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# GULF TIMES



THURSDAY Vol. XXXV No. 13229

December 19, 2024  
Jumada II 18, 1446 AH

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## BUSINESS | Page 1

Retail sales in Qatar projected to grow at an annualised rate of 2.2% up to 2028: Alpen Capital

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# QND inspires unity among citizens: PM

QNA  
Doha

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani emphasised that Qatar National Day is a noble and inspiring national occasion that embodies the spirit of unity, cohesion and belonging among citizens, and affirms their pride in the legacy of the Founder, Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, who laid the foundations of a strong and unified state, making Qatar a model of steadfastness and independence.

In a special statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign

Affairs noted that Qatar National Day offers a great and renewed opportunity to emphasise the ongoing march of exceptional achievements across various fields under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, who leads Qatar with determination and confidence towards new horizons, committed to realising Qatar National Vision 2030 and strengthening its position on the global stage.

"Celebrating this national occasion reaffirms our commitment, as successive generations, to follow the path of our fathers and grandfathers. We remain dedicated to defending our homeland and its dignity, working with utmost sincerity to elevate, advance and prosper it. We renew our pledge to continue the journey of develop-

ment and progress under the banner of our wise leadership.

"On this special day, Qatari society — both citizens and residents — strengthens its loyalty and solidarity, united in continuing the path of development and renaissance in this generous homeland, proud of its enduring values and ambitious vision," HE Sheikh Mohammed said.

He noted that the Founder, Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, laid a strong foundation for an independent state based on unity, justice, noble human values, and a relentless pursuit of development and growth. "He established the pillars of the modern State of Qatar and embodied piety, justice and courage. A lover of science and knowledge, he was endowed with leadership wisdom and a spirit of sacrifice. **To Page 3**

## Amir congratulates citizens, residents on National Day

### Amir receives congratulations on QND

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani congratulated the citizens and residents of Qatar on the occasion of Qatar National Day, celebrated annually on December 18.

His Highness the Amir said in a post on his official X account: "On our cherished National Day, I extend my congratulations to all citizens and residents. I pray to Allah to bless us with the return of this occasion every year, bringing with it goodness and joy, and to continue bestowing peace, happiness and prosperity upon Qatar and its people. Wishing a Happy National Day to all of us." His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received cables of congratulations from leaders and presidents of sisterly and friendly countries, on the occasion of Qatar National Day. His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani received cables of congratula-



tions from the deputies and crown princes of sisterly and friendly countries, on the occasion of Qatar National Day.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received cables of congratulations from the heads of government of sisterly and friendly countries, on the occasion of Qatar National Day. — **QNA**

## First severe human case of bird flu reported in US

The US reported its first severe human case of bird flu yesterday in a Louisiana resident who is hospitalised in critical condition after suspected contact with an infected backyard flock. California declared an emergency over the H5N1 virus as it spread more widely in dairy herds and after it has infected dozens of farm workers this year. Federal and state officials have failed to control the nation's outbreak. Severe respiratory illness in the Louisiana patient shows increased health risks for people from the virus.

## UN calls for free and fair elections in Syria

The UN envoy to Syria called yesterday for "free and fair" elections after the ouster of president Bashar al-Assad, as he voiced hope for a political solution for Kurdish-held areas. Addressing reporters in Damascus, UN special envoy Geir Pedersen said "there is a lot of hope that we can now see the beginning of a new Syria. A new Syria that... will adopt a new constitution... and that we will have free and fair elections when that time comes, after a transitional period," he said. **Page 8**

## 13 dead after navy boat rams ferry

An Indian navy speedboat undergoing tests in the busy seas off the financial capital Mumbai lost control and slammed into a ferry, killing 13 people, the navy and government said yesterday. "Doctors have declared 13 people dead", Maharashtra state chief minister Devendra Fadnavis told reporters, adding more than 100 people had been rescued. **Page 9**

## Russia intensifies assaults in Kursk

Moscow has intensified its attacks on Ukrainian forces battling to hold an enclave in Russia's Kursk region and increased pressure in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, Ukraine's top army commander said. As the war approaches its fourth year, Ukrainian troops are weary and outnumbered along the 1,170km frontline. He added that Russia was "actively" using North Korean troops who were taking significant losses.

## QND celebrations conclude at Katara



Katara Cultural Village's Qatar National Day celebrations concluded yesterday, after attracting thousands of citizens and expatriates who enjoyed the national and heritage events and the impressive military displays. **PICTURE: Shajji Kayamkulam Page 11**

## QCB reduces interest rates by 30 basis points

Qatar Central Bank (QCB) decided to reduce the current interest rates for deposits, lending and repo by 0.30% or 30 basis points (bps) last night. The new rates will take effect on Sunday, December 22, QCB noted. Qatar Central Bank's deposit rate (QCBDR) will now be 4.60%, lending rate (QCBLR) 5.10% and repo rate (QCBRR) 4.85%. In a message on X, QCB said the rate cut followed its "assessment of the current monetary policy of the State of Qatar. Meanwhile, the United States Central Bank - Federal Reserve announced a quarter-point cut to its key interest rate last night, an effort to keep stable what appears to be a steady but cooling economy.

## Real Madrid outclass Pachuca to win Intercontinental Cup 3-0



Sports and Youth Minister HE Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani presents Real Madrid's Brazilian forward Vinicius Junior with the golden ball trophy after the 2024 FIFA Intercontinental Cup final against Mexico's Pachuca at the Lusail Stadium in Doha yesterday.



Kylian Mbappe and Vinicius Junior both scored as Real Madrid cruised to a 3-0 victory over Mexican side Pachuca in the Intercontinental Cup final in Doha yesterday. Mbappe opened the scoring in the 37th minute before Rodrygo doubled Madrid's lead early in the second half. Vinicius sealed a comfortable win for the Spanish and European champions with a late penalty. **Sport Page 1**

## Mediators intensify Gaza truce efforts; genocide toll 45,097

Reuters  
Cairo

The United States, joined by Arab mediators Qatar and Egypt, sought yesterday to conclude an agreement between Israel and Palestinian resistance movement Hamas to halt the 14-month-old war in the Gaza Strip.

A Palestinian official close to the negotiations said that mediators had narrowed gaps on most of the agreement's clauses. He said Israel had introduced conditions which Hamas rejected but would not elaborate.

On Tuesday, sources close to the talks in Cairo said an agreement could be signed in coming days on a ceasefire and a release of hostages held in Gaza in return for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

Medics said an Israeli air strike killed at least 10 people in a house in the northern town of Beit Lahiya while six were killed in separate air strikes in Gaza City, Nuseirat camp



A Palestinian man evacuates from his home with his belongings, at the Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

in central areas, and Rafah near the border with Egypt.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 45,097 people have been killed during more than 14 months of the war. The toll includes 38 deaths in the previous 24 hours, according to the ministry.





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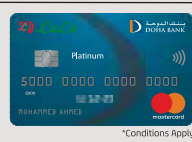


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# QND inspires unity among citizens: PM

From Page 1

“Following in his footsteps, the rulers of Qatar have upheld his righteous path, demonstrating prestige, wisdom and integrity, while embodying the spirit of national unity and consensus.

“The noble deeds, enduring contributions, and great sacrifices made by our ancestors for the unity, sovereignty, and prosperity of Qatar remain the foundation, driving force, and guiding light that illuminate our path toward further achievements under the leadership of His Highness the Amir. The celebration of Qatar National Day is a commemoration of these accomplishments across various fields.” Regarding Qatar’s diplomatic achievements, he stated: “The National Day is a cherished occasion through which we reaffirm our commitment at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to implement the directives of His Highness the Amir, aiming to fulfil the aspirations and interests of the people, as well as the strategic objectives of the State. This includes strengthening close co-operation with various countries and organisations.”

He further explained that since its founding, Qatar has followed wise policies grounded in fair principles, making significant contributions to strengthening international peace and security by supporting the peaceful resolution of global disputes. Qatar also plays a leading role in addressing key global issues of

concern to the international community, such as climate change, poverty, terrorism, and providing humanitarian aid. These efforts have solidified Qatar’s position on the global stage, earning it respect and a prestigious standing internationally.

In the context of Qatar’s mediation efforts in partnership with the Arab Republic of Egypt and the US, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs highlighted the results of the tripartite mediation, which included a humanitarian truce agreement in November 2023 that led to a temporary ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, the release of 240 Palestinian prisoners and 109 detainees, and an increase in the flow of relief shipments.

HE Sheikh Mohammed also noted that Qatari mediation facilitated the exchange of detainees between the US and Venezuela, as well as the reunification of dozens of Ukrainian children with their families after being separated by war.

With its unwavering determination and wise vision, Qatar will continue to be a beacon of hope and peace, tirelessly working to contribute to global security and stability, HE the Prime Minister stressed.

“Qatar will remain a refuge for the oppressed and will always strive to preserve security and stability,” he reaffirmed.

Regarding the key goals that Qatar aims to achieve as it enters a new phase of development under the

Third National Development Strategy (2024-2030), HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs highlighted that this year’s celebration comes at a pivotal moment. Qatar is confidently progressing toward a new development phase within the framework of the Third National Development Strategy, a crucial step in realising Qatar National Vision 2030. In this context, he outlined the efforts made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enhance Qatar’s regional and global position through an integrated diplomatic strategy that focuses on strengthening ties with friendly and sisterly nations, fostering co-operation in security, economic, and sustainable development fields, and developing strategic relationships that support national interests and promote regional and global security.

He emphasised the strategic focus on developing future sectors that are key drivers of sustainable growth, such as artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and innovative industries, through increased investments in these vital areas, alongside efforts to leverage technological and digital transformations. These initiatives enhance the country’s ability to diversify its economy and reinforce its pioneering role in leading global advancements.

Concluding his statement, HE Sheikh Mohammed reaffirmed Qatar’s deep commitment to its ambitious strategy. He emphasised the country’s determina-



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani

tion to continue its development journey, strengthen its leadership across all sectors, and strive for further progress and prosperity, reflecting its visionary approach to a brighter future.



HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani

## ‘Celebrating National Day solidifies sense of belonging’

HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani said that celebrating National Day enhances the sense of belonging among all segments of society and reinforces the sense of loyalty to the homeland and to its wise leadership, continuing on the path of development and prosperity.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE Sheikh Abdulrahman said that celebrating National Day stems from the conviction that the homeland is a trust, with the sense of belonging being an expression of the renewal of the relationship with the homeland.

He added that this occasion is a time to reflect on the legacy of the founding fathers who paved the way for the progress of this country on all fronts, describing this remembrance as being a duty emanating from loyalty to them and in recognition for their great contributions.

HE the Minister of Culture said that National Day embodies valuable principles, notably social cohesion and unity, looking to the past for inspiration and the present as a chance to overcome challenges, something that Qataris have proven to do so well. He explained that these principles form the essence to be instilled into society, teaching the youth to love their country and nurture their sense of belonging.

He highlighted the importance of the family unit and its role as society’s building block and its true wealth, adding that the family lies at the core of enhancing national identity. He pointed out that communal strength depends on family cohesion, with both the individual and the social sphere impacting one another with regards to thoughts, behaviour, and ethics.

He added that national identity is based on fundamental principles such as a sense of belonging to the homeland, pride in its culture and glorious history, adherence to Islam, and

preserving the Arabic language, with the family playing a central role in upholding these elements.

HE Sheikh Abdulrahman said that investing in the family unit yields a sense of citizenship, which takes shape by being fully aware of one’s rights and duties toward the homeland.

He added that one should not ask what one gains from one’s country, rather, what one gives it, which could manifest itself through community participation, promoting a culture of excellence, and contributing to development in various fields.

HE the Minister also touched on the country’s cultural life, overseen by the Ministry of Culture, which aims to educate and enhance morality. He said that culture is a key pillar in strengthening national identity and citizenship, as such he pointed out that the majority of the ministry’s cultural work go in this direction, as is the case with the Organising Committee for Qatar National Day Celebrations, which organises the annual events at Darb Al Saai and the Doha International Book Fair, which for its part encourages reading and instils morality, given reading’s positive impact on shaping the personality of the youth.

He also referred to ‘Children’s Doha’ and its role in widening children’s horizons and development, as well as ‘Mythayel’ and its role in spreading morality.

Finally, HE Sheikh Abdulrahman underscored the ministry’s commitment to nurturing the sense of citizenship among all segments of society, for which it uses the theatre as a medium, exemplified by the children and students’ theatres, not to mention the Doha Theatrical Festival, which lied at the heart of it all.

He said that the ministry puts together programmes to strengthen the youth’s understanding of national identity in addition to learning about other diverse cultures. (QNA)

# Qatar.. The beating heart of mediation and humanitarian initiatives

QNA  
Doha

Mediation and peaceful conflict resolution have become integral parts of Qatar’s political identity. Doha has earned recognition as a capital of mediation and conflict resolution, with its efforts achieving remarkable success acknowledged by many countries and related institutions. Qatar’s initiatives have significantly contributed to peace, security, and stability in regions such as Afghanistan, Lebanon, Sudan, the Horn of Africa, Chad, Venezuela and Ukraine.

Qatar’s foreign policy is characterised by its independent, neutral, and flexible approach, based on dialogue, preventive diplomacy, mediation, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. This policy aligns with Article 7 of Qatar’s Permanent Constitution, which emphasises promoting international peace and security through dialogue and peaceful means.

Qatar’s mediation successes in various crises have shown that mediation can transform conflicts into opportunities by building bridges of dialogue and converting discord into understanding. This has made mediation a cornerstone of sustainable peace. Qatar remains committed to the UN Charter and international law in its mediation efforts and good offices, underscoring the importance of the role of the Security Council and the international community in supporting and consolidating mediation and preventive diplomacy.

Throughout the past months of 2024, Qatar’s mediation efforts have continued around the clock, especially in the Gaza Strip. This demonstrates Doha’s unwavering commitment to preventive diplomacy and mediation as effective means of resolving conflicts.

Qatar is working in partnership with Egypt and the US to achieve an immediate and lasting ceasefire in Gaza, release prisoners and detainees, and ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid and medical supplies to over 2mn Palestinians in the besieged Strip.

Following the seven-day truce and prisoner exchange between Hamas and Israel in November of last year, Qatar, in co-operation with France, reached an agreement in January to deliver medicine and humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza, particularly in the most affected areas, in exchange for providing the necessary medicines for Israeli hostages in the Strip.

Qatar has also received several batches of wounded Palestinians from Gaza for treatment in Doha, as part of an initiative by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to treat 1,500 Palestinians from Gaza. Additionally, several Palestinian residents holding Qatari residency who were stranded in Gaza due to the conflict have been evacuated.

In the Ukrainian context, Qatar announced in April the arrival of 20 Russian and Ukrainian families, including 37 children, in Doha as part of a comprehensive programme aimed at providing healthcare and



support. This is part of Qatar’s ongoing mediation efforts to reunite families separated by the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. These efforts have successfully reunited numerous children with their families. In the latest operation in September, Qatar successfully reunited 14 children with their families in Ukraine and Russia. Qatar expressed its appreciation to both countries for their co-operation and commitment to ensuring the safety and care of these children, highlighting that their cooperation was key to the success of the mediation efforts.

On Nov 28, Russia handed over seven children to Ukraine to reunite them with their families. The handover took place at the Qatari embassy in Moscow, attended by Qatar’s ambassador Sheikh Ahmed bin Nasser al-Thani and representatives of Maria Lvova-Belova, the Russian Presidential Commissioner for Children’s Rights. This step came a day after Ukraine handed over two children to Russia as part of the family reunification process mediated by Qatar at the Qatari embassy in Moscow.

In another significant diplomatic effort, Qatar’s mediation in February led to the release of an Austrian citizen who had been detained in Afghanistan. His Highness the Amir received a phone call from Austrian Federal Chancellor Karl Nehammer, who expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the Amir on Qatar’s diplomatic efforts in securing the Austrian citizen’s release.

For at least two decades, Qatar has played a mediating role in numerous regional and international disputes. Despite the challenges and complexities, Qatari mediation has successfully brought about positive resolutions to many crises and conflicts in the Arab region and beyond. Notable achievements include brokering a truce in Yemen (2008-2010), hosting

the Lebanese National Dialogue, facilitating the Darfur negotiations and signing the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, hosting the talks between the US and the Afghan Taliban which culminated in a peace agreement, mediating negotiations between Chadian factions that resulted in the signing of the Doha Peace Agreement and the inclusion of armed political movements in the Chadian sovereign inclusive national dialogue, and aiding Somalia and Kenya in resuming diplomatic relations.

In humanitarian and relief operations, Qatar is committed to its humanitarian and ethical role and its responsibility as an active partner in the international community. Qatar consistently takes a leading role in providing humanitarian and developmental aid. This includes substantial efforts to support crisis containment in friendly and fraternal countries and to aid disaster-stricken people worldwide, without exception or discrimination, aiming only to alleviate the suffering of all crises-affected around the world. Through land convoys, air bridges, and sea shipments, Qatar has delivered thousands of tonnes of relief supplies in response to urgent and emergency needs.

Qatar holds a prominent position on the global humanitarian and relief map and has become a leading nation in this field. Guided by His Highness the Amir’s directives, Qatar and its charitable and relief organisations have remained at the forefront of initiatives and among the first responders to calls for help from conflict and disaster zones worldwide. Qatar’s International Search and Rescue Group of Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) has successfully executed more than 100 rescue and relief missions globally.

Leading Qatari institutions such as the Qatar Fund for Development, the Qatar Red Crescent Society,

and Qatar Charity spearhead relief efforts that benefit the concerned parties and the Arab, Islamic, and friendly peoples in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Mauritania, Afghanistan, Albania, Kosovo, Namibia, Niger, Zambia and Sri Lanka, while also supporting international relief organisations.

As the humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to worsen, Qatar and its relevant agencies have maintained their delivery of various humanitarian aids to the residents of Gaza. A total of 116 Qatari aircraft have transported urgent relief supplies, including food and medicine, to the Gaza Strip, with the total assistance amounting to 4,766 tonnes. In September, Qatar also pledged \$100mn for humanitarian response in Palestine, in addition to its ongoing support for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

In support of Syria, and consistently standing by the Syrian people, the fourth Qatari Armed Forces aircraft arrived in Gaziantep, Turkiye, last Monday, carrying medical and food supplies, as well as shelter materials provided by the Qatar Fund for Development. This is part of the air bridge established by Qatar to aid the fraternal people of Syria and address their humanitarian needs. Qatar Charity announced this week the dispatch of a humanitarian aid convoy to support the Syrian people, consisting of 40 trucks as an initial batch, aimed at meeting the urgent basic needs of the Syrians facing difficult living conditions.

Regarding Lebanon, Qatar has sent 21 planes carrying medical aid since the Israeli aggression on Lebanon, as part of the air bridge to support the Lebanese people. Over 150 tonnes of aid, including medical equipment and essential supplies, have been delivered. Through the Qatar Fund for Development, Qatar has provided assistance to Lebanon, supporting the operations of the Lebanese Armed Forces and fuel supply for the Karantina Hospital to maintain essential services, in partnership with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Qatar is also collaborating with France to send joint humanitarian aid to Lebanon.

In solidarity with the Sudanese people, Qatar has provided a total of \$86mn to Sudan since the start of the war. Qatar pledged \$50mn at the Geneva Conference and \$25mn at the Paris Conference. Qatar has also established an air bridge for humanitarian aid to Sudan, with total assistance of 673 tonnes.

In June, Qatar Charity confirmed at its annual meeting that it spent over QR858mn on foreign aid last year, benefiting more than 9.5mn people. QRCS launched the new edition of its “Warm Winter” campaign for 2024-2025 last October, under the slogan “Their Warmth is Our Duty.” This campaign includes a series of winter projects and aid supported by the people of Qatar, aimed at helping over 179,000 individuals in 13 priority countries, including Palestine, Lebanon, Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.



## Ministry hosts event to celebrate National Day



**QNA**  
Doha

The Ministry of Social Development and Family, represented by the Family Empowerment Department, held a celebration on the occasion of the National Day titled 'Homeland March' on the cornice of Al Shamal City yesterday.

Organised by the ministry and the Al Shamal Municipality, the event instils love for the homeland in the hearts of citizens and residents by participating in national events, educating and introducing them to the history of the homeland and its achievements by creating an atmosphere of cohesion and interaction between members of society in order to enhance the spirit of belonging and give them a sense of pride that they are part of this homeland. It included a march to raise the Qatari flag, in which young and old persons participated in raising the flag and singing



national anthems to instil national values, connect generations to heritage and develop social skills by encouraging attendees to work together to make the march a success. The event also featured the Qatari Ardha in which a group of children participated to connect children with national customs and traditions, which enhances their understanding of the cultural heritage. Productive project owners

played a prominent and important role in the homeland march event to contribute to social development, which aims to enable them to participate effectively in society by building a sustainable economy in addition to encouraging local production by supporting national products and promoting the culture of relying on local product and highlighting their skills and creativity in crafts and handicrafts.

## Lebanese PM meets Qatar's ambassador



Lebanese Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati met yesterday with Qatar's ambassador in Beirut Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani. The meeting discussed bilateral relations. (QNA)

## QND holds special significance in light of state's achievements

HE the Cabinet Secretary-General Hamad bin Ahmed al-Muhammadi has emphasised that the commemoration of the Qatar National Day (QND) each year holds a special significance and new dimension, in light of the multiple achievements and persistent successes the country is making in all fields, under the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, and through collaboration, dedication, and contributions of the nation's citizens, along with their united support for their wise leadership.

In remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE al-Muhammadi highlighted that the celebration of QND this year comes following the historic referendum on the 2024 constitutional amendments to the Permanent Constitution of Qatar, embodying profound meanings and facts that evidently expressed the insightful vision of His Highness the Amir, along with the awareness bequeathed to the people of Qatar, in addition to their belief, commitment and adherence to national unity, as well as their steadfast determination to actively participate in civic matters and engage positively with the nation's issues and national responsibilities.

He congratulated the wise leadership on QND, which boastfully commemorates the legacies of the Founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, who, through his consistent sacrifices, instilled the profound meanings of patriotism, the sense of responsibility and enduring preparation in this country, underscoring the consciences of its loyal people in defence of the nation and sacrifice for its sake, in addition to adhering to its unity and sovereignty, as well as dedication to its advancement.

The modern State of Qatar rose from this inveterate legacy and glory as well as the shining chapters of history whose towering structure was built upon solid foundations and unwavering pillars, leading to the esteemed position it now holds, HE al-Muhammadi stressed, emphasising that this has been demonstrated in the remarkable achievements realised within an extraordinary brief span of time, across all fields, emphasising the positive, proactive, and impactful role it plays on both regional and global arenas.

He highlighted that the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers accomplished numerous functions under its purview, alongside its core functions



related to the cabinet meetings and the implementation of its decisions, including the review of bills and other legislative tools.

He indicated that during the tenure of Qatar as chair of the previous session of the Supreme Council of Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers presided over the ministerial committee tasked with overseeing the implementation of decisions related to joint action among the GCC states as well as the standing committee of officials of legislative affairs departments of the GCC states.

By presiding over these two committees, the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers made a profound contribution to following up on the implementation of the decisions relevant to the joint Gulf action, as well as the legislative matters related to the GCC states and issued the "Internal Achievements of the State" book which is published annually, and includes the interagency institutions accomplishments, along with their future plans.

He emphasised that QND serves as a momentous occasion during which the people of Qatar reflect upon the glorious achievements of their past, drawing inspiration from the noble values, high morals, and esteemed principles exemplified by their forebears.

These ideals continue to guide their actions in the present and shape the future for generations to come. Additionally, it is a time to reaffirm the highest expressions of allegiance to the leader of the nation's renaissance and the symbol of its dignity, HE al-Muhammadi underlined. (QNA)

## QMC chairperson meets head of Egypt's Supreme Council for Media Regulation



HE Chairperson of Qatar Media Corporation Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani met with Head of Supreme Council for Media Regulation of the Arab Republic of Egypt Khaled Abdel Aziz. During the meeting, they discussed the media relations between the two countries and ways to support and develop them. (QNA)

## Power of unity stressed in driving national progress

**QNA**  
Doha

HE CEO of Qatar Media Corporation Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Thani al-Thani stressed the importance of unity and solidarity among people of Qatar to achieve even greater success in the nation's ongoing development and prosperity.

In his statement on the occasion of National Day, HE Sheikh Abdulaziz highlighted that the significant economic, social, and cultural progress Qatar has made reflects the country's National Vision 2030, a roadmap for building a forward-thinking and sustainable society.

He extended his warmest congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad



al-Thani, His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani, as well as to the wise government of Qatar and Qatari people on this special occasion, wishing Qatar continued growth, development, and security.

HE Sheikh Abdulaziz also emphasised the key role of media in documenting Qatar's journey of progress, stating that on this day, they reaffirm their commitment for Qatari media to remain the voice of the nation and its people, reflecting its achievements and upholding its values and identity, while staying in tune with global media developments.

He stressed that they are determined to continue working with dedication and professionalism to contribute to our nation's success story, praying for Qatar's continued security and stability and wish government and people of Qatar further progress and prosperity. HE the CEO of Qatar Media Corporation also recognised efforts of media institutions in covering the National Day events.

## Qatar attends meeting of WTO council on reforming Dispute Settlement Body

**QNA**  
Geneva

Qatar participated in the meeting of the General Council of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on reforming Dispute Settlement Body that was held at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva and focused on the issue of reforming the Dispute Settlement Body and reactivating the Appellate Body.

In a speech, Ahmed Issa al-Sulaiti, the director of the State of Qatar's office to the WTO and other economic organisations in Geneva affiliated with the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the UN Office in Geneva, referred to the

purposeful initiative put forward by Qatar to reach a solution between members in this area, which included practical proposals aimed at achieving effective reform of the Dispute Settlement Body.

Al-Sulaiti voiced concern that members did not adhere to the deadline set for the end of 2024 by previous ministerial conferences in order to achieve effective reform of the Dispute Settlement Body and fill vacant positions in the Appellate Body, indicating that this matter would undermine the credibility of the Dispute Settlement Body in the WTO, which is of vital importance to the multilateral and rules-based international trade system, and the Appellate Body is a crucial element within it.

He noted Qatar's support for efforts aimed at strengthening the operations of the Appellate Body in accordance with the mandate of the understanding on the settlement of disputes, stressing the centrality of the Dispute Settlement Body in maintaining stability and predictability in the rules-based trading system in addition to ensuring the effective functioning of the WTO.

He urged members to cooperate to break the deadlock in selecting members of the appellate body and stressed the need for the dispute settlement body to serve all members fairly and equally, including developing countries, while calling for strengthening alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as arbitration and mediation.

## Founding anniversary marks birth of modern state concept



The founding anniversary by the Founder, Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, marks the birth of the concept of the modern state in Qatar, said HE Dr Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak al-Khalifa, President of the Civil Services and Government Development Bureau (CGB) and Secretary-General of the National Planning Council.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA) on the occasion of Qatar National Day, HE Sheikh Jassim highlighted that Qatar has undergone profound and com-

prehensive transformations, with significant progress across various fields, including economic development, urban growth, education, scientific research, and international relations. This has positioned Qatar as a model of a modern state in the region.

This occasion reflects a deep sense of pride in Qatari identity and strengthens national unity among citizens and residents. It also serves as an opportunity to reaffirm loyalty to the wise leadership, which places great importance on achieving social cohesion and sustainable develop-

ment to move forward with optimism and determination, he added.

HE Sheikh Jassim pointed out that the CGB has achieved several accomplishments throughout the year, launching several strategic projects, prominently the "Sharek" platform aimed at measuring customer satisfaction, the Government Excellence Award to encourage government agencies to compete in applying quality, the "Ada'a" system to upgrade the performance of the government sector in Qatar through the achievement of strategic goals, and the "Eskan" digital platform, along

with significant improvements to the "Kawader" platform.

He highlighted the CGB's endeavour to achieve its goals as the owner of the sectoral strategy 'Institutional Excellence and Services' emanating from the Third National Development Strategy, which aims to reach "distinguished government institutions" by achieving a number of strategic results and initiatives associated with it.

Concluding his statement to QNA, HE Dr Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak al-Khalifa reaffirmed the bureau's commitment

to adopting the most effective and modern methods and practices to achieve sustainable institutional growth and modernisation in the government sector, within the framework of the third national development strategy by increasing effectiveness in policy and decision-making, preparing a qualified workforce ready for the future, developing flexible and effective work structures, in addition to providing distinguished digital services aimed at meeting the needs of all segments of society in Qatar. (QNA)



## GU-Q alumnus honoured with Sandhurst Medal, King Hussein Award

Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) alumnus Ahmad al-Kuwari was recently commissioned from Commissioning Course 241 and awarded the Sandhurst Medal for completing the 44-week Regular Commissioning Course, as well as the King Hussein Award for the most improved international cadet.

These accolades reflect the dedication, perseverance, and leadership qualities that define him and position him as an inspiration to aspiring leaders, a statement said.

Ahmad attributes much of his success to his time at GU-Q. "I was constantly challenged to think critically,

articulate my ideas, and engage with diverse perspectives. My professors pushed me to do better and gave me the confidence to trust in my abilities, and Sandhurst introduced an entirely new kind of challenge: applying those qualities under physical pressure," said Ahmad, adding, "I felt prepared to take on the challenge because Georgetown had given me a solid foundation."

A core part of that foundation was learning to live his values. "At GU-Q, the value of 'people for others' and 'community in diversity' were things that have always resonated with me. As a Qatari, caring for others and

showing kindness is an integral part of our culture," he said, explaining how engagement with the diverse student body at Georgetown taught him cultural competency, something that gave him a competitive advantage when having to communicate under pressure in his military exercises.

Winning the King Hussein Award holds deep personal significance for Ahmad. "When I first arrived at Sandhurst, I faced physical and mental challenges, but I was determined to grow, and wanted to do more than just pass the course. Like at GU-Q, I made time to meet with my instructors,

and get as much information as possible."

Ahmad's achievements are a testament to the exceptional education and support he received throughout his educational career. "The most improved cadet is a reflection of the investment people have put in me," he emphasised. Looking ahead, Ahmad remains eager to embrace new opportunities.

"I look forward to returning to Doha and reflecting on this transformative experience. I'm excited to see where the future takes me and hope my story can inspire others to pursue their goals without fear of failure."



Ahmad al-Kuwari receiving an honour.

## Shura partakes in parliamentary track at Internet Governance Forum in Riyadh

QNA  
Riyadh

The Shura Council participated in the parliamentary track events held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, under the theme "Building our Multistakeholder Digital Future," as part of the 19th Internet Governance Forum (IGF 2024).

The council was represented by Dr Ahmed bin Hamad al-Muhammadi and Badi bin Ali al-Badi, members of the Shura Council. The parliamentary track discussed the challenges of digital transformation and the necessity of developing practical strategies that combine the use of modern technologies with mitigating the negative impacts and emerging risks associated with digital transformation.

Participants exchanged experiences in digitisation and artificial intelligence, exploring their use in various aspects of parliamentary

work through the presentation of several distinguished parliamentary practices and experiences. At the conclusion of the event, participants called for enhanced coordination between parliaments and executive bodies to achieve international consensus on electronic governance.

They also advocated for developing common approaches to digital policies and expanding co-operation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the UN Forum. In the context of the event, the Shura Council, in collaboration with the Doha-based UN Program Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism organised a session titled "Parliamentary Approaches to Using ICT in Combating Terrorism in Accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1373."

Dr Ahmed bin Hamad al-Muhammadi, a member of the Shura Council, emphasised that the State of Qatar is an active and

reliable partner in international efforts to combat terrorism, committed to fighting this scourge in all its forms. He highlighted the vital role parliaments play in combating terrorism and extremism.

Dr al-Muhammadi praised the important role of the UN Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism, which was inaugurated in Doha in 2021 under an agreement between the Shura Council and the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism. He noted that terrorism takes many forms and can involve both states and organisations, citing the ongoing genocide carried out by the Israeli entity against Gaza and other occupied Palestinian territories for over 14 months, which has resulted in forced displacement and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people. He stated that this war represents one of the most horrific forms of modern-day terrorism.

## Jumbo ties up with Platinum Karaoke

Jumbo Electronics, Qatar's leading electronics distributor, has announced its partnership with Platinum Karaoke, a renowned brand from the Philippines specialising in high-quality karaoke and audio systems.

Platinum Karaoke is trusted by many, especially in the Philippines and throughout the Middle East, for its exceptional quality and innovative designs, a statement said.

Over time, the brand has expanded its product offerings to include amplifiers, speakers, microphones, and accessories, all known for their superior build quality and immersive sound experience. In Qatar, Platinum Karaoke will launch with its most popular models, including the Cello 2, Piano Pro, PK10 Pro, DK 88, and DK 65. A standout feature of Platinum Karaoke's models is their app interface.

The Platinum Link app enhances the karaoke experience by allowing users to control the system, easily search and select songs, and create and manage playlists. Regular updates to the app ensure a fresh and dynamic user experience. Compatible with both Android and iOS devices, the app is designed to be user-friendly and enjoyable for karaoke enthusiasts of all ages.

"We are thrilled to partner with Platinum Karaoke. This brand is a perfect addition to our vibrant retail and online product portfolio, especially given our strong customer base among Qatar's Filipino com-



munity and music lovers from various communities across the country," said C V Rappai, director and CEO of Jumbo Electronics.

Platinum Karaoke products will be available exclusively at Jumbo Electronics retail locations in Doha Souq Mall, Al Nasr Street, and City Centre, as well as on Jumbo Souq Online, the statement added.

## Ashghal's D-Line to irrigate farms

By Shafeeq Alingal  
Staff Reporter

The Treated Sewage Effluent Transmission Main and Pumping Station (D-Line) project by the Public Works Authority (Ashghal) will irrigate farms while remarkably reducing groundwater consumption.

Scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025, the D-Line project passes through the Rakhia farms while serving to meet its irrigation needs.

The project is part of Ashghal's efforts to benefit from treated wastewater and encourage efficient and sustainable consumption of water resources. This is in line with the sustainable development objectives and the Qatar National Environment and Climate Change Strategy, which includes reusing 100% of treated wastewater by 2030.

"The project consists of a 65km-long TSE transmission pipeline that starts at the existing Doha South Sewage Treatment Works (STW) and is to be laid along the main service route



of Salwa Road, passing through the Rakhia farms and surrounding areas and up to the TSE Storage Lagoons where excess treated wastewater is stored," according to Ashghal website.

The project will pump 22.5m<sup>3</sup> cu m of treated wastewater annually. The project aims to transfer treated wastewater from the Doha South Sewage Treatment Works in the Nuaija area to the Seasonal Storage Lagoons with the aim of balancing the deficit and surplus of the treated sewage water and

achieving its optimal use. The treated water will be reused to supply feed farms with irrigation water thus reducing the use of groundwater.

The project also includes the construction of a pumping station with a capacity of 120,000 cubic metres/day which will pump the TSE flow from the Doha South STW to the seasonal storage lagoons.

This is in addition to the mechanical, electrical and related equipment works.

## Flowers Exhibition to kick off today

The Ministry of Municipality, represented by the Agricultural Affairs Department, and in co-operation with Hassad Food Company, has announced that Flowers Exhibition will be inaugurated at Umm Salal Central Market today. It is held within Umm Salal Winter Festival and will run until Dec 26.

The exhibition highlights the natural diversity of Qatar by displaying a distinguished collection of local flowers and plants, with a focus on supporting local farmers and encouraging the production of national flowers in addition to enhancing environmental awareness and encouraging sustainable agriculture.

The exhibition allows visitors to explore the beauty of local flowers and learn about their cultivation and care techniques. It is also a platform for marketing national agricultural products related to plants and flowers.

Director of the Agricultural Affairs Department Yousef Khalid al-

Khulaifi said that the exhibition, which is part of the activities of the first edition of the 'Umm Salal Winter Festival', aims to support the owners of local farms, flower nurseries and ornamental plants in the country by providing a marketing outlet for their products of local vegetable seedlings of various types as well as flowers, especially at this time of the year which is the peak of the agricultural season in Qatar.

For his part, General Manager of Aswaq for Food Facilities Management Company Mohammed Ghanem al-Kubaisi said that the exhibition embodies the company's commitment to supporting local agriculture and promoting environmental sustainability in Qatar, especially since the Umm Salal Winter Festival is a major platform to highlight the national identity and support the local product.

The participation of productive families in the festival's activities continues in co-operation with the

Family Empowerment Department at the Ministry of Social Development and Family, which enhances the opportunities to market their products.

The festival will host several important events and exhibitions which are being held from Nov 21, 2024 till Feb 19, 2025, with the aim of supporting local products, by providing a suitable marketing platform for local producers throughout the winter season. The festival's operational hours are from 9am till 1pm and then from 4pm till 8pm. Tomorrow (Friday) the festival will be from 8am till 10am.

Umm Salal Central Market is one of the markets managed by Aswaq for Food Facilities Management Company (a subsidiary of Hassad Food).

The central market spans over 60,000sq m, and is located at the intersection of integral highways (Al Majd and Al Shamal), which links the market directly to the main ports of Al Wakra, Al Ruwais, Al Khor and Doha. (QNA)

## Second edition of Earthna Summit to be held in April

The second edition of the Earthna Summit will be held on April 22-23, 2025, in Msheireb Downtown Doha, according to an official statement.

Organised by the Earthna Centre for a Sustainable Future, a member of Qatar Foundation, the summit will bring together key local, regional and international stakeholders to discuss some of the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

Under the theme 'Building Our Legacy: Sustainability, Innovation and Traditional Knowledge', the summit will highlight Qatar's commitment to advancing sustainability in hot and arid environments by drawing on its rich cultural heritage, unique ecosystems and innovation. It will serve as a platform for exploring how the combination of both traditional and modern approaches can inform sustainability, shaping a more resilient and inclusive future.

Speaking from the UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh where Earthna participated in a number of speaking sessions, Dr Gonzalo Castro de la Mata, executive director at Earthna said sustainable development is a shared responsibility in a landscape that is constantly and rapidly moving. "Achieving sustainability requires dialogue, policy foresight, integrated planning and unifying a diverse range of partners and



actors around a common goal," he added.

The summit will bring together experts, government representatives, policy and decision-makers, businesses, multilateral institutions and members of civil society who will unite to contribute to its objectives.

The highlights will include the announcement of the winners of the inaugural Earthna Prize. Divided between four winners, the \$1mn Earthna Prize celebrates and supports projects that preserve, integrate and adopt traditional knowledge and cultural heritage to tackle contemporary environmental challenges.

Building on the success of the 1st edition of the Earthna Summit in 2023, there will also be an Earthna Village and Agora.

Both will feature products and

sessions on innovative solutions rooted in traditional knowledge. This space at the heart of the summit will engage the general public and facilitate knowledge sharing by providing interactive spaces fostering collaboration and creativity.



## HIA commemorates Qatar National Day



Hamad International Airport and Qatar Duty Free hosted a variety of cultural activities for passengers from December 16 to 18, to commemorate Qatar National Day. Passengers were treated to a rich tapestry of Qatari heritage. Live performances by Qatari musicians filled the air with traditional melodies, along with the captivating 'Ardha' performance, which symbolises unity and strength, showcased the nation's cultural pride. 'Souq Al Matar', located near HIA's Orchard hosted a series of cultural activities including henna artists, traditional games and a falconer. Traditional crafters also demonstrated live bisht tailoring, wicker weaving, fishnet weaving, dhow boat making, and sadu making. Children engaged in festive cookie painting and the airport distributed sweets infused with local flavours such as dates and saffron. Passengers also received Qatari flags, allowing them to share in the national spirit.



# Arab League officials, Egyptian ministers hail Qatar leadership, govt, people on National Day

Several Arab League officials and ministers from Egypt extended their heartfelt congratulations to Qatar, its leadership, government and people, on the occasion of the National Day.

The officials applauded Qatar's role in various Arab and international issues, and expressed their wishes for further prosperity and progress.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency, ambassador Saeed Abu Ali, Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab League and Head of Palestinian and Occupied Arab Territories Sector, extended congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and the Qatari people on the occasion of Qatar National Day.

The Arab nation joins the leadership and people of Qatar in celebrating the occasion of Qatar National Day, amid crucial circumstances and significant challenges facing the nation. Qatar remains committed to addressing these challenges responsibly and doing all it can. The occasion offers an opportunity to renew respect and appreciation for Qatar, coupled with sincere hopes for the continued well-being and prosperity of the country and its people, Ali stated.

He highlighted the role of Qatar and the responsibility it assumes at the international level across various fields of diplomacy. He emphasised Qatar's efforts to fulfil its duties in defending Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian issue, which remains the central cause of the Arab nation.

He called on Doha to continue the path of construction, development and prosperity, in a manner that inspires pride and honour throughout the Arab world.

Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the Arab League and Chairman of the Permanent Arab Committee for Human Rights, ambassador Talal al-Mutairi, extended his congratulations to Qatar, its government, and its people; emphasising that the country today stands as a model of an advanced state, achieving stability and prosperity for its citizens both within the Arab world and internationally.

He also highlighted Qatar's significant role at the regional and global levels, noting its adoption of numerous positive initiatives aimed at fostering security and stability worldwide.

Amjad al-Adailleh, ambassador of Jordan to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the Arab League, extended his congratulations to the leadership, government and people of Qatar on the occasion of National Day, highlighting Qatar's significant achievements under the wise leadership of

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

Qatar continues to make progress every day, achieving numerous accomplishments that benefit the Arab nation, he said emphasising that the country's role remains pivotal and significant, both in addressing Arab issues and in global matters.

Minister of Parliamentary and Legal Affairs and Political Communication of Egypt, Counsellor Mahmoud Fawzy, extended his congratulations to Qatar on the occasion of the National Day.

Speaking to QNA, he highlighted the strong relations between Egypt and Qatar, and the shared commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and enhancing the frameworks of joint co-operation.

Egypt's Minister of Culture Dr Ahmed Fouad Hano extended his congratulations to Qatar on the occasion of the National Day, expressing pride in the strong relations of friendship and co-operation between the two brotherly countries.

He emphasised that the Egyptian-Qatari relations are productive and effective across all levels, particularly in the cultural and artistic fields. He highlighted significant cultural exchange between the two countries, such as book fairs and various cultural events, and expressed hope for even more such activities in the near future. (QNA)



## Qatar's role in strengthening joint Arab action praised

Speaker of the Arab Parliament Mohammed Ahmed al-Yamahi congratulated the leadership, government and people of Qatar on its National Day. On the occasion, al-Yamahi praised the sincere efforts made by Qatar, led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, in supporting Arab co-operation

and strengthening the path of joint Arab action and its firm positions towards just Arab issues. He also praised the comprehensive development achievements made by Qatar in all fields, wishing the State, its wise leadership and its people further progress and prosperity. (QNA)

## Qatar takes part in Arab Public Prosecutors Association meeting

Qatar participated in the fourth annual meeting of the Arab Public Prosecutors Association, which was held in the city of Neom in Saudi Arabia.

The Public Prosecution delegation at the meeting was headed by First Attorney-General and Director of the Judicial Inspection Department Ibrahim Abdullah al-Qubaisi, with the participation of a number of deputy attorney generals.

The meeting discussed a number of prominent topics, most notably the nature and objectives of artificial intelligence as well as its effects on achieving prompt justice and the validity of

artificial intelligence in investigation procedures.

It also presented the experiences of the participating countries, with the Public Prosecution of Qatar reviewing its pioneering experience in artificial intelligence, including the project targeting reports of money laundering and human trafficking using artificial intelligence. This aims to enhance the Public Prosecution's ability to accurately and effectively identify reports containing suspicion of money laundering using advanced technologies, in addition to the Public Prosecution's smart assistant project which provides

immediate and accurate legal advice to all those dealing with the Public Prosecution, contributes to reducing the time required to obtain legal information and answer inquiries, and provides integrated legal services that include legal texts and analyses in an interactive manner.

It is noteworthy that Qatar's Public Prosecution seeks, through adopting artificial intelligence technologies, to improve legal procedures, raise work efficiency, and achieve justice in a sophisticated and effective manner, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030. (QNA)



## Qatar celebrates World Arabic Language Day at Arab League

QNA  
Cairo

Represented by the Ministry of Culture, Qatar participated in the World Arabic Language Day celebration, organised by the General Secretariat of the Arab League yesterday. The World Arabic Language Day is celebrated annually on December 18, following the UN General Assembly's adoption of Resolution 3190 in 1973.

The event was attended by member state representatives, heads of various Arab and regional organisations, presidents of Arab federations, the President of the Union of Arabic Language Academies, along with civil society organisations' leaders, academics, and experts specialising in the Arabic language.

In his speech during the event, the Ministry of Culture's representative Mohammed al-Yafai said that this occasion is an opportunity to highlight Qatar's significant role in promoting the Arabic language, reviewing Doha's pivotal role in advancing the language.

Al-Yafai added that this Unesco-designated day is cause for extra celebration in Qatar, given Arabic being a significant part of national



identity, in addition to this date coinciding with the Qatar National Day, marking Qatar's founding by Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani.

He also noted that observing this day is an opportunity to highlight Qatar's cultural and scientific institutions' celebration of the day out of conviction in their role in preserving the local mother-tongue.

Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Social Affairs Sector at the Arab League ambassador Haifa Abu Ghazaleh said that the League's celebration of the World Arabic Language Day includes a

special item entailing presenting an Arab strategy for the advancement of the Arabic Language.

Ambassador Abu Ghazaleh underscored the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League's decision in September, which tasked the General Secretariat to update the strategy and its attached plan in collaboration with various entities, to keep pace with global changes and the ongoing challenges facing the Arabic language and Arab identity. She added that the work programme also includes a section on artificial intelligence and the Arabic language.

## Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year concludes with Tbourida art shows

Al Shaqab Equestrian Center, on Tuesday, capped off the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year which featured performances of the deep-rooted Moroccan traditional art of Tbourida.

Attended by a huge crowd of visitors, the ceremony featured a series of Moroccan sarbats with awe-inspiring shows coupled with harmonious movements and aesthetic unity of the riders' attire, complemented by the synchronised discharge of gunpowder, all under the leadership of skilled captains.

These components contribute to the distinct charm of this authentic Moroccan tradition, which is passed down through generations and remains a vital component of Morocco's cultural identity.

Having been hosted by Al Shaqab Equestrian Center, the institution that is dedicated to safeguarding the legacy of the Arabian horse, the shows received an extraordinary approbation from the Qatari and Moroccan visitors, along with members of the com-



munities residing in Qatar who were very interested in this Moroccan art as a hybrid component for the Moroccan intangible cultural legacy, in terms of verbal traditions and expressions.

Presented by skilled horsemen, the Tbourida performances, added a charming atmosphere to the celebration, as this unforgettable event will remain ingrained in memories, preserving vivid

images of this unique, inveterate Moroccan legacy.

The event is recognised for its cultural significance and was inscribed on the Unesco Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during the 16th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in Paris, on December 15, 2021.



Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club, Issa bin Mohammed al-Mohannadi, said the conclusion of the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year with the Moroccan Tbourida art registered in Unesco as a humanitarian legacy, manifests the strength of relations between the two nations, noting that 2024 was marked by cultural and art events whether in Qatar, or Morocco that would defi-

nately deepen rapprochement between the two nations.

Minister of Tourism, Handicrafts and Social and Solidarity Economy of Morocco Fatim-Zahra Ammor said the Moroccan traditional art of Tbourida was one of the best events to be concluded at this cultural event, emphasising that the art is an important part of the Moroccan history, in terms of crafting of traditional saddles, fire-

arms, and attire, as well as promoting Morocco's status as a superb cultural and tourism destination.

Held in partnership with the Year of Culture initiative, the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year epitomised the robust historic ties between the two nations, with 2024 showcasing numerous major art exhibitions, as well as cultural festivals in the two countries, where no fewer than 80 events were organised. (QNA)



## UK envoy says Qatar 'has become significant regional, global diplomatic power'

UK ambassador in Doha Neerav Patel has affirmed that Qatar has become a significant regional and global diplomatic power due to its balanced and active foreign policy.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA) on Qatar's National Day, he emphasised the historical and distinguished relations between United Kingdom and Qatar, noting that these ties have grown stronger in recent years. He pointed out that the recent state visit by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, to the United Kingdom had further strengthened these relations and gave them new momentum.

He extended his congratulations to His Highness the Amir and the Qatari people on the National Day. He expressed his hope that the Qatari people continue to



UK ambassador in Doha Neerav Patel.

celebrate the remarkable achievements their country has accomplished.

On another note, the ambassador highlighted the long-standing co-operation between the two

countries, spanning various fields such as economy, defence, security, health, education, culture, and sports. He affirmed that Qatar is one of the United Kingdom's most prominent trading partners in the Middle East.

He also noted that, compared to the previous year, Qatar has emerged as one of United Kingdom's closest friends. Additionally, he praised Qatar's prominent role in mediation efforts for peace, which reflects its diplomatic strength and leadership across various domains.

The ambassador expressed his pride in representing his country in Qatar, describing it as a home for himself and his family. He further expressed his anticipation of strengthening co-operation between the two nations in the future. (QNA)

## French envoy says mediation is key pillar of Qatari diplomacy

French ambassador in Doha Jean-Baptiste Favre has emphasised the significant role played by Qatar in resolving conflicts and addressing regional and international issues through mediation, which is a key pillar of Qatari diplomacy.

In remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA) on Qatar National Day, the ambassador highlighted that the State has spared no effort in mediating to resolve numerous global crises, particularly those in the Gaza Strip, Sudan, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and other pressing international issues.

He emphasised the commitment of both Qatar and France to promoting peace and resolving regional and international issues through peaceful means and dia-



French ambassador in Doha Jean-Baptiste Favre.

logue, while upholding international law and the global order in crisis resolution.

He also highlighted continued co-ordination between the

two countries to achieve global peace and stability. Regarding the relations between Qatar and France, the ambassador affirmed the strength and durability of the Qatari-French ties, which date back to 1971. He noted that the relations have evolved into an exceptional stage of strategic partnership, built on the foundation of friendship and mutual trust. He also highlighted the growth of bilateral co-operation in various fields, including humanitarian aid, development, security, education, economy, and more.

He expressed his pride in serving as his country's envoy to the State for more than three years and looked forward to further strengthening the bilateral relations in the future. (QNA)

## QND celebrates national unity, honours rich cultural heritage: Russian envoy

Russian ambassador in Doha Dmitry Dogadkin has emphasised that Qatar National Day (QND) is a celebration of national unity, honouring the country's rich historical and cultural heritage, and symbolising hope for its continued progress and development for the benefit of all.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), the ambassador highlighted the National Day as a joyful occasion for both the Qatari people and the Russian community in Qatar, which has steadily grown each year due to Qatar's significant efforts in making the country an attractive destination, offering competitive opportunities for work and life.

He described Qatar as a country with great ambitions, noting that its diplomatic efforts have firmly established the nation on the global stage of international relations.

Qatar's diplomatic initiatives have strengthened its global position. In recent years, it has



Russian ambassador in Doha Dmitry Dogadkin.

become a key hub for dialogue, contributing to numerous diplomatic initiatives aimed at peace and conflict resolution worldwide, he added.

He highlighted that resolving international disputes through mediation and dialogue has become a cornerstone of Qatar's foreign policy, emphasising the high value Qatar places on peace-building and mediation.

As a result, Qatar deserves recognition for its steadfast

commitment to peace amid geopolitical instability and uncertainty, the ambassador stated.

He highlighted that Qatar's rapid progress in recent decades has established it as a logistical and tourism powerhouse within Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC).

Additionally, Qatar has become one of the world's largest exporters of liquefied natural gas (LNG), playing an increasingly significant role in the global hydrocarbon market through its expanding network for long-term LNG supply, he added.

Regarding bilateral ties, the Russian ambassador praised the strong and constructive relationship between Qatar and Russia, noting that both countries share similar perspectives on many international issues. To date, Qatar is the largest Arab investor in the Russian economy, with bilateral trade growing steadily. Both countries are eager to expand co-operation, particularly in agriculture, logistics, and information technology. (QNA)

## Qatar's diplomatic missions celebrate National Day



Qatar's diplomatic, consular and representative missions abroad celebrated its National Day, observed annually on December 18 to commemorate Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, the Founder of the State.

The heads of the diplomatic, consular and representative missions extended their congratulations and best wishes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, and the Qatari people on this cherished occasion, wishing Qatar continued progress and prosperity.

The Qatari diplomatic celebrations in the capitals and cities around the world saw high-level official and popular participation, reflecting Qatar's distinguished relations with the countries worldwide.

The diplomats highlighted that marking the occasion underscores Qatar's accomplishments across all sectors and serves as a manifestation of pride in the achievements of the ancestors, as well as a reaffirmation of national identity, unity, cohesion, solidarity, and loyalty to the homeland and its wise leadership.

They praised Qatar's strong and evolving relations with sisterly and friendly countries across various fields, including diplomacy, trade, economy, investment, and culture. They



also highlighted Qatar's support for innovation, its commitment to sustainability, and its efforts to promote peace and prosperity for all of humanity.

They emphasised Qatar's prestigious global position, which is driven by its commitment to bilateral and multilateral co-operation on key global issues of concern to the international community. These include resolving disputes through peaceful means, providing hu-

manitarian aid, promoting sustainable development, addressing climate change, combating poverty and fighting terrorism.

They highlighted Qatar's unwavering commitment to enhancing co-operation with its partners to strengthen security and stability at both regional and international levels. In this context, they emphasised Qatar's prominent role in promoting peace across various parts of the world. (QNA)

manitarian aid, promoting sustainable development, addressing climate change, combating poverty and fighting terrorism.

They highlighted Qatar's unwavering commitment to enhancing co-operation with its partners to strengthen security and stability at both regional and international levels. In this context, they emphasised Qatar's prominent role in promoting peace across various parts of the world. (QNA)

## HMC Tobacco Cessation Centre conducts awareness activities

The Tobacco Cessation Centre at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), an accredited centre by the World Health Organisation, conducted a number of educational and health activities and events in the last quarter of 2024.

Aimed at enhancing community awareness and informing the public about the risks of tobacco product consumption, especially new products such as electronic cigarettes, heated tobacco products, and nicotine pouches, the centre aimed to help users quit smoking and overcome the harmful habit.

The Tobacco Cessation Centre intensified awareness campaigns in educational institutions by launching a campaign in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education across several schools in Qatar. The campaign aimed to raise awareness, provide accurate information, and correct misconceptions about tobacco and its products, while also reducing tobacco use among youths.



An awareness session by the Tobacco Cessation Centre.

The campaign covered more than 15 secondary and high schools and engaged over 1,000 students through educational and interactive sessions. These sessions emphasised the importance of awareness and highlighted promotional tricks used by some tobacco producers.

Discussions were held with students about new tobacco products such as electronic cigarettes, heated tobacco products, and nicotine pouches to correct misconceptions associated with them. The centre also participated in various vocational and health exhibitions held at public

high schools to encourage students and teachers to adopt a healthy, nicotine-free lifestyle.

At a community level, the centre participated in several events alongside other institutions across Qatar to prevent tobacco use.

These events included Doha Week for Healthcare, sponsored by WISH 2024, as well as activities with the Qatar Diabetes Society, Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar, Aspire Academy, University of Doha for Science and Technology, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, and various departments within HMC.

## Education ministry opens registration for Spring 2024 student activities

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education has announced the opening of registration for activities of Student Activity Centers for Spring 2024, which will begin on December 22 and continue until January 2.

These activities will be held across 16 centres, with eight designated for boys and eight for girls, ensuring coverage of different regions across Qatar.

On this occasion, Assistant Director of the Department of Schools and Student

Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Fatima Youssef al-Obaidly, highlighted that these activities are a reflection of the ministry's vision, which aligns with Qatar National Vision 2030, aiming to prepare a conscious and creative generation, equipped with values and skills that enable them to serve their homeland while enhancing their role in supporting humanitarian causes and protecting human rights locally, regionally, and internationally.

She noted that Student Activity Centers will present this year a variety of programmes in co-operation with several national and international entities, including Qatar Red Crescent, and General Directorate of Civil Defence.

One of the key centres this year is Future Police Center, which offers training to instil values such as discipline and responsibility among students through simulated security work and shooting skills. This programme will take place at

Al-Ahnaf Bin Qais Preparatory School for Boys. Meanwhile, Cybersecurity Center will focus on educating students about digital security basics and protecting personal data from cyber threats, through workshops on protection techniques and methods for securing devices and networks. This programme will be hosted at Khawla Bint Al-Azwar Primary School for Girls.

Ministry of Education and Higher Education announced that registration for

Student Activity Centers, which have a total capacity of 200 students divided into two groups children aged 6-11 and youth aged 12-18 requires submitting a copy of the student's ID and a medical report in case of any specific health conditions. The registration process, aimed at providing a comprehensive educational experience that develops students skills and personalities in a safe and innovative environment, can be completed through "Maaref for Public" portal. (QNA)





## Palestinian families sue State Dept over US support for Israeli military

Reuters  
Washington

Palestinian families sued the US State Department on Tuesday over Washington's support for Israel's military amid its war in Gaza that has killed tens of thousands and caused a humanitarian crisis, a court filing

showed. The lawsuit filed in the US District Court for the District of Columbia alleged that the State Department under Secretary of State Antony Blinken has deliberately circumvented a US human rights law to continue funding and supporting Israeli military units accused of atrocities in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The Leahy Laws prohibit pro-

viding US military assistance to individuals or security force units that commit gross violations of human rights and have not been brought to justice. Both South Africa at the World Court and Amnesty International have accused Israel of committing genocide and war crimes. Israel has denied the charges.

Washington faces criticism

from human rights groups for maintaining its support for Israel with no major policy changes.

"The State Department's calculated failure to apply the Leahy Law is particularly shocking in the face of the unprecedented escalation of Israeli gross violations of human rights since the Gaza War erupted on October 2023," the lawsuit said.

Israel's war in Gaza has killed over 45,000 people, according to the local health ministry. Israel's assault has also displaced nearly Gaza's entire 2.3mn population and caused a hunger crisis.

The latest bloodshed in the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict was triggered on Oct 2023, when Palestinian Hamas fighters stormed Israel.

The lawsuit was filed by five Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and the US. The lead plaintiff was a Gaza teacher who has been displaced seven times in the current war and lost 20 family members, the lawsuit says.

The State Department declined to comment and referred reporters to the Justice Department, which had no immediate comment.

## UN calls for 'free and fair' elections in Syria

AFP  
Damascus

The UN envoy to Syria called yesterday for "free and fair" elections after the ouster of president Bashar al-Assad, as he voiced hope for a political solution for Kurdish-held areas.

Assad fled Syria following a lightning offensive spearheaded by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), more than 13 years after his crackdown on democracy protests precipitated one of the deadliest wars of the century.

He left behind a country scarred by decades of torture, disappearances and summary executions, and the collapse of his rule on December 8 stunned the world and sparked celebrations around Syria and beyond.

Years of civil war have also left the country heavily dependent on aid, deeply fragmented, and desperate for justice and peace.

Addressing reporters in Damascus, UN special envoy Geir Pedersen said "there is a lot of hope that we can now see the beginning of a new Syria".

"A new Syria that...will adopt a new constitution...and that we will have free and fair elections when that time comes, after a transitional period," he said.

Calling for immediate humanitarian assistance, he also said he hoped to see an end to international sanctions levied against Syria over Assad's abuses.

Pedersen said a key challenge was the situation in Kurdish-held areas in Syria's northeast, amid fears of a major escalation between the US-backed, Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and Turkey-backed groups.

Turkiye accuses the main component of the SDF, the People's Protection Units (YPG), of being affiliated with Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militants at home, whom both Washington and Ankara consider a "terrorist" group.

The US said Tuesday it had brokered an extension to a fragile ceasefire in the flashpoint town of Manbij and was seeking a broader understanding with Turkiye.

"I'm very pleased that the truce has been renewed and that it seems to be holding, but hopefully we will see a political solution to that issue," Pedersen said.

HTS has sought to moderate its rhetoric by assuring protection for the country's many religious and ethnic minorities.

It has appointed a transitional leadership that will run the country until March 1.

HTS military chief Murhaf Abu Qasra said Kurdish-held areas would be integrated under the country's new leadership, adding that the group rejects federalism.

"Syria will not be divided," he told AFP, adding that "the Kurdish people are one of the components of the Syrian people." HTS has also vowed justice for the crimes committed under Assad's rule, including the disappearance of tens of thousands of people into the complex web of detention centres and prisons that was used for decades to silence



Geir Pedersen, UN Special envoy to Syria, talks to media before departing Damascus, yesterday.

dissent. "We want to know where our children are, our brothers," said 55-year-old Ziad Alaywi, standing by a ditch near the town of Najha, southeast of Damascus.

It is one of the locations where Syrians believe the bodies of prisoners tortured to death were buried — acts that international organisations say could constitute crimes against humanity.

"Were they killed? Are they buried here?" he asked.

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor, more than 100,000 people died or were killed in custody from 2011.

The country's new rulers have sought to keep its institutions going and, yesterday, a commercial flight took off from Damascus airport to Aleppo, the first since Assad was toppled and fled to Russia.

They have also stepped up contacts with countries that had long seen Assad as a pariah, and with international institutions.

EU chief Ursula Von der Leyen said the bloc would intensify its "direct engagement" with the new administration.

Members of the UN Security Council, which includes Assad ally Russia as well as the US, called on Tuesday for an "inclusive and Syrian-led" political process.

"This political process should meet the legitimate aspirations of all Syrians, protect all of them and enable them to peacefully, independently and democratically determine their own futures," a statement said. It also "underlined the need for Syria and its neighbours to mutually refrain from any action...that could undermine each other's security". Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes on Syrian military assets since Assad's overthrow in what it says is a bid to prevent them falling into hostile hands. Israeli troops also occupied strategic positions in a UN-patrolled buffer zone in a move UN chief Antonio Guterres described as a breach of a 1974 armistice.

## Syria rescuers say bodies found in warehouse

AFP  
Damascus

A Syrian civil defence official said yesterday that White Helmets rescuers discovered unidentified bodies and remains in a medicine warehouse in a Damascus suburb, 10 days after Bashar al-Assad's ouster.

An AFP video journalist at the scene said the warehouse strewn with medicine boxes was located just around 50 metres from the Sayyida Zeinab shrine, a revered site. "We received a report about the presence of bodies, bones and a foul smell at the site," White Helmets official Ammar al-Salmo said.

South Damascus' Sayyida Zeinab suburb was a stronghold of pro-Iran fighters including Lebanon's Hezbollah group before rebels took the capital on December 8 in a lightning offensive.

"In the warehouse, we found a refrigerated room containing decomposing corpses," Salmo said, adding that some appeared to have died more than a year and a half earlier. He said human bones were also scat-

tered on the ground, estimating there were around 20 "victims". AFP saw men in white suits removing bodies and remains in black bags and placing them onto a truck.

Salmo said the words Aleppo-Hraytan — Syria's second city in the north, and a nearby location — and numbers were written on bags where the unidentified bodies were found.

"We are going to establish the age of the victims" then take samples for DNA tests "and try to locate their families", Salmo added. AFP was unable to independently ascertain the reason for the presence of the remains or the identities of the bodies.

Since Assad's ouster, a number of mass graves have been uncovered in the country.

The fate of tens of thousands of prisoners and missing people remains one of the most harrowing parts of the Syrian conflict, which has claimed more than 500,000 lives.

In 2022, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor estimated that more than 100,000 people had died in prison, mostly due to torture, since the war began.

## First flight since Assad's fall departs Syrian capital

AFP  
Damascus

The first flight since the ouster of Syria's president Bashar al-Assad took off yesterday from Damascus airport to Aleppo in the country's north, AFP journalists saw.

Forty-three people including journalists were on board the Syrian Air plane.

Assad fled Syria as a lightning rebel offensive launched on November 27 wrested city after city from his control.

His army and security forces abandoned Damascus airport on December 8. Until yesterday no flights had taken off or landed.

Earlier this week, airport staff painted the three-star independence flag on planes, a symbol of the 2011 uprising now adopted by the transitional authorities.

In the terminal, the new flag also replaced the one linked to Assad's era. An airport official told



Passengers disembark from a Syrian Air aircraft arriving from Damascus, at the airport of the northern city of Aleppo, yesterday.

AFP on condition of anonymity that international flights would resume on December 24, following maintenance work.

Syrian Air has a fleet of 12

planes, but only two — both Airbus 320s — are operational, said maintenance official Samer Radi, citing missing spare parts due to international sanctions.

## Congo river boat sinks killing at least 22

Reuters  
Kinshasa

A river boat sank in western Democratic Republic of Congo, killing at least 22 people after the overcrowded upper deck collapsed, a local official told Reuters yesterday.

Boating accidents are common in Congo, where old, wooden vessels are the main form of transport between villages and are often loaded far beyond capacity.

The boat was carrying as many as 100 passengers when it sank on Tuesday in western Mai-Ndombe province, the local official said. The victims included 15 women, five men and two children.

"Until we have safer, metallic boats, we will continue to have shipwrecks. There are thousands of these wooden ones circulating on the waters of Mai-Ndombe," the provincial governor Lebon Nkoso Kevani told Reuters.

He added that a team of provincial officials had deployed to

the area to investigate and that many passengers were believed to have escaped to shore after the disaster. In October, at least 78 people drowned when a boat carrying 278 passengers capsized in Lake Kivu in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Anicet Babanga, a senator for Mai-Ndombe province, told Reuters yesterday that around 30 people were confirmed to have survived the latest wreck, and that a search was underway to establish the fate of the other passengers.

## Voting for new leaders



Voters in the elections for the Bulengo Internally Displaced Persons Camp (IDP) representatives in Bulengo, outside Goma, queue, yesterday. Internally Displaced Persons elected their representative at the camp, home to a population of more than 40,000 who fled the M23 conflict that has forced hundreds of thousands of civilians to flee their homes.

## Fire breaks out at Liberian parliament after protests

AFP  
Monrovia

A large blaze ravaged parts of Liberia's parliament building yesterday, a day after tense protests erupted following months of political deadlock.

Authorities said that the fire which broke out early in the morning had been brought under con-

trol and that an investigation had been launched to establish the cause.

Regional bloc Ecowas and the US embassy have condemned Tuesday's "violence" between police and protesters and called for calm in the West African nation.

Videos posted by local outlets on social media showed flames engulfing the building in the capital Monrovia, with thick black smoke rising high into the sky.

## Scrambling to save energy, Tehran turns off highway lights

AFP  
Tehran

Iranian authorities have turned off lights illuminating Tehran's highways, an official has told state media, as the country enacts numerous fuel-saving measures amid a biting cold snap.

In recent days, the Islamic re-

public has ordered schools and public offices shut across the country as it is forced to ration electricity, despite having one of the world's largest reserves of natural gas.

Alireza Rezaei, vice-president of Tehran's electricity company, told official news agency IRNA that highway lights had been turned off over the last two

months to conserve fuel. "Currently, we have blackouts on urban highways," Rezaei told IRNA on Tuesday, adding that street lights were still working.

Despite safety concerns, the highway blackouts will continue "as long as there is an energy imbalance" and until fuel consumption nationwide is "managed", he said.



**VERDICT**  
**Former Bangladesh minister acquitted in gun-running case**

A Bangladesh court acquitted an ex-minister sentenced to death for historic gun-running to Indian militants, charges his lawyer said had been falsified by the now-ousted previous government. Lutfuzzaman Babar, a former home affairs minister in his late 60s, was acquitted along with five others by Chittagong's High Court, his lawyer Shishir Monir said. "The prosecution failed to produce any credible evidence", Monir said. He said Babar had been falsely implicated in the gun-running plot because he was a senior member of the Bangladesh National Party. The case dates back to 2004 when Bangladeshi police seized 10 trucks packed with weapons.

**DECISION**  
**UK plans to boost defence spending to 2.5% of GDP**

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer yesterday reiterated his Labour government's plan to increase defence spending to 2.5% of gross domestic product (GDP), after Nato called on members to boost spending to meet threats from Russia. In an interview with LBC radio, Starmer was asked whether Britain would be willing to increase defence spending to 3% of GDP, but the leader repeated his government's position that it would plot a route to spending 2.5%. "The commitment we've made is to set out a path to 2.5%," he said. Starmer has said his government will set out that path next year.

**CONTROVERSY**  
**Starlink satellite beams are 'turned off over India': Musk**

Elon Musk said Starlink satellite Internet is inactive in India, his first comments since authorities seized two of the company's devices in recent weeks, one in an armed conflict zone and another in a drug smuggling bust. Starlink is seeking approval in India to provide satellite broadband services and the Musk-owned company is trying to address any potential security concerns as part of the process. Musk wrote on X that "Starlink satellite beams are turned off over India" and were "never on in the first place". A post by the Indian army said a device with the Starlink logo was being used by a militant group in Manipur.

**PEOPLE**  
**Malaysia minister to be fined for smoking at eatery**

Malaysia's foreign minister will be issued a fine for puffing a cigarette in a non-smoking area, the country's health minister said yesterday. Health Minister Dzulkefly Ahmad earlier this week reposted a photo of Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan smoking at a street-side eatery in the Malaysian state of Negeri Sembilan. Smoking in all eateries and restaurants was declared illegal in Malaysia in 2019 and further strict measures were introduced in October this year. "The foreign minister's office has been informed of this matter," Dzulkefly said on social media platform X yesterday, adding that the foreign minister himself wanted to be issued a fine for the offence.

# China, India officials hold talks to ease border dispute

Reuters  
Beijing

China and India took a further step towards easing their long-running border dispute yesterday, with senior officials holding formal talks for the first time in five years and committing to finding mutually acceptable solutions.

The meeting in Beijing between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval followed a milestone pact two months ago on lowering military tensions at a contested part of their border.

The two officials reaffirmed both sides' commitment to seek a package of solutions to the dispute that was fair and acceptable for both, a Chinese foreign ministry statement said.

They stressed the need to strengthen routine control and management of the border to maintain peace in the western Himalayan frontier area.

Ties between the two nuclear-armed neighbours have been severely strained since June 2020 after hand-to-hand combat in Galwan Valley led to the deaths of at least 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers.

The encounter was the deadliest since a brief war between India and China in 1962, also triggered by a dispute at their nearly 3,500km

border, known as the Line of Actual Control.

The two sides "emphasised the need to ensure peaceful conditions on the ground," a statement from India's foreign ministry said.

"Drawing on the learnings from the events of 2020, they discussed various measures to maintain peace and tranquillity on the border and advance effective border management."

In the last four years, both sides had deployed tens of thousands of troops and military equipment closer to their contested border in Ladakh, which has become a major flashpoint on the countries' poorly demarcated border.

Tensions and distrust between the neighbours have extended to other aspects of bilateral ties, with New Delhi slowing visa approvals for Chinese nationals, banning popular Chinese mobile apps and tightening scrutiny of investments from China.

Yesterday's meeting marked the first formal talks between the two countries' special representatives on border issues since late 2019. Paving the way for the talks was an agreement in October allowing for the disengagement of their troops at two face-off points.

Wang last met with Doval in September in St Petersburg, Russia, on the sidelines of a Brics meeting on security matters, with the two agreeing to create conditions to improve ties.

## Britain's premier meets Indian investors



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer poses for a group photo with Indian investors and CEOs, before hosting a meeting with them inside 10 Downing Street in central London yesterday.

# 13 killed as naval vessel hits passenger boat off Mumbai

Reuters  
Mumbai

At least 13 people died when a boat with more than 100 passengers capsized off the coast of India's financial capital Mumbai after colliding with an Indian Navy boat yesterday, officials said.

The navy said 99 people were rescued with efforts ongoing for others. "An Indian Navy craft lost control while undertaking engine trials in Mumbai harbour

due to engine malfunction. As a result, the boat collided with a passenger ferry which subsequently capsized," the navy said in a statement on X.

Local TV channels showed a boat carrying at least five people hitting the passenger vehicle, causing the accident.

"The speedboat crashed into our boat and water started entering our boat and it overturned. The driver asked us to wear lifejackets," a passenger on board the vessel told ABP Majha news channel.

"I swam for 15 minutes before I was rescued

by another boat," said the passenger, who did not identify himself.

The privately-owned passenger boat, called Neelkamal, was heading towards the Elephanta caves, a popular tourist destination off the coast of Mumbai, when it capsized, BMC said.

The caves, which see a steady stream of tourists through the year, are a Unesco heritage site and were constructed in the 5th-6th centuries AD.

Boats from the Gateway of India, Mumbai's southernmost point, make regular trips to ferry tourists to the site, an hour away.

**UK police win bid to seize \$2.5mn from Andrew Tate**

UK police yesterday won a legal bid to seize more than £2mn (\$2.5mn) from controversial influencer Andrew Tate and his brother to settle millions due in unpaid taxes.

A London court ruled in favour of police who had applied to seize the money from seven frozen bank accounts in a civil fraud case against the brothers.

The two men remain in Romania and yesterday's ruling came before a hearing due in Bucharest today to decide whether Tate, 38, a former professional kickboxer, and his brother, Tristan, 36, can be tried on allegations of human trafficking and rape.

In the civil case at Westminster Magistrates court, police told the hearing the siblings had failed to pay any taxes on £211mn of revenue from their online businesses. The case was lodged against them and a third person - referred to only as "J" - by Devon and Cornwall police in southwest England over the allegedly unpaid tax from earnings between 2014 and 2022.

## Back home



Mary Jane Veloso (centre) is reunited with her two sons (back right) and parents (left) after she arrived at the Correctional Institution for Women in Manila, Philippines, yesterday. Mary Jane Veloso, a Filipina who spent nearly 15 years on Indonesia's death row was taken to a local prison following a repatriation deal years in the making.

## Watchdog flags UK police failures over Southport riots

AFP  
London

UK police underestimated "the rising tide of violence" that culminated in anti-immigration riots earlier this year and failed to mitigate against online misinformation which helped fuel it, a watchdog report said yesterday.

Disorder erupted across England and Northern Ireland for more than a week in late July and early August after three girls were killed in a knife attack in Southport, northwest England.

Initially sparked by false rumours spread online that the perpetrator was a Muslim asylum seeker, the disorder then morphed into widespread anti-migrant rioting, England's worst disturbances in more than a decade.

More than 300 officers were injured during the unrest, with 54 admitted to hospital.

The report by the emergency services watchdog into the police response found intelligence "gaps" and failures to understand and curb misinformation spreading on social media, as well as operational errors.

"Social media played a massive role, and unfortunately, the intelligence processes that were in place prior to this didn't pick up sufficiently some of the warning signals that had occurred over the previous 24 months," chief inspector of constabulary Andy Cooke told BBC Radio.

"No-one understood or could counter the emerging cause and effect of that misinformation and disinformation," the head of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) added in the assessment.

"So the police failed adequately to denounce it or mitigate against it in real time to deter or curtail the disorder."

# Japanese startup's space rocket launch fails

Reuters  
Tokyo

Japan's Space One terminated the flight of its Kairos small rocket shortly after liftoff yesterday, marking the end of its second attempt in nine months to become the country's first company to deliver a satellite to space with a privately-developed rocket.

It is the latest in a series of recent setbacks for Japanese rocket development, even as the government pushes for 30 rocket launches annually and an 8tn

yen (\$52bn) space industry by the early 2030s to make Japan Asia's space hub.

The Kairos rocket self-destructed about three minutes into the flight, after it detected abnormalities in the first-stage engine nozzle control and the rocket's trajectory, Space One director Mamoru Endo said at a briefing.

Live images from the local Wakayama prefecture government had shown the 59ft solid-propellant rocket blasting off from Spaceport Kii in western Japan at 11am (0200 GMT) but whirling during its ascent.

The cause of the failure remains unclear and requires further investigation, Endo said, adding that Kairos probably flew to an altitude of more than 100km until the self-destruct system kicked in.

Five small satellites, including one from the Taiwan Space Agency, were on board the rocket, which was headed into sun-synchronous orbit roughly 500km above the earth's surface.

Tokyo-based Space One was founded in 2018 by Canon Electronics, IHI's aerospace unit, construction firm Shimizu and a

state-backed bank, with the goal of launching 20 small rockets a year by 2029 to capture growing satellite launch demand.

At its debut flight in March, Kairos, carrying a Japanese government satellite, exploded five seconds after launch.

Inappropriate flight settings triggered the rocket's autonomous self-destruct system even though no issues were found in its hardware, Space One later said.

"We don't see what happened this time as a failure," company president Masakazu Toyoda told reporters yesterday, repeating the

phrase he used in March. He added that the data from the failed launch would be useful for a third mission and that another attempt was on the cards.

A lack of domestic launch options has prompted Japanese space startups such as radar satellite maker iQPS and debris mitigator Astroscale to tap on commercial launch leader Elon Musk's SpaceX or small rocket provider Rocket Lab.

Recent Japanese rocket projects have also faced other issues.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency postponed the de-

but flight of the new solid-fuel launcher Epsilon S after its engine combustion test failed last month for a second time.

JAXA's larger liquid-propellant rocket H3 also failed at its inaugural launch in March 2023 but has succeeded in three flights this year, winning orders from clients such as French satellite giant Eutelsat.

In 2019, Interstellar Technologies became the first Japanese firm to send a rocket into space without a satellite payload, but its orbital launcher Zero is still under development.



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**GULF TIMES**

# Macron has a new prime minister but same old problems

When veteran centrist Francois Bayrou, France's new prime minister, was education minister in the 1990s, his plan to increase subsidies for private schools led to nationwide protests. He quickly caved in and would stay in the post for four more years.

Three decades later he will face a different force in the shape of a fractured and fractious parliament where one of his earliest tasks - as President Emmanuel Macron's fourth prime minister of the year - will be to pass a budget for 2025.

First he must name a government which, like that of his predecessor Michel Barnier, will have minority support in parliament and be vulnerable to attack from far-right and left-wing opponents. The ouster of Barnier and his cabinet - the first time France's parliament had voted to remove a government since 1962 - seemed to stun even those behind the move. For now, there is cross-party support for emergency legislation to ensure government funding does not dry up - but then the hard work on a budget for next year will begin.

"The difficulties remain the same as under Michel Barnier," Arnaud Benedetti, a professor at the Sorbonne university, told Reuters. "At least, a motion of no-confidence doesn't seem likely in the very short-term."

A Macron aide said Bayrou was the "most consensual candidate able to bring people together". Socialists said he represented more of the same.

A career politician, Bayrou, 73, was the torch-bearer of centrism until Macron reshaped the political landscape in 2017, dynamiting the traditional mainstream parties in a campaign Bayrou rallied behind.

Bayrou has in the past talked tough on the risks posed by France's rising debt pile.

He did so again on Friday, saying the country's debt was a "moral problem" as much as a financial one. "I hear your warning on the seriousness of the situation and I agree," he told Barnier.

But he has placed a high value on keeping the peace, whether with the unions, lawmakers or the myriad of powerful vested interests in France.

Keeping the peace in a National Assembly dominated by three warring factions will be nigh-on impossible, however.

Lawmakers' pushback over the 2025 budget bill led to Barnier's downfall and left-wing leaders say they may try to topple Bayrou should he also use special constitutional powers to ram through the budget without a vote in parliament.

"Bringing onboard demands from opposition parties may be fiscally costly and the degree of fiscal consolidation may be limited next year as a result," said JP Morgan's Raphael Brun-Aguerre in a note. Through the week Macron held talks with party chiefs spanning the centre-right Republicans to the Communists.

He appealed to all 'Republican forces' to unite but opted to resist Socialist Party calls to appoint a premier from within their ranks, unwilling to risk unwinding reforms that liberalised the eurozone's second-largest economy and placed the pension system on a more financially sound footing. Even so, the president's 2023 pension reform will remain in his opponents' crosshairs.

"Our red lines remain," Jordan Bardella, leader of the far-right National Rally told reporters shortly after Bayrou was named. Those red lines include indexing pensions to inflation throughout 2025.

One opinion poll this week showed that 35-38% of voters intended to support Bardella's boss, Marine Le Pen, in the next presidential election due in 2027 - a level not seen before for the far-right leader and putting her in the lead.

Furthermore, even if Bayrou's political opponents do not get in the way, the challenges for his future government will be immense.

It will need to reduce the budget deficit from a projected 6.1% for 2024 whilst keeping protest-prone trade unions at bay, increasing military spending for Ukraine and finding ways to support an ailing industrial sector. Barnier had promised to bring the deficit down with tax rises for the wealthy and for big companies, as well as a curbs on the planned rise in pension payments. But these measures fell by the wayside when his government was toppled.

Former finance minister Bruno Le Maire, who has been grilled by lawmakers investigating his role in France's failure to curb its deficit, gave a scathing indictment of parliament.

"This assembly taxes, spends, censors," he said. "It has long lost any sense of economic and budget realities."

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# Big Data in diplomacy: Transforming global relations through digital diplomacy



**By Laura Iancu**  
Founder of Diplomats.Digital

**P**icture this: A diplomat steps into a negotiation room equipped not just with policy briefs, cultural insights and traditional intelligence but also a rich dataset that maps public sentiment, economic indicators, social trends, emerging concerns and potential allies in the opposing nation. With a few clicks, the diplomat identifies key influencers, potential allies, and confidently navigates the conversation, offering tailored solutions and anticipating objections.

This is not the future - it's the present.

Welcome to the transformative era of Big Data in diplomacy, a game-changer in global relations.

Together, let's explore the critical questions surrounding this evolution.

**1. Why Big Data matters in diplomacy?**

Diplomacy has always relied on information. From dispatches carried by couriers centuries ago to classified cables of the 20th century, data has been the lifeblood of international relations. The 21st century's explosion of digital information demands a revolutionary approach; the volume, variety, and velocity of modern data surpass traditional methods.

**Today, Big Data enables the diplomatic structures to:**

- 1. Understand public sentiment, from local to regional to global: Social media

analytics reveal how populations perceive policies, leaders, and international events in real time. Get the pulse.

2. Anticipate trends and crises, leaving room for black swans: Predictive analytics can identify patterns signalling unrest or humanitarian crises, allowing for proactive measures. Plan for the likely, prepare for the unlikely.

3. Strengthen negotiations: Data insights provide leverage by highlighting shared interests, pain points, or opportunities for collaboration. Turn insights into influence.

**A real-world example:** Social media's role in crisis response

During the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict, social media has become a critical source of real-time intelligence for governments, international organisations, and the global public. Platforms such as X, Telegram, and TikTok have offered unprecedented insights into the dynamics of the war, from troop movements to civilian responses. Citizens on the ground document events in real time, creating a decentralised flow of information that supplements traditional intelligence channels.

For example, open-source intelligence (OSINT) communities have analysed satellite images, geotagged social media posts, and live-streamed videos to track military activities and humanitarian crises. Governments and NGOs have leveraged these data points to craft policies, assess the impact of sanctions, and coordinate aid efforts.

This scenario underscores the urgency for diplomats and policymakers to integrate digital intelligence into their workflows. As the Ukraine-Russia conflict demonstrates, the ability to parse, verify, and act on vast amounts of digital data can shape global responses to crises, highlighting both the power and challenges of Big Data in modern diplomacy.

**2. How are countries leveraging Big Data?**

**Global case studies: Pioneers in Big Data diplomacy**

**The United States:** The US Department of State uses data analytics to evaluate public diplomacy efforts. For

example, analysing sentiment from international social media campaigns helps refine messages and target the right audiences.

**Estonia:** Known as a digital trailblazer, Estonia's e-Residency program collects data that informs its foreign and trade policies, creating a bridge between the digital and diplomatic mediums. The country uses anonymised data from its e-Residency programme to strengthen trade relations and attract investments.

**China:** Through its Belt and Road Initiative, China tracks trade patterns and assesses economic and political dependencies, using this information to strategically expand its influence across participating countries.

**Japan:** Japan employs Big Data to predict and prepare for natural disasters. These insights extend to diplomatic discussions, where Japan shares its expertise with partner nations, bolstering its soft power.

These examples raise important questions: How can diplomats balance data's potential with concerns about privacy and misinformation? What role should ethics play in leveraging Big Data for diplomacy?

**Big Data challenges in diplomacy**

While the promise of Big Data is immense, we can all agree that the challenges are equally significant:

- 1. **Data overload:** With so much information, distinguishing noise from actionable insights requires advanced tools and skills.
- 2. **Privacy and ethical concerns:** Using data responsibly is critical to maintaining public trust. Misuse of data could erode public trust or spark diplomatic backlash.
- 3. **Technological capacity gaps:** Many diplomatic missions lack the infrastructure or expertise to harness Big Data effectively.

**A path forward: Key questions for practitioners**

- What tools and partnerships are essential for integrating Big Data into diplomatic efforts?
- How can ministries of foreign affairs ethically collaborate with the private sector to bridge technological gaps?

- What digital diplomacy training programs can equip diplomats to become fluent in data analysis?
- How can diplomats integrate data insights into traditional processes without losing the human touch?

**Inspiration from the private sector**

Businesses like Google and Amazon use Big Data to predict customer behaviour and optimise strategies. Diplomats can adopt similar practices. For example:

- **Real-time dashboards:** Create embassy-specific dashboards to track local sentiment and emerging crises.
- **Data analysts in embassies:** Embed specialists to interpret complex datasets and support decision-making.

**Big Data diplomacy: A call to action - Leading in the digital diplomatic age**

The question is no longer whether Big Data belongs in diplomacy - it's how fast and effectively it can be integrated. As the volume of global data continues to grow exponentially, nations that adapt will find themselves leading on the global stage, while those that don't risk being left behind.

Will your nation be a pioneer or a spectator in this transformation? The time to act is now.

By embracing Big Data, diplomacy can not only solve today's challenges but also shape a more stable, informed, and collaborative global future.

Let's explore together avenues and innovative ways harnessing collective expertise and forward-thinking approaches to drive impactful, effective change in diplomacy.

**IG handle:** <https://www.instagram.com/diplomats.digital?igsh=dWVpOWt1zYXEya2x4>



# Case against Brazil coup plotters could end decades of impunity

**T**he arrest of a four-star general in Brazil over the weekend shows courts are ready to play hardball with those accused of plotting to violently overturn election results, breaking with the impunity that shadowed nearly a century of military coups.

Former Brazilian Defense Minister Walter Braga Netto was arrested on Saturday for allegedly meddling in the investigation of a coup plot organised with former president Jair Bolsonaro, his running mate in the 2022 election.

Last month, federal police accused them and over two dozen active and retired military officers of taking part in the plot, including a scheme to kill President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva before he could take office.

Lawyers for Bolsonaro and Braga Netto deny they took part in the alleged conspiracy or would have benefited from one.

The preventive arrest and police report targeting military brass suggest they may not enjoy the traditional amnesty for members of Brazil's armed forces who punctuated the 20th century with their political interventions.

It may also provide a test for Lula's fraught relationship with the Brazilian military. Before Braga Netto, military historians cite just two such high-ranking generals arrested for meddling with presidential succession in the 1920s and the 1960s.

Unlike Argentina and Chile, where armed forces also brought down elected governments to install bloody dictatorships during the Cold War, Brazil never punished the leaders of its military regime from 1964 to 1985.

Due to a 1979 law pardoning the crimes of the military government, Brazilian courts have all but ignored public evidence that the dictatorship tortured thousands of people and killed hundreds, according to a 2014 government report.

"Because there was no punishment, because that history wasn't told, it's alive - like a serpent's egg," said Eliana Pintor, 62, one of hundreds of demonstrators who gathered in the Sao Paulo rain on Tuesday to demand Bolsonaro and his alleged co-conspirators be brought to trial.

Brazil's prosecutor general is expected to decide next year whether to bring charges against Bolsonaro and his associates, who deny any wrongdoing and call the investigation legally suspect and politically motivated.

Bolsonaro's allies in Congress are pushing a bill granting amnesty to the former president and his supporters facing legal jeopardy for vandalising government buildings in Brasilia in January 2023 during a protest calling for the military to overturn election results.

Although that bill currently faces political and legal hurdles, Brazil's often slow-moving justice system could take years to try to eventually punish Bolsonaro and other targets of the federal police investigation concluded last month.

A survey released on Friday showed 51% of Brazilians believe Bolsonaro and military officers attempted a coup to block Lula's presidency. But the Genial/Quaest poll found 38% disagreed - underscoring the deep political divisions that could eventually derail prosecution.

Still, even the prospect of alleged coup-plotters on trial would break with precedent in Brazil.

"It's a great novelty and a great challenge to Brazil's justice system," said Paulo Abrao, the executive director of the Washington Brazil Office, a progressive think tank that has worked on accountability for crimes during the dictatorship.

Abrao said that efforts to prosecute senior military officers in Brazil have long faced resistance from those fearing that such a move would "destabilise democracy."

For Lula, who entered politics as a union leader organizing strikes against the military government in the 1970s and whose allies include former members of the armed resistance to that regime, a trial could test his delicate relationship with the military.

Defence Minister Jose Mucio stressed in a statement to Reuters that the evidence presented by the federal police points to acts by individuals, not the institution of the armed forces.

That view is widely shared in the military, according to three senior officers, who spoke

on condition of anonymity. Still, setting aside ideology, material interests have weighed on relations between the military and Lula's government.

In Bolsonaro's government, military officers held positions of power unlike anything seen since the end of the dictatorship. Thousands took well-paid jobs in the federal government and several served as ministers in Bolsonaro's cabinet.

Carlos Fico, a military historian at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, said that the alleged coup attempt may have been "less motivated by ideology and doctrine than a desire to maintain a series of benefits, such as government jobs and the special retirement conditions the military has in Brazil."

Bolsonaro himself burst onto the public scene in the late 1980s, soon after the end of Brazil's military government, as an army captain demanding higher wages for soldiers and built his power advocating for the interests of military rank and file.

Those benefits are now under pressure as Lula's government has looked for ways to trim the public payroll and pensions, including a proposal to raise the minimum retirement age for military officers to 55.

Two people involved in the discussions said the resistance from the armed forces has carried more weight than in other parts of the federal government facing proposed cuts.

However, political ramifications are secondary for the many Brazilians who have been waiting most of their lives to see soldiers held responsible for their crimes.

Victoria Grabois, an 81-year-old human rights activist, lost her husband, father and brother in 1973 due to their opposition to the dictatorship. Her efforts to bring their killers to justice have been fruitless.

"No-one ever sat for trial," she said. Although the officers accused last month of plotting to overturn the 2022 election had nothing to do with the crimes against her family, Grabois said she is heartened by the prospect of accountability.

"Maybe this will put a stop to the coup-mongering desire in the military," she said. - Reuters





# Katara's Qatar National Day celebrations conclude



**K**atara - the Cultural Village's Qatar National Day (QND) celebrations concluded yesterday, after attracting thousands of citizens and expatriates who gathered from 3pm to enjoy the national and heritage events and the impressive military displays.

These included paramotor parachute shows, a military band performance, the Qatari "Ardha" traditional dance, presentations at Al Thuraya Planetarium, and participation in the 'Book of Loyalty and Devotion'; with the young and the old expressing their heartfelt love for the nation and its leader through messages on a wall.

The breathtaking parachute displays in the skies above Katara left the spectators in awe. A performance by the Qatar Armed Forces' Centre for Performances and Military Music captivated a large audience along Katara's Corniche. The traditional Qatari Ardha dance showcased noble values and deep loyalty through its expressive movements, celebrating heritage, pride in the nation's past, and devotion to Qatar.

Audiences at Al Thuraya Planetarium enjoyed the screening of a documentary highlighting the life and achievements of His Highness the Father Amir, focusing on his contributions to the nation's prosperity and global recognition.

Crowds also gathered to watch the FIFA Intercontinental Cup 2024 final between Real Madrid and Mexico's Pachuca on giant screens placed around Katara's Corniche. The tent of Al Gannas Qatari Society and Al-Galayel Championship drew considerable interest from the visitors.



Katara's QND celebrations concluded yesterday after attracting thousands of visitors. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam and supplied



# Ras Al Nasaa Park opens on Doha Corniche

**Park's inauguration is part of the commitment to sustainable development as outlined in the Ministry of Municipality's 2024-2030 strategy, which stems from Qatar National Vision 2030 and its Third National Development Strategy**

The Ras Al Nasaa Park, built using recycled materials from the international gardens at Expo 2023 Doha, was inaugurated on Doha Corniche by Doha Municipality director general Mansour Ajran al-Buainain.

The sustainable and environment-friendly park is the second of its kind, developed as part of the Expo 2023 Doha legacy, following Al Rayhan Park in the Duhail area.

Ras Al Nasaa Park, located at the beginning of Doha Corniche, overlooks key tourist landmarks in the city, including Old Doha Port, the National Museum of Qatar, and Stadium 974.

The opening ceremony was attended by Doha Municipality's Parks Section head Mohamed Abdullah Abbas and other officials and guests.

Al-Buainain stressed that the park's inauguration is part of the commitment to sustainable development as outlined in the Ministry of Municipality's 2024-2030 strategy, which stems from Qatar National Vision 2030 and its Third National Development Strategy.

He highlighted the importance of preserving Doha's urban and aesthetic landscape, noting that sustainability ambassadors from Qatar Scientific Club were involved in the park's design. The process began with a workshop introducing the basics of public park design and its key elements, followed by a competition to design the Ras Al Nasaa site. The winning design was selected, refined, and implemented.

Abbas explained that the park, completed in a record time of 30 days, used materials from Expo 2023 Doha, such as seating, lighting, irrigation systems, and more. The park spans a green area of about 14,000sq m, of which 10,000sq m are dedicated to natural grass, trees, and palm trees irrigated using advanced modern systems.



Stadium 974 is seen in the backdrop of Ras Al Nasaa Park on Doha Corniche.

The park includes 25 palm trees, 23 lighting poles, 53 ground lights, and 24 public seating areas. It also features pathways and various trees, shrubs, and ground cover plants. Around 80% of the materials used in the park are recycled.



Officials and workers at the opening of the park.

Promotion available at all Safari outlets on: 19-12-2024 at all Safari Outlets سفاري منافذ بتاريخ: 19/12/24 في جميع منافذ سفاري

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| <p><b>17.75 QR</b><br/>لحم بقري باكستاني بالعظم 1 كجم<br/>Pakistan Beef With Bone 1kg</p>                     | <p><b>19.25 QR</b><br/>جمبري عمان 1 كجم<br/>Fresh Prawns Oman 1kg</p>                     | <p><b>30.00 QR</b><br/>سمك فاروس تركي 1 كجم<br/>Fresh Sea Bass Turkey 1kg</p>                             | <p><b>13.75 QR</b><br/>سمك موسى عمان 1 كجم<br/>Fresh Sole Fish Oman 1kg</p>                           |
| <p><b>2.50 QR</b><br/>بصل مصري 1 كجم<br/>Onion Egypt 1kg</p>  | <p><b>2.00 QR</b><br/>بطاطس باكستاني 1 كجم<br/>Potato Pakistan 1kg</p>                    | <p><b>5.50 QR</b><br/>موز اصفر كبير هندي 1 كجم<br/>Yellow Banana Big India 1kg</p>                        | <p><b>3.75 QR</b><br/>موز اكوادرا 1 كجم<br/>Banana Ecuador 1kg</p>                                    |
| <p><b>9.00 QR</b><br/>برقوق اسود ايطالي 1 كجم<br/>Plums Black Italy 1kg</p>                                   | <p><b>9.50 QR</b><br/>بابايا فاكه هندي 1 كجم<br/>Pappaya Fruit India 1 Kg</p>             | <p><b>4.25 QR</b><br/>فطر الدوحة (حوالي 250 جم) 1 عبوة<br/>Mushroom Fresh Doha (Approx:250gm) 1pkt</p>    | <p><b>16.00 QR</b><br/>لوز سادة أمريكي كبير (20/22) 500 جم<br/>Almond Plain Usa Big (20/22) 500gm</p> |
| <p><b>8.50 QR</b><br/>جولد وينر زيت دوار الشمس 1.5 لتر x 1 حبة<br/>Gold Winner Sunflower Oil 1.5Ltr x 1pc</p> | <p><b>46.00 QR</b><br/>نيدو حليب مدعم محقق 2.25 كجم<br/>Nido Milk Powder Pouch 2.25kg</p> | <p><b>12.50 QR</b><br/>صحتين صدور دجاج طرية 1 كجم x 1 حبة<br/>Sahtein Chicken Tender Breast 1kg x 1pc</p> | <p><b>10.75 QR</b><br/>ساديا دجاج شواية 1400 جم x 1 حبة<br/>Sadia Chicken Griller 1400gm x 1pc</p>    |

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