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EDITORIAL

Resilience as a national strength

AMIR H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani's address to the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly was significant not only for its assessment of the crises confronting the region, but also for the principles it set out on how nations can withstand uncertainty while continuing to build for the future.

A particularly important message was that resilience does not emerge when a crisis begins. It is built through years of planning, preparedness and investment.

H H the Amir pointed to Qatar's efforts to secure supply chains, strengthen national institutions, maintain strategic reserves and develop trusted partnerships. This approach has enabled the country to protect its development priorities even amid severe regional disruption.

The speech therefore linked national security with development in a comprehensive sense. Investment in education, healthcare, economic diversification and national capabilities, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030, was presented as an essential part of strengthening society and preparing it for future challenges.

Another central message concerned the credibility of the international order. His Highness's forceful remarks on Palestine placed the principle of equal application of international law at the heart of the global debate. He highlighted the continuing suffering in Gaza, the situation in the occupied West Bank and Israeli violations affecting neighbouring states.

The address also highlighted the importance of functioning state institutions across the Arab world, and support for sovereignty, territorial integrity, development and reconstruction in Syria, Sudan, Libya, Somalia, Lebanon and Yemen.

The address highlighted that preparedness, development, strong institutions, respect for international law and human dignity are not separate priorities, but mutually reinforcing foundations for a more stable world.



Personal Representative of Amir conveys condolences to UAE VP

Personal Representative of H H the Amir, H H Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al-Thani, conveyed the condolences of Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani to Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai H H Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum on the passing of Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Amir sends congratulations to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani, and Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of his country's National Day. — QNA

Doha Forum report calls for renewed efforts to rebuild trust in global institutions

NEW YORK: The Doha Forum has launched its Future of International Cooperation Report 2026 in New York, calling for renewed efforts to rebuild trust in international institutions and strengthen cooperation amid growing geopolitical tensions.

The report, titled "Redefining Global Trust", was launched during the high-level week of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly. It was produced by the Doha Forum in partnership with the Stimson Center, the Global Governance Innovation Network and the Global Studies Institute at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, with the International Peace Institute as a launch partner.

The fourth edition of the report examines widening trust gaps in politics and diplomacy, the economy and technology, as well as security and justice.

It argues that declining confidence in institutions and growing geopolitical instability require changes to international leadership and stronger institutions, alongside greater adherence to international norms.

Among its proposals, the report calls for the creation of a multilateral Information Integrity Council to address misinformation and disinformation. It also proposes a global artificial intelligence center and shared computing infrastructure to help reduce disparities in access to AI technologies.

The report further recommends reforms to UN counter-terrorism efforts aimed at strengthening human rights safeguards.

At the regional level, it proposes an inter-regional network for early warning and preventive diplomacy, deeper regional and interregional trade agreements, and stronger mechanisms for enforcing regional security arrangements.



Officials and participants during the event.

The recommendations come ahead of a period of expected changes in the international system, including the appointment of a new UN secretary-general in January 2027 and discussions over the development agenda beyond 2030.

Mubarak bin Ajlan Al Kuwari, executive director of the Doha Forum, said trust was continually being reshaped rather than simply disappearing.

The report, he said, offered governments and individuals practical proposals to address misinformation and injustice, strengthen cooperation and contribute to a safer world.

The Stimson Center's acting president and chief executive, Rachel Stohl, said the report offered approaches to narrowing growing trust gaps, including through greater information integrity and more equitable access to artificial intelligence.

Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, president and chief executive of the International Peace Institute, said peacekeeping deployments had

fallen by 60 percent from their peak a decade ago, at a time when the need for crisis prevention was increasing.

The report was launched alongside a high-level discussion on "Redefining Global Trust", bringing together policymakers, researchers and civil society representatives to examine its findings and their implications for international cooperation.

The discussion was hosted jointly by the Doha Forum, the International Peace Institute, the Stimson Center and the Global Studies Institute at Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

The report is expected to inform discussions at the Doha Forum 2026, which will take place in Doha on December 5 and 6 under the theme "Redefining Global Trust".

It will also contribute to wider discussions ahead of the planned Sustainable Development Goals Summit in September 2027 and debates on the post-2030 development agenda. — QNA

WEEKEND PRICE

٢٤-٠٩-٢٠٢٦ في جميع منافذ سفاري
24-09-2026 at All Safari outletsسفاري
SAFARI
World Class Shopping Experience
Qatar

44 QR.50

لحم ضاني هندي ١ كجم
Indian Mutton 1 kg

34 QR.50

لحم بقرى بدون عظم باكستان ١ كجم
Pakistan Beef Boneless 1 kg

43 QR.50

لحم خروف استراليا ١ كجم
Australian Lamb 1 kg

24 QR.00

سمك بومفريت اسود الإمارات ١ كجم
Fresh Black Pomfret UAE 1 kg

5 QR.00

كابوريا ذكر قطر ١ كجم
Fresh Crab Male Qatar 1 kg

4 QR.25

ليمون افريقيا ١ كجم
Lemon Africa 1 kg

3 QR.00

قرع الزبدة السعودية ١ كجم
Butter Pumpkin KSA 1 kg

10 QR.00

ثوم مقشر صيني ١ كجم اعبوة
Peeled Garlic China (Approx 1 kg) 1 pkt

4 QR.50

موز الإكوادور ١ كجم
Banana Ecuador 1 kg

9 QR.00

أفوكادو كينيا ١ كجم
Avocado Kenya 1 kg

9 QR.25

برقوق احمر إيران ١ كجم
Plum Red Iran 1 kg

6 QR.50

تفاح مورغانا إيطاليا ١ كجم
Apple Morgana Italy 1 kg

1 QR.75

بطيخ عمان ١ كجم
Watermelon Oman 1 kg

8 QR.25

عنب أحمر مصر ١ كجم اعبوة
Grape Red Egypt (Approx 1kg) 1 Box

6 QR.00

كيوي الصين ١ كجم
Kiwi China 1 kg

18 QR.75

أرز بسمتي بارليمنت ديلي ديليت ٤.٥٤ كجم اعبوة
Parliament Daily Delight Basmati 4.54 kg

3 QR.50

رمان مصر ١ كجم
Pomegranate Egypt 1 kg

8 QR.00

نكتارين إيران ١ كجم اعبوة
Nectarine Iran (Approx 1 kg) 1 Box

41 QR.75

مزرعني حليب مجفف كامل
الدسم ٢ كجم اعبوة
Mazraty Instant Milk Powder 2 kg x 1 pc

10 QR.75

زيت الكانولا جنان ١.٥ لتر اعبوة
Jenan Canola Oil 1.5 Ltr x 1 pc

12 QR.00

ساديا دجاج شواية ١٣٠٠ كجم اعبوة
Sadia Chicken Griller 1300 gm x 1 pc

Prime Minister participates in high-level meeting on two-state solution

NEW YORK: Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani participated yesterday in a closed-door meeting convened by President of France H E Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister of the UK H E Andy Burnham and Prime Minister of Canada H E Dr. Mark Carney, at the level of heads of state and government, on the sidelines of the 81st session of the UNGA in New York.

Addressing the meeting, the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's condemnation of Israel's publicly declared rejection of



Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani and other dignitaries during the meeting in New York yesterday.

The PM stressed the need for the international community to assume its responsibilities and exert pressure on Israel to fulfil its obligations under the Gaza ceasefire agreement.

the roadmap aimed at completing the implementation of President of the United States' comprehensive plan to end the conflict in Gaza.

He stressed the need for the international community to assume its responsibilities and exert pressure on Israel to fulfil

its obligations under the Gaza ceasefire agreement and halt its ongoing violations of the rights of the Palestinian people, in a manner that ensures full implementation of the roadmap and ultimately leads to the achievement of peace and stability in the Gaza Strip.

He reaffirmed Qatar's firm and steadfast support for the Palestinian cause and the rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, including their right to establish an independent state along the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions and the two-State solution. — **QNA**



FROM LEFT: Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani meeting President of Namibia H E Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt H E Dr. Badr Abdelatty, and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany H E Johann Wadephul in New York yesterday.

PM meets President of Namibia and FM's of Egypt, Sweden and Germany

NEW YORK: Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani met yesterday with President of Namibia H E Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, on the sidelines of the 81st

session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

During the meeting, they reviewed cooperation and relations between the two countries and ways to support and strengthen them, in

addition to a number of issues of mutual interest.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs also met separately with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Expatriates of the Arab Republic of Egypt H E Dr.

Badr Abdelatty, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden H E Maria Malmer Stenergard and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany H E Johann Wadephul, on the sidelines of

the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The meetings discussed cooperation and relations and ways to support and strengthen them, as well as the latest regional

developments, particularly diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalation and enhancing security and stability in the region, in addition to a number of issues of mutual interest.

— **QNA**

Cabinet reiterates Amir's call for regional security

FROM PAGE 1

On another note, the Cabinet renewed Qatar's condemnation in the strongest terms of the Houthi group's drone attack on Makkah. The Cabinet affirmed that any attempt to violate the sanctity of Makkah and the Sacred House of Allah, the Qibla of Muslims and the holiest place on earth, constitutes a reprehensible act of aggression, a grave transgression of all religious, moral and humanitarian red lines, and a blatant provocation of the sentiments of more than one billion Muslims around the world.

The Cabinet also condemned in the strongest terms the Houthi group's drone attack on Taif Governorate and ballistic missile attack on Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, as well as its attempts to target civilians and civilian facilities in the cities of Bisha, Taif, Farasan and Yanbu.

The Cabinet further reaffirmed Qatar's full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and its support for all legitimate measures taken by the Kingdom

to safeguard its sovereignty, security, territorial integrity and Islamic holy sites. It affirmed that the security of Saudi Arabia is an integral part of the security of Qatar and the collective security of GCC states.

The Cabinet then reviewed the topics on its agenda and approved a draft law issuing the Unified Regulation (Law) on International Road Transport among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States and its referral to the Shura Council.

The draft law, prepared by the Ministry of Transport, comes as part of efforts to complete the national legislative requirements necessary for implementing the unified GCC regulation governing international road transport among the GCC states, thereby supporting the harmonisation of the frameworks and procedures governing this vital sector.

The draft law aims to regulate international road transport, improve road safety, enhance economic and trade integration among the GCC states, facilitate the transport of

passengers and goods, and develop a unified legislative environment that supports the smooth and efficient movement of road transport among the GCC states.

The Cabinet also approved draft implementing decisions for Law No. 3 of 2025 on the Regulation of Travel and Air Cargo Agencies.

The draft decisions, prepared by the Ministry of Transport in coordination with the Civil Aviation Authority, aim to complete the implementing instruments necessary for the application of the provisions of the aforementioned Law No. 3 of 2025 by establishing licensing conditions, the obligations of agencies and the rules governing their classification. This will contribute to enhancing the efficiency of travel and air cargo services and protecting the rights of customers.

The Cabinet approved a draft agreement between the Government of Qatar and the Council of Ministers of Albania on strategic cooperation in areas of mutual interest.



Qatar, MSK sign MoU to establish cancer hospital

NEW YORK: Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani met yesterday with Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK)

Scott M Stuart, on the sidelines of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed cooperative relations and several topics of mutual concern.

The meeting also witnessed

the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Public Health and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center to establish a cancer treatment hospital in Qatar.

— **QNA**

UDST celebrates stakeholder excellence at 'Takreem' ceremony

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) hosted 'Takreem' ceremony, honouring its valued stakeholders and recognising their contributions to innovation, research, and community engagement, in line with the University's applied education mission.

Takreem celebrates the strong partnerships that advance UDST's mission of connecting learning with real-world opportunities and contributing to the development of its students, graduates, faculty, and the wider community it serves.

Through collaboration with leading governmental and private organisations, as well as local and international institutions, the University continues to expand its academic offerings, provide students with valuable work-integrated learning opportunities, support their professional development, and strengthen research collaborations.

This year's Takreem

ceremony recognised outstanding contributions across a diverse range of sectors, reflecting the breadth of UDST's national and international partnerships. Award categories included Government Partnership Excellence, Work Placement Contribution, Alumni Employment, Sponsorship, Research Collaboration Excellence, Global Partnership Achievement, Sport and Wellness Leader, Energy Industrial Award, Information Technology, Health Sector Excellence, Banking and Financial Technology, and Student Support.

President of UDST, Dr. Salem Al-Naemi, said: "Our Takreem ceremony is an opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the partners and stakeholders who contribute to our students' success and to the University's growth. Strong partnerships are at the heart of UDST's approach to applied education, enabling us to connect learning with real-world opportunities, advance research and innovation, and prepare our graduates to



President of UDST Dr. Salem Al-Naemi with other officials and honourees during the ceremony.

contribute meaningfully to Qatar's sustainable development. We are proud to recognise the organisations and individuals whose collaboration, expertise, and support help us create lasting impact."

This year's honourees reflect the breadth of UDST's partner network, including the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Ministry of Transportation, National Cyber Security Agency, Primary Health Care Corporation, Education Above All, Kahramaa, Hamad Medical

Corporation, Sidra Medicine, Military Medical City Hospital, QatarEnergy, Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO), North Oil Company, SASOL, Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, Shell Qatar, University of Oxford, International Labour Organization, Qatar Fund for Development, PetroSkills, Paris Saint-Germain, Huawei, Google, Cisco, Naufar, Thani Humanitarian, Ooredoo, Massoun Insurance Services, Baladna, Talabat, Fatima Al Ansari, Executive Office Manager of Aspetar, Be Basketball, and Abdul Aziz

Aljedai, Student Affairs Services Manager, and Aspire Academy.

As a leading institution committed to applied learning and sustainability, UDST continues to work closely with its stakeholders to support education, research, innovation, and workforce development. Through these partnerships, the University remains focused on providing students with relevant learning and professional opportunities while contributing to the development priorities of Qatar and the wider community.

GCC chief lauds Qatar's efforts in resuming Belgium-Rwanda diplomatic ties

RIYADH: Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) H E Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi said he was grateful for the resumption of diplomatic relations between Belgium and Rwanda.

Albudaiwi commended the diplomatic efforts undertaken by Qatar to create a conducive environment for engagement between the two sides and bridge their differences in perspective, with this positive step growing out of those efforts. Albudaiwi affirmed that Qatar's hosting of the first direct meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Belgium and Rwanda in Doha, along with the constructive diplomatic efforts it undertook, reflects the Qatari diplomacy's phenomenal stature on both the regional and global stages.

He underlined that this outcome reaffirms what they can achieve in producing concrete results. — **QNA**



Al Muraikhi meets several officials on margins of 81st UNGA

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs H E Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi met separately with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia H E Tone Kajzer; Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of the Solomon Islands H E Rick Houenipwela; Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland H E Robert Kupiecki; and State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia H E Nevena Jovanovic, on the margins of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The meetings discussed cooperative relations between Qatar and these countries, as well as ways to support and enhance them, alongside a number of topics of mutual interest.

Doha conference advances Arab cooperation on prevention of corruption and transparency

FROM PAGE 1

Addressing the conclusion of the conference, Al Misnad expressed appreciation to the participating states, delegations and partner organisations for their constructive cooperation and contributions to the success of the event.

He said the conference provided a renewed opportunity to affirm that combating corruption is a shared responsibility and that strengthening integrity and transparency cannot be achieved through individual efforts, but requires cooperation, exchange of expertise and the integration of roles among relevant institutions.

Al Misnad said the discussions during the conference and the accompanying Arab Forum highlighted the importance of continuing to develop preventive tools, benefiting from successful experiences and practices, and keeping pace with institutional and technological developments.

Ambassador Dr. Maha Bukheit, Supervisor of the Legal Affairs Sector and Secretary-General of the Conference of the States Parties to the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention, highlighted the convention's role in promoting Arab cooperation against corruption as a cross-border phenomenon.

She said the sixth session's agenda included reviewing implementation of decisions from previous sessions, regional meetings, workshops and training programmes, as well as preparations for a regional expert meeting to develop the proposed unified Arab guide for parallel financial investigations.

Saeed Shehadeh, Adviser to the President of the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission and President of the conference's fifth session, said several regional workshops and meetings had been held to implement decisions of the previous session. These included a workshop on parallel financial investigations in corruption cases hosted by the Iraqi Integrity Commission in partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Participants also approved decisions concerning enhanced review of implementation of the convention, the recommendations of the open-ended committee of government experts and representatives of independent bodies, and the implementation plan for the fifth session.

The conference agreed to hold the fifth session of the Implementation Review Team in December 2026, including preparations for the second review cycle beginning in 2027.

Oman was also approved to host and chair the seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention in 2028.

MCIT receives recognition award from UDST

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) received a recognition award from the University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST), in recognition of the strong partnership between the two institutions and the Ministry's contribution to advancing areas of mutual collaboration.

The award was received by Assistant Undersecretary for Digital Industry Affairs, Reem Mohammed Al Mansoori, during a recognition ceremony hosted by UDST at Rosewood Hotel Doha, in the presence of representatives from the University's partners and various organisations.

MCIT and UDST have established a partnership focused on developing digital capabilities, promoting knowledge and expertise exchange, and strengthening alignment between academic outcomes and the evolving needs of the digital sector.

Key areas of collaboration include the Winter School on Artificial Intelligence and Software Engineering, first launched in 2025 and held for a second edition in January 2026. The programme brought together academics, researchers, and professionals for lectures and hands-on workshops covering advanced topics in artificial intelligence and software engineering.

The partnership also extends to research and development and advanced digital technologies, supporting national capacity building, strengthening the link between academic expertise and practical applications, and developing the skills needed to keep pace with the rapid evolution of the communications and information technology sector.

One of the key areas of cooperation between the MCIT and UDST is the Winter School in Artificial Intelligence and Software Engineering initiative, which aims to develop digital capabilities and enhance advanced skills to keep pace with the rapid developments in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector.



Assistant Undersecretary for Digital Industry Affairs Reem Mohammed Al Mansoori receives the award from UDST President Dr. Salem Al-Naemi during the ceremony.

The first and second editions achieved notable success through specialised sessions and hands-on workshops covering artificial intelligence, software engineering, and emerging technologies, with the participation of academics, researchers, students, and professionals.

Building on this success, both parties are preparing to launch the third edition of the Winter School, continuing their efforts to promote knowledge exchange and develop skills in the latest fields of artificial intelligence and technology.

MCIT continues to strengthen its partnerships with academic institutions across the State of Qatar to support the development of national talent, foster closer alignment between education and the needs of the digital industry, and contribute to the objectives of the Digital Agenda 2030 and Qatar National Vision 2030.

Safari launches '1980 Oru Thekkan Nostalgia' Travancore Food Festival promotion

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Safari, one of the leading hypermarket chains, has launched its '1980 Oru Thekkan Nostalgia' (Travancore Food Festival) promotion.

The promotion was inaugurated on Wednesday, September 23, at the Bakery & Hot Food section of Safari Mall, Abu Hamour. The inauguration was jointly carried out by Deputy Chairman & Managing Director of Safari Group Zainul Abideen, and Mohammed Hamad Soofan Al Ahbabi. Other representatives

Featuring an extensive celebration of traditional delicacies, the festival has been designed to delight food lovers with a wide variety of authentic local flavours.

of the Safari management were also present at the ceremony.

'1980 Oru Thekkan Nostalgia', also known as the Travancore Food Festival, is a highly diverse and attractive promotion. Featuring an extensive celebration of traditional delicacies, the festival has been designed to delight food lovers with a wide variety of authentic local flavours.

Another major attraction of the promotion is its nostalgic setting, specially created to take customers back to the memories and atmosphere of the 1980s. Even the staff have been given specially designed costumes inspired by the fashion of the 1980s, adding to the authentic nostalgic experience. These unique arrangements have already attracted considerable public attention.



Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of Safari Group Zainul Abideen and Mohammed Hamad Soofan Al Ahbabi with other officials and guests inaugurating the promotion.

Sri Lanka seeks to deepen ties with Qatar, strengthen opportunities for workers: Deputy Minister

FROM PAGE 1

He added that the integration of foreign affairs and foreign employment under the same ministerial structure had created greater opportunities to address employment-related issues.

Sri Lanka is particularly looking at opportunities in the information technology sector in Qatar, while also developing skilled employment pathways in other countries, including Japan and South Korea.

During his Qatar visit, Hemachandra met Qatar Chamber, Qatar Fund for Development, Qatar Charity and potential investors, encouraging greater investment in Sri Lanka through the country's Board of Investment.

"Qatar Chamber was also very helpful, and they were also very interested, expressing their feelings and intention to cooperate in Sri Lanka," he said.

The Deputy Minister said Sri Lanka

wanted to see greater Qatari investment, development assistance and other forms of cooperation, alongside the longstanding employment relationship.

He identified foreign employment, maritime connectivity, aviation connectivity and energy security as key areas linking Sri Lanka with the Gulf region.

"When it comes to Sri Lanka, we cannot go forward without having good cooperation with this part of the world. And Qatar has always been a champion in that relationship," he said.

Hemachandra also met with the representatives of the Sri Lankan community in Qatar to hear their concerns and discuss issues related to employment and welfare.

He said responsibility for protecting migrant workers rests with the home country, host country, employers, employees and recruitment intermediaries. He said the government was determined to close loopholes in the foreign employment sector and strengthen protection for Sri Lankans working overseas.

"The government has a duty to protect its workers, whether they are inside Sri Lanka or outside Sri Lanka. So we have mechanisms, we have structured systems in order to protect them," he said.

At the same time, he urged prospective migrant workers to carefully examine their employment contracts and offer letters before signing them.



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment of Sri Lanka H E Arun Hemachandra during an exclusive interview with *The Peninsula*. PIC: RAJAN VADAKKEMURIYIL/THE PENINSULA

"When it comes to Sri Lanka, we cannot go forward without having good cooperation with this part of the world. And Qatar has always been a champion in that relationship," he said.

"There are intermediaries, those who try to exploit the situation," he said, adding that workers should seek assistance from the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment if they have concerns.

He also highlighted the introduction of the Lanka Connect mobile application, which allows Sri Lankan workers overseas to register complaints and raise employment-related issues.

The application has been supported by the International Labour Organisation.

Hemachandra said Sri Lanka was also strengthening its labour sections at diplomatic missions by replacing previous political appointments with trained foreign employment personnel.

The Deputy Minister said Sri Lanka was strengthening welfare protection for migrant workers through increased insurance coverage, a new social security scheme combining insurance and contributory benefits, and entrepreneurship, self-employment and reintegration support for returnees.

The government has also introduced housing loans through banks, while exploring social security arrangements with host countries including Qatar.

"We have multiple approaches. One is the social security benefit, and the other one is pension scheme, and on the other hand, the reintegration plan," he said. Hemachandra said his main message to Sri Lankan migrant workers was the importance of safe, orderly and regular migration.

He urged Sri Lankan workers to comply with the laws and regulations of their host countries and to seek assistance through official channels when problems arise.

Katara to host International Space Week 2026 at Planetarium

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Cultural Village Foundation Katara will present International Space Week 2026 from October 4 to 7, offering visitors of all ages a chance to explore the wonders of the universe.

The four-day event will run daily from 4pm to 7pm at The Planetarium Al-Thuraya, Building 41, in Katara Cultural Village.

Organised in cooperation with Es'hailSat, the Qatar Satellite Company, World Space Week Qatar and Sufara'a Ahdaf (Sustainable Development Goals Ambassadors), the programme aims to promote awareness of space science, technology and their role in supporting sustainable development.

It forms part of Katara's ongoing efforts to promote scientific awareness and cultural engagement as a leading destination for diverse experiences in Qatar.

According to an announcement on Katara's social media accounts, the week's activities will feature a varied schedule designed to inspire curiosity about space exploration. Free workshops accompany the main programme, allowing participants to register easily via a QR code or online link provided by the organisers.

FIRST LIQUIDATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Pursuant to the preliminary judgment No. 2026/02760, dated 27/08/2026, issued by the Investment and Commerce Court – Bankruptcy and Liquidation Division: (Harazon Petroleum Services) Registration No.: 54418

Anyone who has any rights/claims against this company is requested to submit their claim in writing, registered with the P.O. Box No. 38541, Doha, Qatar, or contact them at: Tel.: 51030111

The claimant must submit all supporting documents/evidence for the claim within forty-five (45) days from the date of publication.



QIYADA returns with a growing platform for Muslim youth to explore faith, identity and leadership

Qatar Foundation's QIYADA returns for its second edition on September 25 and 26, bringing young Muslims together to explore AI, mental wellbeing, identity, faith and purpose.

FAZEENA SALEEM
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: For young Muslims navigating a rapidly changing world, QIYADA asks a simple question: how do you move forward without losing who you are?

From artificial intelligence and technology to mental wellbeing, identity, purpose and belonging, young people today are confronting a growing number of questions, often all at once.

QIYADA, a Qatar Foundation youth initiative, is seeking to create a space where Muslim youth can explore those questions through faith, dialogue, leadership and community.

Returning for its second edition on September 25 and 26 at the Student Centre in Education City, the initiative is aimed particularly at young people aged 17 to 24, offering discussions, workshops, networking activities and opportunities to engage with speakers from diverse backgrounds.

"This year, we want to share with them the road map and they do the driving," said Wellness and Spiritual Life Lead at the Office of Wellness and Spiritual Life at QIYADA, Sulaiman T. Bah. Last year's edition focused on encouraging young people to seek knowledge and strengthen their Muslim identity so they could "get in the driver's seat".

This year, QIYADA is building on that idea by giving participants what organisers describe as a roadmap to navigate the challenges ahead.

Bah said QIYADA is not simply a conference, but "a journey" designed to help young Muslims understand that they are not alone in dealing with the pressures and uncertainties of today's world.

"We will have honest discussions about the many global challenges facing the youth, from AI to mental wellbeing," he said. "We will let them know they're not alone and that we hear them."

The initiative's approach is built around awareness, identity, practical tools, faith, inspiration, resilience and action. For Bah, the starting point is recognising the complexity of the world young people are entering.

"They're looking for answers to the complex issues that they're dealing with," he said, pointing to economic and financial pressures, AI and technology, mental and psychological wellbeing, and religious and spiritual questions. "Everything that's happening right now is happening at the same time, and it's just too much."

Yet the response to the first edition suggested that young people were actively looking for a space to have



these conversations.

When QIYADA was launched last year, organisers hoped to attract around 400 to 500 participants. Instead, the inaugural edition drew about 1,400. "That really told us that this is something that is in demand, that they need," Bah said.

The strong response has encouraged organisers to expand the platform while keeping the focus on meaningful engagement rather than simply increasing the scale of the event. One change this year came directly from participant feedback. Some prominent speakers at the first edition had only around 20 minutes on stage, and attendees told organisers they wanted more time to hear from them.

As a result, some speakers this year will be given 30 to 35 minutes. "But again, not too much time," Bah said.



"We want them to want more."

The speaker line-up has also been broadened, with new speakers selected around the issues and sub-themes that matter to young people. Sessions will address mental and psychological wellbeing, economic and financial issues, political and geopolitical developments,

taking place in both Arabic and English.

Bah said the organisers were looking for people who could address these issues "in a very youth way" and, importantly, speak the language of young people.

The programme will combine talks with workshops, fireside chats, hands-on activities and exhibitions, creating opportunities for participants to move beyond simply listening to speakers. For QIYADA, leadership is central to that approach. Bah said young people between 17 and 24 are at a particularly important stage of life, entering university, already studying at university or beginning their lives after

graduation.

At that point, many are looking for mentorship, support systems, community and a sense of belonging, while

also beginning to consider how they can contribute.

Leadership, he said, can begin within a person's immediate sphere of influence with family and siblings, among friends and peers, and eventually at national or international levels.

QIYADA therefore seeks to equip participants with practical tools, frameworks and examples of leadership while encouraging them to look beyond conventional ideas of success.

Instead it wants young people to look to their own traditions, faith and history for examples of leadership, including men and women whose lives demonstrate service and ethical responsibility.

"The first examples will be prophetic examples, of course," he said, noting that the Quran contains numerous stories that can provide examples of leadership.

This year's programme will also give young people an opportunity to

tell their own stories. A new youth short-film competition has attracted submissions exploring how young people deal with challenges and how faith helps them navigate those experiences.

Bah said the initiative was deliberately designed to hear directly from youth rather than simply talk about them. The competition is expected to develop into a film festival next year.

Another new feature is "Day Zero", a film screening on the Thursday evening before the main conference begins.

A filmmaker from New Zealand's Christchurch community will present a documentary made as a tribute to the 51 people killed in the Christchurch mosque attacks.

The film explores how tragedy can be transformed into something hopeful and enduring, a sadaqah jariah, or ongoing charity, for those who lost their lives. Bah described the screening as "almost like an appetiser leading into the weekend".

The wider programme will bring together youth speakers, scholars, filmmakers, photographers and artists, with the venue at Multaqa transformed into what organisers describe as a youth-focused space.

For Bah, one of the most important aspects of QIYADA is the opportunity for young people to engage directly with scholars and speakers they may already know from social media.

"There are not too many events like this that bring scholars really into close proximity, in workshop settings, in fireside chats," he said.

Rather than speaking from prepared scripts, speakers will be encouraged to address the challenges young people are actually facing, while participants will have opportunities to ask questions, take part in workshops and learn practical frameworks that can be applied in their lives.

The response this year has already been strong, according to Bah, with the conference overbooked and partnerships involving the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Sports and Youth.

For the organisers, the interest reinforces the need to continue developing QIYADA as a platform for Muslim youth. Its broader vision is for Qatar to become a hub for Muslim youth, reviving faith and identity as a living, modern strength, equipping young people with leadership tools and confidence, building a lasting global network and highlighting local scholars and resources.

But at its heart, Bah said, QIYADA is about helping young people find purpose and recognise their ability to contribute. By meeting peers who are facing many of the same questions, participants can begin to understand that they are not alone.

"When they identify with their peers, network with their peers and realise that they're all facing the same challenges, but from different angles and perspectives, then we can have the discussion about identity, community, sense of belonging, sense of purpose, and also a sense of contribution," he said.

For QIYADA, that contribution is the foundation of leadership. "Prophetic leadership is about serving," Bah said. "We want young Muslims to see a challenge and think: 'What can I do? Not someday, but today?'" And ultimately, the message is simple: "Leaders serve. Leaders contribute."

QIYADA seeks to position Qatar as a hub for Muslim youth by strengthening faith and identity while building a lasting global network of young leaders.



A session at the first edition of QIYADA.

Building on an inaugural edition that attracted around 1,400 participants, QIYADA has expanded speaker sessions and interactive activities in response to youth feedback.

Ottawa gathering celebrates Qatar-Canada friendship through sport, food and culture

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Embassy of Qatar in Ottawa welcomed members of the Qatari, Canadian and wider local communities to the Ottawa Fall Get-Together at Leamy Lake Park in Gatineau, Quebec, held as part of the 2026 Year of Culture partnership between the two countries.

Bringing together more than 100 attendees, the outdoor gathering celebrated the growing friendship between Qatar and Canada through an afternoon of sport, food and informal cultural exchange. Guests of different ages took part in basketball, volleyball and tug-of-war, creating a relaxed setting in which families and community members could meet and form new connections.

Ambassador of Qatar to Canada H E Tariq Ali Faraj Al-Ansari said, “We are thrilled to organise this autumn gathering at Leamy Lake Park in Ottawa to celebrate the friendship between Qataris and Canadians. This gathering represents an exciting manifestation of the cultural exchange between our peoples and sets an example of mutual understanding. The 2026 Year of Culture partnership goes beyond words, as we demonstrate the important nexus between culture, friendship, peace, and development. Our message today is that our friendship goes beyond borders, and that our cultural exchange will continue to strengthen and nurture the friendly relations between our two countries and peoples. Together, we can build peaceful and inclusive societies.”

The Qatar, Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture creates opportunities for people to discover one another's cultures and build lasting relationships. Its programme brings communities,

institutions and creative practitioners together through cultural, educational, sporting and community-led activities in the partner countries. The fall gathering's strong turnout and warm community atmosphere demonstrated how simple shared experiences can support deeper understanding and lasting people-to-people ties between Qatar and Canada.

The Ottawa Fall Get-Together followed a wide-ranging programme of exchange between Qatar and Canada throughout 2026. In Canada, the Year of Culture was launched with a dedicated media day at the Embassy of Qatar in Ottawa; M7 introduced emerging designers from Qatar to Canadian audiences at Fashion Art Toronto; Qatari artist Ghada Al Suwaidi created a special helmet worn by Pierre Gasly at the Formula 1 Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal; and calligraffiti artist Fatima Al Sharshani produced a public artwork for Montreal's MURAL Festival.

In Toronto, Doha Debates brought together students and voices from sport and media for a Town Hall exploring football fandom, community and commercialisation.

In Qatar, Canadian chefs Christian Gosselin, Eric Chong and Andy Hay shared the country's diverse culinary traditions at the Qatar International Food Festival, while Canadian artists participated in the inaugural Art Basel Qatar. Canada's sporting culture was also celebrated through street curling on National Sport Day and a wider winter sports programme featuring ice hockey, curling and skating, alongside Canadian community participation and cultural activities. Together, these exchanges have connected artists, designers, chefs, young people, athletes and families.



Community members enjoy Qatari dishes at the event.



First Deputy Head of Libya's High Council of State meets Qatar's Ambassador

First Deputy Head of the High Council of State of Libya H E Naji Mukhtar met with Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Libya H E Dr. Khalid bin Mohammed Zabin Al Dosari. The meeting reviewed bilateral cooperation and relations between the two countries.

DAAM to support Al Ghorrah for Literature and Arts 2027

DOHA: The Social and Sport Contribution Fund (DAAM) has signed a funding agreement with Qatar Foundation to support Al Ghorrah for Literature and Arts 2027. Under the agreement, the Fund will provide a financial contribution toward the organization of the event, helping to create a platform for cultural engagement and exchange and the discovery of artistic talent.

On this occasion, DAAM Director of Programs Hassan Yousef Al Obaidli said, “We are pleased to announce our support for Al Ghorrah for Literature

and Arts for the second consecutive time, in recognition of the valuable contribution it makes to Qatar's cultural landscape. This support reflects the Fund's approach to supporting events that bring together heritage and creativity, showcase the literary and artistic achievements of Arab and Islamic civilizations, and strengthen their place among future generations.”

Qatar Foundation expressed its pride in partnering with the DAAM, looking forward to continuing their collaboration. — *QNA*

QU receives Academic AI and Research Excellence Award at Google Cloud Summit 2026

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar University (QU) received the Academic AI and Research Excellence Award at the Google Cloud Summit 2026, recognising the University's work in advancing the adoption of artificial intelligence across research, education and institutional operations.

“This recognition reflects Qatar University's commitment to translating advances in artificial intelligence into meaningful impact across our

academic, research and institutional environment,” said QU President Dr. Omar Al-Ansari.

“Our collaboration with Google Cloud is helping us strengthen the tools available to our people, expand the capabilities of our researchers and build the environment needed to develop knowledge-based solutions to national priorities. This is ultimately about ensuring Qatar University continues to build the knowledge and capabilities that Qatar's future requires.”

As part of this collaboration, the university is adopting Gemini Enterprise to provide faculty, staff and students with generative AI tools that meet institutional requirements, supporting academic and administrative tasks, research and productivity. In parallel, the Spark AI Innovation Hub provides specialised computing infrastructure and advanced capabilities that enable researchers to develop, test and apply AI models in high-impact research areas.

“Qatar University is setting a definitive regional benchmark by coupling enterprise productivity with specialized research excellence,” said Regional General Manager for Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, and Iraq at Google Cloud, Ghassan Kosta. “By leveraging Gemini Enterprise to optimise institutional operations and Spark AI to catalyse advanced scientific inquiry, QU is unlocking measurable business impact across academia and reinforcing Qatar's position as a global leader in innovation.”

As part of the Summit, Vice President for Research and Innovation at Qatar University, Prof. Aiman Erbad, participated in the panel discussion, ‘Architecting the Future: How Qatar's Leaders are Scaling Data & AI.’ The session brought together technology and business leaders to discuss how organisations can build the foundations needed to scale AI securely and effectively. Prof. Erbad shared QU's experience in building the infrastructure, research environment and institutional foundations

needed to move AI from experimentation toward practical application at scale. QU also showcased its experience in adopting Gemini Enterprise, with Associate Vice President for Technology and Information Security, Dr. Nayef Al-Yafei delivering a demonstration during the Summit. The demonstration gave attendees a practical look at how the platform is being used and how generative AI capabilities are being integrated into the University's digital environment.

Qatar Rail strengthens collaborations at ‘InnoTrans 2026’

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Through its participation in InnoTrans 2026 in Berlin, Germany, under the umbrella of the Ministry of Transport, within the State of Qatar's unified Transport Pavilion, Qatar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) is showcasing its key projects and operational achievements since the launch of its services.

Qatar Rail's participation underscores Qatar's notable achievements in developing a modern, integrated and sustainable rail transport system.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, Qatar Rail signed a new strategic partnership agreement with DB Engineering & Consulting, a subsidiary of Germany's Deutsche Bahn Group and a global specialist in engineering, consulting and project management for railway infrastructure and transport systems.

The agreement aims to strengthen coordination and the exchange of knowledge, technical expertise and best practices in the railway sector.

The agreement builds on the



Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Rail, Jassim Mohammed Al Ansari and other officials at Qatar's pavilion.

longstanding collaboration between the two companies and enables Qatar Rail to continue benefiting from DB Engineering & Consulting's industry knowledge and technical expertise.

Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Rail, Jassim Mohammed Al Ansari, stated, “The signing of this agreement marks a new step in our collaboration with DB Engineering & Consulting. It reflects our commitment to building strategic partnerships that enable knowledge exchange and access

to specialised global expertise, supporting the continued development of Qatar's rail transport system and advancing operational efficiency and the passenger experience.”

He added, “Our participation in InnoTrans 2026 within the State of Qatar's unified Transport Pavilion, highlights Qatar's progress in developing a modern, integrated and sustainable public transport system.

“The exhibition is also an important platform to engage

with industry leaders, explore innovations in smart mobility, safety and maintenance, and discuss partnerships that strengthen Qatar's position on the global transport map.”

The Qatar Rail delegation held a series of meetings with leading global railway technology provider Hitachi Rail.

The programme included a guided tour aboard a Hitachi Rail high-speed train and a presentation showcasing artificial intelligence use cases in railway operations and maintenance.

Qatar welcomes resumption of diplomatic relations between Belgium and Rwanda

FROM PAGE 1

The Ministry expressed Qatar's hope that the resumption of diplomatic relations will open new horizons for cooperation between the two countries, in a manner that supports peace and stability at the regional and international levels. The Ministry has reiterated Qatar's firm belief that direct dialogue and diplomatic means represent the optimal path for resolving differences between states, and affirms the State of Qatar's continued support for all efforts aimed at bringing perspectives closer together and resolving disputes through peaceful means.

QMC launches new initiative aimed at promoting responsible digital content

FROM PAGE 1

He said academics, researchers and content creators would be encouraged to participate in the initiative and its activities. The launch event was hosted by Qatar University, with organizers highlighting the role of academic institutions in supporting knowledge-based initiatives aimed at serving the wider community. The Qatar Media Corporation's digital media office will produce media materials and videos throughout the initiative, while updates and activities will be shared through the corporation's social media accounts.

Speaking during the panel, Dr. Abdulrahman Al Harmi, a well-known Qatari educational consultant stressed the responsibility of handling digital content and the necessity of verifying it as a religious obligation prior to a societal one. He emphasized the need to provide intellectual protection for the current generation and warned against the consequences of lacking such safeguards. He also highlighted the importance of promoting noble values and urged society and families to fulfil their roles in protecting the rising generation from an open, unregulated world.

For his part, Dr. Talib Al Athba from Qatar University emphasized that social media

influencers must take the stage responsibly, given that their content reaches platform users and engages a wide audience.

He noted that the initiative is founded on the creation of collective content. This requires influencers to possess a clear message and vision rather than merely maintaining a presence in the digital space.

Meanwhile, Dr. Aisha Al Kuwari, CEO of Rosa Publishing House, emphasized the importance of maintaining a sound approach, upholding values and national identity, and taking pride in the Arabic language and a sense of belonging. She viewed these as interconnected elements in creating content that reflects society while preserving its unique character. She emphasized that the success of this initiative, launched by the Qatar Media Corporation, relies on collaborative effort.

Fidaa Al Din Yahya, one of the initiative's ambassadors, spoke about the ease of sharing content—regardless of type or subject—via digital platforms. He noted that this accessibility has turned these platforms into vehicles for achieving fame, tapping into an innate human desire. He also addressed the impact of financial gain and audience influence on an influencer's psyche, noting how this can alter the content creator's personality.

almeera launches online 10% off campaign

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: almeera has announced a new online shopping campaign offering customers 10% off eligible purchases from 24-30 September 2026, exclusively through the almeera application and website.

Customers can enjoy 10% off eligible orders with a minimum spend of QR100, with savings of up to QR100 per order. The offer can be used on a maximum of two orders per customer during the campaign period, allowing customers to save up to QR200 in total.

To benefit from the offer, customers must be registered wafa members. The discount will be automatically applied at checkout, making it simple for both existing and new customers to take advantage of the campaign.

The campaign gives customers another compelling reason to shop almeera online, combining meaningful savings with the convenience of accessing their everyday grocery needs wherever they are. The campaign is part of almeera's continued focus on growing its digital shopping experience, encouraging more

customers to discover the convenience of shopping through the almeera application and website while benefiting from the same value, range and freshness they expect in-store.

Online orders are fulfilled through almeera's extensive retail network, bringing the range, freshness and everyday value customers associate with almeera directly to them through its digital platforms.

The campaign forms part of almeera's continued investment in strengthening its digital shopping experience and making grocery shopping



simpler, more convenient and more rewarding for customers.

The offer is valid on selected eligible products and excludes large home appliances, electronics, electronic accessories, mobile phones, products already on promotion and top-up cards.

Qatar reaffirms commitment to social justice at UNGA 81

NEW YORK: The State of Qatar participated in the high-level side event titled “Delivering Social Rights, Renewing Democracy: From Doha and Chisinau to a New Democratic Pact for Europe,” held on Wednesday on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The State of Qatar was represented at the event by Director of the International Organizations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H E Sheikha Hanouf bint Abdulrahman Al-Thani (pictured).

In her remarks during the event, she emphasized that the State of Qatar’s hosting of the Second World Summit for Social Development demonstrated its firm



commitment to supporting multilateral action. She noted that the summit contributed to renewing the international commitment to placing people at the heart of the development process and promoting social justice, solidarity, and international cooperation.

Sheikha Hanouf also affirmed that the Doha Political Declaration constitutes an important framework for guiding international efforts to translate commitments into concrete action toward achieving development and social justice. This, she noted, contributes to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensuring that no one is left behind. — *QNA*

Kahramaa wins MEFMA award for FM Implementation in Large-Scale Projects

DOHA: The Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) has won the FM Implementation in Large-Scale Projects award at the fifth edition of the MEFMA Awards of Excellence in Facilities Management (FM), organised by the Middle East Facilities Management Association (MEFMA).

Kahramaa said the award reflects its leadership in adopting international best practices in facilities and asset management, while

highlighting its success in harnessing digital transformation and institutional innovation to enhance operational efficiency and drive sustainability.

The award recognized Kahramaa’s Asset Tracking System project, which uses barcode technology and is integrated with the corporation’s maintenance management system within its Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. The project spans more than 600 operational sites. — *QNA*

Ambassadors welcome Amir’s call for dialogue and diplomacy at UN

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Echoing the key messages of Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani’s address to the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday, ambassadors accredited to Qatar have welcomed the emphasis on dialogue, diplomacy, respect for sovereignty and international law as essential to addressing regional and global challenges.

They said H H Amir’s call for peaceful solutions, negotiations and multilateral cooperation resonated with their respective countries’ longstanding commitment to international law, peaceful settlement of disputes and a rules-based international order.



Ambassador of Japan H E Naoto Hisajima

As Ambassador of Japan to the State of Qatar, I commend Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani for his timely and compelling address to the current session of the United Nations General Assembly. His Highness’s emphasis on dialogue and diplomacy, respect for sovereignty and the rights of peoples, and fair solutions grounded in international law resonates deeply with Japan’s enduring commitment to a rules-based international order. We also recall with profound respect the recent tribute paid at the United Nations to the distinguished legacy and service of late Father Amir H H Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

Japan shares Qatar’s conviction that durable peace rests on the Charter of the United Nations and the peaceful settlement of disputes. We also underscore the imperative of safeguarding freedom of

navigation and maritime security, including in and around the Strait of Hormuz.

On the question of Palestine, Japan is gravely concerned by the catastrophic humanitarian situation. Ultimately, a just and lasting peace requires a two-state solution, consistent with relevant UN resolutions and international law.

Japan values its long-standing friendship with the State of Qatar and recognises Qatar’s vital contributions to mediation, humanitarian action, development, and partnership with the United Nations. We will continue to uphold and promote a free and open international order based on the rule of law, including the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and freedom of navigation. Japan remains committed to working closely with the Qatari leadership and the international community to support peaceful solutions, uphold international norms, and foster an environment where dialogue prevails over violence.



Ambassador of Malta H E Maria Camilleri Calleja

Listening to H H Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani’s address the 81st UN General Assembly yesterday, I was particularly struck by his steadfast belief in dialogue and diplomacy, even at a time of profound regional uncertainty.

As Malta’s Ambassador to Qatar, I see important resonance with Malta’s own commitment to neutrality, multilateralism and peaceful resolution of dispute. Small states understand deeply that international law, international humanitarian law, international maritime law and strong

multilateral institutions are not abstract principles: they are essential safeguards embedded in the multilateral rules-based approach.

Qatar’s continued investment in mediation reminds us that diplomacy requires patience, persistence, consistency, courage and, above all, the determination to keep channels of communication open. Malta subscribes to this approach and wholeheartedly supports it.



Ambassador of Pakistan H E Muhammad Aamer

Pakistan highly commends and welcomes the powerful and far-sighted address delivered on Tuesday by Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani at the opening session of the 81st United Nations General Assembly.

His Highness’s remarks come at a critical juncture as the Middle East traverses one of the most volatile and dangerous phases in its modern history. The Amir has placed dialogue, negotiation and mediation at the heart of his address at a moment when the Gulf could least afford miscalculation. His Highness reminded the world that time does not heal conflicts left without a just settlement, it only compounds their costs.

His Highness the Amir’s principled stance on a number of international issues. We strongly endorse Qatar’s unwavering condemnation of ongoing aggressions in Gaza and Lebanon and join Qatar in demanding that international law be applied universally, equally, and without double standards across all member states of the United Nations.

Both nations reaffirm their

support for an independent Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem (al-Quds al-Sharif) as its capital. Furthermore, they demand that Israel fully adhere to its ceasefire commitments, execute a complete withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, terminate the blockade, and guarantee unhindered access for humanitarian aid. Pakistan aligns with the Amir’s principled position that international disputes must be resolved through diplomatic dialogue anchored in international law.

H H the Amir highlighted deep concern regarding the broader economic ramifications of the Gulf crisis. The Amir also emphasised that when vital energy supply lines are utilised as instruments of geopolitical pressure, vulnerable populations far removed from the conflict bear the burden through inflated costs for essential food and medicine, a severe economic challenge that Pakistan acutely experiences.

As Pakistan’s own delegation, led by honourable Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, convenes in New York to advocate for dialogue and diplomacy, we find deep alignment with Qatar’s foundational foreign policy premise that the true regional stability cannot exist without a functioning, multi-lateral security system grounded in peaceful negotiation. Opportunities for diplomatic engagement must never be squandered or delayed.



Ambassador of Czech Republic H E Marta Hušková

We followed H H the Amir’s speech with great attention. I think his emphasis on dialogue, diplomacy, respect for sovereignty and international law is

particularly important at this very difficult moment for the region.

Qatar has an important role as a mediator and as a country that maintains channels of communication with different actors. From our perspective, these channels are extremely valuable as diplomacy matters most not between friends, but between adversaries. Because even when agreement seems distant, ultimately there is no sustainable alternative to diplomacy and political solutions.

We also appreciate His Highness’ call for greater regional cooperation and a stronger framework for regional security. Czechia fully supports the principle that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states must be respected and that disputes should be addressed through peaceful means. His Highness as well as the President of the Czech Republic emphasized in their speeches that rules are essential. Rules that will be binding for everyone. Only then can dialogue and diplomacy work.

Czechia values Qatar as a partner and appreciates its diplomatic engagement. President Pavel in his speech underlined that most of the current challenges are global. No nation can meet them alone. Therefore, Czechia will continue to partner Qatar in pursuing the idea that escalation must be avoided and that diplomacy must remain at the center of international efforts.



Ambassador of Vietnam H E Nguyen Huy Hiep

I highly appreciate His Highness the Amir’s address, particularly his clear and principled emphasis on dialogue,

negotiation and respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and international law as the foundations for resolving conflicts. His Highness’s call for reopening the Strait of Hormuz and returning to negotiations, together with Qatar’s continued efforts as a trusted mediator and facilitator of dialogue, reflects a constructive and responsible approach to preventing further escalation and promoting lasting regional peace and stability.

I also welcome H H the Amir’s reaffirmation of Qatar’s commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, as well as his emphasis on the close interconnection between peace, security and development. These principles are fully consistent with Vietnam’s longstanding commitment to peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for international law and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

I highly value Qatar’s continued contribution to mediation and humanitarian efforts, and share His Highness the Amir’s conviction that dialogue and peaceful coexistence remain essential to building a more peaceful, stable and cooperative region.



Ambassador of Rwanda H E Igor Marara Kayinamura

The Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani’s address reflects Qatar’s consistent commitment to dialogue, mediation and peaceful solutions.

Rwanda has experienced the benefits of this approach firsthand several times. We commend Qatar’s constructive diplomacy and its continued contribution to building bridges and fostering understanding in the world.

Lusail Museum Conversations presents Echoes of Cairo panel and concert

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: This September, Lusail Museum Conversations, an ongoing series of public lectures and events, is bringing the musical heritage of Cairo back to life with Echoes of Cairo: Reviving Egyptian Music from 1900, a panel talk and concert with the acclaimed ensemble Oxford Maqam.

Presented as part of Qatar Creates Talks that connects local, regional and international perspectives through interdisciplinary conversations across art, design, architecture, film, music and in partnership with Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), the event takes place at GU-Q.

The panel talk takes place on Monday September 28 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm in the Faculty Conference Room, featuring musical extracts alongside discussion. Members of Oxford Maqam will discuss the repertoire, recordings, and history behind the music, and the challenges of reviving works first captured on ageing shellac records.

Speakers include Professor Martin Stokes, King Edward Professor of Music at King’s College London and an internationally recognised

ethnomusicologist whose research focuses on music, identity, and cultural life across the Middle East; Dr Bashir Saade, a lecturer at the University of Stirling and an Arabic nay flute musician whose work bridges musical heritage with sound studies; and Dr Sophie Frankford, a Research Associate at King’s College London and an anthropologist whose research explores Egyptian musical cultures, archives, and the social life of music in the region.

The concert follows on Tuesday, September 29, from 6pm to 7.30pm in GU-Q’s Auditorium, bringing this repertoire to life in a full live performance steeped in Arab heritage. The evening features performances by five members of Oxford Maqam: Martin Stokes, Bashir Saade, Sophie Frankford, as well as Tariq Beshir, a vocalist and oud player specialising in the faithful revival of late 19th- and early 20th-century Ottoman Egyptian music, and Walid Zaido.

Renowned for its innovative approach to classical Arabic music, the group recreates historical works through extensive research and period recording techniques, restoring forgotten repertoire for contemporary audiences.

QF’s QIYADA Conference supports young people to become creators of ideas

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Foundation’s QIYADA (Qatar Islamic Youth Aspiration and Development Assembly) conference provides a platform for scholars, thought leaders and inspiring figures to engage with Muslim youth in Qatar on contemporary challenges and solutions rooted in faith, values and shared societal experiences.

The second edition, under the theme ‘Guided by Faith: Thriving in a Changing World’, will be held on September 25–26 at Multaqa (Education City Student Center). Speakers include scholar and human rights activist Dr Omar Suleiman; Dr Hanan Ahmed Al-Qattan, Founder and Director of the Etizan Center for Psychological, Educational, and Sharia Consultation and Training; Sudanese filmmaker and Al Jazeera Media Network journalist Amjad Al-Nour; and Yemeni social media influencer and blogger Fedaa Al-Deen Yahya.

The conference aims to help young Muslims develop leadership skills, connect with influential figures and innovators, broaden their intellectual horizons and turn ideas into meaningful contributions to society.

Abu Zaid Tunkara, a

The conference aims to help young Muslims develop leadership skills, connect with influential figures and innovators, broaden their intellectual horizons and turn ideas into meaningful contributions to society.

QIYADA ambassador and Grade 12 student at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education’s Religious Institute Preparatory and Secondary School for Boys, said the conference plays a key role in cultivating a generation that combines its heritage with modern tools.

Tunkara, who was born in The Gambia and is active in Arabic digital content creation and poetry, said QIYADA bridges the gap between theory and practice.

“Developing leaders goes beyond mere principles and flashy slogans,” he said. “It requires interactive workshops and experiences that foster critical thinking and train young people in decision-making and adapting to the changing times.”

He said QIYADA encourages initiative and social responsibility, helping young people move from being consumers of



Abu Zaid Tunkara

solutions to creators of them.

Tunkara also highlighted the role of religious education in strengthening young people’s intellectual resilience and understanding of their identity.

“Today’s youth face a torrent of ideas fraught with doubts; their shield against this is knowledge grounded in both rational and scriptural evidence,” he said.

He added that understanding the philosophy behind religious rulings and the values of Islamic legislation through language and literature can help young people develop intellectual and spiritual confidence while remaining connected to their faith and culture.

Tunkara also described poetry as an important tool for connecting young people with cultural and religious values.

“An educational and cultural medium capable of touching hearts and reaching the depths of the human spirit,”

he said, describing poetry’s potential when presented in a contemporary style that resonates with young people.

His own education in Qatar has combined scientific studies with Islamic studies, Arabic language and literature, as well as the memorisation of poetry and traditional texts. He said this combination had given him a balanced perspective, with sciences fostering logical thinking while language, literature and Islamic studies provided human and spiritual depth.

He said Qatar’s educational environment combines traditional Islamic scholarship with modern academic opportunities, offering young people opportunities for research, learning and intellectual development.

Tunkara believes leadership development is an important starting point for creating tangible social impact.

“Leadership is neither a position to be granted nor a title to be assumed; it is a responsibility that begins with leading yourself, and directing yourself toward the greater good,” he said. “The QIYADA conference opens its doors to those driven by the passion to transform their individual ambitions into collective successes with rewarding outcomes.”

Long-suffering: Yemeni families flee renewed fighting

ADEN: As fighting escalates once again in Yemen’s long-running war, thousands of families have been forced from their homes, many of them for a second or third time.

In the Al-Farsi camp in Aden, Arwa told *AFP* how she, her husband and their four children left Mocha on Yemen’s western coast as it was seized by Iran-backed Houthi fighters.

They shared a single motorcycle to travel 200km, first to Al-Arah in the Lahj governorate and then on to Aden, temporary seat of Yemen’s Saudi-backed government.

“We couldn’t find any means of transport... We stayed out in the cold and didn’t have clothes to keep us warm,” Arwa told *AFP* at the camp, where sat on the ground by a tent.

The camp currently hosts 128 families living under canvas along dirt paths where barefoot children run. Their tents are sparsely equipped — some bedding, cooking pots, and a few clothes and belongings that the families managed to bring with them when they ran.

It is not the first time Arwa has been forced to flee her home. Nine years ago she left Maqbanah in Taiz governorate to head to Mocha, also because of the war. “I hope I can find a house to live in with my children. We’re exhausted by the heat, the dust and the humiliation,” she said. “I hope the situation improves and we can return to our home and our families.”

Armin Yedgarian, a representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said the

camp was “in dire need of more support”, adding that its 8,800 inhabitants included many elderly people and women with children. International organisations, including the World Food Programme, distribute meals to the displaced.

Arwa received a portion of rice to feed her children. But she regrets that her seven-year-old daughter, her only school-aged child, has not been attending class since the family was forced to head to Aden.

At Aden’s Al-Firdaws camp, which currently shelters about 110 families who arrived over the past two weeks, the acting representative of Unicef’s office in Yemen, Obiya Atchieng, told *AFP* that families’ needs were not limited to food and basic supplies. “Most of the children were

Last week, Unicef said 57,000 children had been displaced inside Yemen in just two weeks and 243 schools had been closed or suspended, affecting more than 137,000 students.

children were not enrolled.

After years of relative calm, Yemen’s civil war flared back to life in July against the backdrop of the broader conflict in the Middle East.

In the past 10 days, a surprise Houthi offensive enabled the group to expand its areas of control as far as the strategic Bab Al-Mandeb Strait linking the Indian Ocean to the Red Sea, and by extension, the Suez Canal.

The civil war began in 2014, when the Houthis launched an offensive against government forces and seized vast areas of the country, including the capital Sanaa.

In 2015, Saudi Arabia intervened at the head of a military coalition to support government forces, which heightened the conflict until 2022, when a truce

was reached and largely observed until July.

As a result of the ceasefire, those under the age of four have not previously experienced conflict of this intensity.

“The sounds of explosions were new to the children, and now any loud noise unsettles them, even if it’s a motorcycle,” said one 39-year-old father of two who remained in Mocha despite the Houthi takeover.

“I try to reassure them and convince them there is no danger. But even when they’re in my arms, I can feel their hearts beating rapidly against my chest.”

The man said he had been displaced from the city of Hodeida eight years ago, and had no desire for it to happen again. — *AFP*

Moroccans vote for new parliament with eye on social concerns

RABAT: Moroccans began voting for a new parliament yesterday with unemployment and inequality front of mind, even as some expressed a lack of trust in the parties in contention.

Nearly 16 million Moroccans have registered to elect 395 members of the House of Representatives. But turnout will be a key test given the widespread voter disillusionment, especially among young people.

Though only four percent of registered voters are aged 18 to 24, youth-focused issues have found a spotlight, especially after the recent mass rush of young Moroccans into the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, as well as last year’s Gen Z protest movement demanding better health and education.

Rising unemployment, higher prices and inequality were also at the heart of much campaign messaging, as were efforts to drum up voter engagement.

As of noon, the national turnout rate stood at 11.3 percent, according to official figures, with polls due to close at 7pm.

On the campaign trail, parties focused on promises to improve quality of life in Morocco. But many, even among the older generation, say they wouldn’t vote.

“I’m not going to vote because I have lost all faith in the political class,” Majda Bakatir told *AFP* in Rabat.

“We want our country to move forward, but politicians do not seem to care about our problems regarding healthcare, education, and purchasing power,” added the 59-year-old woman.

Others, like 55-year-old Karim Ennaciri, did vote in the hopes that the

election would bring about change.

“This will allow us to see if there’s a renewal within the parties,” he said.

Polls opened at 8:00 am, and preliminary results are expected to be announced overnight.

Morocco’s prime minister is appointed by the king from the party that wins the most seats. The premier then forms a government for a five-year term, but the monarch retains control of major policy decisions.

Opinion polls are banned under Morocco’s electoral law, but observers put the National Rally of Independents (RNI) — currently heading the governing coalition — among the favourites.

Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch led his party’s campaign, although he has stepped down as head of the RNI, which will exclude him from heading the next government if his party wins the most seats. Akhannouch has defended his government’s record — including expanding social security coverage — and promised the RNI will do more if re-elected.

“We have done quite important work within the government,” he said at a recent rally.

“We carried out reforms in education and health, we increased salaries... we were there when (Moroccans) needed us.” The wealthy businessman has nevertheless faced repeated accusations of conflicts of interest involving his company Afrikaia, Morocco’s leading fuel distributor. Akhannouch also faced widespread calls for his resignation during the youth-led Gen Z protests.

The RNI’s main rival is the



A voter casts his ballot during Morocco's parliamentary election at a polling station set up inside a school in the Youssoufia neighbourhood of Rabat yesterday. (*AFP*)

Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM). The two centre-right parties are ideologically close and were founded by figures with ties to the royal palace.

The PAM has recruited a popular figure, Budget Minister Fouzi Lekjaa, better known for his role as head of the Royal Moroccan Football Federation.

“We want to make young people a force capable of bringing added value rather than being left behind,” Lekjaa recently said, pledging higher wages and better purchasing power.

But the PAM has no clear leader, and its other prominent figure is Fatima Ezzahra Mansouri, currently the minister for territorial planning and mayor of Marrakesh, who could become the

country’s first woman premier.

The PAM has also been hit by a corruption scandal. In June, a court sentenced two of its senior figures to 10 and 12 years in prison respectively in a major drug-trafficking case involving a kingpin dubbed the “Escobar of the Sahara”.

Also in contention is Istiqlal, a right-wing party led by equipment minister Nizar Baraka, with a campaign focused on social issues.

And the Islamist opposition’s Justice and Development Party has centred its campaign on fighting corruption.

The conservative party, led by former prime minister Abdelilah Benkirane, has also campaigned against women’s rights to equal inheritance. — *AFP*

ICC convicts CAR rebel leader Kani

THE HAGUE: The International Criminal Court yesterday convicted a former Central African Republic rebel commander on four counts of crimes against humanity including torture and unlawful imprisonment.

The ICC found that Mahamat Said Abdel Kani, 56, oversaw beatings and maltreatment as head of a feared prison unit as the CAR spiralled into civil war in 2013.

Wearing a blue sweatshirt and jeans, Said shook his head multiple times in the courtroom as presiding judge Miatta Maria Samba detailed the crimes.

The ICC will deliver a sentence for the crimes at a later date. Said was also acquitted of three counts of war crimes.

Said ran the Central Office for the Repression of Banditry (OCRB) detention centre in the capital Bangui where horrific acts of torture and deprivation were inflicted on prisoners.

Samba said a frequently used torture method was “arbatachar”, in which prisoners’ hands, elbows, and feet were tied tightly together behind their backs.

Others were beaten with ropes and whips, and doused in water, said Samba. — *AFP*

Australia PM says draft social media rules about taking back control

SYDNEY: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese defended new draft social media regulations after Washington warned the draft legislation could lead to censorship.

In a statement on Tuesday, the US embassy in Canberra raised “serious concerns” over draft laws that would place a “duty of care” on social media giants.

Asked about those comments, Albanese told journalists in New York he would “always stand up for Australia’s national interest”. “It’s not about giving government control, it’s about giving people back control over

what they receive on their devices,” Albanese said.

“Which is why it is framed in that way.”

Under the draft laws, social media giants face fines of up to Aus\$109m (US\$78m if they fail to protect young users from harmful content.

Social media companies would be held responsible for protecting under-18s from pornography, online bullying, content that glorified crime, and content that encouraged eating disorders.

The legislation also includes a requirement that platforms

allow users to “opt out” of powerful algorithms that determine what comes up on social media feeds. The draft laws would be introduced to Australia’s parliament later this year after consultation with social media companies, industry bodies and civil society groups.

Washington’s embassy in Canberra warned the draft laws could “allow regulators to impose rigid, one-size-fits-all platform design requirements”. “A framework that empowers governments to enforce vague definitions of ‘harm’ risks becoming a mechanism for

viewpoint-based censorship,” it added.

It also said the laws would largely impact US-headquartered companies -- and stressed its “opposition to foreign measures that result in extra-territorial censorship of protected speech by Americans online”.

Australia implemented legislation barring children from social media platforms in December, part of a world-first crackdown designed to protect children from online bullying and “predatory algorithms”. — *AFP*

 World in brief

'Israel squeezing UN Palestinian refugee agency'

UNITED NATIONS: Benjamin Netanyahu’s right-wing Israeli government is squeezing the UN’s agency for Palestinian refugees ahead of elections in Israel in an effort to boost its appeal to voters, the agency’s leader said.

UNRWA’s acting Commissioner-General Christian Saunders said Israel was being “extremely difficult” about letting in vital supplies like engine oil to Gaza for relief operations while permitting luxury commercial products. “About 30 percent of what’s coming in is humanitarian aid — the rest is commercial... I would consider some of the stuff coming in to be luxury goods. I mean, you do not need Nutella to survive,” he told *AFP* late Tuesday.

Speaking at the UN’s signature New York diplomatic gathering, Saunders also warned he would be forced to cut long-term services to refugees if his agency could not begin to bridge a \$100m shortfall in the next two months. — *AFP*

Azerbaijan president pardons Frenchman

BAKU: Azerbaijan’s president yesterday pardoned Martin Ryan, a Frenchman jailed since 2023 on espionage charges, following the European Union’s removal of two Russian billionaires from its sanctions list. President Ilham Aliyev pardoned 20 people in total, having taken into account their “personalities, state of health, family circumstances” and other reasons, his website said.

France welcomed “with relief the decision to grant clemency” to Ryan, calling it “a humanitarian gesture,” according to French Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement. — *AFP*

39 forced into scam operation in PNG

PORT MORESBY: Four Chinese nationals are suspected of forcing 39 people to work in an online scam operation from a living room in the capital of Papua New Guinea (PNG), police said yesterday.

The victims, all Indonesians, were coerced into the work at a three-bedroom property in downtown Port Moresby in which they were held, a police source told *AFP*.

Police rescued the 39 people being held against their will in a “complex people-smuggling enterprise”, Police Commissioner David Manning said Tuesday. — *AFP*

Cambodia no ‘safe haven’ for cyberscams, says PM

PHNOM PENH: Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet told an anti-fraud summit yesterday that his country would never be a “safe haven” for cyberscams, as international partners touted law enforcement successes but warned more must be done. “Cambodia will never be a safe haven for online scams,” Hun Manet told a conference against online scams organised by his government in the capital Phnom Penh.

He said Cambodian authorities had “completely dismantled all light-scale scam compounds” in a high-profile crackdown launched last year. — *AFP*

IMF warns Sri Lanka recovery at risk from El Nino, Mideast war

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka’s recovery from the worst economic crisis in its history could be upended by the El Nino climate phenomenon and fallout from the Middle East war, the IMF warned yesterday.

In a review of the \$2.9bn bailout programme, the International Monetary Fund said safeguarding the hard-won gains made since the 2022 crisis was crucial.

“Sri Lanka continues to face downside risks from uncertainty over the duration and intensity of the war in the Middle East, global trade policy and the impact of El Nino,” the IMF said in a statement.

A drop in rainfall could also affect hydroelectricity generation and force the use of more expensive thermal power generators, officials say.

Sri Lanka has raised fuel prices by more than 50 percent since the US went to war with Iran in February. — *AFP*

Tigray rebels seize airports, clash with govt forces

ADDIS ABABA: Tigrayan rebels in northern Ethiopia seized control of airports and battled federal troops in the neighbouring Afar region, multiple sources told *AFP* yesterday, as long-standing tensions spilled into open conflict.

Two humanitarian staff working in the Afar region told *AFP* that fighting broke out in the towns of Abala and Erebiti late Tuesday between the TPLF and federal forces.

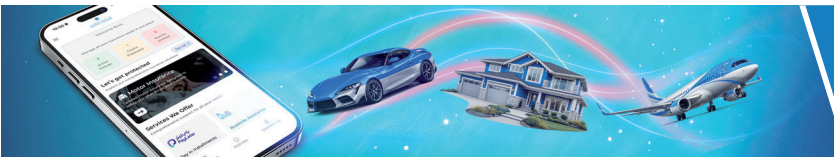
“We are expecting it to expand. We just sent a truck with food to help the people displaced,” one said, requesting anonymity.

A foreign security source in Ethiopia confirmed the clashes and said the TPLF was in control of Abala.

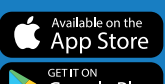
Abala is located in mountain ranges that mark the border with Tigray, and federal forces have been based there in recent months. Erebiti lies around 100



Tigray People's Liberation Front fighters prepare to leave for another field at Tigray Martyr's Memorial Monument Center in Mekele, the capital of Tigray region, Ethiopia, on June 30, 2021.



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PRAYER TIMINGS

FAJR 4:06AM	ASR 2:53PM
SUNRISE 5:23AM	MAGRIB 5:31PM
DHUHR 11:27AM	ISHA 7:01PM

WEATHER TODAY

27°C

Minimum

39°C

Maximum

Misty to foggy at places at first, hot day time.



The Los Angeles museum built by the 82-year-old “Star Wars” franchise creator George Lucas alongside his wife and business partner Mellody Hobson is intended to be a “people’s temple of art,” according to its creators.

QPO to stage Qatar premiere of Gershwin’s An American in Paris

VICTOR BOLORUNDURO
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO) will present the Qatar premiere of George Gershwin’s *An American in Paris* on Thursday, October 1, at 7:30pm at Auditorium 3 of the Qatar National Convention Center (QNCC).

According to a QPO post on X, the concert will be conducted by Marcus Bosch, who will lead the orchestra through a programme that blends Russian romanticism with the vibrant sounds of early 20th-century America.

The evening will open with Igor Stravinsky’s *The Firebird Suite* (*L’oiseau de feu*), one of the composer’s most celebrated works. Drawn from his ballet of the same name, the suite is known for its rich orchestral colours and dramatic storytelling, and has remained a staple of the concert repertoire since its debut.

Following an intermission, the orchestra will turn to Gershwin, beginning with the headline piece, *An American in Paris*. Composed in the 1920s, the work is inspired by the composer’s visit to the French capital and captures the energy of city life, from

bustling streets to jazz-inflected melodies. It is widely regarded as one of the most popular American orchestral compositions.

The concert will conclude with *Catfish Row: Symphonic Suite* from Porgy and Bess, in which Gershwin’s celebrated opera is distilled into an orchestral showcase featuring some of its best-known themes.

The performance forms part of the QPO’s ongoing efforts to bring a diverse range of classical and symphonic repertoire to audiences in Qatar. Founded in 2007, the orchestra has become a cornerstone of the country’s cultural scene, regularly presenting international conductors and soloists.

Marcus Bosch is a German conductor with an extensive international career across the concert hall and opera stage. His appearance is expected to add to the appeal of a programme that promises something for both seasoned classical enthusiasts and newcomers to the orchestral world.

Tickets are available through the QR code on the official poster and via the QPO’s official channels. Audience members are encouraged to book early to secure their seats.

‘Star Wars’ fans line up for new Lucas museum

LOS ANGELES: Star Wars superfans and art lovers alike descended on George Lucas’s long-awaited Museum of Narrative Art for its grand opening Tuesday, lining up to experience the colossal structure that itself recalls a spaceship.

The Los Angeles museum built by the 82-year-old “Star Wars” franchise creator alongside his wife and business partner Mellody Hobson is intended to be a “people’s temple of art,” according to its creators.

The duo stood at the museum’s entrance as its first 100 visitors were invited in, shaking hands with each of them as they entered the biomorphic building.

Eric Cheung, a dentist and realtor who arrived in a Star Wars X-wing pilot costume -- a get-up featuring a bright orange jumpsuit and distinct combat helmet, like that worn by Luke Skywalker himself -- said he was quick to become a museum member and even trained as a volunteer.

“Each art piece tells a story,” he told AFP of the museum’s intentions. “Everybody can look at the same thing, and then we can create different stories.” The museum was built on what used to be a parking lot next to the University of Southern California, the filmmaker’s alma mater.

For Brenda Chambliss, a



An aerial view following opening day of the new Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, a 300,000 square foot structure in Exposition Park, in Los Angeles, California. (AFP)

resident of the area in south Los Angeles for more than a decade, it “means everything” that Lucas put the museum in the neighborhood.

The area can carry a “stigma” tied to crime or poverty she said, and the “breathtaking” building filled with art is a positive new attraction, not least for its surrounding park that’s open to the public without a ticket.

‘Help local artists’
At the entrance, visitors

are greeted by the yellow Naboo N-1 starfighter from “Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace” (1999), but with more than 9,300 square meters of exhibition space, the offerings go far beyond the beloved saga.

Its more than 30 galleries feature works by artists including Banksy, Frida Kahlo, Jacob Lawrence, Charles White and Robert Colescott; comics by Winsor McCay, Jack Kirby and Frank Frazetta; and illustrations

by Norman Rockwell, Jessie Willcox Smith and N.C. Wyeth.

“I really love that Lucas is using his platform to bring other artists together,” Sandi Granados told AFP in the gift shop, where she was purchasing a trippy, colorful print of a Darth Vader flanked by stormtroopers.

“It’s not just for him,” said the 30-year-old cosmetologist who works in the film industry. “He’s using his name to help local artists and big artists come together.” — **AFP**

Traditional handicrafts keep mid-autumn nostalgia alive in Hanoi

HANOI: Every Mid-Autumn Festival season, Do Thi Huong fills her stall on Hang Ma Street in the capital Hanoi’s Old Quarter with star-shaped lanterns, small drums and other traditional toys that have been familiar to Vietnamese children for generations.

For 25 years, the 44-year-old trader has chosen to stick with such traditional items rather than battery-powered toys and modern lanterns that have become increasingly common.

“I just like selling these traditional folk toys,” Huong told Xinhua.

Her family comes from northern Vietnam’s Bao Dap village, a long-established craft village where generations of residents have made Mid-Autumn toys, and Huong said

some families have left the trade over the years while others, including hers, continue to follow it.

For this year’s festival season, Huong stocked about 3,000 large lanterns and 2,000 smaller ones, with most expected to be sold before the festival ends.

For Huong, their lasting appeal comes from more than their simple design or affordable price.

“They are the childhood memories of one generation after another, and when people grow up and have children, they buy them for their children to play with,” she said.

The Mid-Autumn Festival, which falls on September 25 this year, is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month. It has long been associated in

Vietnam with family reunions, children’s lantern processions, lion dances, mooncakes and trays of seasonal fruit.

Over generations, the festival also became closely linked with children, who carry lanterns, receive gifts and gather around festive trays, while families prepare food and make offerings to their ancestors.

That sense of family and continuity can also be found in a traditional confectionery shop run by Dinh Thi Tu Anh.

Anh said her family’s traditional confectionery business has existed for nearly 100 years, passing from her grandfather to her parents and then to her, with the next generation gradually becoming involved.

Even as mooncakes today come in new flavors, smaller sizes and elaborate gift boxes,

Anh said her family continues to make many of its cakes by hand and keeps long-standing recipes such as mixed-nut, lotus and mung bean fillings.

“When Hanoi people eat a traditional mooncake, they can still feel that the Mid-Autumn Festival has arrived,” Anh told Xinhua.

The full moon of the eighth lunar month comes around the autumn harvest season, when farm work traditionally eased, and families and communities had more time to gather, celebrate and give thanks for the year’s crops.

Seasonal fruits are therefore a familiar part of Mid-Autumn displays, and among the more distinctive handmade decorations is the pomelo dog, often placed alongside fruit and cakes for children.

For around 25 years, Nguyen Thi Hai has made pomelo dogs, decorative animals whose bodies are covered with fluffy pomelo segments and whose eyes can be made from longan seeds.

Hai first became familiar with the craft as a child and still builds the animals around banana-stem frames instead of replacing them entirely with newer materials such as foam.

She said pomelos are especially suitable for the Mid-Autumn season because the fruit is harvested around this time, though choosing the right fruit is essential to making the segments spread evenly and hold their shape.

“The pomelo dog is something that cannot be missing from the Mid-Autumn Festival,” Hai said. — **XINHUA**

El Nino could cause 451,000 extra heat deaths, claims research

PARIS: This year’s powerful El Nino weather pattern could lead to 451,000 additional heat-related deaths worldwide through February as it turbo-charges global temperatures, according to projections published yesterday.

The warming phenomenon, which was declared in June and is due to peak later this year, is on course to be the strongest on record, amplifying the effects of human-induced climate change.

The estimates by the Climate Impact Lab at the University of Chicago found that developing countries would be hit hardest by the heat-related toll in the June to February period.

The Sahel region in Africa could have an additional 66,800 heat deaths compared to a normal year, with nearly half of that number in Nigeria alone.

An additional 19,300 are projected in Indonesia and 19,400 in the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia.

The toll could reach 15,800 in India and 13,300 in Brazil. The researchers projected that global land temperatures will be 1.2C above normal in the coming months due in large part to El Nino, leading to 44 percent more extremely hot days than in a regular year.

For the projections, the Climate Impact Lab used research on the relationship between temperature and excess mortality in 24,378 regions, taking local climate and vulnerability into account.

The report comes a day after the United Nations warned that El Nino represents a significant threat to global health. — **AFP**

U2 at 50: Irish rockers reveal anniversary album

DUBLIN: Irish superstars U2 revealed the name of their new album yesterday — *Carnaval de Luz* — days ahead of the 50th anniversary of their first encounter as schoolboys in a Dublin kitchen in 1976.

Speaking on a podcast, lead singer Bono confirmed long-standing rumours that they were preparing to release their 15th album, thrilling fans who are set to attend commemorative events this weekend in the Irish capital. “I can’t say it. I’m going to say it,” Bono teased on an Irish Times podcast which looked back on their career.

“The new album is called *Carnaval de Luz* ... it’s strong stuff,” Bono added while reminiscing about the four-piece band’s formation in the kitchen of drummer Larry Mullen.

That seminal moment in rock history on September 25, 1976, is set to be celebrated

during a U250 event organised by fans in Dublin this weekend, as well as with a new two euro coin issued by the Central Bank of Ireland tomorrow.

The new album and the half-century anniversary underline the longevity of one of Ireland’s biggest musical exports.

The landmark also begs questions about the secret of their success which has seen the band outlast their peers, avoid messy break-ups, and continue to fill stadiums.

In total, they are estimated to have sold 175 million albums and count more than 23 million monthly listeners on Spotify today.

“Every album, they keep pushing creative boundaries,” Alex Conyngham, owner of Slane Castle in Ireland, where the band have performed and recorded at several times over their career, said. — **AFP**



Chinese farmers’ harvest festival

People visit rice paddy artworks during an event celebrating the ninth Chinese farmers’ harvest festival at a farm under Beidahuang Group in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, yesterday. The Chinese farmers’ harvest festival is the first national festival created specifically for the country’s farmers. Launched in 2018, the festival coincides with the Autumnal Equinox each year, which is one of the 24 solar terms of the Chinese lunisolar calendar and usually falls between Sept. 22 and 24 during the country’s agricultural harvest season. (Xinhua)

**TRENDING IN
QATAR**



On *The Peninsula* social media platforms

Traffic Department announces public auction of impounded vehicles

The General Directorate of Traffic has announced the sale of impounded vehicles through a public auction. The auction will begin on October 4.

QCAA cancels travel agency license due to violations

The Qatar Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA) has cancelled the license of a travel agency due to violations.

Rome's Colosseum closes to tourists after worker death

The ancient Colosseum in Rome, a top tourist destination, was closed due to the death of a worker inside overnight.

Doha Film Festival to open with Yemeni film 'The Station'

Doha Film Institute (DFI) announced that Doha Film Festival (DFF) 2026 will open with the MENA premiere of *The Station* (Al Mahattah).