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# GULF TIMES



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## EAA highlights education's role in combating climate crisis

The Education Above All (EAA) Foundation has highlighted the role of education in facing the challenges of climate crisis at a United Nations event.

Held in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations, Generation Unlimited, Unicef, UNDP and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the event titled "Education to Combat the Climate Crisis" took place during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF 2024) on Sustainable Development at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The HLPF annual meeting is the core United Nations platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. This year's HLPF 2024, under the theme "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and Eradicating Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises: The Effective Delivery of Sustainable, Resilient, and Innovative Solutions," focused on several Sustainable Development Goals, including urgent actions to combat climate change and its impacts.

HE Ambassador Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, set the stage for a meaningful dialogue, sharing Qatar's commitment to investing on education and equipping children and youth with the knowledge and skills needed to build a sustainable future. The keynote address by Kevin Frey, CEO of Generation Unlimited, emphasized the critical role of education in addressing global environmental challenges and the importance of empowering youth to lead climate action in their communities.

During the session, EAA explored how education can significantly mitigate these impacts by fostering resilience and empowering communities with sustainable solutions. The discussion featured

a panel of distinguished speakers, including Catalina Duarte Salcedo, education specialist with Unicef Colombia; Susana Puerto, head of the Youth Employment Accelerator at the ILO; Srilata Kammila, head of Climate Change Adaptation at the UNDP; Darren Karjama, Partnerships and Outreach Specialist at the Green Climate Fund; Maleiha Malik, executive

**The HLPF annual meeting is the core United Nations platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level**

director of PEIC (Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict) at EAA; Noura al-Kaabi, strategic partnerships researcher, Qatar Fund for Development, and Salwa al-Kuwari, a youth advocate from EAA, with George Tavola from EAA moderating the event.

The panel delved into the intersections of education, environmental protection, and sustainable employment, emphasizing the need for innovative solutions to climate challenges. This discussion came at a critical time as the world deals with escalating climate threats, highlighting the need for educational strategies that lead to significant, climate-resilient changes. EAA reaffirmed its commitment to quality education as a crucial lever for sustainable development and peace. By focusing on educational interventions in areas facing severe environmental and climate challenges, EAA supports the building of more stable and inclusive societies.

Malik, stated: "We urge the global community to recognise the vital role of education in combatting climate change. **To Page 2**



Maleiha Malik, executive director of PEIC speaking at the panel.

## 57 more Gazans perish in Israeli genocide; UN-run school hit again

Reuters  
Cairo/Gaza

Palestinian health officials said at least 57 people were killed yesterday in Israeli bombardments of southern and central areas of the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has accused Israel of stepping up attacks in Gaza to try to derail efforts by Arab mediators and the US to reach a ceasefire deal.

In Rafah, five Palestinians were killed in an airstrike on a house. In nearby Khan Younis, a man, his wife, and two children were killed.

Later yesterday, an Israeli airstrike on a car killed at least 17 Palestinians and wounded 26 others in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, the officials said.

The airstrike hit near a tented area housing displaced families in Gaza to try to derail efforts by Arab mediators and the US to reach a ceasefire deal.

Footage showed residents carrying bodies of the dead and wounded on donkey carts and in rickshaws to hospitals.

In the historic Nuseirat camp in central Gaza, at least four Palestinians were killed in separate



Palestinians inspect a UN school sheltering displaced people, following an Israeli strike, in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

shelling and aerial strikes in central Gaza, medics said. An Israeli airstrike also killed four in Sheikh Zayed in northern Gaza.

Hours later, an Israeli air strike on a UN-run school that housed displaced families in the Nuseirat camp killed 23 people and wounded many others, health officials said.

At least 38,713 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's offensive in Gaza since October 7.

Among those killed was local journalist Mohamed Meshmesh, taking the number of journalists killed in the conflict to 160, the

Hamas-run Gaza government media office said.

"Where is the safety for (UN) agency schools? There are no more safe agency schools, or safe clinics, no more safe houses, no safe streets. We have been left desolate, displaced and destroyed," said eyewitness Umm Omar Ahmed at Nuseirat camp.

Efforts to end the conflict stalled on Saturday after three days of negotiations failed to produce a viable outcome, Egyptian security sources said, and after an Israeli strike killed more than 90 people in the Khan Younis area.

### Amir, Macron discuss Gaza developments

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani discussed with President of the friendly French Republic Emmanuel Macron cooperation ties between the two countries and avenues of strengthening and developing them, in addition to the latest regional and international developments of joint interest, particularly the developments in Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. This came during a phone call the Amir received yesterday from the French president. During the call, Macron expressed his thanks and appreciation for His Highness the Amir for Qatar's contribution to securing the Olympic Games Paris 2024. His Highness the Amir expressed his wishes for the success of the French Republic in organising the Olympics events. **(QNA)**

### Nine killed in Oman mosque shooting

Nine people were killed, including three attackers, and more than two dozen others were injured in an assault near a mosque in Oman late on Monday, law enforcement said. Four Pakistanis, an Indian and a police officer were among those killed in the gun attack. The Oman police said 28 people of various nationalities were wounded, including security personnel. Police have not said whether they have identified a motive for the attack or if they had made any arrests. **Page 4**

### Six foreigners found dead in Bangkok hotel

Thai police are investigating the deaths of six foreign nationals whose bodies were found in a room at an upmarket hotel in Bangkok yesterday, including looking for a seventh person in connection with the incident. All six, who were of Vietnamese descent, with two carrying US passports, checked into Bangkok's Grand Hyatt Erawan hotel at two separate times after arriving on Saturday and Sunday. The group - three men and three women - checked into different rooms but their bodies were found in one room, which did not show any signs of struggle. **Page 8**

## Katara's TSE plant saves cost and water

By **Joey Aguilar**  
Staff Reporter

The newly unveiled Treated Sewage Effluent (TSE) Polishing Plant at Katara - the Cultural Village, not only saves costs and water but also enhances the area's appeal as a destination, according to Katara Project director general, Engineer Mohamed al-Meer.

The Katara official told *Gulf Times* that using high-quality treated water for irrigation promotes healthier plant growth and reduces heat stress on green areas, making Katara even more attractive to residents and visitors.

"This will hopefully make the public aware of our efforts to not only provide, maintain and improve Katara - the Cultural Village as one of the major leisure and tourist destinations in Qatar but, to do that in a way which is sustainable, both economically and environmentally," he said, highlighting the importance of raising awareness about the project's



TSE Polishing Plant at Katara. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

positive impact and its benefits to the public.

In addition, Eng al-Meer explained that the removal of corrosive minerals from the TSE water during the polishing process increases the lifespan of cooling equipment, leading to further cost savings and reduced maintenance.

About ensuring compliance of the plant's design with the Min-

istry of Environment and Climate Change's (MoECC) wastewater treatment parameters, he said: "As with any treatment process, there is a waste element, in this case, salt water, technically termed 'Brine Rejection'; the MoECC imposes very strict parameters on the 'Brine Rejection' quality and this process and end product is fully co-ordinated and approved by them."



Mohamed al-Meer

He stressed that the plant's design ensures ample capacity to accommodate Katara's future expansions and the increasing demand for water across the country.

### GT EXCLUSIVE

"As for the entire country, the potential is obviously there to utilise similar installations in other locations and developments subject to the availability of TSE water and the particular requirements of Government and individual developers," Eng al-Meer said.

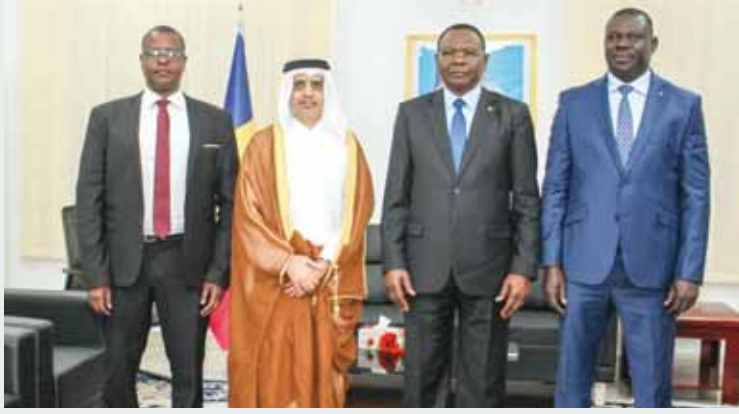
He noted that the Katara Project aims to transition from using potable water supplied by Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) to utilising readily available TSE water provided by the Public Works Authority (Ashghal).

Eng al-Meer said that Katara is also actively exploring ways to further promote sustainability, such as inviting university students to conduct research at the plant, fostering knowledge sharing and promoting best practices within the sector.

Katara has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country, a melting pot of art, culture, and entertainment. Its diverse offerings cater to all tastes, from exploring the intricate details of traditional Qatari architecture to immersing oneself in vibrant art and music that celebrates the nation's heritage.

Katara's calendar features an array of events, covering traditional architecture, art exhibitions, and theatrical performances, among other activities and attractions.

## Chad PM meets Qatar's ambassador



Chad's Prime Minister Allamaye Halina met with Qatar's ambassador in N'Djamena Talib bin Mohamed al-Mankhas. The meeting dealt with bilateral relations. (QNA)

# Milipol 2024 seminars to focus on safety and security challenges

By Shafeeq Alingal  
Staff Reporter

Milipol Qatar 2024 seminars will focus on safety and security with international experts sharing insights and addressing current and future challenges of the sector in the Middle East.

According to the Milipol 2024 website, fire and rescue, cyber-security and threats, artificial intelligence and border controls will be the main topics of the seminars. "A content-rich conference programme is organised to discover new trends and discuss the issues of security market key topics," the website said adding that the conference titles and speakers will be announced soon.

The seminars will discuss challenges to safeguard high-rise structures, measures to revolutionise fire prevention and road safety and security. Also, security convergence, integrating physical and cyber security



in the protection of critical infrastructures will be discussed while the sessions will shed light on integrated technologies for smart and safe cities and forensic science for investigation.

The 15th edition of Milipol Qatar 2024 will be held from October 29-31 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC). Themed "the technology in the service of security", the latest edition promises to be a pivotal gathering for industry leaders, policymakers and experts from around the globe.

Organised by the Ministry of Interior in collaboration with Comexposium Security, representing the GIE Milipol under Civipol, the co-operation implementer of the French Minis-

try of the Interior and Overseas, the event plays a crucial role in addressing Qatar's growing security needs and supports the security goals outlined in Qatar National Vision 2030.

This year's event will feature exhibitors from across the world showcasing cutting-edge innovations in security, safety, detection and prevention equipment and systems. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of products and services designed to address contemporary security challenges. From advanced surveillance systems to state-of-the-art detection technologies, the show will present the latest solutions to ensure public safety and protect critical infrastructure.



# Rights forum calls for fighting racial discrimination

The regional dialogue forum on "human rights: promoting equality and combating discrimination in the context of migration" concluded in Doha yesterday.

The event was organised by the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) in collaboration with the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI) and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The two-day forum underscored the importance of constantly working to promote the awareness levels of human rights and the notions related to enhancing equality and repudiating all forms of racial discrimination. They advocated for leveraging education and culture to communicate with youth pertaining to the elimination of racial discrimination and promoting the concepts of tolerance and co-existence.

The recommendations that were read out by ANNHRI Secretary-General Sultan bin Hassan al-Jamali emphasised the imperative of constantly monitoring the reality of human rights concerning expatriate workers, identifying the challenges and presenting the suggestions of addressing them. Also, the recommendations urged civil society organisations



ing a paper presented by NHRC that shed the light on the Qatari experience on ways to address the issue of racial discrimination. The working paper discussed the NHRC's role as an independent authority which is tasked with promoting and protecting human rights in the State of Qatar, in addition to exploring ways to address the issue of racial discrimination.

Additionally, the working paper highlighted the role of NHRC as an independent body in Qatar, in promoting and protecting human rights. It noted that the committee's jurisdiction and competencies are defined in accordance with the Paris Principles, which regulate the work of national human rights institutions since 1993.

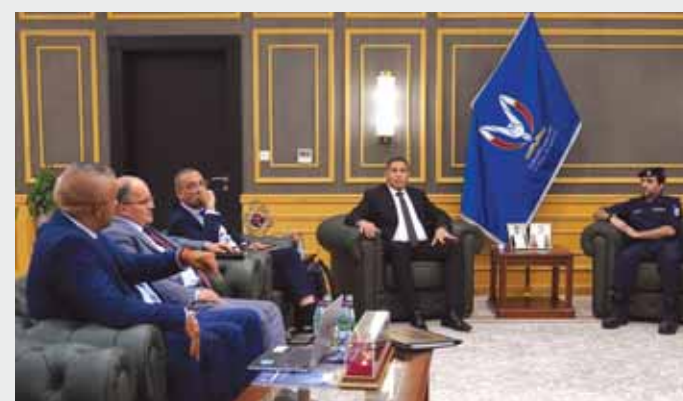
The paper also addressed the NHRC-backed efforts in promoting a culture of equality, non-discrimination, and combating racism, in addition to protecting the human rights of expatriates. It highlighted the annual reports issued by NHRC through which it monitors the State's performance in upholding human rights in all their aspects, including economic, social, and cultural rights, such as the right to work and related rights for migrant workers in the workplace. (QNA)

and media outlets to foster tolerance, co-existence and promote awareness of the danger of racial discrimination.

Besides, the participants called for unifying the efforts of combating racism in sports, through crafting policies, plans, and stepping up awareness campaigns, and other initiatives in this regard, underlining the importance of capacity-building programs and providing opportunities to enhance skills, mechanisms, and methodologies through training and educational programmes. They also called for strengthening and promoting the principles and values of Islamic Shariah, which advocate for equality and reject discrimination.

The second day of the forum featured the presentation of an array of working papers, includ-

## Tunisian delegation visits Police Academy



As part of the co-operation between the ministries of interior of Qatar and Tunisia, a delegation from the Tunisian Ministry of Interior, headed by Brig Gen Mohamed al-Sabti al-Arfawi, director of Intervention Units, yesterday visited the International Co-operation Department and the Police Academy. The visit, according to a statement by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) on X, aimed to exchange expertise and knowledge in security and policing fields and benefit from Qatari experiences. During the visit, the Tunisian delegation met Brig Hadi Hamad al-Shahwani, assistant director of the International Co-operation Department and several officials from MoI. The delegation also met Lt Col Dr Jassim Mohamed al-Obaidli, director of the Research and Studies Center at the Police Academy, during their visit to the academy building. The visits included discussions on ways to enhance frameworks for security and academic co-operation in policing.



## EAA highlights education's role in combating climate crisis

From Page 1

"This forum represented an opportunity to galvanise support and accelerate efforts towards transformative education strategies that can mitigate climate risks, build resilience, and catalyse innovative approaches towards more sustainable educational and environmental outcomes. Furthermore, EAA is committed to empowering young people, especially those who have experienced the impacts of climate change, to take action for present and future generations." The event marked a cornerstone for future initiatives and partnerships aimed at integrating educational strategies with climate action plans. It also highlighted the development of climate-resilient livelihoods through educational pathways leading to sustainable employment, alongside investments in new technologies and industries aimed at mitigating climate impacts.

## Registration open for Katara Qur'an contest

Registration for the 8th Katara Qur'an Recitation Competition opens today (July 17) and continues until October 17.


The Cultural Village Foundation - Katara said the competition aims to encourage and discover outstanding talents in reading and reciting the Holy Qur'an, and to present to the world distinguished reciters according to the rules of Tajweed, to honour the outstanding and creative readers, and to motivate the younger generations to adhere to their religion and understand their duties towards their faith and Islamic message.

The screening committee will evaluate all entries and select the best 100 participants to proceed for the qualifying stage held in Doha. The 100 qualifiers will participate in the competition through 20 television episodes, with five participants

competing in each episode. One of them will be selected to compete in the semi-final stage. During the semi-finals, 20 contestants, along with five reserves, will compete in five more episodes, with 5 people competing in each episode. One participant will be qualified from each episode to compete in the final stage. Among the five finalists, the top three winners of the prize will be announced, and the episodes will be broadcast in a special programme in collaboration with Qatar TV during the holy month of Ramadan.

Katara will produce a CD for the winner, reciting the entire Qur'an, in Katara's studios.

The total value for the Katara Prize for Qur'an Recitation is QR900,000, where the winner receives QR500,000, the runner-up receives QR300,000, and the third-place winner receives QR100,000. (QNA)




## Invitation

In line with Qatar National Renewable Energy Strategy and Qatar National Vision 2030, Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation 'KAHRAMAA' is pleased to invite all accredited electrical contractors, including contractors interested in the connections of electrical works related to solar energy systems for buildings, to submit applications for qualification to work in the field of connecting and installing **Distributed Renewable Energy Systems**.

This aligns with KAHRAMAA Policy for Renewable Energy Systems Connected to the Distribution Network and in preparation for the announcement of acceptance of customer applications for distributed renewable energy systems in the State of Qatar.

We are also pleased to invite all concerned consultants to attend the introductory workshops related to the policy of distributed renewable energy systems.



**TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP**  
please register in advance no later than **July 22, 2024**, via the following email: [solar.csi@km.qa](mailto:solar.csi@km.qa)

Best Regards,  
Qatar General Electricity & water Corporation

# Matar Qadeem Street: A one-stop shop for all



The flow of human and vehicular traffic varies at different times of the day, but nighttime is usually when most people troop to its restaurants, quaint cafeterias, hardware stores, and barber shops. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam



By Peter Alagos  
Business Reporter

**Q**atar's city planning has successfully provided residents of its ever-expanding communities with a plethora of services and establishments built along bustling thoroughfares across the country, which serve as a one-stop shop for urban convenience.

One such thoroughfare is Matar Qadeem (Al Matar Al Qadeem Street or Old Airport Street in English). Owing to its diversity of goods and services, Matar Qadeem's kilometre-long stretch is a melting pot of peoples and cultures.

The flow of human and vehicular traffic varies at different times of the day, but nighttime is usually when most people troop to its restaurants, quaint cafeterias, hardware stores, and barber shops, commonly labelled as "gents saloon."

Matar Qadeem is a magnet for residents looking for computer stores or repair shops, or wanting to score affordable tech and mobile phones and their accessories. While it does not rival the wide

**Matar Qadeem (Al Matar Al Qadeem Street or Old Airport Street in English). Owing to its diversity of goods and services, Matar Qadeem's kilometre-long stretch is a melting pot of peoples and cultures**

assortment of similar services and the availability of tech products and gadgets at the nearby Al Watan Centre, Matar Qadeem is an expedient alternative for those avoiding the hustle and bustle of driving or the public commute.

Motorists also find the diverse businesses at Matar Qadeem handy for quick emergencies, such as repairing a flat tyre or buying new ones, engine maintenance and battery trouble, or electrical problems, among others.

Shops are open for air-conditioning issues for automobile A/C units, while washing vehicles is a breeze and can help save time and avoid long queues in other well-known but overcrowded car wash outlets.

Buying daily essentials is best done in one go at Qatar's large and

popular supermarkets. But if one runs short of foodstuffs or household items, Matar Qadeem boasts of supermarkets and quaint grocery stores, including butcheries offering different meats from chicken to mutton. Fresh fish and vegetables are also available, courtesy of several shops there.

The street is home to many service-oriented businesses, including laundry and dry cleaning establishments, barbershops, car rental agencies, a handful of travel agencies, and some exchange houses, as well.

Perhaps, some of the busiest shops in Matar Qadeem offer typing and printing services. While they are small in terms of workspace, their expertise is quite significant as they specialise in the translation of official documents for submission, particularly in government ministries.

Matar Qadeem has a few pharmacies packed with a cross-section of medical supplies and equipment, while different optical shops offer a wide selection of decently priced frames and contact lenses.

The string of hardware stores

are the go-to places for paints, electrical and plumbing supplies, carpentry tools, and lighting accessories, which are ideal for home improvement projects. Matar Qadeem is also lined with shops that handle maintenance or repair of residential A/C units or washing machines.

For niche requirements like bookbinding and lamination services, there is a bookstore and a handful of stationery shops. Some photo studios, watch repair shops, and locksmiths also offer quick, specialised services.

Health buffs flock to some of Matar Qadeem's gyms, while a few protein shops cater to fitness enthusiasts. There are also different apparel shops for affordable clothing and footwear, as well as men's and ladies' tailor shops.

Of course, a trip to Matar Qadeem would not be complete without exploring its culinary offers. Aside from a few fast food chains, the street is lined with different cafeterias and small restaurants, offering affordable food and drinks, such as the popular egg sandwiches and karak.

## Second Katara Summer Camp begins on July 21

**K**atara - the Cultural Village Foundation is getting ready to organise the 2nd Katara Summer Camp on July 21.

The educational and recreational programme will run from July 21-August 7, on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays each week, targeting children aged 10-13 years.

A number of different entities in the country are taking part in the camp to provide a rich and integrated programme.

These include the Ministry of Interior represented by the General Directorate of Civil Defence, the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, Qatar Red Crescent, Al Jazeera Media Institute, the Shooting Club, Al Shaqab, and Sawt Al Khaleej Radio.

Further, different Katara facilities and centres will contribute actively, including the Al Thuraya Planetari-

um and the Al Gannas Qatari Society. The programme will include various activities, such as workshops and practical training on awareness and heritage topics, as well as field trips and visits.

Katara has a dedicated telephone number: 50047041, and e-mail Hassan.alkuwari@katara.net to facilitate easy registration for parents, allowing them to enrol their children in the week of their choice. Participants will be divided into three groups, with a new group each week.

Through this camp, Katara aims to enhance the social and national values in the younger generation, develop their skills, and provide them with additional knowledge through various educational and training workshops, field trips, and tours of Katara's facilities.

Katara Summer 1st Camp 2023 received much praise from parents and participants.



File photo from Katara 1st summer camp.

## Lexus, Mercedes models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in co-operation with Al Abdulghani Motors has announced the recall of Lexus NX, 2022-2023 models, due to the possibility of the forward recognition camera to fail while ignition is turned off due to software programming defect. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in co-operation with Nasser Bin Khaled and Sons Automobiles has announced the recall of Mercedes G-Class, 2022-2023 models, as the transmission housing in the rear axle may not match the required force specifications and may cause cracks in the housing during vehicle operations, which may lead to transmission oil leakage on the road. The ministry said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs. The ministry said it will co-ordinate with the dealers to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out. The MoCI urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquires and suggestions through the following channels: Call Centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, X (formerly Twitter) - @MOCIQATAR, Instagram - MOCIQATAR. The MoCI mobile application, MOCI\_QATAR, is available on iPhone and Android devices.

## QU professor introduces remote patient routing system

Prof Ridha Hamila, professor of Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering at Qatar University (QU), has introduced an innovative system for remote patient routing to medical facilities. This development promises to streamline patient scheduling and reduce the inefficiencies that currently plague healthcare systems worldwide. Prof Hamila's system introduces a unified framework designed to distribute patients across various medical facilities efficiently. This system employs advanced algorithms to minimise the total expected service time and the probability of service delays. The system features a processor in communication with a memory that receives scheduling requests from patients' devices over a network. It gathers real-time information from multiple medical facilities, including current patient loads, occupancy states, and availability. Using this data, the system determines the estimated service time for each patient, including travel, waiting, and consultation times. It then selects the optimal medical facility to minimise delays and ensure timely treatment. Comparative studies have shown that this system can improve performance by up to 50% over existing methods and algorithms. The new system developed by Prof Hamila addresses these challenges by providing a robust framework for the efficient distribution of patients across heterogeneous medical facilities. The system is designed to optimise the entire scheduling process, from receiving patient requests to assigning them to the appropriate medical facility based on various factors. The system's architecture includes several innovative features designed to streamline patient scheduling and distribution. The Control Unit maintains the state of medical facilities, including patient count, occupancy, and availability. These are regularly updated based on assignment decisions to ensure accurate scheduling. Patients are assigned to facilities based on their needs and the capabilities of each facility. The system uses a window-based method to estimate



Prof Ridha Hamila

the arrival rates of requests and service rates. Travel time from the patient's location to the medical facility is calculated using an estimated time of arrival model. Efficient communication between different system components ensures accurate data flow. The system prioritises patients with severe or critical conditions, ensuring they receive timely care while managing other patients who can tolerate more delay. By formulating an optimisation problem as a convex combination of expected service time and service time tail probability metrics, the system employs an efficient iterative algorithm to minimise these factors, demonstrating performance improvements of up to 50% compared to existing algorithms. This system not only improves efficiency but also ensures that patients receive timely and appropriate care, ultimately enhancing healthcare outcomes.

## Farms hope to raise output next season

**A** number of local farm owners said they were making necessary preparations for the upcoming agricultural season in addition to plans to raise production through the use of cooled greenhouses and other modern techniques.

Speaking to local Arabic daily *Arrayah*, owners disclosed that some farms have not stopped production during the summer and will continue their activities until winter, producing a variety of vegetables such as cucumbers, cowpeas, and sweet peppers in greenhouses, and squash, okra, and leafy vegetables in open spaces.

Farming in open soil during the summer requires more organic fertilisers and vitamins compared to the winter season.

Production levels last season did not achieve the desired increase, they said, due to higher costs of agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilisers, while prices of local vegetables in the market remained the same.

The farm owners were optimistic that the next season would be better than the previous year, as they have set up new greenhouses to increase production levels. They stressed the importance of adopting organic farming methods which helps preserve the environment, reduces pollution, and maintains the soil

for many years compared to traditional farming which uses chemicals.

Moreover, organic farming provides healthy food for humans, free from toxic chemical residues.

They also stressed the importance of the Ministry of Municipality in terms of providing sufficient support to farms, Mahaseel in terms of increasing purchase prices for farmers, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in regulating the entry of imported vegetables during the agricultural season, and Kahramaa in reducing bills for productive farms.

Some local farms have stopped vegetable production and shifted to producing animal fodder which have lower costs and faster growth and harvest times, besides higher profits compared to vegetables, they revealed.

Farm owner Yousef Tahir said he plans to grow 15 different types of vegetables next season. He hoped for more support to enable him to cut production costs.

Farm owner Hamad al-Kuwari said production last season was excellent and he plans on expanding greenhouse farming.

Ali al-Hinzab, farm owners, stressed that organic farming is considered the best in the country to maintain good production at reasonable cost.





# Three kids among five dead in Israeli strikes on Lebanon

AFP  
Beirut

Lebanese official media said separate Israeli strikes yesterday on south Lebanon killed five people including three Syrian children, with Hezbollah announcing rocket fire at Israel in retaliation for one of the raids.

"Three Syrian children" were killed "in an enemy raid that targeted farmland in the village of Umm Toot", the National News Agency (NNA) said.

It also said an "enemy" drone strike had targeted a motorcycle on the Kfar Tebnit road elsewhere in south Lebanon, killing two Syrians.

A Lebanese security source, requesting anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media, told AFP that the two Syrians were "civilians" who worked nearby and had been swimming in the area.

The NNA said "eyewitnesses reported that the motorbike was carrying two people and that



Smoke billows following an Israeli strike in the village of Kfar Kila in southern Lebanon, yesterday.

when a number of citizens tried to approach the bike... it was subjected to a second strike".

Hezbollah said it launched "dozens of Katyusha rockets" at northern Israel's Kiryat Shmona "in response to the Israeli enemy attacks" on south Lebanon, "particularly Kfar Tebnit and "the death of two civilians".

Hezbollah has traded almost daily fire with Israeli forces in support of ally Hamas since the Palestinian group's October first week storming of Israel.

In Lebanon, the cross-border violence since October has killed 511 people, mostly fighters but also including at least 104 civilians, according to an AFP tally.

# Iran 'open to resuming nuclear accord talks'

Reuters  
Dubai

Tehran remains open to resuming negotiations with Washington on restoring their participation in a nuclear agreement, Iran's acting foreign minister told *Newsweek* magazine in an interview published yesterday.

Ali Bagheri Kani's remarks come as he prepares to address the UN Security Council in New York.

The US under President Donald Trump withdrew in 2018 from the nuclear accord between Iran and six world powers which restricted Tehran's nuclear programmes.

Indirect talks between the US and Tehran to revive the deal have stalled. Iran is still part of the agreement but it has decreased its commitments due to US sanctions imposed on it.

*Newsweek* said: "On the foreign policy front, he (Bagheri Kani) said that Tehran remained open to resuming negotiations with Washington toward restoring mutual participation in a nuclear deal." However, Iran also intended to foster its deepening ties with China, Russia and neighbouring nations, it quoted him as saying. Iran will also call for greater action against Israel in view of the Gaza war, he said.



Iran's acting foreign minister Ali Bagheri Kani speaks to delegates during a meeting of the UN Security Council at the UN headquarters in New York City, yesterday.

The Biden administration said last week the US was not ready to resume nuclear talks with Iran under its new president.

Bagheri Kani became the acting foreign minister after foreign minister Hossein Amirabdollahian died in a helicopter crash along with Iran's president Ebrahim Raisi in May.

Iranians then elected Masoud Pezeshkian as president, a moderate who said he will promote a pragmatic foreign policy and ease tensions with the powers involved in the 2015 nuclear pact.

# More than 10mn people displaced by Sudan war: IOM

Reuters  
Cairo

More than 10mn Sudanese, or 20% of the population, have been driven from their homes since the war there began, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said yesterday, as the world's largest displacement crisis continues to worsen.

The number is the latest dire figure out of the east African country, devastated by a conflict that began in April 2023. The war has left half the population of about 50mn facing a hunger crisis and in need of humanitarian aid,

the most of any country.

More than 2.2mn people have fled to other countries since the war began, while almost 7.8mn sought refuge inside the country, the IOM said in a bimonthly report. An additional 2.8mn people were already displaced by previous conflicts in the country.

Fighting between the army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces that broke out in the capital Khartoum last year quickly expanded across Darfur to the west, with the RSF taking control of most centres. UN experts say hunger has replaced violence as the largest driver of migration from Darfur, where they face difficulty delivering aid.

"All refugees I met said the reason why they fled Sudan was hunger," said World Health Organisation country director Dr Shible Sahbani to reporters after visiting refugees from Darfur, the source of half of the displaced population, in Chad. "A woman who just reached Adre reported that all food they used to produce locally in Darfur was taken by the fighters," he added.

As the RSF expands its reach in the south east of the country in recent weeks, more than 150,000 people were displaced from Senar state, the IOM said, many for the second or third time after RSF raids on markets and homes in the state's small towns and villages.

## China says wants to facilitate 'reconciliation'

China yesterday expressed willingness to facilitate "reconciliation" between Palestinian factions, after Fatah said its officials would meet in Beijing this month with Hamas counterparts, AFP reported from Beijing. Fatah's central committee deputy secretary-general Sabri Saidam said Monday that the factions would meet with Chinese officials in Beijing on July 20 and July 21. The Hamas delegation is to be headed by its political chief Ismail Haniyeh, while the Fatah representation will be led by deputy head Mahmud Alul, Fatah sources said. Asked about the comments yesterday, Beijing said it would "publish information at an appropriate time". "China has always supported all sides in Palestine to achieve reconciliation and unity through dialogue and negotiation," foreign ministry

spokesman Lin Jian said. Beijing, he said, "is willing to develop dialogue and reconciliation, provide a platform and create opportunities for all sides on the Palestine issue". "China is willing to strengthen communication with all parties and work hard to realise the aim of Palestine's domestic reconciliation," he added. Fatah movement controls the Palestinian Authority, which has partial administrative control in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Several reconciliation bids have failed, but calls have grown since the Hamas storming of Israel set off the Gaza war, with violence also soaring in the West Bank where Fatah is based. China hosted Fatah and Hamas in April but a meeting scheduled for June was postponed. China has positioned itself as a more neutral actor on the Israel-Palestinian conflict than its rival the United States.

## QTERMINALS

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# Trump cements grip on Republicans as ex-rivals fall in line

AFP  
Milwaukee

Donald Trump's failed primary challengers were to take the stage yesterday at the Republican Party convention, in a display of fealty to its all-dominant champion and now official US presidential candidate. The unified front comes a day after the ex-president triggered high emotion when entering the convention hall in Milwaukee as he made his first public appearance since surviving Saturday's assassination attempt. Three of Trump's political rivals turned endorsers — Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, former UN ambassador Nikki Haley, and businessman Vivek Ramaswamy — were to address the

convention's 2,400 delegates last evening. Haley, who just four months ago said the United States can't "go through four more years of chaos" under Trump, had not been expected to appear. But Saturday's shooting at a Pennsylvania campaign rally reshuffled the deck, and Haley was on Tuesday's speaking schedule along with Ramaswamy and DeSantis, a convention source said. Seeking to reassure voters he remains robust despite the near-miss which injured his ear, Trump's team announced he will address a campaign rally on Saturday afternoon — just one week from the attack — with his new vice presidential pick JD Vance. Trump received a rapt ovation on Monday evening when he appeared with a bandage on his right ear signalling how close he came to

losing his life when a lone shooter on a roof fired at him. The former president on Monday solidified the Republican ticket on Day 1 of the four-day convention, announcing Vance, a 39-year-old US senator from Ohio and a one-time harsh critic turned uncompromising supporter, as his running mate. Vance, who says his modest Rust Belt upbringing makes him a voice for working-class voters in left-behind America, is set to address the convention today evening, while Trump will formally accept the party's nomination in a prime-time speech tomorrow. The standard-bearer for a new kind of populism that has come to the fore under Trump, Vance is also one of the least experienced VP picks in modern history. But he embraces Trump's isola-



Former US ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, who challenged Donald Trump in the primaries, takes part in a sound check on the second day of the 2024 Republican National Convention at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, yesterday. (AFP)

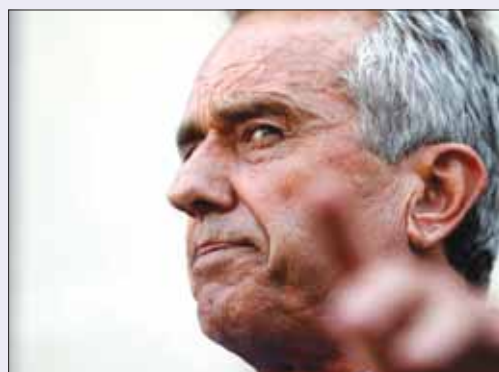
tionist, anti-immigration America First movement and is further to the right than his new boss on some issues. Saturday's rally will be their first chance to lay out the Trump-Vance campaign message in person. Given the shocking events of a week earlier, the Trump appearance — and the level of security at the rally — will be closely watched. On the convention floor, del-

egate and Trump supporter Austin Utley of Texas said he experienced "all kinds of crazy emotions" when his political hero made an appearance. "The fact that he's here two days after he got shot just shows why we all support him and why everybody's here, because he's a fighter," Utley told AFP. Less than four months before Election Day some 50,000 Re-

publicans have descended on the convention in Wisconsin, the state where the Republican Party was born 170 years ago. While Trump, 78, is increasingly confident of a shock return to the White House — despite multiple legal problems and two impeachments clouding his first term — President Joe Biden is reeling from weak polls and Democratic concerns over his health.

## Ex-president courts RFK Jr in leaked phone call

Trump recalls 'world's largest mosquito bite' feeling; dubs Biden's call to him 'very nice'



Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump suggested to Robert F. Kennedy Jr (pictured) that the independent presidential candidate could do something to support the Trump campaign, according to a video of a phone call on Sunday posted on social media and confirmed by Kennedy. "I would love you to do something — and I think it would be so good for you and so big for you," Trump can be heard saying via speaker phone in the video, apparently referring to the 2024 election race.

"We're gonna win," Trump said, after which Kennedy said, "Yeah." "We're way ahead of the guy," Trump added, referring to Democratic incumbent President Joe Biden. Kennedy supporters range across the political spectrum, from liberal to conservative to independent, and some polls show he would draw voters from Trump and Biden both. Trump also spoke to Kennedy about Saturday's assassination attempt, saying that the bullet that hit his ear "felt like a giant — like the world's largest mosquito." Of Biden's phone call with Trump after the assassination attempt, Trump said: "It was very nice actually." Trump's phone call with Kennedy also included a conversation about vaccines, which echoed some of Kennedy's earlier views. The environmental lawyer has spread misinformation on vaccines for

years. "When you feed a baby, Bobby," Trump said, "a vaccination that is like 38 different vaccines, and it looks like it's meant for a horse, not a, you know, 10-pound or 20-pound baby...and then you see the baby all of a sudden starting to change radically. And then you hear that it doesn't have an impact, right? But you and I talked about that a long time ago." After the call spread on social media, Kennedy yesterday apologised to Trump on social media platform X. "When President Trump called me I was taping with an in-house videographer," he wrote. "I should have ordered the videographer to stop recording immediately. I am mortified that this was posted." A day earlier, Kennedy posted on X about meeting with Trump, writing: "Our main topic was national unity, and I hope to meet with Democratic leaders about that as well. No, I am not dropping out of the race."

## US 'received intel of Iranian plot to assassinate Trump'

Tehran blasts 'malicious' charges

Reuters  
Washington

The United States received intelligence in recent weeks about an Iranian plot to assassinate former president Donald Trump, CNN said yesterday, and a US official said the Secret Service shared details of an increased threat with the Trump campaign. The White House declined to comment, but said there were no indications that the suspected shooter in Saturday's attempted assassination of Trump had any foreign or domestic accomplices. Iran said the accusations against it were "unsubstantiated and malicious." US officials have for years worried that Tehran would retaliate against Trump for his ordering of the January 2020 killing of Iranian military commander

Qassem Soleimani. "As we have said many times, we have been tracking Iranian threats against former Trump administration officials for years, dating back to the last administration," said Adrienne Watson, spokesperson for the White House National Security Council. "These threats arise from Iran's desire to seek revenge for the killing of Qassem Soleimani. We consider this a national and homeland security matter of the highest priority," she said. CNN reported that the intelligence about the Iranian plot was passed on by a human source. A US official said that on learning of the increased threat, the National Security Council contacted the Secret Service, which added resources and assets for Trump's protection. The Trump campaign was also made aware of an evolving threat, the official said.

In a statement to Reuters, Iran's mission to the United Nations in New York said "these accusations are unsubstantiated and malicious." "From the perspective of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Trump is a criminal who must be prosecuted and punished in a court of law for ordering the assassination of General Soleimani. Iran has chosen the legal path to bring him to justice," Iran's statement said. The Secret Service has been sharply criticised since the 20-year-old gunman who shot at Trump on Saturday was able to access a roof overlooking the rally and open fire, grazing Trump's ear, killing a rallygoer and wounding two other attendees. President Joe Biden has ordered an independent review of how the gunman could have come so close to killing Trump, and the Secret Service also faces probes from Congress.

## Top US senator found guilty of corruption; calls mount for resignation

Jurors found a powerful US senator guilty on all counts of corruption yesterday after gold bars and hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash were found at his home, prosecutors said, sparking calls for his resignation. Robert Menendez (pictured), a 70-year-old Democrat from New Jersey, was charged with extortion, obstruction of justice and accepting bribes to perform favours for businessmen and will be sentenced on October 29. Menendez has vowed to appeal the verdict. A spokesman for the Southern District of New York prosecutor's office said the total combined charges carry a maximum potential sentence of 222

years in prison. The counts on which Menendez was convicted after less than three days of jury deliberations included conspiracy to commit bribery, acting as a foreign agent while a public official, and obstruction of justice. Menendez said outside court: "I have never been anything but a patriot of my country and for my country. I have never, ever been a foreign agent." Menendez, who said in June he would run as an independent in November's election, is a career politician and led the influential Senate Foreign Relations Committee until the charges were filed. He remains a sitting senator. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a fellow Democrat, called on Menendez

to step down. "In light of this guilty verdict, Senator Menendez must now do what is right for his constituents, the Senate, and our country, and resign," Schumer said. Menendez shook his head from side to side as the verdict was read out, CNN reported. Prosecutors have alleged Menendez put his power as a top US senator "up for sale". "This wasn't politics as usual. This was politics for profit. And now that the jury has convicted Bob Menendez, his years of selling his office to the highest bidder have finally come to an end," US Attorney Damian Williams, a prosecutor, said outside court. In a raid on Menendez's New Jersey

home, FBI agents were said to have found nearly \$500,000 in cash hidden around the house, as well as gold bars worth around \$150,000 and a luxury Mercedes-Benz convertible. His wife Nadine Menendez, to whom defence lawyers are seeking to shift the blame, has also been charged but will be tried separately as she is receiving treatment for breast cancer. Menendez was convicted alongside two of the businessmen he allegedly helped — Egyptian-American Wael Hana and Fred Daibes, a real estate developer. A third businessman, insurance broker Jose Uribe, pleaded guilty to bribery charges in March and assisted investigators.



## Biden makes first campaign trip since Trump attack

AFP  
Las Vegas

US President Joe Biden hit the campaign trail yesterday for the first time since the assassination attempt against Donald Trump, seeking to prop up his re-election bid as unease over his age resurfaces. As Trump rides a wave of support at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Biden is in Las Vegas to reach out to Black voters at the NAACP advocacy group. The 81-year-old president will also sit down with Black broadcaster BET, the latest in a series of interviews as he tries to address concerns over his mental fitness following his dismal debate performance against Trump last month. Amid his call for Americans to "lower the temperature" of politics in the wake of the attempt on Trump's life, Biden cancelled a campaign trip to Texas on Monday but continued with his Nevada visit. Biden narrowly won Nevada in his 2020 election victory over



President Joe Biden before boarding Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland. (Reuters)

Trump. The trip comes as the Democratic Party pushes ahead with plans to rush through Biden's own nomination ahead of its conference in August, despite calls to postpone the process while divisions remain over his candidacy. While the attempt on Trump's life briefly silenced Democrats who called on Biden to step aside, tensions are emerging in public

again as president trails in most of the polls. The New York Times reported that a group of Democrats in the House of Representatives was trying to rally support for a change to the rules to allow challenges at the convention. But Biden's campaign insisted the virtual roll-call was necessary before the August 19 convention as Republican-led Ohio had moved its filing date to August 7,

otherwise Biden risked not being eligible there. "It is our obligation as a campaign to make sure that President Biden is on the ballot," Biden deputy campaign manager Quentin Fulks told a press conference in Milwaukee. At the NAACP meeting in Las Vegas, there was widespread support for Biden staying on. "We're riding with Biden," said Sydney Martin, 65, assistant pastor of the Destiny House Christian Center in New York state, describing calls for Biden to step aside as a "trick by the enemy." Asha Holmes, 28, said she would also back Biden although she had been "kind of hoping for Kamala (Harris, the vice-president) to try and run this year instead of him going for a second term." But the questions continue about whether Biden can win again after a faltering showing at the Atlanta debate on June 27 where he mangled his words and lost his train of thought. Biden, who says he messed up due to jet lag and illness, forcefully defended his ability to do the job in a major US network interview on Monday night.

"I'm old," Biden told NBC. "But I'm only three years older than Trump, number one. And number two, my mental acuity has been pretty damn good." Biden also defended his rhetoric about Trump after Republicans accused him of stoking divisions ahead of the shooting in which the former president's ear was hit. FBI investigators are still probing 20-year-old gunman Thomas Matthew Crooks' motivation for the attack on a Trump rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. A bystander was killed and Crooks was shot dead. Biden admitted it was a "mistake" to tell donors in a call last week that it was "time to put Trump in the bullseye" of his election campaign. But Biden doubled down on what he said was the need to "talk about the threat to democracy" posed by former president Trump. Trump refuses to accept the 2020 election results and faces criminal charges over the deadly January 6, 2021 assault on the US Capitol by supporters seeking to overturn his defeat by Biden.

## 21 dead in Peru after bus falls into a ravine

AFP  
Lima

A bus plummeted into a ravine in southern Peru yesterday, killing at least 21 people and wounding another 20, said police in the Andean country plagued by deadly road accidents. The bus with more than 40 occupants was headed from Lima to the Andean region of Ayacucho when it veered off a cliff about 200 meters high in the early morning hours, highway safety division director Jhonny Valderrama said on RPP radio. Twenty injured people were taken to hospitals as rescue teams worked to recover bodies from the wreckage. Accidents are frequent on Peru's often winding, mountainous roads due to speeding, poor road upkeep, a lack of traffic signs and lax enforcement of driving rules. Last year, the country registered more than 3,300 deaths from more than 87,000 traffic accidents. Seventeen people died in a similar bus crash on the same road in May.



# Six foreign nationals found dead in Bangkok hotel

Reuters  
Bangkok

Thai police are investigating the deaths of six foreign nationals whose bodies were found in a room at an upmarket hotel in Bangkok yesterday, including looking for a seventh per-

son in connection with the incident.

All six, who were of Vietnamese descent, with two carrying US passports, checked into Bangkok's Grand Hyatt Erawan hotel at two separate times after arriving on Saturday and Sunday, police official Thiti Saengsawang told reporters.

The group - three men and three women - checked into different rooms but their bodies were found in one room, which did not show any signs of struggle, he said.

"This was not self harm, but someone caused the deaths," said Thiti, adding that police were looking for a seventh person connected with the group.

"We are tracing every step since they got off the plane."

Police officers found the bodies after a call from the hotel staff at around 5.30pm (1030GMT) reporting that there had been deaths, the Thai police said in a statement.

Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin, who visited the hotel

late yesterday with senior police officials, ordered a swift investigation on the matter, the government said in a statement.

"The prime minister has ordered all agencies to urgently take action to avoid impact on tourism," it said.

"We need to conduct an autopsy to see if they had ingested

anything," the statement quoted the premier as saying, dispelling rumours the deaths were connected to a theft and had involved a shooting.

Some of the six foreigners appeared to be on their first trip to the country, while others appeared to be return visitors, a police officer said.

# N Korea diplomat defected to S Korea from Cuba: media

Reuters  
Seoul

A senior North Korean diplomat based in Cuba defected with his wife and child to South Korea in November, South Korean media reports said yesterday, the highest-ranking North Korean diplomat to escape to the South since 2016.

Before fleeing to the South, Ri Il-kyu, 52, was a counsellor at the North Korean embassy in Cuba, he told South Korean newspaper *Chosun Ilbo*.

Yonhap News Agency also reported Ri had defected to the South, citing an anonymous government source.

The South's unification ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, declined to comment on the reports, citing privacy issues.

Among Ri's jobs at the embassy was to block North Korea's rival South Korea and old ally Cuba from forging diplomatic ties, Chosun Ilbo reported. In February, the two countries established diplomatic relations.

Ri said he flew out of Cuba with his family but he did not elaborate further on how he pulled off the high-risk escape.

"I bought flight tickets and called my wife and kid to tell them about my decision, six hours before the defection. I didn't say South Korea, but said, let's live abroad," he said.

Another North Korean diplomat stationed in Paris and his family have also been seeking asylum in the US, South Korean television network TV Chosun reported late yesterday, citing multiple sources with knowledge of the matter.

North Koreans caught attempting to defect face severe punishment, including death, according to human rights groups and defectors who have been successful.

Fewer North Korean defectors have been arriving in South Korea in recent years due to strict limits on border crossings into China and hefty broker fees, human rights groups and experts say.

Last year, 196 North Korean defectors came to Seoul, down from as many as 2,700 a decade ago, South Korean government data showed. North Koreans who have recently defected to the South have mostly lived overseas, human rights activists say.

North Korea last year shut some embassies to revamp diplomatic efficiency. The South Korean government has said the closures are a sign that sanctions have made it extremely difficult for North Korean diplomatic missions to earn money for their operating expenses.

North Korea maintains an embassy in Cuba, though its ambassador returned home in March, according to media reports.

Ri entered North Korea's foreign ministry in 1999 and received a commendation from leader Kim Jong-un for successfully negotiating with Panama to lift the detention of a North Korean ship in 2013, Chosun said.

He told the newspaper he had decided to defect over disillusionment with the regime and unfair evaluation of his work.

Ri said he made a final decision to run when a request to travel to Mexico for a medical treatment was denied last year, adding that his parents and parents-in-law who might face reprisals for his defection had passed away.



Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of the ruling party Bangladesh Awami League, and anti-quota protesters engage in a clash at the Dhaka College area, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, yesterday.

# Bangladesh shuts schools after six students killed in protests

AFP  
Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday ordered schools around the country to close indefinitely after six students were killed in violent protests that prompted the mobilisation of paramilitaries to keep order.

Every high school, Islamic seminary and vocational education institute around the country was told to remain shut until further notice following weeks of escalating demonstrations against civil service hiring policies.

Yesterday saw a significant escalation in violence as demonstrators and pro-government

student groups attacked each other with hurled bricks and bamboo rods, and police dispersed rallies with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Education ministry spokesman M A Khair said the shutdown order was issued in consideration of "the security of the students".

The order does not include Bangladesh's universities, where most students participating in the protests are enrolled, as the education ministry ordinarily does not have the authority to demand their closure. At least six people were killed yesterday as demonstrators mobilised for another day in cities around the country, defying earlier calls by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the supreme court to return to class.

Three died in Chittagong and had signs of

"bullet injuries", hospital director Mohamed Taslim Uddin said adding that another 35 had been injured during clashes in the port city.

Another two died in Dhaka, where rival student groups threw bricks at each other and blocked roads in several key locations that ground traffic to a halt in the megacity of 20mn.

Police inspector Bacchu Mia confirmed the deaths saying one had succumbed to head injuries, while at least 60 people were also injured.

In the northern city of Rangpur, police commissioner Mohamed Moniruzzaman said a student had been also killed in clashes there.

He did not give details as to how the student died, but said police had fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse protesters.

## 'Super spicy' crisps land schoolkids in hospital

Fourteen Japanese high school students were taken to hospital yesterday after eating "super spicy" potato chips, local media said.

More than 30 pupils at a Tokyo high school were reportedly sharing the crisps during recess when some started complaining of nausea and acute pain around their mouths.

Fourteen of them were rushed to hospital, with all conscious but at least one feeling so ill they had to be transported on a wheelchair, Fuji TV said. The broadcaster said a male student brought the crisps to the school "just for fun" because he had eaten them before and found them "super spicy". The crisps concerned have the brand name "R18+ Curry Chips", media outlets including Asahi Shimbun and Fuji TV said. According to the manufacturer's website, under-18s are "banned" from eating the crisps, which are "so spicy that they might cause you pain".

## Top US military official in Manila



Philippines' military chief Romeo Brawner (left) inspects the troops with US chairman of the joint chiefs of staff General Charles Brown Jr (right), during his arrival at the military headquarters in Manila.

## Bangladesh turns back fleeing Myanmar soldiers

AFP  
Teknaf, Bangladesh

Bangladesh stopped dozens of Myanmar security personnel from crossing into its territory to flee advancing rebel forces, a local government official based near their river border said yesterday.

Clashes have rocked Myanmar's western frontiers since the Arakan Army (AA) attacked security forces in November, ending a ceasefire that had largely held since the country's 2021 military coup. Hundreds of Myanmar troops have taken refuge in India and Bangladesh since then, usually staying for days or weeks before being repatriated on junta-organised flights.

But on Sunday at least 66 members of Myanmar's Border Guard Police (BGP) were sent

back immediately while trying to cross the Naf river into Bangladesh. "The BGP members wanted to enter Teknaf on two boats. The coast guard prevented their entry," Mujibur Rahman, a councillor of Bangladesh's southeastern border town of Teknaf,

There was no immediate comment from either Bangladesh's coast guard or Myanmar junta representatives.

A Teknaf-based journalist who took photographs of the boats said the vessels came close to a pier in the town but were pushed back towards Myanmar later in the night. "Some of them were not wearing any shirts," he said.

Months of fierce fighting in Myanmar have seen steady advances by the AA in the western state of Rakhine, piling further pressure on the junta as it battles opponents elsewhere in the country.

# World's rarest whale washes up on New Zealand beach

AFP  
Christchurch, New Zealand

The body of a spade-toothed whale - a species so rare it has never been seen alive - appears to have washed up on a New Zealand beach, scientists say.

The remains of the obscure, 16.4-foot long, beaked creature were found near a river mouth in southern Otago province on July 4, government researchers said.

It was identified by marine-mammal experts from New Zealand's department of conservation and the national museum, Te Papa, as a male spade-toothed whale.

A DNA investigation has been launched to confirm its classification, the scientists said.

"Spade-toothed whales are one of the most poorly known large mammalian species of modern times," said the conservation department's coastal Otago operations manager, Gabe Davies.

"Since the 1800s, only six samples have ever been documented worldwide, and all but one of these was from New Zealand," Davies said in a statement.

"From a scientific and conservation point of view, this is huge."

The find was fresh enough to offer the first opportunity for a spade-toothed whale to be dissected, the

conservation department said.

The species is "so rare next to nothing is known about them", it said.

The body of the whale has been placed in cold storage and genetic samples have been sent to the University of Auckland as curators of the New Zealand Cetacean Tissue Archive. It may take several weeks or months for the DNA to be processed and a final identification confirmed.

"The rarity of the whale means conversations around what to do next will take more time because it is a conversation of international importance," the conservation department said.

The species was first described in

1874 from just a lower jaw and two teeth collected from the Chatham Islands off the east coast of New Zealand.

That sample, along with skeletal remains of two other specimens found in New Zealand and Chile, enabled scientists to confirm a new species.

Marine scientist Vanessa Pirotta said researchers would study the whale's stomach contents, genetics, and how this sample compared to previous ones.

This could shine light on the whales' behaviour, their population and why they are so rare, Pirotta said, describing the discovery as "like hitting the jackpot".



New Zealand department of conservation rangers Jim Fyfe (left) and Tumai Cassidy walk beside what appears to be the carcass of a rare spade-toothed whale after it was discovered washed ashore on a beach near Taieri Mouth in New Zealand's southern Otago province.



# Taiwan firms 'shifting supply chains to India from China'

Reuters  
New Delhi

Taiwan firms are shifting supply chains to India from China, as Taipei and New Delhi strengthen economic ties, the head of the island's key trade body said, as global trade tension rises among

major economies. Trade conflict between the US and China drove up Taiwan's foreign direct investment (FDI) in India to more than \$665mn in the five years to 2023, said James Huang, chairman of the Taiwan External Trade Development Council.

That compared with Taiwan's FDI of nearly \$277mn in India during the decade from 2006 to 2017,

Huang said in an interview.

"It is evident that more Taiwanese companies are moving supply chains out of China and are establishing them in India," he added.

Like most countries, India has no formal ties with Chinese-claimed Taiwan, but the two have established a close business relationship, with India keen on more investment

from the major chip-producing nation to aid its efforts to boost manufacturing.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory, a claim Taiwan rejects. India also has difficult relations with China, particularly over a disputed shared border, that led in 2020 to their deadliest clash in decades.

Taiwan's Powerchip Semicon-

ductor Manufacturing Corporation partnered this year with India's Tata Group to build the first semiconductor fabrication facility in western Gujarat state, relying on a \$10bn incentive scheme.

"We have programmes to bring in Indian students and talents to be trained in Taiwan in semiconductors and that would pave the path

for our future co-operation," Huang said.

Taiwan's supply chain shift has focused on mobile telephone assembly industries and footwear, he added.

Two-way trade between India and Taiwan stood at \$10.1bn during the fiscal year ending in March 2024.

# Welsh leader Gething quits after just four months

Reuters  
London

Vaughan Gething quit as first minister of Wales yesterday after just four months in office, following a wave of ministerial resignations from the devolved Welsh government in protest over his leadership.

Zambian-born Gething, 50, became the first Black head of government in Europe in March but has faced a turbulent time in office.

He has been criticised over the source of a political donation, the transparency of his disclosures to the Covid-19 inquiry from his time as health minister, and his decision to dismiss a minister after accusing her of leaking to the media.

Last month he lost a non-binding vote of confidence.

"This has been the most difficult time, for me, and my family. A growing assertion that some kind of wrongdoing has taken place has been pernicious, politically motivated and patently untrue," Gething said, announcing his plan to step down as leader of the Welsh Labour Party and first minister.

"I have never ever made a decision for personal gain. I have never ever misused or abused my ministerial responsibilities. My integrity matters. I have not compromised it."

The mounting pressure on

Gething came to a head when four Welsh ministers – counsel general Mick Antoniw, housing minister Julie James, economy and energy secretary Jeremy Miles and culture minister Lesley Griffiths resigned yesterday.

"Wales needs confident and stable government. I do not believe you are capable of delivering that," Antoniw said in his resignation letter to Gething.

Gething's departure triggers a second leadership contest in Wales this year.

Plaid Cymru, who ended a co-operation deal with Labour in Wales in May which had helped it through important votes in the Welsh Parliament, called for a snap election.

The Welsh government has responsibility for policy areas including health and education while others such as defence and energy are set by the government in London, where earlier this month Labour took power after 14 years in opposition.

The turmoil is a blow for new Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who has vowed to stabilise and rebuild Britain and met with Gething as part of a tour of the country just over a week ago.

"I know what a difficult decision this has been for him – but I also know that he has made it because he feels it is the best decision now for Wales," Starmer said in a statement.



Indian security personnel stand guard at Lal Draman in Doda district, Kashmir, yesterday.

# Five security personnel killed in Kashmir fighting

AFP  
Srinagar, India

Five security personnel were killed in a firefight with gunmen in Jammu and Kashmir, the army and police said yesterday, with security sources saying militants had made a "tactical shift" in attacks.

The clash brings the number of soldiers and police killed this year to 17.

A security official, who asked not to be named, said militants had shifted operations from Kashmir valley to southern Jammu area, where "counterinsurgency measures are not as strong".

Kashmir's top political official Manoj Sinha said forces would "avenge" their deaths.

The Indian army's 16 Corps said security forces had launched an operation in the

Doda forest on Monday evening, some 135kms southeast of the territory's capital Srinagar, in the Jammu area.

A "heavy firefight ensued," the army said, saying four men were killed, including a captain.

Indian army chief Upendra Dwivedi sent his "deepest condolences" to the families of the men.

A police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a police officer also died of his wounds, adding two other soldiers had been hospitalised.

Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh said he was "anguished to learn about the cowardly attack" on the soldiers and police who had made the "supreme sacrifice".

Reinforcements were deployed to track the gunmen in the forested mountains.

This year, 61 people have been killed – including 17 civilians, 17 members of the secu-

city forces, and 27 militants, according to the New Delhi-based South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP), which tracks the violence.

That compares to 132 people killed in 2023, including 12 civilians, 33 security officers and 87 militants, according to SATP data.

This year, almost all the soldiers killed were in Jammu, while last year almost all were killed in the Kashmir valley.

Monday's clash came a day after the Indian army said it killed three militants as they tried to cross from the Pakistan side of the heavily militarised dividing line, in Kashmir's Kupwara district.

In June, nine people were killed and dozens wounded when a gunman opened fire on a bus in the southern Reasi area.

It was one of the deadliest attacks since 2017, when gunmen killed seven people in another ambush on a bus.

## Bankruptcy proceedings against Byju's

An Indian tribunal began bankruptcy proceedings against troubled educational technology firm Byju's yesterday over a \$19mn unpaid sponsorship debt owed to the country's powerful cricket board. Byju's had rode a boom in demand for online learning products during the coronavirus pandemic but crashed hard after locked-down students returned to classrooms. Yesterday's ruling was the latest blow to the crashed company, once one of India's most hyped start-ups that has since lost more than 90% of its peak \$20bn valuation. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had claimed an unpaid debt of Rs1.59bn (\$19mn) for sponsoring the jerseys of the Indian team during international cricket matches. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in Bengaluru accepted a petition from the board and ordered the appointment of an administrator to oversee Byju's insolvency.

## Official visit



Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla (right) meet a Golden Guernsey Goat during a tour of Les Cotils at L'Hyvreuse, in St Peter Port, Guernsey yesterday as part of their two-day official visit to the Channel Islands.

# Irish prime minister flays anti-immigration clashes

AFP  
Dublin

Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris condemned violent anti-immigration clashes on Monday at a planned asylum-seeker housing facility in Dublin as "reprehensible", as 15 were arrested.

The clashes are the latest at sites earmarked for asylum seekers who have arrived in Ireland in growing numbers in recent years.

Videos posted on social media showed machinery and construction materials on fire at the building site, a former paint factory in the north of the capital.

Protesters threw bricks and launched fireworks at police, who used pepper spray to disperse the crowd of more than 100 mostly male teenagers.

Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris said "no person has a right to burn cars, damage property" or attack the police.

"These actions are criminal and are designed to sow fear and division. We should not accept them being legitimised in any way by describing them as 'protest'," Harris added in a statement.

"A number of Garda vehicles have been damaged," police said, using the name for the Irish national force.

One video showed a person, believed to be a worker at the site, which is planned for repurposing as an accommodation facility for up to 500 asylum seekers, being removed from the scene on a stretcher.

Protests at the site entrance have delayed the start of work "for several months", the integration ministry said.

# UK launches armed forces review after Nato summit

AFP  
London

Britain yesterday launched a review of its armed forces, with the former Nato chief leading the evaluation.

The assessment, ordered by Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer less than a week after he returned from a Nato summit, will set out a path to increasing defence spending to 2.5% of GDP.

The ministry of defence said the strategic defence review would begin work "immediately in recognition of the urgency of the threats facing the UK", and

aim to deliver a report in the first half of 2025.

UK spending on defence in 2023 stood at 2.26%, according to latest official figures, while Poland spent 3.83%, the US 3.36% and France 2.06%.

The review will be headed by George Robertson, a former UK defence secretary under Tony Blair and Nato secretary-general from 1999-2003, and include foreign policy expert and former US presidential adviser Fiona Hill.

"We're confronted by a deadly quartet of nations increasingly working together," Robertson told a briefing on Monday refer-

ring to China, Russia, Iran and North Korea.

The UK and its allies had "to be able to confront that particular quartet", he said, adding that the world had changed "out of all recognition" since he was last in government.

His comments are a shift in tone from former prime minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative government which described Beijing as a "systemic challenge" and echoes Nato's hardening of its stance on China.

The review, launched less than two weeks after coming to power, is the government's response to Conservatives' efforts to cast

doubts about Labour's commitment to defence.

During the election campaign, popular attack lines from the Tories included Starmer's lack of timeframe for increasing defence spending and claims that Labour was a "danger" to national security.

Labour has accused the Conservatives of "hollowing out" Britain's armed forces during its 14 years in power, with cuts notably in personnel, units and equipment.

Starmer said during the election campaign that the army, with some 75,000 regular soldiers, is at its smallest size since

the Napoleonic wars in the early 19th century, prompting questions about its ability to fight an all-out war.

At last week's Nato summit in Washington, Starmer reaffirmed the UK's support for the Western military alliance and its "serious commitment" to spending 2.5% of its GDP on defence.

Starmer said the review would make sure "that defence spending is responsibly increased".

It will be overseen by current Defence Secretary John Healey, who said "at the start of a new era for Britain, we need a new era for defence".

"The review will ensure that

defence is central to the future security of Britain and to its economic growth and prosperity", Healey added.

The defence secretary had urged Nato to consider moving towards a 2.5% goal at the 75th anniversary summit last week, with Nato allies having committed in 2014 to reach a 2% goal.

European countries still to reach the 2% target included the Netherlands, Germany and Spain who all spent just around 1.5%.

Other specific aims of the review include "bolstering Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression" and to "modernise and maintain the nuclear deterrent".



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## Regulatory scrutiny grows as AI adds to global concerns

Already at work in products as diverse as toothbrushes and drones, systems based on artificial intelligence (AI) have the potential to revolutionise industries from healthcare to logistics.

And, the unstoppable rise of AI is bringing about upheavals in the tech world and becoming a driving force across the global economy.

The AI frenzy got a fillip when OpenAI transformed how the public think about AI with the launch of its hugely successful chatbot, ChatGPT.

But the complex, rapidly evolving field of AI raises legal, national security and civil rights concerns.

Of late, Microsoft and Apple have dropped plans to take board roles at OpenAI in a surprise decision that underscores growing regulatory scrutiny of the Big Tech's influence over AI.

Microsoft, which invested \$13bn in the ChatGPT creator, will withdraw from the board, according to a Bloomberg report. Apple was due to take up a similar role, but an OpenAI spokesperson said the startup will have no board observers after Microsoft's departure.

Regulators in Europe and the US have expressed concern about Microsoft's sway over OpenAI, applying pressure on one of the world's most valuable companies to show that it's keeping the relationship at arm's length.

Microsoft has integrated OpenAI's services into its Windows and Copilot AI platforms and, like other big US tech companies, is banking on the new technology to help drive growth.

Microsoft isn't being singled out. The UK is looking into Amazon.com's \$4bn collaboration with AI company Anthropic, expressing concern that large tech companies are using partnerships to "shield themselves from competition."

### For years, the world's biggest technology companies were largely able to resist government oversight; that's changing fast

Google and Meta Platforms of failing to comply with new laws limiting their dominance of the digital economy, have begun investigations that could pave the way for hefty penalties.

Meanwhile, Meta's Facebook, Alphabet's YouTube and Amazon.com have been scrambling to comply with tougher European Union rules governing digital marketplaces and the policing of social media content.

The EU regulations have already changed the way consumers use their iPhones and other gadgets. A successful DoJ suit could make it easier for consumers to use rival products on Apple's devices in its home country and largest market.

The biggest US tech companies including Microsoft as well as Nvidia, Alphabet and Amazon.com have poured tens of billions of dollars into AI businesses. While these investments and partnerships are a lifeline for the startups, regulators have expressed concern that they threaten to concentrate access to the most innovative large language models among the tech companies that already dominate other platforms.

Tech giants are also striking non-financial agreements. These include Apple's partnership with OpenAI to bring ChatGPT to the iPhone, and Microsoft's decision earlier this year to bring on Inflexion AI's Mustafa Suleyman and most of his staff from the OpenAI rival.

The Big Tech, despite its overarching global reach, has for long been facing a widening trust deficit, both from the users and regulators.

Now, the rampant euphoria over AI has again problematised the good-vs-bad tech debate.

Google, Microsoft, IBM and OpenAI have encouraged US lawmakers to implement federal oversight of AI, which they say is necessary to guarantee safety.

And AI is the subject of regulatory reviews and consideration worldwide with companies and governmental bodies in the process of negotiating how to mitigate the potential harms without stifling innovation.

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## Shooting reveals hallmarks of US political violence

By Mattia Ferraresi  
Washington, DC

Europe is no stranger to political violence like the recent attempt on Donald Trump's life at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania. More than 50 candidates and activists were physically assaulted during France's recent parliamentary election – a painful reminder of a not-so-distant past when violence was part of the language of political discourse in several European countries.

But political violence in the United States is different, because it occurs in a society where civilians own more than 300mm firearms and mass shootings are tragically frequent. As ugly as it may sound, the attempt to assassinate Trump is somewhat normal, in the sense that it is consistent with a widespread pattern of recourse to brute force in American life.

Political violence in the US takes on ever-changing forms, but a constant feature is the vicious rhetorical battle that follows every incident. Each side passionately blames the other for inciting the shooter with inflammatory statements, suggesting that the victim's political opponents bear moral responsibility for the violence. This is a rare area of bipartisan consensus among US politicians: the victim's political party determines the culprit, but the narrative's structure is always the same. The time frame for dispassionately condemning violence shortens with each episode.

The attempt on Trump's life, which resulted in the death of one rally attendee and the 20-year-old shooter, had two immediate effects. First, it revitalised the martyrdom narrative of Trump's "MAGA" campaign, and followers instantly began producing merchandise glorifying the



Former president Donald Trump moments after surviving an assassination attempt during a campaign rally at the Butler Farm Show in Butler, Pennsylvania, on Saturday. (Reuters)

surviving hero, who declared he would remain "defiant in the face of wickedness." Trump's tone in crediting God for "preventing the unthinkable from happening" fits perfectly with the MAGA narrative of a revered figure whom the world wants to kill.

The second, equally predictable effect is the accusation that Democrats are to blame for the attack. Senator JD Vance, Trump's vice-presidential pick, argued that the incident was a direct consequence of President Joe Biden's campaign portraying Trump as a threat to democracy, thus legitimising attempts to remove him by force. "That rhetoric led directly to (former) President Trump's attempted assassination," Vance claimed.

Similarly, US Representative Mike Collins suggested that the District Attorney's Office in Butler County, Pennsylvania, "should immediately file charges against Joseph R Biden for inciting an assassination." Even Representative Steve Scalise,

a victim of a 2017 attack by a left-wing extremist that the FBI classified as domestic terrorism, pointed to the Democrats' "incendiary rhetoric."

Meanwhile, Trump's campaign circulated clips of Democratic Representative Dan Goldman saying on live television that Trump needs to be "eliminated", a statement echoed by former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. And his operatives highlighted a now-ominous-sounding quote from a frustrated Biden, who, after his recent disastrous debate performance, said: "We're done talking about the debate. It's time to put Trump in a bullseye."

Democrats and their supporters have been hastily condemning the incident, while reminding everyone that Trump openly incited a mob to storm the US Capitol on January 6, 2021 – the most horrific episode of political violence in recent American history – with the aim of overturning his loss in the 2020 election.

This rhetorical skirmish is likely to solidify Trump's lead over Biden in the polls, but the long-term implications are more devastating: a national conversation fuelled by hatred, victimhood, and resentment. In 2011, after the assassination attempt on Representative Gabby Giffords in Arizona, a Democratic-leaning news outlet popularised the term "stochastic terrorism", which refers to political violence by lone actors motivated by a radicalising atmosphere. The stochastic terrorist was supposedly Sarah Palin, the former Alaska governor and then Tea Party leader, who had circulated a map marking congressional districts to be targeted in the next elections, including Giffords' district, with what looked like crosshairs.

It later emerged that Giffords' attacker was a deeply disturbed individual with no knowledge of Palin's map, rallies, or political debate. Despite this, and despite the lack of evidence of a causal link between political rhetoric and such attacks, the term resurfaces after every attack and has entered specialised literature as if it described a valid concept.

Through shared tactics of manipulation, instrumentalisation, and self-victimisation, Democrats and Republicans have become trapped in a mire of circular reasoning that is as perverse as it is dangerous. Alleging a connection between violence and political rhetoric becomes a rhetorical weapon itself, fuelling the extreme polarisation that makes political violence more likely. — Project Syndicate

• Mattia Ferraresi is Managing Editor of the Italian newspaper Domani and a 2019 Harvard Nieman Fellow. He is the author of several books, including the first volume on Donald Trump to be published in Italy and the forthcoming I demoni della mente (The Demons of the Mind).

### Misinformation narratives in wake of bid on Trump's life

By Seana Davis,  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Misinformation and conspiracy theories were spreading online after an assassination attempt on former US president Donald Trump at a campaign rally on Saturday. Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, was alleged to have shot at the Republican presidential candidate from a rooftop during the rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, wounding Trump's right ear. One spectator died and two others were injured. Reuters has fact-checked some of the most widely shared narratives online.

**Misidentified shooters**

Within hours of the shooting, an image surfaced online of a man dressed in a black sweatshirt, hat and black sunglasses. Social media posts said the man was

"Antifa extremist" Mark Violets and that he was named by local police as the suspect in the assassination attempt.

However, the man in the photograph is Marco Violi, who had nothing to do with the shooting. Violi is an Italian sports writer who shares content on the Italian soccer team AC Roma. In a statement emailed to Reuters and shared on his social media, Violi said he was in Rome and had awoken at 2am to numerous messages, adding that he "categorically denied any involvement in the situation."

Viola was not the only individual to have been misidentified in the immediate aftermath of the shooting. Viral posts also misidentified another man, Maxwell Yearick, as the shooter. In 2016, various media outlets reported that Yearick, who does not resemble Crooks, was arrested outside a

Pittsburgh Trump rally after an altercation with police.

**Altered images, false claims**

Doctored images of Trump and Secret Service agents smiling on stage surfaced in the immediate aftermath of the shooting. The fake images were shared to support claims that the assassination attempt had been "staged" as a ploy to boost Trump's popularity in November's election. The original photographs were captured by an Associated Press photographer and show Trump and the agents with serious facial expressions. The FBI on Sunday said Crooks acted alone and the agency had yet to identify a motive.

**Predictive programming conspiracy theories**

Predictive programming is a conspiracy theory, often revived

in the aftermath of a major news event, that suggests governments and powerful groups provide indications of planned events to the public by embedding predictions in books, TV shows and movies. Within an hour of the attempted assassination, a fabricated screenshot resurfaced of a cartoon of Trump in a casket and was described as a scene from the TV series "The Simpsons." But this image has made the rounds on social media since at least 2017. Matt Selman, an executive producer for the show, told Reuters in an email that the screenshot never appeared on the show, adding that it is "all too easy to create fake Simpsons 'predictions' like these for the purpose of misleading people." A spokesperson for Trump did not immediately respond to a request for comment. — Reuters





# Turkish embassy marks National Unity Day

The Turkish embassy in Doha has held an official commemorative ceremony to mark the 8th anniversary of the July 15 failed coup attempt and to celebrate Democracy and National Unity Day and pay tribute to the martyrs and express gratitude to the veterans.

Turkish citizens, members of the diplomatic corps in Qatar, Qatari and expatriate guests participated in the event.

Turkish ambassador Dr Mustafa Goksu and military attaché at the embassy Col Ali Cetin delivered speeches on the occasion. Besides, a message from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was read out.

Turkish journalist/writer Kemal Öztürk and academic Prof Dr Kudret Bulbul participated as keynote speakers to share their experiences on the FETÖ-led coup attempt and its reflections. The event also welcomed Dilek Yasar and Veyysel Yasar, parents of Seher Yasar, a policewoman who was martyred in Ankara on 15 July 2016 while on duty at Special Operation Forces. A short-video prepared by the Directorate of Communication of Türkiye and an informative slide-show was screened during the event.

An exhibition of photos taken by Anadolu Agency (AA) depicted what had happened on the night of July 15 coup attempt.

On the sidelines of the Democracy and National Unity Day, the embassy organised several other events that included a panel discussion titled "July 15 coup attempt through the eyes of academics, journalists and victims" organised by the embassy in collaboration with Doha Yunus Emre Institute with the participation of Mr and Mrs Ya ar, Mr Ozturk, and Prof Bulbul. Another panel titled "Arab media and 15 July coup attempt" was held by the embassy and Doha Yunus Emre Institute with the participation of Zein Elabadi Tawfik, a journalist and a TV presenter at Al Jazeera Network.

A commemoration ceremony was held at Turkiye-Qatar Combined Joint Task Force Command. The images of President Erdogan and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani were screened in symbolic Qatari buildings. The embassy also hosted the ambassadors of African countries resident in Qatar.



# Qatari students win bronze in International Biology Olympiad

A team of students from Qatar won the bronze medal in the 35th International Biology Olympiad in Astana, Kazakhstan. Some 800 students from 80 countries participated in the Olympiad, which took place from July 7-14.

The International Biology Olympiad targets students under the age of 20 from various countries worldwide, aiming to showcase the skills and abilities of outstanding students in biology at an advanced academic level.

The Qatari team consisted of four students from government and international schools, along with team leaders and supervisors. The students are Ali Hamad al-Hammadi from Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys, Youssef Rani al-Toum from James Wellington School Qatar, Fajr Khalid al-Muhammadi from Al Bayan Secondary School for Girls, and Mumina Joul Zar Ahmed from Meseaied International Secondary School.

This achievement adds to Qatar's series of successes in international competitions, following continuous training provided to students by elite local and international trainers from Qatar University, Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys, and biology educators from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

The International Biology Olympiad is a rigorous and intense competition and one of the world's most prominent specialised events. Held annually in July for 10 days, it sees participation from over 80 countries, with four students from each country alongside team leaders and supervisors. The host country prepares theoretical and practical questions to test students' abilities in solving biological problems across various branches of biology and assess their skills in conducting practical experiments. (QNA)

## MoT wraps up maritime inspection in Al Wakra



The Ministry of Transport (MoT) and relevant authorities have wrapped up the maritime inspection in Al Wakra. The inspection aimed at ensuring that the maritime vessels met all safety and legal requirements of all the participating entities in the inspection.



## Kahramaa launches 'Tomorrow's Engineer' programme



The Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (Kahramaa) has launched the activities of its 'Tomorrow's Engineer' programme for students. School students aged 12-15 are part of the programme which runs until tomorrow. The programme, according to a post by Kahramaa on X, includes a set of workshops, implementation of engineering project models and field visits.

