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Amir honours top-performing high school students



DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani has honoured the country's top-achieving male high school students for the 2025-26 academic year.

The recognition took place yesterday at the Amiri Diwan where H H the Amir said the students' academic achievements should encourage them to continue developing their knowledge and skills and contribute to the State of Qatar's development.

His Highness also praised the ability of Qatari talent to excel, meet different challenges and manage crises, wishing the students success in their future studies and careers.

H H the Amir highlighted the important role of families and schools in preparing young



تميم بن حمد
@TamimBinHamad

We are pleased today to honour a new cohort of outstanding secondary school graduates, wishing them a successful journey filled with excellence and achievement, and hoping they will contribute to the advancement of the nation and serve the community. At the same time, we appreciate the efforts of their families and teachers, whose support played an important role in this achievement.

people and helping them achieve their ambitions. He also praised parents and educators for their efforts in supporting the students' achievements.

Meanwhile, the honorees expressed their happiness at meeting HH the Amir, saying his recognition of their success would motivate them to pursue

their ambitions and contribute to the service and development of the State of Qatar.

The ceremony was attended by Chief of the Amiri Diwan H E Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Khulaifi and Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Lolwah Al Khater. — **QNA**

Qatar's non-hydrocarbon GDP grows by 3.5% YoY in Q1 2026

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar's non-hydrocarbon Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 3.5 percent year-on-year (YoY) in the first quarter of 2026.

These results reflect the resilience and economic stability of the State of Qatar despite regional conditions and challenges that impacted trade routes, increased transport and insurance costs, and heightened pressures on global supply chains.

Commenting on the economic performance, Secretary

General of the National Planning Council, Dr. Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, stated: "Recent indicators demonstrate the resilience of the Qatari economy and the effectiveness of the State's long-term strategic planning. Despite geopolitical escalation which has placed external pressures on the economy, the strength of Qatar's institutions, sound fiscal management, and strategic investments have enabled us to maintain stability, protect consumers and businesses, and continue advancing towards our development goals".

"Despite geopolitical escalation which has placed external pressures on the economy, the strength of Qatar's institutions, sound fiscal management, and strategic investments have enabled us to maintain stability, protect consumers and businesses, and continue advancing towards our development goals."

Despite the positive performance of the non-hydrocarbon sectors, recent restrictions affecting shipping and exports in the region led to a 25.8 percent decline in Qatar's hydrocarbon GDP, resulting in a 7 percent year-on-year contraction in the overall economy

in the first quarter of 2026.

The non-hydrocarbon sector continued to perform positively, recording 3.5 percent year-on-year growth, driven by strong performance across several key economic activities.

The construction sector grew 6.2 percent year-on-year

in the first quarter of 2026, contributing QR1,374m (1.2%) to growth in real non-hydrocarbon GDP. The Wholesale and Retail Trade sector grew by 9 percent YoY in Q1 2026, adding QR1,314m (1.1%) to non-hydrocarbon real GDP growth.

Real Estate Activities increased by 6.1 percent YoY in Q1 2026, contributing QR814m (0.7%) to non-hydrocarbon real GDP growth. Financial and Insurance Activities increased by 4.8 percent YoY in Q1 2026, adding QR774m (0.7%) to non-hydrocarbon real GDP growth. ➔ **P3**

Students urged to prioritise mental health as new academic year begins

FAZEENA SALEEM
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: As university students return to campuses for a new academic year, mental health should be treated as a key part of academic success, with early recognition of stress and timely support helping prevent temporary distress from developing into more serious problems, a clinical psychologist has said.

A Clinical Psychologist at Sidra Medicine, Dr. Nour Abdelghani said the beginning of an academic year is a period of transition and growth that can bring anxiety, self-doubt and uncertainty, particularly for students adjusting to a new environment.

"Setting the tone right at the start of the year in terms of

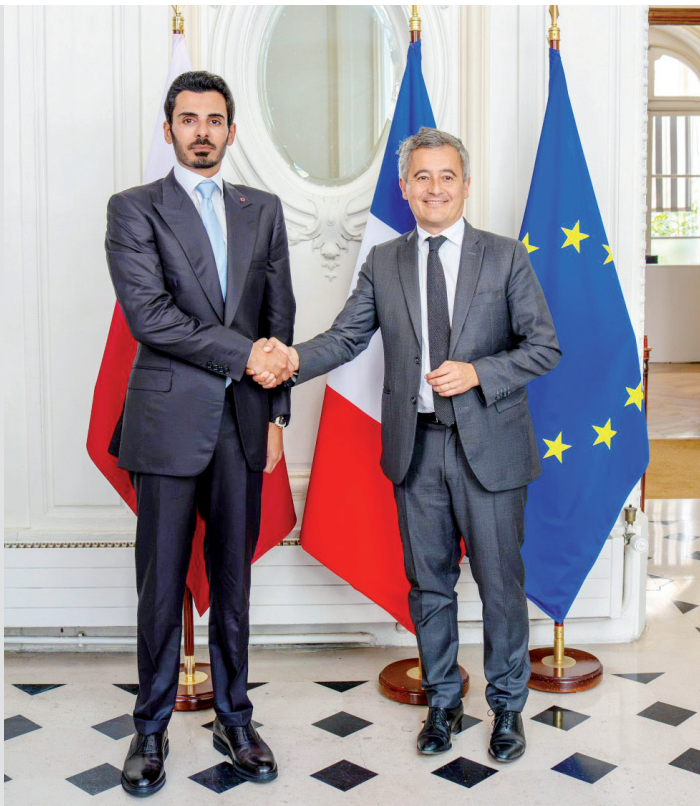
a student's mental and emotional health helps them fall into a routine earlier in the year and focus their efforts on their studies, as well as their goals for the year," she told The Peninsula.

While stress is a normal response to academic pressure, students need to recognise when it persists beyond the immediate trigger.

A student who struggles to sleep before an examination but returns to a normal sleep pattern afterwards is likely experiencing a temporary stress response. However, persistent sleep problems, changes in appetite, difficulty concentrating, memory and recall, or constant worry about future assignments and examinations could indicate a need for support. ➔ **P3**

Qatar, France discuss cooperation in legal and security fields

Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) H E Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani met with Minister of Justice of the French Republic H E Gérard Darmanin during his visit to France. They discussed cooperation between the two countries and ways to support and further develop it, particularly in the legal and security fields. The two sides also discussed several issues of mutual interest.



Qatar's family policies strengthen stability by promoting work-life balance

SANAULLAH ATAULLAH
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar's decisions and initiatives to support families are contributing to greater family stability and social cohesion, while helping parents balance their professional responsibilities with childcare and household duties, family consultant Youssef Al Suwaidi said.

Al Suwaidi said maintaining family stability and empowering families are key priorities under the strategy of the Ministry of Social Development and Family for 2025-2030. Speaking to Qatar TV recently, he highlighted the importance of enabling both fathers and mothers, particularly working mothers, to achieve a healthy

balance between their professional obligations and family responsibilities.

"Maintaining family stability and empowering the family in general, whether the father or mother, especially working women, is about achieving a balance between work and family," Al Suwaidi said.

He noted that Qatar has introduced a range of labour and employment measures aimed at supporting parents in meeting their family responsibilities while fulfilling workplace requirements. These include provisions supporting women in the workplace, remote working arrangements for cases requiring special care, and expanded maternity leave.

Under the measures cited by

Qatar has introduced a range of labour and employment measures aimed at supporting parents in meeting their family responsibilities while fulfilling workplace requirements.

Al Suwaidi, maternity leave can extend to 90 days, with the possibility of extending the period to six months in special cases. Such initiatives, he said, help parents, particularly mothers, manage childcare responsibilities without compromising their professional duties.

The Civil Service and Government Development Bureau is also continuing to promote

workplace flexibility and family stability among employees of government entities through employment benefits and flexible working arrangements.

The flexible working system allows government employees to choose their starting and finishing times within an approved window, with the working day beginning between 6:30am and 8:30am, subject to applicable regulations and the operational requirements of their respective entities.

Employees are required to complete the official working hours, while the flexibility in scheduling gives them greater scope to accommodate family responsibilities, including school-related commitments and childcare. ➔ **P4**

MWC26 Doha to be held in Nov

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar will host two major global events this November.

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), in partnership with the GSMA, will organise the second edition of MWC26 Doha, alongside the Communications Regulatory Authority's hosting of the International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26).

The concurrent hosting of the two events reflects Qatar's growing role as a global destination that brings together technology, policy, and innovation. It also provides an unprecedented opportunity to connect global digital policy

directions with the developments and practical applications shaping the future of the communications and technology sector.

Organised by the GSMA in partnership with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, MWC26 Doha will take place at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center from 8 to 10 November 2026.

Holding both events at the same venue will allow PP-26 delegates to move from discussing global policies and directions to directly exploring, through MWC26 Doha, the latest technologies, solutions, and applications shaping the future of the communications and technology sector. ➔ **P5**



Deputy PM meets Somali Prime Minister

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs H E Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan Al-Thani met with Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia H E Hamza Abdi Barre and his accompanying delegation at his residence during his visit to the State of Qatar. The meeting discussed issues of mutual interest between the two sides and ways to strengthen and further develop bilateral cooperation in these areas. The meeting was attended by a number of senior officers and officials from both sides.

Local date purchasing season to support farmers launched

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Ministry of Municipality, represented by the Agricultural Affairs Department, has launched the 2026 season for purchasing locally produced dates, offering farmers a dedicated opportunity to market their harvest while supporting the growth and development of the country's date production sector.

The purchasing season will continue until September 17, 2026, the ministry said, as part of its ongoing efforts to support local farmers, encourage national production and strengthen food security.

The initiative provides local date producers with an additional organised marketing channel for their harvest, helping create greater opportunities for farmers to sell their produce and encouraging them to maintain and expand date cultivation.

The Ministry of Municipality has been implementing a range of programmes aimed at developing local date production, improving agricultural productivity and strengthening the marketing of national agricultural products. These efforts include

supporting farmers with agricultural guidance and services and promoting modern farming practices designed to improve the quality and productivity of local crops.

Marketing has also remained a key element of the ministry's agricultural support programmes. By creating organised channels for selling locally produced agricultural goods, the ministry seeks to provide farmers with better access to consumers and markets, helping enhance the competitiveness of national products.

The local date purchasing initiative is therefore intended not only to provide a market for the annual harvest but also to encourage farmers to increase production and invest in improving the quality of their dates. Reliable marketing opportunities can provide greater confidence for farmers to expand cultivation and contribute more significantly to domestic food supplies.

The ministry's efforts are aligned with Qatar's broader drive to develop the agricultural sector and enhance the country's food security by increasing the contribution of local

farms to the national market. Date cultivation represents an important part of this sector, with Qatar continuing to support farmers in improving production and marketing practices.

The ministry has previously reported significant progress in the country's date sector, with local date production exceeding 26,000 tonnes and self-sufficiency surpassing 75%. The sector includes hundreds of date-producing farms and a large number of palm trees across Qatar, reflecting the importance of dates to local agricultural production.

The purchasing season also contributes to the ministry's efforts to promote locally produced food and strengthen the link between farmers and the domestic market. Supporting the sale of locally grown dates can help reduce marketing challenges faced by producers while increasing the availability and visibility of national agricultural products.

The Ministry of Municipality called on local date farmers wishing to benefit from the 2026 purchasing season to complete the registration process through its electronic service platform.

Government school registration in Qatar: Official explains eligible categories, documents

MAHMOUD ELMAZATY
THE PENINSULA

DOHA, Qatar: Children of Qataris, Qatari women and GCC citizens, as well as several categories of expatriate residents, are eligible to apply for admission to government schools in Qatar, according to Ghalia Mahdi Al Qahtani, Acting Head of the Student Admission and Registration Department, who has also outlined the documents and procedures parents must complete for registration and transfer.

Speaking to Qatar Radio, Al Qahtani said the admission categories cover new students, students transferring from private schools and those arriving from outside Qatar, subject to the Ministry's eligibility requirements.

Eligible categories include children of Qatari citizens, Qatari women and GCC citizens,

as well as children of holders of Qatari documents. They also include children of non-Qataris employed by ministries, government bodies and public institutions, in addition to children of non-Qatari employees of designated private charitable associations.

Children of permanent residency holders who are not employed by government entities are also covered, along with children of diplomats working at embassies and administrative staff seconded by their countries.

Al Qahtani said children of private-sector employees residing in designated outer areas may also be admitted, provided the guardian's residence falls within the geographical zone of the school.

Under the Ministry's admission policy, this provision applies to eligible private-sector

Eligible categories include children of Qatari citizens, Qatari women and GCC citizens, as well as children of holders of Qatari documents. They also include children of non-Qataris employed by ministries, government bodies and public institutions.

families living in villages and areas outside Doha where private schools are unavailable or do not provide the required educational stage.

Eighteen government schools have been designated to serve eligible private-sector residents in remote areas and outer villages.

For students from eligible categories who do not speak

Arabic, admission is subject to passing an Arabic-language assessment and obtaining the required approval from MoEHE.

Al Qahtani also outlined the documents parents need to complete a new registration, stressing that establishing the student's health file is an essential part of the process.

"The health file is one of the priorities for registration and one of the most important required documents," she said.

She added that a new student without a health file cannot complete registration, either electronically or through the school, as the process is linked with the Ministry of Public Health.

Other required documents include the student's health assessment certificate, copies of the student's and guardian's Qatari ID cards, the student's birth certificate and two

personal photographs. Parents must also provide proof of residence through a Kahramaa certificate or tenancy contract, while expatriate parents are required to submit a valid employment certificate.

For students transferring between government schools, Al Qahtani said parents are required to provide proof of residence through a Kahramaa certificate or tenancy contract.

She also highlighted the deadline parents must observe after submitting an application. Once a parent receives a text message requesting a visit to the school with the required documents, the parent has five working days from the date of the message to complete the procedure.

Fridays and Saturdays are not counted as part of the five-working-day period.

Parents receive another

notification when two working days remain, followed by a final reminder on the last working day, Al Qahtani explained.

She stressed that submitting a registration or transfer application alone does not complete the process, and parents must visit the school within the specified period for the application to be approved.

Electronic registration and transfer applications for students of all nationalities for the 2026-2027 academic year are open from August 25 until October 1 through the Ministry's Maaref Public Services Portal.

The Ministry's electronic services also allow parents to identify the appropriate government school according to their residential location, helping families determine the school serving their geographical zone before completing the admission process.

HMC strengthens advanced dermatology services across hospitals

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) is strengthening its dermatology services across its hospitals, providing comprehensive diagnosis and treatment using the latest internationally approved therapies and evidence-based clinical practices.

As part of its Medical Services Series, HMC yesterday highlighted its Advanced Dermatology Care, underscoring its commitment to providing safe, compassionate and effective care for patients with a wide range of skin conditions.

The dermatology services provide specialist diagnosis and treatment for immunological and infectious skin diseases, as well as skin cancers, with round-the-clock coverage. Services are available through outpatient clinics, as well as on-call support for Emergency Departments and inpatient wards.

Dermatology services are available at Rumailah Hospital, Al Khor Hospital, Aisha Bint Hamad Al Attiyah Hospital, Hazm Mebaireek General Hospital and Al Wakra Hospital. Highlighting the importance of early detection of skin cancer, HMC said suspected cases are referred for specialist assessment within 48 hours, enabling timely diagnosis and treatment with the latest internationally recognised and advanced therapies.

HMC also operates dedicated phototherapy clinics at Hamad General Hospital and Al Khor Hospital. The services offer treatment for conditions including psoriasis, eczema and certain types of skin cancer, with outcomes comparable to those achieved at international centres.

HMC also reminded members of the public to take extra care of their skin during the summer months. It advised avoiding prolonged and direct exposure to sunlight and maintaining adequate skin hydration to help protect skin health.

HMC stressed that early consultation and appropriate specialist care are important in managing skin conditions effectively and improving treatment outcomes.

Mathaf and VCUarts Qatar launch Fanoon, a new public lecture series and university seminar

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, in collaboration with Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar (VCUarts Qatar), presents Fanoon (Arabic for 'arts'), a new public lecture series and university seminar bringing internationally renowned artists into dialogue with audiences and students in Doha.

The series features four distinct research-led practices: Rayyane Tabet's work with archives and the built environment; Bahar Noorizadeh's exploration of digital and financial infrastructures; Shuddhabrata Sengupta's practice of collective knowledge production with Raqs Media Collective; and Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti's decolonial spatial practice with Decolonizing Architecture Art Research (DAAR). The public lecture series is presented in partnership with Qatar Creates Talks, expanding opportunities for audiences in Doha to engage with international



artists, ideas and contemporary creative practice.

The new series builds on the legacy of VCUarts Qatar's original Fanoon Center for Printmedia Research, established in 2012 as the first print-publishing program of its kind in the Middle East. Through collaborations with leading regional and international artists, the center created an important body of work while giving students direct experience in artistic production and exchange. The new Fanoon carries that spirit forward, expanding it

through public lectures and university seminars.

Conceived as an experiment in exploring new approaches to learning and knowledge-sharing, Fanoon inaugurates a new collaboration between a museum and an arts university. The initiative connects Mathaf with the Painting and Printmaking programme (Department of Fine Arts) at VCUarts Qatar, creating a space for ongoing dialogue around contemporary artistic practice and proposing a forward-looking model for arts education.

Students urged to prioritise mental health as new academic year begins

FROM PAGE 1

Dr. Abdelghani described social media as a "double-edged sword" for students. While it can help them connect with peers, discover events and share experiences, it can also create unrealistic expectations about what university life should look like.

large university.

"Being patient at the start is key," she said, encouraging students to attend activities that interest them, introduce themselves to others and gradually build a support network.

Parents, friends and university staff should pay attention to marked changes in a student's behaviour, including social isolation, not responding to calls or messages, poor hygiene, changes in eating or sleeping patterns, risky behaviour, frequent absence from classes and failure to submit assignments.

Yet many students hesitate to seek professional help because they feel embarrassed, believe they should cope alone or are unaware of available services. Concerns about

confidentiality can also discourage them.

Dr. Abdelghani stressed that mental healthcare in Qatar is governed by strict confidentiality and privacy laws. For students aged 18 and above, seeking mental health support does not mean that treatment becomes part of their academic record or is disclosed to faculty or family members.

"Challenging the stigma around receiving mental health support and normalising support can help avoid long episodes of anxiety or depression," she said.

She also called on universities to go beyond providing counselling by promoting open dialogue about mental health and training faculty and staff to recognise warning signs and connect students with support.

Her message to students beginning the new academic year is to be patient with themselves and seek help when needed.

"Speak to yourself the way you would speak to a dear friend who is embarking on a big journey," she said. "The earlier you do so, the faster you will get relief and begin to truly enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Non-hydrocarbon GDP grows by 3.5% YoY in Q1 2026

FROM PAGE 1

Public Administration Activities grew by 4 percent YoY in Q1 2026, adding QR580m (0.5%) to non-hydrocarbon real GDP growth.

The contribution of non-hydrocarbon sectors underscores Qatar's strong economic foundations, built over the past years, and its diversified economic base, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030, which aims to build a sustainable and diversified economy.

Furthermore, the latest GDP figures reflect solid economic fundamentals and the effectiveness of measures implemented to safeguard the economy, maintain market stability, and ensure the continuity of essential services.

Despite regional geopolitical escalation, Qatar maintained an uninterrupted supply of essential goods and services, supported businesses and consumers through targeted measures, and sustained confidence across financial markets and the broader economy. During this period, government entities worked in direct coordination to monitor market conditions, preserve supply chain continuity, support economic activities, and minimise the impact of external supply disruptions on citizens, residents, and the business sector.



Amir receives written message from President of UAE

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani has received a written message from President of the United Arab Emirates, H H Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, pertaining to bilateral relations and ways to bolster them. The message was handed to Minister of State for Foreign Affairs H E Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi, during his meeting yesterday with Ambassador of UAE to Qatar H E Saeed Abdullah Al Qamzi.

Qatar University holds ‘Hayyakom 2026’ to welcome new students

DOHA: Qatar University today launched “Hayyakom 2026,” an event dedicated to welcoming new and first-year students and introducing them to university life. The event will run from August 31 through September 3.

Attended by President of Qatar University, Dr. Omar Al Ansari the event aims to familiarise new and first-year students with university life and help them navigate the campus, as well as the services and resources available to them. The initiative is designed to prepare students for this new stage of their academic journey and support their integration into the university environment from the outset.

The event features a range of informational and interactive activities, along with opportunities for students to meet directly with representatives from Academic Advising, as well as various university departments, units, and centers. This enables students to become familiar with the offices and services available to support them throughout their university journey and to connect directly with the relevant teams.

Assistant Vice President for Admission and Enrollment, Nouf Al Kuwari said that Hayyakom represents an important milestone at the beginning of first-year students’ university experience.

“Hayyakom provides students with an opportunity to become familiar with the University and the support services available to them, helping them transition into university life with greater clarity and confidence,” she said. — *QNA*

QNL welcomes academic year with mentorship, tech and literary events

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: As the new academic year begins, Qatar National Library invites students, researchers, and lifelong learners to a dynamic month of programmes spanning mentorship, technology, and literature.

The calendar kicks off on September 5 with “The Murshidi Programme: Academic and Career Mentoring,” an initiative connecting high school, university students, and fresh graduates with leaders from Education City and other institutions in Qatar for one-on-one guidance on university applications and career planning.

Launching the same day is the “Skills Hub: Empowering Women,” a three-part series designed by women for women. Running on September 5, 12, and 19, the programme features interactive sessions on personal finance, AI productivity, and critical thinking.

Shifting focus to documentary storytelling, the Library hosts “Voices of Keys to Palestine” from September 8 to 12. Led by Al Jazeera journalist Khaola Bouslam, this five-day filmmaking workshop teaches aspiring content creators how to document the Palestinian human experience and preserve its memory for future generations.

Education and technology merge on September 9 at the “Science Book Forum: AI in Education,” a seminar exploring the parallels between human and machine learning, alongside how AI can foster critical thinking in the classroom.

History and literature take centre stage on September 17. First, an interactive session titled “Diplomacy and Influence: A Reading of the British Presence in the Gulf”, presented by Dr. Aisha Hadi Al Rashdi, Acting Head of the Department of International Affairs at the College of Arts and Sciences, Qatar University, explores the geopolitical footprint of the East India Company through the lens of early diplomatic practices.

Also taking place that evening, the Library collaborates with the Embassy of Colombia for “Book Chat: The Sounds of Macondo.” Colombian composer Oriana Marte will blend literary discussion with a live musical performance inspired by Gabriel García Márquez’s renowned novel, One Hundred Years of Solitude.

Pivoting to specialised industry support, professionals in regional archives and libraries are invited to attend a training programme on “Disaster Risk Management and Preparedness,” running from 22 to 30 September.

Returning to literary discussions on September 23, the Book Chat series continues with Qatari novelist Ali Al-Naama, author of Circus of the Greats. Al-Naama will share his creative journey and the experience of bringing a distinctive Qatari voice to English-language fiction.

Live music returns to the venue on September 24 with “Philharmonic at the Library,” featuring the Qatar Philharmonic Brass Quintet in a special performance celebrating the Years of Culture honouring Mexico and Canada.

The month’s ongoing focus on publishing and technology culminates on September 26 with the third edition of the “Write to Inspire: Books & Authors” programme. This year’s theme delves into the impact of AI on Qatar’s publishing industry, offering a platform for authors and publishers to discuss ethics, authenticity, and creative opportunities associated with emerging digital technologies.

Rounding out the month’s public events, the “Qatar Contemporary History Series” takes place on September 26 and 27. Led by Professor Mahjoob Zweiri, the lecture and hands-on workshop will equip participants with essential research skills, from formulating questions to analyzing primary sources in the study of Gulf history.

Reyada launches junior care for back-to-school

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Reyada Medical Centre has launched Reyada Junior Care, a dedicated Back-to-School initiative aimed at supporting the health and well-being of children as they return to their regular school routines after the summer break.

The initiative running from September 27 August to 30, has been designed to encourage parents to prioritise preventive healthcare and ensure that their children begin the new academic term in good health. During this period, children can avail a complimentary Pediatric consultation, along with 30% off Laboratory and Radiology services related to the Pediatric Department.

The Back-to-School period often brings changes in children’s routines, including sleep patterns, eating habits, physical activity and increased exposure to common seasonal illnesses.

Through Reyada Junior Care, parents have an opportunity to consult with a Pediatric specialist, address any health-related concerns and seek appropriate medical guidance before or during the school term.

Reyada Medical Centre’s Pediatric Department is available seven days a week, making it easier for families to schedule consultations around their school and work commitments. Reyada also provides free valet parking, adding further convenience for parents and families visiting the facility.

Through initiatives such as Reyada Junior Care, Reyada Medical Centre continues to emphasise the importance of preventive healthcare, early medical attention and accessible pediatric services, while supporting parents in giving their children a healthy and confident start to the new academic year.

Reyada Medical Centre, a JCI-accredited multi-specialty healthcare facility, located on C-Ring road, Doha, Qatar, stands as a beacon of excellence in medical care with 18+ specialties and a dedicated team of 30+ expert doctors.

The centre offers an extensive range of services, including Radiology, Laboratory, Pharmacy, Optical, Physiotherapy, and more, all designed to provide patients with comprehensive, affordable and quality care.



Reyada officials and doctors during the event.

Qatar’s family policies strengthen stability by promoting work-life balance

FROM PAGE 1

The system also provides employees with 10 hours of permission leave per month, in accordance with the Civil Human Resources Law issued by Law No. 15 of 2016 and its amendments, including Law No. 25 of 2025.

The provision gives employees additional time to accompany their children and follow up on their educational journey, further supporting the balance between professional and family life.

The measures form part of wider efforts to create a supportive environment for families in Qatar by combining employment flexibility, parental benefits and social policies.

By enabling parents to better manage work and household responsibilities, such policies seek to reduce pressures on families and reinforce their ability to fulfil their responsibilities towards children while remaining productive in the workplace.

Al Suwaidi stressed that the combined effect of these initiatives can contribute significantly to preserving family stability and strengthening the role of both parents in caring for and raising children.

The focus on work-life balance also reflects a broader approach to social development in Qatar, where family stability is regarded as an important foundation for social cohesion and a resilient community.

Class of 2030 begins Northwestern journey with vision, curiosity, and community

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Northwestern University in Qatar welcomed the Class of 2030 at its 19th Convocation ceremony, formally inducting its newest students into the Northwestern community and marking the start of their undergraduate journey.

In his address to the incoming class, Dean and CEO Marwan M. Kraidy focused on basira, an Arabic word associated with insight, vision, and discernment.

“Basira is often translated as ‘insight,’ but it means much more than that,” Kraidy said. “It is intellectual clarity, moral discernment, and the wisdom to recognise deeper truths beneath the surface. It is seeing not only with the eyes, but also with the mind, the character, and the heart.”

Building on his message of tajdeed, or renewal, to the Class of 2029, Kraidy told students that basira was especially important at a time when artificial intelligence, technology, and the rapid circulation of information are changing how people understand and engage with the world.

He described three dimensions of basira, imagination, integrity, and wisdom, and urged students to see their education as more than the accumulation of knowledge.

Kraidy also spoke about the responsibility that comes with working in journalism, communication, media, and other fields where technology increasingly shapes how information is created and consumed. Facts, evidence, context, and empathy, he said, remain essential.

Northwestern University Provost Erik Luijten, who assumed the role on July 1, 2026, joined Kraidy in welcoming the incoming class.

Luijten noted that despite having spent more than 17 years at Northwestern, he and the students shared the experience of starting something new.

Much of Luijten’s advice centred on curiosity. He encouraged students to keep asking questions, seek help when they need it, and resist the fear of making mistakes.

Offering the student perspective, Northwestern Qatar Student Government President Timaa Kamar, Class of 2027, reflected on how her own understanding of university life had changed since she first arrived at NU-Q.

Kamar said she entered Northwestern focused on the projects she wanted to complete, the opportunities she hoped to pursue, and the goals she wanted to achieve. As she begins her final year, she said the experiences and relationships formed along the way have become just as important.



Students of Class of 2030 at Northwestern University Qatar.

Qatar Museums unveils September public programme of family activities

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Museums has released its September 2026 public programme, featuring a wide range of workshops, talks, storytelling sessions, creative courses and family activities across its museums and creative hubs.

The programme spans art, design, photography, calligraphy, heritage, literature and creative learning, catering to children, young people, adults, families and educators. Highlights include Arabic calligraphy courses, drawing and painting workshops, design and fabrication sessions, family activities, artist talks and initiatives reflecting Qatar’s cultural and creative landscape.

As part of the Qatar Creates Fall/Winter season, Qatar Creates Talks continues with free events in collaboration with Fire Station, Tasweer Photo Festival Qatar, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Lusail Museum, Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar (VCUarts Qatar) and Georgetown University in Qatar. Admission is free and registration is available at qcreates.com/qc-talks.

Key talks include Creative Infrastructures: Spaces for Experimentation on September 1 from 6pm to 7:30pm at Fire Station Auditorium; the ‘Frame and Focus’ Exhibition Tour and Artists’ Panel Talk on September 6 from 3pm to 6pm at Al Hosh Gallery, The Pearl; Fanoon Artist Talks with Rayyane Tabet on September 8 at 3pm and Bahar Noorzadeh on September 29 at 3pm, both at Mathaf’s Mekan Auditorium; and Echoes of Cairo: Reviving Egyptian Music from 1900 with Oxford Maqam on September 28 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at Georgetown University in Qatar.

The 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum will host storytelling sessions for children, including One, Two, Follow Through on September 25 for ages 6–10 and Giraffes Don’t Golf on September 27 for ages 2–5.

Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art offers sessions focused on artistic practice and skill development. These include Action Model Drawing for ages 15+ on September 2 from 5pm to 7pm; Art Lessons with Ismail Azzam for adults every Sunday and Tuesday from 4pm to 6pm; Essa Fakhroo Calligraphy for ages 15+ from September 7 to 10; Realms of Rhythm on September 12; and Unedited, a studio-based writing session, on September 26.

M7 is participating in the 15th Arabian Women Exhibition until September 5 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre, presenting a curated selection of regional design, traditional craftsmanship and contemporary creative enterprise.

The Museum of Islamic Art programme includes Story Time: Al Khawarizmi on September 5; Nasta’liq Intermediate calligraphy for women from September 6 to 9; Family Day: Junior Curator on September 12 (no registration required); and a Book Club discussion on Tombs of Paradise on September 28.

Liwan Design Studios and Labs presents practical workshops such as Trace Through Pattern on September 6 and 7, Scratched Surfaces on September 9, Traditional Miniature Painting: A Qatari Perspective on September 10 and 11, and Silver Soups – Alternative Image-Making on September 15 and 16.

Qatar Auto Museum is organising Teacher Training Workshops on multiple dates throughout September at the National Museum of Qatar, supporting educators in using automotive history and technology for classroom learning.

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PRECISION CAPITAL LLC**
(a limited liability company incorporated in the Qatar Financial Centre under QFC registration number 01455)

In accordance with the provisions of Article 30(3)(A) of the QFC Companies Regulations,
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:
By Special Resolution of the Sole Shareholder of Precision Capital LLC (the “Company”) dated 31 August 2026, and pursuant to Article 3 of the Company’s Articles of Association and Article 30 of the QFC Companies Regulations, the Company’s issued and paid-up share capital is to be reduced as follows:
Share Capital Before Reduction (i.e. current issued and paid-up share capital): EUR 1,273,531,000, divided into 12,735,310 shares of EUR 100 each.
Share Capital After Reduction (i.e. reduced issued and paid-up share capital): EUR 1,082,501,350, divided into 12,735,310 shares of EUR 85 each.
Method of Reduction: Reduction of the nominal value of each of the Company’s 12,735,310 issued shares, each fully paid up, from EUR 100 to EUR 85 per share, without any alteration to the number of shares in issue, such share capital being capital that is in excess of the Company’s requirements, with the excess capital being returned to the Sole Shareholder.
Class of Shares: Ordinary shares
Class Rights: No changes
Effective Date of Reduction: 17 September 2026.
The registered office address of the Company is at
Office No. 306, 3rd Floor, Palm Twin Tower – B, No. 25,
West Bay, Doha, State of Qatar



Al Misnad meets Deputy Foreign Minister of Ecuador

Minister of State for International Cooperation H E Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad met yesterday with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of the Republic of Ecuador H E Alejandro Davalos, who is visiting Doha. Discussion during the meeting focused on bilateral relations and ways to bolster them, in addition to a host of topics of Mutual interest.

Qatar hosts 30 finalists from eight countries in inaugural Rofaqa Global Orphans Quran Competition

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Thirty young Quran reciters from eight countries will gather in Doha this week to compete for the top three places in the inaugural global “Rofaqa” Orphans category of the Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani Quran Competition.

The in-person final stage will take place on September 2 and 3 at Imam Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab Mosque, bringing together finalists selected from more than 300 participants representing 20 countries worldwide.

The competition, organised by the Sheikh Jassim Quran Competition under the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, is

being held in cooperation with Qatar Charity, which provided logistical and coordination support through its offices in several countries.

The finalists represent Somalia, Mali, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Gambia, Syria, Burkina Faso and Nepal. They qualified through preliminary rounds held remotely in April, with assessments conducted by specialised Qatari judging committees focusing on memorisation, accuracy, recitation quality and rules of Quranic pronunciation.

The initial rounds were supervised by three Qatari judging committees headed by Sheikh Mahdi Ali Al Qahtani, Sheikh Mohammed Ali Al Hammadi and Sheikh Subaih

Mohammed Al Marri. The judging process extended over two weeks and was designed to ensure fairness and equal opportunities for participants.

The Rofaqa category is the first global branch of the Sheikh Jassim Quran Competition dedicated to male orphans sponsored by Qatar Charity. It targets participants aged 12 to 20 and combines Quranic education with a broader humanitarian and educational mission aimed at identifying and nurturing promising Quranic talents.

The 30 finalists were selected through a phased process that began with internal qualifying rounds in their respective countries, followed by remote preliminary competitions.

AEMOB Forum to bring together global mobility leaders to Doha this month

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The second edition of the Autonomous e-Mobility Forum (AEMOB) will take place this September 7-8, 2026, at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), followed by a dedicated Ecosystem Tour on September 9.

The Ministry of Transport (MoT) is the Host and Strategic Partner of the event, organised by Just us & Otto, and held under the patronage of the Minister of Transport H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulla bin Mohammed Al Thani. This came during a press briefing at Hilton Doha Hotel yesterday.

Addressing the press briefing, MoT’s Assistant Undersecretary for Land Transport Affairs Eng. Abdullah Saif Al-Sulaiti said that Qatar’s transportation industry has been witnessing rapid progress and achieving well-recognised

milestones both regionally and globally, driven by the MOT’s commitment to delivering smart, sustainable transportation solutions and providing supporting logistics services that meet the demands of modern cities and contribute to a better quality of life.

He pointed out that the MoT launched the Autonomous Vehicles Strategy and teamed up with its partners to supervise the execution of the 1st phase of electric robotaxi tryouts to test the operational and technical aspects while evaluating safety and efficiency levels. The second phase of testing is expected to commence soon, paving the way for the future expansion of their use within the country’s public transit system.

The scale of AEMOB Forum 2026 is further reflected in the support of more than 20 sponsors and partners, bringing together organizations from across Qatar and the region to support



Assistant Undersecretary for Land Transport Affairs Eng. Abdullah Saif Al-Sulaiti speaking during the press briefing.

dialogue, knowledge exchange and the advancement of autonomous and electric mobility.

Qatar Rail joins as Platinum Sponsor, with Qatar Free Zones Authority, QTerminals, Mwani Qatar, and Uber as Gold Sponsors. Mowasalat (Karwa), Elite Motors (Chery, Lepas), Al Abdulghani Motors, and Masar Motors (Deepal) join as Silver Sponsors, alongside Qatar University as Academic Partner, the University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) as Applied Research Partner, and Seib Insurance & Reinsurance as Insurance Partner. The Forum is further supported by Qatar Airways as Airline Partner, Qatar Tourism as Destination Partner, QNCC as Venue Partner, Qatar EV Association as Community Partner, and both InStrat and CharIN as Knowledge Partners.

This year’s AEMOB Forum, the event’s second edition following its inaugural gathering in 2024, will bring together more than 40 international and regional speakers, representing

government, industry, academia, technology, research and the wider mobility ecosystem.

The speaker line-up includes, but not limited to, CEO of FlyNow Arabia Ltd (FlyNow Aviation), Yvonne Winter; CEO and Founder of AeroVecto, Fahad Al Riyami; Partner at Addleshaw Goddard, Andrew Carter; Chief Segment Officer – Mobility at L&T Technology Services, Aditya Pathak; MOT’s Land Transport Planning Department Director, Saleh Saeed Al-Marri; MoT’s Road Affairs Department Director, Nayla Khaled Al Noaimi; Acting Director of the Air Safety Department at the Civil Aviation Authority, Nayif Nasser Aljaber; Technical Affairs and Innovation Manager at Mowasalat (Karwa), Dr. Rafah Al Arrouqi; and MoT’s Land Transport Licensing Section Head, Eng. Fatima Ali Al Khayyat among other international and regional experts.

Katara launches children’s falconry course ahead of S’hail 2026

VICTOR BOLORUNDURO
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Katara Cultural Village has announced a specialised training course for children titled “Basics of Falcon Knowledge and Transfer” as part of the activities accompanying the 10th edition of the Katara International Hunting and Falcons Exhibition (S’hail 2026).

The two-day course, scheduled for September 6 and 7, is aimed at children aged seven to 12, according to posts shared yesterday on Katara’s social media accounts.

Sessions will run daily from 4pm to 6pm at Building 15 in Katara. Organisers said the programme combines theoretical instruction with practical application, offering youngsters an educational introduction to the traditional art of falconry.

Registration requires parents or guardians to send a copy of the child’s personal ID card via WhatsApp to 5555365. The course is supported by the Social and Sport Contribution Fund.

S’hail 2026 itself will take place from September 8 to 12 at Katara Cultural Village. Marking a decade of the

The two-day course, scheduled for September 6 and 7, is aimed at children aged seven to 12, according to posts shared yesterday on Katara’s social media accounts. Sessions will run daily from 4pm to 6pm at Building 15 in Katara. Organisers said the programme combines theoretical instruction with practical application.

exhibition, the event will feature live falcon auctions, beauty contests, heritage displays celebrating Qatar’s falconry traditions, hands-on demonstrations of hunting and outdoor equipment, and family-friendly workshops. Admission is free.

Katara described the children’s course as “a first step into the world of falconry,” aligning with the exhibition’s broader goal of transmitting cultural heritage to younger generations while fostering interest in Qatar’s rich sporting and outdoor traditions.

Falconry holds deep historical significance in Qatari and Gulf culture, recognised by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. By introducing children to the fundamentals of handling and understanding falcons, the course aims to ensure the continuity of this heritage in an engaging and age-appropriate manner. The timing of the workshop, immediately before the main exhibition opens, allows young participants to experience the wider S’hail atmosphere, including the heritage zone and interactive activities planned for families.

Katara continues to position itself as a leading cultural and tourist destination by blending education, tradition and modern presentation. The children’s falconry programme forms part of a series of preparatory and accompanying events designed to enrich the visitor experience during the exhibition period.

Interested families are encouraged to register promptly, as places are expected to be limited. Further details about S’hail 2026, including exhibitor information and the full programme of activities, are available on the official website s-hail.qa.

MWC26 Doha to be held in Nov

FROM PAGE 1

Minister of Communications and Information Technology, H E Mohammed bin Ali Al Mannai, said: “We are proud to host both MWC26 Doha and the International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26) alongside one another this year, reflecting Qatar’s growing role in shaping the future of global connectivity and telecommunications policy. Hosting the two events reinforces Qatar’s commitment to achieving the objectives of the Digital Agenda 2030 and Qatar National Vision 2030 as we continue working to build a thriving digital economy and a sustainable digital society.”

For his part, Engineer Ahmad bin Abdulla AlMuslemani, President of Qatar’s Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) and Chair-Designate of ITU PP-26, said: “The Communications Regulatory Authority’s hosting of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26), alongside MWC26 Doha, reflects Qatar’s leading role in shaping the future of global connectivity and its regulatory frameworks. The Authority is committed to fostering an advanced regulatory environment that supports digital transformation. Through hosting this prominent international event, we look

forward to leading a constructive global dialogue that helps guide international telecommunications policy and shape a more inclusive and sustainable global digital ecosystem.”

Director General of the GSMA, Vivek Badrinath, said: “The inaugural edition of MWC Doha last year clearly demonstrated the scale of Qatar’s digital ambition. This year’s announcement that MWC will take place alongside the International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary Conference presents a unique opportunity to bring international policymakers and industry leaders together in one city, under one roof, and during the same month. By convening regulators, ministers, telecommunications operators, and technology leaders at this scale, Doha will be at the heart of the conversations shaping the future of connectivity worldwide.”

MWC26 Doha will also see the return of the GSMA Ministerial Programme, which provides a high-level platform for discussing digital governance and investment priorities and supporting the next phase of connectivity development. The programme brought together 60 delegations from 49 countries and 11 intergovernmental organisations during its previous edition.

From Doha to Paris: Class of 2026 celebrates a journey of learning and leadership

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: On the eve of this summer’s HEC Paris Commencement Ceremony, more than 144 graduates and their families from across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) gathered in Paris for the fourth HEC Paris, Doha Graduation Reception, celebrating the achievements, leadership and transformative journeys of the Class of 2026.

Organised by HEC Paris, Doha, the reception brought together participants from four Executive MBA cohorts – Executive MBA Doha, Executive MBA Riyadh, Executive MBA Riyadh PIF, and the Executive MBA – Emerging Leaders Track – representing the GCC, Middle East and beyond.

Held at the historic Hôtel Le Marois on Avenue Franklin D. Roosevelt, steps from the Champs-Élysées and opposite the Grand Palais, the reception provided an elegant setting for graduates, alumni, faculty, families and distinguished guests.

Co-hosted by Djelloul Bekka, Chief Operating and



FROM LEFT: Shaikha Maryam Al-Thani, Nour El Houda Zorgui and Tariq Atiyah.

Administrative Officer, and Joshua Kobb, Chief Growth and Impact Officer, and led by Nayef Sabeh as Master of Ceremony, the evening featured remarks from Joshua Kobb, Philippe Oster, Executive Director of International Affairs at HEC Paris, Véronique Ehrhard, Vice President of the HEC Alumni Association, and cohort representatives Kholoud Al Ghati and Abdulrahman Al Jumaily.

Speakers highlighted the importance of leadership in a rapidly evolving world, the growing influence of the HEC Paris community across the Gulf, and the responsibility of tomorrow’s leaders to shape business, innovation and society.

The Class of 2026 reflects the

diversity of HEC Paris Doha’s executive education ecosystem. The 144 graduates come from sectors including finance, healthcare, energy, technology, telecommunications, public services, manufacturing, consulting and entrepreneurship. More than 430 graduates and family members registered for the Paris celebrations, demonstrating the strong bonds developed throughout the programme.

For many graduates, the Executive MBA represented more than an academic qualification. It was a period of personal and professional transformation.

Shaikha Maryam Al-Thani, from the Executive MBA Doha cohort, joined the programme after more than two decades in

finance. As Chief Executive Officer of the Qatar Credit Bureau, she said the programme provided new perspectives on fintech, financial data and innovation, supporting her ambition to contribute to the transformation of Qatar’s financial ecosystem.

Nour El Houda Zorgui of the Executive MBA Riyadh cohort brought another multidisciplinary perspective. A specialised dental surgeon who moved into operational and managerial leadership, she is Director of Operational Excellence at Alcare, a leading Saudi private healthcare group. She described HEC Paris as a long-standing professional aspiration and an opportunity to

strengthen the entrepreneurial mindset and agility needed in today’s business environment.

For Tarek Atiyah, the experience was equally transformative. He said the programme helped him refine how he thinks, decides and leads, while strategy, negotiation and leadership strengthened his confidence and ability to create value. As Academic Delegate, he also helped foster collaboration among participants and build lasting professional relationships.

Despite their different backgrounds and industries, graduates shared a common conviction: learning is a lifelong commitment. The programme challenged them to question established assumptions, broaden their perspectives and develop the strategic mindset required to lead in uncertainty.

As graduates prepared for the official commencement ceremony, the Paris reception marked both the culmination of an academic journey and the beginning of a new chapter within HEC Paris’s global community of more than 83,000 alumni across 152 countries.

Qatar Philatelic and Numismatic Centre to participate in Ajman exhibition

DOHA: The Qatar Philatelic and Numismatic Centre, affiliated with the Ministry of Culture, will take part in the sixth edition of the Ajman International Philatelic and Numismatic Exhibition, to be held from September 2 to 6.

Organised by the Ajman Department of Tourism, Culture and Media, the exhibition will be held at the Bahi Ajman Palace Hotel and will feature stamp and coin auctions, workshops and lectures, as well as displays of rare and valuable collections.

The Qatar Philatelic and Numismatic Centre will be represented by a group of its members, who have participated in international stamp and coin exhibitions.

The Centre’s participation reflects its efforts to promote stamp and coin collecting and support the development of the hobby among enthusiasts in Qatar. — QNA

Embassy of Malaysia celebrates 69th Independence Day

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Embassy of Malaysia in Doha organised a flag-raising ceremony to mark Malaysia's 69th Independence Day, which falls on August 31, 2026.

The event, held on the evening of Sunday, August 30, 2026, symbolically coincided with the early hours of Monday, August 31, 2026 in Malaysia.

The ceremony provided an opportunity for Malaysians in Qatar to come together in the spirit of patriotism, unity and national pride.

It was also streamed online, enabling members of the Malaysian community across Qatar to follow and participate in the celebration virtually.

The raising of the Jalur Gemilang, the Malaysian flag, symbolises the sovereignty, independence and shared identity of Malaysians,



Ambassador of Malaysia H E Faizal Razali with officials and community members cutting the cake.

including those living and working overseas.

Ambassador of Malaysia to

the State of Qatar H E Faizal Razali in his remarks mentioned, "The celebration is not

only about remembering our history, but also about the values that continue to unite us

“*The celebration is not only about remembering our history, but also about the values that continue to unite us as Malaysians. We hope this celebration will further strengthen our sense of togetherness and our friendship with Qatar.*

H E Faizal Razali
Ambassador of Malaysia to the State of Qatar

as Malaysians. We hope this celebration will further strengthen our sense of togetherness and our friendship with Qatar.”

The Embassy, in cooperation with Malaysian Association in Qatar (MAQ) and the wider Malaysian community

in Qatar, organised a series of programmes throughout August, and will continue the programmes in September to commemorate the Malaysian Independence Day and Malaysia Day.

The celebrations also provide an opportunity to highlight the close and long-standing friendship between Malaysia and Qatar, particularly through greater people-to-people interaction and community diplomacy.

The Embassy expressed hopes that Malaysians in Qatar will continue to uphold Malaysia's good name, remain united and contribute positively to strengthening Malaysia-Qatar relations.

The Embassy also wished to convey its appreciation to Malaysian Association in Qatar, community members and friends in Qatar for their continued cooperation and support in organising the National Day and Malaysia Day activities.

Qatar Museums announces expanded Design Doha 2026 programme

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Museums has announced an expansive exhibition programme for the second edition of Design Doha, which will run from November 5, 2026, to January 31, 2027, bringing together more than 100 multidisciplinary designers and studios from across the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region and their diasporas.

The biennial, established under the leadership of Chairperson of Qatar Museums H E Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, will be led by Director of Design Doha Fahad Al Obaidly, with Glenn Adamson serving as Artistic Director. Its 2026 edition will be centred on Fereej Al Asmakh, one of Doha's significant heritage districts.

Building on the success of its inaugural edition in 2024, Design Doha 2026 will feature more than 15 exhibitions, reflecting a significant expansion in scale and international reach.

The programme will be led by Arab Design Now 2026, curated by Noura Al Sayeh, featuring 81 designers, 78 new commissions and 15 films.

The participating designers represent 27 countries and work across more than 15 disciplines, including architecture, furniture, product design, craft, urbanism, sound and social design. The headline exhibition will explore contemporary Arab design through five themes: Narration and Ornamentation; Land and Agrarian Practices; Landscapes of Production and Extraction; Crafts, Technology and Community; and Belonging and Migrating.

Fereej Al Asmakh will serve as a key hub for the biennial, with the district envisioned not simply as an exhibition setting but as a site for cultural production, community engagement and design-led urban renewal. The

programme aims to explore contemporary creative solutions while respecting the historic character and heritage of the newly renovated area.

Exhibitions will also take place across Doha, including Msheireb, Qatar Museums institutions, heritage sites and public spaces, creating a connected network of design experiences. Regional and international partners include Turquoise Mountain, Irthi Contemporary Crafts Council, Ithra and Liwan Design Studios and Labs.

A major new feature will be the Public Design Commissions programme, curated by Javier Peña Ibáñez. Ten designers, architects and urban practitioners from the MENASA region were selected through an open call, with five winning proposals set to be developed as context-responsive installations across Doha. The projects will address architecture, crafts, sustainability and cultural identity while activating public spaces through innovative design interventions.

The Design Doha Prize will also return, recognising talent in Craft, Product Design, Furniture Design and Emerging Talent. Four winners will share a support package of QR800,000, alongside mentorship and opportunities to develop and showcase their work. The winners will be announced on November 7 during the opening week.

Among other highlights, Mexico-based designer Fernando Laposse will present The Sower, his first exhibition in the MENA region, exploring cultivation, community, environmental responsibility and material transformation through connections between Mexico and Qatar. Other exhibitions will examine themes including traditional craft, post-oil industrialisation, weaving, Arabic and Persian typography, migration, heritage and contemporary technologies.

Benefactor wills one-third of estate to support sustainable endowments

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: A Qatari benefactor has registered a new charitable will dedicating one-third of her estate to the Waqf Fund for Righteousness and Piety, with the proceeds designated to support the “Waqf Al-Wuqoof” initiative, the General Directorate of Endowments at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has announced.

The endowment, placed under the supervision of the General Directorate of Endowments, covers both movable and immovable assets, including real estate, shares and financial balances. The directorate will oversee the endowment and ensure that the will is implemented in accordance with the benefactor's specified conditions and applicable Shariah and legal regulations.

The initiative reflects the benefactor's continued commitment to charitable giving, as records show that she had previously established an endowment. Her latest will extends that commitment

beyond her lifetime, seeking to create an ongoing charitable impact through a sustainable source of benefit for the community.

Head of the Endowers Affairs Section at the Waqf Funds Department Saleh Al Hawl Al Marri (pictured), said the registration of the will reflects growing community awareness of the importance of documenting charitable wills and their role in preserving the wishes of benefactors.

He said documenting such wills helps ensure that the endowment is administered according to the benefactor's conditions, thereby sustaining the reward and extending the benefit after death.

Al Marri noted that dedicating one-third of an estate comprising real estate, shares and financial assets highlights the diversity of assets that can be included in a charitable endowment. Their returns can be directed towards areas selected by the benefactor while the underlying endowment assets are preserved and developed in accordance with



Shariah principles and approved standards.

He explained that selecting “Waqf Al-Wuqoof” is aimed at multiplying the impact of charitable giving. The initiative channels returns towards establishing new endowments, transforming proceeds into productive endowment assets that generate further income.

“This model expands the circle of beneficiaries and strengthens the sustainability of charitable endowment work,” Al Marri said.

He also praised the benefactor for continuing her commitment to waqf through both

previous endowment giving and the newly registered will, describing her initiative as an example of awareness of the importance of planning and documenting charitable activities to ensure their impact continues and reaches the intended beneficiaries.

Under Islamic jurisprudence, a will is a voluntary transfer of ownership that takes effect after death. Islamic teachings encourage Muslims to document their wills, given their role in preserving rights and supporting charitable deeds.

The General Directorate of Endowments continues to register endowment wills, document the conditions set by benefactors, and manage assets transferred to endowments to ensure that their wishes are fulfilled.

The directorate also encourages people wishing to establish an endowment whose proceeds support one of the designated charitable funds to take advantage of available channels, allowing them to establish an ongoing charity and lasting reward.

Birla Public School empowers teachers through Five-Day CPD Programme

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Birla Public School reaffirmed its commitment to professional excellence, continuous learning, and holistic student development by organising a comprehensive series of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) sessions for its teachers from August 23 to 27, 2026.

Designed to strengthen pedagogical practices and enhance the quality of classroom experiences, the programme brought together educators across subject areas and grade levels.

The sessions focused on inclusive education, competency-based teaching and learning, assessment literacy, innovative pedagogy, collaborative learning, technology integration, differentiated instruction, and teacher well-being.

The programme



Director of Birla Public School CV Rappai speaking at the event.

commenced on August 23 with an engaging session on “Mindfulness”, led by the School Principal, Dr. Anand R Nair. The session highlighted the importance of mindfulness and well-being in fostering a positive, balanced, and nurturing educational environment. Teachers explored practical approaches to incorporating mindfulness into both their professional and

personal lives.

The Counselling Department conducted a dedicated session on “Identifying & Supporting CWSN (Children with Special Needs)”, aimed at enhancing teachers' awareness and understanding of diverse learning needs. The session addressed the identification and classroom support of CWSN students and highlighted

relevant CBSE concessions and provisions, enabling teachers to implement appropriate academic and classroom accommodations more effectively.

From August 24 to 26, teachers of Grades KG to V participated in a series of interactive sessions facilitated by Dr. Dhanya Bhaskaran. The sessions, titled, “Making Classrooms Talk,” “Competency-Based Teaching & Learning,” and “Assessment for Learning,” focused on strengthening classroom interaction, promoting competency-based learning, and using assessment as an integral part of the learning process. Through hands-on activities, collaborative discussions, and the exchange of classroom experiences, teachers explored effective ways to increase student participation, identify learning gaps, and make teaching and learning more purposeful.

beIN Media Group launches three new children's shows on Baraem and Jeem TV

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: With the start of the new school year, beIN Media Group, the global sports, entertainment and media group, has announced the launch of three original Arabic-language productions next month.

Highlighting the leading entertainment network's continued commitment to delivering premium children's content that entertains, educates, and inspires young audiences across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the three shows will air across Jeem TV and Baraem.

Al Batal, which translates as The Champion, is a new inspirational 16-episode series telling the stories of young athletes' determination, passion, and pursuit of ambitious goals. Running on Jeem TV from

September and aimed at children between the ages of seven and 13, each 15-minute episode will focus on transforming challenges into motivation.

From swimming and archery to equestrian sports and more, each episode will spotlight and celebrate a young athlete from the region, demonstrating their commitment to achieving their dream of becoming a champion both in sport and in life.

Meanwhile on Baraem TV, the Arab World's first Arabic television channel specifically for children between the ages of three and six, two established beIN Originals will return next month. Fafa World returns for a second season, taking children on a variety of journeys where every 15-minute animated adventure becomes an opportunity to learn, think, play, and participate. Season 2 features

26 episodes and sees Fafa and his friends travel aboard a ship to different islands, with each journey introducing new experiences and helping young viewers develop different skills.

Also back on Baraem for a new season is Teela Toola, taking children on exploratory journeys centred on sounds and identifying their sources. Combining listening, observation, clues, and discovery within a playful educational format, each of the 26 episodes of the all-new Season 11 positions children as young explorers embarking on a 15-minute quest to look for clues. Alongside Jihan and the team of explorers, young viewers are guided step-by-step until they discover the source of the sound.

Baraem will also air a collection of 52 three-minute segments titled 'I Have a Question',

part of the Teela Toola series encouraging curiosity, questioning, and discovery among preschool children. Each segment sees Teela and Toola ask Jihan a new question, which she answers in an accessible and engaging way.

Latifa Al Mana, Director of Kids Content & Channels, beIN MENA, said: “At beIN, we believe children deserve Arabic-language content that sparks curiosity while keeping them engaged, entertained, and inspired. With these three original shows, made for children aged three to thirteen, we are continuing to invest in premium children's programming that combines strong storytelling with meaningful learning. This reflects our commitment to young audiences across the region and, of course, the families who watch with them.”

Aspire Academy hosts international fencing camp with athletes from seven nations

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Aspire Academy successfully concluded its International Fencing Camp 2026, bringing together 66 athletes and coaches from seven countries for an intensive week of training, competition and knowledge exchange.

Held from August 23 to 29, the camp gathered participants from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, Malaysia, Greece, Thailand and Argentina. The programme featured 12 sessions totalling 36 hours of training and was supported by a coaching staff of 16. Athletes competed across under-17, under-20 and senior age groups.

According to Aspire Academy, the camp aimed to prepare fencers for the new sports season and the

upcoming Asian Games while strengthening fencing across the region. Key objectives included showcasing Qatar's progress in the sport, sharing expertise with international partners and providing participants with valuable competitive experience.

The event took place at Aspire Academy's state-of-the-art facilities, where athletes engaged in rigorous drills, sparring sessions and technical development under the guidance of local and visiting coaches. Group photographs released by the academy show large contingents of young fencers in full kit, reflecting the scale and energy of the gathering.

Aspire Academy, a leading Qatari institution dedicated to developing youth talent in both sport and education.

UAE slams Iran’s attack on its territory, Jordan intercepts missiles

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates has strongly condemned the hostile Iranian attack on the country using a drone that was intercepted by air defense systems over its territorial waters.

In a statement, UAE’s Foreign Ministry affirmed that these hostile attacks amount to a grave escalation, an unacceptable act of aggression, and a direct threat to the its security, stability, and territorial integrity, and stand at variance with the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter.

The ministry stressed that

the UAE won’t relent in the face of any threat to its security and sovereignty under any circumstances, and that it retains its full and legitimate right to respond to these attacks to ensure the protection of its sovereignty, national security, territorial integrity, and the safety of its citizens, residents, and visitors, in accordance with international law. It further underscored that this attack is unequivocally condemned and repudiated under all legal and humanitarian norms, stressing the importance of immediately halting these attacks and

UAE’s Foreign Ministry affirmed that these hostile attacks amount to a grave escalation.

ensuring full compliance with the cessation of all hostilities. The Ministry held Iran fully responsible for these assaults and their consequences.

Jordan’s army also said yesterday that it had intercepted eight missiles, shortly after Iran’s Revolutionary Guards said they had attacked US military targets in the kingdom.

"Air defense systems

intercepted eight missiles that breached the Kingdom’s airspace at dawn today, Monday," read a statement quoting the army’s spokesperson.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General, Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi condemned in the strongest terms the aggressive Iranian drone attack on the UAE.

Albudaiwi underscored that GCC member states stand united alongside the UAE in the face of any threats to its security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Kuwait also vehemently denounced the Iranian

attack on the UAE using a one-way attack drone.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated that Kuwait stands firmly with the UAE in all measures pursued to protect its sovereignty, security and territorial integrity. The UAE also condemned in the strongest terms the hostile attacks targeting Jordan with missiles, and expressed full solidarity. Egypt also condemned Iranian attacks on the UAE and Jordan. The Arab League also condemned the renewed Iranian attacks targeting the UAE and Jordan.

— **QNA/AFP**

Turkiye says regional defence pact not against any country

ISTANBUL: Türkiye’s top diplomat stressed yesterday the regional defence pact with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia was not aimed at any particular country and open to others, including Egypt.

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan’s remarks came after the first ministerial meeting of the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement which commits Türkiye, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to mutual defence in the event of any of them being attacked.

"This alliance is founded on international principles such as respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and non-interference in their internal affairs," he told reporters in Istanbul after they met in an Ottoman-era palace.

"The alliance is not against any state and is open to all states in our region that adhere to these fundamental principles," he said.

It unites Türkiye, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and his Saudi counterpart H H Prince Faisal bin Farhan were also at the talks, alongside defence ministers from all three countries and their military chiefs of staff. Asked if other countries including Egypt could join the pact, Fidan said it was "indeed possible" but stressed consultations were ongoing to determine conditions, procedures and standards for membership.

"We are also working on a roadmap regarding the processes of joining the alliance," he added. — **AFP**

Gaza health officials say five killed in Israeli strikes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Israeli airstrikes killed five people around Gaza City yesterday, a local hospital and rescuers said.

Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City said yesterday morning that it had received two bodies "following an Israeli airstrike that targeted the entrance of a residential building near the municipal park in Gaza City".

Later in the day, the hospital said it received three additional bodies and several wounded "as a result of an Israeli drone strike that targeted a civilian car in the Tel al-Hawa neighbourhood, southwest of Gaza City".

The civil defence confirmed to AFP

the toll of the two strikes.

Images shared by the civil defence showed workers inspecting the car targeted in the second strike, completely destroyed and reduced to a blackened shell of warped metal, as a crowd of bystanders gathered around it.

Despite a US-backed ceasefire that took effect in October 2025, violence has not halted in the Gaza Strip, with Israel continuing to launch strikes.

Israeli operations in Gaza have killed at least 1,318 people since the ceasefire came into effect, according to the Palestinian territory’s health ministry. — **AFP**



Residents inspect the shell of a vehicle following an Israeli air strike in the Tel al-Hawa area in Gaza City yesterday. (AFP)

Arab League warns of Israeli plans to expand Jewish communities in Negev, Galilee

CAIRO: The Arab League said it is deeply concerned about the remarks and plans declared by the extremist Israeli Finance Minister regarding the expansion of new Jewish settlements in the Negev and Galilee regions, increasing the population numbers there, along with policies affecting Arab towns and the authority of planning and land agencies.

In a statement yesterday, Secretary-General Nabil Fahmy stressed that the implications of these plans in terms of discrimination based on national identity and belonging telegraph a grave escalation of racist tendencies within the international community.

These plans deepen the approach of discrimination and exclusion at the expense of the principles of equality and the rights of Arab citizens, Fahmy underlined, warning of the perilous societal and political consequences of institutionalizing such approaches and turning them into public policies.

He pointed out that these developments are cast in the broader context of Israeli policies intended to impose a new fait accompli on the ground, chiefly settlement expansion, impairing the foundations of a Palestinian state, which obviously go at variance with the rules-based international order and imperil the opportunities of reaching a fair and enduring political settlement.

He underscored that the two-state solution is the sole off-ramp to achieving lasting security, stability and peace in the region. — **QNA**

Lebanon urges Greece to help implement truce with Israel

ATHENS: Lebanese President Joseph Aoun asked Greece yesterday for support in implementing a US-sponsored agreement with Israel, hours after Greece and Israel announced a multibillion-dollar arms deal.

Israel and Lebanon launched direct talks aimed at ending hostilities.

In late June, the two countries signed a framework deal calling for the disarmament of Hezbollah, a gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces from south Lebanon and the deployment of the Lebanese army to the area, starting in

"pilot zones". "Lebanon and the Lebanese people are tired of wars, and from the start of the negotiations with Israel the aim was to put an end to the state of hostility," Aoun told a meeting in Athens with Greek President Konstantinos Tassoulas.

"The framework agreement... cannot be implemented unilaterally. It needs to be implemented on both sides," he said.

"We request Greece’s assistance as much as possible to help Lebanon."

Aoun said Israeli attacks since the latest war erupted have killed more than 4,300

people in Lebanon, wounded more than 12,000, and destroyed between 60 and 70 villages.

"Solving the problem by military force will not succeed," he warned.

At a press conference with Aoun, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said his country supported "the sovereignty, independence and unity of Lebanon", and would support "all efforts aimed at de-escalation and mutual comprehension".

Aoun said he looked forward to continued Greek support for Lebanon’s army,

insisting on a "full withdrawal" of Israeli forces, and on Lebanese state control across the country.

He also voiced hope for Greece’s help on the international stage, including at the United Nations, "where we are discussing the continuation of a UN role in south Lebanon".

Lebanon is seeking a renewal of the mandate of the UNIFIL peacekeeping force there, which has acted as a buffer between it and Israel for decades, but whose mandate expires at the end of this year.

The United States and Israel oppose a renewal. — **AFP**

Bahrain, Serbian FMs discuss bilateral ties

MANAMA: Bahrain’s Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani discussed via a phone call with his Serbian counterpart Marko Djuric several topics of mutual interest. The call also touched on cooperation and relations between the two countries.

— **QNA**

DR Congo Ebola epidemic passes 6,000 cases

KINSHASA: The Democratic Republic of Congo has recorded more than 6,000 confirmed cases and nearly 3,000 deaths from the country’s worst Ebola epidemic ever, according to the Congolese authorities’ latest toll yesterday.

Since being declared in mid-May, the latest bout of the viral haemorrhagic fever has surpassed a 2018-2020 outbreak to become the deadliest in the vast central African country’s history.

The current epidemic is being caused by the Bundibugyo strain of the virus, for which no approved vaccine nor specific treatment exists.

It rapidly spread across six provinces in the DRC’s restive north and east, plagued by a plethora of armed groups fuelling long-running violence in the mineral-rich region.

According to yesterday’s toll from the Congolese health authorities, 2,911 people have

died, while 1,366 more have made a recovery out of the 6,041 cases confirmed since the epidemic began.

The response to the epidemic, already underfinanced, has struggled to keep up with the explosion in cases.

With the state having long been absent in many parts of the epidemic’s epicentre in the eastern DRC, health workers have also had to contend with the distrust of the authorities from some within the affected communities.

According to the Congolese health authorities, the Bundibugyo variant often causes apparently mild symptoms in its initial stage, which complicates detection.

Most of the DRC’s previous Ebola epidemics have been caused by the Zaire strain of the virus. Several vaccines and treatments are currently being tested to see if they are effective against the Bundibugyo strain. — **AFP**

Ethiopia Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed could consolidate power as ‘executive president’

ADDIS ABABA: A weeks-long political dialogue in Ethiopia has backed constitutional changes to create a new presidential system that could extend Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s control over the country.

Abiy, 50, has ruled the Horn of Africa country of 130 million since 2018. His party won another landslide victory at elections in June, albeit in the midst of a crackdown on the opposition and media.

That was followed by a long-promised "national dialogue", in which some 4,000 delegates gathered to discuss the country’s many challenges, including its deep ethnic divides and ongoing insurgencies.

More than a month of talks ended on August 22 with the delegates overwhelmingly backing plans to combine the office of prime minister and the largely ceremonial presidency into a new "executive presidency".

It could be put before

parliament as soon as it reconvenes in October.

Most assume that Abiy, who was absent from the dialogue, will get the job if it goes ahead, since this new president will be selected by a parliament packed with his supporters.

They say it will be a more unifying role, representing all of Ethiopia’s ethnic groups, compared to the current system in which Abiy is elected as a member of parliament from his Oromia region.

It will create "a more unified country to overcome the challenges the country currently faces", said Tiglu Melese, secretary-general of parliament’s upper house.

The dialogue also recommended that funding be cut to ethnic-based parties in favour of "national" ones.

Critics fear all this will allow Abiy to consolidate personal power, as Turkey’s Recep Tayyip Erdogan did when he jumped from prime minister to a newly created executive

presidency in 2014. "It would only allow the current prime minister to assume the executive presidency while effectively concentrating power in a single individual," said political analyst Befekadu Hailu.

Ethiopia faces deep ethnic divides, with armed conflicts ongoing in its two most populous states, Oromia and Amhara, and fears that the 2020-2022 civil war in the northern Tigray region — which killed an estimated 600,000 people — may reignite at any moment.

Critics say the dialogue — which excluded armed groups and was boycotted by key opposition parties — did little to address these challenges.

"It cannot ensure the two greatest needs of the country: durable peace and stability, and democratic governance," said Merera Gudina, chairman of the Caucus of Opposition Parties, which stayed away from the dialogue. — **AFP**

Passengers stranded overnight by Kenya airport strike

NAIROBI: Hundreds of passengers were stranded at Kenya’s main international airport overnight as the latest strike by workers entered a second day yesterday.

Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Nairobi is a major hub for the east African region and vital to the country’s tourism trade, but has seen multiple strikes in recent years as workers push for better conditions.

Several flights were cancelled on Sunday and an AFP journalist saw hundreds of travellers stuck at the airport, with local media reporting that many were forced to spend the night there.

Kenya Airways said Sunday that flights were leaving with an average delay of two to three hours. "Nothing is happening, updates are reaching us late. It’s ruining our itinerary," 22-year-old traveller William Obino told AFP.

The Kenya Aviation Workers Union (KAWU) says it is striking over a longstanding failure of the Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) to finalise a new collective bargaining agreement.

It also opposes the use of volunteers from the National Youth Service as airport staff.

KAA said it was "working closely with the relevant aviation agencies, airlines and other stakeholders to manage



Stranded passengers sit on the pavement as they wait with their luggage by the departure terminal of the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, in Nairobi, yesterday. (AFP)

the situation, minimise disruption and facilitate the smooth flow of airport operations." — **AFP**

Iraq sentences kidnapper of US journalist to 15 years in prison

BAGHDAD: Iraq’s judiciary has sentenced a man to 15 years in prison for the kidnapping of an American journalist who was abducted earlier this year, a judicial source said yesterday.

At the height of the Middle East war, on March 31, Kataeb Hezbollah group kidnapper journalist Shelly Kittleson in Baghdad, holding her for several days before setting her free just hours before the United States and Iran agreed to a ceasefire.

Iraqi authorities arrested one member of the group at the time. According to a document shared by local media, a

criminal court on Sunday sentenced Amir Rahim Jabbar to 15 years in prison under an "anti-terrorism law... for the crime of kidnapping" Kittleson. A judicial source verified to AFP the document’s authenticity, and a Kataeb Hezbollah source confirmed the ruling against one of its members.

Kittleson, who shared a copy of the ruling on X, said she was "grateful to the Iraqi judiciary". The new Iraqi government of Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi says it is committed to ensuring that armed groups hand over their weapons to the state. — **AFP**

International Media Forum delegates explore Samarkand’s Islamic heritage

MOHAMMED OSMAN ALI
THE PENINSULA
IN SAMARKAND, UZBEKISTAN

PARTICIPANTS in the International Media Forum visited the historic city of Samarkand on August 27, touring the Imam al-Bukhari Memorial Complex and some of the city’s most prominent cultural and religious landmarks.

The visit formed part of the forum’s programme introducing international media delegates to Uzbekistan’s Islamic heritage, history and architecture. Participants were divided into language groups for guided tours.

A major stop was the Imam al-Bukhari Memorial Complex in Khartang village, about 25 kilometres from Samarkand. The complex houses the tomb of Imam al-Bukhari (810–870), one of the most influential hadith scholars in Islamic history and compiler of Al-Jami’ al-Sahih, commonly known as Sahih al-Bukhari.

The visit comes as Samarkand strengthens its profile as a centre of Islamic culture and heritage. The Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) designated Samarkand as the Cultural Capital of the Islamic World for 2025.

According to a tour guide, the first mausoleum at Imam al-Bukhari’s burial site was built during the Shay-banid period in the 16th century.

The site underwent major redevelopment in 1997–1998 under Uzbekistan’s first president, Islam Karimov, when it was expanded to about 10 hectares and a mosque with capacity for



Imam al-Bukhari Memorial Complex

approximately 1,500 worshippers was added.

A far larger reconstruction project was launched in 2021 under President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The renovated complex opened in March 2026 and now covers approximately 44–45 hectares.

The expanded complex includes Imam al-Bukhari’s mausoleum, a mosque accommodating about 10,000 worshippers, a museum, library, hotels, madrasa (school) and other facilities for visitors. The complex receives up to 65,000 visitors a day.

The redevelopment combines traditional Islamic and Central Asian architectural elements with modern construction. White marble dominates the facades, while landscaped avenues, open squares, water features and a reflecting pond shape the surrounding grounds.

The visit comes as Samarkand strengthens its profile as a centre of Islamic culture and heritage. The Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization designated Samarkand as the Cultural Capital of the Islamic World for 2025.

One of its notable architectural features is an (iwan), a covered terrace characteristic of Islamic architecture. The structure is supported by 154 intricately carved wooden columns, traditionally said to symbolise the trees of the Garden of Paradise.

The museum, spread across nine interconnected pavilions, traces Imam al-Bukhari’s life, travels and

scholarship, as well as the historical period in which he lived. Its exhibitions incorporate modern technology, including 3D reconstructions, digital presentations and artificial intelligence-based displays. A separate interactive section has also been developed for children.

Part of the museum is devoted to the life of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and major events that became central to the hadith traditions subsequently collected and studied by Islamic scholars.

At the heart of the exhibition is Imam al-Bukhari’s Al-Jami’ al-Sahih. The displays explain his methods of collecting, examining and authenticating hadith, work that has influenced Islamic scholarship for more than a millennium.

Interactive panels allow visitors to explore hadith texts in several languages, while multimedia presentations trace al-Bukhari’s journeys across major centres of the Muslim world in pursuit of knowledge. Digital films also depict his childhood, education and dedication to scholarship.

The complex has become part of Uzbekistan’s broader effort to position Samarkand as an international centre for Islamic scholarship, heritage and religious tourism.

The media delegation also toured some of Samarkand’s best-known historical monuments, including Registan Square, Shah-i-Zinda and the Bibi-Khanyam Mosque.

At Registan Square, delegates viewed the Ulugh Beg, Sher-Dor and Tilla-Kari madrasahs, an architectural



ensemble renowned for its monumental facades, domes and intricate tilework.

The delegation also visited Shah-i-Zinda, a historic necropolis containing elaborately decorated mausoleums and regarded as an important historical site.

The tour offered International Media Forum participants a glimpse into the city’s centuries-old role as a crossroads of religion, scholarship, trade and culture in Central Asia. With its historic monuments and newly redeveloped religious and cultural institutions, Samarkand continues to draw on that heritage as it seeks a greater role in international cultural and religious tourism.

Nepal flood death toll rises to 939, missing drops to 3,925: Disaster authority

KATHMANDU: Devastating floods near the border with China have killed at least 939 people in Nepal, while the number of missing in the country dropped to 3,925, its disaster authority said yesterday, as rescue efforts entered a sixth day.

Chinese state media earlier confirmed 16 dead and 546 people missing in Tibet, taking the overall toll to 955 dead and 4,471 missing.

The Nepal Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that more than 10,000 people, including over 323 foreigners, were rescued during the floods, adding:

"Approximately 590 foreign nationals from 39 countries are still missing."

But the number of missing workers on hydropower projects which took the full force of the torrent dropped to 639 on yesterday from an earlier count of 933.

Nepal’s disaster agency listed 3,333 missing citizens in its update yesterday evening.

That includes Nuwakot district, with 1,158 missing, and a further 865 unaccounted for in Rasuwa district. The missing includes 45 Nepali army soldiers, 38 police officers and 18 customs

and immigration officers.

In India, authorities in Uttar Pradesh state said they had recovered 17 bodies from rivers flowing from Nepal, believed to be flood victims.

Indian authorities are seeking to identify the bodies, and they are not included in the toll.

More than 2,500 buildings were destroyed in Nepal’s Trishuli valley in tsunami-like glacial floods on August 26, according to data from Europe’s Copernicus observatory.

Rescuers struggled on Monday through mud and debris for a sixth day. Nepali Prime



Nepal’s army personnel carry the bodies of deceased flood victims during a search operation along the Narayani river at Bharatpur in Nepal’s Chitwan district yesterday. (AFP)

Minster Balendra Shah in a statement on Sunday called the

disaster "unimaginable and heartbreaking". — **AFP**

Pacific Islands summit opens in shadow of China, Taiwan tensions

PALAU: The Pacific Islands’ annual summit opened yesterday with a pointed message that outside partners “do not choose our destination”, as five leaders skipped the talks shadowed by China-Taiwan tensions.

The gathering aims to grapple with challenges such as climate change, drug crime and the Chinese test-firing of a ballistic missile in July that landed in the Pacific Ocean.

But at least five leaders won’t attend, sending lower-ranked ministers in their place. The 18-member Pacific Islands Forum is being hosted by Palau, a diplomatic ally of Taiwan.

Beijing claims the self-ruled island as part of its territory, and has protested against Taiwan’s inclusion among aid partners invited to attend, which include China, Singapore, Japan, Britain and the US. — **AFP**

China penalises 10 people for misinformation over deadly mudslide

BEIJING: Chinese authorities penalised 10 people accused of spreading misinformation online about a deadly mudslide along the Nepal border, police said yesterday, as rescuers scour for hundreds missing at a border crossing on the Tibetan side.

The penalties, which could range from fines to 10 days in detention, came as rescuers on both sides of the border pressed on with search operations after a devastating wall of water tore through parts of Nepal and Tibet in China last week, sweeping away entire villages.

Rumours shared by the 10 individuals suggested the number of missing or dead was vastly more than officially reported figures, according to a statement by the cybersecurity bureau of China’s Ministry of Public Security.

One individual, surnamed Qiu, had shared online that “the news reports 1,400 fatalities, but in reality 3,000 people had previously been reported missing”, while another surnamed Liu had said more than 3,000 people died in China as a result of the mudslide, the statement added.

Authorities did not specify what punishment each individual received.

The floods have killed at least 903 people in Nepal, where 4,247 people are missing, according to the country’s disaster authority.

Another 16 have died and 546 people are missing in Chinese-administered Tibet, where the mudslide flattened an area of “about 0.7 square kilometres” the equivalent of 98 football pitches, Chinese state media reported. — **AFP**

Indonesia, US and allies launch annual military drill

BANDUNG: Indonesia, the United States and more than a dozen allies launched annual joint military exercises yesterday to boost defence capabilities and “deter aggression” in the Asia-Pacific region.

Jakarta maintains a neutral foreign policy, what it calls “free and active,” as it walks a

diplomatic tightrope seeking good relations with both Washington and Beijing.

The Southeast Asian giant held a joint navy drill with China this month that was blasted by Taiwan as a “provocation”.

Indonesia, the United States and certain allies have taken part in the annual drills, known as “Super Garuda Shield”, for

nearly two decades.

This year’s edition will entail 4,700 soldiers from countries including Britain, France and Japan drills in several locations including Sumatra and Borneo islands until September 11.

East Timor, Italy, Thailand and other nations have sent observers. Indonesia upgraded US defence ties in April. — **AFP**

Thailand rallies automakers, oil firms to boost biofuel use

BANGKOK: Thailand’s Department of Energy Business said yesterday that it has partnered with 13 car brands, five motorcycle makers, and seven fuel retailers to promote wider use of E20 gasoline, as the government seeks to cut reliance on imported crude amid ongoing Middle East tensions.

Thailand currently has sufficient ethanol production capacity to support wider adoption of E20,

with more than 4 million cars and about 80 percent of motorcycles already able to run on the fuel blend, which is priced below standard gasoline, the department said in a statement.

However, E20 sales average just 5.88 million liters a day, 18 percent of gasoline demand, held back by consumer uncertainty over vehicle compatibility and misconceptions about engine performance, said

Sarawut Kaewthathip, director-general of the department.

Automakers will publish compatible model lists and confirm E20 causes no engine damage, Sarawut said, adding that the agency maintains strict quality oversight from refineries to retail stations, giving consumers assurance on fuel quality.

Supporting domestically produced biofuels benefits consumers through cost savings

and bolsters the Southeast Asian nation’s agricultural sector by adding value to farm produce and stabilising crop prices, he told a press conference.

Officials also called on motorists to switch to E20 to help the country navigate the global energy crisis stably and sustainably and urged the public to help spread accurate information about the fuel’s benefits. — **XINHUA**



Indonesia battles wildfires as haze spreads

Indonesia has intensified efforts to contain widespread wildfires as thick smoke and haze affect communities across the country. In Tumbang Nusa, Central Kalimantan, firefighters used an excavator to dig boundary trenches and spray water to prevent flames from spreading. Authorities have also deployed cloud seeding and water-bombing operations to combat the fires. Officials said more than five million people on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra have been directly exposed to health risks from the hazardous haze. (AFP)

Over 8,600 Afghan refugees return home from Pakistan and Iran

KABUL: A total of 1,680 Afghan refugee families, comprising 8,649 individuals, have returned to Afghanistan from neighbouring Pakistan and Iran over the past five days, the High Commission for Addressing Returnees’ Problems announced yesterday.

The returnees reentered the country through several strategic border crossings, according to the commission.

All returning families received immediate assistance, including food supplies, drinking water, healthcare services, and free transportation.

Afghanistan has an estimated 6 million citizens living abroad, the vast majority in Iran and Pakistan, with a significant proportion lacking formal documentation. — **XINHUA**



World in brief

Japan’s oldest person dies at 115

TOKYO: Japan’s oldest person, Shigeko Kagawa, a 115-year-old woman who lived in the western prefecture of Nara, passed away late last week, local media reported yesterday.

According to Kyodo News, Kagawa, born in 1911, died Thursday. Fuyo Kishimoto, a 114-year-old woman living in neighbouring Kyoto Prefecture, has since become the country’s oldest living person. In 2021, Kagawa, then 109, became the world’s oldest Olympic torchbearer in the Tokyo Olympic torch relay. — **XINHUA**

11 killed in blast at firecracker factory in India

NEW DELHI: At least 11 people were killed and many others injured yesterday in a massive blast at a firecracker factory in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, officials said.

The blast took place in Manori village of Kaushambi district, about 205 km south of Lucknow, the capital city of Uttar Pradesh. Rescue efforts are underway, said Kaushambi district magistrate Amit Pal. Police suspect more people might be trapped underneath, and there are fears the death toll could increase.

Local television news channel NDTV, quoting officials, said more than 18 people are suspected to have been injured in the incident. The explosion reportedly caused extensive damage to the factory and five to six nearby structures. — **XINHUA**

Google Maps renames Lake Ontario ‘Lake America’ in US, but not Canada

WASHINGTON: Google redesignated Lake Ontario as “Lake America” on maps seen by US users on Sunday after President Donald Trump announced he was renaming the body of water, with a Canadian official slamming the cross-border tensions as “absolutely backwards.”

People in Canada will still see the body of water labelled Lake Ontario, the Indigenous-rooted name used since the 17th century, on their devices and computers, the US-based tech giant said.

The nomenclatural spat erupted as the latest element of Trump’s “America First” narrative, with the longtime allies ramping up a trade war that has seen Washington and Ottawa slap tit-for-tat tariffs on each other.

Trump launched a new salvo of criticism Sunday, taking aim at the auto industry -- even as the United States and Canada have deeply interconnected auto manufacturing sectors, with a hefty amount of Canadian parts used in US-made vehicles. — **AFP**

US vows to keep economic pressure on Iran as G20 finance talks begin

ASHEVILLE: US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent vowed yesterday to persist with economic pressure on Iran, saying a turning point could be near as G20 finance leaders opened talks clouded by war and trade tensions.

“We are going to continue exerting pressure, and we’ve had very good discussions here already,” Bessent told reporters before starting meetings with Group of 20 finance ministers and central bank governors.

He said a turning point in this US pressure campaign could come “within weeks or months,” adding that Iran’s economy need not collapse in the Middle East war to achieve this.

President Donald Trump’s administration is working to rally G20 partners to ramp up economic pressure on Iran during the talks in Asheville, North Carolina, through Tuesday — amid a renewed exchange of fire with Tehran.

The first exchange of attacks for a month loomed over the meetings as leaders arrived Monday morning at the foggy, mountainous compound of the

Omni Grove Park Inn.

Already, the European Union urged “continued diplomatic efforts” to reach a peace settlement.

It welcomed efforts aimed at ensuring Iran ceases its “destabilizing activities and engages in peace negotiations with good faith,” including through US-led economic pressure.

French Finance Minister Roland Lescure told reporters that officials would listen to the US plans.

“We all need to work on this. The US have got a view on how to enhance sanctions. We’re going to discuss with them whether we can help on that front,” he said.

The G20 comprises 19 nations plus the EU and the African Union. It was established in the wake of the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis to boost global economic and financial stability.

Also weighing on the talks are Trump’s trade wars, with observers monitoring if the G-20 can still work together to address big economic challenges.



US Secretary of Treasury Scott Bessent (second left) and US Federal Reserve Chairman Kevin Warsh (second right) speak during the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors’ meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, yesterday. (AFP)

Analysts warn that a US-Canada trade fight impacts unity among the Group of Seven advanced economies as the countries broach tough issues in the wider grouping.

G7 finance ministers are also expected to meet on the margins of the Asheville talks.

“Canada has always been at the table and constructive, ready to discuss,” Finance Minister Francois-Philippe Cham-

pagne told reporters Monday.

He stressed the need to ensure continued economic growth and “bring back some stability in trade, which will benefit all the countries represented here today.”

Bessent skipped last year’s meeting led by South Africa, which has been excluded from the group by the US. Washington holds the rotating presidency this year. — **AFP**

Switzerland police arrest suspect in connection with Aarau shooting

GENEVA: The police of the Swiss canton of Aargau announced yesterday the arrest of a 43-year-old Swiss man in connection with the fatal shooting on Sunday at the Schachen horse racing track in Aarau, capital of the Aargau canton during a rave party.

The suspect has been placed in pretrial detention as the main suspect, the police stated in a message on social media X.

The shooting claimed the life of an Italian woman residing in Switzerland, and five other people were injured. — **XINHUA**

Hungary meets conditions to unlock €10bn in EU recovery funds: Minister

BUDAPEST: Hungary has completed the legislative and institutional measures required to unlock around €10bn in previously frozen funds from the European Union’s (EU) Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), Transportation and Investment Minister David Vitezy said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference in Budapest, Vitezy said the government had met all the milestones and “super milestones” agreed with the European Commission following a political agreement reached in May between Prime Minister Peter Magyar and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. According to the minister, more than 100 pieces of legislation were adopted during the process, alongside the establishment of new institutions and the launch or completion of several projects. — **XINHUA**

Spanish PM rules out Moroccan responsibility in migrant surge

MADRID: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez yesterday ruled out Moroccan responsibility in last month’s migrant rush to Ceuta, accusing Israel, Russia and the far right of spreading disinformation about the crisis.

More than 70,000 migrants entered the small Spanish territory in north Africa on July 30-31, swimming or crossing on foot from neighbouring Morocco in an unprecedented rush that left scores dead.

Some analysts have suggested the crisis may have been a message sent to Spain by Morocco over the disputed Western Sahara after Sanchez visited

Rabat’s historic enemy Algeria in July.

The Western Sahara is a former Spanish colony largely controlled by Morocco but claimed by the Algerian-backed pro-independence Polisario Front.

But Sanchez told Cadena SER radio that “no intelligence service with which the Spanish government normally cooperates” had suggested “any involvement in one way or another of the Moroccan authorities”.

“We must be aware that this crisis can only be resolved through cooperation and not through distrust toward Morocco,” he added.

While the National Intelligence Centre and police shared situation reports with the government, “no information made it possible to gauge the scale, the seriousness of the crisis we were going to experience,” Sanchez said. “We are continuing to investigate” what happened, he added.

Sanchez also singled out “rumours and disinformation” that spread on social networks after the mass entry, which he said were “linked to Russia and Israel, and to an ultra-right international that always uses migration to attack both Spain and Europe and divide it”. — **AFP**

Colombian rebels say kidnapped French Foreign Legion soldier is alive

BOGOTÁ: Rebels from the main splinter group of Colombia’s now-defunct FARC guerrillas claimed responsibility Sunday for kidnapping a Colombian soldier serving in the French Foreign Legion, stating that he is alive.

Jose Olger Melo Charry was taken hostage on August 6 while traveling in the department of Narino in southwest Colombia, the Colombian Army said on Thursday. Melo Charry was “intercepted and taken prisoner” by units of the Central General Staff (EMC), the group said in a statement in French, the authenticity of which was confirmed to AFP by a police source.

“He is alive, in perfect health, and has received

adequate medical care and food,” the dissident group added. The French Foreign Legion is an elite unit of the French Army composed mainly of volunteers from dozens of nationalities who serve in international military operations.

The French Ministry of Defense told AFP that “the case is being closely monitored” and confirmed that “he is a soldier in the Foreign Legion of Colombian nationality.” Melo Charry had arrived in Colombia one day before his abduction and was traveling with a woman who was also seized but released hours later, Colonel Mauricio Osorio, head of an anti-kidnapping division, told AFP on Friday. — **AFP**

UK coastguard calls off search for two missing after French boat sinks

LONDON: The UK coastguard yesterday concluded its search for two fishermen missing after a French fishing vessel sank in the Channel.

“Despite extensive and intensive searches which have taken place since Saturday night, no trace of the two missing fishermen has been found,” a Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) spokesperson said.

“Based on all the information available and the known limits of human survivability in the water temperature the decision has been taken this morning that the coastguard element of the search for the two missing fishermen has now been officially concluded.”

The Maranello trawler sent a distress call on Saturday off the coast of the English port of Plymouth, reporting problems with its fishing gear, France’s Atlantic prefecture said on the weekend. — **AFP**

Finnish court reduces jail time for Russian convicted of war crimes

HELSINKI: A Finnish court yesterday reduced the life sentence handed to a Russian neo-Nazi convicted of war crimes to 12 years and six months on charges stemming from a 2014 ambush in Ukraine.

Vojislav Torden, a former deputy commander of the Russian neo-Nazi paramilitary group Rusich, had been found guilty in Helsinki last year of war crimes committed during the ambush in the Lugansk region of eastern Ukraine. The attack on a convoy of Ukrainian soldiers left 22 Ukrainians dead and four injured.

Torden had been found guilty of leading the actions of Rusich’s soldiers during the ambush and of killing one wounded soldier.

He was also found guilty of authorising fighters to mutilate Ivan Issyk by cutting the symbol used by the group — the kolovrat, or “spoked wheel” — into his cheek. Issyk died as a result of his wounds. — **AFP**

Brazilian candidate Bolsonaro praises Bukele’s security model

SAO PAULO: Brazilian presidential candidate Flavio Bolsonaro on Sunday praised El Salvador’s hardline model for fighting crime after meeting with the Central American country’s security minister, Gustavo Villatoro.

Less than two months before October’s general election in which he will face President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the eldest son of former president Jair Bolsonaro (2019-2022) is focusing on crime and security, voters’ top concerns.

The meeting with Villatoro “greatly inspires us to implement a highly effective and firm plan to defend citizens and victims, rather than criminals, as the current government does,” Flavio Bolsonaro told reporters after the meeting in Sao Paulo.

El Salvador President Nayib Bukele enjoys high approval ratings in his country after reducing the homicide rate to historic lows amid a harsh

clampdown on gangs and crime.

Several right-wing governments in Latin America are seeking to emulate him.

Bukele has achieved “one of the greatest and most effective restorations of sovereignty and public security,” Bolsonaro said.

Villatoro is in Sao Paulo to take part Monday in a security forum organized by an industry group.

Bukele has governed since 2019, and his administration has faced criticism from human rights groups because it relies on a state of emergency under which nearly 100,000 people accused of being gang members or accomplices have been detained without warrants.

“There are too few prisoners in Brazil. There needs to be more. There aren’t more only because the laws are lax. That is why we are going to create more than half a



Senator Flavio Bolsonaro (left) and El Salvador’s Minister of Justice and Public Security Gustavo Villatoro shake hands before a press conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on August 30, 2026. (AFP)

million additional prison places,” said Bolsonaro.

The first round will take place

on October 4. Polls show the leftist Lula with a slight lead over Bolsonaro. — **AFP**

Pentagon secretly installs military influencers in civilian roles

WASHINGTON: The Pentagon has secretly installed several conservative military veterans with large online followings in government roles, declining to disclose their assignments as they amplify Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth’s viewpoints and attack those who scrutinize the Trump administration, according to people familiar with the matter and corroborating material.

At least some of the influencers have been assigned to civilian roles that could lead to changes in policy, the people familiar with the matter said. Like others, they spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Neither the Pentagon nor

those involved have disclosed the government roles despite the Trump administration’s claims that they are running the most transparent Defense Department ever.

Those involved include Rob Maness, a retired Air Force colonel, and Kurt Schlichter, a retired Army colonel, people familiar with the matter said. Pentagon records reviewed by The Washington Post show that both have active official government email addresses as of this past week and are assigned to the office of Anthony Tata, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. The email addresses include a “.civ” suffix, meaning they are labeled as civilian employees, rather than

as military personnel or contractors.

Both served for decades in uniform and, since retiring, have turned from the military to conservative commentary. Maness has more than 135,000 followers on X, while Schlichter has nearly 620,000.

Another retired Army colonel and influencer, Thomas Anderson, was listed in Pentagon records earlier this year with a “.civ” email address and assigned to Tata’s office, according to people familiar with the matter and records reviewed by The Post. An attorney, he writes online under the pen name Cynical Publius and has more than 323,000 followers on X. — **THE WASHINGTON POST**

Italy, Spain extend border checks for 15 days in migration row

ROME: Italy and Spain announced yesterday a 15-day extension of reciprocal border checks imposed in a spat over a migrant rush last month into the Spanish north African territory of Ceuta.

The Italian interior ministry said in a statement that the extension was “due to the continued relevance of the assessment factors that led to their introduction on August 1”.

Italy said it was “taking into account the initiatives already launched by Spain, together with the European Union, so that the situation in that area may move towards normalisation in the near future”.

Spain’s interior ministry, which put in place border

checks for travellers arriving from Italy for one month from August 8, responded by announcing a reciprocal 15-day extension.

Italy and Spain do not share a land border, but passengers arriving on flights now go through passport checks, which is normally not the case because both countries are members of the Schengen free-travel zone.

Ceuta is not part of Schengen. Any travellers continuing to mainland Spain must pass border controls.

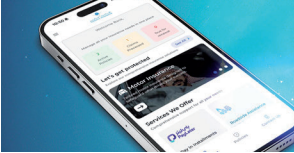
More than 70,000 migrants entered Ceuta on July 30-31, swimming or crossing on foot from neighbouring Morocco in a chaotic

influx that left scores dead and fuelled fresh tensions in the European Union over migration.

Italy’s far-right Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni was among the EU leaders who called for Spain to be suspended from the Schengen area, even though such a move is legally impossible.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Monday the rush of migrants was still under investigation, though he ruled out any responsibility on the part of Moroccan authorities.

In a radio interview, the Socialist leader also denounced misinformation spread by the “ultra-right”. — **AFP**



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PRAYER TIMINGS

FAJR 3:55AM	ASR 3:04PM
SUNRISE 5:14AM	MAGHRIB 5:55PM
DHUHR 11:35AM	ISHA 7:25PM

WEATHER TODAY

29°C

Minimum

45°C

Maximum

Hot to very hot with slight dust to blowing dust daytime



Space computing refers to an emerging computing paradigm that deploys data processing, storage, intelligent analysis and decision-making capabilities on orbital platforms, such as satellites and space stations.

‘World leaders need to see rising oceans in Pacific’

KOROR, PALAU: Leaders from the world’s top economies should stand on a Pacific atoll to see the reality of record sea level rise, a top UN official said in Palau yesterday.

Noting last week’s deadly floods in Nepal, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said rising seas in the Pacific were the “other side of that story”.

“We do already know that a warming climate is changing the world’s ice at extraordinary speeds, not only threatening the communities below glaciers but adding more water to our oceans,” she told reporters.

Mohammed was speaking in Palau, where Pacific leaders have gathered for an annual summit to discuss challenges including climate change, crime and regional security.

The United Nations is pushing for G20 leaders to attend and make commitments at a meeting hosted by the tiny nation of Tuvalu in October, ahead of the upcoming UN climate summit in

Tuvalu is preparing to relocate its population after scientists predicted most of its land may become inundated.

Turkiye, according to Mohammed.

“We think they should turn up and really engage with the world on what they need to do,” she said, even though there are concerns few leaders outside the Pacific will make the trip.

Tuvalu, which is among the most vulnerable countries in the climate crisis, is preparing to relocate its population after scientists predicted most of its land may become inundated.

Palau’s minister for the environment Steven Victor said the Pacific was “not begging for any handouts”, but had fewer resources to deal with rising seas that threaten its communities the most. “We need them to come and see,” he said.

A UN report published Monday showed a record pace of sea level rise

driven by warming oceans and glacier melt. Up to 1.2 billion people could be displaced by 2050, with Pacific island countries experiencing sea level rise at twice the global average, it said.

It also highlighted a financing gap, with developing countries needing \$310-\$365bn to adapt, yet having only \$26 billion in adaptation finance available in 2023.

Coral reefs are facing a “staircase of decline”, with global hard coral cover declining 9.5 percent due to climate change over 40 years, another report released Monday in Palau by scientists found. The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network analysed data from 37,000 reefs in 120 countries, finding a narrowing window between major bleaching events. Although reefs can recover after bleaching if they have enough time, the frequency of marine heatwaves means only partial progress is made. The study found a major bleaching event every five to six years since 2010. — **AFP**



Over 12,000 years old skeleton

A gallery assistant inspects the cave bear skeleton, more than 12 thousand years old – the largest predator of the Pleistocene era, almost three metres from nose to tail, in Stargift luxury gifts gallery in Moscow yesterday. (AFP)

China’s space-based computing cloud starts regular in-orbit services

BEIJING: A China-built space computing cloud has recently started offering regular in-orbit experimental services, according to its developer.

Led by Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT), the orbital computing power facility automates end-to-end operations across satellite platforms, space servers, ground stations and data centres, giving worldwide users a full life-cycle service from task submission, deployment, execution, monitoring to results delivery.

Space computing refers to an emerging computing paradigm that deploys data processing, storage, intelligent analysis and decision-making capabilities on orbital platforms, such as satellites and space stations.

The Chinese computing cloud platform operates on the Tiansuan Constellation, launched by BUPT in 2021. As the world’s first space computing constellation, it has deployed 16 low-Earth-orbit satellites and seven ground stations, supported more than 60

institutions in orbital tests and drawn researchers from more than 50 countries and regions to its ecosystem.

It offers several key technological capabilities, such as building reusable platform-based services, supporting long-term reliable operation of onboard software, and laying a foundation for real-time in-orbit processing of space data and autonomous satellite decision-making.

Since entering service, the platform has supported multiple tasks, including in-orbit

big-data computing and 6G communications. More than 100 users have accessed the energy-efficient service, the university said on Sunday.

Compared with ground-based data centers, the advantages of space computing cloud lie in real-time responsiveness and global coverage.

Traditional data centers are constrained by high energy consumption, limited land resources, high cooling costs, and limited coverage, which can hardly meet future demands for ultra-large-scale, green, and

globally covered computing power, while space-based computing offers a zero-carbon, sustainable, and widely accessible alternative, said Yu Guobin, deputy director of the commercial space department of the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense, at 2026 Space Computing Industry Conference held in Beijing in April.

The official noted that the space-based computing technology can offer real-time and intelligent services to

emergency response, marine observation, aviation and shipping, and polar expeditions. According to the BUPT, the platform’s value lies in helping the space information industry move from hardware delivery to persistent service delivery, cultivating new industrial growth areas in satellite internet, 6G, commercial space and emergency communications. Some of these fields are among the key emerging industries that China aims to foster over the next five years. — **XINHUA**

China’s ‘sea daughters’ wage a war on ocean plastic

HANGZHOU: As the sea glimmers under the first dawn light, a cluster of women in red vests spread out along the shoreline of Changtu, a small island in east China, harvesting not shells but plastic bottles, discarded foam, and other debris tide-washed in overnight.

For years, these once stay-at-home wives and mothers, now environmental volunteers, have waged a quiet but persistent campaign against marine plastic pollution, driven by love, faith and a sustainable business model.

“We used to think our duty was just waiting at home while men ventured out to the sea,” said Hu Songsu, 66, founder of the “Gold and Silver Island Association of Fishermen’s Wives,” at the town, known for being rich in large yellow croaker and hairtail herring, in Zhejiang Province.

In 2017, Hu, together with a group of like-minded women, launched the association, initially focusing on fishing safety. “When a wife tells her husband ‘come home early and stay safe,’ the husband listens,” Hu explained.

But over time, Hu noticed a troubling change the sea was becoming choked with trash. Discarded fishing nets tangled propellers, while used dry-cell batteries were dumped into the sea — a scene unimaginable back in her childhood.

“The sea feeds our families. We can do more,” Hu said.

The association quickly rolled out a “Blue Sea Rescue” project. Starting with 19 boats whose captains were respected village leaders, they persuaded fishermen to bring their waste back ashore.

For those who balked at the extra hassle, their wives

appealed to their beliefs: “You pray for safe voyages every year. But prayers alone aren’t enough. Bringing back waste is your real merit.” Even more compelling was the practical argument: polluted waters mean fewer fish. “How can fish survive in a polluted sea? Where will our livelihoods go?” Hu said. To boost incentives, the association set up a transfer station where marine waste is sorted and sold to recycling companies.

Part of the profits goes to impoverished fishing families, while the station’s managers — most of them fishermen’s wives — also receive monthly pay of 1,000 yuan (about \$147) to 1,500 yuan. Fishermen can redeem recycling points earned from handed-in waste for rice, cooking oil and other daily necessities, or purchase new batteries at subsidized prices



Environmental volunteers collect marine plastic waste in Zhoushan City, east China's Zhejiang Province, on February 3, 2026. (Xinhua)

when they return old ones.

Evolving from gentle persuasion into a well-run operational model, the association has recovered over 350 tonnes of marine debris, including 75,000 used batteries. In 2025, the association won the national March 8th Red Banner Collective award, one of the highest honours conferred by the

All-China Women’s Federation. Their work also contributed to the Blue Circle project, which claimed the United Nations’ Champions of the Earth award.

This year, Hu was named one of the country’s top 10 ecological and environmental volunteers by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment. — **XINHUA**

Your chatbot discussions are not as private as you may think

AMERICANS ask AI chatbots about almost everything, from health to relationships to big existential questions. While those conversations might feel enlightening or intimate, they are not always one thing: private.

A *Washington Post* review of public records and local news stories found a dozen instances of chatbot transcripts being cited in the public record in court cases over the past two years. In many cases, the transcripts were unearthed from users’ devices when searched by a police officer or an opposing party during the evidence-gathering stage of a civil case. In a handful of instances,

AI companies have reported disturbing content on their platforms to law enforcement.

“Unless you are having a chat with a service that has a temporary chat or, basically, an incognito version... [and] you’re also having it within a browser that’s not tracking you, the answer is no. You can’t be sure that it’ll be totally private,” said Jen King, a privacy researcher at the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence.

When you use an AI chatbot, such as Claude or ChatGPT, your message is sent to a data center or other company server that processes your query and returns a response. If you’re

logged into an account, you can go back to your phone or computer later to view your chat history. In court cases reviewed by *The Post*, chatbot transcripts were often retrieved from searches of users’ devices. In one case, a Missouri man agreed to let an officer search his phone without a warrant, according to police records. In another in Michigan, a defendant’s lawyer volunteered a search of his client’s devices as a show of transparency, according to court records.

If you delete a conversation from your account, both OpenAI and Anthropic — the makers of ChatGPT and Claude, respectively — say they will delete it

from their internal servers within 30 days in most cases. (The *Post* has a content partnership with OpenAI.)

Exactly how long chatbot companies retain your queries on their servers depends on the type of account you use. On regular, personal accounts, OpenAI will keep your chats until you delete them. The company also offers temporary chats that are automatically deleted within 30 days. (Anthropic, likewise, calls them “incognito chats.”)

But there are exceptions; OpenAI says it may retain deleted data, including temporary chats, if your account has been banned for violating its

policies or if the company is legally required to do so.

Many workplaces have opted into enterprise agreements with OpenAI and Anthropic that prevent the AI companies from training models on their employees’ inputs, which could include proprietary information. In general, the companies’ terms of use and privacy policy for consumer accounts may not necessarily apply to enterprise agreements. But don’t assume that your activity on your company account is private. Just like email or Slack, a corporate Claude or ChatGPT account is managed by your employer. — **THE WASHINGTON POST**

Spidey keeps spinning gold for North America box office

LOS ANGELES: The latest “Spider-Man” epic held the North American box office in its web Sunday for a fifth consecutive week, displaying major staying power for a summer blockbuster that faced fierce competition from “The Odyssey.”

With its modest first-place haul of \$22m as students began returning to school, Sony’s “Spider-Man: Brand New Day,” has now brought in \$891.5m in the United States and Canada — and an additional \$1.44bn internationally — according to industry watcher Exhibitor Relations.

The latest movie chapter in the Marvel comic book adventure starring Tom Holland and real-life wife Zendaya, and directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, follows Peter Parker as he struggles with changes to his powers and lives in isolation after erasing his identity.

Debuting in second place with \$15.5m was “Coyote vs ACME,” a family-friendly animation-live action hybrid from Warner Bros. that explores the connection between children’s entertainment and the financial interests of corporate America.

The third Looney Tunes feature film stars professional wrestler-turned-actor John Cena, Will Forte and Lana Condor, along with several animated characters of yore.

Holding steady in third spot was Christopher Nolan’s “The Odyssey,” the Universal film based on Homer’s ancient poem. — **AFP**

TRENDING IN
QATAR



On *The Peninsula* social media platforms

Lionel Messi announces international retirement

ARGENTINE superstar Lionel Messi has announced his retirement from international football after a long and illustrious career with his national team.

Municipality Ministry announces launch of Local Dates Purchasing Season

THE 2026 Local Dates Purchasing Season will run until September 17, 2026, said Ministry of Municipality.

Italy extends Schengen ban for Spain for 15 days

ITALY on Monday said it would extend by 15 days border checks with Spain put in place on August 1.

China penalises 10 people for misinformation over mudslide

CHINESE authorities penalised 10 people accused of spreading misinformation online about a deadly mudslide along the Nepal border, police said Monday.