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SPORT | Page 3

Swanson strike hands USA Olympic women's football gold against Brazil

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## Barshim wins Olympics high jump bronze



Men's high jump bronze medallist Mutaz Essa Barshim of Qatar celebrates at Paris 2024 Olympics, yesterday. **Sport Page 1**

## Sheikh Joaan meets chief of Los Angeles Olympics 2028



Qatar Olympic Committee President HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani met Casey Wasserman, President of the Organising Committee of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games yesterday in Paris. Discussion was held on aspects of development and co-operation in the sports sector.

### Hezbollah launches drones at Israel base

Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah group said it launched yesterday explosive-laden drones at a north Israel army base following the killing of a Hamas commander in south Lebanon a day earlier. Hezbollah fighters launched "squadrons of explosive-laden drones" at the Michve Alon base near the Galilee town of Safed, the group said. Hamas said in a statement that Samer al-Hajj was killed "in a Zionist strike in the city of Sidon". **Page 5**

### Harris leads Trump by 4 points in 3 states

US Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris leads Republican former president Donald Trump in three battleground states - Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan - by four points, according to polls by the *New York Times* and Siena College. In total, 1,973 likely voters were interviewed for those polls. Harris' takeover from Democratic US President Joe Biden has reenergised a campaign that had faltered badly amid Democrats' doubts about Biden's chances of defeating Trump or his ability to continue to govern had he won. **Page 6**

### Bodies recovered from plane crash

Emergency crews yesterday were removing the bodies of victims of a plane crash in Brazil's Sao Paulo state that killed all 62 people aboard, as authorities sifted through the blackened wreckage to try to determine what caused the plane's dramatic plunge. Videos showed the ATR 72-500 plane in a sickening downward spin on Friday before it crashed into a residential area of the town of Vinhedo, some 80km northwest of Sao Paulo city. The Voepass airline said there were 62 people on board, not 61 as it had reported earlier. **Page 6**

### Russia evacuates thousands

Struggling to put down a major Ukrainian incursion for a fifth day, Russia yesterday said it had evacuated tens of thousands of people from its border region, launched a "counter-terror operation" and warned that the fighting was endangering a nuclear power plant. Ukrainian units stormed into Russia's western Kursk region on Tuesday morning in a shock attack. **Page 9**

# Global condemnation as Israeli strike on Gaza school kills 93

Reuters/AFP  
Cairo

Rescuers in Gaza said an Israeli air strike on a school housing displaced Palestinians killed 93 people yesterday, sparking international condemnation despite Israel's insistence that it was targeting militants. Video from the site showed

body parts scattered around and more bodies being carried away and covered in blankets on the floor. Empty food tins lay in a puddle of blood, and burnt mattresses and a child's doll lay among the debris.

In another video, men prayed over a dozen body bags laid out on the ground of the Tabeen school complex. The territory's Civil Emergency

Service and the Hamas-run government media office said in separate statements that the complex had been attacked as its occupants were performing dawn prayers.

"So far, there are more than 93 martyrs, including 11 children and six women. There are unidentified remains," Palestinian civil defence spokesperson Mahmoud Bassal told a televised press conference.



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced people, in Gaza City, yesterday.

## Qatar condemns horrific massacre, calls for international investigation

Qatar has strongly condemned the Israeli occupation's bombing of a school sheltering displaced people east of Gaza city, which led to dozens of martyrs and injured, and deemed it as a horrific massacre and brutal crime against defenceless civilians and a flagrant infringement of the fundamental precepts of international humanitarian law and UN Security Council resolution 2601. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's call for conducting an urgent international investigation by dispatching independent UN investigators to probe the ongoing targeting by Israeli occupation forces of schools and shelters for displaced people, calling on

the international community to provide full protection for the displaced people and prevent the occupation forces from carrying out its schemes aimed at forcibly displacing them from the Strip, in addition to compelling the occupation to abide by international laws. The ministry underscored Qatar's firm position on the justice of the Palestinian cause, the legitimate rights of the fraternal Palestinian people to establish their independent state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. **(QNA) (Friends and foes of Israel denounce the Israeli strike that killed scores of displaced civilians in a Gaza school, renewing calls for an immediate ceasefire.) Page 5**

Tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians have sought shelter in Gaza's schools, most of which have been closed since the war began 10 months ago.

Around 350 families had been sheltering at the compound, Bassal said - some of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced by Israel's onslaught on Gaza.

The upper floor housing families and the lower floor, used as a mosque, were both hit, he said.

Palestinian resistance movement Hamas said the strike was a horrific crime and a serious escalation. A separate strike yesterday killed three Palestinians in Al-Nusseirat in central Gaza and another killed one person in nearby Deir Al-Balah, medics said.

Later in the day an Israeli strike killed three Palestinians in Rafah, medics said.

The health ministry in Gaza said that at least 39,790 people have

been killed in the war, now in its 11th month.

The latest tolls do not appear to include yesterday's pre-dawn Israeli strike on a school.

The White House said it was "deeply concerned" about the Israeli strike on the Gaza City school compound and that it was in contact with Israeli officials asking for further details.

The European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on X that he was horrified by the images from the school. France and Britain condemned the airstrike.

Egypt, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Turkey all condemned the strike.

A Hamas official told Reuters the group was studying a new proposal for discussion but did not elaborate.

Egypt said the killing of Gaza civilians showed Israel had no intention of ending the war. Qatar's foreign ministry described the strike as a "horrific massacre". **Pages 3, 5**

## 'Qatar Airways launch customer of Boeing's newest 777-8 freighter'

By Pratap John  
Business Editor

Qatar Airways will be the launch customer of Boeing's newest 777-8 freighter with a confirmed order of 34 next generation cargo jets and options for an additional 16 freighters, according to Omar Arekat, vice-president, Boeing's Commercial Sales/Marketing for Middle East.

Since beginning of its partnership with the American planemaker, Qatar Airways has made "landmark" orders of Boeing 777s, 787 Dreamliners,



Omar Arekat, vice-president, Boeing's Commercial Sales/Marketing for Middle East.

**GT Exclusive**

737 MAX and 777X, he said. "We are proud to be a part of Qatar Airways' success story - and support Qatar's ambitious growth plans in aviation, trade and tourism - with more than 130 Boeing passenger and cargo airplanes currently in the airline's fleet and with more than 130 Boeing airplanes on order," Arekat said in an interview with *Gulf Times*.

"We are very proud to have Qatar Airways as one of the launch customers for the Boeing 777X



family. Based on the 777, the most successful twin-aisle airplane ever, and with advanced technologies from the 787 Dreamliner family, the 777X family is designed to maximise efficiency and environmental performance while providing an exceptional experience," Arekat noted.

In 2013, Qatar Airways ordered 60 777X new widebody airplanes. In January 2022, Qatar Airways expanded its commitment to the 777X family by becoming the launch customer for the newest 777-8 Freighter, with a confirmed order of 34 airplanes and options for an additional 16 freighters. **To Page 12**



# Third package of development project set to serve 671 residential plots in West Muaither



The Roads and Infrastructure in West of Muaither-Al Manaseer (Package 3) is set to serve 671 residential plots while uplifting the infrastructure in the area. Located within the administrative limits of Al Rayyan Municipality, the project covers 1,940,000sq m and is bordered by Muaither North Street to the north and Qutaiba Bin Muslim Street to the south.

The project aims to develop roads and infrastructure in the area, the Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has said on its website. According to the details on the website, the project is progressing and expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2025.

At an estimated cost of QR489,229,511, the project features developing bicycle and pedestrian paths with a length of

46km, constructing 3,700 parking slots and developing a Treated Sewage Effluent (TSE) plant and stormwater network.

Also, as part of the project, a 30-km-long foul sewer network is developed. Landscaping and beautification are among the key components of the project. As part of the project, trees and grass are planted and a garden at an area of 9,119sq m is built.

Ashghal has so far completed the first and second packages of the Roads and Infrastructure Project in West Muaither (Al-Manaseer) to serve the medium to high-density residential areas in addition to two schools. The second package of the project serves 25 bus stations, 780 residential plots and nine mosques as well as several commercial and a government centres.

Surface water drainage with a length of 23.7km was developed while the foul sewer network and house connections were upgraded. New light poles were installed and signalised intersections and road pavements were built. Also, landscaping and beautification works were carried out.

The first package included developing 43km of local roads and infrastructure works that provide a treated sewage network and 38km of surface and groundwater drainage network to avoid rainwater overflow.

This is in addition to developing the sewage network. The project aimed to enhance the quality of transportation and traffic flow in the area, in addition to providing street lighting, road marking, signboards, car parks and intelligent transportation systems.

## Official

### Amir condolences with Brazilian president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of condolences to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on the victims of the plane crash in the town of Vinhedo in the state of Sao Paulo.

### Amir sends cables of congratulations to Ecuadorean president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to Ecuadorean President Daniel Noboa on his country's Independence Day. (QNA)

# PHCC emphasises dual benefits of breastfeeding for mothers, children

Under the slogan 'Closing the Gap: Breastfeeding Support for All', launched by the Global Breastfeeding Collective to celebrate this year's World Breastfeeding Week, the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Hamad Medical Corporation has spearheaded a campaign to raise community awareness about the vital importance of breastfeeding for both mother and child.

National efforts were united under the supervision of the health sector to support breastfeeding through the implementation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative. This initiative promotes and supports breastfeeding by incorporating various laws, programmes, and policies that advocate for breastfeeding practices.

Dr Sadiya al-Kohji, assistant medical director, Child and Adolescent Services at PHCC, highlighted the extensive reach of the campaign. It included a live Instagram session designed to explain the importance of breastfeeding and offer guidance on continuing it after childbirth. Additionally, a television interview further emphasised the critical role of breastfeed-

ing in promoting the health of both the child and the community. To encourage immediate breastfeeding, PHCC distributed breastfeeding covers to new mothers during postpartum home visits.

PHCC has also established educational booths at all health centres, where brochures in Arabic and English are available.

These materials outline the significant benefits of breastfeeding, including its role in protecting against common childhood illnesses and infections. Breastfeeding is not only beneficial in the short term but also ensures long-term health benefits. Breast milk contains natural antibodies that protect against common childhood diseases such as diarrhoea and various infections. Exclusive breastfeeding is recommended for the first six months of a child's life, with no other foods or liquids, not even water.

After six months, breastfeeding should continue alongside the introduction of complementary foods until the child reaches two years of age, as breast milk remains crucial in meeting some of the child's nutritional needs. Studies show that individuals who were breastfed are less likely to experi-



PHCC has also established educational booths at all health centres.

ence obesity, overweight, type 2 diabetes, and tend to have higher intelligence levels. Dr al-Kohji also noted that the benefits of breastfeeding extend to the mother. It helps reduce complications during the first weeks after birth, lowers the risk of developing vari-

ous cancers, including breast and ovarian cancer, and decreases the likelihood of type 2 diabetes. Furthermore, breastfeeding can alleviate stress and anxiety, which may contribute to postpartum depression. It also helps prevent chronic conditions such as obesity, cardio-

vascular diseases, and high blood fat levels. Breastfeeding provides a clean, temperature-appropriate food source, saving mothers both time and money. It also serves as a natural method of family planning and spacing between births, thereby supporting the mother's health.



## Sheikh Al Qaqa elected president of Al Rayyan Club

QNA  
Doha

Al Rayyan Club's general assembly has elected by acclamation HE Sheikh Al Qaqa bin Hamad al-Thani as president of the club and Ali Salem Afifa as vice-president for the 2024-2028 session.

The club held the first meeting of the general assembly last Thursday, during which it approved the previous minutes and discussed the report of the president of the club on the work of the year ending 2023/2024, in addition to activity programmes and work plan for 2024/2025.

The meeting also approved the final accounts for the fiscal year 2023/2024 and the draft estimated budget for the fiscal year 2024/2025, discussed the auditor's report for the fiscal year 2023/2024, appointed an auditor for the fiscal year 2024/2025, and considered the proposals submitted by the members of the general assembly.

The club's vice-president Ali Salem Afifa stressed that the management will support different games in order to compete in all championships.

He pointed out that the management will continue to work according to the long-term strategic plan that was set last season to advance various games, praising the first football team and their achievements in the previous season by obtaining second place in the Qatar League and reaching the final of the Qatar Cup. Vice-president Ali Salem Afifa while discussing the long-term goals of the club said that work will continue in the current season to achieve ambitions.

**Vice-president Ali Salem Afifa stressed that the management will support different games in order to compete in all championships**

## Culture ministry, HMC collaborate to promote reading among patients

The Ministry of Culture has signed a co-operation agreement with Hamad Medical Corp (HMC) to strengthen their partnership. The agreement reflects the ministry's commitment to fostering community partnerships with humanitarian organisations in Qatar, aligning with the country's governmental and social efforts in humanitarian work.

As part of the agreement, the ministry will supply libraries within five HMC hospitals with a selection of books to encourage reading among patients and staff. Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Jassim al-Buainain, Director of the Qatari Pub-

lishers and Distributors Forum, hailed the joint efforts with the largest health institution in the country.

He pointed out that this agreement enhances the Ministry of Culture's vision of promoting a culture of reading within the healthcare sector. He added that various programmes will be launched to support patients in hospitals, alongside providing HMC with books and educational programmes to encourage reading. The initiative is not only for patients but also includes staff and patients' families.

Al-Buainain confirmed that many programmes with HMC will be activated in the coming



period. Nasser al-Naimi, Chief of Patient Experience and Director of Hamad Healthcare Qual-

ity Institute, said that the agreement with the Qatari Publishers and Distributors Forum under

the Ministry of Culture aims to enrich the libraries in five HMC hospitals with a diverse range of books, promoting culture among employees, patients, and their families.

He added that the agreement includes helping patients who wish to write a book, providing them with the necessary support after evaluating and approving their ideas, as some patients wish to document their healthcare experiences.

Al-Naimi also highlighted that reading books has been found to have therapeutic benefits for patients, as evidenced by the increasing demand for book loans within the hospitals. (QNA)

## QC aids Bangladesh's orphans with specialised teachers

As part of its efforts to enhance its educational activities in Bangladesh, the Qatar Charity (QC) has appointed a group of specialised teachers in the orphan schools it supervises across the country.

This is, according to an official statement from QC, part of ongoing efforts to provide high-quality education and comprehensive care for sponsored orphans and empower them to build a bright future. The new teaching staff, consisting of 21 teachers, will implement a comprehensive plan designed to meet the diverse needs of sponsored students in the orphan schools of Bangladesh. Their educational approach combines traditional teaching methods with innovative techniques to enhance the learning process.

The plan focuses on providing individualised attention to each sponsored orphan, along with offering interactive lessons and in-

tegrating technology to support learning. Each teacher will work to create a supportive and nurturing environment to foster both the academic and personal growth of the orphans.

This initiative reflects QC's commitment to addressing educational disparities and empowering orphaned children in Bangladesh. By investing in quality education and professional development for teachers, the organisation aims to equip these students with the tools necessary to build a better future.

The teachers expressed great enthusiasm for their role in improving the educational environment for the sponsored orphans, affirming their full readiness to work diligently in implementing the comprehensive educational plan.

"I am happy to join this initiative and contribute to teaching these wonderful children. I believe



that every student can excel with the right support and resources. I strive to create a dynamic learning environment where students are encouraged to explore their abilities and achieve their aspirations," said Nafees Bin Khair, an English teacher.

"This opportunity is incredibly

rewarding. I am committed to using innovative teaching methods to make learning engaging and effective. I am dedicated to helping them succeed both academically and personally," said Md Mozibul Haque, a teacher of Mathematics.

The students have shown great enthusiasm for this new initiative.

"With the new teachers, learning has become enjoyable and exciting. They use various methods that help us understand better," one of the students Sayma said. "We are very grateful for the support we are receiving. The teachers are very kind and patient, and I can see improvements in my grades and my understanding of subjects," another student Nilufa said.

QC, through its office in Dhaka, sponsors over 5,000 orphans across Bangladesh. The organisation manages 13 orphanages equipped with numerous facilities, including schools and student dormitories. A total of 157 teachers are involved in imparting education to these orphaned children. This effort is part of QC's 'Rofaqa' initiative, which focuses on sponsoring and caring for orphans and children worldwide, providing them with comprehensive care and support.



## Modern Home, Sony Middle East present next-generation ZV-E10 camera in Qatar

Modern Home and Sony Middle East and Africa have launched the ZV-E10 II, the second generation of the ZV-E10 camera, in Qatar.

The new Sony Vlog Camera will be available in Qatar from August 15 at Modern Home in Al Maha Centre on Salwa Road and Fnac stores in Lagoona Mall, Doha Festival City, Place Vendôme, and online through sonyworld.qa, fnac.qa and the Fnac app.

It can also be found at Virgin Megastore and other major retailers in town for QR4,099.

The original ZV-E10 is a staple APS-C camera in Sony's ZV content creation camera series, providing an easy, com-

compact, and versatile tool for content creators of any level.

The ZV-E10 II maintains all the features creators love about the original, such as Creative Looks, Product Showcase Setting, Background Defocus function, the vari-angle flip screen, and builds on it to increase sophistication and ease of use.

The ZV-E10 II's internal hardware has been improved from its predecessor with an upgraded 26 megapixel (MP) (approximate effective) Exmor R™ CMOS sensor and the adoption of Sony's latest BIONZ XR™ image processing engine.

A few additional updates to this model include improved autofocus and video

capturing capabilities: Cinematic Vlog Setting, a new vertical format user interface (UI), an upgraded large-capacity battery Sony Z battery for improved stamina, and improved connectivity for easy live streaming and data transfer.

It is compact and lightweight and fits into a creator's hand with ease, weighing in at approximately 377g.

Key Camera Specifications include 759-point Focal Plane Phase-detection AF with Real-time Eye AF for Human/Animal/Bird and Real-time Tracking, and backside illuminated Exmor R CMOS sensor offering an ideal combination of high sensitivity and low noise with an ISO range from 100 to 32000.

It also has APS-C interchangeable lens camera compatible with over 70 Sony E-mount lenses, high-speed readout, and 5.6K oversampling compressing a vast amount of information into stunning 4K footage at up to 60p.

Its active mode electronic image stabilisation employs a precision gyroscope and advanced algorithm to accurately measure and compensate for camera shake, providing highly effective stabilisation without sacrificing mobility, even when shooting 4K.

The upgraded large-capacity Z battery (NP-FZ100) allows continuous movie recording for up to 195 minutes per charge.



The new Sony Vlog Camera.



### Dukhan Bank announces August draw winners of Thara'a savings account prize

Dukhan Bank has announced the names of the latest round of draw winners for Thara'a, its Shariah compliant savings account.

The draw was held at the bank headquarters recently under the supervision of a representative of the qualitative licence and market control department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The following won QR5,000 each: Ghanim al-Emadi, Waad al-Naimi, Jenny Sevilla, Sebastian Joseph, Noof al-Subaey, Alanod al-Qahtani, Raed Mahmoud, Malek al-Ghezawi, Naema Murtuza, Haya al-Khalidi, Besan Mohamed, Ali al-Malki, Bassel Daoud, Nasser al-Tamimi, Jassim al-Dehaimi, Ramadhan al-Balushi, Omer Cheema, Rawia Abujir, Khalil al-Hajri, Mohamed al-Emadi, Mohamed Radwan, Jassim Fakhro, Ibrahim al-Yafei, Saleh al-Baker, Sakina Fatima, Lulwa Bureshaid, Frankis Marzo, Andrea Bonfim, Heba Abdelmoti, and Adel al-Boloushi.

Departing from the previous annual grand prize structure of QR1m for one winner, Dukhan Bank's Thara'a savings account campaign now boasts of a collective grand prize of QR3m, distributed among three fortunate individuals. Additionally, the initiative introduces 30 monthly winners, each contending for a QR5,000, resulting in an increase in the total prizes awarded to customers, with a cumulative value of QR4.35m.

Customers can learn about the many benefits of Thara'a savings account by visiting Dukhan Bank's website at dukhanbank.com, or by calling the Contact Centre on 8008555 or ask the virtual assistant "Rashid" on the website, mobile app or via WhatsApp on 44100888.

# Asean relations with Qatar going stronger with bigger investments

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) in Doha, currently chaired by Singaporean ambassador to Doha Chowming Wong, recently marked the 57th anniversary of the establishment of the bloc.

The ambassadors and charge d'Affaires of the five founding members of Asean - Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand - attended the event with the ambassadors of Asean members Vietnam and Brunei alongside Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of Protocol director ambassador Ibrahim Fakhro and other dignitaries.

The other members of the bloc are Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia.

The theme under Laos' Asean chairmanship this year is *Asean: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience*.

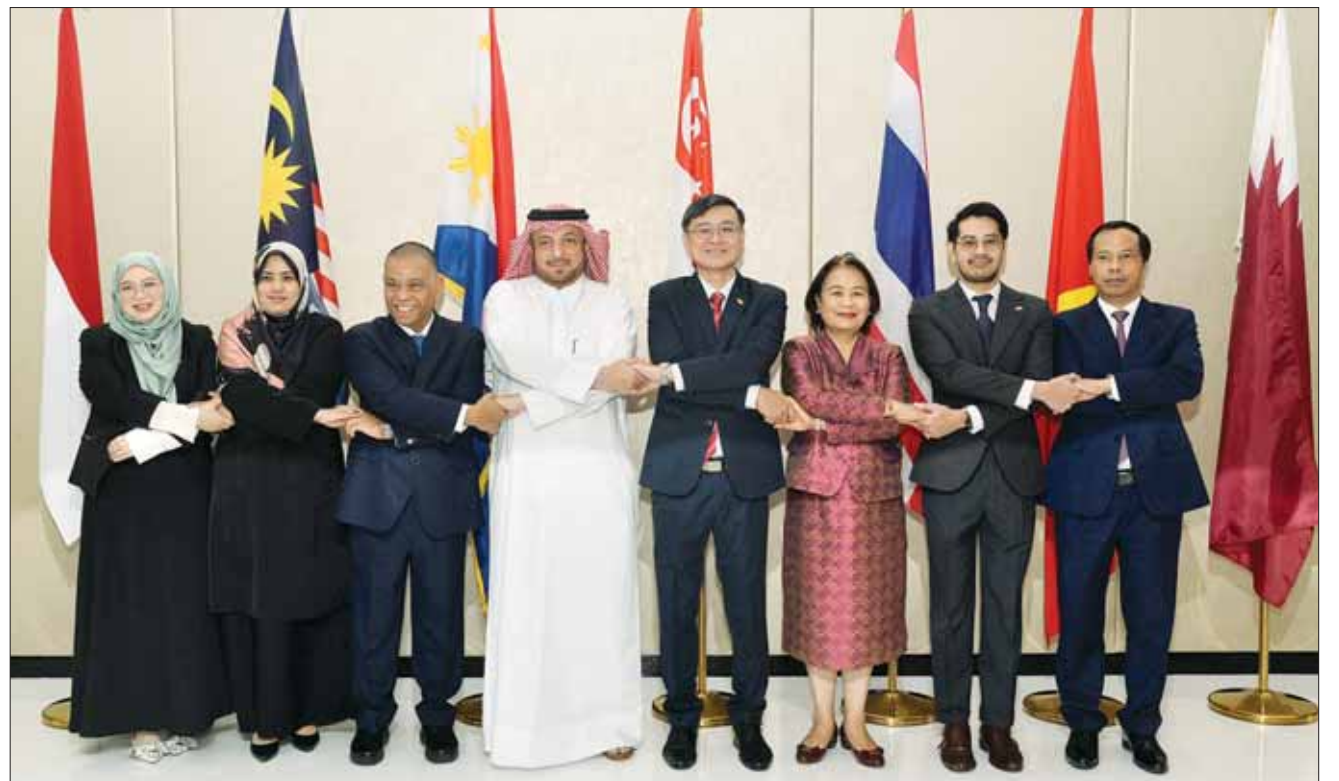
The theme highlights Asean's commitment to fostering stronger connections to build resilience, both within Asean and with its trusted external partners, such as Qatar, which acceded to Asean's Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in 2022.

Accordingly, Wong stressed: "We are glad to see exchanges at the highest levels between the leaders of Qatar and Asean."

"His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani made a state visit to the Philippines in April this year at the invitation of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, while Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and Indonesian President-elect Prabowo Subianto both visited Doha in May," he said.

"His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim also met then-Singapore prime minister Lee Hsien Loong and Vietnam Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh on the sidelines of the inaugural Asean-GCC Summit in Riyadh last October," Wong added. "HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani visited Singapore in August 2023."

He further said that Asean is a dynamic region comprising more than 670mn people, of whom 60% are below the age of 35.



Asean diplomats with Fakhro at the event. PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

Its dynamism lies in its ability to evolve, integrate, and collaborate across economic, political, security, and social-cultural dimensions.

Today, the envoy said, Asean is one of the fastest growing regions of the world with a combined GDP amounting to \$3.6tn in 2022, a figure that is set to double within the next two decades.

Asean is poised to become the fourth largest economy in the world by 2030.

Wong noted that Qatar's ties with Asean have grown steadily.

Qatar's total trade with Asean amounts to an annual estimate of \$9bn.

Qatar is also a key investor in Asean, with

investments in the energy, financial, real estate, telecommunications, agribusiness, hospitality, and medical sectors.

The Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) has established its Asia-Pacific headquarters in Singapore.

Investments from Qatar into Singapore are estimated at \$3bn, and are mostly in the energy, financial, insurance, and real estate sectors.

Amidst the growing energy trade in the region, QatarEnergy has established a liaison office in Thailand, further strengthening its presence and enhancing collaboration within the regional market.

Prominent companies from Qatar such

as Ooredoo, Nebras Power, and QNB Group have established a presence in Indonesia.

Investors from Qatar are currently exploring expansion of their portfolio in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines.

Further, Asean member state investments in Qatar have grown steadily, with notable projects already existing in the oil and gas, hospitality, information and communications technology (ICT), construction, and retail sectors.

As key food exporters, some of the Asean member states also play a vital role in supporting Qatar's food security efforts to achieve its National Vision 2030, Wong added.



The students explored the pivotal role of social justice initiatives in post-conflict recovery.

## GU-Q students explore stories of hope and resilience in Bosnia and Poland

Amid the echoes of past conflicts in Bosnia and the ongoing struggles in Poland, Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) students Minalih Mahmud and Michelle Hadebe are uncovering stories of resilience and hope.

Through Education and Social Justice Fellowships, they explored the pivotal role of social justice initiatives in post-conflict recovery.

Mahmud's journey took her to Bosnia and Herzegovina, where she delved into the complexities of interfaith dialogue, education, and peacebuilding in a society recovering from the 1992-1995 genocide.

Her fieldwork involved engaging with various communities, offering unique insights into the nation's recovery process.

"I examined the programming of a faith-based organisation in facilitating connections between young people from different religious backgrounds and regions of the country," she said.

One of Mahmud's most memorable moments was her interaction with students aged 15-19 at the John Paul II Youth Centre in Sarajevo.

"They were very grateful for being given the time and space to share their experiences," she said.

Through workshops and shared meals, Mahmud uncovered stories of resilience and hope central to her study on healing from conflict.

As an International Politics major, Mahmud found the fellowship a pivotal opportunity to put her coursework into practice, equipping her to become a standout researcher and advocate for social justice in her future career.

Hadebe's fellowship took her to Poland where she focused on community-based initiatives aiding teenage refugees from the ongoing war in Ukraine.

"My research examines efforts to help them deal with the trauma of conflict and forced migration, as well as their integration into Polish society," she explained.

A particularly impactful moment for Hadebe, who hails from Mamelodi in Pretoria, South Africa, was sharing her personal migration story with the students.

"Although we are from different countries and contexts, we could all resonate with one another and understand our shared experience with migration and integration," she said.

Hadebe's findings emphasised the essential role of social justice in every aspect of society.

"It's the cornerstone. Every individual household, school, and business needs to address and contribute to making the society it exists in fairer," she asserted.

Hadebe's research highlighted how targeted, collaborative efforts can directly improve the lives of vulnerable communities.

## Alutec enters into partnership with ClearVue

Alutec, the largest facade and building envelope specialist in the Mena (Middle East and North Africa) region, has entered a partnership with ClearVue Technologies Limited.

This agreement was signed by Alutec Group chief executive Suraj Thampi and ClearVue Technologies global chief executive Martin Deil.

Under this agreement, Alutec will manufacture and distribute ClearVuePV Solar Vision Glass, a product that integrates solar technology into building facades to enhance energy

efficiency and sustainability in key markets.

This technology is set to revolutionise the construction industry, offering significant environmental benefits and supporting various governments' ambitious sustainability targets.

"Our region is preparing for the future," said Alutec director John Douglas. "Governments across the Middle East are heavily investing in renewable solutions to meet our growing energy needs in the region."

"ClearVue's technology uniquely provides our construction sector the

technological tools needed to transform each individual building into a mini renewable energy hub - a remarkable achievement and one that we want to be able to offer to our clients to meet their energy needs and 'net-zero' goals," the official said.

"This agreement aligns with our growth strategy of partnering with key manufacturers in our strategic target markets," Deil said. "For the Middle East, Alutec is a prominent and well-respected leader in design, engineering, manufacturing, and installation for building envelopes."

## Most of injured in Israeli raid on school are amputees: hospital

Head of Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, Dr Fadel Naeem, said that most of the injured who were admitted to the hospital, due to the latest Israeli attack on a school sheltering displaced people, had sustained severe burns, alongside people with amputated limbs.

Speaking to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), Dr Naeem said that numerous wounded people died during surgical procedures on tables because of the lack of medical equipment.

He pointed out that the hospital lacks even the most basic medical supplies, including blood, to save lives.

He said that while 70 of the slain could be identified upon arrival at the medical facility, it was impossible to identify 15 others because they arrived in the hospital as remains.

The hospital is the only health facility that provides medical services in Gaza after the Israeli army destroyed Shifa Hospital.

Al-Ahli Arab Hospital can barely accommodate the sheer number of injured due to the ongoing Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip, now on its 11th day.

Gaza Civil Defence spokesperson Mahmoud Basal said Israeli fighter jets directly targeted a building of a school used

to house women and children, as well as a basement where displaced people were praying.

The official added that numerous remains and bodies that were ripped into pieces could not be identified, and that there were missing people whose fate was unknown.

As per estimation of civil defence personnel, the massacre in Al-Tabieen School in Gaza City is the third one, in terms of the scope of disaster, following Ahli Baptist hospital and Al-Mawasi massacres in Khan Younis.

Additionally, Gaza's government media office confirmed that medical and rescue

personnel were not able to recover all the bodies due to factors including the sheer number of casualties, and the extreme difficulty in pulling out bodies and amputated limbs of the injured.

In a statement, the media office said that the Israeli forces struck the school with three missiles, each one bearing 2,000lb of explosives, indicating that Israeli forces had a prior knowledge that there were displaced people within the school.

Eyewitnesses said that most of the targeted victims were elderly and children, noting that charred remains piled up in the prayer area, with some scattered in

the schoolyard, due to the intensity of the bombardment.

The Israeli occupation army pursues a systematic policy of targeting schools and shelters that house displaced people in Gaza, with the latest figures indicating that the number of shelters that are overwhelmed with displaced people, that had been hit by Israel, since the start of genocide in Gaza, reaching 173 schools and shelters.

Of these, 152 were densely populated schools, some of which were public schools run by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). - QNA





# Mediators end armed clashes near Tripoli

AFP Tripoli

Mediators in Libya have managed to end clashes between armed groups near Libya's capital Tripoli, a source from the divided country's internationally-recognised government told AFP yesterday.

The fighting, which rescuers say has killed nine people and injured dozens of others, broke out on Friday and resumed briefly yesterday in Tajoura, a town located about 20km (12 miles) east of Tripoli.

"The fighting stopped thanks to an agreement and mediation led by other armed groups," said the source from the Tripoli-based government's interior ministry.

Libya is still struggling to recover from years of war and chaos after the 2011 Nato-backed uprising that overthrew long-time dictator

Moammar Gaddafi.

It is divided between the UN-recognised Tripoli-based government led by Abdulhamid Dbeibah and a rival administration in the country's east backed by military strongman Khalifa Haftar.

Although relative calm has returned to the oil-rich North African country in recent years, clashes still periodically break out between its myriad armed groups.

A military force, under the authority of the chief of staff and the defence ministry, intervened to stop the fighting in Tajoura, according to the source.

Under the agreement, fighters from the battling armed groups Rahbat al-Dourou and Shouhada Sabriya, both affiliated with the Tripoli-based government, withdrew from the area, allowing a neutral third group to intervene.

The UN Support Mission in Libya said it "condemns the armed

clashes that erupted in Tajoura yesterday and the subsequent military buildup inside and around Tripoli".

"The Mission deplores the use of heavy projectiles and rockets by the fighting groups in densely populated areas and reminds all parties of their obligation to protect civilians at all times," UN-SMIL said, welcoming the de-escalation efforts.

Tripoli's ambulance services yesterday said it evacuated 72 families from the combat zone.

The University of Tripoli, located not far from the area, yesterday said it would be suspending classes as a "preventative measure".

The fighting took place as authorities in Tripoli had their forces on high alert for an assault by fighters loyal to Haftar in the remote southern desert, prompting fears over an escalation four years after the parties reached a ceasefire.

## Bustling Tehran bazaar



People at Tajrish Bazaar in the Iranian capital Tehran yesterday.

شركة الكهرباء والماء القطرية ش.م.ع.ق  
QATAR ELECTRICITY & WATER CO. Q.P.S.C

**PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR HIRING OF MATERIAL LIFTING EQUIPMENT AND MANLIFT**

Qatar Electricity and Water Company Q.P.S.C is seeking to hire Material Lifting Equipment and Manlift at Ras Abu Fontas Power Station for Operations & Maintenance and Overhauling.

Leading Companies in Qatar are invited to submit pre-qualification documents for providing Material Lifting Equipment and Manlift as described below:

Sr. No.	Equipment	Equipment Details	Requirement
1	Forklift with Operator	3 Ton & 5 Ton	Call off basis
2	Mobile Crane with Operator	25 Ton, 50 Ton, 100 Ton, 150 Ton & 300 Ton	Call off basis
3	Manlift with Operator	50 Ton	Yearly basis
		Short Boom & Long Boom	Call off basis

Note: All Equipment should not be older than 5 years

**The pre-qualification documents must contain the following: -**

- Commercial registration
- Related licenses and certificates
- Corporate Organization Chart
- Financial Statement for the last 3 years
- List of Clients for the last 5 years
- Details of Company's Health, Safety and Environmental Policy
- Company Profile
- RAF Contractor Health and Safety Qualification Form duly filled in and signed.

**Required documents should be uploaded to**  
[www.qewc.com/qewc/tenders](http://www.qewc.com/qewc/tenders)  
**before 11:00 AM on 18.08.2024**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US VIA EMAIL**  
[amit.dave@qewc.com](mailto:amit.dave@qewc.com)

## Eight dead in Uganda landfill collapse



A woman reacts near the scene where a heap of garbage buried houses after a landslide in the Lusanja village, outside Kampala.

AFP Kampala

Eight people including two children were killed when mountains of garbage collapsed at a landfill in the Ugandan capital Kampala yesterday, the city authority said.

Local media said homes, people and livestock animals were engulfed in the landslide at the vast garbage dump in Kiteezi, a district in the north of Kampala, after heavy rainfall.

"On a very sad note eight people have so far been found dead, six adults and two children," the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) which operates the site, said in a statement.

The disaster comes eight months after the ceremonial head of the authority described the situation at the landfill as a "national crisis".

The KCCA said in the statement posted on X, formerly Twitter, that 14 people had been rescued and taken to hospital. It did not disclose their condition.

"The rescue operation is still ongoing and we shall share updates as they come in," it added.

Images from Kiteezi showed a Ugandan police excavator churning through huge mounds of rubbish as large crowds of local residents looked on.

Some were gathered behind a yellow police tape, carrying pictures of their missing loved ones.

The KCCA said there was a "structural failure in waste mass this morning resulting in a collapsed section of the landfill".

"Our teams, along with other government agencies are on ground taking the necessary measures to ensure the area is secure and to prevent any further incidents," it added.

"The level of damage is still being assessed." In January, KCCA ceremonial head Erias Lukwago, who carries the honorary title of Lord Mayor of Kampala, had warned that people working and living near the Kiteezi landfill were at risk of numerous health hazards due to overflowing waste.

He said the site was not maintained at all, describing the situation as a "national crisis" that needed the central government and parliament to intervene.

The official in charge of the site, Vincent Mbaizireki, said it was full to capacity.

Waseef

**Tender - Waseef**

Waseef Asset Management (Waseef) would like to invite competent Service Providers for the below Open Tenders:

Tender Number	Subject	Bid Bond (QAR)	Non-refundable Tender Fee (QAR)	Bid Submission Closing Date
GTC/WSF/BAB/WP/23/2024	TENDER FOR WATERPROOFING WORK, RENOVATION OF WET AREAS INCLUDING REMOVAL AND REINSTALLATION OF MEP / CIVIL SERVICES AT BUILDING H7 OF BARWA AL BARAHA LABOR ACCOMMODATION	15,000	500	October 8, 2024
GTC/WSF/RLIC/TG/09/2024	TENDER FOR THE DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & TESTING COMMISSIONING, MAINTENANCE & HANDOVER OF TOXIC GAS ALERT MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM AS PER LATEST QE REQUIREMENT IN LABOUR ACCOMMODATION AT RAS LAFFAN	10,000	500	October 8, 2024
GTC/WSF/MAJ-ARG/LS/24/2024	TENDER FOR THREE (3) YEARS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SOFT LANDSCAPING AND IRRIGATION SYSTEM FOR MADINATNA AND ARGENTINE NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS	300,000	5,000	October 8, 2024
GTC/WSF/MSD/BW/22/2024	TENDER FOR THE DESIGN & BUILT AND REPLACEMENT OF DAMAGED BOUNDARY WALL FOR MESAIEED PROJECTS (VILLAGES 1, 2 & 3)	27,000	500	October 8, 2024

The Tender Document will be available from August 11, 2024 onwards upon submission of the below documentation to [tender@waseef.qa](mailto:tender@waseef.qa)

**To collect please provide the following:**

- Authorization Letter on Company letterhead, copy of Commercial Registration and valid identification of the representative.
- Bank deposit slip carrying tender number and subject details. Tender fee shall be deposited to Account Name - Waseef Asset Management Co., Account Number 0002-105222-200 with Masraf Al Rayan Bank.

**To collect please provide the following:**

- Bidders should submit a bid bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and valid for 120 days from the closing date.
- Technical and Commercial offers must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes and delivered to the below-mentioned address: GTC Secretary, 10th floor, Waseef Head Office, Al Owaina Tower, Old Salata, Museum Park Street, Doha, Qatar.

LET US MANAGE YOUR WORLD

مؤسسة قطر  
Qatar Foundation

**INVITATION TO TENDER**

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
CD-RFQ-181	Provision for Maintenance and Supply Work for Landscape, Indoor Plants & Education City Stadium to QF on Call-off Basis for five (5) years	2,000.00	100,000.00	15th September 2024, 2:00PM
QF-RFQ-583	Privilege Access Management Solution - 2024	500.00	N/A	15th September 2024, 2:00PM
HBKU-RFQ-290	Commissioning of Aruba Central Cloud for Wired & Wireless Monitoring	500.00	N/A	15th September 2024, 2:00PM
HBKU-RFQ-297	Supply & Installation of Research Equipment (ICPMS) for HBKU	500.00	N/A	15th September 2024, 2:00PM

Qatar Foundation (QF) Procurement Directorate is inviting companies to participate in the above listed public tenders. To receive the tender documents, please follow the below steps:

- Supplier Registration** It is mandatory to be registered as a supplier with QF in order to participate in the above tender(s). Only QF registered suppliers will be allowed to pay the tender fees online. Therefore, please visit QF website at <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration> to complete the Supplier Registration process.
 

**Tender Fee:** Interested bidders can Sign in by visiting this link <https://suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract> and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online.

All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.

**Tender Fee Payment Dates:** Payment of Tender Fee online will be from 11<sup>th</sup> until 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024.
- All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.
- Technical and commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier Portal as per instructions provided in the "Supplier Portal" work instruction.
  - The commercial bid must be valid for 180 days from Bid Closing Date.
  - The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for 180 days from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents).
  - The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
  - Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

Note: All work instructions for Supplier registration and Supplier portal can be found in below link: <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration>

QAFCO  
QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY

**QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY INVITATION TO TENDER**

**QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER**

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER FEE RECEIPT SUBMISSION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFQ - 6000001366	COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE OF CIVIL STRUCTURES IN QAFCO PLANTS	500/- (Non-refundable)	QAR 2,254,840.00	11.08.2024 12.08.2024 13.08.2024 14.08.2024 15.08.2024 18.08.2024 19.08.2024	08.09.2024

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company's following Account at any QNB branch:
  - Account Name : **QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)**
  - Account Number : **0013-025828-058**
  - IBAN : **QA51QNBAA00000000013025828058**
  - Bank Name : **QATAR NATIONAL BANK**
- The interested Bidders shall mention their company's name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder's name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender (**Very Important**) during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.
- Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to [purchase@qafco.com.qa](mailto:purchase@qafco.com.qa) on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (non-refundable).
- After submission of the above documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately.
- For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the submission Tender Fee receipt at the QAFCO Housing Section, you may contact at 'purchase@qafco.com.qa' or on 44227797
- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.
- Bids shall be submitted at QAFCO Tender Office, between 0930 - 1100 hours during the Holy month of Ramadan and 0930 - 1130 hours and 1230 - 1400 hours, of any working day of the Company, on/before the "Tender Closing Date".



## World denounces deadly Israeli attack

Friends and foes of Israel yesterday denounced an Israeli strike that killed scores of displaced civilians in a Gaza school, renewing calls for an immediate ceasefire.

Gaza's civil defence agency said the Israeli strike on the Al-Tabieen religious school and mosque in Gaza City killed at least 100 people, 17 of them women and children, making it one of the war's deadliest strikes.

A US White House statement said it was "deeply concerned about reports of civilian casualties" following the strike and was seeking more information.

The strike "underscores the urgency of a ceasefire and hostage deal, which we continue to work tirelessly to achieve", the statement added.

British Foreign Minister David Lammy wrote on X that he was "appalled by the Israeli military strike on Al-Tabieen school and the tragic loss of life," adding that "we need an immediate ceasefire to protect civilians, free all hostages, and end restrictions on aid."

A statement from the French foreign ministry noted that "for several weeks, school buildings have been repeatedly targeted, with an intolerable number of civilian victims." "Israel must respect international humanitarian law," it added.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said he was "horrified by images from a sheltering school in Gaza hit by an Israeli strike. At least 10 schools were targeted in the last weeks. "There's no justification for these massacres," Borrell wrote on X.

Egypt said the attack was carried out "in disdain of international and humanitarian law" and showed a "lack of willingness on the Israeli side to put an end to this ferocious war."

Jordan's foreign ministry said the timing was an indication of Israel's efforts to "obstruct and

thwart" the latest mediation effort.

"Moscow is deeply shocked by what has happened," Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

"We reaffirm our principled and consistent position on the need for strict compliance with the norms of international humanitarian law. We call on the Israeli side to refrain from attacking civilian objects."

Lebanon's Hezbollah group described the attack as a "horrific massacre" and called for worldwide outrage in solidarity with Palestinians.

Yemen's Houthis said it was "a brutal massacre committed by the criminal Israeli entity with full American support".

Kuwait's foreign ministry called on "the international community and the Security Council to intervene to stop these heinous crimes against a defenceless people, and to exert more efforts to stop the bloodshed".

Bahrain "strongly" condemned the bombing of the school. In a statement, the foreign ministry called on the international community "to assume its responsibilities to provide the necessary protection for the civilian population in the Gaza Strip from the ongoing Israeli attacks".

A Turkish foreign ministry statement decried a "new crime against humanity" and said the attack shows "once again" that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "wants to sabotage permanent ceasefire negotiations".

"The international actors who do not take measures to stop Israel are making themselves complicit in these crimes," it added.

"I'm speechless," WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a posting on X.

"How many more women and children will lose their lives before a ceasefire? The horror that civilians in #Gaza are enduring must end." (AFP)

## Israeli strike on Gaza school condemned as a war crime

The Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) yesterday strongly condemned the Israeli crime of bombing the Al-Tabieen school in the Daraj neighbourhood of Gaza City, killing over 100 civilians and injuring dozens more.

In a press statement, the OIC considered this crime an extension of the brutal massacres and genocide committed by the occupation for more than 10 months in the Gaza Strip, in flagrant violation of international law, the orders of the International Court of Justice and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The organisation held the occupation forces fully responsible for these ongoing crimes, renewing its call to hold Israel, the occupying power, accountable for all war crimes and crimes against humanity it commits in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including the occupied city of Jerusalem.

The OIC also called on the international community, especially the UN Security Council, to oblige Israel, the occupying power, to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law, impose an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire in the Strip and provide international protection for the Palestinian people.

The Muslim World League (MWL) has denounced Israel's horrific and ongoing barbaric crimes against civilians and civilian facilities, highlighting that these actions constitute a flagrant violation of all international and humanitarian laws and norms.

In a statement yesterday the MWL emphasised the urgent need for the international community to take immediate action to halt these massacres, which are perpetuated by the Israeli war machines, and put an end to the systematic crimes against innocent civilians.

The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) has strongly condemned the latest Israeli crime of targeting the UNRWA school sheltering the displaced persons.

In a statement yesterday, GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed al-Budaiwi emphasised that the ongoing and violent attacks launched by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian civilians in Gaza and the rest of the Palestinian territories, and their direct targeting of shelters and camps of the displaced, are considered war crimes.

"These actions highlight the dangerous criminal approach of the Israeli occupation forces and constitute a blatant violation of in-



Palestinians look at damages at the site of an Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced people in Gaza City yesterday.

ternational and humanitarian laws and treaties. They disregard all legal, moral, and humanitarian values," al-Budaiwi said.

The statement called on the international community to assume its responsibilities and take immediate and serious action to implement a ceasefire, put an end to the dangerous Israeli military operations, and hold accountable those responsible for these violations.

The Arab League has strongly condemned the massacre committed by the Israeli occupation forces.

In a statement yesterday, Secretary-General of the Arab League, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, described the Israeli massacre as a dastardly act, stressing that killing displaced civilians during dawn prayer is a crime that surpasses even the low level typically associated with the occupying army, in terms of its thoroughness in violence, and lack of conscience.

The statement added that the continuation of the genocidal war against the Palestinians is a license for Israel to constantly commit murder and get away with it.

It called on the international community to step up real pressures on the Israeli occupation to seriously negotiate through mediators to reach an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, in exchange for a prisoner swap deal.

The Palestinian Presidency has called on the US Administration to immediately compel the Israeli occupation to halt its aggression in the Gaza Strip, as well as massacres against the

defenceless Palestinian people and respect the resolutions of international legitimacy.

In a statement yesterday, the Palestinian Presidency condemned the new massacre perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces in a school sheltering displaced people. It held the US Administration responsible for the continuation of this dastardly Israeli aggression on the Strip in its 10th month.

The statement deemed this crime as a continuation for the daily massacres committed by the Israeli occupation in the Gaza enclave and the occupied West bank, as part of its intentions to annihilate the Palestinian people through the policy of mass slaughters and daily killings, condemning the suspicious international silence over these relentless Israeli crimes against the Palestinians.

Iran condemned a "barbaric" Israeli air strike on the school, calling it a "war crime".

He said the strike was "a clear example of the simultaneous perpetration of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity" by Israel.

Kanani called for "firm action by Muslim and freedom-loving countries around the world to support the Palestinian nation and its legitimate struggles and resistance against the occupation." (QNA)

### Anti-govt protest in Tel Aviv



Anti-government activists protest outside the Likud party headquarters in Tel Aviv calling the government to resign yesterday, amid the ongoing Israeli war on Gaza.

## UN: 21 Israeli assaults on schools sheltering displaced people killed 274 in one month

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has condemned the Israeli occupation's targeting of schools that shelter thousands of Palestinians who were forcibly displaced, the latest incident was the bombing of Al-Tabieen school in Gaza city, which led to hundreds of martyrs and injured.

In a statement, OHCHR clarified this was the 21st attack that targeted in killing at least 274 Palestinians, including women and children, stressing that the recurrent strikes on displaced shelters in the areas to which the Palestinians were forced to move, along with the constant and unanticipated impact on civilians, indicate that Israel has utterly failed in complying with

the obligations imposed by international humanitarian law, including the fundamental principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in attack.

These systematic attacks on schools come as part of displacing over 90% of Gazans, while the Israeli occupation army continues to blow up residential structures and restrict of humanitarian access and distribution of aid, the statement added.

The statement pointed out that displaced people are facing unspeakable terror after 10 months of hostilities, including multiple incidents of forced displacement, rapid outbreak of diseases, and ongoing deprivation of access to essentials of life. For many of them, schools have become the last refuge to

find some shelter and potentially access food and water.

For his part, Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, said the world woke up to another day of horror in Gaza, following the bombing of another school and reports of dozens of martyrs, including women, children and the elderly.

In a post on the X platform, Lazzarini added that all Parties must always protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, adding that its time for these horrors unfolding under watch to end. He stressed that he cannot let the unbearable become a new norm. The more recurrent, the more we lose our collective humanity. (QNA)

### Lebanon's Hezbollah launches 'squadrons of drones' at Israel

Lebanon's Hezbollah group said it launched yesterday explosive-laden drones at a north Israel army base following the killing of a Hamas commander in south Lebanon a day earlier. Hezbollah fighters launched "squadrons of explosive-laden drones" at the Michve Alon base near the Galilee town of Safed "in response to the attack and assassination carried out by the Israeli enemy in the city of Sidon" on Friday, the group said in a statement.

Hezbollah's media office said it was "the first time" the group had targeted that base.

On Friday, an Israeli strike on a vehicle in the south Lebanon city of Sidon killed a Hamas commander, the Palestinian militant group and the Israeli military said.

Hamas said in a statement that Samer al-Hajj was killed "in a Zionist strike in the city of Sidon".

The Israeli military said that its aircraft struck the Sidon area and "eliminated" Hajj, whom it identified as "a senior commander" for Hamas in Lebanon.

It was the first strike of its kind in Sidon since Israel launched attacks on Gaza on October 7 last year.



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P.O. 24646 Doha / Qatar - Tel. 44847111 - Fax 44847695  
Website: www.qchem.com.qa

#### ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TENDERS

No.	Document No.	Description	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1.	QC/TC/TA/73/24	<b>Specialized Inspection Services during Q-Chem, Q-Chem II and RLOC Turnaround</b>	QR 500,500/-	<b>12:00 hrs. on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024</b>

**Brief Scope:**  
Contractor shall perform the NDT activities such as Magnetic Flux Leakage (MFL), Eddy Current Testing (ECT), Remote Field Eddy Current Testing (RFET), Internal Rotating Ultrasonic Inspection (IRIS), Acoustic Eye Testing (AET), Time of Flight Diffraction (TOFD), Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing (PAUT), etc.  
Inspection and testing activities shall include, but not be limited to Tank Bottoms, Heat Exchangers, Piping Weld Joints.

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

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

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

#### B. Date and Time of Tender documents Issuance via email

Tender documents issuance from **11<sup>th</sup> August 2024 to 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024, 8am-12noon**

#### C. Proposal details

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

#### D. Submission of Proposals

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

## WAREHOUSE FOR RENT

- ✔ Warehouse for rent in Industrial area
- ✔ Warehouse 600 Sqm/1200 Sqm
- ✔ Municipality Approved
- ✔ Civil Defence Approved
- ✔ Secure Boundary Wall
- ✔ 24/7 Security

 **6672 2989**





# Maduro says no negotiating with opposition

AFP/Reuters  
Caracas

President Nicolas Maduro has ruled out negotiating with opposition leader Maria Corina Machado after he appeared before Venezuela's Supreme Court, asking the country's top judicial body to ratify his disputed re-election.

He was responding to Machado's offer of "guarantees and incentives" for a "negotiated transition" of power that would see him leave office, in an interview with AFP as she continues to challenge the July 28 vote.

The South American nation has been in political crisis since election authori-

ties declared Maduro the winner of last month's poll, a decision questioned both at home and abroad.

The National Electoral Council (CNE) has yet to release detailed results from the vote, while the opposition has released copies of 84% of ballots cast, showing an easy win for their candidate, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia.

The government says those results are forged.

The Supreme Court - widely seen as aligned with Maduro - summoned all presidential candidates before it, though Gonzalez Urrutia refused to attend.

Maduro did so on Friday, after which he directed a warning to Machado.

"The only person in this country who

needs to negotiate with Machado is the public prosecutor," Maduro said after his hearing.

"She should surrender to the courts and answer for the crimes she has committed" in contesting the election result.

She is currently in hiding amid fears for her safety.

The disputed election sparked protests that have left at least 24 people dead, according to rights groups, and more than 2,000 arrested.

Machado has called for greater support from the international community.

Speaking to AFP via voice notes, she said the opposition was "determined to move forward in a negotiation".

"It will be a complex, delicate transi-

tion process, in which we are going to unite the whole nation," said the 56-year-old Machado, who was barred from running herself against Maduro.

She added that Maduro has "completely, absolutely, lost legitimacy" and that "all Venezuelans and the world know that Edmundo Gonzalez won in a landslide".

Maduro has meanwhile given a scathing response to an offer from his Panamanian counterpart, Jose Raul Mulino, to facilitate his departure to a third country to allow for a political transition.

Mulino told broadcaster CNN that he would give Maduro safe passage to act as a "bridge" to a third country.

"If that's the contribution, the sacrifice that Panama has to make, by offering our

soil so that this man and his family can leave Venezuela, Panama would do it without a doubt," Mulino said in an interview.

Maduro accused the Panamanian president, who himself was elected to office just three months ago, of getting "carried away by the gringos", using a derogatory term for Americans.

"I will try to learn your name, President of Panama, but whoever messes with Venezuela runs aground," Maduro told reporters.

Panama is part of a group of Latin American countries that have cut diplomatic ties with Venezuela since the disputed July 28 election, including Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Peru, and Uruguay.

## Brazil authorities recovering bodies from plane crash that killed 62

Reuters/AFP  
Vinhedo, Brazil

Work was underway yesterday by Brazilian authorities in recovering the remains of passengers on a plane that crashed on Friday in the town of Vinhedo, near Sao Paulo, killing all 62 people on board.

At least 31 bodies had been recovered by 1pm local time (1600 GMT) yesterday, the Sao Paulo state government said.

The crash transformed the plane's fuselage into a mass of twisted iron.

A steady overnight rain complicated the recovery efforts by some 200 workers, Vinhedo mayor Dario Pacheco told reporters.

With many victims badly burned, so far only "two bodies have been identified: the pilot and the co-pilot," he said.

All the bodies are being moved to Sao Paulo's police morgue.

A Venezuelan man and Portuguese woman are among the dead, state civil defence official Roberto Farina said, adding that the local consulates have already been contacted.

On Friday regional carrier Voepass said the plane was carrying 57 passengers and four crew, but yesterday the firm confirmed another unaccounted-for passenger was on the flight, putting the number of casualties at 62.

Authorities are using seat assignments, physical characteristics, documents and belongings such as cell phones to identify the victims, firefighter Maycon Cristo said at the crash site.

"Once all this evidence has been collected, we will remove the victims from the wreckage and place them in the vehicle to be transported to Sao Paulo," he said.

Relatives of the victims have been brought to Sao Paulo to provide DNA samples to aid in identification of the remains, said state civil defence co-ordinator Henguel Pereira.

The plane's so-called "black box" containing voice recordings and flight data is undergoing analysis, said Marcelo Moreno, the head of Brazilian aviation accident investigation centre Cenipa, at a press conference in Vinhedo.

The plane, an ATR-72 turboprop, was bound for Sao Paulo from Cascavel, in the state of Parana, and crashed around 1.30pm (1630 GMT) in Vinhedo, some 80km (50 miles) northwest of Sao Paulo.

Videos showed the plane in a downward spin on Friday before it crashed.

Despite coming down in a residential area, no one on the ground was hurt.

The aircraft was flying normally until 1.21pm, when it stopped responding to calls, and radar contact was lost at 1.22pm, Brazil's air force said in a statement.

Pilots did not report an emergency or adverse weather conditions, the air force added.

Franco-Italian ATR, jointly owned by Airbus and Leonardo, is the dominant producer of regional turboprop planes seating 40-70 people.

ATR told Reuters on Friday that its specialists were "fully engaged" with the investigation into the crash.

The plane had been in use since 2010 and



A drone view shows people working at the site of a plane crash in Vinhedo. - Reuters

was in compliance with current standards, the National Civil Aviation Agency said, adding that the four crew members were all fully certified.

Marcel Moura, regional carrier Voepass's operations director, said the plane had undergone routine maintenance the night before the accident and that "no technical problems" were found.

However, experts suggested that icing of the plane's wings may have been behind the accident.

Moura said the plane was a type that flies at an altitude "where there is a greater sensitivity to icing".

Friday's weather report had predicted possible icing but "within acceptable parameters for a flight", he said.

Brazil's president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has declared three days of national mourning for what was one of the worst aviation accidents in the country's history.

In 2007, an Airbus A320 of Brazil's TAM airlines overran a runway at Sao Paulo's Congonhas airport and crashed into a warehouse, killing all 187 on board and 12 runway workers.

Two years later, an Air France A330 on a Rio de Janeiro-to-Paris flight crashed into the Atlantic. All 228 people on board died.

## Rawabi Hypermarket Celebrates Success of "The Biggest Cat Show Season 2, 2024"



Rawabi Hypermarket is delighted to share the success of "The Biggest Cat Show Season 2, 2024," which took place on August 8th at Izghawa Hypermarket location.

The event was inaugurated by a distinguished group of guests, including Mr. Haitham Al-Haidari, CEO of Qatar Living; Mr. Hamad Ali Al Ansari, Founder of Animals Kingdom Rescue Team Group; Dr. Houssam Naceri, Veterinary Doctor; and Mr. Kannu Baker, Group General Manager. Also in attendance were other esteemed Rawabi dignitaries such as Mr. Ismail VP, Purchase Manager; Mr. Rayees EM, Admin Manager; Mr. Shanavas Raja Salim, HR Manager; Mr. Navas KP and Mr. Sabiq Ali, Assistant Finance Managers; Mr. Sajith EP, Assistant Marketing Manager; and Mr. Reneesh P, IT In Charge.

The show attracted over 50 passionate pet lovers, who enjoyed a dazzling array of cat breeds and unique looks, creating a vibrant and engaging atmosphere.

In celebration of International Cat Day, this year's event honored our beloved feline friends with a stunning showcase, exciting activities, and an opportunity for cat enthusiasts to connect and share their passion.

Mr. Haitham Al-Haidari, CEO of Qatar Living, remarked, "It was a privilege to witness such an extraordinary display of feline beauty and to be part of an event that brings together so many



passionate cat lovers. Rawabi Hypermarket has truly set a new standard for pet shows in Qatar."

Mr. Kannu Baker, Group General Manager, noted, "Rawabi Hypermarket's event is more than just a cat show; it's a celebration of the bond between humans and their feline companions. By hosting such an event, Rawabi Hypermarket aims to bring together like-minded individuals who share a passion for pets, providing them a platform to connect, share, experience, and enjoy an afternoon of fun and camaraderie. This initiative also reflects our social commitment to supporting and celebrating the pet community."

Rawabi Hypermarket also introduced a new 'Pet Zone' at our Izghawa branch, where visitors

explored a diverse range of pet foods and accessories tailored for all types of pets. Additionally, LuckyPaws offered a complimentary nail trimming and teeth brushing mobile clinic for participants, ensuring every feline guest left looking their best.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors for their invaluable support. Our title sponsor, ME-O, was joined by associate sponsors PURINA, SNAPPY TOM, DR. BECKMANN, and WHISKAS. Our media partner was QATAR LIVING, and event partners included LUCKYPAWS and MY PET WORLD.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this memorable event. We look forward to welcoming you to future Rawabi Hypermarket events!

## Trump sticks to his tale of scary helicopter ride, despite denials

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has insisted that he was in a near-fatal helicopter ride with former San Francisco mayor Willie Brown, although Brown said the incident never happened and another politician said he had been on a similar flight with Trump decades earlier.

Trump on Thursday related the tale of almost dying on a helicopter with Brown, who had briefly dated Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris several decades ago.

"I went down in a helicopter with him," Trump said in a rambling press conference. "We thought maybe this is the end. We were in a helicopter going to a certain location together, and there was an emergency landing. This was not a pleasant landing, and Willie was, he was a little concerned."

Trump also asserted Willie Brown told him "terrible things" about Harris.

Brown, a long-time Democratic power broker who also served as speaker of the California State Assembly, told the *San Francisco Chronicle* after Trump's press conference that he was never in a helicopter with the former president.

He also denied that he had ever said anything disparaging about Harris to Trump.

Another black former California politician, Nate Holden, told Politico late on Friday that he had been in a turbulent helicopter ride with Trump in New Jersey, likely in 1990.

Earlier on Friday, Trump had dug in, insisting in posts on his Truth Social platform that his helicopter ride had been with Willie Brown and that it had occurred in New Jersey, not California.

"There were 'Logs,' Maintenance Records, and Witnesses. There was also a story on 'Willie and Me,'" Trump said.

He did not provide any of the evidence he referred to in the post.

Asked to share the evidence Trump mentioned, Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung referred Reuters to a post of his on X of a picture from a page in the 2023 *Letters to Trump* book.

It contains a picture of Trump and Willie Brown, and quotes Trump as saying: "We actually had an emergency landing in a helicopter together."

Asked about Holden's ac-

## New surveys give Harris a lead over Trump in three key states

Kamala Harris now leads Donald Trump in three crucial battleground states, according to new polls published yesterday, apparently eroding the advantage the former president has enjoyed there over the past year.

The polls of likely voters by the *New York Times* and Siena College showed Democratic presidential candidate Harris leading her Republican rival Trump by an identical 50% to 46% margin in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Under the US electoral college voting system, those three populous Midwestern states are considered key to victory for either party.

Harris's lead is within the polls' margin of error of 4.5 points. Nevertheless, the polls show a shift compared to previous surveys in those states which for nearly a year had shown Trump either tied with or slightly leading Democratic President Joe Biden.

Biden dropped out of the White House race last month.

The polling also showed that voters still prefer Trump on the key issues of the economy and immigration, though Harris had a 24-point advantage when voters were asked whom they trust on the question of abortion.

The Trump campaign pushed back against the new polls, questioning their methodology and suggesting they were released "with the clear intent and purpose of depressing support for" Trump.

Much can change in the nearly three months before the November 5 election.

Harris has enjoyed an even bigger bump in favourability - up 10 points among registered voters in Pennsylvania in just a month, the *Times/Siena* polling found.

Voters said they saw her as more intelligent than Trump and having a better temperament to govern.

The surveys were conducted between August 5-9, with at least 600 voters in each state.

An Ipsos poll published on Thursday showed Harris led Trump nationally 42% to 37% in the race for the November 5 election.

That online nationwide poll of 2,045 US adults was conducted August 2-7 and had a margin of error of around three percentage points. - AFP/Reuters

count of being in a helicopter with Trump, Cheung said: "Sounds like Holden is either lying or is having memory issues."

Holden, a former city councilman and state senator from Los Angeles, scoffed at Trump's account, Politico reported.

"Willie is the short black guy living in San Francisco," Holden was quoted as saying. "I'm a tall black guy living in Los Angeles. I guess we all look alike."

Holden added that Harris was not brought up during the helicopter ride.

"He either mixed it up. Or, he made it up," Holden said of Trump.

Holden did not immediately respond to an e-mail request for comment.

As president in 2018, Trump also toured fire-ravaged portions of California by helicopter with then-California governor Jerry

## Polar bears kill worker at Canadian Arctic radar facility

A pair of polar bears attacked and killed a worker at a remote government radar site in the Canadian Arctic, the facility's operator said on Friday.

The attack took place on Thursday at the outpost on Brevoort Island, in Canada's far northeastern Nunavut territory, said Nasittuq Corporation, the logistics company contracted to operate the site.

"An attack by two polar bears has resulted in the loss of one of our valued employees," it said.

"Nasittuq employees responded to the scene and one of the animals was put down." - AFP

## Court extends block on Biden's student debt relief plan

A federal appeals court has extended an order blocking the Biden administration from further implementing a student debt relief plan designed to lower monthly payments for millions of borrowers and speed up loan forgiveness for some.

The St Louis-based 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals largely granted an injunction pending an appeal requested by seven Republican-led states of a lower court order that they said did not go far enough in blocking the Department of Education's debt relief plan. - Reuters

Reuters

Brown, NBC News reported.

A representative for former governor Brown, who is white, told the *New York Times* there was no emergency landing and Harris was not discussed during that flight.

Trump said he would "probably" sue the *New York Times* over its coverage of his comments on the helicopter story, according to a *Times* story on Friday.

The *Times* did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Harris campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the apparent mix-up.

When 81-year-old President Joe Biden was still the Democratic candidate in the November 5 election, Trump, 78, frequently mocked his opponent's mental acuity and offered to take a cognitive test, arguing Biden was too infirm to be president. - Reuters



# Philippines says China air force harassed its plane over disputed reef

AFP  
Manila

The Philippine military yesterday accused China's air force of "dangerous and provocative actions" against one of its planes patrolling over a disputed South China Sea reef. Two China air force aircraft "executed a dangerous manoeuvre at around 9am and dropped flares in the path of our NC-212i," armed forces chief General Romeo Brawner said in a statement, recounting the alleged incident Thursday "over" Scarborough Shoal.

He said the Chinese action "en-

dangered the lives of our personnel undertaking maritime security operations," adding that the pilot and crew were unharmed and "safely returned" to a northern Philippines air base. China defended its operations yesterday, saying it had "organised naval and air forces to lawfully... (drive) away" the Philippine plane, following "repeated warnings", according to a statement by the Southern Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army.

The statement did not say what specific actions China took, describing its operations as "professional, standard, legitimate and legal".

"We sternly warn the Philippines to immediately stop its infringement, provocation, distortion and hype," the statement said, adding that "China has indisputable sovereignty over Huangyan Island (Scarborough Shoal) and adjacent waters". The incident is the latest in an increasingly tense confrontation between Manila and Beijing, which claims most of the South China Sea and seized the shoal after a 2012 standoff with the Philippines. In June, the Philippine military said one of its sailors lost a thumb in a confrontation off Second Thomas Shoal, in another area of the South China Sea, when the Chinese coast-guard also confiscated or destroyed

Philippine equipment including guns. Beijing has blamed the escalation on Manila and maintains its actions to protect its claims are legal and proportional. Following the Second Thomas Shoal clash, the two countries agreed on a "provisional arrangement" for resupplying Filipino troops based on a decrepit warship grounded atop the reef, and also to increase the number of communication lines to resolve disputes in the waterway.

The Chinese air force action Thursday took place a day after China carried out a combat patrol near the flashpoint reef to test the "strike capabilities" of its troops. Beijing claims almost the entire

South China Sea, brushing off rival claims of several Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines, and an international ruling that its assertion has no legal basis.

Scarborough Shoal, a triangular chain of reefs and rocks, is 240km west of the Philippines' main island of Luzon and nearly 900km from the nearest major Chinese land mass of Hainan.

Brawner said the Philippine military "strongly condemns the dangerous and provocative actions of the People's Liberation Army Air Force that endangered the lives of our personnel undertaking maritime security operations recently within Philippine maritime zones".

"The incident posed a threat to Philippine Air Force aircraft and its crew, interfered with lawful flight operations in airspace within Philippine sovereignty and jurisdiction, and contravened international law and regulations governing safety of aviation," he added.

A Philippine military spokesman told AFP the Chinese aircraft involved in the incident were "MRF", an abbreviation for multi-role fighter jets. The Indonesia-built NC-212i is a multi-role turboprop plane designed for maritime surveillance, troop transport, medical evacuation and "special mission", according to the manufacturer's website.

# Bangladesh leader Yunus hails slain student in appeal for unity

AFP  
Dhaka

Bangladesh's interim leader Mohamed Yunus appealed for religious unity after embracing the weeping mother of a student shot dead by police, a flashpoint in mass protests that ended Sheikh Hasina's 15-year rule. Nobel laureate Yunus, 84, returned from Europe this week to helm a temporary administration facing the monumental challenge of ending disorder and enacting democratic reforms.

"Our responsibility is to build a new Bangladesh," he told reporters. Several reprisal attacks against the country's Hindu minority since autocratic ex-premier Hasina's toppling have caused alarm in neighbouring India as well as fear at home. Yunus called for calm during a visit to the northern city of Rangpur by invoking the memory of Abu Sayeed, the first student slain during last month's unrest. "Don't differentiate by religion", he said.

"Abu Sayeed is now in every home. The way he stood, we have to do the same," he added. "There are no differences in Abu Sayeed's Bangladesh."

Sayeed, 25, was shot dead by police at close range on July 16 at the start of a police crackdown on student-led protests against Hasina's government. His mother sobbed as she clung to a visibly emotional Yunus, who had come to pay his respects alongside members of the "advisory" cabinet now administering the country.

Fellow cabinet member Nahid Islam, a 26-year-old sociology graduate who led the protests that culminated in Hasina's ouster, wept by the leader's side. Hasina, 76, fled by helicopter to neighbouring India on Monday as protesters flooded Dhaka's streets in a dramatic end to her iron-fisted rule.

Her government was accused of widespread human rights abuses including the extrajudicial killing of thousands of her political opponents. Cabinet ministers left blindsided by her sudden fall have gone to ground, while several top appointees have been forced out

of office - including the national police chief and the central bank governor.

The chief justice of the Supreme Court became yesterday the latest to announce his departure. "It's not possible anymore for me to perform the duty," Obaidul Hassan said in a statement. "Therefore, I have decided to resign."

Appointed last year, Hassan earlier oversaw a much-criticised war crimes tribunal that ordered the execution of Hasina's opponents, and his brother was her longtime secretary.

His announcement came after hundreds of protesters gathered outside the court to demand he and other judges step down by the early afternoon.

"No one should do anything that pits the Supreme Court against the mass uprising of the students and the people," Asif Nazrul, a student protest leader now serving in Yunus' government, told reporters.

In the immediate aftermath of Hasina's fall, some businesses and homes owned by Hindus were attacked, a group seen by some in Muslim-majority Bangladesh as having been her supporters. Bangladeshi Hindus account for around eight percent of the country's population. Hundreds have since arrived on India's border, asking to cross.

Hasina's flight has heightened rancour towards India, which played a decisive military role in securing Bangladesh's independence, but also backed her to the hilt.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday urged "safety and protection of Hindus and all other minority communities". More than 450 people were killed in the unrest leading up to Hasina's departure, including dozens of police officers killed during clampdowns on demonstrations. The caretaker administration Yunus helms has said that restoration of law and order is its "first priority".

Complicating its efforts is a strike declared Tuesday by the police union, saying its members would not return to work until their safety was assured. Bangladesh's police force said more than half of the country's police stations had since reopened. They are being



Nobel laureate and chief adviser of Bangladesh's new interim government, Mohamed Yunus visits Abu Sayeed's house, who was killed by police during the anti-quota protests, in Rangpur.



A member of the Bangladesh Army assesses the damages inside a police station vandalised and burned by protesters.

guarded by soldiers from the army, an institution held in higher public regard than the police for opting not to forcibly quell the protests. "We are happy that police are returning to their duty," university pupil Umar Faruk, 22, told AFP.

"Police are needed to maintain law and order. But it's also a mat-

ter of concern for us whether the police can gain the trust of the people." Two attempted jailbreaks were staged at prisons north of the capital Dhaka this week, with more than 200 inmates fleeing one facility.

Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his pioneering

work in microfinance, credited with helping millions of Bangladeshis out of grinding poverty. He took office Thursday as "chief adviser" to a caretaker administration, comprised of fellow civilians bar one retired brigadier-general, and has said he wants to hold elections "within a few months".

## 12 killed in twin Bangladesh jailbreaks

Twin jailbreaks in Bangladesh killed at least 12 inmates and freed hundreds more in the chaotic days after the ouster of autocratic premier Sheikh Hasina, officials told AFP Saturday.

An interim government is struggling to restore law and order with police going on strike after Hasina's sudden resignation and flight abroad after 15 years in power. This week's prison escapes, both north of the capital Dhaka, are the latest in a series of breakouts during weeks of nationwide unrest leading up to her toppling.

Six convicts were killed at Jamapur Prison on Thursday after prison guards were assaulted by escapees, warden Abu Fatah told AFP. "They attacked us with iron rods and sharp weapons. They torched my office. Then tried to break out and take all 600 prisoners with them," he said. "We were forced to open fire. At least six inmates were killed including one who was stabbed to death."

Fatah said guards managed to quell the attack before anyone escaped. On Tuesday another six prisoners were shot dead during a mass breakout at a high security prison in Kashimpur, just 30km north of Dhaka, warden Lutfor Rahman told AFP. Rahman said the inmates used iron tools and rebars to attack guards and broke through the jail's main gate, forcing army soldiers and jail guards to open fire.

"At least 203 prisoners also managed to escape," he said. Kashimpur High Security Prison hosts some of Bangladesh's most notorious convicts, including Islamist extremists and murderers. Rahman said none of the high-profile inmates had managed to break out of their cells.

Numerous attempted and successful jailbreaks have taken place across Bangladesh since protests against Hasina's government began last month. More than 800 prisoners fled a jail in the central district of Narsingdi in July when a mob of thousands attacked the British colonial era institution and set the warden's office on fire.

On Monday, the day of Hasina's ouster, more than 500 inmates fled a jail in the northern district of Sherpur. More than 450 people died during weeks of clashes between police and protesters leading up to Hasina's ouster, including dozens of police officers. — Reuters

# Rohingya killed in drone attack while fleeing Myanmar: witnesses

Reuters  
Bangkok

A drone attack on Rohingya fleeing Myanmar killed many dozens of people, including families with children, several witnesses said, describing survivors wandering between piles of bodies to identify dead and injured relatives.

Four witnesses, activists and a diplomat described drone attacks on Monday that struck down families waiting to cross the border into neighbouring Bangladesh.

A heavily pregnant woman and her 2-year-old daughter were among the victims in the attack, the single deadliest known assault on civilians in Rakhine state during recent weeks of fighting between junta troops and rebels. Three of the witnesses told Reuters on Friday that the Arakan Army was responsible, allegations the group denied. The militia and Myanmar's military blamed each another. Reuters could not verify how many peo-

ple had died in the attack or independently determine responsibility.

Videos posted to social media showed piles of bodies strewn across muddy ground, their suitcases and backpacks scattered around them. Three survivors said more than 200 had died while a witness to the aftermath said he had seen at least 70 bodies.

Reuters verified the location of the videos as just outside the coastal Myanmar town of Maungdaw.

Reuters was not able to independently confirm the date the videos were filmed.

One witness, 35-year-old Mohamed Eleyas, said his pregnant wife and 2-year-old daughter were wounded in the attack and later died.

He was standing with them on the shoreline when drones began attacking the crowds, Eleyas told Reuters from a refugee camp in Bangladesh.

"I heard the deafening sound of shelling multiple times," he said. Eleyas said he lay on the ground to

protect himself and when he got up, he saw his wife and daughter critically injured and many of his other relatives dead.

A second witness, Shamsuddin, 28, said he survived with his wife and newborn son. Also speaking from a refugee camp in Bangladesh, he said that after the attack many lay dead and "some people were shouting out from the pain of their injuries".

Boats carrying fleeing Rohingya, members of a mostly Muslim minority who face extreme persecution in Myanmar, also sank in the Naf River that separates the two countries on Monday, killing dozens more, according to two witnesses and Bangladesh media.

Medecins Sans Frontieres said in a statement the aid organisation had treated 39 people who had crossed from Myanmar into Bangladesh since Saturday for violence-related injuries, including mortar shell injuries and gunshot wounds. Patients described seeing people bombed while trying to find boats to cross the river, the statement said.

# North Korea moving thousands of flood victims to capital: KCNA

AFP  
Seoul

North Korea will move more than 15,000 flood victims to the capital, state media said yesterday, as leader Kim Jong-un insisted recovery efforts would be "based on self-reliance" despite offers of aid from abroad.

Pyongyang last week said a record downpour in late July had killed an unspecified number of people, flooded dwellings, and submerged swathes of farmland in its northern regions near China.

On a visit to flood-hit Uiju on Friday, Kim said the government planned to accommodate around 15,400 flood victims from the northern region at facilities in the capital until their destroyed homes are rebuilt, according to the official

Korean Central News Agency.

The plan, which will include food and medical assistance as well as educational support for the thousands of students being moved, will be "a top priority of the state," Kim said.

International offers of support have poured in since news of the flooding disaster first emerged, including from South Korea, which offered humanitarian aid via the Korean Red Cross despite the two countries' strained relations.

Moscow has reached out with a similar offer, according to Pyongyang, while Seoul's Yonhap news agency has reported that China and the United Nations Children's Fund had signalled their willingness to help. But Kim said Friday that the country's recovery efforts would be "thoroughly based on self-reliance", accord-

ing to KCNA. Still, he expressed "thanks to various foreign countries and international organizations for their offer of humanitarian support," the report said. South Korean media have reported that the number of dead and missing in the North could be as high as 1,500, but Kim on Friday dismissed the reports as a "grave provocation" and "an insult to the flood-stricken people who are all safe and well".

Natural disasters tend to have an outsized impact on the isolated and impoverished country due to its weak infrastructure, while deforestation has left it vulnerable to flooding. Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points in years, with the North recently announcing the deployment of 250 ballistic missile launchers to its southern border.





# King Charles III ends silence on far-right violence

AFP  
London

King Charles III on Friday made his first comments about riots that have shaken British cities to praise the work of police in countering the violence. While the monarch and Queen Camilla conveyed their condolences to the families of three girls killed in a mass stabbing on July 29, Buckingham Palace had not commented on the near-daily riots which followed.

The king praised British police and emergency services "for all they are doing to restore peace in those areas that have been affected by violent disorder", according to a

Buckingham Palace spokesperson.

He hoped the "shared values of mutual respect and understanding will continue to strengthen and unite the nation", the spokesperson added. Many observers had been watching to see if the king, who is on his annual summer holiday in Scotland, would end his noticeable silence on the disturbances.

Hundreds of people have been arrested in the near-nightly unrest that hit cities across England and in Northern Ireland and which authorities have blamed on far-right agitators.

Officials say the rioters took advantage of the killings of the girls in the northwestern English coastal town of Southport to launch racist and Islamophobic protests. The

suspect accused of the killings was born in Britain.

Traditionally, the monarch does not comment on anything that could cause political controversy. But in calls with Prime Minister Keir Starmer and police chiefs, the king said he had been "greatly encouraged" by the reaction "that countered the aggression and criminality from a few with the compassion and resilience of the many".

While extra police have been put on standby, there have been many counter-demonstrations in cities where far-right protests had been planned. His call for unity followed a silence that had concerned some royal watchers. "I am surprised that the king as head of state hasn't

come out more forcefully, given that it's a perilous moment for the United Kingdom," historian and royal commentator Ed Owens said before the statement's release.

According to constitutional law expert Craig Prescott, however, "the monarchy does not comment on current political events". The late Queen Elizabeth II remained similarly quiet during the last wave of riots which shook England in 2011. "Once the riots have subsided, you might expect members of the royal family to visit places affected and perhaps to see them more in multicultural settings," Prescott said in a post on the X social media platform.

"If the king speaks out about this, then what about the next

big issue, and the one after that?" Owens argued that Charles, who has gradually resumed public duties after a cancer diagnosis earlier this year, may not have publicly reacted for two main reasons.

He may have been "advised by his government that it would be unwise at this stage" to intervene directly. And the monarch might himself have deemed the issue too "combustible". The question of "illegal migration" is politically divisive and sensitive in Britain, said Owens. But as heir to the throne, Charles made known his opposition to the previous government's plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda.

And the king has been more vocal about topics such as climate

change over the years. Since becoming the monarch he is seen as having presented himself as more accessible than his predecessors, including by opening up about his health. But for Graham Smith, head of Republic, a pressure group which campaigns for an elected UK head of state to replace the monarch, the lack of a response to the riots showed that the monarchy is an institution "for someone who isn't able to speak really".

According to media reports, quoting palace sources, the king has asked for a daily update on the crisis. But Smith said: "There's no value in a billionaire sitting in his holiday home being updated about what's happening. I mean, it's easy to be updated - switch the TV on."

# Anti-racism protesters rally across UK

AFP  
London

Thousands of anti-racism demonstrators rallied across the UK yesterday to protest recent rioting blamed on the far-right in the wake of the Southport knife attack that killed three children. Crowds massed in London, Glasgow, Belfast, Manchester and numerous other English towns and cities, as fears of violent confrontations with anti-immigration agitators failed to materialise.

It followed a similar situation unfolding on Wednesday night, when anticipated far-right rallies up and down the country were instead replaced by gatherings organised by the Stand Up To Racism advocacy group. More than a dozen places across England as well as Belfast had been hit by unrest prior to that, following the July 29 stabbing spree, which was wrongly linked on social media to a Muslim immigrant.

Rioters targeted mosques and hotels linked to immigration, as well as police, vehicles and other sites. However, recent nights have been largely peaceful in English towns and cities, prompting hope among authorities that the more than 700 arrests and numerous people already being jailed has deterred further violence.

However, in Northern Ireland, which has seen sustained disorder since last weekend, police said they were investigating a suspected racially motivated hate crime overnight.

A petrol bomb was thrown at a mosque in Newtownards, east of Belfast, in the early hours of Saturday, with graffiti sprayed on the front door and walls of the building, according to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). It

said the petrol bomb thrown at the property did not ignite.

"This is being treated as a racially motivated hate crime, and I want to send a strong message to those who carried this out, that this type of activity will not be tolerated and any reports of hate crime are taken very seriously," PSNI Chief Inspector Keith Hutchinson said. There was also overnight reports of damage to property and vehicles in Belfast, as nightly unrest there rumbled on.

The disturbances in Northern Ireland were sparked by events in England but have also been fuelled by pro-UK loyalist paramilitaries with their own agenda, according to the PSNI. Around 5,000 anti-racism demonstrators rallied in Belfast on Saturday without incident. In London, hundreds massed outside the office of Brexit architect Nigel Farage's Reform UK party before marching to parliament, as a large police presence looked on.

Farage and other far-right figures have been blamed for helping to fuel the riots through anti-immigrant rhetoric and conspiracy theories.

"It's really important for people of colour in this country, for immigrants in this country, to see us out here as white British people saying 'no, we don't stand for this'," attendee Phoebe Sewell, 32, from London, told AFP.

Fellow Londoner Jeremy Snelling, 64, said he had turned out because "I don't like the right-wing claiming the streets in my name". He did not hold Farage "personally responsible" for the violence but argued that the Reform party founder had "contributed" to the volatile environment.

"I think he is damaging and I think he's dangerous," Snelling added.



People hold signs at a protest against racism outside Finsbury Park Mosque in London.



Independent MP Jeremy Corbyn attends a protest in London.

## PM Starmer scraps holiday to focus on response to riots

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has cancelled a planned holiday to focus on his government's response to a series of racist riots that targeted Muslims and migrants, a Downing Street source said. Thousands of police officers remained on duty over the weekend in case violence flared again although for a fourth day in a row yesterday counter-protesters far outnumbered anti-migration demonstrators in several towns and cities.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Starmer would no longer be going on holiday next week. — Reuters

## Australia tests advanced SM-6 naval air defence missile

Reuters  
Sydney

The Australian government said yesterday it had for the first time test-fired a Raytheon SM-6 missile from a Navy ship, a major step in acquiring and integrating the air-defence weapon into its inventory. The HMAS Sydney conducted the test near the US state of Hawaii as part of the Pacific Dragon 2024 exercise, Australia's defence ministry said, calling it a "significant milestone" in a deal first approved in 2021.

The SM-6 is the most advanced naval air defence missile in the US arsenal, including against ballistic missiles, and has also been tested for striking ships and ground targets, and in air-to-air scenarios. "This is another example of the acceleration in acquisitions of critical capabilities for the Navy," said Pat Conroy, Australia's minister for defence industry and capability delivery. "The ability to deter an adversary from extended ranges and to deter attempts to project power against Australia is a core part of the National Defence Strategy."

Australia has been working to bolster its military capabilities in the face of rising tensions with China, including US-funded improvements in bases. Expanding the area that a ship can defend forces adversaries to operate farther away and enables the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) to push deeper into contested waters if there is a conflict.

In March, Australia helped with a separate US SM-6 test by providing data collection, communications and tracking, according to the US Missile Defence Agency. The Australian government has not said how many of the missiles they are planning to buy from the United States. But when the foreign military sale was approved in 2021, US government documents show an estimated cost of \$350mn for "defence articles and services".

That number included both SM-6 and older SM-2 missiles, already in use by Australia's navy. The announcement on Saturday did not say when the SM-6 would be operational, but said it would be deployed on Hobart-class destroyers, of which Australia has three. Each can carry 48 air defence missiles.

# India, Maldives look to reset ties after troops expelled

AFP  
Malé

India's foreign minister called for stronger ties with the Maldives, on his first trip to the archipelago nation since its pro-China president expelled Indian troops. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said he was "committed to deepen India-Maldives ties", after meeting President Mohamed Muizzu in Male yesterday.

Jaishankar earlier said he was in the Maldives to "take stock of our defence and security engagement", months after Muizzu's administration signed a military assistance pact with Beijing. Known as a luxury holiday destination with pristine white sand beaches and secluded resorts, the atoll nation has also become a geopolitical hotspot.

India is suspicious of China's growing presence in the Indian Ocean, and Male's military deal with Beijing came as Muizzu or-

dered a garrison of Indian soldiers stationed in the Maldives to assist with maritime patrols to leave. Global east-west shipping lanes pass the nation's chain of 1,192 tiny coral islands, stretching around 800km across the equator.

India's government has traditionally considered the Maldives, home to around half a million people, within its sphere of influence. "For India, neighbourhood is a priority and, in the neighbourhood, Maldives is a priority," Jaishankar

said in a speech Friday. Muizzu thanked India for "always supporting" the country, saying their "enduring partnership continues to strengthen, bringing our nations closer through co-operation in security, development, and cultural exchange", in a post on X.

Male's foreign minister Moosa Zameer said the two countries had agreed to strengthen economic ties, proposing negotiations on a free trade agreement with New Delhi. Defence links were also dis-

cussed, including "continuing joint exercises and expanding training opportunities for officers", he added. In June, Muizzu visited New Delhi for Narendra Modi's inauguration as prime minister.

Muizzu's election successes hinged on a sustained campaign against India's outsized political and economic clout in the Maldives.

Its influence has been a periodic source of resentment in the Muslim-majority nation.

# India PM vows support after deadly landslide

AFP  
Mumbai

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday visited the site of landslides that killed more than 200 people last month, vowing to extend "every possible support" to those who lost homes and loved ones.

Torrential monsoon rains battered the southern coastal state of Kerala and triggered landslides on July 30, burying homes and people in Wayanad district under tonnes of rock and soil. The number of fatal floods and landslides in India has increased in recent years and experts say climate change is exacerbating the problem.

Wayanad is known for the tea estates that crisscross its hilly countryside and which rely on a large pool of labourers for planting

and harvest. Many of the landslide victims were workers and their families, who were asleep in brick-walled row houses when they were inundated by a powerful wave of brown sludge. Leader of the opposition Rahul Gandhi, who used to represent Wayanad as a member of parliament, said Modi's visit was "a good decision" and called on him to declare a national disaster. Modi also visited camps where those who fled the landslides are recovering as well as hospitals. "Our prayers are with those affected," Modi said.

"I want to assure the families of the deceased that they are not alone," he added, saying funds for relief or rehabilitation work would be provided. Monsoon rains from June to September offer respite from the summer heat and are crucial for agriculture and replenishing water supplies, but they also bring regular destruction.

## Floods in Assam



Students and villagers stand near a partially collapsed government school following severe soil erosion after an increase in the water level of the Sermanga river during monsoon season in the New Banglajhora village of Kokrajhar district in India's Assam state yesterday.



# From mud brick home to Olympic zenith, an unlikely Pakistani hero

By Mubasher Bukhari and Asif Shahzad  
Lahore

Arshad Nadeem's home village erupted into rapturous celebrations after he clinched Pakistan's first Olympic medal in athletics, winning gold in the men's javelin and knocking defending champion Neeraj Chopra of arch-rival India into second place.

Nadeem's triumph on Thursday in Paris is all the more impressive for a man born and raised in a mud brick house in an impoverished corner of rural Pakistan and forced as a young man to train in local wheat fields with homemade javelins.

The news of his victory, which reached Pakistan late at night, thrilled his compatriots, drawing congratulatory messages from the nation's leaders and prompting jubilant dancing and fireworks in his normally sleepy home village of Mian Channu.

"We have not been able to sleep since last night because relatives,

the media, friends, fans and state functionaries are constantly visiting us to congratulate the family," his oldest brother Shahid Nadeem told Reuters.

"People from surrounding villages came to watch the match here," he said. "We had arranged a big screen. They expressed their joy by chanting, dancing and with fireworks."

Pakistan mostly channels its limited funding for sports into team games such as cricket and hockey.

Nadeem, who compared his Olympic clash with Chopra to the two nations' legendary rivalry in cricket, has previously said it is challenging being a non-cricket athlete in Pakistan, where resources and facilities for his sport are scarce.

But now his record-breaking 92.97 metre javelin throw in Paris has earned Pakistan its first Olympic medal since the 1992 Barcelona Games and its first gold medal since the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

"This gold medal is a gift from me to the entire nation on the oc-

casation of Independence Day (on August 14)," Nadeem said in a post on social media platform X.

## Humble origins

Nadeem, 27, married with two children, comes from a poor family of eight children in the central Pakistani region of Khanewal, where he first began to dream of Olympic greatness.

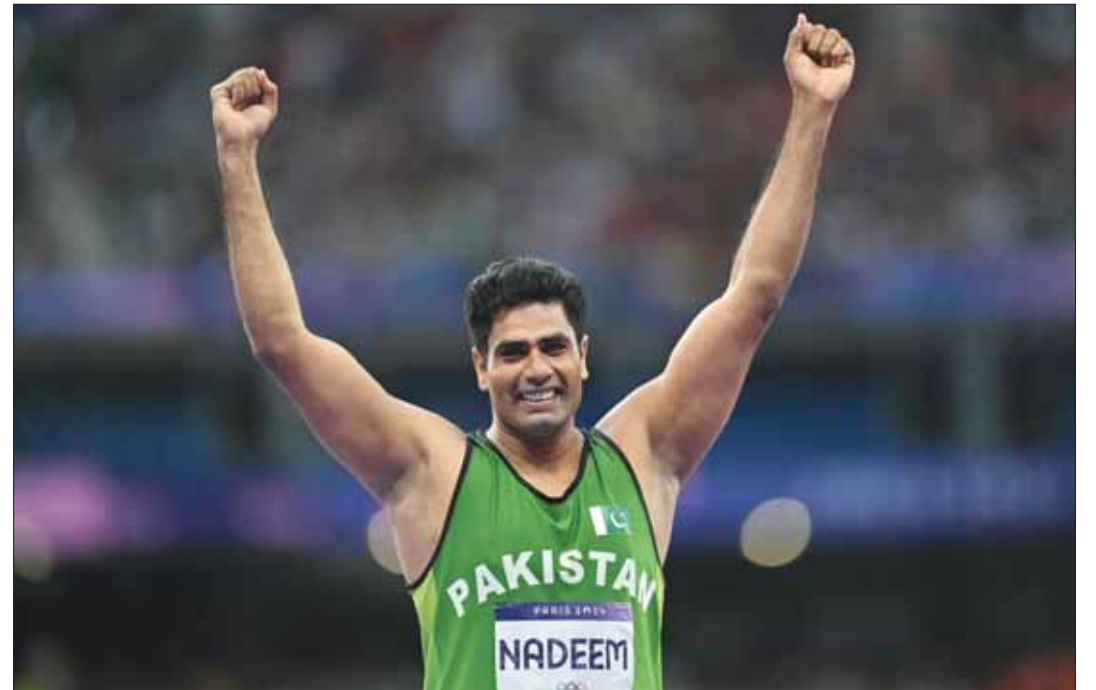
His district barely had reliable water and electricity supplies, let alone proper sports facilities for him to train.

"Initially, we improvised homemade javelins by using long eucalyptus branches with iron tips on their ends. The fields in our village served as our training ground," brother Shahid said.

"We developed our own weight training apparatus by using iron rods, canisters of oil and concrete."

The situation improved when Nadeem joined the local power utility Wapda, which had its own sports facilities.

Even so, Nadeem had still been training with substandard javelins just months before the Paris



COMETH THE HOUR, COMETH THE MAN: Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem reacts after a spectacular and record Olympics throw during the final of the javelin event at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at Stade de France in Saint-Denis, north of Paris, on Thursday. (AFP)

Olympics, until a last-minute appeal saw the Pakistani government step in to help, his mother Razia Parveen told Reuters. "The government sponsored javelins and other facilities for him. He brought back three new international standard javelins from South Africa," she said.

"I am very happy for Arshad and Pakistan... I offered prayers to thank God immediately after his victory," she said from their home, which houses a gym built by Nadeem and his brothers and featuring gear such as iron rods and canisters filled with cement.

And she praised India's silver medal winner. "I also congratulate Chopra," said Razia Parveen. "I congratulate his mother and his family. Victory and defeat are just by fate."

Shahid Nadeem said all four brothers are sportsmen. "My two younger brothers and me abandoned our passion and started jobs to support the family," he added.

However, Nadeem's decision to stick with his passion seems set to change the family's fortunes.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz of Punjab province where Nadeem comes from announced a cash

prize of Rs100mn (\$359,195) as a reward for what she said was his "hard work".

Nadeem will receive a hero's welcome when he returns to Pakistan in the next few days, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif likely to welcome him home, Mohammad Shafiq, head of Pakistan's Olympic Commission, told Reuters from Paris.

"Arshad is living proof that there's nothing you can't accomplish when you dream big, train hard, and never give up," the US embassy in Islamabad said on X.

— Reuters

## Rattled Russians back tough response to Ukraine incursion



Ukrainian servicemen ride a military vehicle near the Russian border in Sumy region, Ukraine, yesterday. (Reuters)

Moscovites yesterday backed a tough response to Ukraine's shock border incursion, the most serious attack by a foreign army on Russian territory since the Second World War.

But there were also pockets of anger on the streets of Moscow over how such a brazen operation could have happened in the first place, with Ukraine having advanced several kilometres into Russian territory, triggering mass evacuations from under-fire border villages.

Russia announced a "counter-terror operation" in Kursk and two other border regions late on Friday night — measures that give the security forces sweeping powers in a bid to bring the situation under control. "It was introduced too late. It should have been put in right away," a man named Denis, who declined to give his surname, told AFP in the centre of Moscow yesterday.

The Kremlin should have "introduced the counter-terror operation regime immediately, and sent in special troops immediately," he added.

Russia on Friday also announced it was rushing more reinforcements to the area, including columns of tanks and rocket launchers. During "counter-terror" operations, Russian authorities can commandeer vehicles, close towns and cities, introduce checkpoints, listen in on phone calls and announce no-go areas.

"We have to take all the steps that are possible in such a situation," said Alexander Ilyin, a 42-year-old architect.

"God willing, this is one of the steps" that will help, he added, saying that

there was still "a lot of work, a lot of action ahead".

At least 76,000 people have fled the border area, the state-run TASS news agency quoted a regional official as saying yesterday.

In Moscow, 500km away, there was still horror at the fact that Ukraine had managed so successfully to pierce through Russia's border. "They seem to be far away from us, but at the same time it feels very close," said Victoria, a 36-year-old analyst at an IT company. "But our family has full confidence in our government. And the measures that are being put in place now — well, that's the way it has to be," she added.

Elmira Lvovna, a 71-year-old former physics teacher, also backed a tough response. "It's probably not a bad thing, because it just organises people," she told AFP about the introduction of the "counter-terror operation".

Since the incursion was launched on Tuesday, President Vladimir Putin and senior Russian officials have sought to balance mounting a resolute military response with trying to appear in control and not spread panic among Russians. Russia has provided few updates on the military situation on state media, while at the same time hailing a major humanitarian response and the provision of government support for those forced to flee.

For some, there is anger at the lack of information.

"There is this fooling of people going on...nobody understands what is happening," Maria, a 35-year-old who works in advertising told AFP.

# Russia launches new operation to halt advancing Ukrainian troops

AFP  
Moscow

Moscow yesterday mounted a "counter-terror operation" in three border regions adjoining Ukraine to halt Kyiv's advance deeper into Russia and warned that the fighting endangered a nuclear power plant.

Ukrainian units stormed into Russia's western Kursk region on Tuesday morning in a shock attack, the largest and most successful cross-border offensive by Kyiv of the two-and-a-half year conflict.

Its troops have advanced several kilometres and Russia's army has rushed in reserves and extra equipment — though neither side has given precise details on the forces they have committed.

Russia's nuclear agency yesterday warned the Ukrainian attack posed a "direct threat" to the nearby Kursk nuclear power station.

At least 16,000 civilians requested state assistance to leave their homes in Russian border areas, where emergency aid has been ferried in, and extra trains to the capital Moscow have been put on for people fleeing.

"The war has come to us," one woman from the border zone told AFP at a Moscow train station on Friday, declining to give her name.

Russia's army confirmed yesterday it will still fighting the Ukrainian incursion.

It said Kyiv initially crossed the border with around 1,000 troops, around 20 armoured vehicles and 11 tanks though it claimed yesterday to have destroyed five times that much military hardware so far.

Russia's national anti-terrorism committee said late Friday it was starting "counter-terror operations in the Belgorod, Bryansk and Kursk regions...in order to ensure the safety of citizens and suppress the threat of terrorist acts being carried out by the enemy's sabotage groups."



A Russian military helicopter fires following Ukraine's incursion into the border area in the Kursk region, Russia, in this still image from video released yesterday. (Reuters)

## A convict in Kremlin critic murder freed from jail to fight in Ukraine

A man convicted in the killing of Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov has been discharged from jail after signing a contract to join the military operation in Ukraine, state-run news agencies TASS and RIA Novosti reported yesterday.

Nemtsov, a critic of President Vladimir Putin and former deputy prime minister under president Boris Yeltsin, was shot dead in 2015 as he walked across a bridge near the Kremlin in the heart of the Russian capital.

In 2017, a Russian court sentenced five men to prison terms ranging from 11 and 20 years for his murder. Among them was Tamerlan Eskerkhanov, who was convicted as an accomplice and jailed for 14 years. "Eskerkhanov signed a contract with the defence ministry in March 2024, was pardoned, and then released from his penal colony," TASS cited a source in law enforcement agencies as saying.

"He went to one of the assault units and is now carrying out combat missions in the special military operation zone."

He added that the other convicts jailed over Nemtsov's killing were still in jail because they had refused to sign contracts with the military.

Ilya Yashin, Nemtsov's one-time spokesman who was freed last week in a high-profile prisoner exchange between Russia, Belarus, the United States and several European countries, called Eskerkhanov's release "scorn for memory of my dead friend."

Tens of thousands of Russian prisoners have volunteered to join the Russian army fighting in Ukraine, taking advantage of an offer of clemency for those who survive their stints at the front.

Security forces and the military are given sweeping emergency powers during "counter-terror" operations.

Movement is restricted, vehicles can be seized, phone calls can be monitored, areas are declared

no-go zones, checkpoints introduced, and security is beefed up at key infrastructure sites.

The anti-terrorism committee said Ukraine had mounted an "unprecedented attempt to destabilise the situation in a number of

regions of our country"

Russia on Friday appeared to hit back, launching a missile strike on a supermarket in the east Ukrainian town of Kostyantynivka that killed at least 14 people. Three were killed in the northeastern Kharkiv region yesterday, local officials said.

Ukraine also said it needed to evacuate 20,000 people from the Sumy region, just across the border from Kursk. Neither side has provided details on the extent of the incursion.

Russia's defence ministry yesterday said it had hit some Ukrainian positions as far as 10km from the border. It also reported hitting Ukrainian troops in areas 30km apart — an indication as to the breadth, as well as depth of Ukraine's advance.

The US-based Institute for the Study of War said yesterday it believed Ukrainian forces had pierced around 13km into Russian territory.

Belarus, Russia's close ally, yesterday ordered military reinforcements — ground troops, air units, air defence and rocket systems — to be deployed closer to its border with Ukraine in response to Kyiv's incursion, the defence ministry in Minsk said.

Moscow issued a nuclear warning over the fate of the Kursk nuclear power plant, under 50km from the combat zone, a day after the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency called for "maximum restraint".

"The actions of the Ukrainian army pose a direct threat" to the Kursk plant in western Russia, state news agencies cited Rosatom as saying.

"At the moment there is a real danger of strikes and provocations by the Ukrainian army," it added.

Ukraine's leaders have remained tight-lipped on the operation.

The United States, Kyiv's closest ally, said it was not informed of the plans in advance.

But President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has appeared to tout his troops' early successes.

## The Belarusian wheelchair barista 'making the world better'

With its sleek interior and freshly ground coffee, the cafe run by Belarusian exile Sasha Avdeevich may at first glance seem like yet another trendy spot in Warsaw.

But the lowered, wheelchair-accessible countertop and a sticker reading: "The barista on shift has a hearing impairment" in Polish, English and Belarusian reveal this is no ordinary business.

Avdeevich, himself a wheelchair user, founded the first "Inclusive Barista" coffee shop while still in Belarus and quickly shot to fame as a disability campaigner in the country controlled with an iron fist by strongman president Alexander Lukashenko. The 40-year-old activist took part in the unprecedented mass protests that swept Belarus after a 2020 election slammed by rights groups as fraudulent.

As Lukashenko brutally cracked down on dissent, Avdeevich knew he had to flee.



Sasha Avdeevich (centre), exiled Belarusian disability rights activist, makes coffee during the opening of his coffee house 'Inclusive Barista'.

"A lot of people called me back then and said, 'Sasha, if you don't want to end up in a coffin, leave the country,'" he told AFP.

He recounted the Covid pandemic-era journey that saw him flee to Georgia initially, then travel on to the Canary Islands before applying for international protection in France.

He eventually moved to Poland, now home to tens of thousands of fellow Belarusians, who, like Avdeevich, fled the repression.

"There are many migrants with disabilities," Avdeevich said. As he settled in Warsaw, Avdeevich launched barista training for people in wheelchairs, threw festivals where the trainees brewed coffee from specially adapted carts, and began to draw up plans for his first cafe in Poland.

When he found a commercial space suited to people with disabilities, close to his flat and in the city's increasingly popular Praga district, Avdeevich and his business partner decided to give it a shot.

"We had money for three months of rent, and we were like: 'Come on, whatever happens, we'll do it,'" he said. Opened in April, the cafe hires people with various disabilities as well as migrants, not only from Belarus. The founders said they want their cafe to be as "international" — and inclusive — as possible.

"We recently organised a rap battle, we will organise a speed dating event soon," Avdeevich said.

The cafe is also launching an inclusive DJing school. Avdeevich lost the use of his legs when he broke his back in a motorbike accident in 2011.

"There's no surgery for this type of disability... it's not possible to walk again, even if I was Bill Gates," Avdeevich laughed.

Shortly after the accident he said he told himself "OK, I'm alive. What can I do? I have working arms."

"And now we're here, in our coffee shop, making this world better."





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## Water scarcity remains critical challenge for significant world population

Water scarcity is one of the most critical issues facing the world today.

Lack of access to clean water leads to the use of contaminated sources, increasing the spread of waterborne diseases like cholera, dysentery, and diarrhoea.

These diseases are a leading cause of death, especially among children in impoverished regions around the world.

Water scarcity limits the ability to maintain proper hygiene, contributing to the spread of infectious diseases and worsening public health crises.

And in many poor communities, especially rural areas, people (often women and children) spend hours each day fetching water from distant sources.

Obviously, this reduces the time available for education, work, or other productive activities, perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

A rising global population coupled with growing urbanisation means cities and townships around the world face the prospect of having to supply their people and businesses from increasingly stretched water resources.

Climate change will make this even more challenging, especially in the way it will change the patterns of rainfall and snow melt upon which most cities have relied, meaning many will face longer or more frequent droughts.

By 2050, it is expected that people's access to water for drinking, agriculture and industry may decrease substantially, even as two-thirds of the global population are projected to live in urban areas. This puts urban

locations at the heart of the challenge to find creative solutions to satisfy our water needs.

Up to 3.5bn people live under conditions of water stress at least one month a year, United Nations noted in a report.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), more than 2bn people only have access to water that is heavily contaminated. Just one sip puts them at risk of illnesses such as cholera and typhoid, and it estimates around 500,000 people a year die as a result.

When it comes to finding clean water there is a resource in our oceans. Icebergs reportedly contain some of the world's purest water as the glaciers they come from formed thousands of years ago. Globally, efforts are being made to tap clean water from icebergs.

Safe drinking water and sanitation are human rights. Without access to these services, a life of dignity, stability and good health is virtually impossible.

Water, when managed sustainably and equitably, can be a source of peace and prosperity. It is also the literal lifeblood of agriculture, the major socio-economic driver for billions of people.

It can promote community stability and peacebuilding – especially in fragile situations – and contribute to migration management and disaster risk reduction.

But, when water is scarce, polluted or difficult to access, food security can be undermined, livelihoods lost, and conflict can follow.

Water scarcity creates a vicious cycle where the lack of access to clean and sufficient water exacerbates poverty, ill health, and inequality, making it one of the most critical challenges facing the world's poorest populations.

In an unstable world where security threats are growing, we must all recognise that ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all – the aim of sustainable development goal 6 – is essential for global prosperity and peace.

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First Place in Genocide  
Presented by the Silent Spectators of the World



## The best climate policy puts carrots before sticks

By **Monika Schnitzer** and **Gernot Wagner**  
Munich/New York

It is widely recognised that the transition to a zero-carbon economy requires both carrots and sticks – incentives and penalties. Less appreciated is the importance of this sequence: carrots before sticks.

True, economists have long insisted that the only way to cut emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases rapidly and at scale is to put a price on them. In a world where burning fossil fuels causes more damage than it adds in value to GDP, each tonne of coal or barrel of oil consumed ultimately destroys collective prosperity.

Calculations of these emissions' social costs provide a guide to pricing them. Accounting for the full damages caused by each tonne of CO2 emitted, an appropriate price is well over \$200. But that comes out to almost \$2 per gallon (or \$0.50 per litre) of gasoline at the pump, which helps to explain why, for example, neither Europe's well-functioning carbon market (with prices of around \$75 per tonne) nor Germany's own carbon tax covers gasoline to the extent needed. In Germany, where 80mn people own 40mn gasoline- and diesel-powered cars, an adequately high tax would appear too punitive to pass political muster.

These calculations also explain why electric vehicles are such an important solution. The technology's advantage lies in basic physics: EVs convert 90% of their power into distance, compared to just 20% for internal combustion engines. And similar efficiency ratios apply when comparing heat pumps to gas furnaces, induction stoves to gas stoves, and LEDs to the incandescent lightbulbs of yore.

That last example is particularly instructive, since the transition to LEDs is already mostly complete. Given that incandescent bulbs were notoriously inefficient – converting 90% of power to heat instead of light – switching to LEDs has paid for itself many times over. But even this common-sense change required coordination to achieve scale, and to overcome barriers like high upfront costs and landlords' unwillingness to provide more efficient bulbs to tenants.

In the United States, it started with the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, signed into law by president George W Bush, which set new efficiency standards for household lightbulbs. That triggered a typical culture-war response, with the Republican congresswoman Michele Bachmann introducing the Light Bulb Freedom of Choice Act in 2008. Fortunately, her bill went nowhere, and nor did president Donald Trump's attempts to abolish efficiency standards a decade later. LEDs had already taken over as the better, more efficient, and ultimately cheaper technology. Physics and economics trumped culture wars, and both consumers and the planet benefited as a result.

The transitions to EVs, heat pumps, induction stoves, and many other newer, better technologies are now following similar – and similarly rapid – trajectories. While the cost of coal power in inflation-adjusted terms has stayed roughly the same for more than 200 years, the costs of solar power and batteries have declined by more than 99% in the past 30 years alone. In fact, solar is now the cheapest source of electricity ever – yes, even accounting for the fact that the sun doesn't shine at night – and it is bound to become even cheaper. Sun, sand, and human innovation are all plentiful, leading to further economies of scale.

But, like LED adoption, rapid solar deployment requires co-ordination among households, utilities, regulators, industry, and those developing new technologies. After all, the goal is to have plug-in EVs charging when the sun shines, and powering the dishwasher or helping to stabilise the local grid when it doesn't.

Co-ordination is also needed to encourage purchases of solar panels and other technologies in the first place. When Germany launched its ambitious Energiewende (energy transition) in 2011, feed-in tariffs and other subsidies helped solar-panel manufacturers climb the learning curve and drive down costs. Solar manufacturers then decamped to China, however, which drove costs down further but hurt German employment. And now, massive new US subsidies under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) may lead more European clean-tech businesses to look to greener shores, this time across the Atlantic.

The proper response to these developments is not to give up on newer, more efficient technologies. It is to find other ways to manufacture and deploy them at home. The European Union's ban on sales of cars powered by internal combustion engines beginning in 2035 would help, as would a coordinated push to support adoption of heat pumps.

Backpedaling on these policies would be a big mistake. Europeans will need to devise creative solutions to subsidise the production and adoption of clean technologies. Electricity-market reforms that reward low-carbon power generation and thereby pass lower solar-power prices on to consumers are a good start. On EVs, heat pumps, and other more efficient products, targeted transition schedules ought to be part of the package. They provide investment certainty and balance carrots and sticks.

New York State, for example, has banned gas connections to most new buildings (a measure that Germany has yet to pass), thus gradually reducing its reliance on a fossil-fuel source while stopping short of taxing it. Minnesota, under the leadership of Governor Tim Walz, now the Democratic candidate for the vice presidency, has similarly passed a law requiring utilities to achieve 60-80% carbon-free electricity by 2030, and 100% by 2040, up from around 50% today. The law is implemented with a flexible renewable portfolio standard, but it is still largely a stick. The carrot: \$2bn in clean-energy subsidies, as part of the state's comprehensive action plan.

Not all goes so smoothly. Though New York Governor Kathy Hochul's long-awaited plan to introduce congestion pricing in New York City would have funded much-needed public-transit investments, it was seen as putting the stick before the carrot. In the event, she bowed to political pressure and abandoned the plan at the last minute. The US is facing broader sequencing questions. Now that many of the IRA subsidies have proven to be wildly popular, when is the right time to follow up the carrot with a stick? The expiration of the Trump tax cuts for the rich next year could be seen as an opportunity finally to start pricing carbon. Of course, all will depend on the outcome of November's presidential election. – Project Syndicate

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• *Gernot Wagner is a climate economist at Columbia Business School and the author, most recently, of Geoengineering: The Gamble.*



In a world where burning fossil fuels causes more damage than it adds in value to GDP, each tonne of coal or barrel of oil consumed ultimately destroys collective prosperity.



# The White House race: How the Harris surge scrambled Trump's battle plan

By Gram Slattery, Alexandra Ulmer and Nathan Layne  
Washington

A little over two weeks ago, Donald Trump's presidential campaign had visions of an expansive national strategy that would result in a landslide victory in November.

Now, as they struggle to blunt a surging Kamala Harris, who swiftly replaced President Joe Biden as the Democratic Party's presidential candidate last month, campaign advisers say they are recalibrating to protect states once thought of as safe and narrowing ambitions for the electoral map.

While top Trump advisers once saw a chance for an electoral blowout — with Democratic-leaning states like Minnesota and Virginia in play — the elevation of Harris has prompted Republicans to refocus on a narrower path to victory that runs through traditional battleground states like Pennsylvania and Georgia.

"The race has changed," Corey Lewandowski, a longtime adviser to the former president, told Reuters, though he said the race still favours Trump. "There's a lot of us that wanted to very actively run against Joe Biden. We felt very good about our race."

Publicly, Trump and his allies have tried vigorously to cast Harris, a Californian, as an out-of-touch liberal and link her to unpopular Biden policies on immigration and inflation. They say it matters little whether they are facing Biden or Harris.

Internally, nine sources told Reuters they see Vice-President Harris as a far tougher opponent than Biden, who had been struggling for months in the face of doubts about his mental acuity and weakening poll numbers.

"It doesn't change the map as much as to shrink it. Now there's no reason to talk about places like New Jersey anymore," said a member of the Trump campaign, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal campaign matters.

Reuters interviewed 12 campaign staff, advisers and donors who described a campaign that is grasping for a fresh strategy as it confronts a younger, more dynamic Democratic candidate who has energised the Democratic base and raised hundreds of millions of dollars in a matter of days.

"It's clear to everyone she could win," said one senior Trump adviser, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to more freely discuss internal deliberations.

When asked about the prospects of a shrinking battleground map, the Trump team said its strategy hadn't changed



Democratic US presidential candidate Vice-President Kamala Harris speaks during a campaign rally at Desert Diamond Arena on Friday in Glendale, Arizona. (AFP)

since Harris became the Democratic candidate.

"Team Trump has ads in every battleground state, we have expanded the political map to include traditional 'blue states' like Minnesota and Virginia with staff on the ground," Republican Party spokesperson Anna Kelly said.

Ammar Moussa, a Harris campaign spokesman, said Trump and his running mate, US Senator JD Vance, were taking the country backwards, while Harris was taking the country forwards. He did not address the electoral map.

The Trump sources Reuters spoke to pointed to three issues: delays in rolling out attack ads against Harris, which are seen as key for pointing out an opponent's perceived weaknesses; doubts among some Republican leaders and donors over the selection of Vance as running mate; and concerns over Trump himself as he tramples over his advisers' efforts to define Harris based on her policy positions.

One source said the anti-Harris ads had been slow to air in part because the material had to be run by focus groups first.

The campaign also wanted to see who Harris would pick as her running mate, according to the source briefed on the plans.

Harris this week announced Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, a plain-

speaking midwesterner, as her vice-presidential candidate.

#### May memo

By late May, the Trump campaign had started gaming out the possibility that Harris or another Democrat could replace Biden at the top of the ticket, according to an internal memo from campaign staffer Austin McCubbin shared with senior advisers.

The 12-page memo, which was reviewed by Reuters, outlined the Democratic Party's rules for replacing a presidential candidate and possible scenarios, including Biden stepping down voluntarily and an "insider rebellion."

The memo did not detail how to respond to a Harris candidacy.

Tony Fabrizio, a Trump campaign pollster, predicted in a memo released to the press last month that Harris would enjoy a short-term polling boost, but that the race would then settle down. "Harris' 'honeymoon' will end and voters will refocus on her role as Biden's partner and co-pilot," he wrote in the memo.

In the lead-up to Biden's exit, the Trump-aligned MAGA Inc super PAC readied a TV ad accusing Harris of covering up Biden's infirmity. It began airing in four swing states on July 21, the day Biden announced that he was ending his re-election campaign.

At the same time, the campaign found itself on the defensive over Trump's selection of Vance as his running mate.

Vance has faced a wave of negative press over past comments referring to some Democrats, including Harris, as "a bunch of childless cat ladies," an insult seen as misogynistic and dismissive of people without children.

The Republican National Committee and the campaign have been fielding calls from some donors who fear Vance has become a distraction and is dragging the ticket down, according to two sources aware of the calls.

As the campaign focuses on a smaller map, Vance is expected to spend more time in relatively conservative and rural places, particularly in Rust Belt states, like Michigan and Pennsylvania, where his rural roots and concerns about industrial decay are more likely to resonate with voters, according to four sources close to the campaign or vice-presidential candidate.

This week, Vance has held press conferences near Harris-Walz campaign events in Wisconsin and Michigan.

#### Trump attacks Harris — and his allies

And then there is Trump's resort to name-calling instead of focusing on Harris' policy positions. Trump has cycled furiously through a series of personal insults against Harris.

Those efforts have generated negative headlines — about Trump, rather than Harris.

At an event for the National Association of Black Journalists last week, Trump questioned whether Harris — whose mother was born in India and whose father was born in Jamaica — was actually Black. That left donors and aides baffled and alarmed, according to a Republican donor, an operative at a pro-Trump super PAC spending group, and a Trump-supporting union leader.

Three days later, Trump attacked Georgia's Republican governor, Brian Kemp, at a rally, possibly alienating a popular figure in a battleground state where Trump could need help mobilising voters to the polls.

Trump has also been firing off multiple, convoluted missives on his Truth Social app, including one on Tuesday in which he mused about Biden returning to the top of the ticket.

In the spring and earlier this summer, as public opinion polls showed Trump expanding his lead over Biden in battleground states, the former president did events in what had been considered safe Democratic areas — Minnesota, Virginia, even New York City — in a bid to expand the electoral map.

By last Saturday, Trump was back to basics: campaigning in Georgia, where polls showed the race had tightened after Harris' entry.

The state is going to be fiercely competitive, with Trump clinging to a slight edge thanks to support from some Black voters, said Mark Rountree, a Georgia pollster who is not affiliated with either campaign.

And Trump is getting outspent on campaign ads in battleground states, according to AdImpact, a firm that tracks campaign ad spending.

Harris and affiliated committees have outspent Trump and his allies \$112mn to \$70.1mn on ads since July 22, according to AdImpact data, although Trump has matched Harris' outlays in Pennsylvania, perhaps the most crucial state for each side.

In terms of future reservations of TV air time, Harris and her allies are swamping Trump \$172.4mn to \$71.8mn as of this week, the firm said, although those figures are likely to change in the coming weeks.

Perhaps most telling was the Trump campaign's significant new ad buy in North Carolina, which had looked likely to remain Republican until Harris' ascension energised Black and young voters.

"They're putting money in there now in the hope she decides to leave it alone," said Justin Sayfie, a Republican lobbyist and Trump fundraiser.

However, the Harris campaign is already up on the air in the state. — Reuters

## Developers of vapes for migraine and asthma will need to win over sceptics

The companies and experts say inhalation can relieve pain in seconds, with fewer side effects than pills, but their ambitions to sell devices resembling vapes in the medical sphere, amid growing concerns about their health impacts, will be a tough task

By Emma Rumney  
London

A handful of North American companies which see potential for vape-like devices to ease migraines and respiratory diseases such as asthma have a long road to convince health authorities and patients that their products can be the future of inhaled medication.

Two companies, Qnovia and MIIST Therapeutics, have developed vape-like devices based on technology used in existing medical nebulisers, which turns liquid medications into a fine mist.

Another company, Greentank, says it has developed a way to vaporise substances via a heating chip that addresses safety concerns with current vapes and may offer a better way to treat ailments like migraines.

The companies and experts say inhalation can relieve pain in seconds, with fewer side effects than pills, but their ambitions to sell devices resembling vapes in the medical sphere, amid growing concerns about their health impacts, will be a tough task.

For now, Qnovia and MIIST will launch their products initially as prescription-only nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) treatments, while Greentank is initially targeting the use of its heating chip in recreational cannabis and nicotine vapes.

The companies ultimately aim to see their devices delivering a wide range of drugs and Douglas Dunlap, chief commercial officer at Greentank, cites migraine medication as an example.

A common method of administering migraine treatment is via a pill, which takes up to an hour to kick in and can include symptoms such as vomiting and dizziness.

"If we could shorten that, it would be a huge success for us," said Dunlap, a former executive at vape giant JUUL, adding vapes can deliver a hit within 60 seconds.



A mock-up of Qnovia's nicotine replacement therapy device RespiRx.

Three billion people globally suffer from migraines, according to the World Health Organisation. Hundreds of millions more have conditions like asthma or pulmonary diseases, treated with inhaled medications.

Pharmaceutical company GSK alone generated almost £7bn (\$8.9bn) of revenue from general respiratory medicines for conditions such as asthma and pulmonary diseases in 2023.

Federico Buonocore, a professor focused on alternative pulmonary drug delivery at Kingston University in Britain, said existing inhaled drug delivery devices are clunky and difficult to operate, and so tend to be used wrongly.

A vape-like design could solve such challenges, he said.

Big Tobacco firms have already tried and failed to tap into this market, their efforts fraught by mistrust and opposition from health officials.

Philip Morris International last year scrapped a goal to earn over \$1bn in annual

revenue by 2025 from its wellness and healthcare unit, which includes a business making asthma inhalers.

CEO Jacek Olczak said the company had been "too optimistic about how the external environment will accept... Big Tobacco" in industries outside of nicotine. An inhaled aspirin product developed by the unit was also deemed unsuccessful after a clinical trial last year.

Virginia-based Qnovia and California-based MIIST are pharmaceutical firms and not associated with Big Tobacco, although some of their top executives came from that industry.

Qnovia CEO Brian Quigley, a former boss of tobacco giant Altria, told Reuters the company plans to submit drug applications in the US soon and the United Kingdom in 2026 for its device as an NRT, and launch a clinical trial in September.

MIIST also needs to secure regulatory approvals. Its Phase I clinical trial found its device could ease cravings faster than other approved NRTs like patches and

gums — notoriously ineffective in helping smokers quit.

Toronto-based Greentank, which was founded in 2015 to make vaping hardware, will see the first US cannabis vape using its technology launched in September by US company Jaunty.

Greentank is now looking for a pharmaceutical partner to support the development of its heating chip for medicine delivery.

MIIST founder Dalton Signor told Reuters he hopes the company's device could one day be used to administer drugs for things like pain and anxiety relief.

However, he said a major challenge is ensuring devices like MIIST's are not conflated with typical vapes — the subject of growing health concerns.

Authorities like the World Health Organisation say vapes can produce harmful chemicals like formaldehyde and heavy metals, and their long-term impacts are uncertain.

Venture capital investor Catharine Dockery, CEO of Vice Ventures, said her firm backed Qnovia because its nebuliser technology does not use heat, a process that can result in harmful emissions.

Greentank's device does use heat — a fact that also means some drugs may not work with it.

Dunlap said Greentank is in the early stages of trying to identify medicines that are suited to the technology, and testing shows its heating method does not result in any harmful emissions.

But many may remain sceptical. Kingston University's Buonocore researched the use of e-cigarettes as drug delivery devices.

"The first thing everyone told me was: 'It is wrong to use this device as a medical device,'" he said, adding that concerns included that it would be inappropriate to prescribe them to children.

"Coming out of that stigma is going to be very difficult for the sector." — Reuters



A mock-up of Greentank's heating chip inside a vape part.



# Jiwan's 'Distinctively Doha' bring delight to Parisian palates

Jiwan, the flagship restaurant of the National Museum of Qatar (NMQ), has successfully concluded its week-long takeover of Le Dali at Le Meurice hotel in Paris.

As the world gathered for the Olympics, Jiwan brought "Distinctively Doha" flavours to the heart of the city, leaving a lasting impression on Parisian palates.

Throughout the week, Jiwan showcased authentic Middle Eastern cuisine prepared by head chef Morgan Perrigaud, executive chef Jeremy Cheminade, and executive pastry chef Lucas Fourdrinier.

The menu, blending traditional ingre-

dients and modern culinary techniques, highlighted the rich cultural heritage and diverse flavours of Doha.

Guests enjoyed desserts crafted by Chef Fourdrinier, along with a special creation from renowned pastry chef Cedric Grolet.

Le Dali provided the perfect setting for Jiwan's culinary showcase, the restaurant's sophisticated ambiance and attentive service allowing guests to fully immerse themselves in the flavours and traditions of Doha.

The weeklong event attracted a diverse audience including food enthusiasts, Parisians and international guests

visiting the city for the Olympics.

The positive reception from diners underscored the success of Jiwan's Parisian venture, with diners praising the restaurant for its authenticity and creativity.

"We are thrilled by the warm reception and appreciation for our food," Head chef Perrigaud said. "Our goal was to offer an authentic and innovative taste of Doha, and we are delighted that our efforts resonated with the Parisian audience."

As Jiwan returns to the NMQ on August 14, the success of the takeover is a milestone in its journey to promote Qatar's Middle Eastern cuisine on a global stage.



The Jiwan team in Paris.



## 6th edition of QCDC's 'My Career - My Future' programme concludes

The Qatar Career Development Centre (QCDC), founded by Qatar Foundation, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour (MoL), has successfully concluded the sixth edition of its annual "My Career - My Future" programme.

The five-day event provided more than 80 high school students with practical exposure to various career paths in more than 13 organisations.

The programme culminated in a closing ceremony at Education City's Student Centre "Multaq", attended by QCDC leadership, representatives from the MoL, and partner organisations.

The event highlighted the students' experiences throughout the programme and featured weeklong competitions that challenged them to apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills.

During the ceremony, students were recognised for their dedication and active participation, with awards for their achievements and certificates of completion presented to all participants.

QCDC career programmes and services manager Saad al-Kharji said he is proud to conclude the sixth edition of the "My Career - My Future" programme, adding that it is a key component of broader efforts to



provide students with practical exposure and experience in sectors that are deemed important to Qatar's sustainable development journey.

He added that the programme comple-

ments the ongoing initiatives to equip youth with the skills, knowledge, and awareness needed for their future careers, affirming that he is grateful to the partners at the MoL and all participating organisa-

tions for helping the QCDC realise this objective and to the students for their commitment and active engagement.

Director of the MoL's Department of Qualifying Skills Development, Abdulrah-

man Mohamed Talfat, expressed his satisfaction with the partnership between the ministry and the QCDC, praising the students' commitment to active engagement in the programme. - QNA



Snapshots from the programme.



## Qatar Chamber encouraging entrepreneurship in healthcare

Qatar Chamber has called for promoting entrepreneurship and innovation among the youth.

This came in a workshop organised by Qatar Chamber in collaboration with the Young Entrepreneurs Club (under the umbrella of the Ministry of Sports and Youth) under the title of *Entrepreneurship in Health Sector*.

Young Entrepreneurs Club president Dr Ibrahim Khalid al-Sulaiti underscored the workshop's significance, noting that it came within the framework of the memorandum of understanding

(MoU) signed between the club and Qatar Chamber this year, aiming to enhance co-operation in entrepreneurship.

He stressed the importance of entrepreneurship in the health and sports sectors, pointing to the need to adopt non-traditional and advanced entrepreneurial projects in these fields that achieve greater popularity.

The workshop addressed topics including healthy food, the role of healthy nutrition, the importance of balance between food groups, the dangers of fast food. - QNA

## QSC takes part in Gulf Science Forum in Oman

The Qatar Scientific Club (QSC), a Ministry of Sports and Youth affiliate, is to participate in the Gulf Science Forum in Salalah, Oman, which gets underway today and runs until August 16.

The QSC delegation will include QSC executive director Eng. Rashid al-Rahimi and Sheikh Ali bin Salman al-Thani, in his capacity as an arbitrator in education, along with several Qatari inventors.

Mohamed al-Qassabi will present his invention "O Pass", which helps football referees detect offside using UWB (ultra-wideband) technology on the ball and players, accurately monitoring their locations throughout the match.

Muneera al-Baker will showcase her project, a powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) device designed to protect medical staff from viral infections.

Saleh al-Abdullah will present his project, which aims to revolutionise food delivery by using a smart app and small, autonomous ground vehicles to collect orders from restaurants and stores and delivering them to customers.

Sarah al-Baker will introduce her project, which consists of a wireless power transmission device that uses electromagnetic energy to transmit power from one location to another, a useful tool during emergencies and disasters.

Her device has won several awards, including one at the International Exhibition of Inventions Geneva.

Hamad al-Yafei will participate with his smart farm project, which focuses on providing a sustainable and

smart agricultural environment suitable for all types of farms.

Anfal al-Sulaiti will present a project, which aims to provide a portable and easy-to-move cooling device which could be used outdoors, in open markets, or during sporting activities.

The device has the shape of a shell, inspired by the local environment.

QSC executive director al-Rahimi told the Qatar News Agency (QNA) that participating in these Gulf forums underscores the Ministry of Sports and Youth's commitment to empowering young people by facilitating the exchange of experiences and ideas with creative and innovative youth, in addition to preparing a promising generation capable of competing in international forums and promoting a culture of innovation, setting it as a cultural principle for the advancement of society.

He added that the projects to be showcased were developed by a specialist technical team at the QSC, which made sure that the projects were practical and had produced prototypes.

The QSC official said that the forum will feature an innovation and invention exhibition divided into six fields: food security, education, logistical support, health, tourism, and energy.

He added that participants will compete for various awards, including those associated with the exhibition and hackathon awards. - QNA

## Qatar Airways launch customer of Boeing's newest 777-8 freighter: Arekat

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In July 2022, the Qatari carrier committed to up to 50 Boeing 737-10s with an order for 25 airplanes and options for 25.

In April 2023, Qatar Airways took delivery of its first 737-8, the first Boeing single-aisle airplane in the airline's fleet.

During the Farnborough International Airshow last month, Boeing and Qatar Airways announced the Doha-based airline's order for 20 more 777-9 airplanes.

The order, which expands the carrier's 777X order book to nearly 100 airplanes, was finalised earlier this year.

On the current state of Boeing's re-

lationship with Qatar, Arekat said: "We have been partners since 2006, when Qatar Airways placed its first order for Boeing 777 airplanes. Since then, Boeing's relationship with Qatar and our commitment to supporting Qatar National Vision 2030, have strengthened and grown."

In 2010, Boeing solidified its ties with

Qatar by establishing its office in Doha.

With more than 360 staff, Boeing is active in all sectors of aerospace in Qatar.

"Thanks to the support and continuous partnership with the government of Qatar, Invest Qatar, and the Qatar Foundation, Boeing's investments have helped grow the local aerospace sector, creating

jobs and driving innovation," Arekat said.

"A proud moment for Boeing in Qatar was our contribution during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022," he added. "More than 60 teammates supported our airline customers, while our defence platforms were monitoring the safety and security of the airspace."