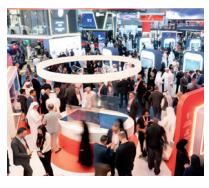
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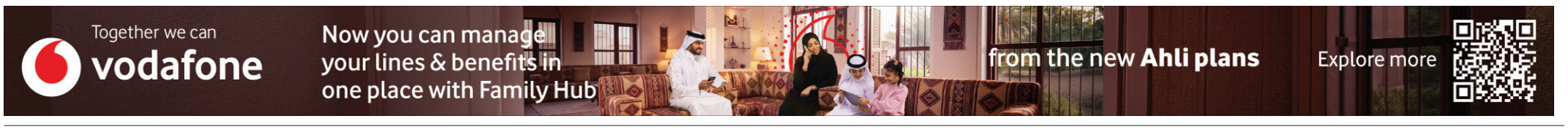
EDITORIAL ↘ 02
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Qatar, Saudi discuss de-escalation efforts with European officials

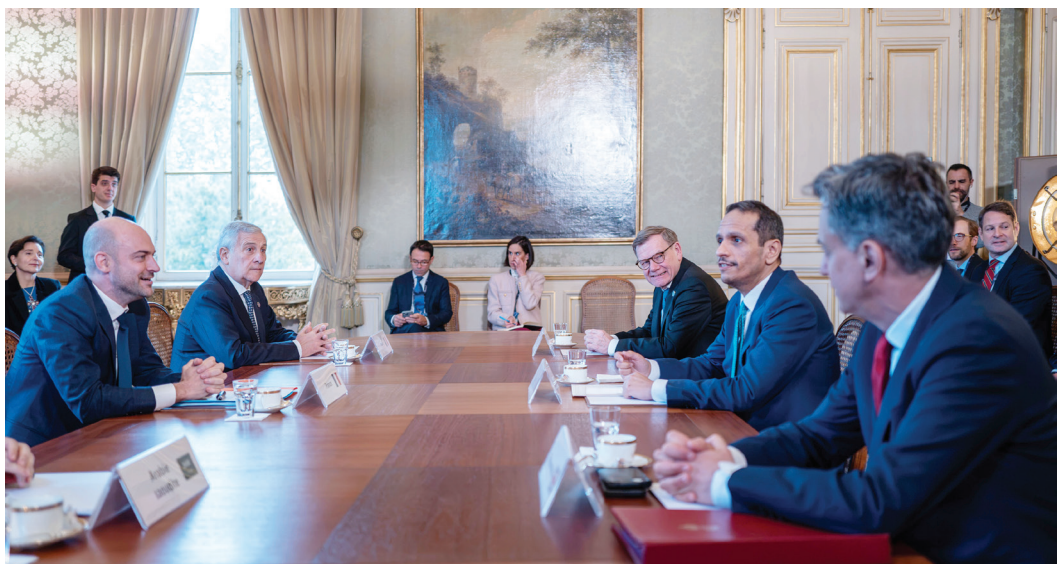
THE PENINSULA/QNA

PARIS: President of France H E Emmanuel Macron received yesterday Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani.

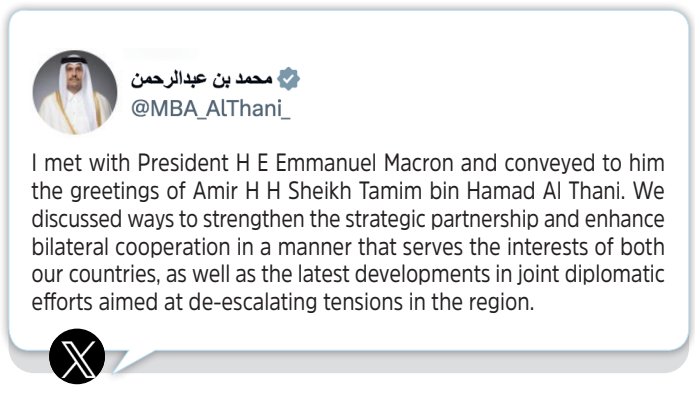
At the beginning of the meeting, the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs conveyed the greetings of Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani to the French President, along with His Highness's wishes for his good health and happiness, and for the French government and people continued progress and prosperity.

The French President asked the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs to convey his greetings to H H the Amir, wishing His Highness good health and happiness and the Qatari people further development and growth.

The meeting reviewed bilateral cooperation relations and ways to support and strengthen them. The two sides also discussed the latest regional developments, particularly diplomatic efforts and joint coordination aimed at de-escalating tensions and enhancing security and stability in the region.



Separately, H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani also participated yesterday in a ministerial meeting bringing together the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the European Four (E4), comprising the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Italian Republic, and the United Kingdom, on the sidelines of the G7 ministerial meeting held in Paris, France.



During the meeting, the participants discussed the latest regional developments, focusing on diplomatic efforts and joint coordination to de-escalate tensions and enhance security and stability in the region. They also discussed initiatives to ensure freedom of maritime navigation and to pave the way for a comprehensive agreement that achieves sustainable peace in the region.

H E the Prime Minister in a post on X said: "I participated in a ministerial meeting in Paris with the foreign ministers of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom, during which we discussed the latest developments in diplomatic mediation efforts and ways to support them, as well as the importance of intensifying joint coordination to de-escalate tensions and enhance the security and stability of the region."

US-Iran mediation gaining momentum, progress made in talks, says MoFA

IRFAN BUKHARI
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The State of Qatar continues its mediation efforts to bring the positions of the United States and Iran closer together, in coordination with regional and international partners, Director of the Department of Media, and Communication at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Ibrahim bin Sultan Al Hashmi has said.

"The mediation seeks to reach a diplomatic solution that ends the state of uncertainty and restores stability to the region," Al Hashmi said while addressing MoFA's weekly media briefing yesterday.

He said that that the mediation efforts have gained significant momentum over the past few days and weeks, in coordination with regional and international partners as well as the concerned parties.

"Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani met on Monday in Washington with the Vice President of the United States of America H E JD Vance. His Excellency subsequently held a closed-door meeting with the President of the United States of America H E Donald Trump, at the White House. The discussions addressed the situation in the region and ways to make progress in US-Iran negotiations. The meeting at the White House was described as "positive" and focused on narrowing the gaps between the two sides."

Despite the negative tone in the media over the past few days, mediation efforts are still ongoing, and both sides have spoken positively about a diplomatic solution – an outcome that the State of Qatar is focused on and striving to achieve through the current negotiations.

The Director of the Media and Communication Department at MoFA further said that there is progress in the negotiations, and the mediator is making a continuous and diligent effort to bridge the gaps between the parties' positions. "The details will be disclosed once the final shape and features of the agreement are settled."

He also reiterated Qatar's call for the restoration of freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz as soon as possible, in light of the worsening global energy crisis as a result of its continued closure.

Al Hashmi said that mediation is not merely a political or technical process. ➔P2

Strategy to establish global aviation ecosystem launched

JOEL JOHNSON
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar yesterday unveiled a new strategy under the slogan 'Leading the Sky, Inspired by Vision', aiming to advance the country's civil aviation industry and consolidate its position on the global air transport stage.

The event, held under the patronage of the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al-Thani, was officially launched by the Minister of Transport, H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al-Thani, and attended by the In-Charge of Managing the Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA), Mohamed bin Faleh Al-Hajri, along with other senior government officials.

In his opening remarks, the In-Charge of Managing QCAA, Mohamed bin Faleh Al-Hajri, said: "We are pleased to launch QCAA's new strategy today. It represents an important step towards a more advanced and prosperous future and a key milestone in enhancing our readiness to adapt to change, address challenges and seize opportunities."

Officials noted that the strategy aims to position Qatar as a global benchmark in civil aviation by developing an advanced ecosystem founded on the highest standards of safety, security and environmental sustainability.

"It aligns with Qatar's aspirations and the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030, while complementing the Ministry of Transport Strategy, Al-Hajri said. "We have developed this strategy based on a comprehensive, forward-looking vision to uphold the highest standards of safety and security, empower national talent and support the sector's sustainable growth."



Minister of Transport H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al-Thani unveiling a new strategy under the slogan 'Leading the Sky, Inspired by Vision', yesterday.

Al-Hajri underscored the aviation QCAA's commitment to overseeing the strategy's implementation with dedication and responsibility in the coming period and translating it into pioneering initiatives, promising projects and tangible achievements.

He further added, "We reaffirm QCAA's commitment to improving the quality of its programmes and services, adopting modern best practices and enhancing organisational performance to realise this vision, guided by the core values that underpin our work."

In a statement to the media, Minister Sheikh Mohammed emphasised the importance of translating the strategy into measurable progress, affirming QCAA's commitment to overseeing its execution with a strong sense of responsibility and dedication.

He stressed that the coming phase will focus on delivering impactful initiatives, ambitious projects and concrete results that advance the aviation sector, reinforcing the country's global competitiveness and contributing to the country's sustainable development objectives.

The ceremony also featured a video highlighting the strategy's key objectives, including strengthening safety, security and environmental sustainability standards. ➔P3

MoEHE to develop curriculum for children from birth to age three

SANAULLAH ATAULLAH
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) has launched a national project to develop an integrated educational and developmental curriculum for children from birth to age three, as part of efforts to strengthen early childhood education and improve the quality of care and learning in nurseries across Qatar.

The project, titled 'Developing a Curriculum for the Pre-Kindergarten Stage and Providing Training Courses for Teachers', was launched under the ministry's strategic programme 'Sunrise' (Shurooq Al Shams), carrying the slogan 'A Story... and the Story Begins with Care'.

The launch ceremony at the Ministry headquarters was attended by Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Ibrahim Abdullah Al Muhannadi, along with ministry officials, educational supervisors, nursery directors and representatives of childcare centres.

The initiative aims to establish a comprehensive national curriculum based on developmental standards and outcomes that take into account children's growth characteristics and individual needs. It will cover various aspects of children's development, including health, psychological, behavioural and values-based dimensions, while promoting improved educational practices and providing specialised training for early childhood educators.



The project is being implemented in partnership with the Private Education Affairs Sector, represented by the Department of Nurseries, which will make the curriculum available to nurseries across the country and supervise its implementation. This is intended to establish unified educational and developmental references and improve the quality of practices provided to children during their early years.

Director of the Early Education Department and national leader of the Sunrise programme, Dhabya Mohammed Al Khuliafi, said the project represented an important step towards developing Qatar's early education system. ➔P2

Qatar rejects allegations of funding US political figure

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Embassy of the State of Qatar in the United States has strongly rejected media reports alleging that US political figure Alex Bruesewitz received approximately $500,000 from individuals associated with Qatar, describing the claim as false and stressing that he has received no money from Qatar or at its direction.

The Embassy said: "On November 9, the New York Times and other media reported on a civil lawsuit in Florida in which Derek Utley, a former business partner of Alex Bruesewitz, alleged that Bruesewitz "received approximately $500,000 from individuals associated with Qatar. . . ." This claim is false." It added: "Bruesewitz has received no money from Qatar, or at the direction of Qatar. No evidence was cited for this false claim, and the Times made no effort to contact Qatar's representatives for comment. Qatar's Embassy advised Utley's lawyers to correct this misrepresentation to the Court."

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EDITORIAL

Leading future of aviation

AVIATION is a vital pillar of Qatar's economic development and international connectivity. As global air transport evolves in response to technological advances, environmental priorities and changing travel patterns, the country's new civil aviation strategy represents an important step towards preparing the sector for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

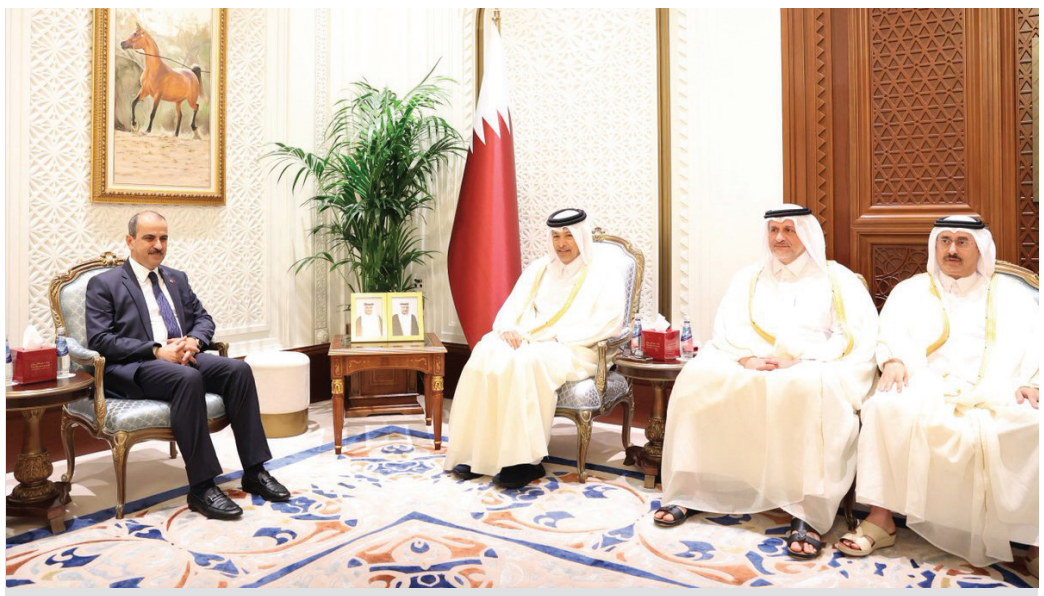
Under the slogan "Leading the Sky, Inspired by Vision", the strategy sets out an ambition to establish a leading global civil aviation ecosystem built on safety, security, sustainability and innovation. More than a roadmap for the sector, it reflects Qatar's determination to strengthen its position in international aviation while aligning future development with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030.

Qatar has already established itself as an important international aviation hub, supported by its strategic geographical location, modern infrastructure and expanding global connectivity. Maintaining this position requires continuous investment, effective regulation and the ability to adapt to an industry undergoing rapid transformation. The new strategy recognises that leadership in aviation depends not only on expanding connectivity but also on ensuring that the entire ecosystem operates efficiently, safely and sustainably.

A central priority is strengthening operational efficiency and regulatory excellence. As air traffic grows and aviation systems become increasingly complex, robust regulatory frameworks and high safety standards are essential. Enhancing institutional capabilities, modernising oversight mechanisms and adopting international best practices will help ensure that Qatar's aviation sector remains resilient and prepared for future demands. Digital transformation is another important dimension. The integration of advanced technologies into operational and regulatory processes can improve efficiency, enhance decision-making and strengthen coordination among sector stakeholders. Innovation will also be essential in responding to emerging challenges.

Equally important is the strategy's emphasis on environmental sustainability and national talent. The future of aviation will increasingly depend on reducing its environmental footprint while maintaining the capacity for growth. At the same time, developing skilled national professionals and strengthening institutional expertise will provide the human foundation needed to sustain progress over the long term.

By combining strong regulation, technological innovation, sustainable practices and investment in people, the country can build an aviation ecosystem capable of competing at the highest international levels. The new strategy provides a framework for that journey, with the potential to make Qatar not just a major destination and transit hub, but also a recognised leader in shaping the future of civil aviation.



Speaker meets Ambassadors of Turkiye and EU

Speaker of the Shura Council H E Hassan bin Abdullah Al Ghanim met yesterday, separately, with European Union Ambassador to Qatar, H E Antonino Maggiore and Ambassador of Turkiye to Qatar, H E Yakup Caymazoglu (pictured). During the two meetings, relations between Qatar and both the European Union and Turkiye were discussed, as well as ways to enhance and develop them, particularly in the parliamentary field. Views on several issues of mutual interest were also exchanged, while emphasising the importance of continued coordination and consultation in a manner that serves shared interests.

Amir sends condolences to President of Turkiye

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani, and Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani sent cables of condolence to President of Turkiye H E Recep Tayyip Erdogan, on the victims of an explosion at a steel factory in the Province of Izmir, western Turkiye, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. — ***QNA***

Qatar, UAE discuss enhancing cooperation in aviation

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Minister of Transport H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulla bin Mohammed Al Thani met with Minister of Economy and Tourism of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) H E Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, via video conference yesterday. The two ministers discussed venues of bilateral cooperation, and ways to enhance them in the realms that interest the two countries, particularly in air transportation and aviation.

Qatar reaffirms commitment to mediation, regional peace

PARIS: Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Majed bin Mohammed Al Ansari participated in a plenary session titled "Peace Mediation Today: New Actors, New Coalitions, Lasting Results" on the sidelines of the Paris Peace Forum.

In his remarks, Al Ansari said mediation was no longer merely a diplomatic option but a necessity imposed by today's geopolitical challenges.

He stressed that Qatar, given its geographical location and regional affiliation, could not remain a bystander to efforts aimed at achieving regional peace and stability.

He highlighted Qatar's mediation efforts dating back to the 1990s, citing its involvement in Yemen, Djibouti, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, as well as mediation efforts between Hamas and Israel and those related to Iran.

He noted that Qatar was not a neutral mediator in the traditional sense, as it was part of the region and directly affected by its developments. Nevertheless, it had continued its mediation efforts even while facing attacks, driven by its conviction that dialogue and diplomacy were essential to preventing further escalation. Al Ansari stressed that diplomatic solutions were the only way to spare all parties the consequences of escalation, warning that any alternative to a political settlement would result in losses for everyone, affecting economic interests, state sovereignty and legitimate security concerns.



Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for MoFA Dr. Majed bin Mohammed Al Ansari speaking at the session.

He emphasised the need to take into account the security and sovereign interests of all regional countries when pursuing sustainable solutions.

Al Ansari also discussed the concept of "Thriving States," introduced by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, describing such states as relatively small countries distinguished by their resilience, prosperity and ability to leverage their resources in the service of the common good through mediation, development and international cooperation.

He said changes in the international order had created opportunities for such states to play influential roles in supporting the rules-based international order, stressing the importance of preserving and strengthening this role.

Dr. Al Ansari further highlighted Qatar's role in supporting the rules-based international order by strengthening its position as a facilitator of peace and mediator in conflicts, while working with regional and international partners to build what he described as "peace supply chains" through complementary roles and the effective use of each country's capabilities.

He also underscored the importance of cooperation between the State of Qatar, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and international partners, noting that each country had distinct capabilities and a role to play in advancing peace and regional stability.

Dr. Al Ansari concluded by stressing that stronger partnerships and coordinated diplomatic efforts among countries were essential to building effective alliances for peace and achieving shared security and prosperity. — ***QNA***

US-Iran mediation gaining momentum, progress made in talks: MoFA

FROM PAGE 1

"At its core, it represents the raising of a banner of hope and a profound belief in a peaceful solution, no matter how complex the circumstances or how great the challenges may be."

He added, "Despite the negative tone in the media over the past few days, mediation efforts are still ongoing, and both sides have spoken positively about a diplomatic solution – an outcome that the State of Qatar is focused on and striving to achieve through the current negotiations."

On the Strait of Hormuz, he said that the approach of winter, combined with the continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz, compounds the costs of this closure for all nations, particularly for vulnerable populations, especially given the energy crisis currently affecting countries worldwide. "The mediator is working tirelessly to put an end to the prevailing uncertainty, a state of neither war nor peace, and to restore stability and prosperity to the region... this is the current focus of the mediation efforts and the consultations between the American and Iranian sides."

He reaffirmed the State of Qatar's full solidarity with the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regarding the measures it may take to preserve its security and the integrity of its territory.

Education Ministry to develop curriculum for children from birth to age three

FROM PAGE 1

She said it would establish educational and developmental foundations based on international best practices while remaining consistent with Islamic values and Qatar's national identity, contributing to safe and stimulating care and learning environments for children during their formative years. Project Director Lulwa Omair Al Nuaimi said the launch was the outcome of three years of preparation and joint work with experts and partners, particularly the College of Education and the Early Childhood Centre at Qatar University.

The preparation included a comparative study of international curricula and the examination of leading practices to develop a curriculum that combines international standards with Qatar's national identity and culture. She added that the project also includes preparing reference documents and specialised training programmes to support the implementation of developmental and educational practices in nurseries and childcare centres. A total of 500 copies of the project documents were distributed to participants at the launch ceremony.

Assistant Project Director Abdul Salam Ibrahim said the curriculum had been developed through a national framework and reference documents defining age groups, developmental domains and expected outcomes, ensuring comprehensive coverage of children's developmental and educational needs. In his remarks at the ceremony, Al Muhannadi highlighted the strategic importance of the project to Qatar's education system, noting that the first three years of a child's life represent a fundamental stage in growth and personality formation and play an important role in preparing children for subsequent stages of education.

He commended the teams and partners involved in developing the initiative, stressing that a national curriculum based on international standards while reinforcing Qatar's identity, together with safe and stimulating care and learning environments, represents an investment in human development and the country's future. The project forms part of the ministry's broader efforts to establish an integrated early childhood development system centred on quality care and learning, the promotion of national identity and investment in the first years of a child's life as a foundation for human development.



Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Ibrahim Abdullah Al Muhannadi with other officials at the event yesterday.

Qatar gears up for five major endurance sporting events from November to March

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar is set to attract thousands of local and international athletes as it prepares to host five major endurance sporting events between November 2026 and March 2027, further strengthening its position as a leading destination for international sports tourism.

According to a press release from Visit Qatar yesterday, the packed sporting calendar will feature ultramarathons, triathlons, long-distance running and demanding multisport challenges, offering athletes opportunities to test their endurance while experiencing the country's diverse landscapes.

The events will take place across prominent locations, including Doha Corniche, Lusail City, Dukhan Beach, Sealine, Khor Al Adaid and Old Doha Port. The action begins on November 27 with the ninth edition of the Qatar East to West Ultramarathon, which will see participants tackle a challenging 90km route stretching from Doha Corniche, near the Sheraton Hotel, to Dukhan Beach on the country's western coast. Organised by the Qatar Sports for All Federation (QSFA) in collaboration with Qatar Runners Team, the race will feature six stages, with water and medical support stations along the route.

Organisers expect between 2,000 and 2,500 participants, following a previous edition that attracted runners from 86 nationalities. This year's competition will feature 12 categories covering individual and team events for men and women.

Attention will then shift to Lusail City, which will host the Qatar T100 Triathlon World Championship Final from December 10 to 12 for the second consecutive year.

Organised by the Professional Triathletes Organisation (PTO) and Visit Qatar in partnership with the Qatar Triathlon Federation, the championship will bring together leading international triathletes competing for the season's titles.

The professional competition comprises a 2km swim, 80km cycling course and 18km run, with the women's race scheduled for December 11 and the men's event on December 12. Amateur athletes will also participate in several races, including the Sprint Triathlon, 100km Open Triathlon and T100 Age-Group World Championship.

The sporting calendar continues on January 15, 2027, with the 15th Doha Marathon by Ooredoo, which is expected to attract 25,000 runners.

Starting and finishing at Hotel Park, the marathon will feature a redesigned 42km course passing landmarks including Souq Waqif and Doha Port. The event will offer full and half marathons, 10km and 5km races, a family run and a new four-person relay competition. A major addition is the Yellow Race, dedicated to visually impaired participants, while the marathon will retain its World Athletics Gold Label status for the third consecutive year. On January 23, the Samla International Race will return for its second international edition, featuring a demanding 100km multisport challenge between Sealine and Khor Al Adaid. Competitors must complete swimming, running, off-road cycling and kayaking stages within 12 hours.



Prime Minister attends ministerial meeting in Paris

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani participated yesterday in a ministerial meeting bringing together the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the European Four (E4), comprising the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Italian Republic, and the United Kingdom, on the sidelines of the G7 ministerial meeting held in Paris, France.

Kahramaa wins two awards at CIGRE Gulf Conference and Exhibition

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) has won two awards at the 22nd CIGRE Gulf Conference and Exhibition, held in Muscat, Oman, recognising its outstanding participation and technical contributions to the event.

Kahramaa received the awards for "Largest Participation by Number of Technical Papers" and "Best Technical Paper". The latter was awarded for a paper presented by engineers Shaikha Al Nuaimi, Suha Al Sulaiti and Mohammed Al Sayed.

Commenting on the achievement, President of Kahramaa Abdullah bin Ali Al Theyab said the recognition reflects the corporation's national expertise and distinguished technical and engineering capabilities, as well as its commitment to supporting research, innovation and the development of solutions that enhance the efficiency and reliability of the electricity network.

He added that Kahramaa takes pride in the efforts of its personnel and their active participation in scientific and professional events, which contribute to exchanging expertise and best practices while strengthening the corporation's regional and international presence.

Kahramaa's scientific and technical participation included several specialised research papers covering key developments in the electricity sector.

These included "Strategic Planning and Operational Management of Qatar's Electricity System During the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022"; "Analysis of the Impact of Hosting the Arab Cup 2025 on Electricity Loads in Qatar"; "Power Quality Amid Increasing Contributions from Renewable Energy Sources: A Case Study of Qatar's Electricity System"; and "Assessment of the Feasibility of Integrating Rooftop Photovoltaic Solar Energy Systems at Electricity Distribution Stations in Qatar".

Another paper focused on the implementation of real-time monitoring systems for electricity distribution networks.

The papers addressed several key areas, including enhancing the reliability and efficiency of the electricity network, preparing for major events, keeping pace with the expansion of renewable energy, and employing modern technologies in network operations and monitoring.

The conference brought together more than 1,300 participants and featured 115 scientific and technical papers.

Strategy to establish global aviation ecosystem launched

FROM PAGE 1

This reinforced Qatar's position as a leader in air transport, and digitizing operational and regulatory processes.

The video presented the strategy's values relating to security and safety, sustainability and resilience, innovation and leadership, and its pillars of operational efficiency, regulatory excellence and international influence. It also outlined key development initiatives and projects that QCAA plans to implement in the next phase in partnership with relevant entities.

Officials added that these will enhance the readiness of Qatar's civil aviation ecosystem to address future challenges and capitalise on growth opportunities, strengthening the country's regional and international standing in this vital sector.

Ministry of Education launches 'University and Career Fair'

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Education and Higher Education has launched the second edition of its University and Career Fair for the 2026-2027 academic year, bringing together more than 50 academic, government and professional entities to help secondary school students make informed decisions about their higher education and future careers.

Held at the ministry's permanent headquarters from November 10 to 12 under the theme "Your First Step Towards the Future: Your University... Your Major... Your Career Path", the three-day exhibition features 70 information stands showcasing educational opportunities, scholarships, professional development programmes and employment pathways.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education H E Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Nuaimi inaugurated the exhibition in the presence of senior ministry officials and representatives of participating organisations.

The event aims to strengthen academic and career awareness among secondary school students by providing direct access to higher education institutions, scholarship authorities and employers. It also enables students to learn about university majors, admission requirements, scholarship opportunities and career pathways linked to labour market needs.

Director of the Department of Schools and Students Affairs Maryam Al Nassef Al Buainain said the exhibition serves as a platform for strengthening partnerships between the ministry, higher education institutions and professional organisations, while linking academic choices with future employment opportunities.

She highlighted the importance of enabling students to explore their interests and abilities and understand the requirements of different university specialisations, helping them choose educational and career paths that match their ambitions and labour market needs.

Al Buainain also emphasised the role of families and academic counsellors in supporting students as they make decisions about their future.

The exhibition is expected to welcome around 2,100 male and female students from government, private and international schools over three days.

The first day is dedicated to Grade 12 boys from government schools, with 800 students expected to attend. The second day will welcome around 800 Grade 12 girls from government schools, while the third day is allocated to approximately 500 students from private and international schools. Parents are also welcome to visit the exhibition and explore the educational and career opportunities available to their children.



Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education H E Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Nuaimi with senior ministry officials during the exhibition.

A wide range of higher education institutions in Qatar are participating, including Qatar University, University of Doha for Science and Technology, Community College of Qatar, Lusail University, universities based in Education City, and the Academic Bridge Programme.

International educational institutions are also represented, including the universities of Aberdeen, Ulster, Northumbria and Liverpool John Moores, as well as Qatar Aeronautical Academy.



Awqaf Minister praises high standards of contestants in 'Awwal Al-Awael' Quran contest

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs H E Ghanem bin Shaheen bin Ghanem Al Ghanim has praised the outstanding standards demonstrated by contestants in the third edition of the international Quran competition 'Awwal Al-Awael', commending their mastery of the Holy Quran, quality of recitation and commitment to excellence.

The Minister made the remarks during a visit yesterday to the first-round competitions, held at the Imam Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab Mosque in Doha, where he observed contestants representing 19 countries competing before an international judging panel comprising prominent scholars specialising in Quranic readings and Tajweed.

The competition brings together winners of top positions in international Quran contests, with the aim of identifying the best among the best. Only 10 contestants will advance to the final round, competing for the title of 'Awwal Al-Awael' and a top prize of QR1m.

The contestants reached the in-person stage following preliminary qualifying rounds that attracted 98 applicants from 35 countries. A total of 82 contestants representing 33 countries took part in the initial qualifiers, from which 42 advanced to the first round in Doha.

The competition tests participants not only on their memorisation of the entire Holy Quran but also on their understanding of its vocabulary, based on the book *Al-Siraj fi Bayan Gharib Al-Quran*. Assessment criteria include recitation, application of Tajweed rules, vocal quality and overall performance.

The first-round competitions will continue until November 14, with results scheduled to be announced on November 15. The final-stage draw will also take place on the same day, ahead of the final competitions on November 16 and 17. The closing ceremony is scheduled for November 19.

The competition has also highlighted inspiring journeys of participants who have combined Quranic memorisation with academic and professional achievements. Among them are Egyptian physician Ahmed Mohammed Ali Amer, who holds a postgraduate qualification in orthopaedic surgery and has studied the ten major Quranic readings, and Hamada Mohammed El Sayed Khattab, who holds a doctorate in Quranic readings and teaches at Al-Azhar University's Faculty of the Holy Quran.

Other contestants include Yemeni Ibrahim Ahmed Farea Qassem, who works as an imam in Qatar's Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, and Guinean Omar Ahmed Touri, who mastered the ten minor Quranic readings. Chadian contestant Mohammed Adam Mohammed is also among the participants, having achieved first place in the seven consecutive readings category at the King Abdulaziz International Quran Competition last year.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs H E Ghanem bin Shaheen bin Ghanem Al Ghanim with official at Quran competition.



Qatar, UAE discuss security cooperation

Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have discussed opportunities to foster bilateral security cooperation during talks in Doha. Ministry of Interior Undersecretary H E Abdullah bin Khalaf Al Kaabi received Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Qatar H E Saeed Al Qamzi to explore ways to strengthen and further develop existing areas of security collaboration and cooperation between the two countries.

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2	08-Apr-2016	0119816109940857	RAMESH BASNET SITA MAYA BASNET	NPR	5,299.80
3	11-Apr-2016	0120116110253895	RESHAM LAL THAPA	NPR	31,453.70
4	07-May-2016	0119816112859274	HARI KISHOR MUKHIYA	NPR	15,513.10
5	27-Jun-2016	0119616117967335	MANOJ PARIYAR	NPR	119,028.55
6	06-Jul-2016	0119616118845219	GOPL KHANAL	NPR	2,423.10
7	20-Jul-2016	0119816120241229	SHANKAR BAHADUR GHALAN	NPR	5,003.10
8	04-Aug-2016	0119816121774292	SUMAN MALLA	NPR	3,870.20
9	12-Sep-2016	0119516125647254	IBRAR HUSAIN AHSANULLAH	NPR	2,402.60
10	30-Nov-2016	0119816133549730	AMAR BAHADUR SINGH	NPR	9,000.00

Trust Exchange ترست للصرافة

Trust Exchange Company WLL
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Street No. 340 Salwa road, Doha, Qatar. Tel:44487903
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Diabetes Qatar launches its annual 'Early Action on Diabetes' campaign

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Diabetes Qatar has launched its annual campaign to mark World Diabetes Day, observed on November 14 each year. Under the theme 'Early Action on Diabetes,' this year's campaign highlights the importance of recognising the signs of diabetes, getting an early diagnosis and accessing timely care. It also raises awareness of the risk factors for type 2 diabetes and steps people can take to reduce their risk.

Over the past two weeks, Diabetes Qatar has conducted type 2 diabetes risk assessments at several government entities and public institutions, including KAHRAMAA, Al Daayen Municipality and the General Tax Authority.

It also delivered awareness programmes and talks at several schools, held a training workshop for nursing staff and provided training on the use of insulin pumps to manage type 1 diabetes.

Executive Director of Diabetes Qatar, Dr. Abdulla Al Hamaq said, "Through this year's campaign, we want to help people recognise the signs of diabetes, understand their risk and get tested early. The walkathon brings families and the wider community together and encourages people to make regular physical activity part of their daily lives. This can help reduce their risk of developing type 2 diabetes."

As part of the campaign, Diabetes Qatar will hold its Diabetes Walkathon on Friday, November 13, 2026, at Aspire Park, with AlRayan Bank as the official sponsor. Diabetes Qatar thanks AlRayan Bank for sponsoring the walkathon and supporting its efforts to raise awareness of diabetes in the community.

Diabetes Qatar invites the public, including families, schools and organisations, to join the walkathon and take part in the accompanying activities and health screenings. Participants are invited to gather by the lake at Aspire Park at 3pm.



Participants during the campaign.

Qatar takes part in meetings of Council of Arab Health Ministers

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The State of Qatar participated yesterday in the meetings of the Council of Arab Health Ministers and its Executive Bureau, held in Cairo as part of the Council's 65th ordinary session.

Qatar's delegation was led by Dr Ghanim Ali Al Mannai, Assistant Undersecretary for Healthcare Regulatory Affairs at the Ministry of Public Health.

The meetings reviewed several important topics, including support for the health sectors in the State of Palestine and the Republic of Sudan; the health and humanitarian situation in the Republic of Yemen; and a study on establishing an Arab regional centre for applied epidemiology.

The agenda also included discussion of the Arab Strategy to Leverage the Expertise of Arab Health Professionals Living Abroad in Support of Health Sectors across the Arab Region (2026–2030), along with the Arab Strategy for Improving the Health of Mothers, Children and Adolescent Girls. Participants also reviewed the achievements of the Arab Blood Transfusion Services Authority, the Arab Board of Health Specialisations and the Arab Centre for the Authoring and Translation of Health Sciences.

Fifth cohort of 'Successful Start' programme for 245 new teachers launched

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Education and Higher Education has launched the first guidance session for the fifth cohort of its 'Successful Start' (Bidaya Muwafaqa) programme for the 2026-2027 academic year, bringing together 245 newly appointed teachers and educational mentors.

Held under the theme 'A Confident Start', the session was organised by the ministry's Training and Development Centre as part of its efforts to support teachers at the beginning of their professional careers, enhance their readiness for teaching and facilitate their integration into the school environment.

The session aimed to establish professional relationships based on trust and cooperation between new teachers and their mentors, clarify their respective roles and responsibilities, and agree on communication and follow-up mechanisms throughout the academic year.

It also addressed the key challenges facing newly appointed teachers, their professional development needs, and the training assignments they are required to complete, including the mechanisms for implementing and monitoring these tasks.

شبكة الجزيرة الإعلامية
ALJAZEERA MEDIA NETWORK

Al Jazeera Media Network announces the following tender:

Sr. No	Tender Ref. No.	Description	Tender Bond (QAR)	Tender Fee Non-Refundable (QAR)	Bid Closing Date and Time
1	LTC100-26	Operation and management of on-site first aid clinic at AJMN for 3 years	12,000	500	13-Dec-2026 (1:00 PM)

- Tenderer qualification requirement: The Tenderer must have at least ten (10) years of proven experience in medical services and the operation of medical or first aid clinics and have a valid license to operate outpatient clinics issued by the competent authority in Qatar.
- Tender documents can be collected from Al Jazeera Media Network, Procurement & Contracts Directorate Building 1st Floor, behind Al Jazeera Media Institute Building, TV Intersection Area, Doha by submitting an authorization letter showing the tender number and ID number of collecting person under the company letterhead, after paying the tender fee (as applicable) at QIB Branch inside Al Jazeera's Support Services building.
- Tender documents are to be collected from 11-Nov-2026 to 19-Nov-2026, between 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM (excluding Friday & Saturday).
- The offer must be valid for a period of 180 days from the bid closing date.
- The Technical and Commercial offers shall be submitted as per the instructions in the tender documents which shall bear the tender number and bid closing date.
- The last date for accepting the Tender offers shall be 01:00 PM of the bid closing date.
- For more information, please call 44897131.

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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



Environment Minister meets Ambassador of Tuvalu

Minister of Environment and Climate Change H E Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie met yesterday with Ambassador of Tuvalu (non-resident) to the State of Qatar H E Dr. Tauisi Minute Taupo. During the meeting, they discussed means of cooperation between the two countries in the areas of adaptation to climate change and environmental protection, in addition to several topics of mutual interest.

Qatar Rail receives 'Prestigious RoSPA Gold Award' for health and safety excellence

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: For the second consecutive year, Qatar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) has been recognised with the "Prestigious RoSPA Gold Award" for occupational health and safety excellence by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), UK, for the year 2026, reaffirming its commitment to the highest standards of health and safety across all operations.

This global recognition reflects the collaborative efforts of the Occupational Health and Safety Teams at Qatar Rail and RKH Qitarat, the operator of Doha Metro and Lusail Tram.

It underscores their continued commitment to implementing integrated and effective health and safety management systems and maintaining world-class operational standards.

Winning the award for the second consecutive year reaffirms Qatar Rail's commitment to strengthening collaboration and coordination with its partners to embed a culture of occupational health and safety and continuously enhance health and safety management practices, helping to protect people and provide a healthy and safe working environment across its facilities.

This recognition adds to Qatar Rail's track record at the RoSPA Awards. In 2017, Qatar Rail won three international awards from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) for the Lusail Tram and the Doha Metro Gold and Green Lines.

The Lusail Tram won the Gold Award for Health and Safety for the second consecutive year, while the Doha Metro Gold and Green Lines won the Silver Award, and the main stations won the Guardian Angel Award. The Lusail Tram was awarded the RoSPA Gold Medal in 2020 for winning the RoSPA Gold Award for five consecutive years from 2016 to 2020. In 2025, Qatar Rail received the "Prestigious RoSPA Gold Award" for occupational health and safety excellence.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), founded in the United Kingdom over a century ago, is one of the world's leading voices in health and safety. Its annual awards program attracts nearly 2,000 entries from around 60 countries, reaching millions of employees worldwide, and is open to teams and organizations from across the globe.

Qatar participates in Web Summit Lisbon 2026 in Portugal

LISBON: Qatar is participating in Web Summit Lisbon 2026, which began on Monday in the Portuguese capital and runs until November 12, bringing together leading technology executives, investors, entrepreneurs and decision-makers from around the world.

Representing Qatar at the summit for the fourth consecutive year is a delegation headed by Director of the Government Communications Office (GCO) and Chairman of the Permanent Committee for Hosting Web Summit H E Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour bin Jabor Al Thani.

The participation aims to promote the fourth edition of Web Summit Qatar 2027, scheduled to take place in Doha from January 31 to February 3 next year.

On this occasion, Sheikh Jassim said Qatar's pavilion brings together an integrated ecosystem of entities and support programmes working collectively to highlight investment and business establishment opportunities in the country.

"We are proud to have startups showcasing their innovations to investors and technology leaders, reflecting the development taking place in the country's entrepreneurship ecosystem," he said.

He added that Qatar's participation in Lisbon represents an important opportunity to connect with the global technology community and highlight the supportive environment the country offers for innovation, investment and business growth.

"We look forward to welcoming this community to Doha during the next edition of the event and building on the successes of previous editions, in a way that supports the objectives of the Third National Development Strategy and contributes to achieving Qatar National Vision 2030," he said.

Qatar's pavilion began welcoming summit visitors on the first day, bringing together representatives of several government and semi-government entities involved in technology, investment and entrepreneurship. The participating entities are highlighting their programmes and incentives while introducing visitors to the country's business environment and the procedures for setting up companies in Qatar.

On the opening day, the Investment Promotion Agency Qatar (Invest Qatar) launched the 'Road to Web Summit Qatar 2027' programme under its 'Start from Qatar' initiative, in collaboration with the GCO, Web Summit organisers and several partners from the country's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The programme aims to prepare between 10 and 15 promising startups through an intensive two-day boot camp featuring specialised mentoring and practical training. The sessions cover investment pitch preparation, market-entry strategies and investor engagement, helping the startups strengthen their readiness for the fourth edition of the global event in Doha.

Visit Qatar is also participating in the national pavilion, showcasing the country's diverse tourism offerings and its position as a leading global destination for business events. — ***QNA***



QMC CEO participates in GCC meeting of Undersecretaries of Information Ministries

Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Media Corporation (QMC), H E Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz bin Jassim Al-Thani joined a meeting of Their Excellencies, the Undersecretaries of Information Ministries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, held via videoconference. The meeting discussed a range of issues aimed at strengthening Gulf media cooperation as well as reviewing and aligning Gulf media policies, regulations and standards to consolidate them into a unified guide and establish an executive mechanism for their implementation. The gathering also addressed restructuring the GCC Programme Production Institution and the Gulf Radio and Television Organisation to advance joint media action.

Qatar-Canada cultural ties strengthened through music, says acclaimed conductor

VICTOR BOLORUNDURO
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Acclaimed Canadian conductor Charles Olivieri-Munroe **(pictured)** has highlighted the importance of cultural collaboration between Qatar and Canada, describing music as a powerful bridge for strengthening bilateral ties, fostering mutual understanding and creating lasting artistic partnerships between the two countries.

Speaking to *The Peninsula* on the sidelines of the Sounds of Canada concert, presented as part of the Qatar, Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture, Olivieri-Munroe said the initiative provides a valuable platform for introducing Canadian classical music to audiences in Qatar while opening new opportunities for artistic exchanges.

The internationally renowned conductor, who made his Arab world debut with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO), expressed hope that the cultural partnership would extend beyond individual performances to inspire joint musical productions and collaborations between composers from both countries.

"I would also love to see a commission bringing together a Canadian and a Qatari or Arab composer," he said.

"That would be the most beautiful legacy of this Year of Culture: not only performing each other's music, but creating new music together."

Olivieri-Munroe said initiatives such as Years of Culture



play an important role in expanding the international reach of classical music, particularly by introducing lesser-known compositions to audiences in different parts of the world.

"Years of Culture are extremely valuable because they create a reason, and a stage, for music that would otherwise rarely travel," he said.

He stressed that such initiatives should establish enduring relationships through return performances, recordings, educational projects and opportunities for young musicians.

Reflecting on the cultural connections between Qatar and Canada, the conductor noted that both countries' multicultural environments provide opportunities for artistic dialogue.

Born in Malta, raised in Toronto and based in Prague since 1997, Olivieri-Munroe said his experiences of living across different cultures have shaped his understanding of music as a universal language.

"I have spent my whole life between cultures, and I know from experience that you can belong to more than one place at once. That is also the story of Canada, and of much of its music," he said.

"When I present an all-Canadian programme in Doha, I do not see it as a national flag being waved. I see it as a meeting point."

The Sounds of Canada concert featured works by three distinguished Canadian composers, Oskar Morawetz, Pierre Mercure and Jacques Hétu, showcasing the richness and diversity of Canada's musical heritage.

The programme included Morawetz's Carnival Overture and Symphony No. 2, Mercure's Kaléidoscope and Hétu's Sur les rives du Saint-Maurice.

Olivieri-Munroe, who personally selected the repertoire, explained that the compositions reflected Canada's multicultural identity, combining Central European musical traditions with French-Canadian influences.

He also praised the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra's multinational composition, describing its musicians from different countries as a reflection of Canada's cultural diversity.

Discussing the broader Year of Culture initiative, Olivieri-Munroe said pairing Sounds of Canada with the earlier Sounds of Mexico concert created a meaningful dialogue among three culturally diverse nations.

He expressed hope that the initiative would encourage greater appreciation of Canadian classical music in Qatar while laying the foundation for future artistic collaborations.

'Qatar moving from AI experimentation to real-world impact'

JOEL JOHNSON
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar is moving beyond AI experimentation towards practical applications that deliver measurable business impact, with infrastructure, data sovereignty and skills development emerging as key priorities, according to Microsoft Qatar General Manager Ahmad El Dandachi **(pictured)**.

Speaking to *The Peninsula* at the ongoing Mobile World Congress 2026 (MWC26), El Dandachi said AI readiness should not be viewed as a binary concept but as a continuous process of adoption, learning and adaptation.

"One of the misconceptions about AI readiness is that sometimes we think it's binary. It's either we're 100 percent ready, or we're not ready at all," he said. Microsoft is working with government entities and enterprise customers in Qatar to move AI initiatives from proof-of-concept projects into operational applications, including the automation of critical business processes.

While adoption has grown through experimentation and AI agents, El Dandachi said the focus is now shifting towards delivering tangible results rather than using AI primarily as an assistance tool.

Data sovereignty and residency have become major priorities for Microsoft's Qatari customers, with organisations increasingly seeking to keep data within the country and retain control over security and governance.

He highlighted Microsoft's local infrastructure, which includes data centres in Qatar and three availability zones, allowing customers to use its public sovereign cloud while retaining control of their data.

The General Manager noted that Microsoft provides resilience capabilities through its data centres in North Europe and West Europe, enabling critical operations to continue outside Qatar in the event of a major disruption.

He emphasised that the European facilities supporting these arrangements are certified by Qatar's National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) and the Qatari government.

El Dandachi identified three pillars underpinning Qatar's AI development, including infrastructure, security and governance, and skills.

Microsoft has invested in Qatar's AI infrastructure for more than four years, developing the computing capacity, power and data centre capabilities needed to support adoption.

A key development is the deployment of Azure OpenAI in Qatar, allowing government and private sector organisations to access AI services through infrastructure located within the country.

The second pillar is security and governance, the official underlined, highlighting that strong safeguards and governance frameworks are essential to building customer trust and accelerating AI adoption.

The third is skills



El Dandachi said AI readiness should not be viewed as a binary concept but as a continuous process of adoption, learning and adaptation.

development, particularly as organisations increasingly integrate AI agents into their operations.

"You still need to have humans who are going to control agents," he said, emphasising that human oversight, training and awareness will remain essential as AI capabilities advance.

Microsoft is also strengthening its partnerships across Qatar's technology ecosystem, including collaborations with telecommunications operators like Vodafone Qatar, as well as its strategic partnership with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT).

El Dandachi underscored the planned announcement of Microsoft's Azure OpenAI deployment in Qatar in collaboration with MCIT, describing it as a major milestone for the country's AI ambitions.

He added, "This is a big milestone, a big momentum, and this will take us to the next level in terms of AI expansion in the country," he said.

As Qatar accelerates its digital transformation, experts note that the transition from AI experimentation to measurable impact is set to become a "defining priority" for both government and business.

People urged to place aluminium cans and glass bottles in designated bins

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Municipality has urged residents to properly dispose of aluminium cans and glass bottles in designated recycling bins, highlighting the importance of not overlooking these everyday materials in waste-sorting practices.

In a social media awareness message, the ministry noted that while people often focus on plastic and paper, aluminium cans and glass bottles are sometimes overlooked, despite being recyclable materials.

The ministry advised residents to empty the cans and bottles of any remaining liquids, rinse them and place them in the designated blue bins for recyclable materials.

It stressed that proper waste sorting and disposal by individuals can help reduce the volume of waste.

Qatar calls for increased ILO support for Palestinian workers

THE PENINSULA



Minister of Labour H E Dr. Ali bin Smaikh Al Marri with ILO Director-General Gilbert F Houngbo during the meeting.

DOHA: Minister of Labour H E Dr. Ali bin Smaikh Al Marri participated yesterday in the Partners' Meeting to Support the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Programme of Assistance for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, held in Geneva and attended by ILO Director-General Gilbert F. Houngbo, Their Excellencies Ministers of Labour, and representatives of workers and employers from the Organization's Member States.

Minister of Labour, stressed that conditions in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Occupied Palestinian Territory were witnessing a serious and alarming deterioration amid continued military operations and restrictions on the entry of aid into the Strip, further exacerbating the humanitarian and economic crisis.

He explained that the data contained in the Office's background note indicated that more than half a million jobs had been lost since October 2023, while unemployment rates had reached 28.6% in the West Bank and exceeded 80% in the Gaza Strip. He noted that these figures reflected the scale of the crisis facing Palestinian workers and employers, as well as the growing difficulties experienced by families in securing even their most basic needs. This underscored the importance of the ILO continuing to provide the necessary assistance.

In this regard, Al Marri expressed his appreciation for the Organization's efforts to respond to urgent needs through its Emergency Response Plan and the associated recovery programme. He also welcomed the Decent Work and Recovery Programme for the Occupied Palestinian Territory for 2026–2029, describing it as an important framework for supporting recovery efforts through a focus on three key areas: employment and enterprise recovery, social protection, and labour market governance.

The Minister stressed that the worsening humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip and the deteriorating situation in the West Bank called for greater concerted efforts to ensure that those affected received the necessary assistance. He emphasised that Palestinian workers and employers, as well as the Palestinian people as a whole, remained in urgent need of the international community's solidarity.

He also thanked the ILO Director-General and the Organization's Office for convening the meeting, commending the Organization's ongoing efforts to mitigate the effects of the devastating war in the Gaza Strip and the escalation of violence in the West Bank, and the resulting impact on the lives of workers, employers and the Palestinian people as a whole. Al Marri further thanked the Kingdom of the Netherlands for its support for the initiative and its participation in organising the event.

The Ministry of Labour's participation in the meeting with a high-level delegation reflects the State of Qatar's continued support for the Palestinian people through international forums. It also underscores the need for the ILO to take the necessary measures to assist workers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, while strengthening its efforts to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to the three parties to production in Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Poland's Independence Day highlights resilience and growing ties with Qatar

JOEL JOHNSON
THE PENINSULA


Minister of Communications and Technology H E Mohammed bin Ali Al Mannai; Poland's Ambassador to Qatar H E Tomasz Sadziński; Director of the Department of Protocol at MoFA H E Ibrahim Yousif Abdullah Fakhro; and European Union Ambassador to Qatar H E Antonino Maggiore during the cake cutting ceremony yesterday.

DOHA: Poland's National Independence Day was marked with a celebration of the country's history, resilience, and enduring commitment to sovereignty, highlighting the importance of safeguarding independence and strengthening international partnerships, especially with Qatar.

The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Communications and Technology, H E Mohammed bin Ali Al Mannai; Poland's Ambassador to Qatar, H E Tomasz Sadziński; Director of the Department of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), H E Ibrahim Yousif Abdullah Fakhro; and European Union Ambassador to Qatar, H E Antonino Maggiore, among other officials and delegates.

Addressing guests at the National Independence Day reception, Ambassador Sadziński reflected on November 11, 1918, when Poland regained its independence after 123 years of armed, cultural and economic struggle following its partition by neighbouring powers.

"We shall remember, but we also shall rejoice," he said, stressing that Poland's history serves as a reminder that independence should never be taken for granted.

"Independence is not a given. It's not guaranteed. Every nation works to sustain it day by day by building trust, resilience, and national heritage you can build upon," he said.

The Ambassador noted that Poland had used the gift of independence wisely, highlighting the country's economic transformation and strengthened international standing since 1990.

He said Poland's economy had surpassed $1 trillion, while GDP and GDP per capita had increased more than sixteenfold.

He also pointed to Poland's growing global economic influence, noting its expected position as the world's 20th-largest economy and its invitations to participate in G20 summits.

Highlighting bilateral relations, Ambassador Sadziński described 2026 as a year of growth for the partnership between Poland and Qatar, expressing appreciation for the leadership and vision of H H the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.

He recalled H H the Amir's first visit to Poland in 2017 as an important milestone in the expansion of bilateral relations.

The Ambassador also commended Sheikh Ali Alwaleed Al-Thani and the Invest Qatar team for their efforts to strengthen economic cooperation and expand investment opportunities between the two countries.

He further highlighted ongoing discussions with the Qatar Armed Forces on enhancing bilateral defence cooperation, expressing gratitude for their engagement.

Ambassador Sadziński thanked the Polish community in Doha for its meaningful contributions to strengthening relations between the two countries.

The celebration underscored Poland's historic struggle for independence and its commitment to international solidarity, peaceful cooperation and the continued development of its strategic and friendly partnership with Qatar.



Qatar, Turkmenistan discuss cybersecurity ties

President of the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) Eng Abdulrahman bin Ali Al Farahid Al Malki received yesterday, Minister of Communications of Turkmenistan Hajymyrat Hudaygulyyev and the accompanying delegation. The meeting explored avenues for strengthening bilateral cooperation in cybersecurity and further consolidating the partnership between the two countries in this field, alongside deliberations on a range of issues of mutual interest.

Hamad General Hospital opens specialised oxygen assessment clinic

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Pulmonary Medicine Section at Hamad Medical Corporation's (HMC) Hamad General Hospital has opened the Oxygen Assessment Clinic, a specialised service dedicated to assessing patients' oxygen needs. The clinic aims to evaluate patients with persistently low blood oxygen levels and determine whether they require oxygen therapy based on their medical condition and clinical test results.

The clinic provides services to patients with chronic respiratory diseases, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), interstitial lung diseases, pulmonary fibrosis, and other conditions requiring specialised assessment. It also serves patients who were discharged from hospital on home oxygen therapy to determine whether they continue to require treatment.

Consultant Pulmonologist at Hamad General Hospital, Dr. Mona Mohammed emphasised that the opening of the clinic reflects the importance of addressing patients' needs through accurate medical assessment, particularly as oxygen requirements may change over time depending on the progression of a medical condition or recovery from illness.

She added, "Determining whether a patient needs oxygen therapy requires a thorough medical assessment based on each patient's individual health condition. Having a respiratory disease or experiencing shortness of breath does not necessarily mean that oxygen therapy is required. This makes proper assessment and regular follow-up essential to ensuring that patients receive treatment appropriate to their medical needs."

Consultant Pulmonologist and Lead of the Oxygen Assessment Clinic at Hamad General Hospital, Dr. Ibrahim Abdul Rasheed explained that the clinic offers a comprehensive range of tests and procedures to determine patients' oxygen needs. These include reviewing the patient's medical history, symptoms and current medications; measuring blood oxygen saturation at rest; and conducting an arterial blood gas (ABG) test. The assessment also involves a six-minute walk test to monitor oxygen levels during physical exertion, measurements to determine the appropriate oxygen delivery device and flow rate, and monitoring oxygen levels during sleep when necessary.

Dr. Abdul Rasheed noted that test results help the medical team determine the appropriate oxygen flow rate for use at home or during physical activity. The team also provides patients and caregivers with guidance on the safe use of oxygen equipment and on when oxygen therapy may need to be adjusted or stopped as the patient's condition changes.

The clinic receives referrals from the Internal Medicine Departments and subspecialty services across HMC. This initiative forms part of HMC's ongoing efforts to advance specialised respiratory care services and provide a structured pathway for assessing and monitoring patients' oxygen therapy needs.

Microsoft, MCIT brings Azure OpenAI services to Qatar

THE PENINSULA



Officials during the event.

DOHA: Microsoft and Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) yesterday highlighted the availability of Foundry models, including Azure OpenAI Service from Microsoft's Qatar Central cloud datacenter region during MWC26 Doha.

The milestone gives government entities and organizations across the country access to advanced generative AI models served from infrastructure located in Qatar, accelerating AI adoption while meeting local data residency and regulatory requirements.

The milestone supports MCIT's efforts to strengthen Qatar's digital infrastructure, advance digital government and enable responsible AI adoption, in line with the Digital Agenda 2030 and Qatar National Vision 2030. It builds on the long-standing collaboration between MCIT and Microsoft, through which more than 70 public entities have moved existing on-premises infrastructure to Microsoft Azure.

Microsoft Foundry offers a catalog of more than 10,000 AI models, giving organisations a broad range of options to explore for different business needs. In Qatar, Microsoft plans to expand the model regional offers to include Qatar, helping organisations access capabilities that support their AI priorities as those needs evolve.

These models can be used to build AI applications such as intelligent assistants, document and case analysis, content generation and knowledge search.

Commenting on the milestone, Assistant Undersecretary for Infrastructure and Operations Affairs at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Sami Mohammed Al Shammari, said: "Developing Qatar's cloud and AI infrastructure is a strategic priority for strengthening national digital capabilities. The availability of Azure OpenAI Service in Qatar supports government entities in adopting advanced technologies and delivering better services for citizens and residents. Our collaboration with Microsoft and our partners is focused on building resilient, scalable infrastructure that enables sustained innovation and supports the objectives of the Digital Agenda 2030 and Qatar National Vision 2030."

General Manager, Microsoft Qatar, Ahmad El Dandachi, said: "Our collaboration with MCIT is about putting world-class AI capabilities in the hands of Qatar's government entities, on trusted infrastructure, right here in the country. The availability of Microsoft Foundry from our Qatar Central cloud region gives organisations the confidence to innovate with generative AI while keeping their data in Qatar. We are proud to work alongside MCIT to help accelerate the country's AI ambitions, and we look forward to seeing how public-sector entities, customers and partners use these capabilities to deliver meaningful impact for people across Qatar." Microsoft Foundry is designed for a diverse range of industries, including government, healthcare, finance, education and energy.

DFF 2026 turns Doha into citywide adventure with launch of Side Quest

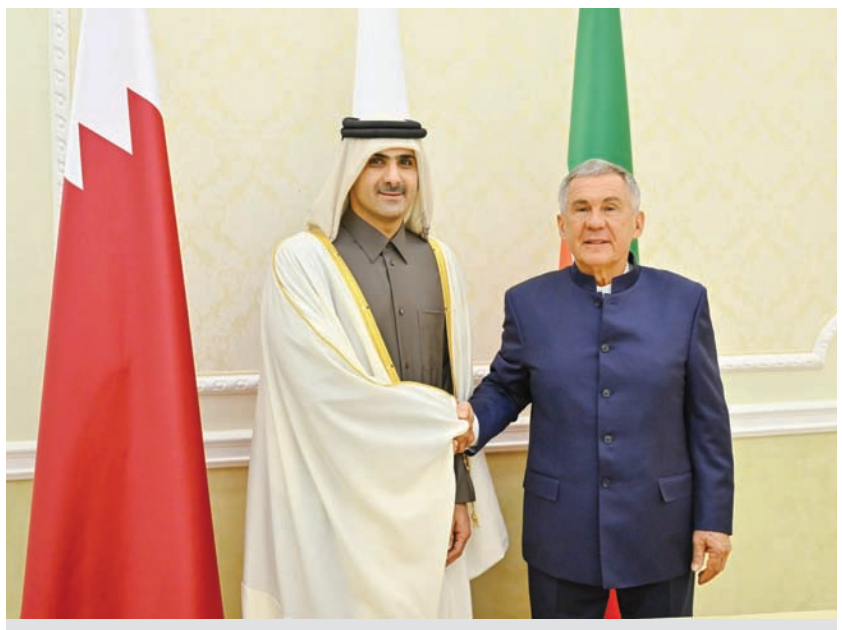
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Bringing the magic of cinema beyond the big screen, Doha Film Festival (DFF) 2026 invites residents and visitors to embark on an exciting citywide adventure with the launch of DFF Side Quest, an interactive mobile game that transforms Doha into a giant game board from November 9 to 19.

Designed to bring audiences closer to cinema in a fun, immersive and unexpected way, DFF Side Quest challenges participants to track down missing digital posters from this year's Festival programme by exploring 10 participating venues and community spaces across Doha. Along the way, players will find film-inspired clues, puzzles and challenges, earn points, unlock rewards and discover the stories and filmmakers featured in DFF 2026.

Commenting on the initiative, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Doha Film Institute and Deputy Director of Doha Film Festival Abdulla Al Mosallam said, "Cinema has the power to bring people together, spark curiosity and create connections that transcend boundaries. With DFF Side Quest, we are taking that spirit beyond the cinema and into the heart of our city, inviting the community to become active participants in the festival experience. By turning discovery into adventure, we hope to inspire people to discover new stories, engage with different perspectives and experience the creative energy of Doha in a new way.

Running from November 9 to 19, DFF Side Quest is an invitation to discover cinema in unexpected places across the city. Participating partner locations across Doha neighbourhoods include: The Terminal at Old Doha Port, Fire Station, M7, Ministry of Coffee in Lusail, Halo at Villaggio Mall, Two to Six at Aspire Park, Blackout Coffee at West Walk, La Petite Comiion at Centro, Zawya at The Pearl and Store 974 at Place Vendôme.



Qatar and Russia's Republic of Tatarstan discuss expanding cultural cooperation

Head of the Republic of Tatarstan H E Rustam Minnikhanov discussed cultural cooperation with the State of Qatar during talks with Minister of Culture H E Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al-Thani. The meeting took place in Kazan yesterday, with both officials exploring ways to strengthen cultural cooperation between the two nations.

Crown Prince of Brunei Darussalam visits QNL

DOHA: Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam HRH Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah and his accompanying delegation visited the Qatar National Library (QNL) yesterday as part of his visit to the country. He was received upon arrival by Minister of State and QNL President H E Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al Kawari.

During the visit, the Crown Prince was briefed on the library's architectural design and its valuable collections, which include manuscripts, periodicals, rare artifacts, maps and antique books covering a wide range of fields of knowledge.

The tour included the Heritage Library, which houses important documents on the history of Qatar, as well as the Children's Library and the Young Adults section. The Crown Prince also received a detailed briefing on the library's digital collections and electronic resources, and the various services it provides to researchers around the world.



Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam HRH Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah with Minister of State and Qatar National Library President H E Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al Kawari during the visit to the Library yesterday.

In a message written in the library's guestbook, HRH the Crown Prince praised the treasures and collections of Qatar National Library. — *QNA*

MCIT and MoJ sign two agreements to develop AI solutions for justice sector

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), and Scale AI signed two cooperation agreements to develop AI-powered solutions under SAK and Shoor projects, aiming to enhance the efficiency of justice-related services and advance legal work tools within the Ministry of Justice, in line with the targets of Digital Agenda 2030 (DA2030).

The agreements were signed, on behalf of MCIT, by Director of the Digital Innovation Department, Eman Al Kuwari. On behalf of the Ministry of Justice, SAK project agreement was signed by Director of the Documentation Department and Head of External Centers, Arij Mohsen Al Shammari, while the 'Shoor' project agreement was signed by Assistant Director of the Litigation Affairs Department, Noor Al Zainal.

Both agreements were signed on behalf of Scale AI by the company's Regional Director in Qatar, Amr Samir.

The 'Sakk' project aims to develop an AI-powered solution to enhance the efficiency of notarization and authentication services at the Ministry of Justice, improve the accuracy and speed of procedures, and facilitate customers' access to services.



Officials at the agreement signing event.

The 'Shoor' project, meanwhile, aims to develop a digital solution to support the Ministry of Justice's lawyers in managing state cases and conducting legal research, by facilitating access to and analysis of legal information, thereby enhancing the efficiency of legal work and supporting the speedy completion of tasks.

Both agreements fall under the Government AI Program led by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, and represent an extension of the strategic partnership the Ministry established with Scale AI in February 2025.

This five-year partnership aims to develop more than 50 innovative AI-powered projects across government entities by 2029, and included the launch of the 'Alif' Program to build the AI capabilities of government employees.

The two projects build on the existing cooperation between the three parties in the legal field, which included the development of the 'Smart Legislative Advisor' programme to support the drafting and review of legislation.

The programme aims to reduce the legislative processing and review period from approximately 35 days to approximately five days, while maintaining human oversight and professional legal accountability.

Doha Institute to host seventh Middle East and North Africa Adolescent Health Conference

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The 7th MENA Adolescent Health Conference will begin on Sunday, November 15, 2026, under the theme "A Generation Empowered: From Vulnerability to Strength."

The Social Work Program at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (DI) is hosting the conference in partnership with the Arab Coalition for Adolescent Health and Medicine and the Juzoor Foundation for Health and Social Development.

The conference comes amid mounting challenges facing adolescents and young people across the region, including crises, conflicts, displacement, poverty, and economic instability, alongside climate change and digital transformation.

These challenges have far-reaching implications for their mental and physical health, social well-being, opportunities for empowerment, and community participation.

The conference aims to provide a regional platform bringing together policymakers, researchers, practitioners, representatives of relevant institutions, and adolescents and young people to discuss the needs of this population from an integrated perspective encompassing health, psychological, social, educational, and economic dimensions. It also seeks to strengthen coordination and collaboration across relevant sectors to develop more inclusive and sustainable policies and programs.

The conference aims to shift the focus from vulnerability to investing in adolescents' capabilities and potential.

The conference will address several key themes, including the development of multisectoral policies and programs; strengthening the biopsychosocial approach to addressing adolescent issues; expanding adolescents' participation in shaping policies and decisions that affect their future; securing sustainable funding for adolescent health and empowerment programmes; and promoting digital protection and safety, as well as safe and meaningful participation in the digital space.

It also seeks to facilitate the exchange of regional and international expertise and knowledge, showcase successful experiences and best practices, and formulate practical recommendations and solutions that promote adolescent health and rights and strengthen their resilience in the face of crises.

Furthermore, the conference aims to shift the focus from vulnerability to investing in adolescents' capabilities and potential, recognizing them as active partners in development.

The conference will open with an inaugural session on Sunday, November 15, from 5:00 to 7:30pm at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. Its proceedings and academic sessions will continue until Tuesday, November 17, 2026.

Qatar hosts NoW event on women's role in digital diplomacy at ITU PP-26

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The State of Qatar, represented by the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), hosted the Network of Women (NoW) event, in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and with the support of the Republic of Korea, under the theme "The Human Library of Digital Diplomacy: Women Connecting Nations in the Digital Age".

Held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC), the event formed part of the activities accompanying the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP-26), organised by ITU and hosted by the State of Qatar, represented by CRA from November 9 to 27, 2026.

The event was attended by Engineer Ahmad bin Abdulla AlMuslemani, Chair of ITU PP-26 and President of the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) of the State of Qatar, alongside a number of heads of delegations from ITU Member States.

The event opened with an address by ITU Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin, followed by remarks from H E Dr. Bae Kyung-hoon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Science and ICT of the Republic of Korea, reflecting the Republic of Korea's support for the event and international efforts to strengthen women's participation in the ICT sector.

The event marked the launch of a Qatari initiative titled 'The Human Library of Digital Diplomacy', featuring more than 25 profiles of women leaders from across ITU regions, including five Qatari women leaders in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector and academia.

The initiative highlights their experiences, achievements and challenges throughout their professional journeys, aiming to inspire future generations and promote knowledge-sharing. ITU is expected to continue developing the Human Library and enriching its content over the coming years, creating a lasting knowledge legacy extending from Doha to the world.

The event introduced an innovative interactive format inspired by the 'Human Library' concept, where women leaders shared their stories and experiences in leadership, decision-making, building trust and strengthening international cooperation through direct conversations rather than traditional panel discussions.

The main conversations featured Assistant Undersecretary for Digital Industry Affairs at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) H E Reem Mohammed Al Mansoori, of the State of Qatar; and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Mozambique Communications Regulatory Authority (INCM), Helena Fernandes.

Director of Consumer Affairs Department at CRA, Amal Salem Al-Hanawi, said: "Building a more inclusive digital future depends not only on technological progress, but on the diversity of experiences and voices that shape policy and decision-making. With this in mind, the State of Qatar has launched an initiative that goes beyond traditional dialogue, documenting the journeys of women leaders who have helped shape the ICT sector and strengthen international cooperation."

Qatar pavilion at MWC26 Doha showcases latest digital solutions

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The State of Qatar Pavilion, organised by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) as part of MWC26 Doha, presented a range of digital projects, initiatives and solutions with the participation of government and semi-government entities and national institutions.

The pavilion highlighted the progress Qatar is making in using technology and artificial intelligence to develop services and enhance operational efficiency.

The pavilion offered visitors and international partners examples of Qatari experiences in developing digital solutions and deploying AI across various sectors, including government service integration, data exchange, and the development of specialised applications that respond to operational and service needs, in line with the goals of the Digital Agenda 2030 and Qatar National Vision 2030. MCIT showcased a number of government services, including the E-Payment gateway on Hukoomi, the government correspondence system 'Murasalat,' the government data exchange system GDX, and the Government Contact Center (109), along with projects under the GovAI Program. It also highlighted the next phase of the Smart Qatar Program 'Tasmu,' which includes six upcoming national solutions based on data and AI, as well as the Tasmu Innovation Lab, the Tasmu Accelerator, and digital transformation roadmaps for four priority sectors.



The Ministry of Justice demonstrated two pilot models: the legal assistant 'Shour,' which supports legal research, case study and the preparation of memoranda, and the assistant 'Sak,' which reviews notarization requests and documents and verifies that requirements are met. It also presented the Official Gazette search service and the Al Meezan service. In the area of labor and business services, the Ministry of Labor presented its AI-powered labor complaints and disputes platform.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry presented a set of solutions including the smart assistants 'Fateen' and 'Saif,' the 'Takamul' single-window platform, integrated with Qatar Post's e-store services. An AI-powered crisis management system, the Qatar Business Map portal, and a smart legal assistant.

In the environmental field, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change presented the "Smart Observer" project for marine environmental monitoring using a remotely operated vessel. The National Planning Council (NPC) presented the Qatar Open Data Portal.

Qatar Airways brings pre-order dining to medium-haul flights in First and Business Class

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Dine your way on more flights with Qatar Airways as the airline has expanded its 'Pre-Order Meal Service' to medium-haul flights of two hours or more, giving First and Business Class passengers more choice across a significantly larger share of its global network.

For select destinations, the service also features additional signature dishes from the airline's 'Flavours to Fly For' collection.

Passengers can choose their main course from the onboard à la carte menu on confirmed bookings between 14 days and 24 hours before departure, via Manage Booking (My Trips) on the Qatar Airways website or app.

The expansion reflects Qatar Airways' continued commitment to placing passengers at the centre of its business and delivering thoughtfully tailored experiences throughout their journey.

GCC defence ministers approve establishment of forward command in Kuwait

MANAMA: Defence ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries yesterday approved the establishment of a forward command of the GCC Unified Military Command in Kuwait amid heightened regional security tensions.

The decision was made during the 23rd meeting of the GCC Joint Defence Council, held yesterday in Bahrain's capital Manama, under the chairmanship of Bahraini Minister of Defence Affairs Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, according to a statement by the GCC General Secretariat.

GCC Secretary-General Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi said the decision followed directives from GCC leaders at their extraordinary meeting in the Saudi city of Jeddah in April, which called for stronger military coordination to safeguard the security and sovereignty of member states.

Albudaiwi praised the level of military cooperation among GCC countries in responding to regional developments, particularly what he described as Iranian attacks targeting Gulf states, which caused damage to civilian facilities and infrastructure.

He also condemned attacks by Yemen's Houthi group against Saudi Arabia, reaffirming the GCC's solidarity with the kingdom and support for measures taken to protect its security, stability and territorial integrity. — ***XINHUA***

Explosions heard in Saudi capital

RIYADH: Multiple explosions were heard in the Saudi capital yesterday, as the military coalition fighting Yemen's Houthis said it had intercepted a ballistic missile launched by the Iran-backed group towards Riyadh.

AFP journalists heard multiple explosions and residents received a text-message alert on their mobile phones instructing them to take shelter due to an "aerial threat".

"Air defences intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched by the terrorist Houthi militia toward Riyadh," the Saudi-led coalition posted on X.

A subsequent message from the country's civil defence agency said the danger had passed.

The coalition had earlier said air defences also destroyed a ballistic missile headed towards the southern region overnight.

"Air defences intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched toward Riyadh, Saudi-led coalition posted on X.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has faced near-daily strikes from Yemen's Houthis for weeks, after a truce in their long-running conflict unravelled in July.

On Sunday, the Houthis claimed attacks on Riyadh's business district, where witnesses said Aramco Tower was damaged.

Saudi authorities said the building suffered minor damage from falling shrapnel after an "attempted attack".

Images released by Saudi Arabia's press agency yesterday depicted the Riyadh region's deputy governor and other officials inspecting the building with visible damage to some of its floors.

The Houthis have repeatedly targeted Aramco tankers, refineries, storage areas and the company's headquarters.

The coalition has in response been launching airstrikes against Houthi positions inside Yemen.

According to Houthi news agency Saba, Saudi warplanes yesterday carried out a series of strikes on the capital Sanaa and its outskirts, targeting a gas facility and a building belonging to the Yemeni state oil company.

The coalition initially began fighting the Houthis in March 2015, months after the group seized Sanaa and forced out Yemen's internationally recognised government. — ***AFP***

5.4-magnitude earthquake strikes Indonesia's Tanimbar Islands

JAKARTA: A 5.4-magnitude earthquake struck a marine area located about 90km southwest of the Indonesian Tanimbar Islands.

The Indonesian Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) said that the earthquake occurred at a depth of 84 km, affirming that there is no danger of a tsunami resulting from it.

The agency added that the earthquake was felt by residents of the city of Saumlaki, the capital of the Tanimbar Islands, and warned of the possibility of aftershocks.

Indonesia is one of the regions most prone to seismic and volcanic activity, as it lies within what is known as the Ring of Fire in the Pacific Ocean, an area where several tectonic plates interact. The movement of these plates triggers earthquakes, while the associated geological processes also lead to volcanic activity. — ***QNA***

UN warns of worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza after heavy rains

UNITED NATIONS: UN humanitarians and partners worked hard to respond to devastating rains over the weekend in Gaza, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said Monday.

The heavy rains, which began on Friday evening, exposed the fragility of shelters, triggered widespread flooding, damaged humanitarian facilities and learning spaces, and disrupted essential services, said OCHA.

An infant reportedly drowned in the flooding. Three children and two women were killed when a sandy hill collapsed onto their tents. Thousands of families have lost their shelters and belongings, said the office, citing reports from partners.

"Humanitarian partners mobilised immediately to assess people's needs, distribute emergency supplies and otherwise support those affected," OCHA said. "Nevertheless, humanitarian stocks of tents, tarpaulins, blankets and clothes inside Gaza are virtually exhausted." The world body and its partners pumped out water, improved drainage, reinforced displacement sites with sandbags, repaired shelters where possible, and delivered emergency supplies to affected families, said the office. "But our teams are working with far too little equipment and too few shelter materials for the scale of the need." OCHA said that humanitarian funding and Israeli approvals are urgently needed so that enough supplies and machinery can be brought into Gaza, including vacuum trucks, mobile dewatering pumps, engine oil, hoses and heavy machinery.



Displaced Palestinians gather to receive meals being distributed by a charity kitchen at the Nuseirat camp in Gaza yesterday. (AFP)

More than 150,000 tents purchased by humanitarian partners and UN member states "were outside Gaza ready for dispatch," it noted.

The UN humanitarian coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory, Ramiz Alakbarov, said Monday in Ramallah that while rain is natural, people's vulnerability is man-made.

He said hostilities have devastated homes and essential infrastructure, and tight Israeli restrictions have limited preparations and access to areas away from the flood-prone shoreline. Most people are living in worn-out tents that cannot withstand what would be considered a moderate storm elsewhere.

He called for the urgent lifting of all unnecessary restrictions and delays, including those preventing humanitarian organisations from bringing enough supplies into Gaza.

OCHA said that humanitarian partners in Gaza reported that airstrikes continued to hit populated areas and caused more casualties.

"This is undermining humanitarian teams' security," the office said. "On Saturday, UN personnel visiting a displacement site west of the so-called 'Yellow Line' in Gaza City had to take cover when bursts of gunfire hit nearby." OCHA called again for the protection of civilians in line with international humanitarian law. — ***XINHUA***

Aircraft carrying six foreign nationals crashes into cliff in southern Philippines

MANILA: Search and rescue operations were underway yesterday after an aircraft carrying six foreign nationals crashed into a cliff on Mindanao Island in the southern Philippines, local media reported.

The retrieval work was continuing at the site, said Philip June Caminade, an official of a local disaster management office.

Residents saw the aircraft flying low before it hit the cliff, Caminade said.

The plane reportedly came from Butuan City in the northeastern part of Mindanao Island, and those aboard were believed to be exploring Mount Apo. — ***XINHUA***

Bangladesh prosecutor says ex-PM Hasina will be executed if she returns

DHAKA: The Bangladeshi prosecutor who secured the death sentence against ousted leader Sheikh Hasina said yesterday she will be executed if she returns home.

Hasina, whose 15-year rule was ended by a mass uprising she tried to crush, has vowed to return in December to Bangladesh, where she was sentenced to death for crimes against humanity over the 2024 crackdown on protesters.

"Sheikh Hasina has no option but to face the execution of the verdict," Md Aminul Islam told reporters, responding to reports she planned to return from self-imposed exile in India.

He added that she missed the deadline to appeal her conviction, leaving her with no further legal recourse.

"The statute says that an appeal must be filed within 30 days of the delivery of the judgement," he said.

Hasina, 79, fled to neighbouring India by helicopter in August 2024 as angry crowds stormed her palace.

She has remained there ever since, hidden from public view. Only occasionally has she addressed news conferences by telephone, her voice sounding frail.

Hasina has repeatedly said she intends to return to Bangladesh in December, telling AFP she is "fully aware" she faces being hanged if she returns.

She said "fear cannot decide" her "duty to the people".

Critics have accused Hasina of jailing political rivals, enacting harsh anti-press laws and overseeing widespread human rights abuses, including the killing of opposition activists.

Her 2024 crackdown left up to 1,400 people dead, according to the United Nations.

Hasina defied orders from the court to return to Bangladesh to attend her trial last year on whether she bore command responsibility for the bloody crackdown on the student-led uprising.

Witnesses included a man whose face was ripped apart by a gunshot.

Hasina, who was assigned a state-appointed lawyer, called the trial a "jurisprudential joke".

In November 2025, a court in Dhaka sentenced her to death in absentia after finding her guilty on three counts of crimes against humanity, including incitement, ordering killings and failing to prevent atrocities.

Bangladesh's foreign ministry has sought her extradition from India, which says the request is under legal review.

Her continued presence there has strained relations between the neighbouring countries.

She also faces a string of other cases, including corruption charges. — ***AFP***

Egyptian forces present in Saudi Arabia for months: FM

CAIRO: Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty said that Egyptian forces have been present in Saudi Arabia for several months to support the kingdom's defence, amid earlier military escalation involving Iran and attacks against the kingdom, according to media reports Monday evening.

In an interview with the French broadcaster France 24 aired Monday evening, Abdelatty said Egypt's parliament had authorised President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to take measures he deemed necessary to strengthen Saudi defensive capabilities.

"Saudi Arabia's security is part of Egypt's security," he said.

Abdelatty stressed that Egypt's military support is strictly defensive and limited to Saudi territory, without crossing the border into Yemen. He declined to give further details on weapons or troops.

Responding to claims that Yemen's Houthis viewed Egypt's move as a declaration of war, Abdelatty reiterated that Cairo's role is purely defensive. — ***XINHUA***



Indonesian students protest over rising prices

University students staged a protest in Surabaya yesterday, calling on the government to review several policies and address public concerns. Their demands included lowering the prices of basic commodities, ending military involvement in civilian affairs, introducing a free meal programme, removing taxes on sanitary pads and taking action to tackle wildfires in the city. (AFP)

Thailand to impose up to 30% duty on online imports

BANGKOK: Thailand's cabinet has approved import duties of up to 30 percent on goods bought from foreign e-commerce platforms and delivered by express courier or international post, in a move the government says will give local small businesses a fairer chance to compete.

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Ekniti Nitithanprapas said fast-growing e-commerce had given Thai consumers convenient access to cheap foreign goods, while domestic businesses bear the costs of taxes, wages and compliance with laws and product standards, putting them at a disadvantage.

The government said it was concerned that some cheap imports sold online may be substandard or unsafe and that the rules aim to discourage imports for which no business based in Thailand is accountable for meeting product standards. — ***XINHUA***

World in brief

DPRK tests new-type torpedo weapon system

PYONGYANG: The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Monday test-fired a new-type high-speed torpedo in the waters off its east coast, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said yesterday.

The test verified the combat effectiveness of the new weapon system, which was jointly developed by DPRK's defence scientific research institutes, the report said.

The new torpedo system is scheduled to be commissioned into the country's navy from the beginning of 2027, the report added. — ***XINHUA***

Nine displaced people killed in drone strike on Sudan

KHARTOUM: Nine displaced people were killed and several others injured yesterday after drones targeted a group of civilians in Sudan's southeastern Blue Nile State, a local official said.

The attack occurred when a group of displaced people was travelling from the village of Bani Shako in Kurmuk locality towards Damazin, the capital city of Blue Nile, Kurmuk Commissioner Abdel Ati Mohamed al-Faki told *Xinhua* by phone, attributing the attack to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), meanwhile, intensified its air operations against positions belonging to the RSF and its ally Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North in several areas of the region, according to a Sudanese military source.

Drone attacks on residential gatherings and villages in Kurmuk have increased in recent months, causing civilian casualties and waves of displacement towards Damazin. — ***XINHUA***

Afghanistan starts $30m pharma plant expansion

KABUL: Expansion has begun on a pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in western Afghanistan's Herat province, the provincial government office said in a statement yesterday.

With an investment of $30m, the three five-story new blocks will be equipped with advanced machinery and modern technologies that meet international standards, according to the statement.

The expansion is set to boost the factory's production capacity and allow it to manufacture a wider array of pharmaceutical products, according to the statement.

The project represents a major step toward strengthening Afghanistan's pharmaceutical industry, expanding domestic manufacturing capacity and reducing the country's dependence on imported medicines, it added. — ***XINHUA***

Gunmen kill eight in ambush in northeastern Kenya

NAIROBI: Gunmen ambushed a security vehicle in northeastern Kenya yesterday, killing at least eight people, including two police reservists, police said.

The "armed militia" opened fire on the vehicle escorting construction workers along the Arabia Road corridor near the Kenya-Somalia border a police commander told.

Mandera County, which borders Somalia to the east, has faced repeated attacks by Al-Shabaab militants in the past, often prompting curfews in the area. "A team overseeing ongoing construction of Mandera-Arabia-Lafey road were ambushed at the Hagarsu area by armed militia," Robinson Ndiwa, county police commander of Mandera, said. — ***AFP***

Pentagon chief slams impeachment effort as 'farce'

WASHINGTON: US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth yesterday denounced a push to impeach him as a "farce" and defended his record leading multiple military operations that have sparked allegations of misconduct against the Pentagon chief.

Under pressure after President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance blamed the Iran war for the Republican Party's sweeping losses in midterm elections, Hegseth now faces a congressional effort to remove him from office.

"It's a farce, and it's a stunt, and everybody knows it," a defiant Hegseth told journalists of the impeachment proceedings launched by Representative Thomas Massie, a Republican, the previous day.

"What one disgruntled and defeated congressman is attempting is not oversight, and it's not accountability. It's a political spectacle," Hegseth said.

Massie, a fierce critic of Trump, is leaving office after losing a primary contest to a candidate backed by the president.

Trump has backed Hegseth so far, and yesterday wrote on social media that the Pentagon chief "gets an 'A' PLUS, PLUS, PLUS for his defence" against the impeachment efforts.

Hegseth yesterday defended military interventions in Yemen, Iran and Venezuela as well as strikes targeting alleged drug-smuggling boats in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific. — ***AFP***

US calls for new Europe security at Russia-Ukraine talks in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI: A first day of US-led talks between Ukraine and Russia in Abu Dhabi ended yesterday, with Washington calling for a "new" security framework, as Europe fears US President Donald Trump plans a deal with Moscow on the continent's future.

Negotiations to end more than four years of war, the first since February, lasted for several hours in the Gulf city and are set to continue today.

Russian and Ukrainian negotiators sat facing each other, with Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and business partner Steve Witkoff at the head of the table.

Kushner told delegates the US had "narrowed the gaps" between the warring sides, without providing details, and hoped to move towards a "solution that hopefully ends the war".

Moscow, which unleashed Europe's worst war since World War II in 2022 and has occupied swathes of its smaller neighbour, pummelled Ukraine with more attacks overnight, cutting power to thousands as temperatures plummet.

As the war approaches another winter, Ukraine and its European allies fear Washington will force Kyiv to accept a de facto defeat. Expectations for an imminent breakthrough are low.



Members of the Russian delegation (left) hold talks with the Ukrainian delegation mediated by US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff (right) and US President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner (third right) in Abu Dhabi, yesterday. (AFP)

Trump has also floated a deal with Russia on rewriting Europe's post-war security, alarming Europeans.

As the talks opened, Kushner said the US hoped to "create the right security relationships between Ukraine and Russia and Europe so that not only we end this war, we create a new framework and a new understanding" that will secure "decades, if not centuries, of peace".

Moscow has also suggested that this was its priority. Russia's Vladimir Putin has for years logged a series of grievances towards the West.

Ukraine has warned against a "Yalta 2.0", referring to Western leaders dividing Europe with the Soviet Union after World War II, and the EU has said security arrangements can only be discussed after a ceasefire.

"Putin wants the USSR back," Zelensky said in an interview published in Danish media yesterday, as he landed in Copenhagen for a meeting with Nordic leaders. — ***AFP***

California voters have rejected tax on billionaires: US media projection

LOS ANGELES: California voters have rejected a one-time tax on billionaires, US media projected on Monday, despite growing anger over global wealth disparity.

The tax would have forced around 200 billionaires in the state to cough up five percent of their total net worth, with the money largely dedicated to helping pay for healthcare.

CNN and CBS News both projected that so-called Proposition 40 would not pass, nearly a week after voters cast ballots on whether to tax the billionaires. With the highest population of any US state, California is notoriously slow at counting votes. — ***AFP***

French FM says risk of escalation between US, Iran not fully ruled out

PARIS: French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said yesterday that the risk of a further escalation between the United States and Iran had not been completely ruled out.

Barrot made the remarks at a press conference following a meeting of Group of Seven (G7) foreign ministers in Paris.

Barrot said France supported efforts to ease tensions, "particularly those led by countries in the region to find a way toward the release or reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and toward a political solution to prevent the resumption of strikes." During the G7 foreign ministers' meeting yesterday, British Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband called for an "all-out diplomatic effort" to end the war involving Iran, the United States and Israel. — ***XINHUA***

France vows tough response to freezer cyberattack blamed on Iran

PARIS: France's foreign minister said yesterday that Paris ruled out "nothing" to respond to a major cyberattack on hundreds of supermarket fridges in October that it has blamed on Iran, accusations Tehran rejected as "baseless".

Hundreds of French supermarkets were hit in the October 11 and 12 cyberattacks, which raised the temperatures in their refrigerators and freezers, forcing many to throw away entire inventories of perishable food.

Similar incidents were then reported in at least 11 other European countries in early November. Along with summoning Iran's ambassador and seeking European-level sanctions, Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said France would "rule nothing out and will take all measures, including those we may not disclose publicly, that we deem proportionate and necessary to deter any further attacks".

The goal, Barrot told Franceinfo TV, is "to deter anyone who might be tempted, in Iran or elsewhere, to do it again".

Barrot announced on Monday that France held Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) responsible for the cyberattacks on supermarkets, the first such large-scale cyber sabotage on French territory.

"This attack is unprecedented in both its scale and its level of aggression," Barrot said on the sidelines of a G7 foreign ministers' meeting in Paris.

Iran rejected the accusations as "baseless", adding that it "strongly condemns this hackneyed policy of levelling accusations against the Islamic republic". — ***AFP***

Czech, Slovak PMs oppose German call for EU-wide funding of Ukraine's budget deficit

BRATISLAVA: Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis and Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico yesterday opposed a call by German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on all European Union member states to contribute to covering Ukraine's projected budget deficit next year.

According to local media reports, the two leaders made the remarks at a meeting of the Czech and Slovak governments in Bratislava, where the issue of financial support for Ukraine emerged as a major topic of discussion.

According to the *Financial Times*, Germany has threatened to block negotiations on the EU's next multiannual budget unless all member states agree to share the financial burden of supporting Ukraine. Merz said continued support for Ukraine was essential to Europe's collective security and constituted a common European responsibility. — ***XINHUA***

Amnesty urges transparency on Salvadoran deployment in Haiti

SAN SALVADOR: Amnesty International on Monday urged El Salvador and Haiti to release the agreement governing the mass deployment of Salvadoran troops into the gang-plagued Caribbean nation, and for both countries to ensure that rights are respected.

Some 2,000 troops have been sent by El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele to Haiti since the mid-October disappearance of four Salvadoran personnel.

The vast majority of the Salvadoran soldiers are not participating in the UN-backed Gang Suppression Force (GSF), raising concerns about their rules of engagement.

"Both governments must make public the agreement governing the deployment and explain how they oversee the deployed forces, what rules govern the use of force, to whom they are accountable, and how people can report possible violations without fear of reprisals," Amnesty's Americas Director Ana Piquer said Monday. Bukele initially stated the deployment aimed at bringing home the missing personnel. — ***AFP***

Ecuadorian parliament approves anti-mafia bill

QUITO: Ecuador's National Assembly on Monday approved an anti-mafia bill introducing legal reforms to strengthen the fight against organized crime, toughen penalties and target the financing sources of criminal organizations. Proposed by National Assembly President Mishel Mancheno, the bill amends the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code, drug legislation, the Organic Law on Asset Forfeiture and the Organic Code of the Judiciary.

Mancheno highlighted the legislation as a tool to comprehensively combat organized crime, strengthen the state's response and restore peace of mind to Ecuadorian families.

Among its main provisions, the bill establishes an exceptional system of cumulative sentences for three or more separate intentional crimes, allowing prison terms of up to 60 years. — ***XINHUA***

German govt to buy half of tank maker KNDS for €6.6bn

BERLIN: The German government is set to pay €6.64bn ($7.4bn) to acquire a 50 percent stake in the French-German defence group KNDS, a parliamentary source told AFP yesterday.

An official decision to approve the purchase price is expected to be made by the German parliament's budget committee on Thursday, the source added, confirming an earlier report in news magazine *Der Spiegel*.

The move to buy shares in the maker of Leopard tanks and other equipment now held by the Bode-Wegmann family aims to put Berlin "on equal footing" with the French government, which already owns half of KNDS, a German government source told AFP last Thursday, when an "agreement in principle" was struck with the family on the sale. KNDS, formed in 2015 through the merger of the French state-owned firm Nexter and the family-owned German company Krauss-Maffei Wegmann, is a major player in the European defence industry. — ***AFP***

Home of ousted Paraguayan president raided in investigation of bank collapse

ASUNCION: Paraguayan prosecutors raided the home of the ousted president on Monday and sought international assistance to trace missing funds from a digital bank whose collapse has triggered financial and political turmoil.

Money trickled back to some Paraguayans hit by the chaotic implosion of Ueno Bank almost a week ago while the nation's newly appointed president looked to shuffle his cabinet.

The raid Monday on the Asuncion residence of Santiago Pena, who was impeached last week, lasted almost five hours. Documents, cell phones, CCTV footage, tablets and computers were seized.

"This procedure was quite important, and we believe it is positive because of the amount of documentation we found," prosecutor Elena Fiore told reporters, including AFP.

The prosecutor's office also raided a Ueno Bank branch on Monday and seized documents related to Pena's investments, based on which it requested cooperation in freezing crypto assets in Luxembourg, the public prosecutor's office reported.

Pena is in pretrial detention over his alleged links to the bank collapse that locked almost half the population out of their bank accounts, upending the usually stable country.

The Central Bank, which seized Ueno over solvency concerns, had returned about $160 million to nearly 1.2 million people via a guarantee fund between Thursday and Friday.

On Monday, the scheme widened to another section of clients.

But the guarantee fund does not cover reimbursements of more than $36,000 per account, producing uncertainty about the fate of public funds deposited in Ueno.

Hundreds of workers and teachers marched through Asuncion on Monday, calling for the recovery of pension funds and threatening to stay the course until their demands are met. Pena's former vice president Pedro Alliana took the reins immediately after his predecessor's impeachment on Friday. — ***AFP***



Prosecutor Elena Fiore (left) arrives at the residence of former Paraguayan president Santiago Pena following his arrest in Asuncion on November 9, 2026. (AFP)

US fails to show for UN rights review, again

GENEVA: The United States boycotted yesterday a United Nations review of its human rights record for a second time, in an unprecedented snub of a process that all countries traditionally submit to.

US seats were left empty at the world body's European headquarters in Geneva for the so-called Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which all 193 UN member states undergo every four to five years. As the review was set to begin, UN Human Rights Council president Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro, of Indonesia, looked at the empty seats behind the US nameplate and noted that "the delegation of the United States is not present in the room".

The US absence was not a surprise. President Donald Trump's administration decided shortly after his return to power in January 2025 to halt cooperation with the rights council, and had already boycotted the UPR process last November.

In response, the council at the time had postponed the US review for a year, in the hope that Washington would return to the fold, but to no avail. But the US State Department said that the administration considers the council an "irredeemable body" that "makes a mockery of human rights", suggesting that it would not participate in any of its mechanisms, including the UPR. — ***AFP***

Spain faces general strike over housing ahead of election

MADRID: Spain faces a general strike today over its housing crisis, with workers also demanding greater purchasing power ahead of a snap general election at the end of the month.

The strike, the first nationwide 24-hour stoppage jointly backed by Spain's two largest unions since 2012, will be closely watched for its impact on industry and services, particularly public transport, where minimum service levels have been set. The size of demonstrations planned in Madrid and Barcelona will also be seen as a measure of public discontent less than three weeks before the election in the eurozone's fourth-largest economy.

The strike was called following a wave of protests over access to housing, sparked by the forced eviction in September of an 87-year-old Madrid pensioner, Maricarmen Abascal, who died days later.

"It's a strike of the people. I think it's the first time in a very long time that the call has come from the streets themselves," Valeria Racu, spokeswoman for the Tenants' Union, a key group behind the mobilisation, told public radio on Sunday. The protests included a five-week occupation of Madrid's central Puerta del Sol square, where hundreds of tents were pitched.

They helped trigger the decision to bring forward elections originally scheduled for 2027 to November 29.

Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called the snap election after his minority government failed to secure parliamentary approval for a package of housing measures proposed in response to the protests. "This is not a strike against anyone, but rather one in favour of a common response from all levels of government to a real problem, which is access to housing," he said in an interview published Sunday in daily newspaper *La Vanguardia*.

In a video message posted on X on Monday, Sanchez said public healthcare, the eight-hour working day, pensions and other benefits had all been won through collective action, including protests and strikes. — ***AFP***

NATO holds submarine-hunting drills in Baltic

STOCKHOLM: Eight NATO countries have started five days of anti-submarine exercises in the Baltic sea and a top commander called the ultra-silent underwater vessels a constant "threat".

Based in Sweden from Monday to Friday, the submarine-hunting drills also involve Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany and the Netherlands. The Baltic has become a key venue for the so-called war of "hybrid" tactics that Western nations blame on Russia.

Several thousand naval forces, submarines from Germany and Sweden, surface vessels from several countries and air patrols will take part in the staged hunts for submarines, the alliance said.

NATO has stepped up its naval presence in the Baltic, where, military experts say, submarine signals, the key to tracking vessels -- can be more easily hidden in its shallow waters crisscrossed by intense shipping traffic.

"The submarine is the only technology at this point that can dominate that undersea consistently," Rear Admiral John Craddock, the NATO commander for submarines, told AFP. "And so since that submarine can still dominate from the undersea, you have to be able to find them," he added, highlighting that detecting submarines was "a perishable skill".

"We've got to practice it all the time because until we can make the oceans truly transparent, submarines are going to be a threat." Rear Admiral Nicolas Molitor of the French navy said that the Baltic, with its many undersea cables and pipelines, faces other threats.

"There is also the threat from vehicles or robots that can operate under the sea," Molitor told AFP on the sidelines of the exercises. — ***AFP***





FAJR 4:28AM	ASR 2:26PM
SUNRISE 5:48AM	MAGHRIB 4:50PM
DHUHR 11:19AM	ISHA 6:20PM



Plants and microbes naturally absorb, purify and recycle molecules around them to access the resources they need to grow, but growing industrial activity has overwhelmed these natural systems.

China unveils world's first bionic humanoid robot news anchors

IRFAN BUKHARI
THE PENINSULA
IN BEIJING, CHINA

Both robots are built to human scale, replicating the proportions of real people. Custom-built for news applications, they are capable of delivering on-site news broadcasts.

BEIJING witnessed the unveiling of what are described as the world's first bionic humanoid robot news anchors at a forum dedicated to artificial intelligence and Chinese modernisation during the 7th World Media Summit which concluded recently.

The debut highlighted efforts to bring together authoritative news content and embodied artificial intelligence, moving this innovative approach closer to practical application and paving the way for new forms of news delivery in the AI era.

The two humanoid anchors, Xinyan and Xinyu, are the result of a joint development project between Xinhua News Agency and UBTECH, a prominent Chinese robotics company. Their visual identities were designed under the direction of renowned Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou.

Both robots are built to human scale, replicating the proportions of real people. Custom-built for news applications, they are capable of delivering on-site news broadcasts. Their capabilities leverage Xinhua's AI-powered newsbot "Xinhua Yudian," as well as UBTECH's full-chain proprietary technologies including biomimetic skin, embodied AI hardware, operating systems, emotion-driven large language models (LLMs) and mass production capabilities.

Zhang Yimou shared his thoughts on the integration of technology and art at the forum. Drawing on his expertise in visual storytelling and character design, he sought to strike a balance between the seriousness and professionalism required of news delivery and the natural, nuanced realism of lifelike robots.

Director-general of Xinhua's New Media Center Qian Tong said robot anchors are intended to take on new roles in the newsroom, not to become the stars of the show. They will assist journalists and editors with news presentation, multilingual content delivery and on-site interaction.

Qian said, according to Xinhua, the New Media Center will launch a project to establish the Xinhua News Agency Artificial Intelligence Industry Alliance (Beijing Base), which aims to bring together resources from government agencies, media organizations, technology companies and think tanks, and foster an innovation platform integrating industry, academia, research and application.

Zhou Jian, founder, chairman of the Board and CEO of UBTECH, said the robot anchors were the result of cross-sector collaboration, combining Xinhua's news industry standards and content resources, UBTECH's full-stack technologies, and the visual design work of Zhang Yimou and his team.

Zhou said the robot news anchors, powered by "Xinhua Yudian," have established an integrated "brain-expression-control" technical pipeline. This enables the robots to retrieve authoritative political news and information in real time from vetted sources, helping reduce the risks of misinformation caused by AI hallucinations. The product is planned for future application in more scenarios such as educational bases, urban public venues, overseas cultural exchanges, and deep space exploration reporting.



Humanoid robot news anchors are showcased during the 7th World Media Summit in Beijing, China, on November 5, 2026. (Xinhua)

The 7th World Media Summit was co-hosted by Xinhua News Agency and the People's Government of Beijing Municipality, and organised by Xinhua's Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Department, New Media Center and Xinhuanet. It aimed to provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation among global media organizations and build consensus on the use of AI in communication.

Under the theme "Media in the Intelligent Age: From Consensus to Action", the summit brought together nearly 500 delegates from nearly 330 mainstream media outlets, think tanks, government departments and international organizations from 112 countries and regions around the world.

Delegates exchanged views on topics including 'AI for all and the transformation of global media,' 'media dialogue and cooperation for a safer world,' 'AI-enabled communication for expanding exchanges among civilizations,' 'AI+ and the future of global communication governance' and 'the Beijing approach: decoding Chinese modernization.' The mechanism of the World Media Summit was initiated in 2009 and is an important global platform for high-end media exchange and cooperation.

Amazon's Ring unveils $250 flying security camera after delays

AMAZON.COM Inc.'s Ring unit debuted its flying home security drone more than six years after first announcing the product, marking the brand's belated entrance into the robotics segment.

The new device, now called the Ring Drone Cam, will be available in late January for $250, the company said yesterday. It has a lightweight, completely overhauled design that bears little resemblance to the drone that Ring originally announced in 2020 and aimed to ship the following year. Ring ultimately decided to abandon that initial version and also scrapped a second attempt that it had been working on as recently as last year.

In both cases, Ring found itself in what Ring founder Jamie Siminoff, now a vice president at Amazon, described as "a vicious cycle." As the company added more sensors and processing power to the drone, it needed a larger battery. The resulting increases to the product's weight required more powerful rotors, which compromised overall flight stability. "You basically keep fixing things that then break things and make them worse," he said at a media briefing ahead of the announcement.

In an interview, Siminoff hailed Ring's launch of the Drone Cam as a "career highlight," acknowledging that it was a prolonged, at-times grueling effort for the brand's engineers and designers. With this drone, he believes Ring has cracked the challenges that held back its earlier prototypes. Siminoff said a major turning point came when the company chose to heavily lean on artificial intelligence to choreograph the drone's flying abilities and core functionality, offloading most computing needs to the cloud.

An unconnected Ring Drone Cam can take off and safely land, but it depends on AI (and an active Wi-Fi connection) for nearly everything else, from setting its flight path to responding to alerts from other Ring cameras around a customer's home.

The drone is capable of flying for a maximum duration of five to eight minutes before needing to land in its base station for a battery recharge. That means it's best suited for brief check-ins and short patrols and isn't intended for constant surveillance. It requires around eight minutes of charging time for each minute of flight.

The Ring Drone Cam's camera has a 148-degree field of view, and video is captured at 2K resolution. Users can set scheduled patrols for the device — it has built-in LED spotlights to deter burglars at night when homeowners are away — and it can automatically take to the air to investigate notifications from other products in Ring's ecosystem like sensors and alarms.

During the drone's setup process, users will establish which zones and paths in their living space are safe for flying routes.

— THE WASHINGTON POST

Scientists develop wastewater recovery technology

CANBERRA: Scientists in Australia are developing plant-inspired technology to clean industrial wastewater and turn it into critical resources, including nutrients, metals and freshwater. A team led by researchers at the Australian National University (ANU) is mimicking how plants sort and identify molecules at a molecular level to develop a system for treating complex industrial wastewater, according to an ANU statement released yesterday.

Plants and microbes naturally absorb, purify and recycle molecules around them to access the resources they need to grow, but growing industrial activity has overwhelmed these natural systems with complex wastes that nature cannot clean up on its own, the statement said. Wastewater from industries such as aquaculture, agriculture and mining contains valuable resources, but those resources are in a complicated mixture, according to the university. ***— XINHUA***

Scientists return to Australian reefs to track marine life

MELBOURNE: Marine scientists have returned to the remote Recherche Archipelago off the state of Western Australia's southern coast to assess changes in reef ecosystems and examine the region's role as a refuge for marine life.

The expedition, led by the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), will run from Tuesday to Nov. 20, surveying fish, invertebrates and seaweeds across the archipelago. Researchers will revisit sites surveyed in 2023 and explore additional reefs, according to a statement of the Australian university released yesterday.

The Recherche reefs were first surveyed in the 1990s but have seldom been studied since. Surveys in 2023 found healthy reefs supporting abundant marine life.

Expedition leader and IMAS researcher Scott Bennett said the surveys would provide baseline information for the South Coast Marine Park system and an early reference point for tracking changes in reef biodiversity and habitats.

— XINHUA

British science fiction writer M John Harrison wins 2026 Booker Prize

LONDON: British science fiction writer M John Harrison won the 2026 Booker Prize on Monday for his novel "The End of Everything," becoming the oldest winner in the literary award's history.

The 81-year-old author received the £50,000 (about $67,000) prize at a ceremony at Old Billingsgate in London.

It was his first nomination for the Booker Prize, following a writing career spanning more than six decades.

Set on the southern coast of England several decades into the future, "The End of Everything" follows Phillip Tennent and his elderly aunt Marnie as they struggle to make sense of life after a mysterious catastrophe.

With social order breaking down and strange creatures appearing, the novel explores how people respond to a world they can no longer understand.

Mary Beard, chair of the five-member judging panel, said the judges reached a unanimous decision after a full day of discussion.

She described the novel as one that "leaves you with a twinge of optimism" despite its unsettling subject matter.

"This is the politics of now seen through the lens of the future," Beard said.

Born in 1945, Harrison began publishing fiction in the 1960s and has written extensively across science fiction, fantasy and literary fiction.

His works have previously won several literary awards over the years.

This year's shortlist was selected from 163 submissions. Established in 1969, the Booker Prize recognizes outstanding fiction written in English and published in Britain or Ireland.

— XINHUA



Traditional Central Asian sport

Afghan horse riders compete in 'Buzkashi' (goat grabbing), a traditional Central Asian sport, at a field in Fayzabad district of Afghanistan's Badakhshan province on November 9, 2026. (AFP)

Global carbon emissions set to dip in 2026

GLOBAL carbon emissions are falling this year, a drop explained more by the recent oil shock than by countries' gradual transition to clean energy.

Carbon dioxide pollution from burning fossil fuels will decline by 0.4% in 2026, to 38.2 billion metric tons, this year's Global Carbon Budget estimates.

The main driver is the US-Israeli war on Iran and its impact on the oil market, according to the network of 140 researchers who compile the annual report.

Oil-related emissions fell 1.9%, to 12.6 billion tons. The analysts consider it a short-term drop likely to change as oil markets recover in the months and years ahead.

Lead author Pierre Friedlingstein said although the decline is encouraging, "a reduction driven partly by geopolitical shocks is not a sustainable climate solution." As renewable energy and electric vehicles gain ground, that's also helping to keep emissions in check.

Clean tech deployment is expected to prevent at least two-thirds of what new fossil-fuel sources would have emitted through 2028, said Corinne Le Quéré, a professor of climate science at the University of East Anglia and member of the Global Carbon Budget leadership team.

"That came a little bit as a surprise, a pleasant surprise," she said. "However, the effect of the oil price [on the 2026 decline] is still substantial." Emissions grew 1.2% last year over 2024, to 38.4 billion tons, and this year's estimate is higher than the 2016-2025 average of 36.5 billion tons. As oil prices stabilize, the war effect might go away and emissions may rise again.

— THE WASHINGTON POST

TRENDING IN
QATAR

On *The Peninsula* social media platforms

Rains worsen suffering of the displaced in Gaza

The Government Media Office in Gaza Strip announced that approximately 70,000 tents sheltering tens of thousands of displaced persons have been flooded due to heavy rainfall.

Japan court dismisses suit against Meta

A Tokyo court dismissed on Tuesday Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa's lawsuit against US tech giant Meta and its Japan unit.

MoI advises action against cyberthreats

MoI has outlined the immediate steps individuals should take if they become victims of financial fraud, blackmail or account hacking.

61 students hospitalised after suffocation incident at school in southern Iraq

Iraqi Civil Defense authorities said 61 female students were hospitalised after an incident at a girls' school.