QATAR ↘ 06
KATARA EUROPEAN JAZZ FESTIVAL CONCLUDES WITH SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCES



BUSINESS ↘ 08
QATAR RETAIL SECTOR EYES STRONGER Q4 GROWTH



SPORT ↘ 11
FINLAND CLINCH SKEET MIXED TEAM WORLD TITLE IN LUSAIL



EDITORIAL ↘ 02
LUSAIL'S MOTOGP LEGACY

P

SUNDAY
08 NOVEMBER 2026
28 JUMADA I 1448

The Peninsula

WWW.THEPENINSULA.QA





PM: Will continue efforts to avert escalation through dialogue

OXFORD: Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani affirmed that mediation and peacemaking are a necessity for thriving states, as their own security and prosperity are closely tied to the stability of their surroundings and the wider world.

The Premier stressed that the State of Qatar will continue its efforts and engagement with all relevant parties to spare the region another round of escalation, and that addressing core issues through dialogue is the path to lasting security for all.

Speaking at the Oxford Union in the United Kingdom, in a lecture titled "Thriving in a Fractured World: Small States and the New Geography of Global Impact" and followed by a discussion moderated by Sir John Sawers, the Prime Minister said that small states that have built strong economic foundations and integrated into the global order are directly affected by global stability, and that their ability to contribute to peace and to drive positive change in the course of events places a responsibility on them to take the initiative and act.

H E the Prime Minister said that the State of Qatar not stood idly by in the face of crises. For nearly two decades, it has engaged in mediation and peacemaking, driven by a firm conviction in the importance of protecting human lives.

محمد بن عبدالرحمن
@MBA_AlThani_

Today at the Oxford Union, I stressed that states that turned their potential into strength and prosperity can also do more to make peace and bolster global stability, and that size no longer defines influence on the international stage as challenges and divisions grow.

In this context, His Excellency recalled the affirmation by Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani that mediation efforts are worth pursuing, even if they take a year, provided they help save a single human life, noting that this conviction guides Qatar's approach despite the difficulties and campaigns directed against these efforts.

He pointed out that the recent conflict in the region, together with the acts of aggression faced by the State of Qatar, has once again underscored the need for the role played by nations like Qatar, adding that the State took the initiative to act despite challenging circumstances and made a substantial contribution to the first round of negotiations, which led to a memorandum of understanding. This, in turn, helped spare the region widespread chaos at a time when the risk of regional escalation was high.

His Excellency added that challenges in implementing the memorandum of understanding had not halted Qatar's efforts. In coordination with regional partners, the State of Qatar continued its intensive efforts to prevent a new wave of escalation, he noted, adding that the Qatari delegation visited Tehran five times in a single week, holding meetings-some lasting 18 to 20 hours-to explore ways to avert renewed confrontation.

The Prime Minister emphasised that these efforts do not mean that risks have been removed or that security has been achieved, affirming that efforts to contain tensions and prevent escalation remain ongoing, and that communication with the relevant parties has not ceased and will continue.

Regarding engagement with the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency explained that collaboration with US administration officials and voices of reason in Tehran had helped prevent the situation from spiraling out of control, pointing to a continued desire to take steps toward a solution and the importance of building on this progress rather than waiting for an ideal agreement that could stand in the way of reaching an accord to de-escalate tensions.

He further stressed the importance of continued engagement with all parties to bridge differences and ensure that hardline positions do not derail the diplomatic process.

He noted that the successful conclusion of the memorandum of understanding demonstrates that progress is possible and a final settlement remains achievable, despite the complexity of the negotiations and the difficult decisions involved.

H E the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs warned that another round of military operations would not resolve existing issues, and that region cannot withstand further escalation, having already seen its countries and peoples, together with the Iranian people, pay a heavy price for previous confrontations. — *QNA* ➔P2



Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani speaking at the Oxford Union in the United Kingdom.

PM, Saudi FM discuss de-escalation efforts and regional security

DOHA: Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia H H Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah Al-Saud held a telephone conversation to discuss cooperation between the two nations, ways to deepen and expand it, and recent regional developments. The two sides addressed the ongoing diplomatic efforts and close coordination to achieve de-escalation and strengthen security and stability in the region.

During the call, H E the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs underscored the State of Qatar's support for all diplomatic efforts and endeavors to find a solution that ensures the freedom of maritime navigation and paves the way for reaching a comprehensive accord that achieves enduring peace in the region. — *QNA*

Construction sector set for 2.4% growth in 2027: Report

JOEL JOHNSON
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar's construction sector is forecast to grow by 2.4 percent in 2027, with improving sentiment in the real estate market offering support to the industry's outlook, according to the latest report by Fitch Solutions.

The data highlighted a notable shift in market sentiment in recent months, particularly following an improvement in Qatar's Real Estate Price Index.

The data highlighted a notable shift in market sentiment in recent months, particularly following an improvement in Qatar's Real Estate Price Index (REPI), which increased by 5.7 percent year-to-date as of October 1, 2026.

Experts at Fitch Solutions said, "This has largely contributed to growing confidence that the long-standing issue of oversupply has been addressed through supportive legislation and dovish policy (implemented in 2025)."

The research entity noted that the REPI has significant methodological limitations, as it measures the average real estate sales price per unit sold without distinguishing between residential and commercial transactions.

Analysts suggest that the recent increase in the REPI may instead reflect a growing tendency among households to purchase higher-value properties, pushing up average transaction values without indicating a meaningful appreciation in the wider housing market. ➔P5

Metrash app enables public to report security violations through Al Adeid Service

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has highlighted the Al Adeid Service on the Metrash app, enabling citizens and residents to report security-related violations, including matters related to public morality, negative behaviour, threats, violations in tourist areas and administrative corruption.

Available under the app's Security section, the service allows users to submit complaints to the Preventive Security Department, reinforcing public participation in maintaining security and addressing various violations.

The service covers five categories: public morality, negative behaviour, threats, violations in tourist areas and administrative corruption.

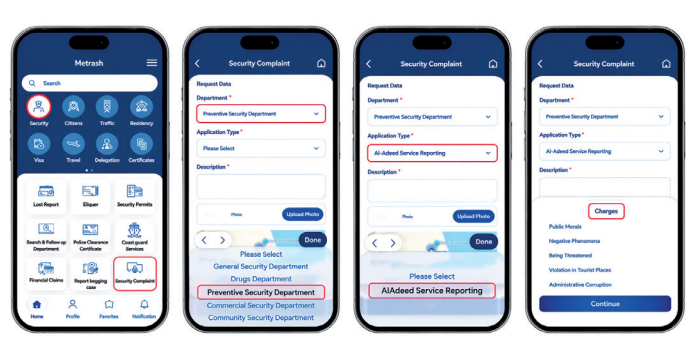
To submit a complaint, users can access the Security section of the Metrash app and select "Security Complaint". They must then choose the Preventive Security Department and access the Al Adeid Service to fill in the required information and specify the type of information or complaint.

The MoI emphasised the importance of public participation in maintaining security, describing it as a shared responsibility.

The MoI emphasised the importance of public participation in maintaining security, describing it as a shared responsibility.

The Al Adeid Service is part of the ministry's efforts to facilitate reporting procedures and provide accessible channels for the public to communicate security-related concerns to the relevant authorities.

Metrash provides citizens and residents of Qatar with access to more than 400 services offered by the Ministry of Interior through mobile devices. ➔P4



Qatar condemns shooting incident in Krakow, Poland

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The State of Qatar has expressed its condemnation and denunciation of the shooting incident that occurred in the city of Krakow in southern Poland, which resulted in deaths and injuries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's firm position rejecting violence, terrorism and criminal acts, regardless of their motives or causes.

The Ministry conveyed Qatar's condolences to the families of the victims, as well as to the government and people of Poland, and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

Six people were killed and a dozen others wounded yesterday when a gunman opened fire in the landmark historic centre of poland's second city of Krakow, in the country's deadliest shooting in decades.

Qatar's ambition and knowledge ecosystem give WISH distinctive global platform, says CEO

FAZEENA SALEEM
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar's ambition to think beyond its size, combined with an ecosystem that brings science, education, research and innovation together, provides a distinctive platform for addressing global health challenges, says World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) CEO Dr. Slim Slama.

"Qatar is a country willing to think beyond its size and punch well above its weight internationally. That ambition is visible in the investments it makes in education, research, innovation and global engagement," Slama said in an exclusive interview with The Peninsula, ahead of the eighth edition of WISH, which will be held in Doha on November 29–30.

Healthy ageing asks how we can age better. Longevity asks a much bigger question: how should we live, relate to one another and organise society when we live longer?

Dr. Slim Slama



He highlighted the role of Qatar Foundation (QF) in creating an environment where universities, research institutions and innovators work alongside one another, allowing ideas to cross disciplines and translate into practical solutions.

"What makes Doha special is the combination of global ambition and an ecosystem that brings science, education and innovation together in the service of society," he said.

Founded in 2012 by Qatar Foundation, WISH has evolved into a global healthcare initiative and policy platform connecting international leaders, researchers, healthcare practitioners and innovators to address critical health challenges through research, dialogue and policy recommendations.

The eighth edition under the theme 'The New Health Span' will examine how societies can ensure that longer lives also translate into healthier, more meaningful and dignified lives.

Slama said the theme reflects the need to look beyond increasing life expectancy, as many people continue to spend a significant proportion of their additional years living with illness, disability or reduced independence.

"Healthy ageing asks how we can age better. Longevity asks a much bigger question: how should we live, relate to one another and organise society when we live longer?" he said.

He noted that longer lifespans require societies to rethink conventional life trajectories, including education, employment, retirement and family responsibilities. Older people, he added, should be recognised for their potential contributions through mentorship, learning, creativity and community engagement rather than viewed simply through the lens of frailty or dependency.

"Longer lives should not simply mean more years at the end of life. They should create more opportunities to learn, contribute and reinvent ourselves throughout life," Slama said. ➔P5

The Peninsula
ESTABLISHED IN 1996

CHAIRMAN
DR. KHALID BIN THANI AL THANI

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
PROF. KHALID MUBARAK AL-SHAFI
editorinchief@pen.com.qa

MANAGING EDITOR
MOHAMMED OSMAN ALI
osman@pen.com.qa

ACTING DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR
PRAMOD PRABHAKARAN
pramod@pen.com.qa

Amir, US President discuss regional developments

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani received Friday a telephone call from President of the United States of America, H E Donald Trump.

Both sides, during the call, reviewed the strategic relations between the two countries and ways to support and strengthen them. They also discussed the latest regional developments, particularly the ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions in the region.

H H the Amir emphasised the importance of continuing dialogue and embracing diplomacy as a means of resolving disputes; preventing further escalation in the region; and safeguarding freedom of maritime navigation and the security of energy supplies.

In this context, H H the Amir and the US President discussed the latest international efforts, notably the initiatives led by the State of Qatar, to bridge the gaps between the parties concerned and support the negotiation process, to pave the road for reaching a comprehensive agreement that resolves the crisis and ensures security and stability in the region.

In this regard, His Highness emphasised the importance of continuing dialogue and embracing diplomacy as a means of resolving disputes; preventing further escalation in the region; and safeguarding freedom of maritime navigation and the security of energy supplies. — ***QNA***

PM: Will continue efforts to avert escalation through dialogue

FROM PAGE 1

He emphasised that the priority must be to address the nuclear dossier and ensure freedom of navigation and security in the Gulf-issues of vital importance to the region and the wider world.

He explained that the security of the Gulf requires dialogue between the Gulf states and Iran to develop a framework that guarantees the safety of all parties and addresses their respective concerns, stressing that efforts to address Iranian concerns must also address the Gulf states' core security concerns. He added that his communications with the foreign ministers of the states of the region reflect a shared message on the urgent need to end the conflict.

Regarding the situation in the Gaza Strip, H E the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs affirmed that the Palestinian cause remains central to unresolved political issues, noting that the region has lacked stability since October 7, a period marked by war and the expansion of conflict fronts. He added that mediation efforts have faced repeated setbacks due to the Israeli government's positions, its continuous alteration of realities on the ground and its escalating demands.

He underscored that agreements that fail to address fundamental issues-foremost among them withdrawal, the right of the people of Gaza to live a normal life, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their own state-will leave the door open to renewed escalation and expose the entire region to further risks.

His Excellency pointed to the continuing blockade, killings and targeting in the Gaza Strip despite the existence of a ceasefire, noting that more than a thousand people have been killed since that announcement. He added that, in practical terms, all that has been achieved is an agreement for the release of hostages, and that turning this into a genuine ceasefire requires an end to hostilities, the withdrawal of forces and a genuine political horizon for the Palestinians. Otherwise, these crises will inevitably recur.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, the Prime Minister noted that shelling continues despite a ceasefire agreement, while the occupation persists with no timeline for withdrawal, in addition to restrictions hindering the Lebanese Armed Forces' operations in the south. He emphasized that acting with a sense of impunity and disregarding international law and the rules-based order expose the entire region to persistent dangers.



Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani speaking at the Oxford Union in the United Kingdom.

His Excellency reaffirmed the importance of dialogue in building sustainable regional security. He recalled the call made by H H the Amir before the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 for serious dialogue between the Gulf Cooperation Council states and Iran to address the root causes of their differences and their mutual concerns.

His Excellency explained that security arrangements cannot rest on promises alone. They require concrete steps and guarantees against aggression or threat to use force, followed by measures to build trust and expand common interests. His Excellency highlighted the considerable potential for economic cooperation between the Gulf states and Iran after a resolution of the nuclear dossier, given the region's abundant resources and human capital.

H E the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs emphasised that any comprehensive vision for regional security must include a resolution of the Palestinian question and the establishment of a Palestinian state, leading to arrangements in which no party poses a threat to another. He underscored the importance of bringing regional states together to address their concerns and achieve collective security, enabling them to prosper without fear of military escalation or interference in their internal affairs. His Excellency noted that various security alliances in the region had emerged in response to existing threats and should not become a source of further polarisation, expressing confidence that shared interests, combined with visionary leadership capable of taking bold steps, offer opportunities to build a better future for the region's peoples.

His Excellency reviewed the State of Qatar's development of its economic and diplomatic capabilities, noting that its decision to invest in the gas sector in 1995 laid the foundation for its current role in global energy supplies, and that its expanding engagement with the world has been accompanied by the development of its mediation expertise and built relationships of trust with various parties, without seeking to exert hegemony over others.

His Excellency explained that Qatar has worked to institutionalise its mediation experience and strengthen partnerships with nations that share its commitment to peacemaking, noting that, in 2025, Qatar engaged in mediation efforts across approximately 16 files, including prisoner exchanges, ceasefires and broader peace initiatives.

His Excellency also highlighted cooperation with Norway and Switzerland on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, and with Spain and Norway concerning Colombia, in addition to the collaboration between Norwegian and Qatari teams during the mediation process in Afghanistan, emphasizing that the integration of various nations' expertise and efforts-despite differences in their political systems and economic models-contributes to achieving tangible results.

H E the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs affirmed that such cooperation can extend beyond peacemaking to encompass areas like investment and energy, in a way that helps expand the reach of prosperity to other nations, bolsters regional stability and the security of the future for its peoples, and makes a positive contribution to the world.

EDITORIAL

Lusail's MotoGP legacy

MORE than two decades after welcoming MotoGP for the first time, the Lusail International Circuit has established itself as one of the championship's most recognisable venues. Its floodlit races have become a signature feature of the Qatar Grand Prix giving the event a distinct identity on the international calendar.

Lusail's place in MotoGP history has been shaped by memorable battles, championship ambitions and some of the sport's biggest names. From Valentino Rossi's close duels to Marc Marquez's dramatic encounters with Andrea Dovizioso, the circuit has provided the setting for some memorable racing moments. Its unique night-race format has further strengthened its appeal, making the Qatar round a distinctive stop for riders, teams and fans.

Qatar's motorsport ambitions, however, extend well beyond MotoGP. The arrival of Formula 1 in 2021 brought another major championship to the country, while the World Endurance Championship has added further weight to Lusail's growing international profile. Hosting three major global racing series is no small achievement and underlines the country's ability to cater to different disciplines at the highest level.

Few venues in the region can match the range of top-level motorsport events staged at Lusail. This standing is not built on the circuit alone. It reflects sustained investment in infrastructure, modern facilities, technical capabilities and the experience required to manage competitions involving the world's leading riders, drivers and teams.

The Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation and Lusail International Circuit have played a central role in building that reputation. Their continued efforts to bring major championships to Qatar and maintain the standards expected at this level have helped secure the country's position in the global motorsport landscape.

This week's Qatar Grand Prix reflects the value of that continuity. MotoGP's return to Lusail is no longer simply another race on the calendar; it is part of a long-running relationship between Qatar and the championship, built on experience, trust and the ability to deliver a world-class event. As the circuit hosts more nights under the floodlights, that accumulated experience remains one of Lusail's strongest assets.

The priority now should be to build on these credentials, continue enhancing the race experience and maintain Lusail's appeal as a destination for the world's leading championships.

The journey from its first premier-class race in 2004 to becoming a regular home for multiple world championships reflects how far Qatar has come. More importantly, it demonstrates that Qatar's place in international motorsport is built not just on ambition, but on the ability to deliver.

Design Doha Biennial hosts 20 exhibitions, runs until Jan 31



Chairperson of Qatar Museums H E Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Minister of Social Development and Family H E Buthaina bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi and other dignitaries at the event.

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Museums has inaugurated the second edition of Design Doha Biennial 2026, bringing together leading designers, artisans and creative practitioners from across the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) to celebrate the region's rich design heritage and contemporary innovation.

Running until January 31, 2027, the biennial features 20 exhibitions, newly commissioned works, public installations and cultural programmes highlighting the relationship between traditional craftsmanship and modern design.

Held under the theme 'Translating Knowledge: From Ancestral Systems to Economic Futures', the event explores how traditional skills, cultural knowledge and innovative production techniques can contribute to the future of design and creative economies.

The historic Fereej Al Asmakh neighbourhood serves as the biennial's central hub, while its flagship exhibition, Arab Design Now 2026, is being presented at Msheireb Downtown Doha.

Director of Design Doha Fahad Al Obaidly said the biennial provides an important platform for showcasing regional creativity and strengthening collaboration among designers, artisans and communities.

"Design Doha 2026 celebrates the extraordinary talent and knowledge found across our region," he said. "We want to celebrate the people behind design, the knowledge passed between generations and the possibilities this creates for the future."

Artistic Director of Design Doha Glenn Adamson highlighted the importance of preserving traditional knowledge while encouraging contemporary innovation.

He noted that the region's longstanding craftsmanship traditions continue to inspire new approaches to design, creating opportunities for future creative industries. A major highlight is Arab Design Now 2026, curated by Noura Al Sayeh, featuring 81 designers, artisans and makers, alongside 78 new commissions and 17 newly commissioned films.

Organised around five themes, the exhibition examines the creative processes, materials and collaborations connecting traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design.

Another 19 exhibitions across Doha explore architecture, cultural heritage, sustainable materials and innovation.

Among the highlights are The Sower by Mexican designer Fernando Laposse, presented under the Qatar Canada Mexico 2026 Year of Culture; Aslan's Love, celebrating Palestinian craftsmanship; and Post-Oil 2026, examining materials that have transformed the Gulf's built environment.

The Al Khor Urban Futures exhibition also presents proposals for regenerating Al Khor's historic centre, following two years of community consultations.

Featuring a full-scale canopy designed by Kéré Architecture, the installation encourages visitors to contribute ideas towards the Al Khor Heritage Trail project.

Five newly commissioned public installations across Fereej Al Asmakh further explore innovative approaches to shade, cooling, water management and communal spaces.

Supported by the Public Works Authority (Ashghal), the projects include Falajscape, Shoreline, Salsabil, Cooling Pots and Palm Construct.

Meanwhile, the Design Doha Prize 2026 features 20 finalists competing across four categories: Craft, Product Design, Furniture Design and Emerging Talents.

Chaired by Qatar Museums Chairperson H E Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the prize is overseen by a 24-member international jury headed by designer India Mahdavi.

Four winners are scheduled to be announced on November 7 at the Museum of Islamic Art, sharing a support package worth QR800,000 alongside mentorship, residency and commercial opportunities.

The biennial also features workshops, guided tours, performances, film screenings and professional networking sessions, further strengthening Doha's position as a regional centre for design, creativity and cultural exchange.

Deputy Prime Minister holds phone call with US Secretary of War

DOHA: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs H E Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan Al-Thani held a phone call on Friday with Secretary of War of the United States of America H E Pete Hegseth.

During the call, they discussed topics of mutual interest to both sides as well as ways to strengthen and develop them. — ***QNA***

Culture Minister honours two Qatari figures for outstanding cultural contributions

MANAMA: Minister of Culture H E Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al-Thani has honoured two Qatari cultural figures in recognition of their contributions to enriching the country's cultural landscape. His Excellency honoured Saleh Al Obaidli and Ali Al Jaber on the sidelines of the 30th meeting of GCC Ministers of Culture, held in the Bahraini capital, Manama. The recognition was part of a wider initiative recognising two creative figures from each GCC member state.

Officials said the honouring highlights Qatar's commitment to celebrating national talent, acknowledging cultural contributions and promoting the role of Qatari creatives in enriching the country's cultural scene. — ***QNA***

Qatar strongly condemns terrorist attack that killed security officer in Jordan

DOHA: Qatar has strongly condemned a terrorist attack in the Jordanian capital, Amman, that killed a public security officer and left another injured.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed Doha's firm repudiation of violence, terrorism and criminal acts, regardless of their motives or causes. The ministry also extended Qatar's sincere condolences and sympathy to the family of the victim, as well as to the government and people of Jordan, wishing the injured officer a speedy recovery. — ***QNA***

Qatar condemns armed attack in Egypt

DOHA: Qatar has strongly condemned an armed attack in the southern part of Egypt that claimed the lives of two Egyptian border guard officers.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed its strong denunciation of the attack, reaffirming the country's firm opposition to violence, terrorism and criminal acts, regardless of their motives or causes.

The ministry also extended Qatar's condolences to the families of the victims, as well as to the government and people of Egypt. — ***QNA***

‘Prosperous small states should play greater role in shaping global peace’

OXFORD: Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani has called for a greater role for economically prosperous small states in shaping international peace and security, saying their collective influence, diplomatic experience and economic strength can make a significant contribution to global stability.

Addressing the Oxford Union in the British city of Oxford on Friday, H E Sheikh Mohammed delivered a speech titled “Prosperity in a Divided World: Small States and the Redrawing the Map of Global Influence”, highlighting the growing importance of smaller but prosperous nations in an increasingly divided international landscape.

His Excellency said countries that had achieved prosperity and become essential contributors to global economic development were uniquely positioned to play a similar role in promoting international peace, not through individual initiatives but through a collective, organised and sustained approach.

Recalling the international order established after World War II, he said it was founded on the principle that peace could not be maintained through military strength alone.

Instead, it sought to establish international rules, institutions and open markets to promote cooperation and stability.

Since 1945, more than 120 countries have joined the international community, giving previously underrepresented peoples a voice on the global stage. This also created opportunities for smaller countries, including Qatar, to achieve prosperity while benefiting from protections against annexation, regional domination and competition between major powers.

He noted that many of these countries were neither regional powers nor global superpowers, yet had achieved considerable progress by investing in their people, infrastructure and economic models, becoming increasingly important participants in the global economy.

H E Sheikh Mohammed warned that while economic opportunities had become increasingly globalised, decisions concerning international peace and security remained concentrated in the hands of a relatively small number of countries.

Beyond their economic achievements, some of these nations were also using their collective influence to advance peace and stability around the world. In this context, H E Sheikh Mohammed proposed a new designation for countries that are resilient, stable, prosperous and trusted, and have transformed their relatively small size into an advantage while becoming significant contributors to global peace and prosperity. He described them as “prosperous states”.

He said the world was at a crossroads shaped by overlapping conflicts, technological breakthroughs and shifting geopolitical alliances, describing the current period as a historic moment that comes only once in a generation.

While acknowledging the shortcomings of the post-World War II international order and the inconsistent application of its rules, he cautioned against idealising a system in which power had always played an influential role. Nevertheless, he argued that the existing international system remained preferable to the alternatives.

He said the United Nations Charter had established fundamental principles, including the sovereign equality of states and the peaceful settlement of disputes. International institutions and rules had enabled smaller nations to make their voices heard, defend their rights and make international relations more predictable.

However, H E Sheikh Mohammed warned that while economic opportunities had become increasingly globalised, decisions concerning international peace and security remained concentrated in the hands of a relatively small number of countries.

As a result, nations essential to global prosperity were often excluded from decisions that directly affected international peace and stability.

He said the ongoing war in the region had exposed the dangers of this imbalance, with decades of military adventurism, unresolved conflicts, violations of international law and ambitions for regional domination disrupting energy supplies, threatening vital maritime routes and creating uncertainty in international markets. Even countries not directly involved were bearing the economic and security consequences.

These developments highlighted a fundamental contradiction in the international system: the world had become increasingly interconnected in terms of prosperity, while decisions about war and peace remained far less collective than the consequences they produced. Smaller states, he warned, were increasingly becoming the first victims of conflicts they had played no part in creating.

Turning to Qatar’s experience, H E Sheikh Mohammed said the country had recognised that its future depended not only on the resources it possessed but also on the capabilities it could develop and the relationships it could establish.

Qatar had therefore invested in its people, developed its economy and established itself as a reliable and trusted partner within the international community. He explained that Qatar’s geographical position and the realities of the global economy had made it clear that the country’s prosperity could not be separated from regional and international conflicts. This understanding encouraged Qatar to invest in peace facilitation and mediation while maintaining communication channels with parties that others were not always able to reach. The lessons learned from Qatar’s numerous mediation efforts had given the country unique and extensive experience in conflict resolution, he said. H E Sheikh Mohammed described Qatar’s journey as that of a nation whose people had achieved prosperity and extended a hand to the world to share its benefits.



Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani addressing the Oxford Union on Friday.

However, he said Qatar was now facing campaigns promoting misleading narratives, as well as military attacks by parties that did not believe peace should be the natural condition of humanity.

He said such actors subscribed to a Hobbesian view of international relations, in which conflict was considered the natural state of the international system and power alone determined outcomes. They actively sought to make this a reality, he said, warning that those who considered the rules-based international order established after World War II unnatural were seeking to undermine it.

He stressed that the system must be protected against those seeking to dismantle it.

The Prime Minister said the challenges facing Gulf countries extended beyond their regional experience, exposing deeper threats to the international system’s ability to preserve peace, uphold its principles and protect the opportunities that had enabled countries such as Qatar to prosper.

He pointed out that Qatar was not alone, as other prosperous countries had similarly benefited from an open international environment to build strong institutions, develop globally connected economies and establish capabilities that allowed them to contribute beyond their national borders.

However, prosperous states could not overcome these challenges independently or replace the role of major powers. Instead, by combining their experience, economic capabilities and diplomatic networks, they could help establish an integrated framework for international peace and stability and ensure its sustainability.

H E Sheikh Mohammed stressed that maintaining stability in a conflict-prone world required a comprehensive understanding of peace, encompassing preventive measures, effective responses to crises, efforts to end conflicts and the preservation of conditions necessary for lasting stability.

He also highlighted growing questions about the role and relevance of international institutions in a rapidly changing global order, noting that regional and non-regional groupings were increasingly stepping in to fill gaps where existing institutions had failed to respond effectively to international crises.

His Excellency reiterated that international peace and stability were not luxuries for prosperous states but fundamental conditions for their national development and continued prosperity.

He revealed that Qatari mediators were currently working to prevent a new wave of escalation in the region.

Concluding his address, H E Sheikh Mohammed said responsibility for maintaining international stability could not simply be delegated to others, and the international community should not surrender to inaction.

He stressed that history remembers those who take the initiative and help shape events, rather than those who remain passive observers. — ***QNA***

Assets Group and Azimut Yachts strengthen strategic partnership

New agreement positions Azimut Yachts as Preferred Luxury Yacht Partner for Assets Group's future hospitality developments, with plans to explore bespoke yacht concepts for landmark destinations, including Atlantis the Royal, Maldives.





Assets Group, a subsidiary of Power International Holding and a global destination developer, and Azimut Yachts, a leading name in luxury yacht design and manufacturing, have announced the expansion of their strategic collaboration through a new agreement positioning Azimut Yachts as the Preferred Luxury Yacht Partner for Assets Group's future hospitality developments worldwide.

Announced during the Qatar Boat Show 2026, the agreement marks a significant milestone in the relationship between the two companies, bringing together Assets Group's vision for creating distinctive international hospitality destinations with Azimut's expertise in luxury yachting, innovation and bespoke design.

Building on the partnership announced in September 2026, which included the purchase of 18 Azimut luxury yachts by Assets Group, valued more than QAR 250 million, to serve Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi and Rosewood Ranfaru Maldives, supported by a dedicated Azimut Service Center in the Maldives, opened in collaboration with Azimut Yachts Gulf and Maldives powered by Elite Yachts, this expanded partnership establishes a framework for exploring opportunities across Assets Group's growing international portfolio.

At the heart of the expanded partnership is a shared ambition to redefine the role of luxury yachting within the hospitality experience, transforming yachts from a standalone transportation or leisure offering into an integral part of the destination experience.

Beyond the provision of luxury yachts, the two companies intend to explore the development of bespoke yacht concepts tailored to the identity, architectural character and guest experience aspirations of individual resorts and destinations.

Under the proposed collaboration, Azimut's Research & Development, Technical and Design teams would work alongside Assets Group during the early development stages of selected projects, exploring opportunities to integrate customized yacht solutions into the overall destination planning and design process.

These concepts could encompass tailored exterior and interior designs, materials, layouts, onboard technologies and personalized guest experiences, creating distinctive marine offerings that complement each destination's positioning and character.

The collaboration will also explore opportunities across Assets Group's pipeline of upcoming hospitality developments, including Atlantis The Royal, Maldives, a landmark luxury destination being developed in partnership with Kerzner International. The project presents an opportunity to explore bespoke yacht concepts that complement the resort's distinctive positioning, creating personalized marine experiences that extend the guest journey beyond the shores of the destination.

The expanded collaboration reflects Assets Group's commitment to partnering with internationally recognized luxury brands to enhance the appeal, differentiation and long-term value of its hospitality destinations.

“Our partnership with Azimut Yachts reflects our vision to create exceptional hospitality destinations through innovation and personalized luxury experiences. By exploring bespoke yacht concepts for future developments, including Atlantis The Royal, Maldives, we aim to elevate the guest experience and set new benchmarks in luxury hospitality.” Commented Mr. Khaled Zi Alnon, Group Chief Executive Officer of Assets Group

For Azimut Yachts, the agreement presents an opportunity to extend its design and technical expertise into a broader hospitality context, exploring new approaches to yacht customization and integration within internationally developed luxury destinations.

“We are extremely proud that, immediately following the delivery of our first yachts in the Maldives, this collaboration is already taking its next concrete step. It is a clear testament to the quality of Azimut's work and our ability to provide dedicated local support through our new Service Center, which proved to be a decisive factor.” Commented Mr. Marco Valle, Chief Executive Officer of Azimut|Benetti Group.

By combining Assets Group's expertise in destination development with Azimut's capabilities in naval architecture, design, technology and customization, the partnership aims to create a framework for future collaboration that brings together innovation, craftsmanship and destination-led hospitality.

The agreement highlights both companies' shared ambition to explore new standards of personalized luxury experiences, strengthening the connection between exceptional hospitality destinations and the world of luxury yachting.





Palau President arrives in Doha for working visit

President of the Republic of Palau H E Surangel Whipps arrived in Doha yesterday for a working visit to the State of Qatar. His Excellency and the accompanying delegation were welcomed at Hamad International Airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs H E Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi, Director of Protocol Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs H E Ibrahim bin Yousuf Fakhro and Ambassador of Australia to the State of Qatar H E Shane Flanagan.

Media City Qatar hosts first CNN Academy Doha

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: CNN has wrapped up the first CNN Academy Doha, delivered through its partnership with Media City Qatar. The two-week immersive programme brought together 30+ students from three Qatar-based universities for hands-on training in journalism and storytelling, connecting local talent with industry expertise and practical skills.

Building on its previous support for local participants in CNN Academy across the region, CNN brought the programme to Qatar for the first time, expanding opportunities for hands-on industry training and equipping local talent with the skills needed to contribute to the country's growing media sector.

Students from Northwestern University in Qatar, Qatar University, and the University of Doha for Science and Technology took part in the training, led by CNN experts and focused on storytelling in the AI age. As part of the experience, they visited CNN's Doha studio for a behind-the-scenes look at the production of CNN Creators, which follows digital-native storytellers exploring technology, art, culture, sport, and social trends.

The programme also offered participants a special opportunity for a live conversation with Group Senior Vice President, General Manager APAC and Global Head of Productions at CNN Ellana Lee who shared insights into her experience leading teams across CNN and the network's work in producing and delivering stories across platforms to audiences worldwide.

The session was hosted by Vice President of Communications, Global News at CNN Jonathan Hawkins.

"Preparing the next generation of media professionals means connecting education with the realities of the industry," said CEO of Media City Qatar Hamad Omar AlMannai.

"Through initiatives such as CNN Academy Doha, we are helping young talent learn from international expertise and understand how to apply their skills in professional settings. Building these pathways is an investment in the people who will contribute to Qatar's media sector over the long term."

"Preparing the next generation of media professionals means connecting education with the realities of the industry," said CEO of Media City Qatar Hamad Omar AlMannai.

Ellana Lee said: "It was a privilege to spend time with this group of young storytellers and aspiring journalists, not only to share our experiences as professionals, but also to hear from them.

It's gratifying to know that there is a burgeoning passion for journalism in Qatar. I'm also incredibly proud that CNN is playing a role in providing the skills, training and insights to help them navigate through the modern media world at a time of rapid change."

Among this year's participants is Pakinam Elseehy, a journalism student at Northwestern University in Qatar. Reflecting on her participation, she highlighted the value of the practical skills and personalised guidance she received. "This course exceeded my expectations," said Elseehy. "We got treated as respected journalists from people way above our rank which really helped inspire me."

She added that the training reinforced her interest in journalism and introduced her to career possibilities she hadn't previously considered. "It's helping us by giving us a concise week full of information and so much hands-on experience that reminds us [of] what our life will be like beyond university."

The programme builds on Media City Qatar's partnership with CNN, which also includes hosting CNN's first-ever Global Perspectives event in the region and Doha being the base for CNN Creators.

As part of CNN Global Perspectives: In Doha, nine students from universities in Qatar also took part in an internship programme, in which they gained practical training working alongside the CNN production team.

SVN

SVN Real Estate, CR No. 143841, Doha, State of Qatar

INVITATION FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS

ACQUISITION OF CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
LUSAIL BOULEVARD – DOHA, QATAR

SVN invites qualified companies, institutions, and investors to submit competitive purchase offers for **Building C12**, a completed freehold commercial property strategically located on Lusail Boulevard, near Lusail Towers, within Qatar's emerging financial and business district.

The property offers an opportunity for organizations seeking to establish a prestigious corporate headquarters with office accommodation, retail facilities, and dedicated parking.

PROPERTY SPECIFICATIONS

Description	Details
Property	Building Name: C12
Location	Lusail Boulevard, Fox Hills
Ownership	Freehold
Land Area	2,440 sqm
Total Built-Up Area	13,626 sqm
Net Leasable Area	5,332.59 sqm
Office Accommodation	25 office units across 5 floors
Retail Accommodation	4 commercial units
Parking	Approximately 125 spaces
Configuration	3 Basements + Ground + Mezzanine + 5 Floors + Roof

COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS

Interested parties are invited to submit their best purchase offers for the **entire building**. Detailed property information, independent valuation, existing tenancy details, and site inspections will be made available to qualified bidders upon request.

BID SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 25th NOVEMBER 2026

Offers should include the **proposed purchase price, payment terms, evidence of financial capability, and anticipated completion date**.

The seller reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or negotiate directly with selected bidders. Completion is subject to applicable approvals, existing property rights, mortgage release, and definitive agreements.

ENQUIRIES & BID SUBMISSION
SVN Real Estate
All inquiries, requests for tender documentation, and purchase offers must be directed to SVN.
Email: admin@svnqatar.com
Tel: 00974 6647 7575

SERIOUS ENQUIRIES FROM QUALIFIED PURCHASERS ONLY

Rawabi Hypermarket launches 'National Product Week'



Director of National Product Support and Competitiveness Department at MoCI Dr. Mohammed Al-Sayed and Executive Director of Al Rawabi Group of Companies Ajmal Abdulla with other officials and guests during the launch of 'Rawabi National Product Week'.

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Rawabi Hypermarket, one of Qatar's leading retail chains, has announced the launch of 'Rawabi National Product Week', an initiative organised in partnership with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), reaffirming its commitment to promoting locally manufactured products and strengthening the presence of Qatari brands across the retail sector.

The initiative, taking place across all Rawabi Hypermarket stores in Qatar, was officially inaugurated on November 6 at Rawabi Hypermarket Izghawa, the largest single-floor hypermarket in Qatar. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Director of National Product Support and Competitiveness Department Dr. Mohammed Al-Sayed, Assistant Director of National Product Support and Competitiveness Department Jassim Al-Kuwari, Head of National Product Competitiveness Support Section Ahmad Radwan, Head of National Product Competitiveness Studies at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Hussain Al-Sayegh, Executive Director of Al Rawabi Group of Companies Ajmal Abdulla, Associate Director of Al Rawabi Group of Companies Muhammed Sinan along with department heads and other dignitaries.

The National Product Week showcases an extensive range of locally manufactured food and consumer products, providing Qatari companies with greater visibility and an opportunity to connect directly with consumers. Through this initiative, Rawabi aims to encourage customers to prioritise locally produced goods and embrace the message 'Qatari Products – Our First Choice'.

Speaking on the occasion, Managing Director of Al Rawabi Group of Companies Mohammed Abdulla, said: "At Rawabi, we strongly believe that supporting Qatari products is not just a business commitment but also a responsibility towards our nation. By bringing locally manufactured products closer to our customers, we aim to encourage a culture of choosing national products as their first choice. Initiatives like National Product Week create valuable opportunities for local manufacturers, strengthen our national economy and contribute to Qatar's food security and self-sufficiency. We are proud to work alongside the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and our local manufacturing partners in supporting the continued growth of Qatar's national products.

Qatar Chemical Company Limited
Al Dafna – Amwal Tower – First Floor
P.O. 24646 Doha / Qatar – Tel. 44847111 – Fax 44847695

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TENDERS

No.	Document No.	Description	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1.	QC/STC/INV/62/26	Five Years Call-Off Supply Agreement of Welding & Workshop Consumable for Q-Chem, Q-Chem II, RLOC & RLP	QR 136,500	15:00 hrs. on 7th December 2026

Brief Scope:
Bidders are invited to submit proposals for the supply of Welding and Workshop Consumables as per specifications mentioned in Annexure 1 of the tender documents for Q-Chem, Q-Chem II, RLOC & RLP plant, under a call-off supply agreement, for a duration of 5 years.
Bidders are required to submit the samples as per the instructions mentioned in the tender documents.

Tender Documents for the above description can be obtained as follows:

A. Pay to Bank and send the original receipt with authorization letter via email.

For each tender pay a **non-refundable document fee of QR 1,000/-** Payable to Q-Chem, Bank Account (Contract Services - Tender) – Account Number 001-242007-003 with HSBC Bank) and submit the original receipt with an Authorization letter on Tenderer Company Letterhead with ID copy of the Tenderer representative **via email to tadvertisement@qchem.com.qa** In the authorization letter Tenderer shall nominate a single focal point with contact mobile number, **official email address,** office number, fax number for the communications related to this tender for the transfer and receipt of the tender documents. **The Bank receipt must indicate the tender number and the tenderer name (company name).**

B. Date and Time of Tender documents Issuance via email

Tender documents issuance from 8th November 2026 to 12th November 2026, **8am-12noon**

C. Proposal details

Proposals should be valid for **240** days from the tender closing date.

D. Submission of Proposals

Guidelines for Electronic Bids Submission is attached in the Tender documents.

QatarEnergy LNG
Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/A/SUP/7884/26, B87 MATERIAL AGREEMENT FOR SUPPLY OF IS PHONE WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT	04/11/2026 to 29/11/2026	0	25,000	29/11/2026

Scope of Work:
QELNG is currently utilizing Intrinsically Safe (IS) GSM Phones across multiple operational environments including onshore, offshore, and industrial zones within Ras Laffan Industrial City. These IS GSM Phones are deployed by personnel across critical disciplines such as operations, maintenance, safety, security etc. The devices are essential for ensuring safe communication in hazardous (Zone-classified) environments. This scope includes the supply of devices, configuration, certification, and support of Intrinsically Safe GSM Phones and related accessories through an OEM-authorized partner in Qatar

Bid Validity: Bid Offer should be valid for **270** calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:
ITT document for this tender will be available in QatarEnergy LNG website under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the QatarEnergy LNG online platform (SMART by GEP).

Note: Local Companies (established under the Laws of State of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) are advised to refer to the tender documentation and In-Country Value (ICV) Digital Portal: - https://icv.qa/en-US/ for details of ICV compliance that may be applicable.

Metrash app enables public to report security violations through Al Adeid Service

FROM PAGE 1

These services cover various categories, including traffic, citizens, residents and visa holders, allowing users to complete a wide range of transactions electronically.

The free application offers secure and encrypted services in six languages: Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Hindi and Urdu, making its services accessible to a broad segment of the population.

It also features an e-wallet that enables users to access their official documents through the application, providing a convenient way to retrieve important documents whenever needed.

Users can register through a simple process and access the available services directly from their mobile devices, reducing the need to visit service centres for transactions that can be completed electronically.

Through its range of digital services, Metrash serves as an important channel for facilitating access to Ministry of Interior services and simplifying procedures for citizens and residents across Qatar.

Awqaf supports expansion of 'Wa Alhiqni Bis-Saliheen' competition to all schools

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The General Directorate of Endowments at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is supporting the expansion of the "Wa Alhiqni Bis-Saliheen" competition to include private schools alongside government schools, with the next edition expected to attract around 400 schools.

Supported by the Scientific and Cultural Development Endowment Fund, the competition aims to instil religious and moral values among students and encourage them to translate these principles into their daily behaviour.

The financial plan for the upcoming edition includes QR100,000 in prizes and costs for the closing ceremony, while the competition is scheduled to take place in April 2027.

Principal of Khalid bin Al Waleed Preparatory School for Boys, Saeed Mushe Al Ahbabi, said the next edition would expand participation to private schools across all educational stages, in addition to government schools.

He said preliminary estimates indicate the participation of around 400 schools and approximately 600 students, with the final numbers to be determined based on actual registration.

Al Ahbabi explained that the competition focuses on strengthening religious and moral values in ways that relate closely to students' everyday lives. It goes beyond memorising information to answer questions, encouraging participants to understand values and translate them into behaviour in their interactions with family members, teachers, classmates and the wider community.

The previous edition attracted 600 students from 150 schools across primary, preparatory and secondary levels, covering both boys and girls. It also saw the participation of 116 parents, reflecting growing interest among schools and families.

He stressed that parental participation is an important component of the competition, as it strengthens cooperation between schools and families and helps students apply the values they learn at home, ensuring a more lasting impact on their daily lives.

The financial plan for the upcoming edition includes a total allocation of QR100,000, distributed among winning students, parents and the closing ceremony. Prizes will amount to QR400 for each first-place winner, QR300 for second place and QR250 for third place.

The plan targets 150 first-place winners, 40 second-place winners and 20 third-place winners, with a total of QR77,000 allocated for student prizes. A further QR8,000 will be allocated for parents' prizes, while QR15,000 will cover the closing ceremony.

Al Ahbabi said the prizes are intended to motivate students to pursue learning and create positive competition, strengthening their engagement with the educational content and values promoted by the initiative.

The registration opening date will be announced according to the approved schedule, while the competition is set to be held in April 2027.

LuLu Hypermarket partners with MoCI to champion Qatari products

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: LuLu Hypermarket Qatar, in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), has launched National Product Week 2026 under the slogan "From Us, For Us – The Story Begins in Qatar."

The campaign aims to encourage consumers to choose locally made products, strengthen the presence of Qatari brands in the retail market and contribute to economic diversification. Taking place across all LuLu Hypermarket stores in Qatar, the initiative provides a prominent platform to showcase the quality, diversity and potential of homegrown products.

The campaign was officially inaugurated by Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Sayed, Director of the National Product Competitiveness Support Department at MoCI and Assistant Director of the Department Jassim Al-Kuwari, in the presence of Director of LuLu Hypermarket Qatar Shaijan, Regional Director of LuLu Hypermarket Qatar Shanavas, distinguished Qatari guests, Ministry representatives and senior LuLu management.

Running until November 15, 2026, the campaign celebrates Qatar's growing production capabilities, rich heritage and entrepreneurial spirit while creating greater opportunities for local manufacturers and suppliers to connect with consumers. It also highlights the important role of locally produced goods in strengthening the national economy and promoting a sustainable domestic business ecosystem.

Assistant Director of National Product Competitiveness Support Department at MoCI, Jassim Al-Kuwari, said: "This initiative is part of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's efforts in collaboration with private-sector partners. Last year, we achieved a 75% increase in Qatari product sales during National Product Week at one of the hypermarkets, and this year, we aim to achieve even more.

"The initiative focuses on supporting national products, farmers and manufacturers. Today, more than 1,000 manufacturers are producing over 2,300 products in Qatar. Our goal is to promote the quality of locally made products, increase their sales and contribute to strengthening the country's food security."

Customers visiting LuLu Hypermarket stores can explore an extensive range of Qatari-made products across multiple categories, including fresh vegetables, herbs, chicken, eggs, Arabic lamb, dairy products, frozen foods, delicatessen, bakery items, groceries, and health and beauty products.

Further reinforcing its commitment to local sourcing and manufacturing, LuLu also showcases more than 300 private-label products manufactured in Qatar, demonstrating its continued efforts to support domestic industries and expand opportunities for local production.



Director of the National Product Competitiveness Support Department at MoCI Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Sayed with other officials and guests launching National Product Week 2026 at LuLu Hypermarket.

The campaign brings together an impressive portfolio of leading Qatari brands, including Baladna, Pearla, Mazzaraty, Dandy, Al Maha, Qbake, Rawa, QFM, Rayyan, Qatar Pafki, Jawharah, Flora, Gourmet, Agrico Qatar, Batatos, Al Wajba, Kitco, Paramount Agricole, Ocean Fish, Napoli Bakeries, Al Waha, Al Annabi, Korean Bakeries, Al Manhal, Aqua Gulf and Doha, among others. Through this extensive showcase, LuLu aims to increase the visibility of local brands, provide greater market access for Qatari producers and make locally manufactured products more accessible to consumers.

Adding further excitement to the campaign, LuLu Hypermarket has introduced the 'Shop & Win' promotion, running until December 5, 2026, to reward customers for supporting Qatari products.

Under this initiative, customers purchasing Qatari products worth QR25 or more from the supermarket section will receive an electronic raffle coupon, giving them an opportunity to win LuLu gift vouchers.

The campaign will feature 20 winners, each receiving a LuLu gift voucher worth QR5,000, bringing the total prize value to QR100,000. The lucky draw is scheduled to take place on December 17, 2026 at LuLu Hypermarket, D-Ring Road.

Construction sector set for 2.4% growth in 2027: Report

FROM PAGE 1

"Households are increasingly purchasing more expensive houses, pushing up the median transaction value without implying any significant growth in underlying asset value," it said, highlighting that the assessment is supported by National Planning Council household unit sales data, which points to a slight decline in property values. Meanwhile, ValuStrat's independently produced housing valuation metric, which incorporates adjustments for property characteristics, indicates that valuations have remained broadly flat over the year.

Fitch Solutions emphasised that lower interest rates and strong performance in global equity markets are helping to build momentum in the high-end residential segment, where demand could benefit from improved financial conditions and greater wealth creation.

Nevertheless, the report mentions that structural challenges are likely to constrain a more widespread recovery. "High income and wealth disparity, as reflected in Qatar's Gini coefficient of 46.2 (World Economics), will continue to weigh on the sector," it said, adding that the market is unlikely to return to 2016 levels in the years ahead.

Beyond Qatar, Fitch Solutions also revised its outlook for the wider Middle East and North Africa (MENA) construction industry, forecasting a real contraction of 4.3 percent in construction gross value added (GVA) in 2026, followed by a recovery of 4 percent in 2027.

"The GCC faces a significantly different economic backdrop," the report said. "Since the outbreak of the (Middle East) conflict, financing conditions have tightened as institutions adopt a 'risk-off' stance to prioritise liquidity management." It further added, "We estimate that the residential sector, in terms of construction activity, may be especially sensitive to an increasing policy rate."

Vodafone Qatar advances sustainability through solar-powered infrastructure

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Sustainability remains a key priority for Qatar as the country continues to advance its National Vision 2030, with environmental development forming an important part of its long-term ambitions.

As industries continue to expand and adopt new technologies, businesses are increasingly focusing on improving energy efficiency and reducing their environmental impact.

For the telecommunications sector, maintaining reliable connectivity requires extensive network infrastructure and a continuous supply of energy.

With growing demand for digital services, telecommunications providers are exploring more energy-efficient solutions to support network operations and reduce reliance on conventional power sources. At Vodafone Qatar, sustainability and digital transformation remain key priorities, with the company continuing to identify opportunities to improve operational efficiency and reduce its environmental impact. This includes the integration of renewable energy into its network infrastructure to support more efficient and environmentally responsible operations.

Vodafone continues to utilise innovation in sustainable telecommunications infrastructure by adopting a pioneering portable solar solution. This innovative solution enables the delivery of reliable, green telecom coverage anywhere across the country, including remote and challenging environments such as desert areas, while reinforcing Vodafone's commitment to climate protection and reducing its environmental footprint.

Furthermore, Vodafone is advancing the integration of AI-powered solar energy management systems into its telecom infrastructure. By leveraging artificial intelligence to study Qatar's climate patterns and environmental conditions, the solution intelligently optimises solar energy storage and discharge based on the specific requirements of each individual site. This adaptive, site-specific approach maximises solar energy utilisation, enhances storage efficiency, and optimises energy availability, enabling more sustainable, resilient, and energy-efficient telecom operations across Qatar.

Vodafone Qatar currently has 104 solar-powered telecom sites across Qatar, with a combined solar generation capacity of 1.2 MW. Solar energy accounts for approximately 85% of the power demand at these sites, representing 3% of Vodafone Qatar's total network power demand.

The integration of solar energy has reduced the need for diesel-powered electricity generation. At the deployed sites, average diesel generator runtime has decreased from 24 hours to 2.16 hours per day, helping to reduce fuel consumption and associated emissions. Since its launch in May 2024, the project has helped prevent approximately 840.8 tonnes of carbon emissions through solar energy generation, while also contributing to lower noise pollution and a reduced risk of fuel spills.

As Qatar marks Sustainability Week, Vodafone Qatar continues to support the country's sustainability ambitions through the adoption of renewable energy and more efficient network infrastructure.

Qatar's ambition and knowledge ecosystem give WISH distinctive global platform: CEO

FROM PAGE 1

The WISH8 programme will address these challenges through five interconnected pillars: the Longevity Dividend, Financing the Cure, AI and Human-Centred Health, the Future of Fertility, and Health Diplomacy 2.0.

Slama said the five areas explore how scientific and technological progress can translate into better health outcomes while ensuring societies are prepared for the changes it brings.

"A breakthrough is only as valuable as our ability to deliver it fairly and to adapt our institutions and societies to its consequences," he said.

Identifying the gap between technological advancement and the ability of institutions to adopt innovation responsibly as a major healthcare challenge, he stressed the need for evidence, appropriate regulation, trained professionals, sustainable financing and public confidence, particularly with the rapid development of artificial intelligence. "The challenge is no longer just to innovate faster. It is to become better at adopting innovation responsibly," he said. Slama also called on governments to look beyond life expectancy as a measure of progress, giving greater attention to healthy life expectancy, functional ability, affordable healthcare and inequalities in health outcomes. "Healthy longevity requires both personal discipline and a society that makes healthy choices possible, and gives people the opportunity to live meaningful lives," he said.

He stressed that preparing for longer lifespans requires a whole-of-government approach, with education, employment, housing, urban planning, social protection and pension policies playing important roles alongside healthcare.

Slama further emphasised the importance of ensuring that countries with different levels of healthcare infrastructure have a meaningful role in shaping global health solutions. Countries with limited resources, he said, often have valuable experience in delivering essential services and reaching underserved communities.

"A global solution is not one designed in one place and exported everywhere. It is one that has been tested against different realities," he said. Highlighting Qatar's growing health and research ecosystem, he pointed to contributions from institutions including the Ministry of Public Health, Hamad Medical Corporation, Primary Health Care Corporation, Sidra Medicine, Qatar Precision Health Institute and Hamad Bin Khalifa University. "Doha is not simply a venue for the global health conversation. It can be a place where that conversation connects with real policy, research and innovation," he said.

On WISH's impact beyond its biennial summit, Slama said its success should be measured by whether research and policy recommendations influence healthcare practices, partnerships and government decisions. He cited its work on childhood obesity, which has contributed to national policy engagement in Qatar, and protecting healthcare in conflict, which has continued through international discussions and partnerships.

Reminder

Reminder for holders of Al Rabeh Certificates issued by Ahli Bank (QPSC) since more than 10 years and remain unclaimed.

All Al Rabeh Certificates holders are kindly requested to visit any Ahlibank branch to update their profile within a month from the date of this reminder. Al Rabeh certificates not claimed by customers within this period will be redeemed and the certificates value will be transferred to the General Authority for Minors Affairs according to the laws and regulations issued in this regard.

ahlibank.com.qa 4420 5222

البنك الأهلي ahlibank

Awqaf promotes sustainability awareness through Friday sermons

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has promoted sustainability awareness and responsible resource consumption through Friday sermons, highlighting Islamic values of preserving blessings, avoiding waste and ensuring lasting benefits for society.

The ministry's participation in Qatar Sustainability Week 2026 reflected its commitment to raising public awareness of sustainability and reinforcing the role of religious teachings in encouraging responsible practices towards natural resources and community welfare.

The 11th edition of Qatar Sustainability Week was held from October 31 to November 7, 2026. The national campaign aimed to engage the community in sustainability-related activities, enhance environmental awareness and encourage different segments of society to contribute to sustainable development goals and its 2025–2030 strategy.

As part of its participation in the national initiative, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, represented by the Mosques Department, designated two topics for Friday sermons focusing on Islamic values related to sustainability, financial responsibility and the responsible use of resources.

The Friday sermon delivered on October 23, 2026, addressed the theme "Money is a Trust: The Importance of Sustainable Benefit", emphasising the concept of trustworthiness in handling wealth and directing resources towards initiatives that generate lasting benefits for individuals and society.

The sermon on October 30, 2026, focused on "Do Not Waste: An Islamic Approach to Consumption", highlighting the Islamic principles of moderation, rational consumption and avoiding extravagance. It also emphasised the importance of adopting responsible behaviour in dealing with blessings and resources.

The ministry's participation highlights the role of Friday sermons in raising awareness of contemporary social issues and linking them to Islamic values, helping translate sustainability concepts into responsible practices in everyday life.

It also underscores the contribution of religious discourse to strengthening values and connecting Islamic teachings with contemporary challenges, particularly moderation, preserving blessings and making good use of available resources.

The 11th edition of Qatar Sustainability Week was held from October 31 to November 7, 2026. The national campaign aimed to engage the community in sustainability-related activities, enhance environmental awareness and encourage different segments of society to contribute to sustainable development goals.

Through this approach, the ministry seeks to promote a society that is conscious of its religious and social responsibilities and committed to sustainable practices.

The participation is in line with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' strategy and vision of "consolidating the message of Islam in thought, worship and conduct, and establishing modern, cohesive, cooperative and sustainable societies".

Partnership and sustainability are also among the ministry's institutional values, supporting coordination, integration of efforts and the achievement of lasting impact.

The ministry's strategy is guided by key national frameworks, including Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy, as well as national sectoral strategies, particularly the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

These frameworks reinforce the integration of the ministry's religious and social mission with Qatar's broader national development and sustainability objectives.

Qatar Sustainability Week serves as a platform bringing together institutions, organisations and individuals around shared goals to promote a culture of sustainability and encourage community participation.

The ministry's involvement adds a religious and social dimension to the country's collective sustainability efforts, highlighting the importance of integrating Islamic values into public awareness campaigns.

Through its participation, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs reaffirms its commitment to promoting moderation, preserving blessings, responsible resource use and sustainable benefits for society, in support of national development goals and its 2025–2030 strategy.

Almeera celebrates National Product Week

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Al Meera Consumer Goods Company, in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has launched its National Product Week campaign, "The Story Began on Qatar's Soil," running from November 5 to 12 2026.

Under the slogan "From Us, For Us," the campaign celebrates the quality and diversity of Qatari products and their contribution to the national economy. It also reflects almeera's longstanding commitment to supporting local businesses, manufacturers, farmers and entrepreneurs.

almeera works with 200 local companies, with annual transactions reaching QR700m. Local products account for 25% of almeera's total sales.

Across its stores, almeera offers more than 8,732 locally produced products from 182 local suppliers across 12 product categories.

In its fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) range, almeera works with 118 Qatari suppliers and offers 194 local brands and 3,645 locally manufactured products. Its local assortment also includes fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy products and cheese, meat and poultry, baked goods and non-food products.

These partnerships form part of almeera's wider network of approximately 750 suppliers, with sourcing spanning more than 100 countries. Through its nationwide store network, almeera helps local producers expand their distribution and reach more customers.



Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Almeera officials inaugurating the National Product Week.

The National Product Week campaign was launched at almeera's Ain Khaled branch. Attending from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry were H E Hassan Sultan Al-Ghanim, Assistant Undersecretary for Consumer Affairs, Dr. Mohammed Al-Sayed, Director of the National Product Competitiveness Support Department, and Jassim Al-Kuwari, Assistant Director of the department, along with other Ministry officials.

Al Meera Consumer Goods Company was represented by Jassim Mohammed Al-Ansari, Chief Executive Officer, Fahad Salah Bahzad, Chief Financial Officer, and other company executives. Local suppliers also attended the launch.

Commenting on the launch, Chief Executive Officer of Al Meera Consumer Goods Company Jassim Mohammed Al-Ansari, said, "Supporting Qatari businesses is an important part of our responsibility as a national retailer. With more than 65 stores across Qatar, we have the opportunity to connect local producers with customers every day, helping them expand their reach and grow their businesses.

"Our collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry reflects our shared commitment to strengthening local production and creating more opportunities for Qatari businesses. National Product Week is an opportunity to showcase the progress made and continue building on these partnerships."

Throughout National Product Week, almeera is hosting Qatari businesses and producers in its stores, providing dedicated spaces for them to showcase their products and engage directly with shoppers. Through product demonstrations, tasting stations and interactive activities, customers have the opportunity to discover locally made products, meet the people behind them and learn more about the stories of Qatari businesses.

These activities aim to strengthen the connection between local producers and consumers, while encouraging greater awareness and support for homegrown brands.

Beyond the campaign, almeera continues to work closely with local farms, manufacturers and suppliers throughout the year, making Qatari products more accessible across its nationwide store network and encouraging customers to support local businesses through their everyday shopping.

Doha Design District invites Qatar's creative community to bring designs to Mada

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Doha Design District is inviting designers, makers and creative entrepreneurs across Qatar to submit products with original designs for consideration at Mada, the curated retail space at Doha Design District dedicated to local creativity and design excellence.

The new Open Call reflects Doha Design District's commitment to nurturing Qatar's creative community and giving designers a platform to reach wider audiences. Selected designers will showcase and sell their work through Mada, connect with design enthusiasts, and contribute to Qatar's growing creative economy. Mada offers a curated retail environment for designers to present products that combine creative thinking with functionality, craftsmanship and commercial potential.

Director of Doha Design District Dana Kazic stated, "Designers need space not only to create, but to share their work and connect with people who can appreciate their ideas and skills. Through this programme, Doha Design District gives them the suitable platform at Mada to reach a wider audience and the confidence to explore new possibilities. We encourage designers to be bold, express their individual perspectives and show what their creativity can bring to everyday life."

The open call welcomes submissions from designers and makers based in Qatar, as well as emerging and established creative businesses producing original, functional products across a range of disciplines.

Eligible categories include home accessories and objects, ceramics, textiles, jewellery, stationery, lifestyle products, sustainable design and other contemporary design products.

Submissions should demonstrate originality through a distinctive design concept, with a clear connection to contemporary design. Products should be practical, usable and suited to everyday life, with high-quality craftsmanship and durability. Work should reflect design rather than fine art, with clear design intent, production quality and commercial potential.

To participate, designers should be commercially ready: finished products suitable for sale, professional packaging, product descriptions and pricing, and the ability to replenish stock as needed.

Submissions will be reviewed through a curated selection process by a dedicated jury. Selected designers will have the opportunity to showcase their work at a leading design destination in Qatar, engage with local and international visitors, connect with the wider creative community.

Katara European Jazz Festival concludes with spectacular Maltese, Spanish performances

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Cultural Village Foundation (Katara) brought the curtain down on the 10th edition of the Katara European Jazz Festival yesterday, with captivating performances from Malta and Spain providing a fitting finale to four days of musical celebrations.

Held at the Katara Corniche near Gates 20 and 21, the festival attracted enthusiastic audiences who enjoyed a diverse programme of jazz performances showcasing the rich musical traditions and contemporary creativity of nine European countries. The closing evening featured a blend of Maltese jazz and Spanish flamenco, highlighting the festival's commitment to promoting cultural diversity and artistic exchange.

Renowned Maltese guitarist Sandro Zerafa, accompanied by French pianist Noé Huchard, opened the evening with a performance inspired by Zerafa's album Limestone, which draws inspiration from Malta's landscapes, natural beauty and distinctive atmosphere.

The duo delivered an engaging musical experience combining traditional jazz elements with contemporary improvisation, intricate harmonies and expressive melodies. Spain brought an energetic conclusion to the festival through the WAMLA project, led by flutist and composer Clara Gallardo, alongside a talented ensemble of musicians and flamenco dancer Alejandra Moreno.

Their performance blended jazz improvisation with traditional Spanish rhythms and flamenco dance, creating a vibrant spectacle featuring expressive flute and piano melodies, rhythmic percussion and dynamic choreography.

The closing performances followed an equally entertaining Friday evening programme featuring musicians from Italy, Hungary and Finland.

Italian vocalist Cristina Zavalloni, accompanied by an ensemble of musicians, presented a performance inspired by the compositions of celebrated Italian composer Nino Rota, renowned for his contributions to some of Italy's most iconic films.



Attendees watch a show during the festival.

Her performance combined the melodic richness of Rota's compositions with contemporary jazz interpretations, offering audiences a distinctive musical experience.

Qatar Airways unveils onboard signature music in partnership with Hans Zimmer

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Airways today unveiled its new onboard signature music, created in partnership with world-renowned composer Hans Zimmer.

Inspired by Qatar and its culture, Qatar Airways' new onboard music brings a distinctive sound identity to the passenger experience through its collaboration with the iconic composition of Hans Zimmer. The music is also featured on the 'Burgundy Symphony' album, a bespoke five-track album that encapsulates the airline's wider sound identity and signature sound elements.

The collaboration brings together Zimmer's acclaimed cinematic storytelling and Qatar Airways' commitment to delivering memorable experiences, creating a recognisable sound that reflects the emotions, moments and memories that define travel.

The launch was celebrated at Hans Zimmer's highly-anticipated concert in Doha on November 6, where audiences were given an exclusive first look at the story behind the collaboration through a specially created film on the creative process and inspiration behind Burgundy Symphony, alongside a preview of the music. Qatar Airways passengers can now experience the new composition onboard.



Flight attendants with music composer Hans Zimmer.

Visit Qatar concludes Hans Zimmer concert, attracting thousands

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Visit Qatar hosted a concert by world-renowned composer Hans Zimmer, winner of multiple Oscar and Grammy awards, at the 974 Stadium Precinct. The concert drew more than 10,000 attendees, 35 percent international and 65 percent local, who enjoyed an exceptional live performance spanning two hours and 15 minutes.

The show set new standards with its electronic soundscapes and dazzling lighting design, continuing the remarkable success of his previous productions.

The concert forms part of Visit Qatar's ongoing commitment to delivering world-class cultural and entertainment experiences that enhance its position as a leading destination for live performances in the region.

The concert drew more than 10,000 attendees, 35 percent international and 65 percent local, who enjoyed an exceptional live performance spanning two hours and 15 minutes.

Trump signals possible changes to US cabinet without naming officials

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has indicated that he may make changes to his cabinet, but declined to identify the departments or officials affected.

In excerpts from an interview with CBS programme, Trump said he was pleased with his cabinet members but was considering "some changes", adding that he did not want to name anyone.

Asked whether he still had confidence in Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, Trump replied that he did.

Hegseth is facing potential removal proceedings as Democrats prepare to take control of Congress in January, following significant gains in Tuesday's midterm elections.

Meanwhile, Trump appointed close adviser Stephen Miller as White House chief of staff on Friday, replacing Susie Wiles.



US President Donald Trump speaks to the media upon arriving in West Palm Beach, Florida on November 6, 2026. (AFP)

The move has been viewed by analysts as an early indication of a broader reshuffle among the president's advisers and cabinet officials appointed at the beginning of his second term. — *QNA*

Gunman kills six in historic centre of Poland's Krakow

POLAND: Six people were killed and a dozen others wounded yesterday when a gunman opened fire in the landmark historic centre of Poland's second city of Krakow, in the country's deadliest shooting in decades.

The man a Polish citizen drove a car onto Krakow's Main Market Square and began shooting at random people, said police. Officers shot a suspect who is now in custody, they added.

"The death toll now stands at six: four women and two men," the police said on X. A dozen others including police officers were wounded.

An *AFP* reporter at the scene saw ambulances and multiple police cars as police cordoned off the area -- one of Poland's landmark tourist hotspots popular with locals and foreign visitors.

"The perpetrator was shot by police" and was transported to a hospital, regional police said on X.

The police added that the man was wearing military fatigues at the time of the attack and was armed with a long gun.

In his car, "police officers discovered other firearms and a large quantity of ammunition", Krakow police spokeswoman Katarzyna Cislo told private broadcaster *TVN24*.

The police did not say what the motive was or disclose the nationalities of the victims of the attack, which is Poland's deadliest shooting since the fall of communism in 1989.

Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who headed to Krakow following the attack, called it "a tragic shooting" and said the police were investigating all the circumstances.

"Our highest praise goes to the heroic police officers who risked their lives in the line of duty," Tusk said.

Witnesses told *AFP* they saw people take refuge in shops and restaurants in the usually bustling streets around the Main Market Square.

"I saw a man shooting at people and walking around the square," Annette, a woman in her sixties, told *AFP*.

"It's a tragedy for Krakow, we've never seen anything like this before," she added.

"We were at Auschwitz today. And it was only when we got here that we realised what had happened," Stella, a 22-year-old tourist from Rennes, northwest France, told AFP, referring to the Nazi German Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp near Krakow.

"It's very frightening to think that there are still risks in Europe risks of a terrorist nature," she told AFP. Deadly shootings are extremely rare in Poland, a European Union and NATO member of 38 million people. — ***AFP***

Ukraine says Russia ramps up strikes to pressure Kyiv at talks

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday accused Russia of intensifying strikes across the country to put pressure on Kyiv at upcoming talks after an overnight barrage triggered power cuts as temperatures drop.

The latest strikes on Ukraine's energy infrastructure came days before the trilateral US-brokered meeting in Abu Dhabi scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday aimed at reviving stalled diplomatic efforts towards peace.

Ukraine's energy ministry said "a massive attack on a number of energy facilities" had plunged five regions into darkness and significantly hampered electricity transmission in Kyiv and surrounding region.

Zelensky said the timing of the aerial barrage showed that Russia had a "very particular view of diplomacy" as it struck ahead of "another joint effort with our partners to reinvigorate negotiations".

"By intensifying its attacks on Ukraine and our infrastructure at this very moment, Russia is trying to additionally lay the groundwork for putting pressure on Ukraine's position and that of its partners," Zelensky said.

Moscow has battered Ukraine's energy grid and infrastructure throughout its four-and-a-half-year invasion and Kyiv was now bracing for another harsh winter as temperatures begin to hover around freezing.

Zelensky also said Russia had throughout the night launched 172 drones and 36 ballistic missiles, among which, according to him, were KN-23 missiles manufactured and supplied by North Korea.

They hit "one of the key energy facilities that was damaged", Zelensky said.

Russia has turned to North Korea for support throughout invasion.

Earlier in the war, Pyongyang dispatched thousands of troops to help Russia fight back a Ukrainian counter-attack in its western Kursk region.

The Russian defence ministry in a statement yesterday said it had struck "facilities belonging to the military-industrial complex, the energy sector, and transport infrastructure" in Kyiv and its surrounding region.

'Shortage' of interceptors

Zelensky urged the United States to increase its flagging aid to Ukraine.

"Unfortunately, there is still a significant shortage of interceptors for Patriot systems, and the United States is in the best position to help address it," Zelensky said.

The overnight strikes damaged energy facilities and a key bridge in Kyiv, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said earlier yesterday, warning that the energy supply situation was "extremely difficult".

Consumers in the Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kyiv, Zhytomyr and Kharkiv regions were left without power, the energy ministry said.

It did not say how many homes were affected.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Ukrainian officials are expected to sit down with Russian negotiators and US envoys for the first such direct talks in months.


Ukrainian firefighters work to extinguish a fire at an infrastructure facility following a Russian missile strike in Kyiv region, yesterday. (AFP)

The diplomatic track has been stalled since February when Washington shifted attention to its war with Iran.

US President Donald Trump's repeated attempts to broker an end to the war have foundered over Moscow's sweeping territorial demands, particularly its insistence on controlling all of Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, including areas still held by Kyiv.

Zelensky has rejected surrendering Ukrainian-held territory, warning that Russia could use it as a springboard for another attack.

Russia, which launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, now occupies roughly one-fifth of Ukrainian territory. — ***AFP***

World in brief

Canary island calls for help with migrant influx

BARCELONA: Spanish authorities on one of the Canary Islands declared an emergency yesterday after a surge in migrant boat arrivals, demanding government assistance to cope with the influx.

"We are very concerned by this sharp increase in arrivals," Alpidio Armas, head of the governing council for the island of El Hierro, told.

"This is precisely what has led us to declare an emergency in order to ensure a framework of cooperation with higher-level institutions." Several thousand migrants have reached the Atlantic archipelago in recent weeks, many of them landing on El Hierro.

Since the start of November, more than 3,300 people have arrived on the island aboard around 30 boats, according to local authorities. Officials are seeking temporary accommodation for the new arrivals, while conditions at the island's hospital have become "undesirable", Armas said. — ***AFP***

972 sites raided, 23,760 deported in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH: Cambodian authorities have cracked down on 972 online scam locations and repatriated 23,760 foreigners between July 2025 and October 2026, according to a press release issued yesterday by the Commission for Combating Online Scams (CCOS).

As part of the sweeping enforcement operations, authorities revoked 18 casino licenses and suspended 10 others. A total of 5,032 suspects have been indicted and remanded in pre-trial detention.

Additionally, law enforcement agencies have frozen over 300 million U.S. dollars in bank accounts, alongside hundreds of millions of dollars in movable and immovable assets, all of which are now subject to legal confiscation procedures.

These figures were disclosed by Chhay Sinarith, a senior minister and CCOS official, during a Friday briefing.

Sinarith emphasised that Cambodia is actively conducting in-depth investigations and working closely with international law enforcement agencies to dismantle transnational criminal syndicates at their source. — ***XINHUA***



China kicks off 43rd Antarctic scientific expedition

China held a departure ceremony in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, yesterday to mark the start of its 43rd Antarctic scientific expedition. Organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources, the mission will upgrade China's polar research stations and logistics network and carry out comprehensive multidisciplinary surveys and monitoring in Antarctica. (Xinhua)

Thousands of Syrian troops to deploy to Yemen, Saudi Arabia

DUBAI: Thousands of Syrian troops are set to deploy to Saudi Arabia and Yemen, with some already on the ground, multiple Yemeni officials told *AFP*, as Riyadh rallies international help to repel the Houthis and bolster the government in Aden.

Hundreds have already been deployed to both sides of the border, according to three separate Yemeni military sources and a defence official.

But more are coming.

Syria will send around 3,000 troops to join the Saudi-led coalition's fight, a source from the Presidential Leadership Council, Yemen's top governing body, told *AFP*.

The arrangement was greenlit during Syrian President Ahmed Al-Sharaa's visit to Riyadh this week, where the two countries signed cooperation agreements, including a defence deal. Those already stationed on the Yemeni side of the border at the moment are leading drone operations against the Houthis in the area, one of the military officials told *AFP*.

The Houthis have ramped up attacks on the kingdom in recent weeks after a truce collapsed over the summer, forcing Riyadh airport shut for two weeks after fatal strikes there and threatening Saudi Arabia's vast economic diversification plans.

While Egypt vowed to send military help if needed and France deployed soldiers to protect Saudi Arabia's Yanbu oil terminal, Syrians would be the first foreign boots on the ground to get involved in the conflict. — ***AFP***

New Zealand's National-led coalition secures parliamentary majority

WELLINGTON: New Zealand's ruling National-led coalition has secured a parliamentary majority in the general election, preliminary results showed early Sunday, putting Prime Minister Christopher Luxon on course to retain power for a second term.

The Election Commission's tally of all voting places has resulted in 11 "overhang" seats, increasing to 131 the total number of seats in parliament, which normally has 120.

Among the seats, the National Party, ACT New Zealand and New Zealand First collectively secured 67, giving the three-party coalition a narrow majority to continue governing, while the opposition bloc of the Labour Party, the Green Party and the Maori Party garnered 57 in total.

The contest between the National and the Labour, led by former prime minister Chris Hipkins, remained exceptionally close, with each securing over 29 percent, according to preliminary figures. Addressing supporters in Auckland, Luxon said the election was "too close to call," with the final outcome hinging on special votes to be counted. — ***XINHUA***

Heavy rains leave tens of thousands without shelter in Gaza: Local authorities

GAZA CITY: Heavy rain yesterday flooded tens of thousands of displaced people's tents in war-devastated Gaza, Palestinian authorities said, leaving them without shelter.

In a statement, the Hamas-run government media office said that about "70,000 tents sheltering tens of thousands of displaced people were flooded on the first day" of rains.

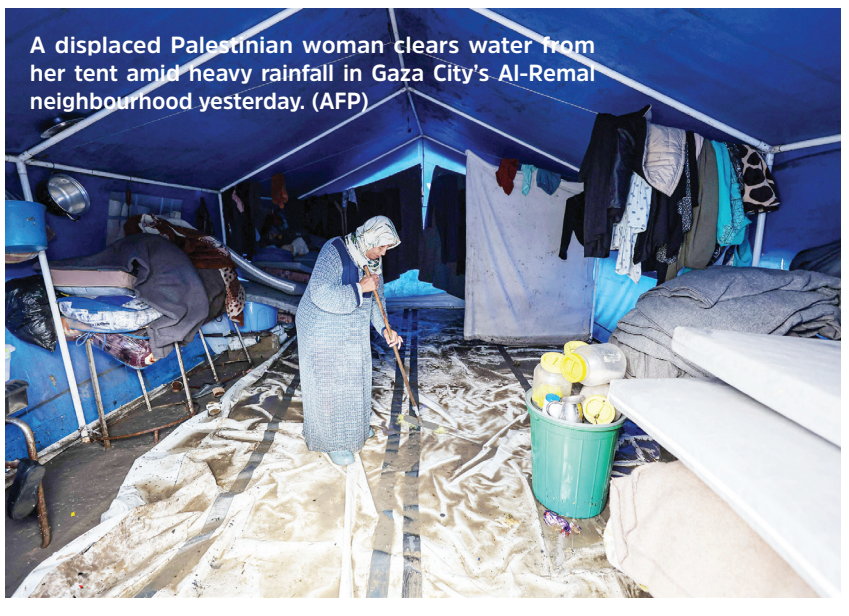
It also noted the "collapse of dozens of cracked walls and roofs, which caused injuries", some critical, in various areas of the tiny territory.

Since early yesterday, hundreds of displaced families have been seen fleeing camps in parts of Gaza City and in the central and northern areas of the Strip after they were inundated by rainwater.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmoud Bassal told his teams had received more than 1,500 calls during the night from residents requesting urgent assistance after their tents were flooded, explaining that the agency "is operating without any equipment or capabilities".

70,000 tents sheltering tens of thousands of displaced people were flooded on the first day of rains.

"We have issued an urgent distress call to the international community and humanitarian organisations to intervene immediately to save hundreds of thousands of displaced people from the flooding of their tents." A coalition of Palestinian civil society organisations warned in a statement of "the catastrophe that has come to threaten the lives of hundreds of thousands of residents", pointing to the risk of the spread of diseases and epidemics.


A displaced Palestinian woman clears water from her tent amid heavy rainfall in Gaza City's Al-Remal neighbourhood yesterday. (AFP)

The coalition, which includes dozens of local institutions and organisations, called for "pressure on Israel to allow the entry of humanitarian aid without restrictions".

A fragile ceasefire came into effect on October 10, 2025, after two years of war that erupted following the unprecedented attack carried out by Hamas on Israel on October 7, 2023.

Despite the ceasefire agreement reached with Egyptian, Qatari, and American mediation, the Israeli army continues airstrikes and ground operations on an almost daily basis. — ***AFP***