditioned camps, organised



A view of pilgrims in the holy sites during Hajj.

accommodation areas, continuous catering services, and around-the-clock medical and religious support.

Pilgrim Masoud Abdullah Al Jamali described his experience as completely different from his previous Hajj in 2015, noting that the organisation was evident from the very first moments at the airport. He said transportation

between the holy sites was managed according to precise schedules, ensuring smooth movement without delays or confusion. He also commended the comfort and organisation within the Mina camps, which included comfortable seating, personal spaces, and integrated facilities that provided pilgrims with privacy and

The pilgrims also conveyed their gratitude to Qatar's leadership for the continuous care and attention devoted to Qatari pilgrims.

convenience.

Similarly, pilgrim Mubarak Jarallah Al Marri compared this year's Hajj with his first pilgrimage in 1999, stating that the transformation in services and infrastructure was extraordinary. He explained that the current level of comfort and organization helped pilgrims achieve greater spiritual focus and peace of mind during the rituals.

First-time pilgrim Hassan Ismail Al Emadi said his experience exceeded expectations due to the careful planning and continuous guidance provided throughout the journey. He stressed that the integrated services allowed pilgrims to dedicate themselves fully to worship without worrying about logistical matters.

Other pilgrims also praised the quality of healthcare, religious guidance, and field support available throughout the pilgrimage. They noted

that the presence of medical clinics and support teams in the holy sites contributed significantly to ensuring safety and reassurance for all pilgrims.

The pilgrims collectively expressed deep appreciation for the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in serving the Guests of Allah and continuously developing the Hajj system and infrastructure. They highlighted the efficiency of crowd management, transportation systems, and the major improvements witnessed in the holy sites.

The pilgrims also conveyed their gratitude to the leadership of the State of Qatar for the continuous care and attention devoted to Qatari pilgrims. They further praised the Qatari Hajj Mission and the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs for their close supervision and constant support throughout all stages of the pilgrimage.

Pilgrims agreed that Hajj 2026 was not merely the performance of a religious obligation, but a complete spiritual experience that combined faith, comfort, organization, and peace of mind in an atmosphere of devotion and tranquility.

Large crowd attends Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah's funeral

FROM PAGE 1

On the international stage, Al Attiyah was elected President of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development in 2006. He later chaired the 18th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP18), hosted in Doha in 2012.

His leadership during the 13-day conference contributed to the adoption of the landmark "Doha Climate Gateway" package, which paved the way for a comprehensive and legally binding global climate agreement.

The conference also secured the extension of the Kyoto Protocol for a second commitment period from January 1, 2013 until 2020 to reduce greenhouse gas

Throughout his career, Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah received numerous international awards and honours in recognition of his contributions to energy, governance and sustainable development.

emissions.

The conference outcomes further included commitments by developed countries to provide financial support to developing nations, particularly in climate adaptation and loss-and-damage measures, while establishing a roadmap toward a new global climate agreement

that was later realised through the Paris Agreement.

In 2011, Al Attiyah was appointed Chief of the Amiri Diwan. He also served as Chairman of the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority and Chairman of the State Planning Committee. His final position was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Al Attiyah Foundation.

Throughout his career, Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah received numerous international awards and honours in recognition of his contributions to energy, governance and sustainable development.

These included the Pendant of Independence awarded by Father Amir H H Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani for his role



People take part in the burial of Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah.

in promoting transparency, governance and economic development.

He was also awarded the

Order of Orange-Nassau by HM former Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun

by HM the Emperor of Japan, and honorary doctorates from Texas A&M University and Italy's Tor Vergata University.

MoCI to resume single window services tomorrow after Eid holidays

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has announced that operations at the Single Window Services Center will resume tomorrow, following the Eid Al Adha holiday closure, while confirming that all electronic services and transactions remain accessible around the clock through the Single Window online platform.

According to the Ministry, the center has been closed from last Tuesday, May 26, 2026, until Saturday, May 30, 2026, with operations scheduled to resume on Sunday, May 31, 2026.

The announcement comes

as MoCI intensified its preparations for Eid Al Adha through extensive inspection campaigns targeting sales outlets and commercial establishments across the country. The campaigns are aimed at ensuring market compliance, protecting consumer rights, monitoring price stability, and guaranteeing the availability of essential goods and products for citizens and residents during the holiday season.

MoCI said inspection teams are conducting field visits to verify adherence to commercial regulations, monitor promotional offers, and ensure retailers comply with consumer protection laws. The Ministry also urged consumers to report

any violations through its official communication channels.

The continued availability of digital services through the Single Window platform reflects the ministry's efforts to enhance accessibility and facilitate business operations during official holidays. The platform enables users to complete a wide range of commercial and governmental transactions electronically without interruption.

The Ministry's Eid initiatives form part of broader efforts to maintain market stability, strengthen consumer confidence, and ensure smooth commercial activity during one of the busiest retail periods of the year.

QCAA showcases 'Digital Remote Tower' system at HIA

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA) has highlighted the capabilities of the country's 'Digital Remote Tower' system, describing it as an advanced technological platform designed to enhance operational efficiency and strengthen air traffic safety at Hamad International Airport (HIA).

In a recent post, the authority outlined how the 'Digital Remote Tower' provides a modern control solution for managing remote surveillance technologies and supporting airport operations through advanced visual monitoring systems.

According to QCAA, the system replicates the external visual environment of a

According to QCAA, the system replicates the external visual environment of a traditional air traffic control tower while delivering clearer and more precise imagery in certain operational situations.

traditional air traffic control tower while delivering clearer and more precise imagery in certain operational situations. The authority noted that the tower offers full 360-degree coverage of the airport, enabling comprehensive visibility and facilitating the remote management of air operations beyond HIA premises.

The 'Digital Remote Tower' incorporates a range of advanced technologies, including runway traffic management screens, fixed cameras covering airport facilities, and high-definition movable cameras that support operational monitoring. The system also features enhanced day and night vision capabilities to ensure image clarity under varying conditions.

QCAA stated that the platform contributes to improving operational efficiency and strengthening aviation safety standards through features such as automatic tracking of aircraft and vehicles, as well as rapid navigation between airport locations. The initiative reflects Qatar's continued investment in smart aviation technologies.

Psychosocial support boosts ADHD treatment outcomes in children, HBKU study finds

FAZEENA SALEEM
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: A new randomised study by Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) has found that children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) who received psychosocial interventions alongside medication showed significantly greater improvements in symptoms and daily functioning than children treated with medication alone.

The study, titled "CBT, Parent Training, and Combined Approaches for Children with ADHD: A Randomised Study," evaluated the effectiveness of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), parent training programmes (PTPs), and a combined approach as adjunctive interventions for children aged 7-11 already receiving pharmacological treatment for ADHD.

The findings revealed significant reductions in attention deficit, hyperactivity, and impulsivity among children receiving psychosocial support in addition to medication. Functional outcomes also improved across these groups, while the medication-only group showed improvement



Dr. Vahdet Gormez

mainly in attention scores but worsening overall daily functioning.

Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Cognitive and Developmental Psychology at the College of Islamic Studies at HBKU, Dr. Vahdet Gormez and one of the study authors said the findings highlight the limitations of relying solely on medication.

"The most striking finding was not that medication failed it didn't but that medication alone solved only part of the puzzle," Dr. Gormez told *The Peninsula*. "Children in the medication-only group

improved on raw attention scores, yet their overall functional difficulties worsened. They were paying attention better, but daily life at home and school was not getting any easier."

He explained that children who received psychosocial support demonstrated improvements extending beyond symptom reduction.

"Parents reported smoother morning routines, fewer homework battles, less explosive frustration, and a measurable rise in prosocial behaviour, such as sharing, helping siblings, and cooperating with peers," he said. "Medication quieted the neurological noise; psychosocial intervention taught the child and the family what to do in the quiet."

The study was designed to determine whether psychosocial approaches could enhance treatment outcomes beyond medication alone, particularly in reducing functional difficulties in school and family settings where behavioural support is essential.

Dr. Gormez stressed that parental involvement plays a central role in treatment success, especially for

younger children.

"For a child between 7 and 11 years of age, the parent is not merely involved in ADHD treatment. The parent is part of the treatment delivery system," he said. "A child spends perhaps an hour a week with a clinician and dozens with their parents."

He added that parent training programmes often transformed how families interpreted ADHD-related behaviour.

"A forgotten backpack stopped being 'you never listen' and became 'we need a checklist by the door,'" he said. "Boundaries grew clearer, praise became more specific, and the relationship moved out of a chronic adversarial loop."

The study found that all three psychosocial approaches outperformed medication alone, although no single intervention emerged as universally superior.

Dr. Gormez added that while the combined approach offered the broadest coverage, families unable to commit to multiple interventions could still achieve meaningful gains through one well-delivered programme.

"If forced to pick a 'best

buy' from a public-health perspective, I would lean toward group-based parent training," he said. "It is shorter, scalable, and changes the daily environment the child lives in."

The researchers concluded that psychosocial interventions should become a routine part of ADHD treatment, though they cautioned that the study's relatively small sample size limits broader generalisability and called for larger, long-term studies to confirm the findings.

Dr. Gormez also urged parents and educators to reconsider assumptions about ADHD treatment.

"Medication is not the enemy," he said. "But medication treats the biology of ADHD; it does not teach a child how to organise a backpack, recover from a meltdown, make a friend, or rebuild a relationship with a frustrated parent."

"Our take-home message would be this: pharmacological treatment without psychosocial support is, for many children, an incomplete treatment," he added.

Discussing the situation in Qatar, Dr. Gormez said the country has made substantial

progress in child mental health services through institutions such as Sidra Medicine and Hamad Medical Corporation. However, he identified gaps in access to psychosocial support after diagnosis.

"Families often leave with a prescription but no structured behavioural pathway," he said, recommending wider rollout of group-based parent training programmes through primary healthcare centres.

He also emphasised the importance of schools in supporting children with ADHD and that culturally adapted programmes tailored to Qatar's family-centred environment are also needed.

Dr. Gormez concluded with a broader message aimed at reducing stigma surrounding ADHD.

"ADHD is not a moral failing or a parenting failure," he said. "The goal of treatment is not to erase ADHD but to ensure the child arrives at adulthood with their self-esteem, relationships, and academic possibilities intact."

"Medication helps. Therapy helps. But what helps most is a family that understands the condition and a society that accommodates it."

Aman Center participates in Eid Al-Adha activities with awareness and entertainment programmes

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: As part of the Eid Al-Adha celebrations, the Protection and Social Rehabilitation Center (Aman), one of the centers affiliated with the Qatar Foundation for Social Work, participated in awareness and entertainment activities in cooperation with the management of the 'Sa'a Wa Sa'a' Hour and Hour programme under the slogan 'Our Joy in Our Eid.'

The event was held at Centro Mall in a festive atmosphere aimed at promoting family cohesion and spreading joy and happiness among members of the community.

Aman Center dedicated a special awareness and entertainment pavilion that attracted significant participation and interaction from children and families throughout the celebrations.

The initiative featured a variety of educational and recreational activities designed to raise community awareness about the importance of

a safe family environment while reinforcing concepts of protection, psychological support, and social care for children and families.

The center explained that its participation stems from its ongoing mission to strengthen family unity and social bonds through active engagement in national and community events that allow direct communication with different segments of society. Such initiatives contribute to delivering awareness messages through interactive and audience-friendly approaches.

On this occasion, Acting Executive Director of Aman Center, Fadhl Mohammed Al Kaabi, emphasised the center's commitment to participating in community events that support family cohesion and social connection, especially during occasions that bring together families and children in joyful and welcoming environments.

He stated that Aman's participation in the 'Our Joy in Our Eid'

The event was held at Centro Mall in a festive atmosphere aimed at promoting family cohesion and spreading joy and happiness among members of the community. Aman Center dedicated a special awareness and entertainment pavilion that attracted significant participation and interaction from children and families throughout the celebrations.

event reflects the importance of utilising social occasions to spread awareness and reinforce the concepts of family safety and community protection through interactive methods that resonate with the public.

"Through these events, we seek to provide educational and entertainment content that engages families and children while promoting positive values related to dialogue, cooperation, and family inclusion, in support of the center's goals in prevention and community protection," Al Kaabi added.

For her part, the Director of Communications and Media Office at Aman Center, Hanan Al Ali, stressed

that such participation enhances direct communication with the community in all its segments. She noted that community events represent an important platform for delivering awareness messages in innovative and interactive ways.

She also highlighted that these initiatives strengthen the principle of community partnership with various sectors across the country.

The participation included entertainment shows, competitions, interactive activities, and an introduction to the "Journey of Safety" game designed for children. In addition, awareness messages promoting respect, dialogue, and cooperation

within the family were presented in line with the center's vision, mission, and strategic objectives.

Meanwhile, Chief Executive Officer of the 'Sa'a Wa Sa'a' programme, Tamani Al Yafei, said the 'Our Joy in Our Eid' event was launched with the aim of strengthening social ties and reviving the authentic Eid atmosphere within Qatari society.

She explained that the event sought to provide a comprehensive family experience combining entertainment, heritage, and culture in a way that reflects the values and humanitarian meanings of Eid.

"We were keen for this event to become an open space for joy and interaction among families and children, while presenting a diverse programme that caters to different age groups through heritage performances, interactive segments, and community activities that reflect the Qatari identity in a contemporary spirit," Al Yafei said.

Qatar reinforces cybersecurity capabilities through specialised training programmes

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar is continuing its efforts to strengthen national cybersecurity capabilities through specialised training programmes aimed at enhancing expertise in data protection, information assurance, and cyber governance.

As part of these efforts, a new training course focused on the implementation of the National Data Classification Policy and the National Information Assurance Standard was recently organised to support the development of cybersecurity competencies across institutions.

The National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA), represented by its National Cyber Strategies and Policies Department, organised a specialised training course focused on the implementation of the National Data



Participants during a specialised training programme.

Classification Policy and the National Information Assurance Standard.

The course marks the tenth training programme delivered by the

The National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA), represented by its National Cyber Strategies and Policies Department, organised a specialised training course focused on the implementation of the National Data Classification Policy and the National Information Assurance Standard.

department this year as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen knowledge and build national competencies in the field of cybersecurity.

The training sessions focused on enhancing participants' understanding of data classification in accordance

with the National Data Classification Policy V3.0, while also providing guidance on securing information assets through the National Information Assurance Standard V2.1.

Participants were introduced to practical and streamlined methodologies for developing, implementing, and maintaining information security management processes and systems. The course highlighted best practices aligned with the requirements of both the National Information Assurance Standard V2.1 and the National Data Classification Policy V3.0.

The initiative reflects NCSA's continued commitment to promoting robust cybersecurity practices and supporting organisations across Qatar in strengthening information assurance and data governance frameworks.

Katara concludes Eid celebrations with vibrant activities

FROM PAGE 1

Director of Public Relations and Communication at Katara Salem Mabkhout Al Marri said: "We are delighted with the large public turnout for this year's Eid Al-Adha celebrations, which reflects the growing confidence in Katara as a leading cultural and entertainment destination. We were keen to offer a diverse programme combining entertainment and culture, catering

to the aspirations of visitors of all ages and contributing to spreading joy and celebration on this blessed occasion."

From the very first day of Eid, Katara Corniche witnessed a massive turnout, with families, children, and visitors flocking to enjoy a diverse programme that blended entertainment, culture, and the arts.

The atmosphere was filled with joy, with children's voices ringing out as they received their Eid gifts, accompanied

by live music and performances that brought vibrancy and happiness to the area. The distinctive summer ambiance of Katara Beach also attracted many visitors. In addition, the Al Thuraya Planetarium in Building 41 presented 3D space shows, which continued until Saturday.

The fireworks displays were among the most popular attractions, illuminating the Katara sky with dazzling colors. The crowds gathered on the Katara Corniche to witness this festive spectacle, which has become a highly anticipated event during Eid. The military parade also drew large crowds, with children and families eagerly capturing the moments with photos and videos.

The events weren't limited to entertainment alone. Katara offered a comprehensive experience combining leisure and artistic atmosphere through art exhibitions that remained open to the public throughout the Eid holidays, adding an exceptional



Visitors watch the fireworks display during celebrations at Katara Cultural Village.



Artists performing during the celebrations.

character that reflected the spirit and diversity of the occasion.

Katara's restaurants and cafes also witnessed a remarkable turnout of visitors who chose to spend their evenings in a distinctive maritime setting. Meanwhile, the walkways and plazas were filled with families who found in Katara a space to celebrate

and create memories.

A large number of visitors praised the festive atmosphere provided by Katara during the Eid holidays, emphasising that the variety of events, including artistic, entertainment, and cultural performances, contributed to creating a complete family experience suitable for all ages. Many also expressed their admiration for the

excellent organisation and vibrant atmosphere that made Katara a preferred destination for spending and enjoying the Eid holiday. This confirms Katara's success in providing a comprehensive experience that combines enjoyment, culture, and entertainment, reinforcing its role as a cultural hub that hosts various major events and occasions.

Cape Verde main opposition party wins absolute parliament majority

PRAIA: Cape Verde's main opposition party won the island nation's parliamentary elections earlier this month with an absolute majority, final results published yesterday showed.

The national electoral commission said the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV) secured 37 of the 72 seats in the National Assembly in the election on May 17, with 48 percent of the vote.

Based on preliminary results, it had previously reported that the party had won only 33 seats, with 46 percent of the vote.

PAICV leader Francisco Carvalho will become prime minister as leader of the largest party in parliament.

He will replace Ulisses Correia e Silva, who had headed the government for 10 years.

Cape Verde, an archipelago of 520,000 inhabitants in the Atlantic Ocean, lies some 600 kilometres (380 miles) off the coast of Senegal.

A former Portuguese colony until 1975, it has been seen as a model of democracy in Africa.

Since the first free elections in 1991, the country has enjoyed relative calm with no electoral violence, despite two five-year periods of political cohabitation between different parties heading the government and presidency.

The country, however, faces significant social challenges, including poverty and youth unemployment.

Presidential elections are due to be held in November. The incumbent, Jose Maria Neves, who is backed by the PAICV, hopes for a second, five-year term. — AFP

Israeli occupation forces close Ibrahim Mosque

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Israeli occupation forces closed the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron to Palestinian worshippers yesterday and tightened military measures around the site.

Palestinian officials said worshippers and mosque staff were forced to leave, while all checkpoints and gates leading to the mosque were shut. The Palestinian Ministry of Endowments condemned the move as a violation of freedom of worship and called for immediate international intervention. — QNA

Israel plan to seize more of Gaza means 'more children will suffer': UN

GENEVA: The UN warned yesterday that an Israeli plan to take control of 70 percent of Gaza will increase suffering among children already hit by the impacts of severe overcrowding.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered the military to take control of more territory in the Gaza Strip, flouting the terms of a fragile ceasefire that took effect in October.

He said the military had controlled 50 percent of the Palestinian territory under the terms of the ceasefire, then advanced to take over 60 percent.

"My directive is to move to... 70 percent," he said.

The United Nations children's agency UNICEF warned that this would deepen the health crisis among children in the war-ravaged territory, suffering from acute lack of food, water and hygiene.

Israel controls the flow of aid into the territory along with all entry points into Gaza, which has been under an Israeli blockade since 2007.

Even before Hamas's October 7, 2023 attacks inside Israel triggered the war in Gaza, the territory was already very densely populated.

Now "people have been crammed into around 40



A Palestinian boy sits at the site of an overnight Israeli military strike on structures and tents housing displaced families, in Gaza City on May 28, 2026. (AFP)

percent of the space", UNICEF spokesman Salim Oweis told reporters in Geneva, speaking from Gaza.

People there were left "sheltering among broken buildings, rubble and mounting solid waste", he said, adding "there is no accessible space left to clear" the waste.

"The effects of this are now widely apparent: children with respiratory infections, acute watery diarrhoea, and more than half of all households reporting skin diseases." Rats biting children "Fleas, lice and scabies are commonplace," Oweis said, also pointing to numerous

cases of rats biting young children and even babies.

Oweis said a woman named Hind "hasn't slept since her four-year-old daughter, Masa, was bitten by a rat during the night".

"Like many families, they sheltered wherever they could, in their case, the second floor of a building block where sewage water leaks through the ceilings, and rodents crawl through the cracks in the building and climb the exposed pipes," he said. Rats are not the only menace.

Oweis said he had spoken with another woman named Amani whose seven-year-old daughter had "developed deep

lesions and sores on her head, back and legs due to a bacterial infection".

He warned that "increasing numbers of children are requiring hospitalisation, all without a single fully functioning hospital across Gaza." The situation was "dire", Oweis said, noting the overcrowding was already "creating more spread of diseases, straining the systems and of course cutting services".

If Israel takes control of even more land, he warned, that "means that we will lose access to some of the service points, but also (to) some hard to reach places (where) children and families are living".

"This will just mean that more children will suffer," he said. The Palestinian foreign ministry slammed Netanyahu's announcement as "a serious violation of the foundations of the ceasefire".

Since then, Gaza has been gripped by daily violence, with Israel killing more than 900 people there, according to Gaza's health ministry in the Hamas-run territory, whose figures are considered reliable by the United Nations.

They are among the over 72,800 people killed in Gaza since the start of the war, according to the health ministry. — AFP

UN warns over 7.2 million face severe hunger in South Sudan amid conflict

GENEVA: More than seven million people in conflict-torn South Sudan around half the population are in dire need of food aid, the United Nations warned yesterday.

The UN's World Food Programme denounced the "alarming situation" in the world's youngest sovereign state, saying the organisation was in "a tight race against time" to scale up its response.

"We are talking about 7.2 million people who are in urgent need of food assistance," Mutinta Chimuka, WFP's country director for South Sudan, told reporters in Geneva, speaking by video link from the city of Bor in South

The UN's humanitarian aid chief Tom Fletcher warned last month that the east African country risked slipping into "full-scale famine and collapse".

Sudan's Jonglei state.

"The situation is critical and demands immediate attention to save lives of people who desperately need assistance," she said in a statement.

The UN's humanitarian aid chief Tom Fletcher warned last month that the east African country risked slipping into

"full-scale famine and collapse".

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011 but soon descended into civil war and remains mired in extreme poverty, corruption and insecurity.

A 2018 power-sharing deal between President Salva Kiir and his long-time rival, Riek Machar, has been unravelling since last year, with clashes in recent months bringing the country back to the brink of all-out civil war.

WFP said it had in particular scaled up its emergency response in Akobo, a hotspot of recent fighting in Jonglei state.

It warned yesterday that hundreds of thousands of people in Jonglei were facing "catastrophic hunger and malnutrition".

Some 12,000 of them were currently considered to be in the most serious phase of food insecurity, which Chimuka stressed was "extremely critical".

"Particularly concerning is the sharp rise in severe malnutrition among children under five and breastfeeding mothers," she told reporters.

Since WFP launched its emergency response in Akobo three weeks ago, it has reached over 60,000 people with aid, Chimuka said.

The UN agency and its

partners have also conducted nutrition screening for 15,000 children and admitted 3,000 for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, she said.

But she warned that the looming arrival of the rainy season was challenging humanitarian logistics, as was insecurity and the risk of renewed fighting.

A 33-truck convoy was due to deliver more than 200 metric tonnes of food assistance, nutritional supplies and 100 metric tonnes of relief items this week, after spending around two weeks on a route that usually takes three days to drive, Chimuka said.

WFP, which is also carrying

out flights and airdrops to get the aid in, warned this might be its final road convoy before heavy rains render key roads impassable.

The agency said it urgently needed \$266 million to continue providing its life-saving assistance.

"Our window is really, really very, very tight. So we need resources as soon as possible," Chimuka said.

Without the funds, "drastic measures" would be required, she warned.

These would include further reducing ration sizes and "deprioritisation", leaving many in need with no aid at all. — AFP

China leaders skip Asia defence summit headlined by US

SINGAPORE: Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth is the headline speaker at Asia's premier defence summit, which began yesterday with top Chinese officials notably absent.

Beijing's defence minister is skipping the three-day Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore for the second year running.

The forum brings together top officials from around 45 nations and has historically provided a setting for debate as well as both quiet and high-profile diplomacy.

But the absence of China's Dong Jun means no meeting with Hegseth.

Vietnamese leader To Lam called on countries to make such talks "truly effective instruments of risk reduction",



Vietnam's Defence Minister Phan Van Giang) and US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth walk to a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue Summit in Singapore yesterday. (AFP)

adding in a keynote address yesterday evening that the Shangri-La Dialogue should not become a platform for merely

"restating positions". He urged "responsible commitment" from influential nations "both within and beyond the region", without mentioning the United States or China by name. "Competition must be bounded by law, guided by transparency and exercised with restraint," Lam said.

He also said Vietnam's position on the South China Sea, where it has a territorial dispute with Beijing, remained "clear, consistent and principled".

Recently elected president and Communist Party leader, Lam is Vietnam's most powerful leader in decades.

Hegseth's second trip to the forum comes after US President Donald Trump's visit to China this month. China said on Thursday it would send experts

and scholars from its army's academic institutions this time.

Major General Meng Xiangqing of the National Defense University is leading a delegation that also includes scholars from the Academy of Military Sciences and the Navy.

The defence ministers of the United States, Britain and Australia are also due to convene.

Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles said yesterday that Canberra was seeking "the maintenance of the global rules-based order" in the region. "We've seen China engage in a very significant military buildup... and it has not happened with the kind of strategic reassurance which (we) would expect," he told journalists. — AFP

UN says 15 children killed in Lebanon over past week

GENEVA: Fifteen children have been killed in Lebanon and 62 injured over the last seven days, the United Nations said yesterday, despite the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

Unicef, the UN children's agency, called the figures "staggering" and stressed that under international humanitarian law, children had to be protected at all times during conflict.

And the World Health Organization (WHO) said more than 600 people had been killed in Lebanon since the ceasefire was supposed to have taken effect on April 17. "According to the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health, 77 children have reportedly been killed or injured over the past week alone," Unicef spokesman Ricardo Pires told a media briefing in Geneva.

"Fifteen children killed and 62 injured in seven days. That's an average of 11 children every 24 hours."

"We understand the vast majority of these children were impacted by airstrikes in south Lebanon. Only yesterday, seven children were killed and 30 injured," he said.

In total, since the ceasefire was announced, 55 children have been killed and 212 wounded, Pires said.

The WHO said there had been 1,774 injuries and 608 deaths in Lebanon from April 17 to May 22.

"The threat of expansion of military activities raises grave concerns for the health of the population," WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier told the Geneva press conference. — AFP

China calls Japan-Philippines sea border talks 'illegal'

BEIJING: China expressed strong opposition yesterday to a decision by Japan and the Philippines to start maritime border negotiations, calling the talks "illegal" and claiming exclusive control over the waters concerned.

The two island nations announced on Thursday they would start formal talks "to delimit the maritime boundary" of an economic zone and continental shelf between them, as Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos met Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on a visit to Tokyo.

But Beijing again asserted yesterday that it has an "exclusive economic zone and continental shelf" in the waters

to the east of Taiwan.

"China is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposed to this," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told a regular news conference when asked about the delimitation talks between Tokyo and Manila.

"China solemnly declares that the so-called delimitation negotiations between Japan and the Philippines are entirely illegal and invalid," Mao said.

Beijing has "lodged solemn representations" with both countries, she added.

Japan and China are in territorial and economic disputes in the East China Sea, where coastguard ships from both sides routinely stage dangerous standoffs. — AFP

Pilgrims start leaving Makkah after Hajj

MAKKAH: Thousands of Muslims began to leave the holy city of Makkah yesterday after having completed the Hajj pilgrimage in scorching heat.

This year more than 1.7 million people from 165 countries took part in one of the world's largest religious gatherings.

More than 30,000 Iranians made the journey to Mecca, about a third of the 86,000 originally expected. Iran's IRNA state news agency said the "wartime situation" explained the drop.

"I can't believe I completed the hajj," said Ahmed Mamdouh, a 37-year-old Egyptian who performed the pilgrimage for the first time.

Fighting back tears, he added: "I am very happy that I completed the rituals safely.

This year more than 1.7 million people from 165 countries took part in one of the world's largest religious gatherings.

Hajj is truly exhausting, especially in such hot weather." Algerian pilgrim Al-Zaoui, 74, wrapped his arm around his wife and said, "It was our dream to perform the Hajj together. Now that dream has come true after 50 years of marriage."

Yesterday, the faithful completed the third day of a stoning ritual in the valley of Mina, southeast of Makkah, during which they throw pebbles at concrete pillars symbolising the devil.

The pilgrims then board buses to the Grand Mosque in Makkah to perform the farewell "tawaf" — walking seven times around the Kaaba.

The Hajj, one of the five pillars of Islam, must be performed at least once by all Muslims with the means to do so.

It involves a series of mostly outdoor rituals over several days and took place during intense heat this year.

Saudi authorities introduced heat-mitigation measures, including more shaded areas and thousands of extra health workers.

The Saudi Red Crescent said Thursday it had provided emergency services to "more than 83,000 people since the beginning of the Hajj season". — AFP

Lion cub deaths spark disease fears in India's Gir forest

AHMEDABAD: Eight Asiatic lion cubs have died in India's Gir forest reserve over the past week, officials said yesterday, prompting concern over the health of the world's only wild population of the endangered species.

The Gir National Park in the western Indian state of Gujarat is the last remaining natural habitat of Asiatic lions, whose numbers have risen from 627 to 891 in five years, according to a 2025 census, reflecting conservation success even as new risks emerge.

The recent string of deaths may be linked to babesiosis, a tick-borne parasitic disease, said Arjun Modhwadia, the state's forest and environment minister, citing preliminary findings and cautioning that laboratory confirmation is awaited.

"The exact cause will be confirmed after analysis, but initial indications point towards babesiosis," he told reporters in Gandhinagar city.

Most of the deaths were reported in areas outside the protected wildlife sanctuary, signalling a possible infectious outbreak spreading among lions that increasingly roam beyond forest boundaries.

Samples from the cubs have been sent to a research centre, while specialist teams have been deployed to assist in surveillance and containment.

Authorities have also stepped up preventive measures, the minister said, including isolating lions within a 10-kilometre (six-mile) radius of affected zones and launching large-scale "detracking" drives.

Babesiosis, commonly transmitted through tick bites, attacks red blood cells and can cause weakness, fever and death, with cubs particularly vulnerable due to lower immunity.

In 2018, a disease outbreak in Gir killed 11 lions. It was later attributed to a combination of canine distemper virus (CDV) and babesiosis. Recently, a tigress and its four cubs died in quick succession in Madhya Pradesh state's Kanha reserve. — AFP

Uganda logs two new Ebola cases

KAMPALA: Uganda confirmed two new Ebola cases yesterday, bringing the total to nine — including one fatality — since the outbreak was declared on May 15 in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

The health ministry said the two new cases are both Congolese nationals.

One presented Ebola symptoms and was immediately isolated, while the other was a contact of a previously confirmed case.

"All contacts of this new confirmed case have been identified and are under close follow up," the ministry said in a statement.

Uganda closed its border with the DRC this week in a bid to contain the spread of Ebola

and ordered a 21-day quarantine for anyone arriving from that country.

Yesterday, the World Health Organization confirmed the first recovery since the start of the outbreak in the DRC, with one patient discharged from hospital after two negative tests.

The WHO has recorded 17 confirmed and 223 suspected Ebola deaths in the DRC since May 15, out of 125 confirmed cases and over 900 suspected cases.

The health agency issued an international health alert after the outbreak was declared.

No vaccine or treatment exists for the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola, which is responsible for the current outbreak. — AFP



A worker is sprayed with disinfectant during the evacuation of the body of a suspected Ebola victim in Kampala on May 26, 2026. (AFP)

WHO chief in Ebola-hit DR Congo which sees first recovery

KINSHASA: The UN health chief was yesterday in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where authorities are struggling to contain the spread of a deadly Ebola outbreak but the recovery of a patient, the first since the crisis began, was confirmed.

World Health Organization (WHO) head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus arrived in the capital, Kinshasa, late on Thursday, two weeks after the outbreak of the highly contagious haemorrhagic fever was

declared. He had been due to travel yesterday to Ituri, a remote northeastern province that is the epicentre of the country's 17th Ebola outbreak but the trip has been pushed back by a day.

The DRC, a vast nation of more than 100 million people, is one of the poorest countries in the world and for more than three decades has been plagued by conflict from myriad armed groups in its mineral-rich east.

There have been at least

1,077 suspected cases of Ebola since the outbreak was declared on May 15, including 246 deaths, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said on Thursday.

But the true reach of the outbreak, which is thought to have been circulating before it was detected, is likely to be much wider, the WHO has warned.

The DRC has limited capacity to conduct laboratory tests to confirm the

transmission of cases. The virus is already present in three provinces and in neighbouring Uganda.

"That thing can be stopped," Tedros said on his arrival on Thursday after assuring the Congolese people earlier in a message on X: "I want you to know that you are not alone." Yesterday, the WHO announced that on Wednesday a patient had recovered, left the hospital and was discharged into the community after two negative tests. — AFP

Nepal unveils \$13.8bn budget after political shift

KATHMANDU: Nepal's government unveiled yesterday its first budget since sweeping to power after a youth-led uprising, promising reforms and a push to revive growth following months of political turmoil.

Prime Minister Balendra Shah, 36, assumed office in March after a landslide victory for his party in the first elections since the deadly 2025 uprising ousted the previous government. Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle presented a 2.1-trillion-rupee (\$13.8bn) spending plan focused on boosting infrastructure, technology, health and education, while pledging to stabilise the economy. "The nation is standing at a decisive crossroad of comprehensive economic reform," Wagle said in parliament.

"The vicious circle of political instability has come to an end." The budget seeks to spur domestic demand by doubling the income tax exemption threshold and raising salaries for government employees, while also introducing reforms aimed at improving the business environment and attracting investment.

Poor planning and sluggish bureaucracy hampered the country's growth in previous years, with the government routinely failing to spend



Nepal's Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle poses for photographs as he arrives to present the annual budget at the parliament in Kathmandu yesterday. (AFP)

funds allocated in annual budgets.

"This budget... attempts to redefine the state's role not just as a controller and a regulator but an institution that creates opportunities," Wagle said, promising more jobs and improving living standards. The nationwide demonstrations in September 2025 were driven by deeper frustration over economic hardship and corruption. — AFP

Rescuers free one of seven men trapped in Laos cave

VIENTIANE: A rescue team freed yesterday one of seven men trapped inside a semi-submerged cave in Laos for more than a week, the group working at the site said.

The seven men had been trapped in the cavern in a remote mountainous area of central Xaysomboun province since May 20, when flash floods stranded them as they searched for gold, early state media reports said.

Five of the men were located alive on Wednesday, huddling in a narrow shaft around 300 metres from the cave mouth.

Footage filmed by rescue divers showed them muddy and despondent, complaining of chest pains and hunger pangs, while the remaining two of their group remain

unaccounted for. "The first victim has been successfully rescued out of the cave," a Thai rescue group said in a Facebook post late yesterday accompanied by a picture of three men guiding another bedraggled and muddy man over unsteady ground.

Rescue efforts had focused on pumping out the monsoon flood waters which trapped the men. "One person has got out of the cave safely," Thai rescue team member Kengkard Bong-gawong said in a separate Facebook post. "We will assess the other four and we will hunt for the other two tomorrow."

Earlier in the day Thai rescue teams were rehearsing extraction procedures outside the cave, according to images shared on social media.

— AFP

— AFP

Trump calls Situation Room meeting to decide on extending Iran ceasefire

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump signalled yesterday that he is moving closer to approving a deal to extend a ceasefire in Iran, announcing that he was holding a Situation Room meeting to “make a final determination.”

Trump said in a social media post that some unspecified aspects of a deal “have been agreed to,” while also outlining what he described as his most important conditions. It was unclear whether Iran had agreed to them all, including the stipulation that the United States would unearth and destroy Iran’s highly enriched uranium.

Trump also said Iran must immediately reopen the Strait of Hormuz, remove any remaining mines in the vital waterway and “agree that they will never have a Nuclear Weapon or Bomb.”

He said that “no money will be exchanged, until further notice,” possibly a reference to calls by Iran for the US to release the country’s frozen assets.



US President Donald Trump with US secretary of Interior Doug Burgum (left) and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio during a cabinet meeting in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, DC, recently. (AFP)

Senior officials from the US and Iran said earlier this week that they had reached a tentative agreement to suspend the months-long war in the Middle East, launched by the US and Israel with strikes on Iran in late February. Trump and his

counterparts in Tehran have continued to review the framework in recent days.

The agreement in question is a memorandum of understanding that would extend the current ceasefire for another 60 days while

the two sides iron out specifics of a plan to remove enriched uranium from Iran, among other goals, a senior US official previously told *The Washington Post*.

On Thursday evening, Vice President JD Vance said that the “Iranians want a deal” but that it was too early to know “when or if” an agreement would be reached. Vance said the two sides were “going back and forth on a couple of language points,” which included the “question of enrichment.”

A major point of contention has been whether Iran would agree to turn over its highly enriched uranium, which Trump has referred to as “nuclear dust.” Tehran says its nuclear program is solely for domestic energy, but the US and Israel fear the fuel could be used for a weapon. “We do think they’re negotiating in good faith,” Vance told reporters at Joint Base Andrews, after returning from a trip to speak to graduating Air Force Academy cadets in Colorado Springs. — **THE WASHINGTON POST**

Armenia should hold EU referendum soon, Putin and allies say

ASTANA: Armenia should hold a referendum on EU membership “as soon as possible”, President Vladimir Putin and three Russian-allied leaders said in a statement yesterday, escalating pressure on Yerevan over its deepening ties with Brussels.

Armenia is formally allied with Moscow, but has been building ties with the European Union for years amid frustration over Russia’s perceived failure to protect it during conflicts with neighbouring Azerbaijan.

The Caucasus country froze its security ties with Moscow in 2024, and last year passed a law declaring its intention to seek EU membership, further angering Russia. — **AFP**

US to move three Global Hawk drones to Tokyo from Guam in summer

WASHINGTON: The US military will relocate three RQ-4 Global Hawk unmanned reconnaissance aircraft from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam to Yokota Air Base in Tokyo starting this summer, Japanese media reported yesterday.

The US side said the move is intended to strengthen intelligence gathering and surveillance operations. The relocation is also expected to bring some 150 personnel to the base, with existing facilities to be used and no new construction planned, *Kyodo News* reported. Japan’s Ministry of Defence called the relocation “unavoidable.” While the aircraft generate relatively little noise, the ministry said it will continue urging the US side to minimize the impact on nearby residents. — **XINHUA**

Hungary secures release of €16.4bn in EU funds, PM says

BRUSSELS: Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Magyar announced yesterday that Hungary had reached a political agreement with the European Union on the release of €16.4bn (\$19.1bn) in previously frozen EU funds.

The agreement was reached following talks with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Brussels and would unlock approximately 6,000 billion forints in EU resources, equivalent to about 13 percent of Hungary’s gross domestic product, Magyar said.

He added that Hungary had fulfilled, and in some areas exceeded, the requirements expected by Brussels, citing the country’s decision to join the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO), a step that had not been among the formal conditions for accessing the funds. — **XINHUA**

Over 40 killed in Colombia guerrilla clashes on eve of election

BOGOTÁ: Clashes between two dissident factions of the disbanded FARC guerrilla movement left 48 people dead in the Colombian Amazon, a local mayor told AFP on Thursday, days ahead of the May 31 presidential election.

“The bodies are lying there in a heap, they need to be evacuated,” Willy Rodriguez, the mayor of the regional capital San Jose del Guaviare, situated six hours from the scene of the fighting, told AFP in a phone call. Colombia has been rocked by the worst wave of violence since FARC laid down arms in 2016 after half a century of war with the government.

Various smaller guerrilla factions are vying for control of jungle territory once controlled by the rebel army, as well as revenues from drug trafficking and illegal mining.

The mayor said the fighting took place in the hamlet of Vereda Piripal and that the community itself provided the provisional death toll.

An army source told AFP that the fighting in an historic FARC stronghold began on Monday. There is no information on whether it is currently ongoing, with rescue teams yet to reach the site.

The bloodshed marks a new blow for the failed “total peace” strategy of outgoing left-wing President Gustavo Petro — a hot-button issue in the presidential campaign.

The left-wing senator leading the race to succeed Petro, Ivan Cepeda, has vowed to continue pursuing dialogue with armed groups. — **AFP**

NATO, EU outrage as drone hits Romania apartment block

BUCHAREST: A drone smashed into an apartment building in NATO-member Romania early yesterday, wounding two people and drawing condemnation from the Atlantic alliance and the European Union, which blamed Russia and warned against further incursions.

Romania called the incident — the first drone hit on a residential building outside Ukraine since the start of Russia’s full-scale invasion in 2022 — a “serious and irresponsible escalation” by Moscow.

But Russian President Vladimir Putin said “no one can say” who fired the drone, calling for an investigation to provide “objective data” on its origin.

The drone hit the roof of an apartment building in the centre of the city of Galati, close to the border with Ukraine, sparking a fire and sending a 14-year-old boy and 53-year-old woman to hospital with injuries, officials said.

Drone incursions in Romania have been detected dozens of times since the start of the Ukraine war, but no residential buildings had previously been hit.

The Romanian defence ministry said two F-16 fighter jets had been scrambled in response to the drone, which it said had entered Romania’s airspace during Russian strikes on Ukraine.

Romanian forces had insufficient

time — four minutes — to shoot down the drone, General Gheorghe Maxim from the Joint Forces Command said, adding there were “no realistic opportunities to engage it safely”.

Romanian President Nicusor Dan said the decision not to engage was made “because the conditions necessary to destroy it without significantly endangering the safety of the civilian population were not present”.

Romania summoned the Russian ambassador, and Dan convened a national defence council meeting to discuss “the most serious incident to have affected our national territory” since Russia invaded Ukraine. — **AFP**

US judge freezes Trump ‘slush fund’ for allies

WASHINGTON: A federal judge yesterday temporarily blocked the Trump administration from moving ahead with a \$1.8bn compensation package that critics have denounced as a “slush fund” for President Donald Trump’s political allies.

US District Judge Leonie Brinkema barred the administration from taking any further action to create or operate the fund while she considers whether to impose a longer-lasting pause.

Her order blocks the transfer of money into the fund, the consideration of claims and the disbursement of any payments, saying the freeze was needed to ensure that no money was “irreversibly disbursed” before the legal challenge is heard.

The decision is another setback for one of Trump’s most politically explosive second-term initiatives, which

has already alarmed Democrats, legal experts and some Republicans in Congress.

The fund was created by the Justice Department as part of an extraordinary settlement of Trump’s civil lawsuit against the Internal Revenue Service over the leak of his tax returns by a former government contractor.

The administration says the program is intended to compensate people who suffered from government “weaponization” and “lawfare” — Trump’s terms for what he says was the politically motivated targeting of conservatives and his supporters.

But opponents say the fund has no clear legal basis, little public oversight and could be used to reward loyalists, including defendants convicted of crimes related to the 2021 assault on the US Capitol by Trump supporters. — **AFP**

Brazil will not be treated as ‘tinpot country’ by US: Lula

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva yesterday slammed Washington for designating the country’s two biggest crime factions as terrorist groups, warning the US against “playing games with our democracy.”

“We will not accept being treated like children. We will not accept being treated as if we were some tinpot republic,” a furious Lula said at an event in the northeast of the country.

The United States on Thursday designated Brazil’s two main organized crime groups, the Red Command (CV) and First Capital Command (PCC), as terrorist organizations.

Both groups emerged in Brazil’s prisons and have expanded across the country and wield control of large areas — such as Rio de Janeiro’s favelas — with involvement in drug and arms trafficking and extortion.

“They are terrorists because they torment families, they torment neighborhoods, and



Suriname President Jennifer Geerlings-Simons (left) and Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva shake hands during a meeting at Planalto Palace in Brasilia, on May 28, 2025. (AFP)

they torment the city,” said Lula, adding that “we will fight them right here at home.”

“They are not the kind of terrorists that Trump is looking for. Trump wants an Osama Bin Laden figure.”

Brasilia has long opposed the terrorist label, and the designation was seen as a clear snub to Lula, who had a

lengthy meeting with US President Donald Trump earlier this month which both men hailed as positive.

“I spent three hours with President Trump — three whole hours,” Lula raged, adding he had handed the president documents which specifically discussed the fight against organized crime. — **AFP**

EU wants ‘robust’ defence against China trade imbalance

BRUSSELS: The European Union must act more forcefully to rebalance its trade relationship with China, the bloc’s executive said yesterday, after holding talks on protecting critical industries from Chinese rivals.

As tensions come back down a notch with the United States following Europe’s approval of a 2025 trade agreement, the bloc is turning its focus to China, with a growing chorus seeking a crackdown. And it’s not alone.

Experts and governments are increasingly warning of a “China shock 2.0”, with a glut of inexpensive goods made in the Asian powerhouse threatening manufacturers not just in Europe but around the world as trade deficits with China widen.

Of rising concern in Europe is the bloc’s trade deficit in goods, which hit around €360bn (\$419bn) last year, meaning Chinese exports exceeded EU imports significantly.

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said before talks ended on Friday that Beijing was “closely following” the developments and “will take necessary measures to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests”.

Yesterday’s debate between European commissioners will feed further talks on trade imbalances at the G7 heads of state meeting in France on June 15-17 and an EU leaders’ summit in Brussels on June 18-19.

“China’s industrial dominance is not accidental. It is the result of decades of state subsidies and non-reciprocal market access,” EU industry chief Stephane Sejourne told EU ministers in Brussels on Thursday. — **AFP**

Guatemala denies agreeing to joint US strikes on drug traffickers

GUATEMALA CITY: Guatemala denied Thursday reports it had agreed to joint strikes with the United States on drug traffickers in the country, but admitted it requested Washington’s help in its fight against cartels.

The New York Times reported that Guatemalan President Bernardo Arevalo (pictured) agreed to the strikes with US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth in a call last week, quoting two people familiar with the talks.

The move would mark an escalation of US President Donald Trump’s fight against what his administration calls “narco-terrorists” operating out of Latin America, which has seen it launch a multinational cartel-fighting



alliance and conduct joint strikes against cocaine smugglers in Ecuador.

But the Guatemalan government said Thursday that “there is no agreement authorizing foreign

military operations by any country within national territory.”

Acting Pentagon spokesperson Joel Valdez told AFP earlier that the Defense Department “won’t speculate on future operations” or discuss operational security.

Guatemala’s Arevalo said in a statement that the country had requested Washington’s cooperation in its fight against drug gangs, but that it did not involve a US military presence, which would require congressional authorization.

The partnership “will involve access to equipment, training and experts to (support) the planning of operations at both strategic and tactical levels,” Arevalo said. — **AFP**

US consulate contractor accused of exploiting Indian workers in Italy

MILAN: Italian prosecutors have accused a contractor building a new US consulate in Milan of paying Indian workers well below the national poverty line for 60 hours of “harsh” work weekly.

Prosecutors in a decree seen by AFP yesterday said they were appointing an administrator to work with Caddell Construction to normalise working conditions at the \$200 million project.

Based in Alabama, the construction firm Caddell has built numerous US embassies and consulates around the world. — **AFP**

Greek man charged with helping Iran spy on UK-based Persian TV

LONDON: A Greek man was yesterday charged of spying on a London-based Persian-language journalist for a foreign intelligence service, believed to be Iran, in the latest such case in Britain.

Ioannis Aidinidis, 46, who lives in Munich in Germany, appeared in a London court after being charged under the UK’s National Security Act

following an investigation by Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) London.

Prosecutors said he was paid to travel to the UK twice in April and May 2026 to spy on the journalist at Iran International, a Persian-language media outlet which has been the target of a spate of recent attacks allegedly sponsored by Iran. — **AFP**

Greece considering tougher border control following surge in migrant arrivals

ATHENS: Greece is considering adopting tougher migration measures following a sharp increase in migrant arrivals on the island of Crete, Greek media outlet To Vima reported yesterday.

Speaking in parliament on Thursday, Greek Migration and Asylum Minister Thanos Plevris warned that the government was prepared to introduce “very hard measures”, should the recent rise in arrivals continue.

“We will not allow a repeat of the situation seen in 2015,” Plevris said, referring to the peak of Europe’s migration crisis.

The minister noted that migration routes appear to be shifting from the Eastern Aegean toward Crete, placing new pressure on Greece’s southern maritime borders.

More than 600 migrant arrivals were recorded in a single day recently, with around 40 percent reportedly arriving in the city of Heraklion on Crete. — **XINHUA**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 (يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَرْضِيَّةً
 فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي)
 صدق الله العظيم

CONDOLENCES

AlKoot Insurance & Reinsurance

extends its heartfelt condolences
 to the family of

His Excellency Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Former Deputy Prime Minister &
 Minister of Energy and Industry

May Allah rest the departed soul in peace and
 give grace and fortitude to the bereaved family.

((إننا لله وإنا إليه راجعون))

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الطَّيِّبَةُ رَاجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ الرَّحِيمِ فَتُغْفَرُ لِي وَعَلَىٰ وَالِدَيْكَ الرَّحِيمَيْنِ

صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

We extend our heartfelt condolence and deepest sympathies to the sons of the deceased.

Mr. Hamad bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Dr. Saud bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Mr. Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Mr. Nasser bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
 and to all members of the respected
Al-Attiyah family,

on the passing of the late, by God's will,

HE Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah

Former Deputy Prime Minister, Former Minister of Energy and Industry, Former Chairman and Managing Director of Qatar Petroleum, and member of the Board of Directors of Al-Attiyah Foundation.

May God have mercy upon the deceased and grant him a place in his spacious paradise, and grant his family and beloved ones patience and solace.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ



QATAR SHELL