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QATAR | Page 3

1st International Orientalism Conference concludes



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Our Say



Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka, Editor-in-Chief of *Gulf Times*

Qatar and the UK: partners in progress

Qatar and the United Kingdom share a dynamic and enduring partnership that spans critical sectors such as energy and education, forming a cornerstone of their bilateral relations. Building on decades of collaboration, British expertise played a foundational role in the early development of Qatar's oil and gas industry, while Qatar has since become a vital supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the UK, significantly contributing to its energy security and sustainable energy transition. Strategic investments such as the South Hook LNG Terminal in Wales and partnerships in major projects like the North Field South expansion highlight the depth of this co-operation. At the same time, the relationship extends beyond energy, with both countries forging strong ties in education through formal agreements, institutional collaborations, and the presence of leading British educational institutions in Qatar. Together, these efforts not only bolster economic and energy security but also foster knowledge exchange, innovation, and sustainable development, reflecting the shared vision of a future built on mutual growth and resilience. Energy has long been at the heart of the Qatar-UK partnership, setting the stage for some of the most significant investments and collaborations between the two nations.

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Qatar, Turkiye stress need to end Gaza war, support Syria

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan, have stressed the need to end the war in Gaza and support stability in Syria.

This came during a joint press conference at the conclusion of talks held by Fidan in Doha yesterday.

HE Sheikh Mohammed stressed that Qatar cannot accept the starvation of the Palestinian people or the use of starvation as a weapon, emphasising the continuation of mediation to end the war.

He pointed out that “the goal of the current negotiations on Gaza is to release prisoners and end the war.” He explained that he discussed with his Turkish counterpart Israel's resumption of its aggression on the Gaza Strip.

Noting that Qatar will continue its efforts with its partners to end the war in the Strip, he said: “We have been working with Egypt as a single team since the beginning of the crisis in Gaza and are constantly in contact with them.

“We worked in our mediation to bring viewpoints closer together, but we were met with a torrent of malicious rumours.”

He noted that “Qatar is transparent in its dealings, and the facts have proven the allegations against it to be false.”

HE the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister pointed out that Hamas has repeatedly and publicly affirmed its willingness to return all hostages, adding, “We are exerting our efforts to bring the parties back to the ceasefire agreement in Gaza.”

He said Israel wants the release of all prisoners with no prospect of ending the war on Gaza, not-



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

ing that “Hamas is ready to release all hostages in exchange for the release of prisoners, subject to conditions that Israel may reject.”

HE Sheikh Mohammed said: “Last Thursday, we noticed some progress in the positions of the parties regarding the ceasefire negotiations,” noting that “when Doha announced its suspension of its role in the negotiations last November, it was with the aim of halting the provocation against it.”

He welcomed Oman's efforts in mediating between Iran and the United States.

HE Sheikh Mohammed also affirmed that Qatar will continue its efforts to support peace and the reconstruction process in Syria.

HE Sheikh Mohammed also noted that “Qatar's contracts with an American telecommunications company aim to counter a public relations campaign against us in Israel.”

For his part, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said that the strategic partnership with Qatar contributes to supporting regional stability, noting that Qatar has made significant efforts which are commendable, emphasising that the entire region is indebted to it. **To Page 2**

Allegations against Qatar are nothing but propaganda: PM

Answering a question from *Gulf Times* Editor-in-Chief Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka about allegations that Qatar was behind the protests on American campuses and Netanyahu's statements and the ‘Qatargate’ issue, HE the Prime Minister said: “All talk about Qatar being behind the student demonstrations in the United States is nonsense.” HE Sheikh Mohammed said: “Our relationship with American universities is limited to educational institutions located in Doha, and any funding provided by Qatar to educational or research institutions is open to everyone and within transparency.” “What the press has dubbed ‘Qatargate’ is nothing more than a propaganda term used for political purposes and has no basis in truth.” “We have been working with our brothers in Egypt as one team since the beginning of the crisis in Gaza, and we are in constant contact and co-ordination with our brothers in Egypt.” “Some marginal politicians who spread lies about Qatar have forgotten that Qatar itself helped secure the release of over 100 hostages in Gaza, achieved a ceasefire, and consistently works to promote international peace and security.” “We are a peace-loving nation and a genuine Arab Gulf state. We will not break out of this mould, no matter how many accusations are hurled at us.”

Amir, Turkish FM review relations



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received at Lusail Palace yesterday Minister of Foreign Affairs of the sisterly Republic of Turkiye, Hakan Fidan, who is on a visit to Qatar. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the strategic relations between the two sisterly countries and ways to strengthen and develop them. They also discussed key regional and international developments, particularly those in the Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories and Syria. **(QNA)**

Amir, Sudan leader discuss relations

His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani discussed bilateral co-operation relations and ways to enhance and develop them with Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of the sisterly Republic of Sudan, Lt Gen

Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. This came during a phone call His Highness the Amir received yesterday from the Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of Sudan. The two sides also discussed key regional and international developments of mutual interest. **(QNA)**

PM, British FM co-chair 2nd Strategic Dialogue



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs David Lammy co-chaired the second Qatar-United Kingdom Strategic Dialogue yesterday in Doha, held under the theme “Partners for the Future.”

The dialogue included discussions on enhancing co-operation between the two countries across four main pillars: future prosperity, a secure future, a more just future, and the future of relations between the two peoples, within eight working groups specialising in defence, security, counterterrorism, trade and investment, science, technology and innovation, development, mediation, culture, education, heritage, and health.

The meeting also saw the launch of a new working group on technology, science, and innovation, and another on health. Discussions addressed opportunities to advance co-operation in emerging technologies and artificial intelligence, including their applications in healthcare and the management of health data.

The dialogue also touched on strengthening joint co-ordination and co-operation in addressing global challenges, convening the

first meeting of the development working group and establishing a task force on mediation.

The two sides discussed a number of regional and international issues of mutual concern, particularly the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, the ongoing efforts to reestablish a ceasefire agreement, and ways to lift restrictions on the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza. They also discussed the latest developments in the Syrian Arab Republic, the mediation efforts led by the Sultanate of Oman between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the US, as well as negotiations between the US and the Russian Federation.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs affirmed during the event that the second Qatar-United Kingdom Strategic Dialogue reflects the two countries' shared determination to strengthen their close partnership and expand their growing co-operation across all fields, including making an active contribution to addressing global challenges, particularly in conflict resolution through peaceful means, the flow of humanitarian and development assistance, and capacity building to consolidate peace at the regional and international levels. **(QNA) Page 4**

QF launches multi-pronged 10-year autism strategy

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Qatar Foundation (QF) unveiled a comprehensive 10-year strategy designed to dramatically improve the lives of individuals with autism in Qatar, at an event yesterday (Sunday) in Education City.

The ‘Qatar Foundation Autism Strategy 2025-2035’ outlines a multi-faceted approach covering inclusive education, cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI) innovations, groundbreaking genetic research, and streamlined healthcare pathways.

The strategy aligns with Qatar's national autism agenda, recognising autism as a significant national health challenge and reaffirming QF's commitment to disability rights, accessibility, and inclusive national development.



Speaking at the event, Dr Dena al-Thani, associate professor and head of the Information and Computing Technology Division at QF's Hamad Bin Khalifa University's (HBKU) College of Science and Engineering, who chairs QF's Autism Task Force, highlighted the significance of the initiative, saying: “This launch is a milestone for QF. It stresses inclusion, empowerment.”

She noted that the roadmap reflects a proactive response to the

diverse needs of individuals with autism and their families, setting concrete targets to be achieved by 2035.

Key objectives include a 25% reduction in the average age of autism diagnosis, a 50% increase in the number of young people with autism participating in higher education, vocational training, or employment, a 50% improvement in the reported quality of life for families impacted by autism, and a 50% increase in QF-developed technologies supporting improved outcomes.

Dr Dena said the strategy, developed over nearly two years, was built on evidence-based research, listening to the autistic community, and collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Public Health, ensuring alignment with Qatar's broader national autism plan.

“Our vision, our idea is to af-

firm firstly the incredible value of the diversity, and the unique strength individuals with autism bring to our society but also at the same time acknowledge the gaps, the challenges we have.

She credited Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, and the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, for spearheading the initiative through the establishment of the Autism Task Force.

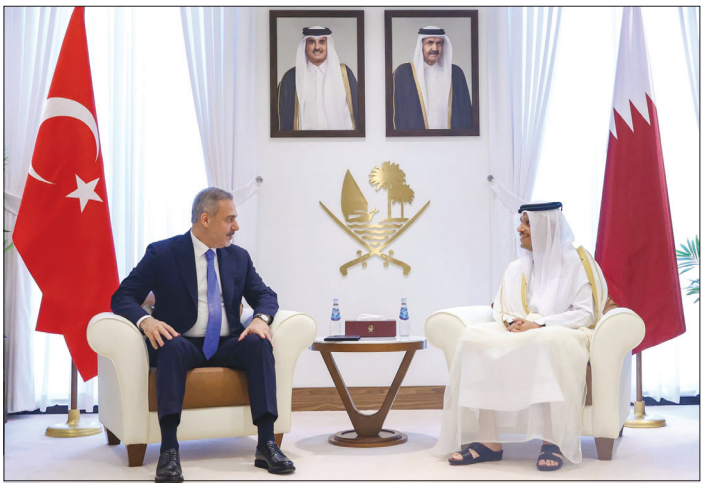
The strategic priorities outlined in the plan include:

1. **Health Services:** Ensuring individuals with autism have access to integrated, accessible, timely, and user-friendly health services.

2. **Education and Employment:** Improving access to education, vocational training, and employment services for individuals with autism. **To Page 6**



PM receives Turkish FM



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, yesterday received the visiting Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan. The meeting reviewed the strategic relations between the two sisterly countries and ways to support and develop them. They also discussed developments in the region, particularly in the Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories, and Syria.

HE Sheikh Mohammed also affirmed the continued efforts of Qatar within the framework of joint mediation to end the war on the Gaza Strip. He reiterated Qatar's full support for Syria's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and for the aspirations of its brotherly people for security and stability. He also expressed Qatar's appreciation for Türkiye's efforts aimed at promoting peace, security, and stability regionally and internationally. **(QNA)**

Qatar, Turkiye stress need to end Gaza war, support Syria

From Page 1

He said: "We will continue to maintain close dialogue and co-ordination with Qatar," noting that "Türkiye is co-ordinating with the Qatari side to achieve stability in Syria and rid it of terrorism."

He also noted that his country "will continue its efforts to ensure that the Palestinian and Israeli people live in security and safety based on the two-state solution," adding, "the key to a just peace in the region is the two-state solution."

He said that Turkish efforts in Qatar complement Qatari-Egyptian efforts to end the war on Gaza, stressing that "Hamas will accept any agreement that includes a two-state solution."

He continued: "Our priority is to revive the ceasefire and see food aid reach the Gaza Strip," noting that the Palestinian side has expressed its agreement to a cease-

fire in Gaza, but Israel is being stubborn and refusing.

Regarding Syria, Fidan said that the current sanctions are hindering stability there, stressing that efforts are being made with his country's partners to lift the sanctions.

He said in this regard: "There are those who want to exploit the current situation in Syria, and we stand in the way of those who want to do so." He noted that his country "wants to see an environment that grants equal rights to all ethnic and religious components of the Syrian people."

He also emphasised that "Türkiye will not accept any interference that violates Syrian sovereignty, and we reject any party bearing arms outside the framework of the state." He noted that his country "waits for the Kurdistan Workers' Party to heed the call to lay down its arms and stop destabilising the region."

PM meets Peru's FM



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, yesterday received the visiting Foreign Minister of Peru, Elmer Schialer Salcedo. The two sides discussed Qatar-Peru relations and means to bolster them, besides topics of mutual interest. During the meeting, HE Sheikh Mohammed affirmed Qatar's keenness to strengthen relations with Peru and to open new horizons for co-operation across various fields. **(QNA)**

Qatar, Peru explore avenues for shoring up bilateral ties

Stemming from the deep-rooted ties of friendship and co-operation between Qatar and Peru, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met in Doha yesterday with Peru's Foreign Minister, Elmer Schialer Salcedo, who is on an official visit to Qatar.

Both sides shared perspectives on a range of regional and global issues of common concern, affirming the importance of advancing the de-escalation process toward a lasting peace in the Middle East.

The Peruvian foreign minister highlighted Qatar's pivotal role as a key mediator in resolving conflicts and consolidating peace, as manifested in its significant contributions in multiple conflict zones, foremost of which is its effective role in facilitating the recent Gaza ceasefire deal that was signed on Jan 19, 2025.

In addition, the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the deep understanding reached through the mechanism of the third round of political consultations convened in Lima on Jan 15, 2025, as well as

in the previous meetings held within this framework, which contributed to enhancing the bilateral dialogue.

The two parties deliberated on a broad range of topics of shared interest, including economic and trade relations, political and consular affairs, co-operation in youth and sports, cultural exchanges, healthcare, tourism development, and food security. They explored avenues for shoring up development projects and identified new domains for co-operation that aim to deepen the bilateral relationship.

Furthermore, both sides expressed their satisfaction with the concrete outcomes achieved during the visit and reaffirmed their commitment to continue working together to drive co-operation forward in a manner that serves the interests of both countries.

The foreign minister of Peru expressed his profound gratitude to HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs for the generous hospitality, warm reception, and the productive talks that beefed up the relations between the two countries. **(QNA)**

PM reiterates Qatar's support for Lebanon



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met in Doha yesterday with Lebanese Minister of Culture Dr Ghassan Salameh. The agenda included ways to boost bilateral relations, the latest developments in Lebanon, and topics of common interest. During the meeting, HE Sheikh Mohammed reiterated Qatar's relentless support for Lebanon and the Lebanese people. He also stressed the need for the parties to fully commit to implementing the ceasefire agreement and for the Israeli occupation forces to withdraw from all Lebanese territories. **(QNA)**

Lebanese minister hails ties with Qatar

Lebanon's Minister of Labour, Dr Mohammad Haidar, has praised Qatar's role in supporting Lebanon during its crises, along with the fraternal relations between the two nations, emphasising the importance of avenues of bilateral co-operation in the future.

Dr Haidar expressed to Qatar News Agency (QNA) his gratitude for the persistent Qatari support for Lebanon, describing the Qatar-Lebanon relationship as enduring and deep-rooted, based on the foundation of mutual respect between the two peoples and governments.

He hailed the visit of Lebanese President, General Joseph Aoun to Qatar, noting that it reflected the depth of the bilateral relationship and opened additional employment opportunities for the Lebanese in sectors such as health and technology.

Dr Haidar revealed that the unemployment rate in Lebanon surged to 100% in the period preceding the recent Israeli aggression. He noted the lack of accurate post-war statistics but emphasised that this rate will potentially increase due to the massive devastation of facilities, as thousands of Lebanese lost their jobs, particularly in the south.

Lebanon's Ministry of Labour is working on a comprehensive plan centred on several pillars, foremost of which is the reorganisation of the Ministry itself and the pursuit of full automation to streamline the processing of citizens' and foreign workers' transactions through online platforms, aiming for a radical overhaul of administrative work, Dr Haidar highlighted. Regarding international relations, he noted that the Ministry of Labour seeks to bolster engagement with international organisations for the best interest of the Lebanese labour market. He addressed the immigration crisis, affirming that thousands of Lebanese fled the country, among them workers, technicians, and investors, due to the ramifications of the Israeli offensive and the economic and financial crisis. The ministry's plan intends to find solid ground that restores confidence in Lebanese workers and encourages them to return, despite the Israeli assaults that impede this objective, Dr Haidar pointed out, adding that he hopefully would like to see enduring security and stability across the entire Lebanese territories. **(QNA)**

Al-Hammadi bids farewell to Sudan's envoy



HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met yesterday with Sudanese ambassador Ahmed Abdel-Rahman Siwar al-Dahab on the occasion of the end of his tenure. HE Dr al-Hammadi thanked the ambassador for his efforts in supporting and strengthening bilateral relations, wishing him success in his new duties. **(QNA)**

Acting CEO of QMC meets Vietnamese ambassador



HE Acting CEO of Qatar Media Corporation Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz bin Jassim al-Thani met with Vietnamese ambassador Nguyen Huy Hiep and Vice-President of the Voice of Vietnam (VOV) Dr Vu Hai Quang and the accompanying delegation. The meeting discussed ways to enhance and develop bilateral relations in the media field. They also discussed issues of common interest in the media field. **(QNA)**

Qataris exempted from Albania entry visa until Dec 31

Qatari nationals wishing to visit Albania are exempted from entry visas during the period from April 15-Dec 31, 2025, an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Consular Affairs Department has said. **(QNA)**

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Snapshots from the launch yesterday.



QM launches Qatar-Argentina and Chile 2025 Cultural Year

HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums (QM)'s Board of Trustees, officially inaugurated yesterday the "Qatar-Argentina and Chile 2025 Cultural Year" in a ceremony attended by dignitaries, diplomats, and guests from Qatar and abroad.

The launch was marked by a cultural celebration at the National Museum of Qatar, highlighting the growing ties between the Middle East and Latin America.

The event formed part of the Qatar Creates Spring-Summer 2025 season, an initiative dedicated to amplifying the voices of Qatar's creative industries and promoting cultural engagement across the country.

Argentina's ambassador to Qatar Guill-

ermo Nicolas described the Cultural Year as an exceptional opportunity to deepen the bonds between the two nations by showcasing Argentine culture.

"Through art and dialogue, we seek to foster greater mutual understanding and to affirm the shared values that unite our peoples," he said, commending Qatar's openness and its celebration of Latin American diversity.

Similarly, Chile's ambassador to Qatar Patricio Diaz Broughton affirmed that the celebration marks a milestone in the cultural diplomacy between Chile and Qatar.

He noted that the Cultural Year offers a unique opportunity to share the spirit of Chile, expressed through its arts and traditions, with new audiences across the Gulf region.

Broughton emphasised that building lasting ties between the peoples of both nations would transcend borders for years to come, and he praised Qatar's commitment to cultural exchange.

The ambassador also expressed his eagerness for a year filled with meaningful encounters, creative collaborations, and enduring partnerships between the two countries.

The evening's performances celebrated artistic traditions from Argentina and Chile, featuring a live rendition of traditional folk melodies by Argentine singer Clara Trucco.

The ensemble "Entre Panuelos y Cuerdas" performed the Zamba, one of Argentina's most iconic folk dances, which is known for its graceful movements and the

symbolic use of handkerchiefs.

From Chile, musician Vicente Allende delivered a vibrant performance reflecting the folkloric spirit of his homeland, while the "Cueca" ensemble presented the country's national dance, which is characterised by its expressive gestures that narrate a story.

The event also witnessed the official opening of the exhibition "Latinoamericano: Modern and Contemporary Art from the Collection of the Museum of Latin American Art of Buenos Aires (MALBA) and Eduardo F Costantini".

Organised through a collaboration between Qatar Museums and MALBA, the exhibition runs until July 19.

The exhibition features nearly 170 artworks by more than 100 artists from nine

Latin American countries, including renowned figures such as Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, and Fernando Botero.

It is the first exhibition of its kind in West Asia and North Africa to focus on modern and contemporary Latin American art, exploring themes of identity, memory, and resistance.

The outdoor installation of Marta Minujin's *Sculpture of Dreams* further expands the artistic experience for visitors to the exhibition.

Throughout 2025, the Cultural Year will present a dynamic programme of exhibitions, performances, artist residencies, and community events, all designed to foster deeper mutual understanding and build enduring partnerships between Qatar and Latin America. - **QNA**



HE Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatier during a session of the conference.

1st International Orientalism Conference concludes

By **Tawfik Lamari**
Staff Reporter

The first International Orientalism Conference concluded yesterday in Doha.

The conference was organised by the Ministry of Education and

Higher Education (MoEHE) and the Qatar Debate Centre, in partnership with the Permanent Committee for Organising Conferences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), and in co-operation with academic institutions including Qatar University, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, and the Doha Insti-

tute for Graduate Studies, along with leading international institutions such as Leiden University of the Netherlands, the Institute for Advanced Studies in Sarajevo, and Dagestan State University.

HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatier, who is also the conference chair, said that the conference's vision seeks to create a safe space for in-depth and serious intellectual discussions, free from sensitivities.

It also emphasised the importance of breaking free from the nihilistic polemic between East and West, which it describes as a war, deconstructing the East-West dichotomy, and approaching the human experience from different civilisational dimensions.

In an effort to enrich the intel-

lectual landscape surrounding Orientalism, the conference aims to re-read and analyse the concept of Orientalism from a contemporary perspective, not as an ancient field of knowledge, but as a present and influential intellectual framework, although in its various forms.

The conference focused on promoting dialogue between civilisations, dismantling prevailing stereotypes, and posing thorny questions to move Orientalism from the sphere of ideological tensions and preconceived biases to the realm of sound scholarly debate and research.

The inaugural conference was attended by an elite group of thinkers, researchers, and specialists in Orientalism, numbering more than 300 participants repre-



sending 50 countries.

High-profile figures included Turkish thinker and politician Dr Ibrahim Kalin, Lebanese Minister of Culture Ghassan Salamé, Gambian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Dr Mamadou Tangara, and Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tarek Mitri.

The conference also opened its doors to 1,300 people who interacted and enriched the discussions in the conference sessions over the

course of two days.

Qatar's hosting of this conference is the culmination of its pioneering efforts to promote cultural and civilisational dialogue among the world's peoples.

It reinforces its position as a global beacon of thought, culture, and education, and a bridge of communication between cultures and peoples, at a historic moment when humanity needs to build bridges of understanding and co-operation more than ever.

Modern tools should be used to verify Orientalist texts, says expert

By **Ayman Adly**
Staff Reporter

The latest in the Orientalism studies regarding the Arab and Muslim world were discussed and reviewed at the first edition of the International Conference on Orientalism.

The two-day conference concluded in Doha yesterday.

Qatar Debates Centre programmes director Abdulrahman al-Subaie pointed out that "Orientalism is no longer merely a traditional academic subject" as it has become "a framework for a deeper understanding of cultural relations between East and West".

He noted that this conference provides researchers and thinkers with a space and platform for scholarly dialogue, free from biases and preconceived judgements, in an environment that welcomes diverse opinions and different approaches.

"At the Qatar Debates Centre, we believe that sincere and open discussion is the key to deepening understanding and building bridges of communication based on knowledge and mutual respect," al-Subaie said. "The hosting of this conference in Doha ... reflects Qatar's commitment to promoting knowledge, openness, and supporting initiatives that foster genuine civilisational communication between East and West."

During the conference, experts engaged in discussion on related topics, with special focus on modern tools and the need to use these to verify the authenticity of the information, not just taking the reports of early European orientalist for granted.

One of the panel discussions tackled the topic of *The evolution of the Orientalist vision: new readings on Islam and the Arab world*, which included the history of Orientalism and the ways to authenticate the involved information.

Germany-based Syrian author Ibra-

him al-Jbain stressed that some resource books have been twisted for particular interests.

However, he said, modern tools, especially artificial intelligence (AI) applications, can easily compare and detect the deception in these.

Sometimes, al-Jbain continued, this can be done through comparing the surrounding historical facts, the script and type folio or paper that was used during the targeted period and others.

He said that some powerful AI tools can even detect forged paintings and drawings, besides identifying whether the report given by the orientalist is based on real incidents or just a product of the imagination.

Dr Kinga Dévényi, senior librarian and curator of Arabic manuscripts at the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, said that the study of Arabic language and culture in Hungary is driven by love and scientific curiosity rather than

any involved economic or political targets.

She noted that the ancient history of the Hungarian tribes could be linked to some dealings with the Arab world, so Hungarian scholars look for the common roots.

Dr Dévényi added that the principles of scientific methods should be applied to these ancient heritage texts to extract the truth.

Dr Tamas Ivanyi, retired associate professor at Hungary's Department of Semitic and Arabic Studies, gave presentation on the live and biography of Julius Abdul-Karim Germanus (1884-1979).

Germanus was a Hungarian professor of Oriental studies, writer and Islamologist, member of the Hungarian Parliament and member of multiple Arabic academies of science, who made significant contributions to the study of Arabic language and culture.

Dr Jan Henningson, a senior adviser at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs's

Division for the Middle East and North Africa, said that the Arabic language is one of the most commonly used languages in Sweden due to the considerable number of Arabic-speaking migrants, mostly from Syria and Iraq.

He said that the study of Arabic language is important to delve into the foundation of civilisation and the roots of knowledge.

Dr Henningson added that German and Swedish orientalism was not driven by occupation and colonisation, as these countries did not have colonies in the Arab world.

Other panel topics included subjects like "Orientalism, Islam, values, and cultural identity", "Transformations of cultural discourse: the legacy of Orientalism and postcolonial narratives", "Women and the East in new Orientalist discourse", and "Between travel, narrative, and asylum: transformations of Orientalism in Western discourse".



Qatar and the UK: partners in progress

From Page 1

With Qatar emerging as a global leader in natural gas production and the UK prioritising energy diversification and sustainability, their partnership continues to evolve, driving innovation, securing long-term energy needs, and supporting the global transition to cleaner energy sources. British expertise was instrumental in the early development of Qatar's oil and gas industry, and today, collaboration extends to innovative energy solutions. As a key supplier of LNG to the UK, Qatar plays a critical role in ensuring Britain's energy security while contributing to sustainable energy goals. One of the major symbols of this co-operation is the South Hook LNG Terminal in Wales, operational since 2009. Owned by QatarEnergy (70%) and ExxonMobil (30%), the terminal secures about 30% of Britain's annual natural gas needs. With the British government's ongoing plans to diversify its energy imports, this partnership is expected to deepen even further between 2030 and 2040. In upstream development, QatarEnergy has chosen British multinational Shell as its international partner in the North Field South (NFS) expansion project, which will include two LNG mega trains with a combined capacity of 16mn tonnes per year. Additionally, Shell operates Pearl GTL in Qatar's Ras Laffan Industrial City — the world's largest gas-to-liquids plant — showcasing another dimension of UK-Qatar collaboration in cutting-edge energy technologies. Looking to the future, in December 2024, Qatar announced a significant £1bn investment in the UK's climate technology sector. This investment is expected to create thousands of highly skilled jobs and will establish world-leading climate technology hubs across the UK and Qatar, accelerating the development and deployment of clean energy solutions. While energy cooperation remains a pillar of their relationship, Qatar and the United Kingdom have also invested heavily in building bridges through education. Recognising the power of knowledge exchange in shaping future economies, both countries have strengthened ties in the academic sector through formal agreements, the establishment of British institutions in Qatar, and collaborative research initiatives, contributing to Qatar's vision of a knowledge-based economy. In June 2022, Qatar and the UK signed a memorandum of

Our Say

understanding (MoU) to enhance co-operation in education. This agreement focuses on areas such as sustainability, climate change, educational qualifications, vocational development, blended and distance learning, special education, and educational technologies. It supports Qatar National Vision 2030 by promoting a knowledge-driven economy through the exchange of expertise and best practices. Further reinforcing this commitment, the Qatari-British Joint Bilateral Technical Committee convened in London in June 2023, discussing diploma equivalence, technical education, special needs education, student and teacher exchanges, and joint research initiatives. Several British-affiliated institutions operate in Qatar, offering curricula aligned with UK standards. Some of these are Sherborne Qatar, Qatar International School (QIS), Doha College, The Cambridge School, Doha, and University Foundation College (UFC). Beyond schools, the partnership also extends into cultural and research collaboration. The Qatar National Library and the British Council Qatar signed an MoU to promote culture, research, and skills development. Joint conferences, workshops, and cultural programmes further reinforce the historic ties between the two countries. Additionally, the UK Science and Innovation Network in Qatar fosters strategic relationships in key fields like healthcare, environment, clean energy, and artificial intelligence. The British Council's Qatar UK Alumni Network connects individuals who have studied at UK institutions, offering professional development, networking opportunities, and a vibrant community that strengthens long-lasting connections between the two countries. Through their deep and evolving partnerships in both energy and education, Qatar and the United Kingdom continue to demonstrate the strength and resilience of their strategic alliance. Whether through ensuring energy security, investing in climate innovation, or fostering academic excellence and cultural exchange, their collaboration stands as a model of how nations can work together to achieve sustainable growth, economic resilience, and shared prosperity in an ever-changing global landscape. falmudahka@gulf-times.com

Editors stress importance of 2nd strategic dialogue

Several chief editors of Qatari newspapers emphasised the importance of the second strategic dialogue between Qatar and the United Kingdom, which began yesterday in Doha. This dialogue comes in light of the close historical ties between the two countries and the sensitive developments taking place in the region, most notably of which is the current situation in the Gaza Strip, considering that these developments require consultation and the exchange of views and ideas between Doha and London. In statements to Qatar News Agency (QNA), the chief editors said that this round of the Qatar-UK strategic dialogue is an extension of many previous meetings between the two countries, all of which aimed to strengthen their partnership and consult on issues of mutual interest at the bilateral, regional and international levels, with their shared aspiration to advance this positive and fruitful strategic co-operation in all fields. Arrayah Chief Editor Abdullah Taleb al-Marri said the specialised working groups as part of the second Qatar-UK Strategic Dialogue would elevate bilateral relations to broader horizons. Highlighting both sides' shared plans to maintain the significant progress achieved in bilateral co-operation, he said they can reach a closer partnership in the areas of trade, investment, and global challenges settlement. Furthermore, al-Marri called on both sides to enhance co-operation in technological innovation, sustainable green economy transition, life sciences, creative industries, and the exchange of knowledge on conflict resolution, among other areas. He added that the bilateral, regional, and international topics on

the agenda would foster co-ordination and co-operation across developmental and humanitarian fields. Editor-in-chief of *Al-Watan* newspaper Mohammad Hajji affirmed that this year's Qatar-UK strategic dialogue is being held at a very sensitive time, amid significant events and developments that are taking place in the region. He considered the second strategic dialogue a good opportunity to emphasise the distinguished historical relations between the two friendly countries and to discuss various aspects related to those relations, including political, economic, and security issues, as well as other issues of mutual interest at the bilateral, regional and international levels. Hajji highlighted Qatar's efforts to resolve disputes through negotiation and consult on issues of mutual interest at the bilateral, regional and international levels, with their shared aspiration to advance this positive and fruitful strategic co-operation in all fields. Under the guidance of its wise leadership, Qatar has always been committed to dialogue and openness to all, Hajji said, pointing out the country's keenness to build close relations with countries. He also affirmed that the Qatar-UK strategic dialogue comes within this context. Meanwhile, *The Peninsula* editor-in-chief Dr Khalid al-Shafi said the dialogue continues both sides' high-profile meetings and visits and amplifies the previously achieved co-operation and co-ordination. He added that Qatari citizens view this strategic dialogue as a milestone that will boost the existing economic partnerships and co-operation to resolve complex challenges facing the Arab region. **(QNA)**

Deputy PM meets UK foreign secretary



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani met with the visiting UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs David Lammy. The meeting discussed topics of common interest and ways to develop and enhance them. It was attended by senior officials and officers from both sides. **(QNA)**

‘Qatar, UK achieved stronger relations in all fields’

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

Qatar and the UK enjoy distinguished and deeply-rooted friendly relations that have contributed to the well-being of both countries on different levels, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani said yesterday. Addressing a joint press conference with the visiting UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy held in Doha last evening, HE Sheikh Mohamed explained that the second Qatar-UK Strategic Dialogue was held and a letter of intent in the field of peace and reconciliation was signed. He stressed that the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to the UK last December has further cemented the excellent Qatar-UK ties in all fields, resulting in extensive exchange of visits on high level. This made the two countries partners towards a better future. The historic visit supported partnership and mutual co-operation in different key fields such as defence, security, fighting terrorism, transportation and communication, trade and investment and others. Joint working groups have been launched in the fields of modern science and technology, encouraging innovation, health care, and the use of artificial intelligence application in supporting the health sector. There is a flourishing and growing investment and trade partnership between the two countries with Qatari investments in the UK amounting to more than £40bn, which have created many job opportunities in the UK while these have been profitable for the Qatari economy. The two countries maintained a trade volume exceeding £1.6bn



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy chair the second strategic dialogue between Qatar and the UK yesterday in Doha.

in 2024. Qatar has been playing a pivotal role as a pioneer as partner with major companies and investment in the UK, especially in the fields of science and technology, and the future looks brighter for such strategic co-operation. HE Sheikh Mohamed noted there are a growing number of Qatari students who study in the UK in addition to the Qataris who visit UK regularly. Similarly, many UK citizens work and live in Qatar and have been active in key fields of co-operation such as sports, innovation, science and genomic science. The joint Qatar-UK development humanitarian fund amounted to \$100mn with various related projects and aid for the Gaza Strip, Somalia, Yemen, Bangladesh and other distress zones. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs said that work is going on tireless and non-stop to attain stability and peace across various areas of conflict through diplomacy, mediation and talks. Such efforts cover Syria, Sudan, Ukraine, and others as Qatar have enjoyed various successful experiences in this. He also expressed Qatar's support for the peaceful talk efforts between Iran and the US, and Ukraine and Russia to make peace prevail.

Qatar-UK dialogue a step forward in co-operation

British ambassador to Qatar Neerav Patel told **Gulf Times** in a statement yesterday: "Foreign Secretary David Lammy's visit to Doha for the Qatar-UK Strategic Dialogue with HE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani was an important step forward in co-operation, building on the historic state visit to the UK by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani. Every area of our partnership that is not advancing, to promote our mutual growth and prosperity. The sky is the limit."

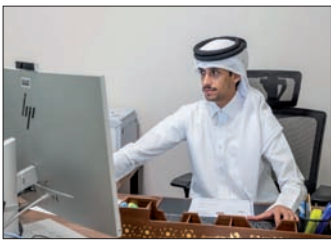


British ambassador Neerav Patel.

The UK foreign secretary highly appreciated the fast growing Qatari-UK relations on all levels, which reflected positively on the people to people relations. He said that more UK citizens come to Qatar especially after the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and the number of Qataris visiting the UK is steadily growing, especially in the summer. The relations between the two countries have gone from being very strong to stronger. He also stressed that he highly valued the efforts of Qatar to establish

world peace and stability even as the active co-operation of the two countries benefit the whole world as well. The growing Qatari investments in the UK have created many opportunities and contributed to the well-being of both parties. Both Lammy and HE Sheikh Mohamed expressed their strong desire to immediately stop the suffering of the people in Gaza and send them speedy and unconditional relief aid as both Qatar and the UK will continue to work together for peace.

Ministry sets up office for real estate judgments

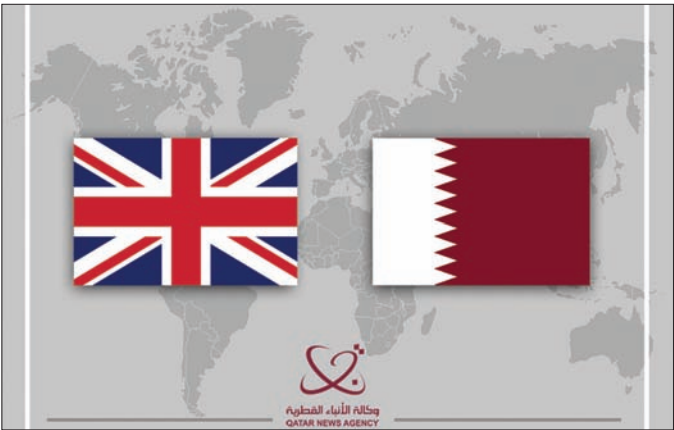


The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has established an office for the registration and enforcement of judgments related to real estate issued by courts at the Supreme Judicial Council building in Hazm Al Markhiya. This step comes within the framework of the ministry's plan to bring services closer to the public and facilitate access to them within an integrated system that includes enhancing real estate services and streamlining procedures for stakeholders. The new office specialises in providing registration and enforcement services for final judgments related to real estate issued by competent courts in the country, ensuring the speed and accuracy of completing transactions in accordance with approved legal frameworks. Director of the Real Estate Registration Department at MoJ, Amer Saeed al-Ghafri, emphasised the importance of opening the new office, which comes within the framework of co-ordination and cooperation between the MoJ and the Supreme Judicial Council to provide judicial services to citizens and beneficiaries with ease and convenience. **(QNA)**

‘Qatar-UK dialogue a testament to the countries’ strong ties’

QNA
London

Member of the British House of Lords, Lord Udney-Lister, said that the Qatar-UK Strategic Dialogue is a testament to the strength of relations between the two countries. Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Lord Udney-Lister indicated that these strategic dialogues are crucial because they enable the two governments to focus on their priorities and how they can work together. He stressed that the two countries have strong historical ties in a dangerous and fragmented world. He added that these dialogues are a good opportunity to inform each other of developments and unite efforts as voices of moderation, not only on Palestine, but also on other issues in the region. Lord Udney-Lister praised the ongoing strategic dialogue between the two countries, stressing his pleasure at holding these dialogues regularly, as they also provide an opportunity to review trade and investment ties between the two sides, as the two countries are important investors to each other. *Former Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns has affirmed that the Qatar-UK Strategic Dialogue is a



highly consequential event, particularly amid the developments unfolding on the global stage. Speaking to QNA, he highlighted that this dialogue is an extremely significant event that manifests the strength of the relationship between the UK and Qatar. Qatar is the closest partner to the UK, as the two nations share mutual respect and understanding even in terms of the most difficult issues, he added. Cairns pointed out that Qatar's investments in the UK are focused on the most advanced technologies, thereby reflecting the confidence and reassurance that the UK demonstrates towards Qatar. *Director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding

(CAABU) Chris Doyle affirmed the importance of the Qatar-UK Strategic Dialogue, in light of the massive evolutions unfolding in the Middle East region. Doyle said that this dialogue holds significant importance given the threats facing the international rules-based order, stressing that it is imperative for major powers to collaborate and explore solutions. It is of paramount importance for nations to build a long-term strategic relationship, Doyle highlighted. He stressed that he is confident this dialogue would herald a breakthrough in issues such as security, economy, and co-operation on environmental issues, which should be given foremost priority.

Safari 10, 20, 30 promotion starts today

Safari, a leading hypermarket chain in Doha, is launching its 10, 20, 30 promotion today, featuring thousands of products across all its outlets, a statement said. Fruits, vegetables, fish, meat, bakery items, hot food, other food products, cosmetics, household goods, ready-made garments, footwear, electronics, computer accessories, other daily necessities, food grains, and textiles are available for QR10, 20, or 30. Some of the main attractions include two pieces of Dove Beauty Cream (150ml each) for QR10, a three-litre Royal Cookline Aluminum Pressure Cooker for QR20, a Santro Gas Burner for QR30, 1,200gm Sadiya Chicken Griller for QR10, 500gm Puck Organic Glass Jar Cheese for QR20, kids' tricycle for QR30, and two ladies' abayas for QR30. The Safari Bakery and Hot Food section has a wide range of

Western, South Indian, North Indian, Arabic, and Chinese dishes, along with combo offers. In addition to Chicken Biryani, Chicken Majboos, and Choco Roll, the fresh food section includes beef mortadella, Feta Cheese, Butter Block, Edam Balls, and various types of pickles, all available as part of the 10, 20, 30 promotion. A variety of juices, drinking water, chicken parts, chicken nuggets, various types of ice creams, milk and dairy products are also available in the frozen section for QR10, 20, and 30. Many snacks and other food products are also available in the grocery section. In the household category, Safari offers a wide range of multipurpose products from leading brands such as Enchanteur, Dove, Sebamed, Pantene, Lux, Olay, and Johnson & Johnson. Perfumes, body sprays, makeup sets, various



soaps, face washes, body lotions, and various health and beauty care products are available in

the cosmetics category. In the stationery section, there is a wide variety of school and

office supplies available, including Faber-Castell, Maped School Kits, various stationery sets, and more.

In addition, the range of items available in the toys and sports sections for QR10, 20, and 30. In the garments and readymade section, Safari offers a large collection of quality items, including men's wear, ladies' churidars, churidar materials, ladies' denim jackets, kids' wear, footwear, ladies' bags, and newborn baby items, all priced at QR10, 20, and 30. In the electronics category, the 10, 20, 30 promotion offers huge discounts on a wide range of electronic devices, including emergency lights, trimmers, torches, headsets, smart watches, and more. Additionally, customers have a chance to win 25 Toyota Raize Cars by taking a raffle coupon when purchasing for QR50 at any Safari outlet. The third draw of this mega promotion will be held at Safari Hypermarket in Barwa Village.

QPO to present *Tempest* concert at Katara on Friday



Dana Alfardan

Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO) will present the premiere performance of *Tempest*, the latest album by renowned Qatari composer and musician Dana Alfardan, next Friday evening at the Opera House in Katara Cultural Village. Conducted by Maestro Giovanni Passini, QPO principal violinist, the concert will immerse audiences in a deeply evocative musical journey, inspired by vivid imagery of water and storms. *Tempest* explores themes of resilience, personal growth, and self-discovery. The performance will also feature special appearances by Taufik Mirkhan (Qanun), Ibrahim Kadar (Ney), and vocalists Ranine Chaar, Mansour al-Mohannadi, Aura Ananda, and Aga Krzyzanowska. Joining them will Aljablat band delivering Gulf rhythms

(Khaleeji Percussion), along with a rendition of "Canto della Tonnara: Cialoma – Song of the Tuna Fishers". Dana Alfardan is a contemporary Qatari composer, songwriter, and symphonic artiste, whose work draws inspiration from her nation's rich cultural heritage and love for world music. Her compositions blend contemporary classical influences with Arab culture, creating epic yet universally accessible music. Dana serves as the Cultural Ambassador for QPO. She performed alongside the London Metropolitan Orchestra at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in London, where she introduced an entire programme of her compositions, showcasing Qatari music to UK audience for the first time. Since then, she has gone on to present bespoke musical works at prestigious venues around the world. (QNA)

30 contenders qualify for 7th Katara Prize for Prophet's Poet

Katara Cultural Village announced the qualification of 30 contestants for the final rounds of the 7th Katara Prize for the Prophet's Poet, out of a total of 1,105. This edition is being held under the theme "Poetry Adorned by the Best of Mankind", with the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs serving as the strategic sponsor, and Qatar Television as the media partner. The final rounds are scheduled to take place from May 7-11, through three stages. In the first stage, 15 contestants in Classical Arabic poetry and 15 in Nabati poetry will compete over three episodes before the judging panel, which will select six contestants from each category to advance to the semifinals. Three winners from each category will then be chosen. All stages will be broadcast on Qatar Television. General Manager of Katara, Prof Dr



Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti, said the participation in this prize is steadily increasing, with the participation in the current edition reaching 22% compared to previous editions. Individuals from various age groups ranging from 20-90 have signed up for the prize, he added. General Supervisor of the Katara Prize for the Prophet's Poet, Khalid Abdul Rahim al-Sayed, asserted that the current edition has demonstrated a meteoric rise

in the number of participants competing in Nabati poetry, which is considered an integral part of the Arab cultural heritage. The total prize value amounts to QR3.8mn, distributed across the Classical Arabic and Nabati poetry categories, with three prizes awarded in each category. The first-place winner receives QR1mn, the first runner-up receives QR600,000, and the second runner-up receives QR300,000. (QNA)

Rawabi launches QR10/20/30 promo

Rawabi hypermarket chain is today launching its QR10/20/30 promotion featuring over 500 products, a statement said. Running until May 7, the promotion offers 'unbelievable deals' on a vast array of product categories, including groceries, fresh food, household essentials, home needs, toys, electronics, garments, and much more. Groceries, including rice, oil, condiments, packaged snacks, and juices, an array of hot food options, cakes, deli products are part of the promotion. Rawabi's department store section will showcase a fashion and lifestyle collection, featuring garments, health and beauty items, toys, sports equipment, and home accessories. Among the attractive products on offer are Sadiya Griller Chicken 1,100gm for QR10, Cremica Golden Bytes Biscuits Assorted 2 x 608gm for QR10, Tang Tub 2kg for QR30, Snickers Minis 2 x 180gm for QR20, Nescafe Red Mug Coffee 190gm for QR20, Men's Shirt Assorted for QR10,



Men's Watch Assorted for QR10, and Visalame Pressure Cooker 5-litre for QR30. A special attraction for Rawabi's Ahlan card members includes Nido Milk Powder Pouch 750gm for QR20 and China Carpet 160 x 230cm for QR30.

Customers can redeem their points and select their best products from the QR10, QR20, and QR30 categories. More information and updates on Rawabi's promotion are available at <https://rawabihypermarket.com/>

Nando's crowns Qatar's Master Griller 2025 winner



Sajed Sulaiman, Balu Subramonian and Mohamed Ali Ben Hassin congratulate the winner of the Nando's Grillers' International Challenge Qatar 2025.

Nando's Qatar, the 'home of legendary flame-grilled Peri-Peri chicken', has announced the winner of the Nando's Master Griller Challenge 2025. The event at Nando's Tawar Mall featured eight contestants. Emerging victorious was Regie Guevarra, from Nando's City Center Doha branch. Regie will represent Qatar at the International Master Griller Finals in Scotland, where he will compete against top Grillers from over 20 countries. The competition was co-sponsored by Mazzraty and Red Bull. The judges were content creator Mohamed Ali Ben Hassin and food critic Rachel Morris. "The Nando's Master Griller Challenge

is more than just a competition – it's a celebration of the people behind the grill. Those who turn chicken into magic, and kitchens into stories worth sharing," said Balu Subramonian, head of operations at Nando's Qatar, who also served as a technical judge. Sajed Jassim, vice-chairman and managing director of Oryx Group, said: "We are proud of Regie, and of every Nandoca who brings warmth, flavour, and heart to every plate. This challenge is a powerful reminder that behind every great flame is an even greater human spirit." Oryx Group for Food Services COO Vyanktesh Jaiswal was also present on the occasion.



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/MNT/7073/25 INSULATION SERVICES FOR INSPECTION ON CALL OFF BASIS	24/04/2025 to 10/05/2025	0	500,000	19/05/2025

Scope of Work: Company's onshore facility requires Insulation Services for Inspection and associated scaffolding works on call-off basis. Contractor shall perform the work by providing qualified, and dedicated resources including supply of materials, tools, equipment's, etc; The duration of Contract shall be five (05) years with a sole option for Company to extend it for further up to two (02) years.

Bid Validity: Bid Offer should be valid for 180 calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

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

Note: Effective from 1st July 2023, bids received from Local Companies (established under the Laws of State of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal by Bid Closing Date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned/notified) will not be accepted. Local Company that has been established for less than 2 years and insurance companies are exempted from this requirement. For further details please visit ICV Digital Portal:- <https://icv.qa/en-US/>

Improving autism diagnosis and support ‘crucial’

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Increased inclusion in education, careers, and society, coupled with greater public awareness, is crucial for breaking down stigma and improving early diagnosis and intervention for autism, an expert at Sidra Medicine has said.

Senior attending physician Dr Alia Satti, speaking at a Qatar Foundation (QF) event yesterday marking the launch of its comprehensive 10-year autism strategy, highlighted the persistent barriers hin-

dering effective support for individuals with autism and their families. Addressing the challenges, she said that symptoms of autism can be subtle or easily overlooked, necessitating increased awareness and education among parents, frontline clinicians, and educators. Dr Satti referred to the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) and technology-driven digital screening methods to provide more objective assessments, alleviating pressure on both parents and clinicians. However, she underscored that societal stigma remains a significant obstacle. “Many parents, not all, rightly think the diagnosis may be an obstacle in their child’s journey of education, society inclusion, or career, and we need to do a lot of work on this because it could be the biggest obstacle,” Dr Satti said, noting that the fear of discrimination in schools and workplaces prevents some parents from seeking a diagnosis for their children. Asked about how to address stigma, she underlined the importance of increased representation and open dialogue. “I can think of two things: One is having more and more people with autism coming forward and talking to the com-

munity. Secondly, inclusion,” Dr Satti said. By sharing their experiences, she said that autistic individuals can help dispel misconceptions and foster a greater understanding of autism. Dr Satti stressed the need for greater inclusivity in education, careers, and society as a whole. Addressing parents’ concerns about acceptance in schools, she called for a more inclusive environment where autistic children can thrive. The expert also identified practical challenges in accessing assessment and therapy services. “If parents managed to jump these two hurdles, with awareness and stigma, and then they look for assessment, these would then be another struggle where they’ll face or confronted with waiting lists or lack of expertise,” she said. Dr Satti advocated for increased capacity and a multidisciplinary approach to assessment, involving physicians, psychologists, and occupational therapists, among others. She also cited the financial burden of autism care, noting that therapy and additional educational support can be a significant expense for families.



Dr Alia Satti called for a more inclusive environment where autistic children can thrive, addressing parents’ concerns about acceptance in schools.



“Affordability ... therapy can be quite draining for parents financially, as well as education, because they need additional support, that’s a huge expense,” she pointed out. “Insurance often does not cover most of these services. But I think we really need to advocate for this.”

Experts highlight AI’s role in revolutionising autism care

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Artificial intelligence’s ability to analyse behaviour and create personalised content offers unprecedented opportunities to tailor autism interventions, according to an expert at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU). Speaking at the “Advancing Inclusion: Shaping the Future of Autism Action Across QF” panel discussion yesterday, Dr Marwa Khalid Qaraqe, associate professor at the HBKU’s College of Science and Engineering, underlined the capacity of artificial intelligence (AI) to fit autism approaches, therapies, and assessments to individual strengths, challenges, and needs. She said that AI possesses a remarkable capacity to learn from human behaviour, which essentially acts as a blueprint revealing a person’s characteristics. This capability, Dr Qaraqe



pointed out, allows for a shift from subjective assessments to more objective and quantitative methods. She drew an analogy to a mother’s innate ability to understand her child’s needs through subtle cues, suggesting that AI can repli-

cate and enhance this customised approach. Dr Qaraqe emphasised that this aim, a data-driven approach, has the potential to address a critical global need, as current assessment methods are often time-consuming and require specialised exper-

Right: The QF headquarters lit up in blue to mark World Autism Awareness Day on April 2.

Left: AI possesses a remarkable capacity to learn from human behaviour, which essentially acts as a blueprint revealing a person’s characteristics.



Aisha al-Amari (left), Dr Marwa Khalid Qaraqe, Matthew Campion, Dr Alia Satti, and Dr Khalid Fakhro (second right) during the discussion yesterday.

QF launches multi-pronged autism strategy

From Page 1

3. Community Support Services: Fostering an informed, inclusive, and supportive society where individuals with autism can thrive. 4. Research and Innovation: Driving groundbreaking discoveries and technological solutions that lead to innovation and policy action, benefiting individuals with autism. The QF noted that the strategy comprises several key initiatives aimed at achieving these targets. One cornerstone is the expansion of Renad Academy, a pioneering school under the QF’s Pre-University Education, to cater to students aged 3-21. This expansion will enable the institution to provide comprehensive support to children with autism throughout their educational journey. Furthermore, the QF will implement measures for early autism identification and intervention within its network of schools. The QF also plans to establish a community hub offering digital solutions for parents of children with autism. This hub will provide culturally relevant autism support, counselling services, and peer networks, fostering a strong support system for families. A vocational hub will also be created within Education City to offer specialised autism programmes and services, preparing individuals with autism for employment opportunities. According to the QF, artificial intelligence (AI) plays a central role in the QF Autism Strategy 2025-2035, tapping its existing partnerships to develop innovative solutions for early autism detection, interventions,

education, assistive technology, and parental support. The strategy also prioritises genetic research to identify the genetic factors underlying autism. The QF’s Sidra Medicine, a leading women’s and children’s hospital and medical research centre, will play a crucial role in this area, conducting genomics and multi-omics research to enable the development of personalised healthcare and therapies. Sidra Medicine will also introduce an integrated care model tailored to the unique needs of individuals with autism. Speaking to *Gulf Times*, Dr Hilal Lashuel, research, development and innovation (RDI) adviser to the Chairperson of the QF and the QF’s executive director of RDI, underscored the importance of unlocking the potential of all members of society, including individuals with autism. He said that the main objective of the strategy, based on the vision of Qatar Foundation’s Research, Development and Innovation, is to unlock the potential of all its people, including people with autism and disabilities. “The idea here is to make sure that no one is left behind and individuals with autism or other disabilities have an equal opportunity to develop, live an independent and fulfilling life, and contribute to society,” he said. “We need to be able to recognise them, we need to support them, we need to empower them, and we need not only evolve things based on their needs but based on our belief in their capabilities,” Dr Lashuel said. “So this requires a comprehensive system, a new vision, a new way of reimagining autism care, not just one based on support but based on empowerment.”

tise that is in short supply worldwide. She was joined by Dr Khalid Fakhro, chief research officer at Sidra Medicine and professor of genomics and precision medicine at the HBKU; Matthew Campion, director at Renad Academy at Pre-University Education, Qatar Foundation; Dr Alia Satti, senior attending physician, Developmental Paediatrics and Rehabilitation Medicine, and clinical lead, Developmental Paediatrics, at Sidra Medicine; and Aisha al-Amari, advocate and co-founder of Autism Parents Platform. According to Dr Qaraqe, smart technologies also enable the creation of personalised content, varying schemes, and therapies, considering a child’s best learning methods and sensory sensitivities. In addition, they allow for “longitudinal tracking” of a child’s progress relative to their own individual baseline, moving away from predefined metrics or comparisons to other children. “Progress is still progress,” the expert stressed. “Ultimately, I think the real value in these smart technologies and AI in particular is it really enables us to effectively move from the ‘one size fits all model’ into a tailored one.” “This is why, in this strategy, we really emphasise smart and intelligent technologies to fill the gap and move towards a more personalised assessment and interventions, not only for the autistic individual but for their families and the community at large,” Dr Qaraqe said. According to the QF, a key element of the initiative involves fostering AI-driven innovations and strategic partnerships to enhance early autism detection, interventions, education, assistive technology, and support for parents. The QF will also develop and test these technologies for early detection and special care through the Autism Sensing Centre (A-Sense). The strategy’s aim is to empower individuals with autism through technology, creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for them and their families.

QF’s contribution to building an autism-friendly nation

1996: Qatar Foundation (QF) establishes The Learning Centre to provide families with assessment services for learning, socio-emotional needs, and developmental challenges. **1999:** The QF founds a school that would become Awsaj Academy, a specialised school for students aged 3-18 years with mild and moderate learning disabilities. **2007:** Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, advocates at the UN for the establishment of World Autism Awareness Day, now marked annually on April 2. **2012:** The QF’s Hamad Bin Khalifa University initiates a study to determine the autism prevalence rate in Qatar. **2016:** The QF opens Renad Academy, Qatar’s first school for children with autism. **2016:** Awsaj Academy’s Prime Programme is launched to further support children’s learning needs; and Awsaj’s satellite programmes are introduced into mainstream schools. **2016:**The QF’s World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) issues its report on *Autism: A Global Framework for Action*—closing bold *italic*—, identifying challenges facing the autism community. **2016:**The QF establishes Sidra Medicine, providing world-class healthcare services to children and families across the region and comprehensive services to children with autism. The hospital is officially inaugurated in 2018. **2017:** The QF’s global education initiative WISE (World Innovation Summit for Education) publishes reports on meeting the needs of students with autism in Qatar, and providing inclusive quality education. **2017:** Equine-assisted therapy sessions for children with autism are introduced at the QF’s Al Shaqab. **2018:** Sidra Medicine begins the BARAKA study to determine the genetic and environmental basis of autism and build a national resource for advancing autism knowledge. **2018:** The QF establishes the Ability Friendly Programme, providing inclusive, accessible sporting opportunities, with its Qader Award providing subsidised access to sport for people with disabilities. **2019:** Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU)’s Qatar

Biomedical Research Institute publishes the results of a seven-year study that determines an autism prevalence rate in Qatar of 1 in 87 children. **2019:** The QF’s Doha International Family Institute (Difi) publishes a report addressing the challenges of families caring for children with autism. **2019:** The QF introduces the DARB initiative to provide educational evaluations and therapy services for those aged 3-18 years. **2020:** The QF validates the Arabic version of an eye-tracking tool for diagnosing and detecting autism. **2021:** The QF develops learning tools for children with autism in response to barriers to inclusive learning during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic; and collaborates with the Ministry of Public Health on a report on educating children with disabilities amid the backdrop of Covid-19. **2021:** A WISH report explores the challenges facing adults with autism in Qatar. **2022:** The QF collaborates with the Supreme Council for Delivery & Legacy and FIFA to install sensory rooms in three FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 stadiums. **2022:** The QF partners with Paris Saint-Germain to build capacity for football coaches to better support children with autism. **2023:** The first evaluation study on accessibility at the QF’s Education City is produced, and the QF establishes an Autism Task Force to co-ordinate and prioritise action to support Qatar’s autism community. **2023:** A sensory room is designed at Qatar National Library in Education City. **2024:** Sidra Medicine’s Autism-Friendly Hospital Initiative is launched. **2024:** The QF partners with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to operate Warif Academy, serving children and young people with severe disabilities. **2024:** The HBKU establishes the Autism Sensing Centre of Excellence (A-Sense), which is contributing to innovative technological enhancements in autism assessment and intervention. **2024:** A WISE report proposes a national roadmap to enhance inclusion in education and employment for people with disabilities in Qatar.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, YAKUB ALI KALU BAKAUL
holder of
BANGLADESH Passport No. A16447326
QID No. 27705015517
hereby change my name
from
YAKUB ALI KALU BAKAUL
to
YEAKUB ALI KALU BAKAUL

Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, VAIPINKATTIL SAIDU RAFI
holder of
Indian Passport No. V5282500
QID No. 27035608542
hereby change my name
from
VAIPINKATTIL SAIDU RAFI
to
RAFI VAIPINKATTIL SAIDU

Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

Amir congratulates King of the Netherlands and presidents of South Africa, Sierra Leone, Togo

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands on his country's National Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister Dick Schoof.

■His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Deputy Amir and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs sent cables of congratulations to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on his country's Freedom Day.

■His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Deputy Amir and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs sent cables of congratulations to President of Sierra Leone Dr Julius Maada Bio on his country's Independence Day.

■His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Deputy Amir sent cables of congratulations to President of Togo Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister Victoire Tomegah Dogbe. **(QNA)**

Qatar takes part in Arabian Travel Market in Dubai

Qatar, represented by Visit Qatar, the main arm of Qatar Tourism, is participating in the 32nd edition of the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2025, which will be held in Dubai from April 28-May 1, 2025, at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

ATM is one of the most prominent travel and tourism events in the region and serves as a strategic platform to highlight Qatar's growing tourism offers, enhance sector collaboration, and attract investment opportunities in line with Qatar National Tourism Strategy. Visit Qatar is leading a delegation that includes 45 partners from hotels, resorts, and destination management companies. The delegation will showcase Qatar's diverse tourism system at the Qatar pavilion in Hall "Saeed 2", Booth No "ME1520".

Visit Qatar pavilion spans 600 square metres and offers a wide range of interactive and immersive experiences designed to capture the attention of both professionals and visitors. One of the key highlights at the pavilion is the 'Discover Qatar' event, an interactive



digital experience that provides information about Qatar's most famous landmarks through an engaging quiz.

The pavilion also features a cultural area co-ordinated in collaboration with AND Events, celebrating Qatari heritage with live demonstrations of Arabic calligraphy, traditional Sadu weaving, and pottery-making. Additionally, the Qmwan Café allows visitors to experience Qatari hospitality.

To further enhance visitor engagement, a special 4Dx experience

will be presented, offering an immersive journey to the Meryal Waterpark through multisensory visual, auditory, and water effects. This experience gives visitors an exciting preview of one of Qatar's latest entertainment destinations.

This year, ATM returns under the theme, "Developing Tomorrow's Tourism Through Enhanced Connectivity." As it celebrates its 32nd edition, ATM continues to be one of the most significant travel and tourism events in the Middle East. **(QNA)**

'Build Your House' expo begins in Doha today

The "Build Your House" Exhibition (BYH Qatar) is set to kick off today at the Qatar National Convention Centre and will continue until May 1, 2025.

In a statement yesterday, Nextfairs, the organiser of the exhibition, highlighted that the event showcases the Mostashari Programme, which offers visitors the opportunity to benefit from free, personalised consultations with industry experts.

The programme is designed to provide essential tips on home construction, including architectural design, material selection, and obtaining permits, the statement read.

In addition, the expo features the participation of over 30 speakers, including architects, designers, and academics, who will address 25 diverse topics ranging from sustainable and smart homebuilding solutions to the future of home construction. **(QNA)**

Qatar showcases publications at Muscat International Book Fair

Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Culture, is participating in the 29th Muscat International Book Fair.

The Ministry of Culture is showcasing a selection of its own distinguished publications, as well as those of Qatari publishing houses, at its pavilion. This is part of the ministry's support for Qatari publishers and provides them with the opportunity to showcase their work at international cultural forums.

Publishing houses from Qatar are participating, including Dar Roza, Dar Al Watad, and Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press, with a variety of titles covering literature, short stories, children's literature, and novels, as well as scientific research.

Director of Libraries and Doha

International Book Fair Jassim Ahmed al-Buainain said the Ministry of Culture is keen to participate in international book fairs to showcase Qatari intellectual output to a wide readership, highlight the ongoing development of the country's publishing industry, and build cultural partnerships and enhance co-operation with specialists in the fields of culture and the publishing industry.

He added that the Ministry of Culture's participation in the exhibition aims to build new relationships with those working in the cultural and publishing industries, in addition to highlighting aspects of Qatari literature and culture, and showcasing the ministry's novel and diverse publications in various fields of knowledge, including law, and the social and human sciences,

in addition to displaying distinguished editions of children's and young adult books. The exhibition will feature various events and programmes, scientific initiatives, theatrical performances, and cultural workshops. Children's programmes and activities will also be presented, as will a visual arts show, recitation, story and poetry writing competitions, and workshops.

Cultural sessions will be held in several pavilions, which will feature the participation of entities involved in the book industry and publishing. Authors will attend to sign their publications and conclude production and publishing contracts. Additionally, institutions involved in the book industry and related areas of preparation, packaging, and artistic direction will participate. **(QNA)**

QNL, Morocco's National Library sign pact to deepen cultural ties

Qatar National Library (QNL) and the National Library of Morocco have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration in areas of shared interest, including culture, technology, and heritage-particularly in library services and cultural preservation.

The agreement was signed by QNL Executive Director Tan Huism and Morocco's National Library Director Sameera El Malizi, during an official visit by a high-level Moroccan delegation to Doha.

The MoU outlines a framework for exchanging resources and digital content related to the cultural and historical collections of both institutions. It also supports joint initiatives such as training workshops, capacity-building programmes, and the exchange of expertise in library technologies and services. The agreement lays the groundwork for future projects that promote knowledge-sharing and protect Arab and Islamic documentary heritage.

Ahead of the signing, the Moroccan delegation met with HE the Minister of State and President of QNL Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari to discuss the importance of enhancing co-operation among Arab libraries and advancing efforts to safeguard the region's cultural legacy.

HE Dr al-Kawari said the agreement marks the culmination of years of meaningful engagement with Morocco's cultural institutions and builds on the shared celebration of the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture. "The MoU reflects a



model of Arab cultural collaboration, demonstrating the power of libraries when they unite to preserve our heritage, empower professionals, and enrich cultural life. We look forward to expanding this partnership through the exchange of digital collections and library innovations-enhancing our institutions' impact both regionally and internationally."

Tan Huism stated: "We are pleased to formalise our relationship with the National Library of the Kingdom of Morocco through this memorandum. We hope it will strengthen our cultural ties and elevate our collaboration to new horizons."

"Cultural exchange is key to QNL's mission, and our successful exhibition 'From Material to Market: The Art of Moroccan Bookmaking' highlights the Library's appreciation for Morocco's rich contribution to Islamic heritage of book and manuscript production. To further enhance awareness of this important tradition, we also organised an academic symposium that brought together distinguished experts to

explore the history of bookmaking in Morocco and its profound influence on the transmission of knowledge in the Islamic world," she noted.

Cultural co-operation between the two libraries has gained momentum in recent years. A notable milestone was the co-hosting of the regional workshop "Combating the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property: Documentation and Preservation", held in partnership with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ICESCO). The programme aimed to enhance the skills of professionals working to preserve, document, and protect cultural heritage from illicit trade.

Following the signing, the Moroccan delegation toured QNL's facilities, including the Main Collection, the Heritage Library, the Preservation and Conservation Center, and the Digitisation Center. The visit offered insight into the Library's innovative technologies and services supporting conservation, digitisation, and public engagement. **(QNA)**



Qatar Charity opens two education centres in Tanzania

QNA
Dodoma City

Qatar Charity (QC) has inaugurated two education centres in Tanzania as part of its efforts to implement high-impact projects that contribute to sustainable development in African communities.

Expected to benefit about 2,500 individuals, these projects address critical needs in densely populated areas, fostering community cohesion grounded in ethics.

A new centre was officially inaugurated on Unguja Island in Zanzibar, in the presence of representatives from the local community and the Office of the Mufti. Serving as a vital addition to the region's infrastructure, the centre comprises a mosque, a Qur'anic memorisation school, and an imam's residence, creat-



ing a fully integrated environment for worship and education. It is expected to benefit nearly 2,000 individuals.

Another centre was inaugurated in Mwanza, northern Tanzania, in the presence of senior officials and local Muslim scholars. Featuring a mosque and a Qur'anic memorisation school, the centre aims to facilitate worship and support over 70 children in memorising the Holy Qur'an. It is expected to serve

around 500 individuals, especially during the blessed month of Ramadan.

QC has built a strong track record in Tanzania, particularly on Zanzibar Island, where it has implemented or is currently carrying out more than 200 development projects. The number of sponsored individuals has also surpassed 500, including orphans, low-income families, people with special needs, students, and other vulnerable groups.

QRCS, HALO Trust sign deal for humanitarian co-operation

Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has signed a framework co-operation agreement with The HALO Trust, a UK-based humanitarian NGO, to establish bilateral partnership and open up opportunities for co-operation on humanitarian and development initiatives for the benefit of communities affected by wars and crises.

The agreement was signed by Assistant Secretary-General for Communication and Fundraising at QRCS, Mohamed Ahmed al-Beshri on behalf of QRCS secretary-general, and CEO of The HALO Trust, James M Cowan.

In his remarks, al-Beshri ex-



plained that the importance of this agreement is derived from the prestigious status of its two parties, as key players in the international humanitarian arena.

"Inspired by the interest of both

parties in formalised bilateral co-operation, this agreement would help improve access to basic humanitarian services at times of war and disasters, provide humanitarian care for victims of the

explosive remnants of war, offer capacity-building activities for fellow humanitarian providers, enhance community resilience and sustainable development, step up co-ordination during emer-

gencies, and promote humanitarian awareness and advocacy," said al-Beshri.

"To ensure the success of this agreement, we look forward to further understandings between the two organisations, given the open-door strategy of Qatar Red Crescent to build potential partnerships towards the desired humanitarian goals. The diverse expertise and specialisations of the two parties will help enrich their partnership and maximise the humanitarian benefits for the host communities, building on the strong strategic relations between the State of Qatar and the United Kingdom across the

board," he added. James M Cowan stated: "Sadly, we live in a world in which many countries are affected by war, and it is our duty as a humanitarian organisation to tackle the consequences, by working to remove landmines. We are technically very proficient, and we believe in the power of partnership with QRCS. All of this work, which we do up to high technical standards, cannot happen unless we marry that technical skill with the cultural and local knowledge that you have of your region. And without you, we could do nothing for the millions of women, children, and men who are suffering from war in the world." **(QNA)**



Qatar, Saudi to settle Syria's arrears to World Bank Group

QNA
Washington

In continuation of the ongoing efforts by Qatar and Saudi Arabia to support and accelerate the recovery of the Syrian economy, and in light of recent discussions held during the High-level Roundtable on Syria on the sidelines of the 2025 World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings, the finance ministries of Qatar and Saudi Arabia jointly announce their commitment to settle Syria's outstanding arrears to the World Bank Group, which is around \$15mn.

This commitment will pave the way for the World Bank Group to resume support and opera-

tions in Syria after a suspension of more than 14 years. It will also unlock Syria's access to financial support in the near term for the development of critical sectors, as well as technical assistance that will contribute to institutional rebuilding, capacity development, and policy formulation and reform to drive development.

Qatar and Saudi Arabia call upon international and regional financial institutions to promptly resume and expand their development engagement in Syria and to expand efforts, in-line with their mandates, to improve the lives of the Syrian people and realise their aspirations for a future marked by opportunity and well-being, contributing to the broader stability and prosperity of the region. (QNA)

Rwanda arrests three top mining, oil officials in graft probe

AFP
Kigali

Rwanda has arrested three top officials from the country's Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board along with four businessmen suspected of corruption and abuses of power, the investigation bureau said yesterday.

Rwanda's Investigation Bureau said the trio – Augustin Rwomushana, John Kanyangira and Richard Niyongabo – were being jailed in the capital, Kigali, without giving a date for their arrests.

It was unclear whether the officials were linked to the illicit traffic in minerals from the resource-rich eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where Rwanda is accused of backing anti-

government fighters to syphon off its neighbour's rich veins of key minerals.

Kanyangira was in charge of traceability at the board, which is tasked with regulating mining activities, while Niyongabo was in charge of mining and Rwomushana took responsibility for strategy and the minerals market.

"They were arrested along with four business men suspected to be accomplices in crimes of corruption, abusing power entrusted to them by using their offices for their personal interests, unlawful amassing of wealth and money laundering," the bureau's statement said.

The announcement comes after the European Union in March slapped sanctions on the board's head, Francis Kamanzi, over Rwanda's backing for the M23

armed group. Kamanzi, accused of using the conflict to engage in the illicit exploitation and trade of the eastern DRC's mineral resources, has had his assets frozen and has been banned from travelling to the EU.

A report by UN experts found that Kigali exerts de facto control over the M23 and has maintains 4,000 Rwandan troops in the DRC to support the armed group.

The DRC has accused Rwanda of backing the M23 as a way of stealing the valuable minerals including gold and coltan present in the country's restive east.

Rwanda denies offering the M23 military backing.

But it insists that it faces a persistent threat from armed fighters present in the DRC's east linked to ethnic Hutus involved in the 1994 Rwandan genocide of Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Iraq arrests IS suspect for inciting the New Orleans attack

AFP
Baghdad

Iraqi authorities have arrested a suspected member of the Islamic State group for inciting a January truck-ramming attack that killed 14 people in the US city of New Orleans, Iraq's judiciary said yesterday.

The city in the southern state of Louisiana was plunged into a panic early on New Year's Day when a US army veteran, who the FBI said had pledged loyalty to IS, ploughed a pickup truck into

revellers in the crowded French Quarter, famed for its nightlife.

Police killed the suspect in an exchange of fire.

Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council said that an IS member "was arrested for inciting the January 2025 truck attack in the United States" after Iraq received a request from Washington to assist in the investigation.

It added that the suspect is "a member of the external operations office of the Daesh terrorist organisation", using the Arabic acronym for IS.

The suspect will be tried in

Iraq under the anti-terrorism law, it said.

Although the country proclaimed the defeat of the militant group on its territory in 2017, IS cells have remained active and carry out sporadic attacks against the army and police.

A recent UN report said government-led counter-terrorism operations have resulted in the deaths of nearly half of IS's senior leaders in Iraq.

IS declared a "caliphate" in 2014 after capturing large parts of Iraq and Syria, beginning a rule marked by atrocities.

Qatar welcomes Arab League's approval of IHL committee

The Ministry of Justice and Qatar's National Committee for International Humanitarian Law welcomed the decision of the Council of the Arab League at the ministerial level during its 163rd regular session, to approve Qatar's proposal to establish a permanent Arab committee on International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

On this occasion, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi, praised Qatar's National Committee for International Humanitarian Law's efforts in following up on the proposal and co-ordinating with Arab national IHL committees, as well as with the Arab League's Legal Affairs sector.

This effort stems from the recommendations of the regional action plan of the 12th meeting of the Arab Committees for IHL, hosted by Qatar back in 2023, which mandated Qatar's National Committee for International Humanitarian Law, in co-operation with the Arab League and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to draft a proposal to establish a permanent Arab committee on IHL, defining its structure and responsibilities, and presenting it for approval.

His Excellency said that this proposal reflects Qatar's commitment to the rule of law and is an implementation of the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to uphold the principles of human justice and the implementation of the instructions of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani to enhance national efforts in implementing international humanitarian law, in addition to Qatar's dedication to strengthening collective Arab action in addressing violations and offering legal and technical support to member states.

HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs hoped that the proposal would achieve its goal of strengthening compliance with the principles of international humanitarian law in the Arab world, especially



in light of the ongoing armed conflicts and serious violations occurring in the region, as well as to promote awareness of IHL principles.

HE Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice and Chairman of the National Committee for International Humanitarian Law, Saeed bin Abdullah al-Suwaidi, stressed the significance of the Arab League Council's adoption of the Qatari proposal, pointing out that Qatar was keen to establish a permanent Arab committee on IHL due to this step's significance in ensuring respect for IHL, in a reflection of Qatar's humanitarian role and its ongoing efforts to support human rights in times of conflict, in addition to the Arab League's commitment to enhance collective action and co-ordinating efforts in the face of the serious consequences of war and conflict in the region.

He noted that work on the Qatari proposal had begun since the conclusion of the 12th meeting of the Arab Committees for International Humanitarian Law in Doha, which featured the Arab League General Secretariat's treaties and agreements department and the ICRC.

The Chairman of the National Committee for International Humanitarian Law described the adoption of the Qatari proposal as yet another success for Qatar, in line with its vision to promote international humanitarian law and spread its principles regionally and globally.

He commended the efforts of Qatar's National Committee for International Humanitarian Law in drafting and submitting the proposal to establish the Arab permanent committee to the Arab League's Legal Affairs sector.

Al-Suwaidi added that the Qatari proposal took into account

the recommendations of the 1999 Cairo Declaration, which called for greater national efforts to implement IHL in accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocols.

It also aligned with the Arab governmental expert meetings on IHL, which began in 2000 and produced annual reports. These meetings raised IHL awareness and increased the number of national committees. The regional action plans from each meeting culminated in the 12th session hosted in Qatar in 2023, which authorised Qatar's National Committee for International Humanitarian Law to submit the proposal in co-operation with the Arab League and ICRC, define the structure and responsibilities of the permanent committee, and present it to the Arab committees for approval.

As for the objectives and tasks of the Arab permanent committee on IHL, he said that it will operate under the supervision of the Arab League Council at the ministerial level, handling issues related to IHL, co-ordinating joint Arab action among national IHL committees, and putting forward recommendations to ensure respect for IHL and its promotion in member states.

Al-Suwaidi pointed out that the committee will act as the Arab League's specialised body for IHL, providing advisory opinions upon the request of member states, harmonising inter-Arab agreements with the Geneva Conventions and their protocols, as well as other international commitments of member states. The committee will also propose draft laws and carry out other duties assigned to it by the League Council, the General Secretariat, and member states. (QNA)

Egyptian president urges greater efforts to implement Gaza ceasefire

QNA
Cairo

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi underscored the urgent need to intensify efforts to resume the implementation of the ceasefire agreement in the Gaza Strip, facilitate the exchange of hostages and detainees, and ensure the delivery of sufficient humanitarian aid to alleviate the catastrophic conditions facing Palestinians in the territory.

President al-Sisi's remarks came during a meeting yesterday with Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament, Laszlo Kover, in Cairo.

In a statement, the Egyptian Presidency said President al-Sisi reviewed Egypt's ongoing efforts to broker a ceasefire in Gaza. Discussions also covered bilateral relations, with al-Sisi reaffirming the commitment of both Egypt and Hungary to advancing their strategic partnership across various fields, including parliamentary co-



Palestinians stand amid the rubble of a building destroyed in an Israeli strike at the Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, yesterday.

operation, in pursuit of their shared interests.

The Egyptian president also expressed appreciation for Hungary's support of Egypt within European Union institutions.

Speaker Kover emphasised Hungary's keenness to strengthen cooperation with Egypt across multiple sectors, recognising Egypt as

a key partner for Hungary and the European Union in the Middle East.

He further highlighted Egypt's pivotal role in addressing regional challenges that directly affect European security, particularly efforts to restore stability, prevent the escalation of regional conflicts, and combat illegal immigration and terrorism.

Israel strikes south Beirut, prompting Lebanese appeal to ceasefire guarantors

Israel struck south Beirut yesterday for the third time since a fragile November 27 ceasefire, prompting Lebanese President Joseph Aoun to call on its guarantors France and the US to force a halt, AFP reported from Beirut.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the strike targeted a building used by Hezbollah to store "precision-guided missiles" and vowed to stop the group using Beirut's southern suburbs as a "safe haven". An AFP correspondent saw a plume of smoke rising over the building in the Hadath neighbourhood after the strike. Lebanese television channels broadcast images of a fire around the hangar-like building. The Israeli military had earlier issued a warning to civilians to evacuate the densely populated neighbourhood. "An urgent warning for those in the southern suburbs of Beirut, especially in the Hadath neighbourhood: Anyone present in the building marked in red on the attached map as well as the surrounding buildings, is near Hezbollah facilities," said military spokesman Avichay Adraee on X, adding: "You must evacuate". Netanyahu's office said Israel "will not allow Hezbollah to grow stronger and create any threat against it – anywhere in Lebanon". The Lebanese president condemned the strike as a new breach of the November 27 ceasefire.

Iran's Khamenei orders probe into port blast

AFP
Tehran

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered a thorough investigation yesterday into the causes of a major blast at a key southern port that killed at least 40 people and injured more than 1,000.

His instructions came after President Masoud Pezeshkian visited the blast scene in Shahid Rajaei Port near the strategic Strait of Hormuz where a fire still blazed yesterday more than 24 hours after the explosion. "Se-

curity and judicial officials are obliged to thoroughly investigate, uncover any negligence or intent, and follow up in accordance with regulations," Khamenei said in a message carried by state television. With choking smoke and air pollution spreading throughout the area, all schools and offices in Bandar Abbas, the nearby capital of Hormozgan province, were ordered closed to allow authorities to focus on the emergency effort, state television said.

The health ministry urged residents to avoid going outside "until further notice" and to use protective masks. Arriving in Bandar

Abbas, the president expressed his appreciation to first responders, adding "we have come to see first-hand if there is anything or any issue that the government can follow up on". "We will try to take care of the families who lost their loved ones, and we will definitely take care of the dear people who got injured," he said.

A photo released by Pezeshkian's office later showed him at the bedside of a man hurt in the blast.

The Russian embassy said Moscow was sending multiple "aircraft carrying specialists" to help fight the blaze. *The New York Times* quoted a person with ties

Philippines, US test air defences as China seizes reef

AFP
Manila

Missiles fired off the coast of the northern Philippines yesterday as US and Filipino forces conducted their first integrated defence drills, hours after China said it had seized control of a reef

claimed by Manila. The Philippines and China have been engaged in months of confrontations over the South China Sea, which Beijing claims nearly in its entirety despite an international ruling that its assertion has no legal basis. As many as 17,000 personnel are participating in the annual “Balikatan” exercises, which

this year will simulate a “full-scale battle scenario” as the treaty allies seek to deter China’s ambitions in the disputed waterway. Chinese state broadcaster CCTV on Saturday reported that the country’s coast guard had “implemented maritime control” over Tiexian Reef, also known as Sandy Cay, this month. The tiny

sandbank, part of the Spratly Islands, lies near Thitu Island, also called Pag-asa and site of a Philippine military facility. The Philippine government has yet to formally respond to the claim. In coastal Zambales province, hours north of the capital Manila, journalists watched as the US Marine Corp’s new MADIS

short-range air defence system knocked a pair of drones from the sky yesterday. The coastal defence exercise saw MADIS work in concert with the Philippines’ SPYDER missile system, defending it from drone attack as it targeted simulated incoming cruise missiles. “MADIS is short-range. SPYDER is more of a medium-range capability

(and they) both engaged different threats,” said Matthew Sladek, commander of the US 3rd Littoral Anti-Air Battalion. “The more we work together, that only ... enhances our collective lethality.” Chinese warships have been spotted in waters near the Philippines since the Balikatan exercises kicked off last week.

Lee Jae-myung, frontrunner for S Korea president, wins party primary

Reuters
Seoul

South Korea’s main opposition Democratic Party of Korea yesterday named Lee Jae-myung, the party’s ex-leader, as its candidate for the snap presidential election slated for June 3. Lee has been leading opinion polls for weeks with a double-digit gap over contestants from the conservative People Power Party, which will name its candidate on May 3. “From this point on, Lee Jae-myung is not only the candidate of the Democratic Party, but also the candidate of all the people yearning for overcoming of the crisis, for those who seek unity and happiness,” Lee said in an acceptance speech after winning his party’s candidacy. Lee said he would strengthen South Korea’s defence capabilities and work to make the country a leader in high-tech industries, a cultural powerhouse and an exemplary democracy. Lee led the Democratic Party to a landslide victory in a parliamentary election in 2024 and had been widely expected to win the primary election, after he easily defeated two other candidates from his party in regional primaries. The 61-year-old lawyer-turned-politician lost the last presidential election in 2022 by the slimmest margin in South Korea’s democratic history. That election was won by Yoon

Suk-yeol, who was impeached by the Constitutional Court earlier this month over his short-lived imposition of martial law. In a separate speech earlier yesterday, Lee compared Yoon’s attempt to impose martial law to abuses by earlier authoritarian leaders, promising to guide the country out of its political and economic crisis, including by easing tensions with North Korea. Lee was among the lawmakers who rushed to the National Assembly on the night of Yoon’s December 3 martial law declaration to ensure parliament voted down the military order. Last year, Lee survived a knife attack in the southern city of Busan while touring the site of a proposed new airport and speaking to journalists and supporters. Lee, who became the party’s leader in 2022 and stepped down earlier this month to run for the presidency, is no stranger to controversy. Earlier this year an appeals court threw out his guilty verdict on charges of violating the election law earlier, though the Supreme Court is deliberating on the case for a final ruling. He also faces several trials on matters ranging from bribery to charges mostly linked to a \$1bn property development scandal. Before becoming the leader of the Democratic Party, Lee also served as mayor of Seongnam and governor of Gyeonggi Province, the most populous in the country.



Indian Border Security Force (BSF) soldiers return to their BSF camp near Daoke village, about 45km from Amritsar, yesterday.

India and Pakistan troops exchange fire in Kashmir

AFP
Srinagar, India

Troops from India and Pakistan exchanged fire in Kashmir for a third night in a row, officials said yesterday, as relations between the two nations plunged to their lowest level in years. The Indian military earlier yesterday held naval drills – releasing images of warships firing missiles – while the country’s security forces pressed on with their hunt for those behind the April 22 attack at a tourist hotspot in Pahalgam in Kashmir. The military blamed Pakistan for the “unprovoked” firing of small arms along Kashmir’s Line of Control that separates the two countries. “(Our)own troops responded with appropriate small arms fire,” it said of the latest incident. Speaking to reporters in Islamabad yesterday,

Pakistan’s Information Minister, Attaullah Tarar, said there was “no official confirmation” of any clashes at the border with India. Indian police have issued wanted posters for three suspects in the Pahalgam attack who they say are members of the the Lashkar-e-Taiba group, a UN-designated terrorist organisation. India’s federal home ministry has handed over the attack probe to the National Investigation Agency, which focuses on counter-terrorism. “The eyewitnesses are being questioned in minute detail to piece together the sequence of events that led to one of the worst terror attacks in Kashmir,” an agency statement said yesterday. India’s navy meanwhile said it carried out exercises to “revalidate and demonstrate readiness of platforms, systems and crew for long range precision offensive strike,” without detailing where the drills took place. The *Indian Express* newspaper yesterday

quoted a top government source as saying “there will be military retaliation” and officials “are discussing the nature of the strike”. India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday reiterated his pledge that the Pahalgam victims “will get justice”. “Terrorists want Kashmir to be destroyed again, that is why such a big conspiracy was hatched,” he said in his monthly radio address to the nation. On Saturday, soldiers in Kashmir bombed the family home of one of the Pahalgam suspects. The house of Farooq Ahmad Tadwa was destroyed by authorities in Kupwara district, one of a series of demolitions targeting houses of alleged militants. So far nine houses belonging to militants have been bombed since the Pahalgam attack, a police official said yesterday on condition of anonymity.

Dog rescued after 529 days on island doing ‘really well’

A miniature dachshund, whose rescue after 529 days missing on an Australian island captured global media attention, is recovering well, wildlife rescuers said. Valerie the sausage dog’s story of survival made headlines after she was rescued on Friday on Kangaroo Island, about 14km off the coast of South Australia state. Valerie went missing in November 2023 when her owners travelled to the island, which is popular with tourists, according to local media. “She’s doing really, really well,” Jared Karran, director of Kangara Wildlife Rescue, said of Valerie in a video on the charity’s Facebook page. His comments came after the charity said on Friday it was “overjoyed to announce the successful rescue of Valerie”. “We are absolutely thrilled and deeply relieved that Valerie is finally safe and able to begin her transition back to her loving parents, Josh and Georgia,” it said.



Japan’s Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba (second left) and his wife Yoshiko Ishiba (left) pose with Vietnam’s Communist Party General Secretary To Lam and his wife Ngo Phuong Ly during a meeting at the Government office in Hanoi yesterday.

Japan PM looks to shore up Vietnam-Philippines ties

AFP
Tokyo

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba yesterday arrived in Vietnam yesterday. The premier is also expected to visit the Philippines, as Tokyo seeks to shore up regional ties after Donald Trump’s tariff onslaught. Ishiba’s trip comes after China’s President Xi Jinping conducted his own Southeast Asia tour, with Beijing trying to position itself as a stable alternative to the US as leaders battle to counter Trump’s tariffs. Before leaving for the trip, Ishiba called Vietnam and the Philippines – along with the rest of Southeast Asia – a “growth centre” that is driving the world economy. But they face “major impacts” due to US President Donald Trump’s sweeping tariffs, he said,

adding that Japanese businesses operating in the region could also be hit. “We would like to listen carefully to the opinions and concerns of Japanese companies in the region and make use of that in how we deal with the tariff measures,” he said. Despite being the biggest investor into the US, Japan has been pinched by steep levies imposed by Trump on imports of cars, steel and aluminium. The country is included in Trump’s blanket 10 percent levy, although the US leader has paused his “reciprocal” duty of 24%. Trump also paused “reciprocal” duties of 46% on Vietnam and 49% on Cambodia, where some Japanese companies are thought to have shifted an increasing share of production in recent years, partly to avoid the fallout from the last US-China trade war.

Australian PM says he trusts Trump on defence ties

AFP
Sydney

Australia’s prime minister yesterday said he trusts US President Donald Trump to support the two countries’ defence relationship despite their “different values” on trade, in a final television debate before May 3 elections. The high cost of living is the biggest concern of voters, according to opinion polls, but the US imposition of 10% trade tariffs on long-time ally Australia has elbowed its way into a tight election battle. Asked if he trusted Trump to have Australia’s back on security,

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said: “Yes.” The Australian leader, whose centre-left Labor Party has a narrow lead in the polls over the conservative opposition, said US lawmakers he met had expressed “universal” support for their defence ties. “I think that gives us confidence is that it’s in the US’ interests as well as in Australia’s interest,” he said. But Albanese said he and Trump had “different views, different values.” “I support free and fair trade, he doesn’t. He thinks tariffs are the way forward for the US.” In 2021, Australia signed a

US\$235bn agreement with the US and Britain that would equip the Australian navy with US nuclear-powered submarines and help balance China’s expanding military might. The government and conservative opposition both support the deal. Peter Dutton, leader of a Liberal-National Party coalition, said Australia could trust whoever is in the Oval Office. “We respect the views of the American people. They’ve elected a president.” The ruling Labor Party has a 52%-48% lead over the opposition on a two-party preferred basis, ac-

cording to a Newspan poll survey published yesterday in *The Australian* newspaper. It is the latest in a series of polls indicating the opposition has lost a slight lead it had enjoyed in February. On defence risks, Albanese said China was the “major power” in the region and was seeking to increase its influence. “But the relationship is complex as well, because China is our major trading partner, so what we have to do is to invest in our capability,” he said, pointing to Australian efforts to bolster its defence assets and strengthen diplomatic ties in the Pacific.

Asked what came to mind regarding Trump’s billionaire adviser Elon Musk, Albanese replied: “Tesla, and a very rich man.” Dutton answered: “I think, evil genius.” The opposition leader has been accused of adopting aspects of the Trump playbook, notably promising to axe tens of thousands of civil service jobs. But asked if he was now seeking to distance himself from the US leader, he said: “I have not sought to be anybody other than myself.” A recent poll shows a sharp fall in Australians’ trust in the US. Only 36% of Australians said they trusted the US, a drop of 20

percentage points in a year, said the survey released this month by the Lowy Institute think tank. The two political rivals also sparred over how best to curb the cost of living. Albanese touted his party’s promise to cut taxes. Dutton, who has vowed to reverse the tax cut, said his own plan to slash taxes on gasoline and diesel for one year would provide greater relief. Perhaps their biggest divide is over how to tackle climate change. Albanese’s government has embraced the global push towards decarbonisation, warning of a future in which iron ore and polluting coal exports no longer prop up the economy.

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GULF TIMES

Hubble at 35:
Transforming
our view of
the universe

After 35 years of perusing the universe, the Hubble Space Telescope remains a household name — the most well-recognised and scientifically productive telescope in history. Perched above Earth's blurry atmosphere, Hubble's crystal-clear views have been nothing less than transformative for the public's perception of the cosmos. Through its evocative imagery, Hubble has made astronomy very relevant, engaging, and accessible for people of all ages. Hubble snapshots can portray the universe as awesome, mysterious, and beautiful — and at the same time chaotic, overwhelming, and foreboding.

"Hubble opened a new window to the universe when it launched 35 years ago. Its stunning imagery inspired people across the globe, and the data behind those images revealed surprises about everything from early galaxies to planets in our own solar system," said Shawn Domagal-Goldman, acting director of the Astrophysics Division at Nasa Headquarters in Washington. "The 10,800kg observatory was tucked away inside the space shuttle Discovery's cargo bay and lofted into low Earth orbit on April 24, 1990. The telescope's mission got off to a shaky start when an unexpected flaw was found in the observatory's nearly 8ft diameter primary mirror. Astronauts came to the rescue on the first shuttle servicing mission in December 1993 to improve Hubble's sharpness with corrective optics. Four more servicing missions followed (with the last one in 2009) when Hubble's cameras, computers and other support systems were upgraded.

Hubble transformed astronomy over 35 years with breathtaking images, groundbreaking discoveries, and a deeper understanding of the universe

terabytes, representing the biggest dataset for a Nasa astrophysics mission besides the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).

Hubble's long operational life has allowed astronomers to return to the same cosmic scenes multiple times to observe changes that happened during more than three decades: seasonal variability on the planets in our solar system, black hole jets travelling at nearly the speed of light, stellar convulsions, asteroid collisions, expanding supernova bubbles, and much more. Before 1990, powerful optical telescopes on Earth could see only halfway across the cosmos. Estimates for the age of the universe disagreed by a big margin. Supermassive black holes were only suspected to be the powerhouses behind a rare zoo of energetic phenomena. Not a single planet had been seen around another star.

Among its long list of breakthroughs: Hubble's deep field images unveiled myriad galaxies dating back to the early universe. The telescope also allowed scientists to precisely measure the universe's expansion, find that supermassive black holes are common among galaxies, and make the first measurement of the atmospheres of exoplanets. Hubble also contributed to the discovery of dark energy, the mysterious phenomenon accelerating the expansion of universe, leading to the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics.

The relentless pace of Hubble's trailblazing discoveries kick-started a new generation of space telescopes for the 21st century. Hubble provided the first observational evidence that there were myriad distant galaxies for Webb to pursue in infrared wavelengths that reach even farther beyond Hubble's gaze. Now, Hubble and JWST are often being used in complement to study everything from exoplanets to galaxy evolution.

Hubble is a project of international cooperation between Nasa and European Space Agency. Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, manages the telescope and mission operations. Lockheed Martin Space, based in Denver, also supports mission operations at Goddard. The Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, which is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, conducts Hubble science operations for Nasa.

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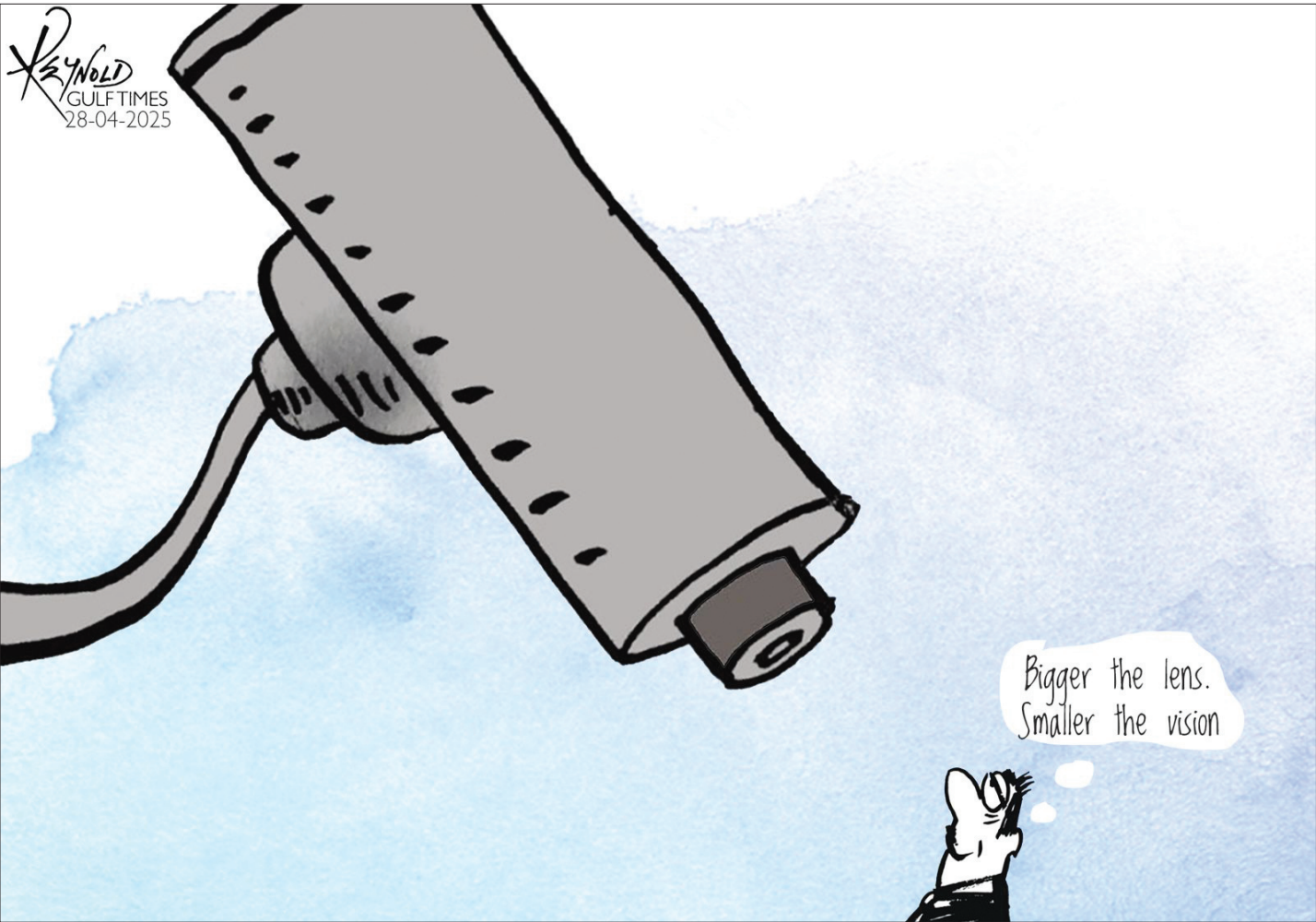
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Peru, Qatar: Enhancing
diplomatic relations
for mutual prosperity



By Elmer Schialer
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru

In today's world, where global challenges are ever-present, strengthening bilateral relations is vital for achieving shared sustainable development. As I look ahead to our growing ties, I am inspired by the potential of the relationship between Peru and Qatar. Over time, this bilateral relationship has flourished, opening promising avenues for economic co-operation — driven by our shared commitment to global integration and enriched by our cultural bonds.

Strategically located on the Pacific coast of South America, Peru offers an exceptional gateway to both regional and global markets. With a population of over 34mn and an area of 1.28mn sq km, the country recorded solid economic performance in 2024, with GDP growth of 3.3%, inflation of 1.97% and exports of US\$74.66bn. Backed by more than three decades of sound economic policies, Peru offers a stable, investor-friendly environment, supported by a robust legal framework that guarantees equal treatment for foreign investors and compliance with international protection mechanisms such as ICSID and MIGA. The country's trade-

led growth is further strengthened by more than 20 Free Trade Agreements and 32 Bilateral Investment Treaties, which provide preferential access to markets that account for 87% of its exports.

As a major logistics hub in Latin America, Peru plays a critical role in facilitating international trade through its advanced port infrastructure. Ranked 37th in the Maritime Connectivity Index (LSCI) in 2024, the country is the third most connected nation in South America. The Port of Callao, one of the largest on the Pacific coast of South America and the main export gateway for Peruvian goods, continues to expand its operational capacity. In addition, the inauguration of the Port of Chancay in November 2024 is expected to improve trade corridors and further integrate Peru into global supply chains. These advantages position Peru as an ideal gateway for Qatari investment and trade expansion in our region.

Bilateral relations between Peru and Qatar began in 1989 with the establishment of diplomatic relations. Since then, bilateral relations have expanded. Milestones include the opening of the Qatari embassy in Lima in 2011 and the Peruvian embassy in Doha in 2012. These institutional steps, along with the implementation of political consultation mechanisms, have facilitated dialogue and strengthened economic and political co-operation, paving the way for negotiations and new agreements, such as the project for a Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments Agreement and the project for an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement. As a result, both countries can explore opportunities for collaboration in infrastructure, mining and renewable energy.

Qatar stands as an important partner for Peru across multiple dimensions. As one of the world's leading energy producers and a global hub for financial and technological innovation, Qatar presents substantial opportunities for investment, knowledge sharing, and joint economic initiatives. Notably, the Qatari national development plan, "Qatar National Vision 2030", which

focuses on sustainable development, aligns with Peru's own development objectives. This convergence creates a favourable setting for bilateral initiatives in key areas of mutual interest.

This context highlights the clear complementarity between the two economies. Peru exports high-quality agricultural products with high nutritional value, such as fresh fruit and quinoa, while Qatar supplies industrial chemicals. Expanding this dynamic opens up promising avenues in agriculture, logistics, energy, mining and industrial investment, areas that can foster sustainable and mutually beneficial growth.

Peru offers a wide range of cross-sector investment opportunities. Notable projects include the El Galeno project in mining; the Southern Integrated Gas Transportation System (SITGAS) in energy and hydrocarbons; and opportunities in wind, solar, biomass and geothermal energy through private sector initiatives. Infrastructure projects such as the Chimbote International Terminal and desalination plants in Lambayeque, Paita and Talara are also important for sustainable development. These large-scale initiatives offer promising prospects for Qatari investors, contributing to Peru's economic transformation while ensuring sustainable and profitable investments.

The Peru-Qatar relationship is becoming increasingly strong and multidimensional, driven by economic complementarity, shared development goals, and a firm commitment to international co-operation. As both nations deepen ties, Peru warmly invites Qatari investors, entrepreneurs, and decision-makers to discover the vast potential this dynamic relationship holds. Together, Peru and Qatar are well positioned to open new economic frontiers and shape a future of shared progress and lasting prosperity.

I am convinced that my visit will contribute to strengthening ties with the State of Qatar, promoting deeper co-operation across key sectors, and reaffirming our shared commitment to advancing a stronger and more dynamic relationship.

Switzerland, Qatar forge stronger ties in humanitarian aid



Patricia Danzi, Vice-Minister for International Co-operation and Director General of SDC.

Patricia Danzi, Vice-Minister for International Co-operation and Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC), is visiting Qatar (April 27-28).

On her visit to Qatar she said: "Switzerland has a rich tradition of humanitarian aid and international co-operation. Our country's engagement in these areas reflects not only its commitment to global well-being,

but also its understanding of the interconnectedness of states in addressing pressing challenges.

"The Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) has been at the forefront of international development co-operation and crisis response, whether natural disasters, conflicts or health emergencies.

"Since the foundation of the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) in 1961, international co-operation has been an integral part of Swiss foreign policy. During its 64 years of experience, the SDC has acquired valuable expertise both in the field, in regions such as Latin America, Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and in multilateral fora.

"This commitment to rapid and effective humanitarian response and development co-operation is reflected in Qatar's own initiatives, which include substantial contributions to global relief

efforts and active participation in international organisations. In these rapidly changing times, working in partnership within the development and humanitarian communities has become more important than ever.

"Knowledge sharing for example in the field of innovative finance tool for development as well as capacity building, where both countries learn from each other's experiences, strengthens the partnership.

"Switzerland is very pleased that Qatar, through Qatar Charity, is the first Gulf country to join the 'Grand Bargain' in 2024. Launched during the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, this initiative brings together some of the largest donors and humanitarian organisations committed to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action and getting more resources into the hands of people in need.

"There is a real opportunity to

strengthen co-operation between Switzerland and Qatar in the fields of development co-operation and humanitarian aid and the achievements of the SDGs.

"I look forward to discussing with our Qatari partners how we can work together to support vulnerable populations and initiate innovative co-operation."

• Ambassador Patricia Danzi has been Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) since May 2020. Prior to her engagement with SDC, she spent 23 years with the International Red Cross, both in the field and at headquarters, and became Regional Director for Africa. Danzi studied in Lincoln, Nebraska and in Zurich and holds a master's degree in agricultural economics, geography and environmental science. She undertook postgraduate work in development studies in Geneva. She speaks seven languages and is the mother of two adult sons.

Trump officials push Russia-Ukraine peace deal

Reuters
Washington

Top officials in US President Donald Trump's administration yesterday pressed Russia and Ukraine to make headway on a peace deal following a one-on-one meeting between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the Vatican a day earlier.

"It needs to happen soon," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told NBC's *Meet the Press*. "We cannot continue to dedicate time and resources to this effort if it's not going to come to fruition."

Rubio said the US would consider in the coming week whether to continue mediating talks "or if it's time to sort of focus on some other issues." Trump and Zelensky, in Rome for the funeral of Pope Francis, met in a Vatican basilica on Saturday to try

to revive faltering efforts to end Russia's war with Ukraine. The meeting was the first between the two leaders since an angry encounter in the Oval Office in Washington in February and comes at a critical time in negotiations aimed at bringing an end to the conflict.

In a Truth Social post later on Saturday, Trump rebuked Russian President Vladimir Putin over recent attacks on Ukraine, saying "there was no reason for Putin to be shooting missiles into civilian areas, cities and towns, over the last few days." In a pre-taped interview that aired on CBS News' *Face the Nation* yesterday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Russia would continue to target sites used by Ukraine's military.

When asked about a Russian strike on Kyiv last week that killed civilians, Lavrov said "the target attacked was not something absolutely civilian" and that Russia

only targets "sites which are used by the military."

Zelensky wrote on the messaging app Telegram that his top military commander had reported that Russia had already conducted nearly 70 attacks yesterday. "The situation at the front and the real activity of the Russian army prove that there is currently insufficient pressure on Russia from the world to end this war," he said.

Ukrainian and European officials pushed back last week against some US proposals on how to end Russia's war in Ukraine, making counterproposals on issues from territory to sanctions, Reuters reported on Friday.

The primary areas of difference in the two proposals were over the sequencing for resolving questions over territory, the lifting of sanctions on Russia, security guarantees and the size of Ukraine's military. American proposals called for

US recognition of Russia's control over Crimea, the Ukrainian peninsula Moscow seized and annexed in 2014, as well as de facto recognition of Russia's hold on other parts of Ukraine.

In contrast, the European and Ukrainian proposal defers detailed discussion about territory until after a ceasefire is concluded. German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said yesterday that Ukraine should not agree to the US proposal, saying it went too far in ceding swathes of territory in return for a ceasefire.

Despite the divergent views, Trump's national security adviser yesterday said the meeting with Zelensky showed his determination to reach a deal.

"That meeting is going to go down in the history books for President Trump, to be a president of peace," National Security Adviser Mike Waltz told Fox News' *Sunday Morning Futures*. Waltz said Trump has

"expressed his frustration" at the leaders of both nations but remained determined to help negotiate an agreement. He also said the US and Ukraine would eventually reach an agreement over rare earth minerals and that talks continued over the weekend.

Democrats in the US Congress have criticised Trump's approach to the conflict and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said yesterday that he was concerned Trump would "cave in to Putin".

"To just abandon Ukraine, after all the sacrifice that they made, after so much loss of life, and with the rallying of the whole West against Putin, it would just be a moral tragedy," Schumer said on CNN's *State of the Union*.

Schumer said siding with Russia in the conflict would tear apart alliances with Europe and embolden dictators around the world.

Macron warns against religious hate after Muslim killed in mosque

AFP
La Grand-Combe

France's President Emmanuel Macron lashed out yesterday against "racism and hatred" after the brutal stabbing to death of a Muslim in a mosque in the south of the country.

Officials said the attacker, who is on the run, stabbed Aboubakar Cisse, a young Malian in his early 20s, dozens of times and then filmed him with a mobile phone while shouting insults at Islam.

The attack in the village of La Grand-Combe in the Gard region was the latest in a series of deadly stabbings in France in recent years.

It shocked the country's leaders, with Macron finally speaking out on X yesterday.

"Racism and hatred based on religion can have no place in France. Freedom of worship cannot be violated," he wrote, offering support to "our fellow Muslim citizens".

French Prime Minister Francois Bayrou earlier branded it an "Islamophobic atrocity" — although the prosecutor in the case emphasised that Islamophobia is just one of the motives being considered.

Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau said in televised comments yesterday that he had ordered police to tighten security at mosques around the country.

Around 1,000 people yesterday marched through La Grand-Combe, which has just 5,000 inhabitants, to remember the victim.

Hundreds also rallied in Paris, where far-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon accused the government of nurturing a "climate of Islamophob-

bia" at a time when immigration is top of the political agenda.

Retailleau accused Melenchon's party of exploiting the attack for political ends.

Investigators said the alleged killer sent the video he had filmed with his phone — showing the victim writhing in agony — to another person, who then shared it on a social media platform before deleting it.

A source close to the case, who asked not to be named, said the suspected perpetrator, while not apprehended, had been identified as a French citizen of Bosnian origin who is not a Muslim.

After initially praying alongside the man when they were alone in the mosque, the attacker stabbed the victim up to 50 times before fleeing the scene.

The body of the victim was discovered later in the morning when other worshippers arrived at the mosque for Friday prayers.

he French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFCM) said it was "horrified" by the "anti-Muslim terrorist attack" and urged Muslims in France to be "extremely vigilant".

"The murder of a worshipper in a mosque is a despicable crime that must revolt the hearts of all French people," added the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions of France (CRIF).

The attacker has been named only as Olivier A, born in France in 2004 and unemployed without a criminal record.

He is "potentially extremely dangerous" and it is "essential" to arrest him before he claims more victims, said regional prosecutor Abdelkrim Grini.



A protester holds a sign reading "Justice for Aboubakar, Islamophobia kills" during a gathering in tribute to Aboubakar, the worshipper killed in a mosque at La Grand-Combe, and against Islamophobia, at the Place de la Republique in Paris yesterday. (AFP)



Police officers work at the scene, the morning after a vehicle was driven into a crowd at a Filipino community Lapu Lapu Day block party in Vancouver yesterday. (Reuters)

Canada car attack suspect had mental health issues

■ No motive cited as 11 killed in Filipino street party

AFP
Vancouver

The suspect in a Canadian car-ramming attack that left 11 dead at a Filipino street party acted deliberately and had a history of mental health problems, police said yesterday, warning the toll could rise.

No motive has been confirmed for the Saturday evening attack in the western city of Vancouver, though terrorism was ruled out by police.

The ramming shocked the country a day before a general election dominated by US President Donald Trump's tariffs on Canadian products and his threat to annex his northern neighbour, long a key ally and trading partner.

Police chief Steve Rai raised the death toll from nine and said the 30-year-old suspect driving a black Audi SUV had a "significant history" of interaction with police and mental health care professionals.

The Filipino community had gathered in Vancouver's Sunset on Fraser neighbourhood when festivalgoers were hit by the SUV.

The celebration called the Lapu Lapu Festival commemorates a Filipino anti-colonial leader from the 16th century.

Prime Minister Mark Carney, in a brief address to the nation, teared up as he addressed the tragedy. "Last night families lost a sister, a brother, a mother, a father, a son, or a daughter," he said. "Those families are living every family's nightmare."

Canada goes to polls today

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney resumed his election campaign yesterday following a brief pause after at least 11 people were killed and dozens injured when a man drove through a crowd at a Filipino community festival in Vancouver.

Yesterday was the final day for Carney and Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre to make their pitches to voters ahead of an election today that has centred largely on US President Donald Trump's tariffs and threats to annex Canada.

It was too early to tell if the mass casualty event in Vancouver would have any impact on the election.

Poilievre has promised to reduce spending on foreign aid, and axe a federal sales tax on Canadian-made autos as long as the US tariffs are in place.

"We will reward production here in Canada," he said.

Carney met with supporters in Saskatchewan yesterday after making a case a day earlier in Ontario that he is best placed to steer Canada through a crisis triggered by Trump's tariffs. Later he was to meet with supporters in Edmonton.

she saw bodies everywhere.

"You don't know who to help, here or there," she said.

Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre said in a tweet "I am shocked by the horrific news emerging from Vancouver's Lapu Lapu Day Festival tonight."

Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos said in a statement he was "completely shattered to hear about the terrible incident."

In the capital Ottawa, Julie Dunbar, a semi-retiree out for a morning run, recalled an attack in 2018 in Toronto in which a man in a van killed 11 people.

"So it has occurred before, but I fear for the society that we live in, that these things can happen," said Dunbar, 72.

New Greenland leader rejects Trump threats as disrespectful

Greenland will never never be a "piece of property" to be bought, the Arctic island's new prime minister said yesterday, criticising US talk of seizing the Danish autonomous territory as lacking respect. Jens-Frederik Nielsen made the comments as he paid his first visit to Denmark since taking office, with US President Donald Trump's repeated threats to take his strategically located island looming large over the diplomatic trip. "We will never, ever be a piece of property that can be bought by anyone, and that's the message I think is most important to understand," Nielsen told reporters alongside Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen.

His visit follows one by Frederiksen to Greenland in early April, when

she told the United States "you cannot annex another country". Both Frederiksen and Nielsen, who leads Greenland's new coalition government after his centre-right Democrats party won a legislative election in March, however said they would be willing to meet the US leader for talks. Tensions between the United States and Denmark have soared after Trump repeatedly said he wanted to take control of the resource-rich Arctic island. The US president has insisted Washington needs control of Greenland for security reasons, refusing to rule out the use of force to secure it. "I think we need that for international peace, and if we don't have that it's a big threat to our world. So I think Greenland is very important for

international peace," Trump told reporters Thursday during a press conference alongside Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store. "We are in a situation now where we need to stand together. The talk from the United States has not been respectful," said Nielsen. "I totally agree with that," Frederiksen added. Nielsen reiterated that Greenland was ready to deepen ties with the United States. "We are ready for a strong partnership, we are ready for more development, but we want respect," he said. "You cannot have a partner where there is no mutual respect". US Vice-President JD Vance also paid a visit to Greenland in March, which both Nuuk and Copenhagen viewed as a provocation. During his

trip to the Pituffik US military base, Vance castigated Denmark for not having "done a good job by the people of Greenland". "You have under-invested in the people of Greenland and you have under-invested in the security architecture of this incredible, beautiful landmass," he told a press conference. Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen responded on social media: "We are open to criticisms, but let me be completely honest, we do not appreciate the tone in which it's being delivered." Nielsen himself has said that "the United States will not get Greenland". "We don't belong to anyone else. We decide our own future," he added in a Facebook post.



Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen (right) and Greenland's Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen smile for cameras prior to a meeting at the Prime Minister's residence Marienborg in Kongens Lyngby, Denmark, yesterday. (AFP)

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Kit Kat 2 Finger Chocolate
17.7 gm x 36 pcs



بيتر دجاج تكا ١ حبة
Chicken Tikka Pizza 1 pc



برجر دجاج ٢ حبة
Chicken Burger 2 pcs



كيو كولا مشروب غازي ٣٣٠ مل × ٦ حبة
Qcola Soft Drink 330 ml x 6 pcs



تالنج برتقال / مانجو ٣٧٥ جم × ٢ حبة
Tang Orange/Mango Pouch
375 gm x 2 pcs



تفاح رويال جالا فرنسا ١ كجم
Apple Royal Gala France 1 kg



مانجو كالباثور يمني ١ كجم
Mango Kalbathoor Yemen 1 kg



ملفوف سعودي ١ كجم
Cabbage KSA 1 kg



تابوكا سيرلانكا ١ كجم
Tapioca Sri Lanka 1 kg



نسكافية كلاسيك ١٩٠ جم × ٢ حبة
Nescafe Classic Jar 190 gm x 2 pcs



هول ايرث زبدة الفول السوداني المقرمشة ٣٤٠ جم × ٢ حبة
Whole Earth Assrtd Crunchy Peanut Butter 340 gm x 2 pcs



شعيرة جاردن فول مدمس ٤٠٠ جم × ١٠ حبة
Chtoura Garden Cooked Fava Beans
400 gm x 10 pcs



كيلوجز جرانولا التوت البري/اللوز / الشوكولاتة ٢٥٠ جم × ١ حبة
Kellogg's Granola Cranberry/Almond /Chocolate 250 gm x 1 pc



فورتيشن زيت دوار الشمس ١,٨ لتر
Fortune Sunflower Oil 1.8 Ltr



لوز سادة أمريكي (٢٧,٣٠) ٧٠٠ جم
Almond Plain USA (27.30) 700 gm



كولجيت معجون اسنان بالاعشاب ١٠٠ مل × ٤ حبة
Colgate Toothpaste Herbal 100 ml x 4 pcs



منظف المراحيض هاربيك باور بلس ٧٥٠ مل × ٢ حبة
Harpic Power Plus Floral Toilet Cleaner 750 ml x 2 pcs



جونسون شامبو اطفال ذهبي ٢٠٠ مل × ٢ حبة
Johnson's Baby Gold Shampoo 200 ml x 2 pcs



أومو مسحوق غسيل ١,٢٥ كجم × ١ حبة
OMO Detergent Powder 1.25 kg x 1 pc

3rd Lucky Draw
03-06-2025
at Safari Hypermarket,
Barwa Village (4 Winners)

Spend QR.50/- & get an
E-Raffle coupon to
Win 25 TOYOTA RAIZE Car

Promotion Started, Valid Untill: 29-09-2025 This promotion is available at all Safari outlets across Qatar

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