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Qatar Tribune

First with the news and what's behind it

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WEATHER
RELATIVELY HOT
HIGH : 44°C
LOW : 33°C

PRAYER TIMING

Fajr:	03: 59 am
Dhuhr:	11: 32 am
Asr:	03: 00 pm
Maghrib:	05: 48 pm
Isha:	07: 18 pm

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Qatar calls for stronger collective Gulf security framework

QNA
ABU DHABI

ADVISOR to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majed bin Mohammed Al Ansari has called for a more resilient and enduring Gulf security system based on collective security, stronger diplomacy and closer cooperation among Gulf countries.

Speaking at a plenary panel on "Gulf Regional Security Complexes" during the third Hili Forum 2026 in Abu Dhabi, held under the theme "Gulf at Crossroads: Conflict, Consequences and Course Correction," Dr Al Ansari said the repercussions of the current crisis extend far beyond the region, affecting energy, commerce, maritime navigation and international supply chains.

He said the conflict had tested Gulf countries' alignment in assessing shared threats and demonstrated the need to translate their recognition of common challenges into coordinated collective action. "Gulf security is a shared responsibility," Dr Al Ansari stressed, adding that Gulf countries must remain fundamental partners in shaping arrangements concerning regional security and the future of the Gulf.

He warned that any closure of the Strait of Hormuz or disruption of maritime navigation is not merely an economic concern but carries broader implications for global security.

Dr Al Ansari cautioned against the weaponisation of critical waterways as instruments of pressure, stating that disruptions to trade and maritime traffic can occur at relatively low cost while producing far-reaching consequences. **PAGE 2**

Amir, UK PM discuss ways to bolster ties

QNA
DOHA

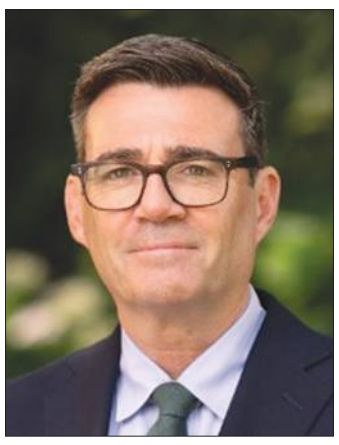
HIS Highness the Amir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom HE Andy Burnham discussed relations between the two countries and ways to deepen and expand them across different fields.

This came during a telephone call HH the Amir received from the UK Prime Minister on Monday.

Both sides shared views on a range of regional and international issues, particularly with respect to developments concerning the Palestinian cause, along with efforts aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace based on the two-state solution.

In addition, the two sides addressed the recent escalation in the Strait of Hormuz and its implications for the region, as well as international maritime navigation.

They underlined the importance of de-escalation and prioritizing dialogue and diplomatic solutions to help strengthen security and stability in the region.



PM discusses strategic ties with Chinese premier

QNA
BEIJING

PRIME Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani on Monday met Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China HE Li Qiang in Beijing for talks on strengthening strategic ties between the two nations.

Glad to meet with HE Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. Our countries share a decades-long strategic relationship and we look forward to expanding it in investment, energy, advanced industries and technology, to serve our shared interests.

The talks focused on expanding cooperation in the economy, investment, trade, energy and technology, as well as boosting existing partnerships in areas of mutual interest.

The two sides also discussed key regional developments.

Sheikh Mohammed said the State of Qatar was keen to elevate relations with China to broader horizons and further advance cooperation in line with the shared goals and interests of the two countries and their peoples.

In a post on X platform, the PM said, "Glad to meet with HE Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. Our countries share a decades-long strategic relationship and we look forward to expanding it in investment, energy, advanced industries and technology, to serve our shared interests."

QCB joins Gulf payments system AFAQ

QATAR Central Bank (QCB) announced on Monday that it had joined AFAQ Payments System, operated by the Gulf Payments Company (GPC). This completes the participation of the central banks of all Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in the system, further strengthening financial and monetary integration among the GCC states.

Three Qatari commercial banks – Doha Bank, Qatar International Islamic Bank, and Dukhan Bank, have joined the AFAQ system, making them among the first commercial banks in Qatar to participate in the system. This brings the total number of participating banks from across the GCC to 74. **(QNA)** **PAGE 8**

Electronic testing for sweetened drinks must via Dhareeba from November 1

THE General Tax Authority (GTA) has announced that it will approve analysis certificates for sweetened drink registrations electronically via the Dhareeba platform starting November 1, 2026.

الهيئة العامة للضرائب
General Tax Authority
State of Qatar · دولة قطر

The platform will integrate directly with Ministry of Public Health-accredited and GTA-registered labs, removing the need for manual attachments. Under the new procedures, GTA said in a statement Monday, taxpayers submit product registrations on Dhareeba, then deliver samples to accredited labs for testing. Upon lab approval, test results and certificates automatically sync back to the Dhareeba platform. **(TNN)** **PAGE 8**

Qatar, Spain sign security cooperation agreement for FIFA World Cup 2030

MINISTER of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani met with Spain's Minister of the Interior HE Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gómez during his visit to Spain on Monday. THE meeting reviewed cooperation between Qatar and Spain and ways to strengthen and develop bilateral relations, particularly on the security issues. The two ministers also exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual interest. Following the meeting, Sheikh Khalifa and Grande-Marlaska Gómez signed a Letter of Intent on security cooperation for the FIFA World Cup 2030. The agreement is aimed at enhancing coordination and cooperation between Qatar's Ministry of Interior and Spain's Ministry of Interior in connection with security coverage for the global football tournament. **(QNA)** **PAGE 2**

Autonomous e-mobility forum opens in Doha

THE second edition of the Autonomous e-Mobility Forum (AEMOB) opened on Monday at the Qatar National Convention Centre, bringing together stakeholders to discuss the future of electric mobility and autonomous transportation. Hosted by the Ministry of Transport and organised by Just us & Otto, the forum provides a platform for exchanging expertise and developing strategic partnerships aimed at advancing next-generation transportation technologies.

Ministry of Transport Undersecretary Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Ibrahim Al Maadheed said the transport sector had undergone a profound transformation, evolving from a supporting sector into a strategic pillar of national development that contributes to economic competitiveness and improves quality of life. He said electric mobility and automated driving systems are shaping the future of transportation, adding that the transition presents challenges ranging from energy and digital infrastructure to regulatory frameworks and safety. **(TNN)** **PAGE 16**

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HAMAD BIN SUHAIM AL THANI CHAIRMAN
ADEL ALI BIN ALI MANAGING DIRECTOR
DR HASSAN MOHAMMED AL ANSARI EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nation

Good morning Doha

DIAL DOHA — FIRE, AMBULANCE, POLICE 999

Electricity	991
Water	991
Hamad Hospital	44394444
Childs Emergency Centre (Al Saad)	44393333
Rumila Hospital	44396666
Women's Hospital	44396666
Airport Services- Enquiry	44622999
Airport Services-Operator	44656666
Qatar Airways	44496666/44496000
Qatar Airways (Airport)	44496688
Gulf Air	44455444
Gulf Air (Airport)	44656318
Immigration & Passport Department	44890333
Traffic Department	44890666
Water Emergency	44325959
Electricity Emergency	44677601
Weather Forecasting (Admn)	44656590
Drain Centre	44687894
Ministry of Education	44941111
Qatar Television (QTV)	44894444
Qatar Broadcasting Service (QBS)	44894444
Qatar University	44852222
Postal Department	44464000
SriLankan Airlines	44322628/44369910
Oman Air	44320509/44321373
Oman Air (Airport)	44626835

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Quick read

Amir congratulates president of Brazil

THE Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani sent a cable of congratulations to President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. (QNA)

Amir sends condolences to Tanzanian president

THE Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani sent a cable of condolences to President of Tanzania Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan on the death of her husband, Hafidh Ameir Hassan.

Deputy Amir congratulates president of Brazil

THE Deputy Amir His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani sent a cable of congratulations to President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. (QNA)

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Prime Minister sends greetings to president of Brazil

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Mauritanian FM meets ambassador of Qatar

MINISTER of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation, and Mauritanians Abroad of Mauritania Dr. Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug met with Ambassador of Qatar to Mauritania HE Shaheen bin Ali Al Kaabi on Monday. During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two countries. (QNA)

Qatar, Spain sign pact for 2030 FIFA World Cup security cooperation

QNA
DOHA

MINISTER of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani met with Spain's Minister of the Interior HE Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gómez during his visit to Spain on Monday.

The meeting reviewed cooperation between Qatar and Spain and ways to strengthen and develop bilateral relations, particularly in the security sector.

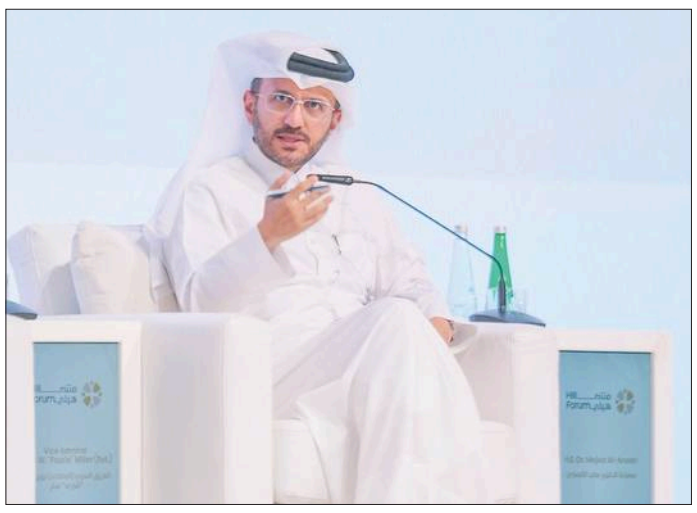
The two ministers also exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual interest.

Following the meeting, Sheikh Khalifa and Grande-Marlaska Gómez signed a Letter of Intent on security cooperation for the FIFA World Cup 2030.

The agreement is aimed at enhancing coordination and cooperation between Qatar's Ministry of Interior and Spain's Ministry of Interior in connection with security coverage for the global football tournament.

Repercussions of Gulf happenings extend to entire world: Al Ansari

QNA
ABU DHABI



THE fallout from the current crisis is not limited to the countries of the region, but its impact spills over into energy, commerce, maritime navigation, and international supply chains, Advisor to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs HE Dr. Majed bin Mohammed Al Ansari has said.

Dr. Al Ansari was speaking at a plenary session at the third edition of the Hili Forum 2026, convened in Abu Dhabi under the theme "Gulf at Crossroads: Conflict, Consequences and Course Correction".

Having weighed in during a plenary panel on "Gulf Regional Security Complexes", he tackled the evolving situation in the Gulf and its implications for global security and stability.

The war has put the region's countries' alignment in assessing shared threats to a genuine test, Dr. Al Ansari underlined, stating that this war demonstrated the importance of turning this recognition into tight-knit collective action.

He added that Gulf security is a shared responsibility and those countries should remain fundamental partners in framing any arrangements pertaining to Gulf security and the future.

Closing the Strait of Hormuz and disrupting navigation doesn't merely pose an economic challenge but is an overall issue with broader implications for global security, Dr. Al Ansari suggested.

He warned of the perils of weaponising critical waterways as tools of pressure and undermining effective deterrence amid the low cost of disruption to trade and maritime traffic.

The primary threat lies in normalising what has transpired in the region over the past months and treating it as a new reality to be taken for granted, rather than as a temporary crisis, Dr. Al Ansari highlighted, stressing that the lack of international accountability for such violations encourages their recurrence and erodes the international system of security and stability.

He recalled that the recent developments have revealed the fragility of the regional security structure that is fundamentally based on deterrence and defence, engendering the need for building a more resilient and enduring system.

This system, he suggested, should be based on collective security, operationalising diplomacy, strengthening collaborative efforts among the Gulf nations, as well as cementing mutual economic interdependence and protecting critical supply chains. Dr Al Ansari highlighted Qatar's expertise in mediation and its efforts to advance dialogue and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, emphasising that the success of any mediation hinges on the parties' political will, as well as their shared interest in reaching a resolution.

Dialogue doesn't mean aligning with any party, but rather a significant tool to prevent escalation, maintain communications, and reach sustainable solutions, Dr. Al Ansari said.

He added that engendering remediation for the current challenges requires shared regional and international responsibility, because what is happening in the Gulf spills over into the entire world.

Qatar reaffirms support for Sudan's unity

QNA
GENEVA

THE State of Qatar reaffirmed strong support for the unity and territorial integrity of Sudan and the right of its people to a dignified life, security and stability. Qatar emphasised deep concern over the ongoing armed conflict, which has caused unprecedented suffering for the Sudanese people.

This came in a statement delivered today by Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office in Geneva HE Dr. Hind Abdulrahman Al Muftah during her participation in the interactive dialogue on Sudan, held within the framework of the 63rd session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

She unequivocally condemned all violations committed in the context of the armed conflict in Sudan, stressing the importance of adhering to the rules of international humanitarian law. She noted that since the beginning of the crisis, Qatar has been committed to providing all forms of support and assistance to alleviate the suffering of the Sudanese people during this critical humanitarian situation.

HMC stresses role of early diagnosis during World Alzheimer's Month

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

HAMAD Medical Corporation (HMC) is organising an awareness event on September 10 from 8am to 1pm at Al Rumailah Hospital to mark World Alzheimer's Month. The event will provide an opportunity for direct interaction between the public and a multidisciplinary medical team, highlighting the services available to patients with Alzheimer's disease.

This year's World Alzheimer's Month campaign at HMC will be held under the global theme, "The Earlier You Know, The More You Can Do: A Dementia Diagnosis Matters". It will include information stands covering dementia, brain health, early diagnosis and potentially modifiable risk factors. Members of the multidisciplinary dementia care team will also be available to engage with visitors. A further public exhibition will be held on World Alzheimer's Day, which will be observed on Monday, September 21, 2026.

HMC provides specialised services for assessment, diagnosis and care of people living with memory changes and dementia through its Memory Clinics and multidisciplinary teams. Assessments include medical and cognitive assessment and the necessary investigations to identify symptoms and develop an appropriate care plan for each patient. Alzheimer's is one of the most common forms of dementia, and can result from various causes and health conditions, making specialised assessment an important step in identifying the factors that determine the appropriate intervention.

Prof Hanadi Al Hamad, deputy medical officer for Long-Term Care, Rehabilitation and Geriatrics, medical director of Rumailah Hospital, explained: "Early diagnosis of dementia is a vital step in ensuring that patients and their families receive the appropriate assessment, care and support in a timely manner

Prof Hanadi Al Hamad, deputy medical officer for Long-Term Care, Rehabilitation and Geriatrics, medical director of Rumailah Hospital, explained: "Early diagnosis of dementia is a vital step in ensuring that patients and their families receive the appropriate assessment, care and support in a timely manner. Taking care of brain health and reducing modifiable risk factors can also decrease the risk of developing dementia and maintaining cognitive abilities and independence for the longest possible time."

Where clinically appropriate, advanced biological investigations and disease-modifying biological treatments may be considered for carefully selected patients who meet established eligibility criteria, following comprehensive specialist assessment and an individual risk-benefit evaluation.

HMC also provides the RAHA Alzheimer's and Memory Services Helpline available on 4026 2222 from Sunday to Thursday, from 8am to 3pm, to provide information and support for people and families throughout their dementia care journey.

HMC encourages everyone to take steps to support their brain health, including staying physically active, maintaining a healthy diet and weight, managing blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol, avoiding smoking and staying mentally and socially active. HMC also encourages people to seek medical support if they notice persistent changes in memory or thinking, as early assessment can help identify the underlying cause and ensure appropriate care and support.

Al Muraikhi leads Qatar's delegation at Arab League Council ministerial meet

QNA
DOHA

QATAR participated in the 166th regular session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level, held at the League's headquarters in Cairo on Monday. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs HE Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi headed Qatari delegation.

The meeting discussed the latest developments in the region, particularly the Iranian escalation and attacks targeting several Arab countries, the continued Israeli aggression and violations in the occupied Palestinian territories, Lebanon, and Syria, as well as issues related to Arab national security.

AL HAMMADI MEETS TASHKENT STATE UNIVERSITY OF ORIENTAL STUDIES RECTOR

Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilisations HE Dr. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi met with Rector of Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies Dr. Gulchekhra Shavkatovna Rikhsieva, on the sidelines of the International Conference on Islamic Cultural Heritage in Uzbekistan, held in Tashkent. During the meeting, they reviewed ways to enhance the partnership between the Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilisations and Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies. (QNA)

Al Hammadi emphasises need for cultural diplomacy to promote Islamic legacy

QNA
TASHKENT

QATAR participated in the International Conference on 'Islamic Cultural Heritage in Uzbekistan and Its Role in Global Science', being held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from September 7 to 9, with the aim of developing Oriental and cultural studies through scientific and cultural interaction and promoting dialogue between civilisations and cultures.

Qatar's delegation was headed by Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilisations HE Dr. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi.

The opening of the conference was attended by Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Kongratbay Sharipov; First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Aloyev Bakhromjon Juraboyevich; and Advisor to the President of Uzbekistan on Religious and Enlightenment Affairs Muzaffar Kamilov. Professors, experts and researchers from Qatar, Turkiye, Italy, Jordan, Iraq, Algeria, Egypt and Morocco are participating in the conference.

In his address at the conference, Al Hammadi stated that the conference comes within the framework of the Cultural Diplomacy Programme, which was emphasised by Qatar's plan for the Alliance of Civilisations 2023-2027, noting that the programme aims to introduce the Islamic cities that have played an active role in the development of science and culture on a global level.

He added that organising the conference is a result of the scientific cooperation and effective partnership between the Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilisations, Qatar University, and Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, to introduce the scientific legacy left by Uzbek scholars such as Al Khwarizmi, Al Biruni, Ibn Sina, Imam Al Bukhari, and others, and its impact on the development of global natural and human sciences in mathematics, engineering, algebra, earth sciences, chemistry, medicine, philosophy, and Islamic studies, in addition to reflecting the cultural and civilisational impact of the Uzbek legacy and its role in building contemporary human common ground.

He expressed belief that holding such events demonstrates the important role of cultural diplomacy, which seeks dialogue and cooperation between civilisations, rapprochement between peoples, and strengthening the shared cultural heritage that unites Islamic peoples, supports cultural projects within them, and provides new opportunities to enhance cooperation between countries in various fields, especially between Qatar and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Al Hammadi pointed out that recent years have witnessed a great cultural movement between the two countries, embodied in the organisation of the Uzbek Culture Week in Doha in February 2024 and the Qatari Cultural Week in Tashkent in October 2024, in addition to the broad Qatari participation in the opening of the Islamic Civilisation Centre in Uzbekistan, which is one of the most prominent cultural and scientific projects in Asia aimed at highlighting the contributions of Islamic civilisation and the scholars of the region to the progress of humanity, preserving manuscript heritage and promoting scientific research and civilisational dialogue.

He expressed hope that the conference would produce scientific proposals and recommendations that would contribute to highlighting the Uzbek Islamic cultural heritage and its role in scientific paths in the contemporary world.

UDST, the View Hospital, KMC sign MoU for research cooperation

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) has signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the View Hospital and Korean Medical Centre (KMC), owned and operated by Apex Health, strengthening the University's network of healthcare collaborations and expanding opportunities for collaborative relationship in education, clinical training, applied research and professional development.

The agreements establish a framework for closer collaboration between UDST's applied academic programmes and leading healthcare institutions, providing students and faculty with greater opportunities to connect classroom learning with professional practice. Areas of cooperation included clinical and practical training, joint research projects, academic and clinical staff exchanges, student capstone projects, and the organisation of joint conferences, seminars, and other professional events.

The MoUs also create opportunities to explore joint research funding, collaborative publications, and knowledge-sharing initiatives, supporting research that addressed real-world healthcare needs.

The collaboration with the View Hospital further expands UDST's engagement with Qatar's healthcare sector. As a modern healthcare institution committed to clinical excellence, the View Hospital provides a valuable environment for UDST students and faculty to gain practical exposure, engage with healthcare professionals, and deepen their understanding of contemporary clinical practice.

The agreement with Korean Medical Centre adds a distinctive international dimension to UDST's healthcare collaborations. KMC is the region's first healthcare facility of its kind and was established in partnership with four internationally renowned Korean hospitals. The centre brings together Korean healthcare expertise, advanced technologies, and innovative approaches to medical care in Qatar, creating opportunities for knowledge exchange and exposure to international healthcare practices.

Commenting on the agreements, Dr. Salem Al Naemi, president of UDST, said: "Strong collaborations with leading healthcare institutions are essential to delivering an education that prepares our students for the realities and evolving demands of professional practice. Our collaborations with the View Hospital and Korean Medical Centre will create meaningful opportunities for clinical learning, applied research, professional development, and knowledge exchange, further strengthening the connection between education and the healthcare sector. These collaborations reflect UDST's commitment to developing highly skilled and future-ready graduates who can contribute meaningfully to Qatar's healthcare system and its continued advancement."

Yannis Angouras, hospital director of the View Hospital, said: "We are pleased to collaborate with UDST to support the development of future healthcare professionals through clinical training, knowledge exchange, and applied research. This collaboration will provide valuable opportunities for students to gain practical experience and engage with healthcare professionals, while contributing to the continued advancement of Qatar's healthcare sector."

Alexander Jankuloski, hospital director of Korean Medical Centre, said: "We believe that advancing healthcare begins with investing in knowledge and developing future talent. Our collaboration with UDST will bring academic learning closer to clinical practice, provide students with access to Korean and international expertise, and create new opportunities for applied research and innovation that support the future of healthcare in Qatar."

The collaborations further strengthened the role of UDST's College of Health Sciences in preparing graduates for the evolving needs of the healthcare sector. Through sustained engagement with healthcare providers, the University provided students and faculty with opportunities to gain industry insight, apply their knowledge in real-world settings, and contribute to research and initiatives with practical relevance.

To boost community partnerships, Dreama receives CMC delegation

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

DREAMA Orphan Care Centre, one of the centres operating under the umbrella of the Qatar Social Work Foundation, welcomed a delegation from the Central Municipal Council in a visit aimed at gaining a closer understanding of the centre's mission, its humanitarian and community role, and its integrated services and programmes dedicated to the care and empowerment of children.

The delegation included Mubarak bin Freesh Al Salem, deputy chairman of the Central Municipal Council and representative of Constituency (15); Dr. Badr bin Sultan Al Rumaihi, representative of Constituency (4); Hassan bin Ali Othman Al Ishaq, representative of Constituency (9); Abdullah bin Khalid Al Yafie, representative of Constituency (17); and Fahad bin Hamad Labreidi, representative of Constituency (19). The visit reflected the Council's commitment to learning more about Dreama's role, services, and programmes, as well as exploring areas of cooperation that support community initiatives and promote social inclusion.

During the visit, Council members were introduced to Dreama's role and the services, programmes, and initiatives it provides to create a supportive environment for children, strengthen their capabilities, and empower them. They also learned about the centre's efforts to enhance community partnerships and cooperation with various entities and institutions across the country. The delegation was additionally briefed on the "Bader" initiative and its role in promoting social responsibility and encouraging impactful and sustainable initiatives and partnerships that support the centre's mission and expand community participation in serving children.

On this occasion, Mubarak bin Freesh Al Salem, Deputy Chairman of the Central Municipal Council, emphasised the importance of the visit in strengthening community partnerships and deepening cooperation with Dreama. He highlighted the significance of supporting purposeful community initiatives and advancing efforts aimed at caring for and empowering children, stemming from a shared responsibility to build an aware and capable generation that can actively contribute to the development of society.

For her part, Sheikha Najla bint Ahmed Al Thani, executive director of Dreama Orphan Care Centre, stressed the importance of the visit in strengthening communication and cooperation with the Central Municipal Council. She noted that community partnerships are a fundamental pillar in supporting the centre's mission and achieving its objectives.

She stated: "We highly value the visit of the Deputy Chairman and members of the Central Municipal Council to Dreama and their interest in learning about the centre's services, programmes, and initiatives. We firmly believe that enhancing cooperation and integration with various state institutions contributes to broadening the circle of community support and strengthens our efforts to care for, empower, and integrate children while encouraging their positive participation in society."

The visit underscored the importance of continuing cooperation and communication between Dreama Orphan Care Centre, the Central Municipal Council, and social work institutions. Such collaboration contributes to supporting community initiatives, strengthening integration among various entities, and achieving a positive and sustainable impact that serves the community and supports the care and empowerment of children. At the conclusion of the visit, both sides expressed their aspiration to enhance mutual cooperation and exchange expertise in ways that support efforts to reinforce social responsibility and strengthen integration and partnership in service of the community.

Qatar participates in 17th GCC prosecutors' meeting

QNA
DOHA

QATAR on Monday took part in a meeting of senior prosecutors from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to discuss further judicial cooperation. The 17th meeting of GCC assistant attorneys-general and prosecutors was held virtually and discussed rules for using AI in public prosecution, the formation of a Gulf-wide joint investigation teams and mechanisms for cooperation among GCC prosecution authorities.

Participants further examined unified models for international cooperation among the public prosecution and prosecution authorities of GCC member states.

Qatar was represented by Abdullah Mohammed Al Maliki, first attorney-general and director of the Judicial Inspection Department, along with several Public Prosecution officials. The discussions are part of preparations for the 18th meeting of GCC Attorneys-General and Prosecutors, which is due to be held in October.

QC delivers social housing and livelihood projects in Bangladesh

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

AS PART of its ongoing efforts to provide decent housing and sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable communities, Qatar Charity (QC) has inaugurated a new social housing project for landless and homeless families in Kohela Village under Mirzapur Upazila of Tangail District, Bangladesh.

The project consists of a six-storey residential building to provide safe, secure and dignified accommodation for disadvantaged families. A total of 24 families will benefit from the project through 24 residential flats.

According to the project design, the building comprises six floors, with four flats on each floor. Each flat measures approximately 640 square feet and includes two bedrooms, a drawing room, a dining room, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen and a balcony, ensuring a comfortable living environment for beneficiary families.

The project aims to improve the living standards of families who previously lacked adequate housing and faced significant social and economic challenges. In addition to providing permanent housing, Qatar Charity has implemented an economic empowerment component to help beneficiaries achieve long-term self-reliance. Under this initiative, each beneficiary family has received 32 decimals of agricultural land, enabling them to engage in farming and other income-generating activities.

The initiative reflects Qatar Charity's integrated approach to poverty alleviation by combining housing support with sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Lima Mollick, one of the beneficiaries, expressed her happiness, saying: "For many years, my family lived in uncertainty without a proper home. Today, we have a safe place to live and agricultural land to support our future. We are deeply grateful to Qatar Charity for changing our lives."

Shamsul Alam also shared his appreciation: "Receiving this flat is like a dream come true for my family. We now have security, dignity and hope for a better future. The land provided to us will help us earn a living and support our children."

QRCS and SARCS sign strategic partnership deal

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

A HIGH-LEVEL delegation from Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) visited Syria to sign a strategic cooperation agreement with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society (SARCS) and open a QRCS representation office in Damascus.

This step is aimed at scaling up bilateral humanitarian partnership and expand relief and development work in Syria, previously undertaken by QRCS's representation office in Türkiye. QRCS's delegation comprised Yousef bin Ali Al Khater, president; Ebrahim Abdulla Ali Al Abdulla, treasurer; Abdullah Sultan Al Qattan, acting secretary-general; Mohamed Bader Al Sada, assistant secretary-general for Relief and International Development; and Ramadan Al Mousel, advisor to President.

At the headquarters of SARCS, they were received by Dr. Mohamed Hazem Baqleh, president; Raya Ramadan, secretary general; and several officials from the host National Society.

During the visit, a meeting was held with the Syrian side to address various areas of humanitarian, relief, and development cooperation. The participants also discussed ways to develop the existing bilateral partnership, effort coordination, response to humanitarian needs, and opportunities to launch joint programmes in the upcoming period.

In the presence of Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Syria HE Khalifa bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud Al-Sharif, and Dr. Hossam Al Sharkawi, regional director for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), QRCS and SARCS signed a cooperation agreement, to establish a legal framework for working closer together, sharing experience and information, coordinating humanitarian programs/projects, and responding to emergencies and disasters.

Under the agreement, a QRCS representation office was opened in Damascus, serving as a platform to enhance communication and direct coordination with SARC and relevant Syrian authorities, as well as to supervise and develop programs/projects according to humanitarian needs and priorities.

In his remarks, Al Khater described the agreement as a new step of QRCS-SARCS humanitarian work, inspired by the historical ties between the peoples of Qatar and Syria and the mutual understanding between the leaders of the two countries, at a critical juncture that requires concerted efforts and mobilised support to overcome challenges and meet the needs of the Syrian people.

"Syria has always been a top priority for us in Qatar, as well as in QRCS's operational strategy," added Al Khater.

Dr. Baqleh commented, "This agreement is a testimony to our shared commitment to humanitarian action. It reflects our unified vision of transitioning to sustainable development work that facilitates early recovery, through the rehabilitation of infrastructure, economic empowerment of families, and backing of the health sector. At the same time, we will continue to provide relief aid, given the large number of Syrian families who are desperate for assistance to secure their basic humanitarian needs."

QRCS's new office in Damascus will build on the extensive humanitarian interventions carried out in Syria by its representation office in Gaziantep, southern Türkiye.

DAAM, Al Noor Centre sign funding deal

QNA
DOHA

THE Social and Sport Contribution Fund (DAAM) has signed a three-year funding agreement with Al Noor Centre, covering 2026-2028, to support the purchase of specialised equipment and the provision of a medical device for the centre's vision clinic.

Under the agreement, DAAM will provide financial support to strengthen services for beneficiaries by supplying specialised devices and technologies for people with visual impairment, and by equipping the vision clinic with a medical device to improve examination and eye-care services.

In this regard, Executive Director of Al Noor Centre Meshaal bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi said: "We value this partnership with the Social and Sport Contribution Fund. It will strengthen the centre's technical and medical capacity and help us empower people with visual impairment and raise the quality of services provided to them."

Director of Shared Services at DAAM Yousef Mohammed Al Nuaimi said: "This support is in line with the Third National Development Strategy, which aims to empower priority care groups, including people with visual impairment, and will help Al Noor Centre develop its services and meet the needs of its beneficiaries."

The agreement reflects the role of DAAM and Qatar Stock Exchange-listed companies in supporting social programs and sustainable development, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

قطر للطاقة QatarEnergy LNG

MCDERMOTT

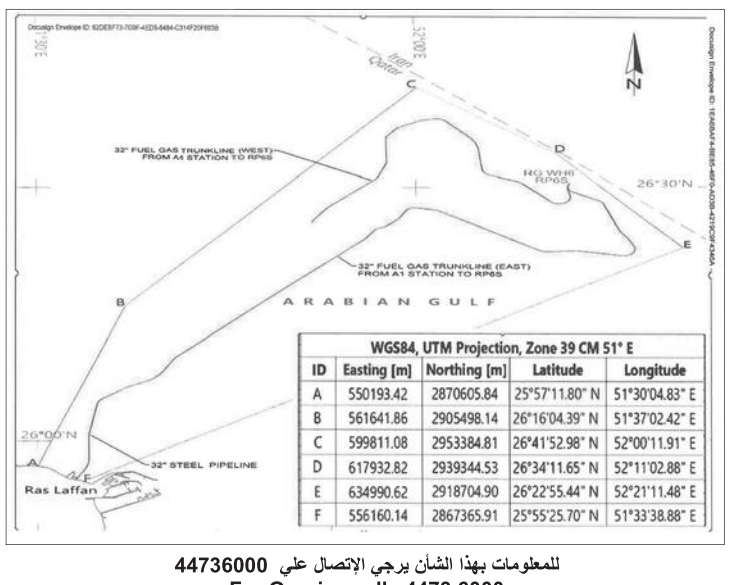
Public Announcement
To all Ships, Fishermen and Mariners
Offshore Construction, Surveys and Miscellaneous Activities

Offshore activities on Halul 51 to perform NFPS Offshore Project As-Laid Survey and Other Miscellaneous Activities from 13 September 2026 to 31 December 2026.

Pursuant to and under directives from the Department of Maritime Safety, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners, and Fishermen that QatarEnergy LNG intends to undertake the NFPS Offshore Project As-Laid Survey and Other Miscellaneous Activities in the area bound by the coordinates shown in the diagram below.

All Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen are expected to keep clear of the project installations area and survey area during the whole period of operation.

QatarEnergy LNG takes no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to outside parties in association with this operation, following publication of this notice.



WGS84, UTM Projection, Zone 39 CM 51° E				
ID	Easting [m]	Northing [m]	Latitude	Longitude
A	550193.42	2870605.84	25°57'11.80" N	51°30'04.83" E
B	561641.86	2905498.14	26°16'04.39" N	51°37'02.42" E
C	599811.08	2953384.81	26°41'52.98" N	52°00'11.91" E
D	617932.82	2939344.53	26°34'11.65" N	52°11'02.88" E
E	634990.62	2918704.90	26°22'55.44" N	52°21'11.48" E
F	556160.14	2867365.91	25°55'25.70" N	51°33'38.88" E

للمعلومات بهذا الشأن يرجي الإتصال علي 44736000
For Queries call 4473 6000

Thai Restaurant Week brings a taste of Thailand to Qatar

ASHRAF SIDDIQUI
DOHA

THE Royal Thai Embassy in Doha recently launched 'Thai Restaurant Week 2026: A Taste of Thailand', a cultural and culinary initiative designed to showcase the rich flavours, traditions and heritage of Thailand to residents and visitors across Qatar.

Running from September 3 to 19, the campaign is being organised in collaboration with 12 Thai restaurants across Qatar. It offers diners an opportunity to explore the diversity of Thai cuisine while discovering the cultural traditions and craftsmanship that make Thai food popular around the world.

The opening reception, held at Saffron, Banyan Tree Doha Hotel, brought together more than 100 guests, including representatives of Qatari government institutions, members of the diplomatic corps, private-sector leaders, media professionals and social media influencers.

Guests were treated to an engaging introduction to Thai culture through traditional performances, live cooking and fruit-carving demonstrations, along with tastings of selected dishes prepared by participating restaurants.

The event provided a preview of the culinary experiences being offered during the three-week campaign.

In her address on the occasion, Ambassador-Designate of Thailand to Qatar HE Pensom Lertsithichai said the initiative reflected the warm and longstanding relationship between Thailand and Qatar.

She noted that while bilateral cooperation continues to expand across diplomatic, economic and other fields, cultural traditions and cuisine often provide a particularly meaningful way for people to understand and appreciate one another.

During Thai Restaurant Week, participating restaurants will offer specially curated menus at fixed prices of QR39, QR59 and QR89, depending on the restaurant and dining period. The menus are designed to highlight the distinctive flavours, ingredients, culinary techniques and traditions associated with Thai cuisine.

The campaign also encourages public participation through Facebook and Instagram using #ThaiWeekQatar2026, with participants eligible for a raffle featuring a variety of prizes. These include dining vouchers, hotel pool access, accommodation packages and travel experiences in Thailand.

Among the participating hospitality partners are Thai Kitchen, Pochana, CHX N RISE, Sabai Thai, Khaosan, Isaan, The Siam, Thai Aroi, Sritubtim and Saffron, alongside a range of accommodation and entertainment partners in Bangkok and Phuket.

Iran threatens US oil companies with strikes

Tehran says it deployed new anti-ship missile against US Navy

AGENCIES
TEHRAN

IRAN'S Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf has warned of strikes against US energy companies following a threat from US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to "destroy" Iranian tankers.

"It's simple: the oil and gas production chain here is sprawling, accessible, and exposed. American oil and gas companies across these waters and facilities share that exposure," he posted on the X platform.

"Strike our assets, and you get struck." Ghalibaf paired the message with a seemingly AI-generated image of oil infrastructure with text reading: "The lost decade of the US economy is coming".

Iran considers its "defensive" actions "completely legal", including strikes against US military bases in the Middle East, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei has said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is in a position of legitimate self-defence and defence of national interests because of the continuation of the naval blockade and full-scale economic war," he said.

Cargo vessels transit the Strait of Hormuz in southern Iran.

Baghaei told reporters that Tehran considers its actions legal "within the framework of the inherent right of self-defence based on Article 51 of the United Nations Charter".

"The United States' resort to attacks against civilians and the killing of children in an attempt to pressure the Islamic Republic of Iran completely invalidates their claims," he added.

Iran said it has used a new anti-ship missile against the US Navy in the Persian Gulf and warned Washington that its naval blockade of the key waterway is not foolproof.

In an interview on Sunday evening with state broadcaster, the secretary-general of the National Security Council, Mohsen Rezaee, spoke of the first use of a new type of anti-ship cruise missile. "This is an important warning to the enemy and means that the naval blockade is vulnerable," the general said. The US military said it attacked three Iranian oil tankers on Saturday and put them out of action. Earlier, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) fired ballistic missiles at two US warships, according to CENTCOM, the US regional command.

In the interview, Rezaee rejected the US account that the Strait of Hormuz was open again for international shipping. "The Strait of Hormuz is completely closed and the US claim that ships and oil tankers are passing through it is a lie," he said.

News in brief

Kosovo to join countries signing up for US-led stabilisation force in Gaza

PRISTINA: Kosovo has agreed to join the short list of countries signing up to join the International Stabilization Force (ISF) in Gaza. The small Muslim-majority Balkan nation signed on Monday a formal agreement to join the United Nations-mandated force, according to a social media post by the United States-backed Board of Peace.

"Representatives of the Republic of Kosovo, the Board of Peace & the International Stabilization Force signed the Participating Country Agreement for the inclusion of Kosovo in the ISF," the post said. The accord, signed by Kosovo Security Force Commander Lieutenant-General Bashkim Jashari and US ISF Commander Major-General Jasper Jeffers, formally establishes the Kosovo's inclusion in the planned force. **(AGENCIES)**

Assad-era Syrian reactor configured for nuclear weapons, says IAEA chief

VIENNA: A secret Syrian facility dating from the rule of former president Bashar Al-Assad was configured for nuclear weapons, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) head Rafael Grossi said in Vienna on Monday.

The head of the UN's nuclear watchdog said he was not passing judgment on Syrian intentions, but he noted that the never-completed reactor had been designed for the efficient production of material that would have been "directly suitable for the manufacture of nuclear weapons." The IAEA is working with the current Syrian government to investigate the Assad-era nuclear programme. IAEA experts recently secured tons of previously undisclosed stocks of uranium and reactor fuel rods. **(DPA)**

Indonesian volcanic eruption leaves some 170,000 travellers stranded

JAKARTA: An eruption of the Anak Krakatau volcano has thrown air traffic in Indonesia into chaos with tens of thousands of people stranded on Java and Sumatra since the weekend and the two international airports in the capital Jakarta shut until at least Monday evening.

Authorities said on Monday that volcanic ash from the eruption will keep the airports, including the key Soekarno-Hatta airport, closed. Air traffic at five smaller airports in the island nation has also been at a standstill since the weekend. More than 1,500 flights and around 170,000 passengers have now been affected, the Indonesian news agency Antara reported. **(DPA)**

At least 12 people killed in Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon

DPA
BEIRUT

AT least 12 people, including two children, were killed in Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon, Lebanese authorities said on Monday.

Eleven people were killed in a morning attack on a residential building in Kfar Reman in the Nabatieh area, the Lebanese Health Ministry said. The dead included two children and two women, while eight people were injured.

A paramedic with the Risala health service, which is affiliated with Hezbollah, was killed in a separate attack on a vehicle in the same town. Israel's military said in the afternoon that Hezbollah had deployed two explosive-laden drones against Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon during the night. In response, the Israeli military said it struck targets including weapons depots belonging to the Iran-backed militia.

An excavator digs as rescuers search for survivors amidst the rubble following an overnight Israeli airstrike on the village of Kfar Reman in southern Lebanon on Monday.

Overnight, the Israeli military also called on residents of Dair al-Sahrani to leave the area immediately. About 20 minutes later, Israeli fighter jets bombed a building in the town, according to Lebanese reports.

Despite a ceasefire officially in place, Israel and Hezbollah repeatedly accuse each other of violating the agreement.

Nepal holds day of mourning for more than 1,300 killed in floods

DPA
KATHMANDU

NEPAL was holding a national day of mourning to remember more than 1,300 people who died in last month's catastrophic floods.

Government offices in Nepal and missions abroad were flying the national flag at half-mast on Monday, the 13th day since the floods, the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a statement.

In the Hindu tradition, it is the final day of the mourning period, during which close family members stay at home and relatives visit to pay their respects. On the final day, rituals are held to pray for those who died.

The government had not planned any wider events for the day of mourning because search teams are still looking for survivors and resources are limited.

"There are no government programmes organised as the rescue and search operation is still going on in the flood-hit areas," Phanindra Paudel of the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) told the Reuters news agency.

A huge wall of mud and rock, triggered by a glacier breaking off, collapsed into a river on the Himalayan border of Nepal and China's Tibet region on August 26, causing flooding that killed at least 1,380 people and left more than 5,500 missing.

Bodies of deadly flash floods and mudslides victims lie inside a pit at Devghat mass burial site in Chitwan, Nepal.

President Ram Chandra Paudel, the ceremonial head of state, was touring flood-hit areas on Monday and was to survey damage caused by the disaster, his aide said.

Philippines warns China may reassert itself amid drill cuts

DPA
SEOUL

PHILIPPINE Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro has warned that Beijing could view recent cuts to the joint US-South Korea military drills as an opportunity to reassert itself in the Asia Pacific.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Seoul Defense Dialogue, an annual multilateral security forum, Teodoro said that "China is very quick to exploit gaps", when asked on Monday whether Beijing could seize on the move.

He added that Washington had given Manila "definite assurances" that the US commitments to the Philippines remained unchanged. He also accused China of exploiting democratic systems to spread "distortive narratives".

South Korea and the US shortened the duration of their annual joint military drills and scaled back field training exercises last month after US President Donald Trump ordered a "substantial reduction" in the annual war games.

The US-led Ulchi Freedom Shield war games ended six days earlier than originally planned. Trump cited his "very good relationship" with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and linked the decision to Seoul's refusal to join the US and Israel's war on Iran at the time.

N Korea deploys warship 'capable of annihilating retaliatory strikes'

AGENCIES
SEOUL

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un attended the commissioning of a warship he said could deliver "annihilating retaliatory strikes on an enemy", citing "constant threats", according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

The *Kang Kon*, named after the North Korean military leader who was killed in action during the Korean War, was formally deployed at a ceremony at the eastern Wonsan Port in Kangwon Province on Sunday.

In his address, Kim said the warship "represents the self-respect and will" of North Korea to defend its rights and interests, KCNA reported.

"The time has come for us to exercise our sovereignty at sea and under water," Kim said, according to KCNA.

He said that "dangerous shadows must be erased" and that North Korea was under constant threat in the "sea east of the Korean Peninsula and nearby waters", KCNA reported.

KCNA did not specify what weapons systems might be deployed on the *Kang Kon*, but said it has the same weapons systems as the 5,000-tonne warship *Choe Hyon* launched in June.

The commissioning ceremony of the destroyer 'Kang Kon', at Wonsan Port, North Korea, on Sunday, in this picture released by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency.

A previous KCNA report said Choe Hyon-class destroyers can carry a range of weapons, including missiles that analysts say are capable of carrying a nuclear payload. The ship was commissioned a day before the US, South Korea and Japan were set to begin a five-day military exercise in waters east and south of South Korea's Jeju Island.

South Korea's military said in a statement that the Freedom Edge exercise is defensive in nature and meant to respond to North Korean nuclear and missile threats as well as promote regional peace and stability.

North Korea has previously slammed the trilateral drill as a "reckless show of strength".

Sunday marks the third launch of the *Kang Kon*; the destroyer partially capsized during the first commissioning in May 2025 before it was repaired and relaunched the following month. It underwent further repairs and sea trials before completing weapons testing in July this year.

Kim said he would demonstrate another stage of North Korea's naval buildup in eight months, KCNA said.

قطر للطاقة QatarEnergy LNG

MCDERMOTT

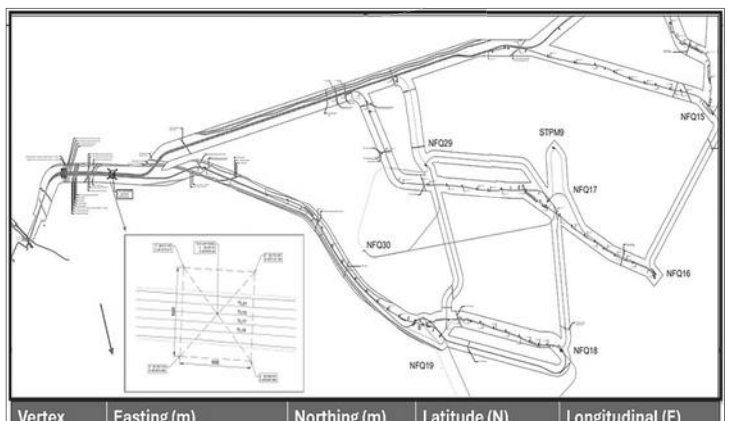
Public Announcement
To all Ships, Fishermen and Mariners
Offshore Construction, Surveys and Miscellaneous Activities

Under the Offshore activities performed by ASTRO AQUILA, related to Offshore Pipeline Pre-commissioning & ILI Works & Associated Miscellaneous Activities, Dewatering and Drying Activities will be accompanied with sea surface water disturbance at the below identified area between September 8th, 2026 and September 30th , 2026.

Pursuant to and under directives from the Department of Maritime Safety, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners, and Fishermen that QatarEnergy LNG will undertake the above specific Activities, causing the surface disturbance in the area bound by the coordinates shown in the diagram below.

All Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen are expected to **keep clear** of the project installations area and survey area during the whole period of operation.

QatarEnergy LNG takes no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to outside parties in association with this operation, following publication of this notice.



Vertex	Easting (m)	Northing (m)	Latitude (N)	Longitudinal (E)
A	561 217.2	2 873 173.2	25°58'41.346"	51°36'41.614"
B	561 716.5	2 873 147.2	25°58'40.425"	51°36'59.566"
C	561 690.5	2 872 647.9	25°58'24.198"	51°36'58.546"
D	561 191.1	2 872 673.9	25°58'25.119"	51°36'40.592"

للمعلومات بهذا الشأن يرجي الإتصال علي 44736000
For Queries call 4473 6000

UNGA 81st session opens with global conflicts and UN reform in focus

Qatar to highlight mediation, de-escalation and multilateral action as experts warn of widening gap between global crises and UN capacity

QNA
DOHA

THE 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) will open in New York on Tuesday amid a turbulent international environment marked by wars, geopolitical divisions and intertwined humanitarian, economic and climate challenges.

Chaired by UNGA President Khalilur Rahman, the session will be held under the theme "Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation: A United Nations That Delivers for All", highlighting growing concerns over the gap between the scale of global crises and the international system's ability to address them.

The Palestinian issue and the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip are expected to feature prominently in deliberations, with discussions likely to address Gaza's future, reconstruction, humanitarian assistance, the role of UNRWA and efforts to revive the two-state solution. The war in Ukraine and other conflicts and humanitarian crises will also remain high on the agenda.

For Qatar, the session represents an important platform to advance its approach centred on dialogue, mediation, preventive diplomacy and political solutions. Doha is expected to focus particularly on the Palestinian cause, Gaza, regional de-escalation, Gulf security, conflict prevention, humanitarian action and sustainable development.

The wider agenda extends well beyond conflicts. The General Assembly will address the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change, global health, human rights, disarmament, technology governance and artificial intelligence, while UN reform will be among the most sensitive issues.

The SDG Moment is scheduled for September 18, followed by the high-level general debate on September 22. Climate-related meetings will take place on September 23 and 24, while a high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response is scheduled for September 25. Meetings on racism and discrimination and nuclear disarmament will follow on September 28 and 29.

Technology governance and AI have also emerged as priorities, while the session's work will continue through September 2027 via the UN's six main committees.

International relations expert Dr Ahmed Ghaith Al Kuwari said the session comes at a time when conflicts in West Asia have demonstrated how quickly military crises can spill over into maritime security, energy, trade, public finances, supply chains and global markets.

He said the central challenge was no longer simply the existence of international law, but ensuring its implementation when it conflicts with the interests of powerful nations. He argued that the UN should move beyond managing crises after they erupt towards preventing them before they develop into wider regional and global threats.

Qatar University Assistant Professor Dr Abdullah Bandar Al Otaibi identified three broad priorities for Qatar: regional security and stability, strengthening mediation and preventive diplomacy, and protecting the international order based on sovereignty and the rule of law while promoting humanitarian action and sustainable development.

He said Gaza, the Palestinian cause, regional de-escalation, Gulf security and maritime navigation are likely to generate intensive discussions on the sidelines of the UNGA. New York also offers mediators an opportunity to bring together parties that may not be able to meet formally, allowing messages to be conveyed and preliminary understandings to be developed.

Dr Al Otaibi described the UN's challenge as involving both a crisis of confidence and a crisis of capacity, noting that the organisation faces difficulties translating international consensus and resolutions into concrete results.

He said the General Assembly's strength lies in collective legitimacy and its ability to maintain issues such as civilian protection, humanitarian aid and Palestinian self-determination at the centre of international attention.

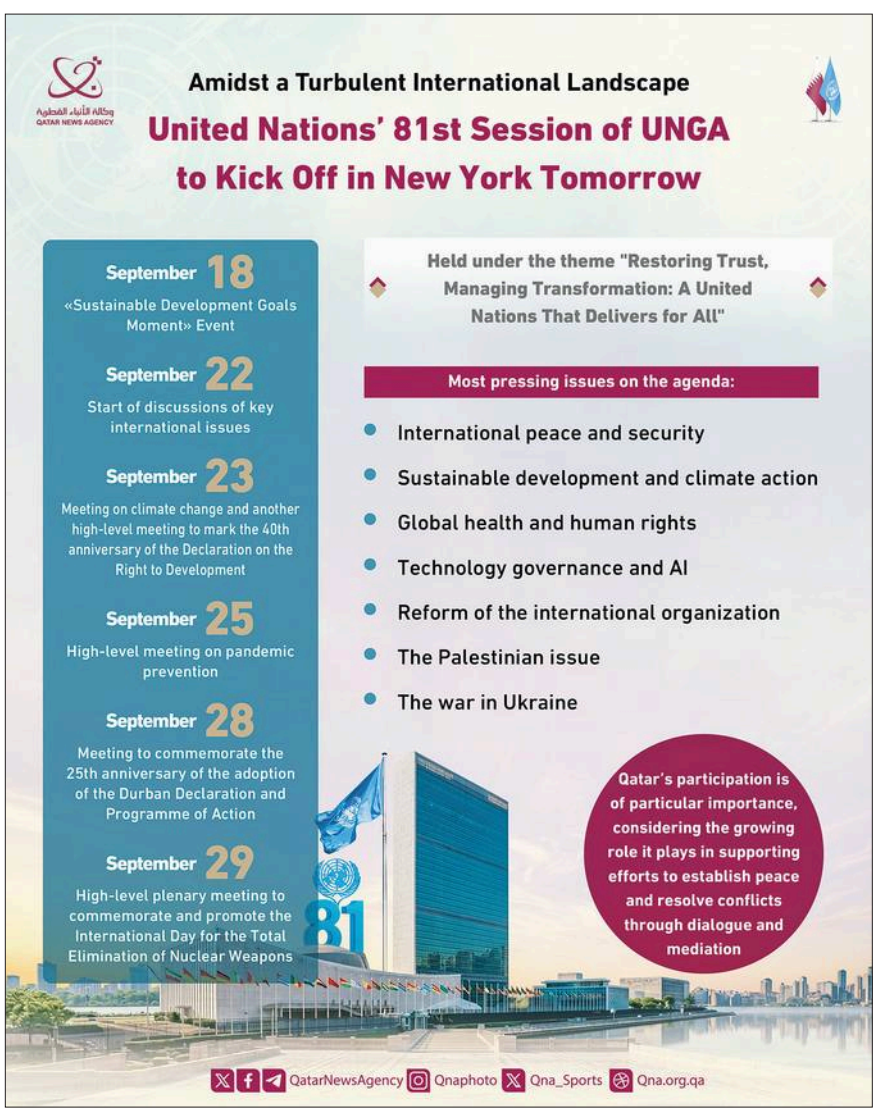
On UN reform, he expected discussions to advance without necessarily producing a major institutional breakthrough. While there is broad recognition that the Security Council's composition does not adequately reflect today's distribution of power, particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America, reaching agreement on the form of reform remains difficult.

Doha Institute Associate Professor Dr Ibrahim Khatib, meanwhile, pointed to declining trust in the UN, reduced funding for its agencies and the organisation's diminished role in addressing major global crises.

He said both structural weaknesses and a lack of political will among powerful member states contribute to the problem. The veto system, he noted, has obstructed action on pressing issues, while major powers have sometimes preferred direct intervention or bilateral engagement over strengthening the UN framework.

Dr Khatib said the UN's ability to respond to conflicts, energy challenges and climate change would provide important tests of its effectiveness. Failure to make progress on these issues, he warned, could further erode public confidence in the organisation.

Against this backdrop, the 81st UNGA session will be closely watched not only for the positions delivered from the podium but also for the diplomatic activity behind the scenes. For Qatar, the gathering provides an opportunity to reinforce its role as an advocate of dialogue, mediation and de-escalation at a time when the effectiveness and credibility of multilateralism face renewed scrutiny.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is more important than ever

JERALD MCNAIR

HOW do we celebrate the life of Dolly Parton? She was such an iconic figure who transcended time, race, social class and gender. Her music will live on, influencing generations to come. Songs such as "Coat of Many Colors," "Jolene," "I Will Always Love You" and "Here You Come Again" have changed lives for the better and continue to be heard worldwide.

As a fan and an educator for over 30 years, I believe what separates Parton from so many of her contemporaries is the impact she has had on education around the world. In 1995, Parton founded the Imagination Library in honour of her dad who could not read or write.

The early childhood literacy programme has distributed more than 300 million books to children up to age 5 around the world. By the time the children become too old to participate, they will have received 60 books. Consider the benefits of that many books. The US, Ireland, Australia, the United Kingdom and Canada participate in the programme.

Childhood literacy affects school dropout and incarceration rates, as well as the quality of life for adults. Data from the World Literacy Foundation reveals that children who drop out of school are at a much higher risk of incarceration; more than 70% of incarcerated adults cannot read above a fourth grade level.

By the third grade, a child who cannot read proficiently is four times more likely to drop out of high school. And more than 85% of juveniles in the court system are functionally low-literate.

A consistent decline in students' reading scores across the country continues to alarm and baffle policymakers, educators and other stakeholders. Every two years, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), known as the Nation's Report Card, tests students in grades four, eight and 12 in subjects such as reading and math. Data from the National Assessment Governing Board shows that since 2015, reading scores have declined in grades four and eight. For example, in 2024, average reading scores published by the Nation's Report Card declined by two points for fourth and eighth grade students compared with 2022. For 12th graders in 2024, reading scores dropped to 283 from 285 in 2019.

Recent data shows some improvements in 9-year-olds, who are typically in the fourth grade. Compared with 2022, the 2025 average reading score for 9-year-old students was four points higher, with lower-performing students making gains. However, reading data can be quite volatile, particularly for younger students. Gains can be seen one year, only to be followed by a precipitous decline the next year.

It is this reality that makes Parton's Imagination Library programme so important. She had a profound understanding of how reading influences the lives of children, not just in their developmental years but also throughout life. We see far too many youths engaging in misconduct from fighting to bullying or simply exhibiting an intolerance for the beliefs and ideas of others. When our youths can read proficiently, they think more critically, synthesize information, better understand the views of others and express their disagreements using words rather than with violence. Reading exposes them to experiences and enriches their lives.

It is the aim and the desire of schools to improve the lives of their students. How do we improve the reading scores of youths to help enrich their lives? Experts can identify the problem but have a harder time coming up with solutions. The reasons for poor reading scores are wide-ranging. They include the pandemic shutdowns, children's preoccupation with technology such as video games and phones, chronic absenteeism rates that have not dropped to pre-pandemic levels for most school districts around the country, and fewer youths simply reading for pleasure.

Imagination Library cuts through the rhetoric and places books in the hands of children, in essence changing their lives for decades to come. The world will miss Parton. Her legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of us all. Let's continue to celebrate her by elevating Imagination Library even more, in every community.

William Shakespeare wrote: "Be not afraid of greatness: Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." Parton's life embodied all three.

(Jerald McNair is a school administrator in South Holland School District 151. McNair has a doctorate degree in education and a graduate degree in public policy.)

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ON THE OPINION AND ANALYSIS PAGES ARE THE AUTHORS' OWN. *QATAR TRIBUNE BEARS* NO RESPONSIBILITY.

Five killed after Amazon cargo plane crashes at US airport

AGENCIES
MIAMI

AT least five people have died after an Amazon cargo plane crashed in the United States, overrunning its runway while landing at Miami International Airport and disrupting one of the country's busiest airports.

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said in a social media post that a Boeing 767-300 overran the runway at 2pm ET (18:00 GMT) upon arriving from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Five people were also injured in the crash, three of whom are in critical condition, and two others were hospitalised with less severe injuries, Miami-Dade County officials said in a news conference.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue said that "multiple vehicles" were struck by the plane, which caught on fire after it crashed. The department said more than 60 fire rescue units were working to extinguish the blaze and assess the status of people affected.

The fire rescue chief, Ray Jadallah, said some people were trapped inside motorised vehicles following the crash. The pilot and copilot were also trapped in the plane. It is not clear how many crew members or passengers were on board.

Fire crews were dealing with a fuel leak on the plane several hours after the incident, Jadallah said.

An Amazon spokesperson said the plane was operated by 21 Air and experienced "an incident" while attempting to land.

A cargo plane for the online retailer Amazon after it crashed on Sunday, at Miami International Airport in Florida in the United States.

"We're working closely with local authorities and officials to understand exactly what happened," Amazon spokesperson Kelly Nantel said.

"Right now, our absolute priority is the safety, well-being, and care of everyone involved. We're doing everything we can to support those affected."

Videos circulating online show black smoke billowing from the scene near the runway.

The aircraft appeared to be largely intact despite the fire.

The 32-year-old plane had been a passenger aircraft for more than two decades before being repurposed as a cargo carrier in 2015, according to flight-tracking site Flightradar24. Early reports indicated that the aircraft veered off the runway and crossed a road near the airport.

The US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which investigates major transportation-related accidents, confirmed that it was aware of the crash and would provide additional updates as more information became available.

US Department of Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said his agency had issued a full ground stop in Miami after the incident, urging travellers to anticipate "significant delays".

The cause of the incident is unknown.

The FAA said it is investigating.

Russia closes German consulate in St Petersburg

DPA
MOSCOW

RUSSIA is closing the German consulate general in St Petersburg and all branches of Germany's Goethe Institute in the country in retaliation for measures announced by Berlin, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

Goethe Institute staff have been ordered to leave Russia by September 13, while employees of the German consulate general must leave the country by September 18, when the mission is due to close.

The German Foreign Office criticized Moscow's decision.

"This decision is a regrettable mistake that makes the path back to constructive relations even more difficult," a ministry spokesman in Berlin said.

The measures come in response to Germany's announced closure of the Russia House cultural centre in Berlin and the Russian consulate general in Bonn. Berlin announced the measures after blaming Moscow for an attempted attack involving an explosives-laden drone at Leipzig airport in early August. Russia categorically denies any involvement.

Ulrich Siegmund could become AfD's first-ever premier of a German state

On campaign trail, Siegmund presented himself as more moderate than his far-right party's controversial manifesto

DPA
BERLIN

AFTER leading the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) to a resounding victory in Saxony-Anhalt, Ulrich Siegmund could become the youngest ever premier of a German state.

The AfD earned 43.8% of the vote in Sunday's election, its best showing in a German state vote. While it narrowly missed out on an unprecedented absolute majority of seats in the state parliament in Magdeburg, the party has claimed a "mandate to govern" and could lead a minority government.

This would make Siegmund, 35, the first far-right premier of a German state since World War II.

While many German politicians face anger and abuse on the campaign trail, the smiling Siegmund was greeted by long queues of supporters wherever he appeared in Saxony-Anhalt this summer. The label of "Germany's most dangerous man," given to him by the influential *Der Spiegel* magazine in an August front cover, has already become a source of pride for his backers.

Unconventional path

Born in 1990, the year of German reunification, Siegmund did not follow a conventional educational path for politicians. As a teenager, he earned money as a waiter and a labourer on building sites, before beginning an apprenticeship as an export merchant.

Having earned a bachelor's degree in business psychology and business administration at a distance-learning university in Hamburg, Siegmund later set up a business selling room fragrances and perfumes.

A member of the conservative Christian Democrats in his youth, he quickly left for the AfD and entered the state parliament in 2016. His public prominence took a leap during the Coronavirus pandemic, when his videos on social media criticizing lockdown measures earned him hundreds of thousands of followers.

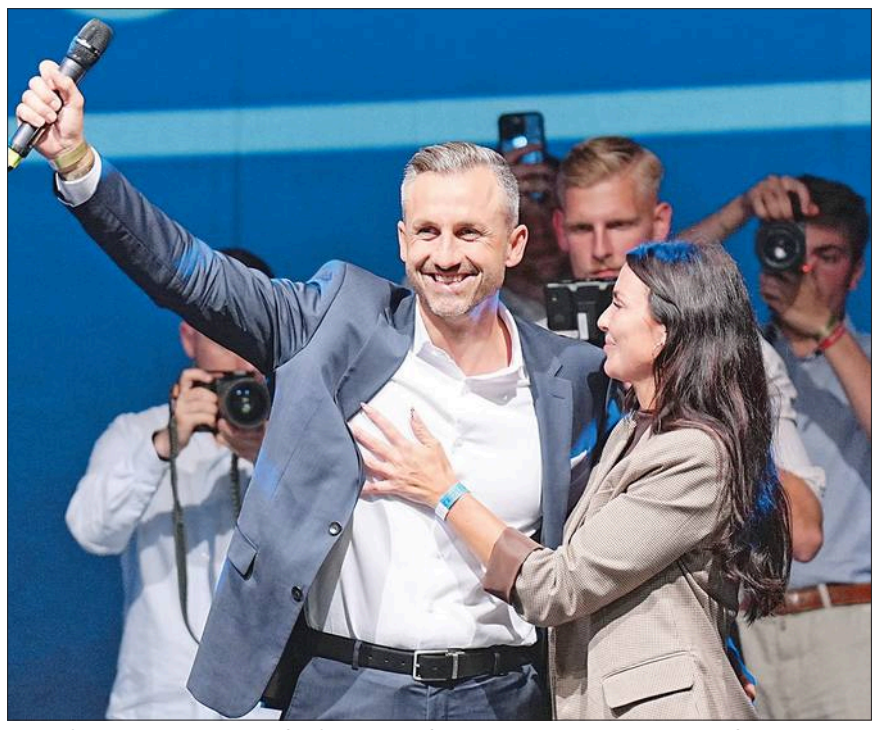
He subsequently became co-leader of the AfD's parliamentary group in Magdeburg in 2022 and was named lead candidate for Sunday's election in May 2025 with over 98% support from party colleagues.

Scrutiny over 'remigration' and nepotism

Siegmund came under serious scrutiny for the first time after it was revealed he attended an infamous meeting in Potsdam in November 2023 at which Martin Sellner, the former figurehead of the far-right Identitarian Movement, spoke about the "remigration," or forced resettlement, of immigrants.

The Saxony-Anhalt state parliament subsequently removed Siegmund as chairman of its social affairs committee.

He was also caught up in a nepotism scandal that broke earlier this year. According to media reports, his father reportedly received more than €7,500 ($8,700) per month as a parliamentary staffer for a party colleague, one of a number of prominent AfD politicians whose relatives have been employed at the taxpayer's expense.


Ulrich Siegmund, Alternative for Germany (AfD) top candidate and co-chair of the state parliamentary group in Saxony-Anhalt, celebrates with his wife Julia Siegmund on stage at the AfD's election party at the Altes Theater. (DPA)

The party's moderate face?

Siegmund and his wife Julia live with their young daughter in the small town of Tangermünde, on the Elbe River. On the campaign trail, Siegmund often presented himself as more moderate than the party's controversial manifesto - although he did not distance himself from his radical colleagues.

At information stands on market squares and in public dialogues, he conveyed the feeling that only "common sense" is needed to see the prevailing situation in Germany on issues such as migration, energy policy or public media as deeply troubling.

Man attacks Democratic Ohio governor candidate

DPA
CANFIELD

AN armed man attacked Democratic Ohio governor candidate Amy Acton at a community festival in Canfield, injuring at least two people, while Acton escaped unharmed, her campaign said on Sunday.

Security officers overpowered and arrested the man after he pushed through the crowd towards Acton. At least two elderly people were injured in the incident. US media reported that the 38-year-old was carrying two pistols but did not draw them.

His motive was not immediately known, and it was unclear whether he legally owned the weapons or was permitted to carry them concealed.

11 people die after avalanche in Russia's North Caucasus

DPA
MOSCOW

AT least 11 people have been killed in an avalanche in Russia's North Caucasus, the TASS news agency reported on Monday.

Six mountaineers were injured and another six remain missing, while 10 members of the 33-strong group escaped unharmed, according to the report. The avalanche reportedly struck on the 5,018-metre Mount Mizhirgi in the Bezengi Valley in the Russian republic of Kabardino-Balkaria.

TASS described it as Russia's worst mountaineering accident since 2022, when more than 120 people were killed in an avalanche in North Ossetia.

Protesters in standoff with UK police after migrant boat arrives

DPA
LONDON

HUNDREDS of demonstrators were in a standoff with UK police overnight as they vowed to prevent migrants leaving Portsmouth after they arrived in a small boat.

They blocked roads for hours in the English port city and were vowing to stay all night in the second major anti-migrant protest of the weekend. Large crowds of masked, black-clad men blocked road access to the Port of Dover on Saturday, in scenes which have been condemned by politicians.

Early on Monday morning, a government spokesperson said: "We condemn the intimidating and thuggish behaviour we are seeing tonight. The right to peaceful protest is fundamental to our democracy, but it must never cross a line into disorder.

Police officers pass a pile of discarded life jackets at Eastney Point, near Eastney Beach, Portsmouth, following a protest. (DPA)

"We thank the emergency services who are working to safely manage this situation."

Many of those at Portsmouth were dressed in all black and wore face masks, similar to those who attended the Dover rally. Hampshire Police urged people to avoid the area and said a dispersal order was in place, meaning anyone who fails to comply could be arrested.

The dinghy, reported to be carrying some 140 migrants, is thought to have made one of the longest journeys of any small boat and landings as far west as Hampshire are rare.

News in brief

Finland completes border fence with Russia after two years of construction

HELSINKI: NATO member Finland has completed a 200-kilometre fence along its border with Russia after two years of construction, authorities said on Monday.

"The state's most important task is to ensure the safety of its citizens," Finnish Interior Minister Mari Rantanen said in a statement. "In these unpredictable times, the border fence on the eastern border is an essential component of an effective border security system." Construction began in August 2024 along sections of Finland's more than 1,300-kilometre border with Russia. **(DPA)**

Meghan and Harry still not working royals despite UK return, says king

LONDON: Britain's King Charles III has reiterated that his youngest son Harry and Harry's wife Meghan remain private citizens despite their return to the UK. Charles authorized a letter to UK government departments and the military following requests for guidance after the Duke and Duchess of Sussex returned last month.

The letter from royal aide Lord Benyon, whose office is responsible for organising the King's ceremonial and public-facing events, makes clear the duke and duchess do not use their Royal Highness styles and any operational security issues involving them should be directed to the relevant police authorities. **(DPA)**

Eiffel Tower closed to visitors as staff strike after female workers removed

PARIS: The Eiffel Tower was closed to visitors on Monday after staff went on strike over a decision to remove female employees at the request of a religious group. The landmark's website cited "operational reasons" for the closure.

But the French newspaper *Le Parisien* reported, citing employees, that the strike was triggered by an incident in which female staff were withdrawn from the tower's third floor at the request of around 100 members of a Hindu religious group. **(DPA)**

Qatar Tribune
Business
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

ECB set to raise rates again as inflation surges
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Higher gas prices threaten to keep US inflation elevated PAGE 11

DOW	53,414.25 -271.86 PTS	QE	9,785.73 +51.97 PTS	SENSEX	76,132.81 -382.62 PTS	GOLD	4,452.00 -0.55%
BRENT	PRICE 97.00	PERCENTAGE +0.75%	WTI	PRICE 92.70	PERCENTAGE +1.33%	SILVER	66.82 +0.10%

Qatar Central Bank joins Gulf payments system AFAQ

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

The Qatar Central Bank headquarters in Doha.

QATAR Central Bank (QCB) on Monday announced that it has joined the AFAQ Payments System, operated by the Gulf Payments Company (GPC), marking a significant milestone in efforts to strengthen financial and monetary integration among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

QCB's participation completes the membership of the central banks of all six GCC countries in the AFAQ system, further enhancing connectivity among the region's financial and payment infrastructures and paving the way for more efficient cross-border payments and financial transfers.

Alongside QCB, three Qatari commercial banks — Doha Bank, Qatar International Islamic Bank (QIIB) and Dukhan Bank — have also joined the AFAQ system. They are among the first commercial banks in Qatar to participate in the regional payment platform.

With the addition of the three Qatari banks, the total number of banks participating in AFAQ across the GCC has reached 74, further expanding the network's reach and strengthening its role in facilitating regional financial transactions.

The participation of QCB represents an important development in the evolution of the Gulf's regional payments ecosystem. With all GCC central banks now connected to AFAQ, the system is expected to contribute to greater integration of payment infrastructures and facilitate faster, more efficient and secure cross-border transactions between member states.

AFAQ was developed as part of the GCC countries' broader efforts to establish a unified and efficient regional payments infrastructure capable of supporting economic activity and strengthening financial links among the member states.

The enhanced connectivity is expected to support a wider range of financial transfers and contribute to smoother payment flows between individuals, businesses and financial institutions across the Gulf. It also has the potential to facilitate trade and investment by making cross-border financial transactions more seamless.

The move comes against the backdrop of continuing GCC efforts to deepen economic and financial integration, with regional payment solutions playing an increasingly important role in supporting trade, business activity and investment flows among member states.

The participation of Qatar's central bank also opens the way for greater involvement by Qatari commercial banks in the regional payment system. As participation expands, more financial institutions are expected to connect to AFAQ, increasing the scale and utility of the platform across the GCC.

The continued development and broader rollout of AFAQ services is expected to further strengthen financial connectivity among the six GCC countries and support the region's long-term objectives of building a more integrated, efficient and secure financial ecosystem.

For Qatar, joining the system alongside the participation of Doha Bank, QIIB and Dukhan Bank represents an important step in strengthening the country's integration with the GCC's emerging regional payments infrastructure.

The expansion of AFAQ is also expected to support the wider digitalisation of financial services in the Gulf, while improving the efficiency and security of cross-border payments and contributing to closer financial cooperation among GCC member states.

QCB's entry into the system thus marks not only the completion of GCC central bank participation in AFAQ, but also another step towards creating a more connected Gulf financial market capable of supporting the region's growing trade, investment and economic activity.

QCB foreign exchange reserves rise 0.75% to QR262.24 bn in August

QNA
DOHA

INTERNATIONAL reserves and foreign currency liquidity at the Qatar Central Bank (QCB) increased 0.75 percent year-on-year in August 2026, reaching QR262.240 billion, compared to QR260.282 billion recorded during the same month last year, according to official data released by the central bank on Monday.

The latest figures point to continued strength in Qatar's external liquidity position, with a significant increase in official international reserves helping offset a decline in foreign bonds and treasury bills during the period.

QCB data showed that official international reserves rose by 9.7 percent year-on-year, increasing by QR19.663 billion to reach QR220.515 billion at the end of August 2026, compared to QR200.852 billion in August 2025. The increase in official reserves was supported particularly by higher gold holdings and balances maintained with foreign banks.

Gold reserves recorded a substantial increase during the year. The value of QCB's gold holdings climbed by nearly QR13.604 billion to QR60.087 billion at the end of August 2026, compared to QR46.483 billion during the corresponding month of 2025.

The data also showed a sharp increase in balances with foreign banks, which rose by approximately QR48.831 billion year-on-year to QR62.763 billion by the end of August.

At the same time, Qatar's holdings of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) registered a marginal decline. The SDR holdings deposit balance fell by around QR13 million year-on-year to QR5.230 billion at the end of August.

Meanwhile, the balance of foreign bonds and treasury bills declined by approximately QR42.761 billion during the period, standing at QR92.433 billion at the end of August 2026.

Official international reserves comprise several key components, including foreign bonds and treasury bills, cash balances held with foreign banks, gold holdings, SDR deposits and Qatar's quota at the IMF. These components, together with other liquid assets such as foreign currency deposits, constitute the country's overall international reserves and foreign currency liquidity.

The continued growth in Qatar's official reserves, particularly the rise in gold holdings and foreign bank balances.

الهيئة العامة للضرائب
General Tax Authority
State of Qatar • دولة قطر

GTA to approve sweetened drink test certificates via Dhareeba from November 1

QNA
DOHA

THE General Tax Authority (GTA) announced that it will approve analysis certificates for sweetened drink registrations electronically via the Dhareeba platform starting November 1, 2026. The platform will integrate directly with Ministry of Public Health-accredited and GTA-registered labs, removing the need for manual attachments.

Under the new procedures, GTA said in a statement Monday, taxpayers submit product registrations on Dhareeba, then deliver samples to accredited labs for testing. Upon lab approval, test results and certificates automatically sync back to the Dhareeba platform.

Direct electronic integration streams test results and certificates straight into Dhareeba, cutting manual processing, increasing accuracy, and streamlining product registration.

Timed with the expanded excise tax on sweetened drinks, this step supports the General Tax Authority's strategy to enhance digital services and inter-agency connectivity.

Qatar joins 32nd GCC capital markets meeting

QNA
DOHA

QATAR participated in the 32nd meeting of the Committee of Heads of GCC Capital Market Authorities (or their representatives), held virtually on Monday. Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) Chief Executive Officer Dr Tami bin Ahmed Al Binali, represented Qatar at the meeting.

The meeting went over the follow-up on the implementation of initiatives referred to the GCC Financial Markets (Exchanges) Committee, updates on the Inter-Governmental Registration Regulations, the minutes of the 25th meeting of the Working Group on the Strategy for Integrating Financial Markets in the GCC countries, and the minutes of the 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th meetings of the Working Group of Specialists in Communication and Investor Awareness at the Financial Market Regulators in the GCC countries.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of expanding the scope of the Gulf Smart Investor Award, which is organised annually as part of the joint 'MALM' investment awareness programme launched by the financial market regulatory bodies in the GCC countries in 2020.

The programme aims to enhance investor awareness in the GCC, disseminate knowledge about the fundamentals of investing in financial markets, and highlight methods of fraud and risks, while emphasizing the need to adopt strategies that help mitigate these risks.

India looks to Myanmar for critical minerals

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

CRITICAL minerals have emerged as key drivers of modern economic growth, supporting the green energy transition and technological development. Their importance to global manufacturing and clean energy infrastructure has made securing reliable supplies essential. Rising demand for semiconductors, smartphones, computers and other modern electronics is also driving demand for rare earth elements.

Recognising their importance, India has launched the National Critical Mineral Mission to integrate rare earth elements into its development agenda. The mission supports the country's green transition through their use in solar photovoltaic cells, permanent magnets for wind turbines and electric vehicle batteries. Critical minerals are also important to national security, supporting the production of advanced defence technologies, including radar, sonar, guidance systems and hypersonic engines.

Alongside domestic exploration, India is pursuing bilateral partnerships to secure supplies of critical minerals. The effort is aimed at strengthening supply chains, reducing exposure to external supply shocks and addressing the dominance of China in the sector. As part of this strategy, India has begun efforts to secure critical rare earth minerals from northern Myanmar.

Myanmar's rapid growth in rare earth mineral production has made it the world's third-largest producer of these minerals. India's efforts to access Myanmar's resources, however, involve complex geopolitical, logistical and environmental challenges, while also taking place against China's dominant position in mineral processing.

QC, Manateq discuss measures to strengthen industrial sector

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

Qatar Chamber Chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim bin Mohammed Al Thani and Manateq Chairman and CEO Eng Khalid bin Ahmad Al Obaidli chair a joint meeting of Qatar Chamber's Industry Committee and Manateq to discuss strengthening cooperation, addressing challenges facing industrial investors and enhancing Qatar's industrial business environment.

QATAR Chamber and the Economic Zones Company (Manateq) have discussed ways to strengthen cooperation and coordination to support the growth of Qatar's industrial sector and further improve the business environment for investors.

The discussions took place during a joint meeting between Qatar Chamber's Industry Committee and Manateq, chaired by HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim bin Mohammed Al Thani, chairman of Qatar Chamber, and Eng Khalid bin Ahmad Al Obaidli, chairman and CEO of Manateq.

The meeting was attended by several Qatar Chamber board members and members of its Industry Committee, along with members of Manateq's executive management team.

The two sides discussed ways to enhance collaboration and communication between the Chamber and Manateq, particularly in addressing challenges facing industrial investors and removing obstacles related to industrial and economic zones.

The discussions also focused on gaining a clearer understanding of the needs of the industrial sector and exploring practical solutions that can contribute to creating a more supportive and competitive business environment.

Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim affirmed Qatar Chamber's commitment to strengthening cooperation with Manateq and obtaining greater insight into the company's future plans for industrial and logistics zones and their role in supporting the continued development of Qatar's industrial sector.

He noted that closer coordination between the two organisations would help identify challenges faced by industrial investors and contribute to addressing their concerns. He also announced that the next meeting between Qatar Chamber and Manateq will be held at Manateq's headquarters, where discussions will continue on issues concerning the industrial sector and investors.

For his part, Al Obaidli said the meeting aimed to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges confronting industrial investors and explore effective ways to address them.

He stressed Manateq's commitment to working closely with its partners and relevant stakeholders to contribute to a business environment that supports the growth and sustainability of investors' businesses, while positioning the company as a genuine partner to the private sector.

Al Obaidli also highlighted Manateq's efforts to facilitate the investor journey and enhance the overall investor experience through its Business Services Center and digital channels. These services enable investors to access various services and complete and track their transactions efficiently through the Partners Portal and Manateq mobile application.

During the meeting, participants raised a number of issues of importance to the industrial sector. These included the need for clearer classification and distinction between factories and workshops, as well as the provision of liquefied natural gas to small and medium-sized industrial enterprises.

Other issues discussed included the availability of affordable accommodation for workers and transportation services within industrial zones, a proposal to establish a higher industrial council, and the development and improvement of road infrastructure serving industrial zones.

QDB backs Qatar's healthcare innovation drive with QMED 2026

The partnership aims to connect Qatari healthcare companies with global industry leaders while advancing innovation and investment in medical technologies

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

Ahmad Hassan Al Mahasna, senior manager of marketing and communications at QDB.

Khalifa Salman Al Mohannadi, general manager of the QMED 2026 organising committee,

THE Organizing Committee of the Qatar International Medical Devices & Healthcare Exhibition & Conference (QMED 2026) announced that Qatar Development Bank (QDB) has joined the event as its Strategic Development Partner, reinforcing its commitment to supporting innovation, entrepreneurship, and the sustainable growth of Qatar's healthcare sector.

QMED 2026 will take place from 14–16 October 2026 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) under the official patronage of the Ministry of Public Health. As Qatar's leading international healthcare exhibition and conference, the event will bring together healthcare providers, medical device manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies, healthcare technology innovators, investors, policymakers, and industry leaders from Qatar and around the world.

QDB's partnership in QMED 2026 aligns with national efforts to build an advanced and sustainable healthcare sector capable of keeping pace with growing local needs and adopting modern solutions and technologies.

Meanwhile, QDB continues to play a leading role in empowering Qatar-based companies operating in the medical and healthcare sectors, recognizing their key contribution to enhancing healthcare products and services, strengthening supply chain sustainability, building specialized national capabilities, and driving innovation and investment in this strategic sector.

The exhibition is expected to attract more than 20,000 visitors, including industry experts, with the participation of around 150 local and international companies, alongside national pavilions from the United States, Italy, Türkiye, China, and several GCC countries.

The event will also feature a scientific conference and specialized workshops exploring the latest developments in medical technology, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and healthcare innovation.

Commenting on QDB's participation in the event, Ahmad Hassan Al-Mahasna, Senior Manager of Marketing and Communications at QDB, stated: "QDB's participation in QMED 2026 as the event's Development Partner extends its national role in supporting Qatar-based companies operating in priority sectors, foremost among them the healthcare sector.

This reflects the sector's strategic importance, as well as the promising opportunities it offers companies and entrepreneurs to develop innovative solutions and build competitive, scalable national capabilities."

He added: "We are pleased to participate in this distinguished event, which serves as an interactive platform bringing together businesses, investors, decision-makers, and industry experts.

QDB's pavilion will feature a number of Qatari manufacturers and healthcare companies showcasing their products and services, creating opportunities to explore new avenues for collaboration, exchange expertise, and stimulate investment in modern healthcare technologies.

This directly aligns with the objectives of the Third Qatar National Development Strategy (2024–2030) to expand the role of the private sector in the national healthcare ecosystem and enhance the quality of services provided in Qatar."

Commenting on the partnership, Khalifa Salman Al Mohannadi, General Manager of the QMED 2026 Organizing Committee, said: "We are honored to welcome Qatar Development Bank as the Strategic Development Partner of QMED 2026.

QDB has played a pivotal role in fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and private sector development across Qatar, making it an ideal strategic partner for this landmark healthcare event.

This partnership will create valuable opportunities for Qatari companies, healthcare innovators, startups, and investors to connect with international industry leaders, explore new business opportunities, and accelerate innovation within Qatar's healthcare sector."

He added that QMED 2026 will continue to strengthen its position as Qatar's premier healthcare exhibition by bringing together government entities, healthcare providers, medical technology companies, researchers, investors, and decision-makers to showcase the latest innovations and build long-term strategic partnerships.

QICDRC opens registration for 2026 training programme

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre (QICDRC) has announced the opening of registration for its 2026 Training Programme on International Commercial Courts, scheduled to take place from 20 to 22 October 2026 at QICDRC.

The three-day, in-person programme is designed for qualified lawyers and practising legal professionals seeking to strengthen their knowledge of international commercial court proceedings and the procedures involved in conducting litigation before the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre.

Delivered in English through a combination of lectures and seminars, the programme will provide participants with a detailed understanding of the legal frameworks, regulations and procedural rules governing cases and appeals before the Qatar International Court and the QFC Regulatory Tribunal.

The programme will address key stages of the litigation process, including urgent applications and the commencement of proceedings, defences and counterclaims, jurisdictional disputes, disclosure and case preparation, hearings and evidence, judgments and damages, costs and enforcement, appeals, and proceedings before the Regulatory Tribunal.

The programme will be delivered by judges from QICDRC, legal professionals from the Qatar Financial Centre, legal academics from the College of Law at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, and members of the QICDRC Registry, providing participants with the opportunity to benefit from specialists with extensive knowledge and experience in international commercial dispute resolution.

Upon successful completion of the programme, participants will receive a QICDRC Litigation Accreditation Certificate signed by the President of the Qatar International Court and the Chief Executive Officer of QICDRC, together with a digital badge that may be displayed on their professional online profiles.

The Qatar International Court.

TURKIYE STAYS ON DISINFLATION PATH

TURKIYE aims to continue its disinflation process without interruption despite a higher-than-earlier-expected inflation projection in the near future due to the fallout from the Iran war, according to its updated economic blueprint.The 2027-2029 Medium-Term Program, unveiled Sunday, projects a year-end inflation forecast of 28.4 percent, compared to 16 percent estimated last year. Officials said the war in the Middle East had played a key role in the upward revision of the inflation outlook.The direct and indirect effects of the conflict on inflation have been estimated at approximately 7 percent points.

China moves to boost bank capital

AGENCIES

BEIJING'S planned 360 billion yuan (US$54 billion) capital injection into eight state-owned financial institutions is a step in the right direction, but further fiscal support is needed to revive credit demand and ensure the fresh capital is put to better use, analysts say.

They noted that the move extended a recapitalisation drive since 2025 that had largely focused on banks, now widening to insurers and other financial institutions, reflecting a broader effort to strengthen capital buffers across the financial system.

Raymond Yeung, chief Greater China economist at ANZ Bank, said the low-interest-rate environment was "weighing on both insurers and banks" by reducing insurers' investment returns and narrowing banks' net interest margins.

Analysts led by Xiong Yuan, chief economist at Guosheng Securities, said in a note on Monday that the move was mainly aimed at strengthening financial institutions' capital as low interest rates had slowed their ability to build capital, making it harder for them to maintain sufficient capital buffers.

Their comments came after eight major state-owned banks and insurers– including ABC, Industrial and CBC and China Life Insurance Company – announced plans to raise a combined 360 billion yuan in capital, with 300 billion yuan from the Ministry of Finance and an additional 60 billion yuan from the tobacco sector.

China tries to make heritage products trendy

AGENCIES

CHINA is leaning on its cultural heritage to jolt sluggish domestic spending, rolling out a push to modernise industries ranging from silk and tea to liquor, ceramics and traditional Chinese medicine.

Authorities laid out plans to cultivate 50 leading enterprises in heritage industries, each with a scale of at least 10 billion yuan ($1.49 billion), by 2028, according to a statement released on Monday by six government departments.

"Many classic products are perceived as somewhat outdated and struggle to capture the attention of young people," said Xie Yuansheng, vice-minister of industry and information technology, at a press conference in Beijing on Monday. The goal is to make heritage products "trendy" and appealing to both young people in China and abroad, Xie said, adding that officials would support collaboration between these industries and prominent designers, brands and fashion companies.

The push comes as policymakers seek new levers to stimulate household spending, which remains constrained by a battered property sector and soft labour market. Retail sales grew just 0.6 per cent in July, missing forecasts and coming in lower than the 1 per cent recorded in June.

Heritage products are the latest in a line of sectors targeted by authorities, following similar policy efforts in the sports, winter tourism and nightlife industries.

Early efforts to modernise traditional sectors so they appeal to younger consumers already look promising.

In recent months, bars across China serving traditional Chinese medicine-infused beverages where drinks are sometimes customised following pulse-reading consultations – have gone viral on social media. Some ceramic and woodcarving products have also seen rising popularity following the release of the blockbuster video game Black Myth: Wukong in late 2024.

Meanwhile, these products are also beginning to garner attention abroad. Driven by social media trends like "China-maxxing" – where international users adopt Chinese lifestyle habits ranging from drinking hot water and tea to practising traditional qigong exercises – visibility for Chinese heritage has grown significantly."[Heritage products] meet material needs while also bringing emotional resonance, cultural enrichment and aesthetic enjoyment," Xie said.

Under the latest plan, authorities pledged to support scenic spots and shopping districts in setting up creative markets and interactive exhibitions, and encouraged live-streaming and short-form video platforms to market heritage industries and drive sales.

Officials will also promote expansion into duty-free stores, and appoint prominent figures as overseas brand ambassadors to raise the profile of Chinese heritage goods abroad.

AI data centers are less thirsty now: Tech giants

AGENCIES

DATA centers are running into a wall of public anger in the United States over their thirst for water and power. The tech giants spending billions of dollars on them say the water part, at least, is solvable. Data centers are the warehouses full of computer servers that run the internet and increasingly artificial intelligence.

The computers get hot, and keeping them cool takes water. American chip giant Nvidia said in a June report that it can eliminate water consumption almost entirely at some facilities when deploying DSX, its newest system for designing and managing AI data centers. It's a bold claim, and one the industry is under mounting pressure to make good on. In 2025, data centers consumed 222 billion liters (59 billion gallons)

In an aerial view, the stargate Oracle AI data center campus is seen in Abilene, Texas.

of water worldwide for cooling, according to consultancy Rystad Energy.Without adaptive measures, the figure could nearly triple to 644 billion liters by 2030, Rystad estimates. Steps to limit the growth could keep it under double. Nvidia's new method uses a closed-loop cooling system in which liquid flows directly through the servers, as close as possible to the chips, whose temperature can rise above 80C (176F). The problem is that "there's a pretty direct trade-off between how much water is used and how much energy is used" for temperature control, said Andy Masley, an independent researcher who covers AI and data centers.

Cutting back on water use usually means more power as the liquid in those sealed pipes still has to be cooled down somehow, usually by blowing air over it—and that takes electricity. Nvidia gets around some of this by letting the liquid enter the servers warmer than usual, at 45C. Most other closed-loop systems ran at about 32C in 2024, according to the Uptime Institute, which certifies data centers.By starting with warmer water, Nvidia does not need to pump in cooled air year-round.

"Simple fans circulating the air" are often enough, though sometimes a mix of methods is needed, said Josh Parker, Nvidia's head of sustainability. At sites in extreme climates, or during a heat wave, chill airflow or water evaporation is still necessary.Microsoft, Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Meta told AFP that they also use closed-loop systems, which they said involve no net water loss. The two cloud computing giants, which have been expanding their already huge data center footprints, used more water overall between 2022 and 2025, but their water use efficiency improved by 25 percent at Microsoft and 37 percent at AWS, according to their most recent sustainability reports. There is no industry-wide consistency, however, in how companies report data on so-called environmental, social and governance (ESG) efforts.

Elon Musk's SpaceX, now a major player in data centers after it acquired his artificial intelligence company xAI, has never published an ESG report. In June, ratings agency MSCI gave SpaceX its lowest ESG score. "Because water is generally much cheaper than electricity," companies have less incentive to cut water use on cost grounds alone, said Shaolei Ren, an engineering professor at the University of California, Riverside.

"There are incentives," Ren said, but they have more to do with public relations amid the growing backlash to data centers across the United States. Another obstacle is that upgrading an older data center to newer, less thirsty technology is expensive.

That may matter less than it sounds. Older data centers are smaller and less powerful than the enormous new ones being built now, so they need less cooling in the first place, said Minh K Le, who leads data center and hydrogen research at Rystad.

ECB set to raise rates again as inflation surges

The ECB is preparing its second rate hike of the year as renewed Middle East fighting sends energy costs higher and threatens to prolong inflation

AGENCIES

THE European Central Bank is expected to raise interest rates again this week as renewed fighting in the Middle East pushes up energy costs and risks further stoking inflation. Some of the heaviest clashes in weeks in the US-Iran war erupted in recent days, sending oil prices soaring and dimming hopes that energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz will return to normal anytime soon.

Inflation in the 21-nation eurozone, which is heavily dependent on energy imports, hit a three-year high of 3.3 percent in August, substantially above the ECB's two-percent target. And with fears growing prices will spiral even higher, the central bank is set to hike its benchmark rate for the second time this year when it meets Thursday.

"The ECB governing council looks certain to raise its deposit rate from 2.25 percent to 2.5 percent," said Andrew Kenningham, chief Europe economist at Capital Economics.

The ECB in June delivered its first hike since 2023 to tame surging prices, but then hit pause at its last meeting in July to see how the conflict would develop. But with Tehran and Washington now seemingly at an impasse, Isabel Schnabel and Joachim Nagel—both members of the ECB's rate-setting governing council—have signaled in recent days policymakers will resume hiking rates.

President of the European Central Bank Christine Lagarde speaks to a colleague before a plenary session meeting in Asheville, North Carolina.

The eurozone economy has also proved resilient, growing faster than expected in the second quarter, leaving policymakers with some room to lift borrowing costs without inflicting major damage.

The ECB will be armed with fresh growth and inflation forecasts for the next few years to guide its decision, although analysts don't expect major changes to the projections. Despite rising inflation, some economists nevertheless believe a rate hike is not the right decision.

"We consider another hike a mistake because there is almost no evidence of knock-on effects," Felix Schmidt, senior economist at Berenberg bank, told AFP. "You can't tackle a supply shock with tighter monetary policy."

The surge in prices has been almost exclusively driven by energy, and there has been little sign of inflation seeping more broadly into other areas of the economy.

While higher borrowing costs typically help tackle inflation by depressing demand in an economy, observers argue it won't do much to blunt the impacts of the current oil supply shock.

For Schmidt, the ECB is simply "very worried about being behind the curve because of the experiences of 2021-2022".

At that time, the central bank faced criticism for moving too slowly as eurozone inflation surged on the back of post-COVID pandemic supply chain woes and then the energy shock from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

However, most analysts expect the ECB to pause its hikes after this week's meeting.

ECB President Christine Lagarde is, as usual, expected to give little away at her press conference after the rate call and insist that future decisions will be based on incoming data. ECB council member Nagel, also the head of the German central bank, echoed this cautious stance, saying this week he was "reluctant" to give guidance on future decisions. "Oil and gas prices keep going up and down.

Financial markets are highly volatile. There are many uncertainties," he told France's Le Monde newspaper. "It is an uncomfortable situation—also from a monetary policy perspective.

But our meeting-by-meeting approach has served us well in the past and will certainly do so in the future." Meanwhile, the eurozone economy grew more than expected in the second quarter of 2026, according to revised data published Monday, as the bloc appears to be weathering the energy shock from the Iran war better than feared.

The EU's statistics agency said GDP in the 21-country eurozone expanded by 0.6 percent between April and June, up from the 0.4 percent previously estimated. The single currency area recorded zero growth in the first three months of 2026.

The revision was largely due to Ireland recording growth of 10.2 percent in the second quarter, well above the July estimate of 3.9 percent. Large swings in Ireland are not tied to underlying economic activity but are purely the result of accounting operations by multinationals, including major pharmaceutical companies and tech giants, that have chosen the country as their European base to benefit from its low corporate taxes.

Europe's biggest economy, Germany, also saw revised figures, with higher growth of 0.3 percent between April and June after a previous estimate of 0.2 percent.

But inflation jumped to a three-year high of 3.3 percent in August, well above the European Central Bank's two-percent target. The ECB is expected to raise interest rates again when it meets Thursday as renewed fighting in the Middle East pushes up energy costs.

Robots protest for rules on AI and jobs

AGENCIES

WAVING flags, "chanting" slogans, and marching in circles: around 30 robots took to the streets of Warsaw on Monday to campaign for AI regulation in front of the Polish digital affairs ministry. The protest was organised by Democratism, an initiative that, according to its website, aims to launch debate "on how AI and robotisation affect the labour market".

"The robots present here are meant to show that this technology is already a reality," Agibot A3, one of the AI-powered humanoid robots, told AFP.

Chants of: "Defend workplaces", "Time for rules", and "Don't wait, regulate" played on loudspeakers as the robots -- which ranged from bipedal humanoids to dog-like quadripeds demonstrated. "We particularly want to address the issue of the potential replacement of people both by humanoid robots and by artificial intelligence in cognitive work," organiser Grzegorz Kulis told AFP. "If we don't react now, we may soon have a problem," he added, emphasizing the need for "rules and regulations that would serve as a shield protecting workers". Aside from attracting the attention of several passers-by, Kulis said the use of robots was meant to show their existing capabilities and thereby, the urgency of the situation.

Humanoid and quadruped robots are seen during a demonstration calling for the regulation of artificial intelligence development in Warsaw.

"These robots can already move around freely, they're already 'protesting'", he said. The marching robots were met with a visit from Poland's Digital Affairs Minister Krzysztof Gawkowski, who spoke to Kulis on site. "Uncontrolled (AI) models, implemented into humanoids that will also keep evolving as robotization moves forward, are a major problem," he said.

EU chief announces €200 mn investment package for Greenland

AGENCIES

Europ3ean Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Monday announced a €200 million ($232-million) package for Greenland during a visit to the Danish autonomous territory, which she vowed to support in the face of US President Donald Trump's ambitions.

As von der Leyen wrapped up a two-day visit to the vast island, she said Europe would "be more present and to be more engaged in Greenland and in the Arctic". Trump insists Washington needs to control Greenland for national security reasons, though he ultimately ruled out annexing it by force earlier this year.

The €200-million-euro "EU-Greenland Partnership Package" package will finance projects to improve connectivity across the immense territory, include investments in clean energy and explore access to critical raw materials. Von der Leyen's tour included a boat trip among icebergs, meetings with top Greenlandic and Danish officials and the signing a joint statement between Greenland and the European Union.

Her visit coincided with the start of NATO's Arctic Shield military exercise, bringing together soldiers from 10 countries. Von der Leyen has hammered home the message that Greenland should stand with Europe rather than with the United States.

Trump's designs for Greenland triggered a diplomatic crisis at the beginning of the year, as stunned Europeans suddenly saw their long-time ally, on whom they rely for their security, begin to threaten them. At the height of the crisis, Trump would not rule out using force to seize the territory of 57,000 inhabitants, sowing anxiety within the EU and NATO.

Seven months have passed and tensions have cooled somewhat. But the US president never completely abandoned his intention bring the territory under US control.

"Greenland's future is for the people of Greenland and Denmark to decide, no one else," she told reporters in the capital Nuuk. Speaking at her side, Greenland's head of government Jens-Frederik Nielsen and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said Greenland needs the European Union and vice-versa.

Greenland, which is currently heavily dependent on Denmark and its fishing sector, is struggling to develop extractive industries to gain greater economic autonomy. It plans to use the new EU funds to develop infrastructure projects, including improving satellite capacity to provide better internet access in the north and east of the island.

Meanwhile, Brussels hopes the investments will achieve two goals: building a relationship with Greenland and diversifying Europe's access to critical minerals, currently dominated by China. Another avenue being explored is the idea that Greenland, with its ice sheet and frigid turquoise waters, could host data centers, which require extensive cooling, to power artificial intelligence.

UK chancellor pledges fiscal discipline as borrowing costs rise

AGENCIES

BRITAIN'S new finance minister John Healey on Monday pledged to maintain the Labour government's strict fiscal discipline in his upcoming budget, after governments worldwide were hit by spiking borrowing costs. In his first keynote speech since becoming chancellor of the exchequer in July, Healey said "fiscal discipline" was his "first priority".

New Prime Minister Andy Burnham, who replaced Keir Starmer over the summer, appointed former defense minister Healey to the top Treasury position. "The prime minister and I are in lockstep in our commitment to meeting the fiscal rules at the upcoming budget" on October 28, Healey said as he delivered a speech at a manufacturing facility in the city of Coventry, central England, Addressing an audience featuring government ministers but not Burnham business leaders, apprentices and journalists, the chancellor would not be drawn on whether taxes would need to rise to help reduce Britain's debt pile. He has previously committed to following the fiscal rules laid out by his predecessor Rachel Reeves, which states that day-to-day spending must balance with government tax receipts.

Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer John Healey (center) and Richard Parker (left), mayor of the West Midlands, listen to an employee during a visit to the UK Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) in Coventry, central England.

At the same time, Healey on Monday insisted that the country's "weak" growth trajectory needed to change. "This is essential. It is possible. It is central to my purpose as chancellor," he said.

As his speech unfolded, British luxury carmaker Jaguar Land Rover announced it planned to cut 4,000 jobs over the next two yearswith most expected in the West Midlands region where Healey was speaking. Focusing in particular on the "scar" of high youth unemployment, Healey said it was a "moral duty" to tackle the issue.

He also addressed a need to combat the high cost of living affecting tens of millions of Britons, recently made worse by energy prices surging on the US-Iran war. Rising inflation has played a part in pushing yields on government bonds to the highest levels in decades, while consumers and borrowers are expected to soon face interest-rate rises from central banks.

Europe wants to win global robot race

AGENCIES

AI-POWERED robots briefly took over the European Parliament this week to showcase the continent's creators as the bloc races to compete in a field dominated by China and the United States.

As some machines demonstrated their ability to clean or recycle objects, others showed they could deliver parcels during a live demonstration in Brussels.

Four human-assistance robots, designed by France's INRIA research institute and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) among others, cleared a breakfast table in 10 minutes.

One robot tidied cupboards and wiped surfaces, while others put orange juice and milk in the fridge, threw away empty packaging and loaded the dishwasher. The robots moved slowly and sometimes required a few attempts to complete their tasks.

But that is by design, said INRIA's Serena Ivaldi, as the robots "have to act in human environments" without startling the people they help. The robots are made to prioritize precision over speed.

Only a few meters away, a multi-jointed robotic arm developed by France's CEA research agency dismantled an electric battery model for recycling. To become a bigger power in robotics, experts say Europe needs more investments.

"Europe has generated a lot of the science and research that actually allowed some of the successful cases in China and in the US," Portuguese robotics researcher Pedro Lima told AFP.

But what Europe lacks is "definitely political will and funding", he added.

KYON, a quadruped robot reminiscent of ones seen in the dystopian TV series "Black Mirror", made its public debut during the showcase, bending its legs to pick up a parcel before taking several steps to deliver it to a human.

The robot has been developed by the Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) for use in logistics. Another robot, ETH Zurich's aptly-named "Transformer", moved its robotic limbs swiftly to change both shape and function: it switched from being on four legs to two legs without losing balance, before returning on all fours, and climbing up and down stairs with ease.

The demonstrations aimed to showcase Europe's significant strengths in robotics thanks to many public and private research institutes, as well as start-ups and industrial groups.

"The vision we have is that in 10 years Europe should have a major robotic industry branch of the size and importance of the current automotive industry," said Alin Albu-Schaeffer, coordinator of the EU-funded euROBin network, which organized the event at the EU parliament.

Europe could capture one-third of the global intelligent robotics market by then, he added.

That is highly ambitious, as China has invested heavily in humanoid robots and recently staged a show of technological prowess at the World Robot Games in Beijing, where one of its machines broke Jamaican legend Usain Bolt's record for the 100-metre dash.

"We are too often good at inventing technologies but too slow at turning them into global companies," said EU lawmaker Axel Voss, who has pushed for Europe's technological sovereignty.

"Robotics is extremely important for us today and for Europe tomorrow, and Europe is facing a choice," said Voss, warning that the "United States and China are scaling faster, capital is flowing elsewhere". "We can watch the next industrial revolution happen elsewhere or we can decide that Europe will shape it," he said.

Global shares mixed as chipmaker stocks rally in Tokyo and Seoul

AGENCIES

GLOBAL shares were trading mixed on Monday, with benchmarks in Tokyo and Seoul leading gains thanks to buying of computer chipmakers' stocks.

France's CAC 40 was little changed, inching up less than 0.1% in early trading to 8,282.06. The German DAX shed 0.2 percent to 25,993.23. Britain's FTSE 100 declined 0.2 percent to 10,814.01.

US shares were set to drift lower with Dow futures down 0.3 percent to 53,273.00. S&P 500 futures were little changed at 7,721.75.

In Asia, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 2.1% to finish at 66,399.84, while South Korea's Kospi jumped 4.6 percent to 6,995.39.

Shares in Samsung Electronics soared 5.7 percent and memory chipmaker SK Hynix surged 8.1 percent. Renesas Electronics Corp. added 3.1 percent, Rohm rose 7.8 percent and Tokyo Electron edged up 4.7 percent.

"The AI complex continues to provide the local equity markets with its most dependable growth pulse," said Stephen Innes, a former trader, about the Asian markets.

"The AI complex is firmly in the leadership seat and reminding investors that, for all the hand-wringing around valuation, the hardware trade is still refusing to roll over."

Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.9 percent to 25,413.12, while the Shanghai Composite gained less than 0.1 percent to 3,932.70.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose less than 0.1 percent to 9,010.90. In energy markets, Brent crude, the international standard, added 4 cents to $96.32 a barrel following further escalation of the six-month -long US war with Iran.

The US military denied that Iran struck an uncrewed American military vessel in the Strait of Hormuz, which remains effectively closed, calling the claim a "total lie."

A senior Iranian official said Tehran plans to announce an "exclusion zone" outside the strait, targeting vessels it believes are attempting to transit the waterway. That followed US strikes on three Iranian oil tankers in response to Tehran launching ballistic missiles at US warships.

Benchmark US crude fell 29 cents to $91.19 a barrel. US markets will be closed Monday for the Labor Day holiday.

Market players expect the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates before the year ends to help cool inflation, which remains well above 3 percent . The Fed's next policymaking committee meeting ends September 16.

The Fed has a stated goal of cooling inflation to a target of 2 percent. August inflation figures are expected on Sept. 11. In currency trading, the US dollar slipped to 155.95 yen from 156.22 Japanese yen. The euro cost $1.1634, up from $1.1621.

The weakening yen has been a major area of concern for Japanese leaders.

Its value has rebounded after the dollar surged to the 160 yen level last week.

Market watchers are focused on what the Bank of Japan might do on interest rates at its next policy board meeting later this month.

"The stronger-than-expected US employment report generated only a limited recovery in the dollar, suggesting that the market is currently responding more strongly to the changing BOJ policy outlook," said Linh Tran, a market analyst at XS.com.

Asian markets surged on strong chipmaker gains, while European shares were mixed as investors weighed higher oil prices and the outlook for U.S. interest rates.

Higher gas prices threaten to keep US inflation elevated

The latest fuel-price shock is putting pressure on consumers and businesses, with little relief expected in the immediate future

AGENCIES

IT'S never been more expensive in the U.S. to fill up the tank and take one last summer trip over the Labor Day weekend.

The average price of regular gas was $4.14 a gallon heading into the holiday, nearly a dollar higher than last year and well above the Labor Day weekend record of $3.82 from 2012, according to AAA motor club.

Nicole Collins planned to head from Philadelphia to South Carolina to visit friends, but she said her family has spent most of the summer close to home and not taking their typical weekend trips because driving has gotten so expensive.

"Gas is pretty high right now. It doesn't help that we also have a baby, so we also have to pay for that," Collins said outside a gas station in Claymont, Delaware, where regular gas was $4.199 a gallon.

Prices shot up after the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran in February and have not settled down since. Crude oil traffic through the key Strait of Hormuz has plunged, and Iran has refused to reopen the waterway.

"Everything points to the Iran War and the Strait of Hormuz," said Tom Seng, a professor of energy finance at Texas Christian University.

Gasoline prices are displayed at a Chevron gas station in Las Vegas, Nevada. With US gasoline prices hovering near record Labor Day levels and diesel prices hitting a record high, rising energy costs are increasingly adding to inflationary pressures across the US economy.

Energy Secretary Chris Wright offered few specifics on when the nation's drivers might see relief at the gas pump, acknowledging that prices are higher now than Labor Day 2025. "Yes, they're higher today, but we're doing everything we can to push them down," Wright said Sunday on ABC's "This Week." The national average for regular gas prices is still well below the record of $5.02 a gallon set in June 2022.

But diesel is a different story: It hit a national average of $5.85 a gallon Friday, a record.

Trucks and other freight delivery systems use a lot of diesel, and that increased transportation cost is being passed on to consumers, whether at the grocery store or through package delivery services.

"It doesn't really seem like there's an end to it," Collins said.

Gas prices typically drop as the summer driving season ends and refineries turn to making a cheaper winter blend.

But Seng said there are other factors this year even beyond the volatile situation in the Middle East that make future prices unpredictable.

U.S. refineries are working at 98 percent capacity, many in the unusually harsh Texas heat. If there are problems there or a hurricane knocks some systems offline, prices will struggle to drop.

And it's not just a Middle East problem. Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian refineries are squeezing diesel supplies. Chinese refiners are seeing declining outputs as well, said Matthew Metzgar, a clinical professor of economics at UNC Charlotte.

"There's just less gasoline coming out of those refineries," Metzgar said.

Wright, the energy secretary, said the Trump administration was taking steps to increase production and that the markets forecast lower prices in the coming months.

"If you look at the futures prices, if you wanted to buy today in bulk gasoline for two months out in November, it's about $0.35 cheaper than it is today. So the marketplace thinks gasoline prices are going to move meaningfully lower," he said.

Geopolitically, though, there is little a driver can do to knock down gas prices. But using price apps can help save a little money, especially on long trips where gas by the interstate could be 10 to 15 cents per gallon more expensive than at stations a short drive down the road, Metzgar said.

Turkiye sees fastest power demand growth among IEA members

AGENCIES

TÜRKIYE'S electricity demand increased at an average annual rate of around 5% between 2005 and 2024, marking the strongest growth among member countries of the International Energy Agency (IEA), according to a report.

The expansion has been driven mainly by economic activity, particularly in the industrial and services sectors, the IEA said in its Türkiye Energy Policy Review.

Electricity demand is expected to continue growing in the coming years, with Türkiye's National Energy Plan projecting electricity consumption to reach 510 terawatt-hours by 2035.

The IEA said grids, energy storage, system flexibility and demand-side management will become increasingly critical as renewable capacity expands.

Residential electricity consumption increased 14% from 2023 to 2024, driven by greater use of air conditioning and electrical appliances, as well as the growing electrification of heating and cooking in some parts of the country.Peak electricity demand also reached a record 59.5 gigawatts (GW) during a heat wave in July 2025.

Renewable energy sources are expected to play a greater role in meeting the country's growing electricity demand.

Renewables accounted for 43% of Türkiye's total electricity generation in 2025, with the share targeted to rise to 55% by 2035.Solar power capacity is projected to increase from around 20 GW in 2024 to 77 GW by 2035, while wind capacity is expected to rise from 13 GW to 43.1 GW.

The IEA said this rapid expansion will require greater flexibility across the electricity system, alongside investments in grids and energy storage.

Türkiye's energy transition will require not only new generation capacity but also investments to ensure electricity can be reliably delivered and available when demand is high.

In this context, Türkiye's smart grid road map envisages creating a total of 35 GW of flexible resources by 2035.

Trump's tariffs put a new price on America's hockey boom

AGENCIES

KELLY Rand's teenage twin boys playing hockey in St. Paul, Minnesota, are going through growth spurts that force the family to buy new equipment what seems like all the time.

The goaltender's $400 helmet in 2022 now runs $1,000. The chest protector they got last year for $465 now goes for $900.

For a sport that is increasingly expensive for everything from gear and ice time to travel and coaching, the latest round of 50 percent tariffs levied by President Donald Trump's administration against Canada was most unwelcome news as they threaten to ramp up prices even more.

"If a kid on the ice breaks a stick, every other parent is looking at that mom or dad going, 'Ahhh oh, no!'" Rand said. "You feel for them. How many $400 sticks can you afford in one season?" Hockey sticks and skates are among the more than 550 goods named in the tariffs by the White House. Custom equipment is also manufactured by True Hockey in Canada and imported into the U.S., according to B&R Sports Director of E-commerce John Merola, who said skates and goalie gear fit into that category.

An average stick is now $200, Merola said, with high-end versions ranging up to $400. He noted that Bauer, CCM and True still make many custom items in Canada.

Wooden hockey sticks are stacked as they move along the assembly line at the Roustan Hockey factory, which is the last major manufacturer of hockey sticks in Canada.

"This not a minor blip by by any means," Sports & Fitness Industry Association CEO Todd Smith said. "Even if manufacturers have moved over the last several years from Canada to other countries, there's still healthy amount being manufactured in Canada and, yeah, this 50% tariff is a big deal." When Rand's family bought custom goalie gear a couple of years ago, the entire setup cost $3,300. Skate pairs that in 2016 went for between $80 and $900 are now $200 to $1,230, according to HockeySkates DB, a database that charts the prices from various companies.

Inflation, as well as tariffs on other countries, are behind the price jumps in recent years. The Sports & Fitness Industry Association's manufacturers sales report said the amount spent on hockey equipment increased 45.4% from 2020-25, up to $332.9 million from $228.9 million, dovetailing with increasing participation in the sport.

According to US International Trade Commission data, which does not separate ice and field hockey equipment, gear from Canada made up roughly 8.5 percent of imports last year, fourth behind 52.7 percent from China, 13.2 percent from Vietnam and 9.5 percent from Thailand. Of the 2.1 million hockey sticks imported last year, trade data shows more than 1.5 million (74.1 percent) came from China and 268,000 (12.8 percent) from Mexico, compared to 18,909 (0.9 percent) from Canada. Chris Douglas, a professor of economics at the University of Michigan-Flint, called it unlikely that stick prices will go up 50 percent across the board, noting Canada's modest market share, but wonders what will happen if demand increases.

"Maybe that causes the price of hockey sticks to rise somewhat — maybe by $50 or something like that," Douglas said. "Hockey is expensive with the equipment, ice time and so forth, so maybe there's a family right on the margin where $50 or $100 in additional cost causes them not to enroll their kids at hockey any longer." When Trump imposed tariffs on China, Merola said that had a bigger impact on business but not right away.

"Bauer, CCM — the big, heavy hitters in the market — came in and said: 'We'll absorb these costs. Don't worry about it,'" Merola said. "And then as nothing happened, they kind of came back and said, 'We can't cover this, so we're gonna have to increase pricing.'" That wait-and-see approach could happen again this time, delaying how long manufacturers and retailers pass on the increase to consumers. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney saidtrade talks could resume if Washington became serious about negotiations.

Douglas said it all comes down to expectations for how long the tariffs will be in place.

"It's hard to form expectations of the current tariff regime where tariffs are changing basically every day, it seems like," Douglas said. "But if there's an expectation that tariffs are going to be permanent or at least in place for the long term, then I think prices rise pretty instantaneously because the cost of production has risen and that gets passed on to consumers via a higher price." Merola thinks long-term tariffs will lead companies to move more production to the US, Asia or elsewhere.

Roustan Hockey, the last major hockey stick factory in Canada, last week reaffirmed it will keep making them there, despite the challenges. "We remain committed to our employees, our customers and our manufacturing operations here in Canada," founder W. Graeme Roustan said in a statement after hosting federal minister Evan Solomon for a tour of the facility in Brantford, Ontario.

The Sports & Fitness Industry Association is advocating for the tariffs to go away, especially given what Smith said was a 7 percent increase in hockey participation in the US over the past three years, a boom attributed to the 4 Nations Face-Off, Winter Olympics and more.

While pointing out the National Hockey League, USA Hockey and teams have contributed significant efforts with learn to play programs that include free equipment and ice time, Smith is concerned about the long-term impact of tariffs.

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Russell says F1 title gap with Antonelli difficult to overcome
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Ecclestone stopped with shotgun in Portugal, denies arrest

PA Media/ DPA
LONDON

BERNIE Ecclestone said he was stopped by police at an airport in Portugal for bringing a shotgun into the country he intended to use in a clay pigeon shooting competition.

The 95-year-old former Formula One boss told the *Press Association* that he had to "surrender" the weapon because he did not have the correct documents, but denied that he was arrested.

The incident took place on Monday after Ecclestone landed in Cascais - about 20 miles outside of Lisbon - on a flight from Switzerland.

Ecclestone, who ruled F1 for four decades before he was deposed in 2017, said he spoke to customs officers and "four police" officers for "about an hour".

former Formula One chief Bernie Ecclestone.

Explaining the events, Ecclestone told *PA*: "I was going to take part in Portugal in a clay pigeon shooting competition, which I only knew about a few days ago because Fabiana (his wife) met someone when she was coming back from Brazil to Portugal. He said he was entering into a clay pigeon competition.

"So she called me and said, 'There is something here you should go and look at. Why don't you turn up and join?' And I said, 'Well, that wouldn't be a bad idea'.

"As I have got guns already in Switzerland, which have been imported properly, because we do a bit of clay pigeon shooting there, I brought the gun in with me." "I went through customs and the people know me very well. They said, 'Anything to declare?' I said, 'No, nothing really, just all the usual personal things,'" he added.

He noted that he did not have a so-called blue book for the weapon.

Police told him he had in effect tried to import a gun into the country.

He was asked to surrender the gun, pay duty on it and temporarily import it.

Responding to reports he had been arrested, Ecclestone replied: "No.

The police were very helpful and doing all they could to stop us from having to do what we had to do." Four years ago, Ecclestone had a handgun on him before he boarded a flight in São Paulo in Brazil. He was stopped by police and had to pay 6,000 Brazilian reals (£1,000), to the local authorities. The gun was confiscated.

The Lusail Shooting Complex will stage the World Shooting Championship, which also hold direct qualication cards for LA Olympics 2028, from November 1-14

Qatar to host World Shooting Championship in November

QNA
DOHA

QATAR will host the 2026 World Shooting Championship at the Lusail Shooting Complex from November 1 to 14, with the participation of elite shooters of the world and the Qatari national team champions.

The tournament is one of the most prominent international tournaments, as it will witness the distribution of 36 direct Olympic qualification cards to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games in various competitions, including skeet, trap, rifle and pistol.

The competition at the Lusail Shooting Complex will be fierce among the world's shooters to secure qualification for the Olympics. The national team shooters are looking forward to Qatar being a new starting point for them towards the Olympics given the home advantage.

Qatar's hosting of this global event reflects the great confidence that international sports federations place in Qatar's great capabilities in managing and organizing major continental and global championships with the highest standards of quality and safety.

The Qatar Shooting and Archery Association (QSAA) harnessed all the capabilities of the Lusail Sports Complex and the infrastructure designed according to the latest international standards to provide an ideal competitive environment that contributes to breaking records and providing the utmost comfort and focus for the participating delegations from all over the world.

Jassim Shaheen Al Sulaiti, Secretary General of QSAA, affirmed that Qatar's hosting of the World Shooting Championship is further proof of the great confidence that the international sports community place in Qatar and its unique organizational capabilities.

He said that the Lusail Shooting Complex is now fully prepared technically and logistically to accommodate this great sporting momentum and provide an ideal competitive environment that helps champions break records.

"We look forward to the home advantage as an exceptional incentive for our national team shooters to deliver their best performances, secure qualification, and continue making history on the world podiums," he said.

"We have confidence in our champions' ability to keep pace with the best international schools, and we have put in place intensive training plans and camps to qualify them to appear in a manner befitting the reputation of Qatari sports," he added.

Qualifier Zheng comes back from 5-0 down again, ousts Swiatek

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

ZHENG Qinwen won a set from 5-0 down for the second match in succession as she extended her fantastic US Open run by beating former champion Iga Swiatek to reach the quarter-finals.

Zheng, the reigning Olympic champion and former world number four, dropped outside the world's top 100 earlier this year while struggling to regain her best form following elbow surgery in July 2025.

The 23-year-old from China had trailed Madison Keys 5-0 in the deciding set of their third-round match on Saturday before winning seven successive games.

And Zheng was 5-0 down in the opening set against Poland's eighth seed Swiatek, but won 13 of the next 16 games on Arthur Ashe Stadium to move into quarter-finals.

The second set was on serve until the seventh game, when Zheng crushed a powerful backhand return winner to secure a crucial break, and she broke again two games later to complete a 7-5 6-3 victory.

This latest win - her seventh in a row in New York having come through three rounds of qualifying - will put her back to the brink of the top 50.

"The more matches I play, the more rhythm I have on court," said Zheng. "People have asked me if I'm tired and when I arrived I was not tired at all. I felt really pumped for my match, trying to reach better levels here and enjoy this fantastic stadium."

Zheng awaits the winner of No. 2 seed Elena Rybakina vs No. 13 seed Naomi Osaka clash. If Osaka advances, Zheng holds a 2-1 edge.

Qualifier Zheng Qinwen of China celebrates her 7-5, 6-3 win over former US Open champion Iga Swiatek at the Arthur Ashe Stadium at Flushing Meadows in New York on Monday.

Andreeva's sportsmanship act in win over Potapova

No. 5 seed Mirra Andreeva staved off a determined upset bid by No. 24 seed Anastasia Potapova to reach the first US Open quarter-final of her career, advancing 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 in 2 hours and 27 minutes.

As Potapova served to stay in the match down 5-3 in the decider, the Austrian fell while chasing an Andreeva forehand, requiring medical attention to her left knee.

The pair had been battling for over two hours at this point, but Andreeva was over at her opponent's side within seconds. The 19-year-old helped a limping Potapova to her chair and called for ice as she underwent treatment.

Though Potapova resumed play with her knee heavily strapped, it was to no avail. Visibly hampered, she didn't win another point, and the pair shared a long embrace after an ending that was ill-befitting of such a hard-fought contest.

"Nastya, she's my good friend," Andreeva said in her on-court interview.

"Seeing what a battle we had, and seeing in the last game her fall like this, it's not easy. I can imagine what she's going through and I have goosebumps on my body. It's not the way obviously you want to finish the match, or to see one of your good friends finish the match. I just told her that she's been playing amazing so far, she's been having one of the best seasons, and I'm sure that she's going to come back even stronger because she's a warrior. I think she's even a better fighter than me."

Fares to lead Qatar's weightlifting charge at Asian Games

QNA/TNN
DOHA

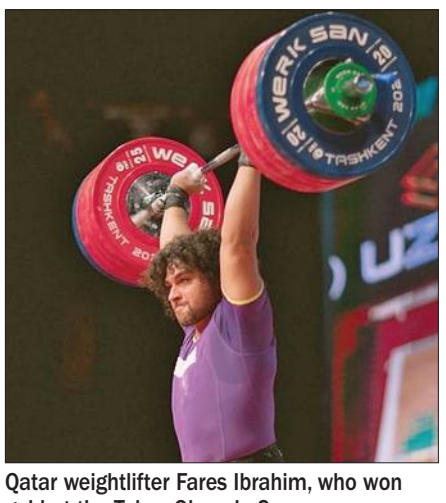
TOKYO Olympic Games champion Fares Ibrahim will lead Qatar's medal hopes in weightlifting at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games in Japan to be held from September 19 to October 4.

Fares will be joined by promising Ouisal Ikhlef, who has been showing encouraging progress and is regarded as one of the emerging talents in Qatari weightlifting.

The duo will be determined to restore Qatar to the Asian Games podium after the national team endured a disappointing campaign at Hangzhou 2022, where it failed to win a medal. Qatar has enjoyed a proud tradition at Asian Games weightlifting, winning three medals across three editions – one gold and two silver.

The first came at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, when Asaad Saeed Saif claimed gold in the 105kg category. He produced a total lift of 417.5kg, with 192.5kg in the snatch and 225kg in the clean and jerk, in a performance that announced Qatar's arrival among the continent's leading weightlifting nations.

Four years later, Jaber Saeed Salem added a silver medal on home soil at the 2006 Doha Asian Games. Competing in the over-105kg category, Salem lifted a total of 410kg, including 185kg in the snatch and 225kg in the clean and jerk, to finish second behind renowned Iranian champion Hossein Rezazadeh after a closely contested battle.


Qatar weightlifter Fares Ibrahim, who won gold at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Qatar's most recent Asian Games medal came at Jakarta-Palembang 2018, when Ibrahim won silver in the 94kg category. Fares lifted a combined 381kg, comprising 166kg in the snatch and 215kg in the clean and jerk, to finish behind Iran's Sohrab Moradi, who had set a world record at the time.

That silver marked an important turning point in Fares' career. It provided further momentum for the young lifter, who went on to achieve the biggest success of his career by winning Olympic gold at Tokyo 2020.

Now an experienced lifter, Fares will return to the Asian Games carrying the expectations of a nation and the experience of competing on the biggest stages. Alongside him, Ikhlef will be looking to make her mark and underline her potential as one of Qatar's rising weightlifting stars.

Ikhlef's most recent milestone came at the 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships in Gandhinagar, India. Facing a top-class field, she delivered an exceptional performance to claim two silver medals (Clean & Jerk and Total) and one bronze medal (Snatch) in the 86kg+ category.

Notably, Ikhlef out-lifted South Korea's world No. 2-ranked Park Hye-jeong to secure her spot on the continental podium. She registered personal bests across the board, lifting 130kg in the Snatch and 169kg in the Clean & Jerk for a total score of 299kg In late 2025, Ikhlef staged a flawless campaign at the Combined Doha Championships.

Competing simultaneously across three tournaments — the Qatar International Cup, the Arab Championships, and the West Asian Championships—she swept a staggering nine gold medals, topping competitors from heavyweights like Thailand and South Korea.

Champions League

Svensson, Karetsas miss Dortmund's final training for Villarreal clash

BORUSSIA Dortmund completed their preparation for the Champions League opener against Villarreal on Tuesday without defender Daniel Svensson and newcomer Konstantinos Karetsas. The two players didn't participate in the final team training on Monday and only completed an individual session indoors, but are expected to be available for the match. "It can happen from time to time that we let one or two players recover in the locker room or the gym. Both are perfectly healthy and are options for tomorrow's game," coach Niko Kovac said. **(DPA)**

Bayern Munich's Harry Kane and his teammates react after the German Bundesliga match between FC Schalke 04 and Bayern Munich at the Veltins Arena on Saturday. (DPA)

Kane proud to be in Ballon d'Or running after 'best season by far'

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

HARRY Kane is happy to be in contention for the Ballon d'Or and says he is "extremely proud" of his stunning goals-scoring campaign last season.

The 33-year-old is the bookmakers' favourite to land the award in October after scoring 73 goals for club and country last term, a record only bettered by Lionel Messi's 82 in 2011-12.

If Kane wins the award, he would become only the fifth English player to do so after Stanley Matthews, Bobby Charlton, Kevin Keegan and Michael Owen, and the first since the latter won it in 2001.

In an interview with TNT Sports' Owen Hargreaves, the Bayern Munich striker said: "I'm extremely proud of the season I put up, for sure.

"Not that long ago, I was that fan wanting to become a professional footballer and I am here now and winning awards and the Ballon d'Or is the same.

"Of course, now it is out of my hands, it is down to the voters and the people who decide it. The season I had was my best season by far and we'll have to wait and see." Kane has yet to open his Bundesliga account in Bayern's first two games of this season which have seen them beat Stuttgart 5-1 and draw 0-0 with Schalke.

Despite last term's heroics, he is still looking to improve.

He added: "It is a weird one because I am already focused on this season now and the next season. Can I be better? Can I improve? But I also want to appreciate what I did.

"The thing with football opinions - there are so many opinions, so many arguments for different players and people love this player because he's fast and he's got great IQ and his finishing is great.

"So I think that is what makes football special, all those debates, and the Ballon d'Or is definitely one of them. I'm happy that I am in contention." Kane's 73-goal season saw him eclipse Cristiano Ronaldo's season-record tally of 69 in 2011-12.

The England captain says he is "amazed" to be in a bracket alongside Messi and Ronaldo, two of the greatest players of all time.

He added: "I grew up watching Messi and Ronaldo, the era of them just dominating and dominating.

"Obviously Messi is the only one to have scored more with 82, but even some of their other seasons, and Ronaldo's highest I think was 69.

"These are numbers that I just thought were silly, which they are.

They are the two greatest of our generation and arguably of all time.

Arteta hails Arsenal's display in win against Chelsea

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta gestures on the touchline during the English Premier League match between Arsenal and Chelsea at Emirates Stadium in London on Sunday. (PA Wire/DPA)

MIKEL Arteta hailed a "beautiful" win after Arsenal came from behind to beat Chelsea 2-1 at the Emirates Stadium.

The Premier League champions required a response after conceding for the first time this season, Morgan Rogers stunning home fans into silence with a volleyed goal after 77 seconds before the hosts hit back against a Chelsea side still finding its feet under Xabi Alonso.

Kai Havertz netted for the third time against his old club to equalise midway through the first half - a near-post effort that perhaps ought to have been kept out by Emiliano Martinez - then produced a sumptuous dummy to clear Martin Odegaard's path to goal, with the captain lashing home the winner in the 50th minute.

"I think it was an exceptional performance," said Arteta. "I enjoyed every minute of it, from the beginning to the end. The beginning was tough but I enjoyed it because the team reacted in a spectacular way.

The determination, the quality. It was beautiful. It was a fascinating game for the spectator.

"I think it's an indication for us of how capable we are to perform at an even higher level than last season. We still have a lot to grow and a lot to offer."

The game marked another promising step back towards his best for Odegaard. His goal to win the game was reminiscent of his clever finish in the Community Shield against Manchester City, this time combining brilliantly with Havertz whose cunning step-over caught Chelsea's defence flatfooted.

Having missed 13 league matches last season, Arteta believes his skipper has come into the new campaign with unfinished business.

"He feels fit," said Arteta. "Confidence-wise I think it's the highest that I've seen him. And he has a point to prove after last season and missing so much football.

"He gets to this point because he's enjoying his football. You have to enjoy what you do, you have to play with real intent. That's what I loved seeing today. He was running forward, he took shots, he created so many situations for his team-mates."

Chelsea boss Alonso tasted defeat for the first time since his appointment in the summer.

His team remain a riddle. The front three of Cole Palmer, Joao Pedro and Rogers again showed their potential as assets in a possible title challenge, but Alonso appeared no closer to solving the enigma of a team irresistible in attack yet too easily pulled into all the wrong shapes defensively and in midfield.

"It was a very close game," said Alonso. "Very intense. We had to have a really high level of concentration to be in the game, to be fighting.

"We've kept going. The team showed really good spirit, good desire to fight until the end. It's a defeat. We are disappointed and it needs to hurt, but it needs to hurt in a positive way, because it's game three."

Chelsea had chances to add to Rogers' goal, most notably when Pedro Neto stuck a post late in the first half then again when David Raya produced a superb 89th-minute save to deny Estevao.

"I want to compete in the best possible way," said Alonso.

"We didn't want to sit deep and to wait and to make a long game. We wanted to be active, to be protagonists in the pressing.

"It's game three of a new phase we are starting, but I'm happy with the spirit and the attitude from the players. They have given everything."

Gatti scores added-time equalizer for Juventus against AC Milan

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

Federico Gatti of Juventus.

FEDERICO Gatti scored deep into stoppage time as Juventus snatched a late 1-1 draw with AC Milan at the Allianz Stadium.

Both teams had won both their games coming into the contest and it looked like Ruben Amorim's Milan would continue their streak when Alphadjo Cisse put the visitors in front in the 69th minute.

Juventus got their deserved equaliser two minutes into stoppage time courtesy of Gatti's header which ensured both teams continued their unbeaten starts to the season.

After 10 minutes Nicolas Gonzalez decided to have a crack from 30 yards but Milan keeper Mike Maignan was alert to the effort and punched away from danger.

The hosts continued to search for an opener, this time Francisco Conceicao cut in from the right and forced a save from Maignan who parried straight into the path of Manuel Locatelli but he was unable to tap home a rebound into an empty net.

The game followed a similar pattern in the second period too and the home team came closest to opening the scoring when Conceicao let rip with a strike which bounced off the post from 20 yards to let Milan off the hook.

But, the visitors hit the front against the run of play, substitute Samuel Chukwueze surged forward and sent a ball out to Cisse who cut inside and bent past Vicario with their first shot on target of the contest.

Juventus had the wind knocked out their sails but pushed for an equaliser and it came in stoppage time when Teun Koopmeiners whipped a cross onto the head of Gatti who nodded home to snatch a draw.

Marc Saez of Muaither with his Player of the Match award after leading his team to 1-0 win over Etihad Al Gharafa at the Lusail Stadium on Monday.

Saez's stoppage-time winner lifts Muaither

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

AN exciting stoppage-time strike saw Muaither edge Etihad Al Gharafa 1-0 in their third round match of the inaugural Jetour League at the Lusail Stadium on Monday.

Spanish player Marc Saez scored the all-important goal in 90+4 minute. Saez battled three Al Gharafa defenders to win the ball inside the danger zone before striking into the left corner.

Earlier in the 78th minute, Al Gharafa's Amjed Mohamed had scored but the goal was stood down after VAR for a handball by Nawaf Hussein before the ball was essayed to Amjed.

It was Muaither's second win of the competition and took their tally to 6 points while Etihad Al Gharafa remain on 1 point.

Al Khor thrash Umm Salal 5-1

Al Khor secured their first win with a convincing 5-1 victory over Umm Salal at the Al Bayt Stadium on Monday.

Ricardo Gomes opened the scoring from the penalty spot in the 26th minute before Mohammed Dabo doubled Al Khor's advantage eight minutes later.

Dabo's goal came after an unexpected error by Umm Salal goalkeeper Louay Ashour, who allowed what appeared to be a harmless shot to slip through his legs and into the net.

Umm Salal pulled one back three minutes before half-time when Mashaal Al Shammari found the target to reduce the deficit to 2-1 at the break.

Al Khor resumed the second half with intent and restored their two-goal advantage in the 48th minute, with Dabo getting on the scoresheet again.

The forward completed his hat-trick in the 54th minute after capitalising on a defensive error and winning possession before calmly finishing to put Al Khor 4-1 ahead.

Gomes then completed his brace in the 70th minute as Al Khor wrapped up a comprehensive victory and collected their first three points of the campaign.

The result lifted Al Khor's tally to three points, while Umm Salal remained on four points.

Elversberg coach Vincent Wagner reacts during the German Bundesliga match against Borussia Moenchengladbach at the BORUSSIA-PARK in North Rhine-Westphalia, Monchengladbach on September 5. (DPA)

Elversberg file appeal against red card suspension for coach Wagner

DPA
FRANKFURT

BUNDESLIGA debutants Elversberg have filed an appeal with the German Football Federation (DFB) against an automatic red card suspension for coach Vincent Wagner, a club spokeswoman told dpa on Monday.

Wagner received a red card during the 4-3 win against Borussia Mönchengladbach last Saturday for unsportsmanlike conduct. The decision was controversial because Wagner did not attack referee Martin Petersen neither physically nor verbally.

If the DFB accepts the appeal, Wagner will be able to be on the bench with his players in the Bundesliga home match against Bayern Munich on Sunday. If the appeal is rejected, the coach will have to watch the game from the stands.

It's unclear when the DFB will rule on the matter.

Elversberg have been the surprise package of the season so far, with two wins in as many games. They are fourth but tied on six points with leaders Augsburg. Freiburg and Borussia Dortmund are also level points.

Bayern, meanwhile, were stunned by promoted Schalke and held to a goalless draw last weekend.

Augsburg lead Bundesliga for first time, coach screenshots table

DPA
FRANKFURT

AFTER two matches, Augsburg top the Bundesliga table for the first time in club history and coach Manuel Baum found a way to preserve the historical moment.

"I took a screenshot of the standings to always have it on my phone," the coach said after the 4-1 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt on Sunday.

The coach knows that this is just a snapshot, but said that "we humans all live for moments like this. When we meet again in a few years, we'll all be telling each other that Augsburg once got to be at the top of the standings. I think it's okay to enjoy that for a day."

Goalkeeper Finn Dahmen also stressed that it's a special moment for the club.

"For most of our team, I think this is the first time, so in that sense, it's something special. At the same time, of course, we can keep this in perspective: It's only the second matchday, and we know this won't automatically stay that way," he said. "But this start shows that we worked hard in the pre-season. We want to keep this momentum going for as long as possible." Augsburg are tied on six points with Freiburg, Borussia Dortmund and debutants Elversberg, but lead on goal difference.

Augsburg coach Manuel Baum. (DPA)

"That's the beauty of football. Nobody would have expected that scoreline after the first half," Baum said.

Frnakfurt broke the deadlock in the sixth minute and took their lead into half-time, but Augsburg rallied back and scored four goals in the second half, two in the opening minutes.

"We were too timid and Frankfurt had quite a few chances. But this team believe in themselves and you could see that after the break," Baum said.

Tyson Fury (left) claims that Anthony Joshua will back out of the highly-anticipated showdown between the two British heavyweight boxers and has issued a challenge to Oleksandr Usyk for a third fight.

Fury claims Joshua fight is off, calls out Usyk

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

TYSON Fury has suggested his all-British blockbuster bout with Anthony Joshua is off and challenged Oleksandr Usyk to a third fight.

Fury and Joshua had been locked in negotiations over a mega-money bout, but the 'Gypsy King' has grown impatient over the lack of confirmation, calling his rival a "coward" earlier this week.

Fury has now claimed Joshua has backed out and turned his attention to Usyk, who beat him twice on points in 2024.

"AJ has backed out again, yet again," Fury said in a post on social media. "After 11 years, he has finally backed out yet again.

"This will only lead me to a fight with Oleksandr Usyk. Oleksandr, you're his trainer and his sensei, and you know he is not mentally strong enough to fight the Gypsy King, which you have had the courage to do twice.

"You got the decisions last time, fair play to you. Good luck to you. Let's do it again. Let's run it back in November. The ball is now in your court. Do you want to fight me this year, 2026, or are you calling it quits? Let me know because I am now looking for a new opponent."

Joshua's promoter, Matchroom's Eddie Hearn, has previously said an agreement hinged on his client's net purse.

New York's Madison Square Garden was widely expected to be announced as the venue, despite Joshua's camp preferring Wembley Stadium. Sela, the Saudi state-owned promotional company financing the fight, reportedly wanted a bigger American audience on Netflix.

Russell accepts title gap with Antonelli difficult to overcome

PA MEDIA/DPA
MONZA

GEORGE Russell admitted it is going to be "exceptionally challenging" to prevent Kimi Antonelli from beating him to the world championship after his rival produced a stunning fightback drive from 19th to win the Italian Grand Prix.

Antonelli became the first Italian to triumph at Monza's Temple of Speed since Ludovico Scarfiotti stormed to victory in 1966.

Sixty years on and hit with an engine penalty, Antonelli began Sunday's contest virtually at the back. But the 20-year-old phenomenon capitalized on an explosive new power unit, a favourable strategy, and a demonstration of passing excellence, to see off a crestfallen Russell by passing him for the lead with just three laps left.

No driver since Ulsterman John Watson won the 1983 United States Grand Prix at Long Beach has taken the chequered flag from further behind. It marks another piece of history for Antonelli who is firmly on course to become the youngest Formula One world champion.

For Russell, this was supposed to be his year. This was supposed to be his Italian Grand Prix. He started the race 17 positions ahead of Antonelli.

However, he is now 66 points behind the Italian with just 10 scheduled rounds remaining. Russell has just two victories to Antonelli's seven. The momentum is with Antonelli and, to add insult to injury, Russell was jeered on the podium by the partisan Italian crowd.

"It is definitely Kimi who is in control of it (the championship battle) and he is deserving to be in control," said Russell. "I am not even thinking about a fight or a comeback.

George Russell of Mercedes, Andrea Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes and Max Verstappen of Red Bull Racing celebrate on the podium after the Italian Grand Prix in Monza on Sunday. (PA Wire/DPA)

"It is going to be exceptionally challenging to overcome that gap. I am sort of accepting that is what it is. And I am going to try and enjoy it from here on in and win as many races as possible." Russell will have earmarked the 13th round of the season as his golden chance to eat into Antonelli's title lead. But he will head for the inaugural Madrid race next weekend even further behind.

The writing appeared on the wall by only the second lap of the restart - after Charles Leclerc crashed out - when Antonelli was already up to sixth. By lap 18, Antonelli was second and on Russell's tail.

Russell and Antonelli traded position five times for the lead. The former remained in front only for a Virtual Safety Car to lean the fixture in his team-mate's favour.

Antonelli was on the medium rubber - less durable than Russell's hard tyres - before he was handed 25 laps on fresh mediums to catch and pass Russell.

Russell's advantage after Antonelli stopped for new tyres stood at 14 seconds but with 10 laps to go, his margin had been trimmed to five seconds. He was looking increasingly vulnerable.

Antonelli looked to have blown his chance when he ran through the gravel at the Variante del Rettifilo as he attempted to wrest the lead off Russell on the 49th lap.

But Antonelli was immediately back on Russell's gearbox and he made no mistake when he breezed past his wounded team-mate before crossing the line 3.8 seconds ahead.

The strategy appeared to favour Antonelli and Russell might have felt aggrieved with his Mercedes team.

But the magnanimous Brit explained: "The VSC came out at that perfect point for the drivers (behind) to pull the trigger and take the pit stop.

"I didn't (consider pitting). I actually thought the guys behind me were going to stay out. I am sure the team were quite nervous on the pit-wall watching our battle and they were probably happy to send us out on different strategies.

"I was on the hard tyre and Kimi was on the medium, so if one of us was going to pit, it was going to be Kimi and that is why I was a little bit annoyed with the timing of the VSC because it would have been tough for those guys on the mediums to have competed with anyone on the hards, but it takes nothing away from Kimi's drive.

"And obviously when you are racing in somebody else's home country that (the boos) is to be expected. I smiled it off."

Ishan creates history with 270 in Duleep Trophy final

ANI
CHENNAI

INDIA wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan created history as he became only the third East Zone batter to score a double-century in demestic Duleep Trophy history, scoring a match-defining 270 against South Zone in the ongoing final at MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai, on Monday.

Kishan starred for East Zone with a magnificent 270 off 334 balls, smashing 30 fours and seven sixes in the final against South Zone. He brought up his maiden Duleep Trophy double century off 270 balls and also crossed the 4,000-run mark in first-class cricket.

Kishan initially retired hurt after reaching 250 but returned to the crease and continued his dominant knock. His innings finally ended when he was caught at long-on off spinner Tripurana Vijay. His monumental knock helped East Zone post a mammoth 708 all out.

With his monumental knock, Kishan became only the third batter from East Zone to score a double-century in the Duleep Trophy, joining Arun Lal and Saba Karim. Lal holds the highest score among the trio, having smashed 287 against West Zone in 1986, besides scoring 214 against Central Zone in the same year. Saba Karim, meanwhile, remained unbeaten on 200 against West Zone in 1995.

Kishan also became the first East Zone captain-wicketkeeper to score a double ton in the Duleep Trophy final, according to an Instagram post by Star Sports India. Overall, Kishan became the seventh batter to score a double century in Duleep Trophy final.

East Zone captain Ishan Kishan.

Coming to Day 2 of the Duleep Trophy final, despite losing wickets in the final session, East Zone eventually posted a mammoth 708 all out in 163 overs.

Earlier, Kishan and Kushagra continued from where they had left off on the opening day. The duo added 230 runs for the fifth wicket, giving East Zone complete control after they had ended Day 1 at 385/4.

Kushagra completed his maiden century in the Duleep Trophy off 128 balls, hitting eight fours and five sixes.

Scores: East Zone 708 (Kishan 270, Kushagra 101, Vijay 4-180) vs South Zone.

Pakistan probes 'discipline and conduct'

AGENCIES
LONDON

PAKISTAN have begun an inquiry into "discipline and conduct" in the latest twist on a turbulent tour of England, *reports BBC.com*.

Already 2-0 down in the three-match Test series, Pakistan last week sent seven players home, called up seven more and replaced head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed with New Zealander Mike Hesson.

During the second Test at Lord's, the tourists also threatened to cancel the remainder of the match and the tour over an interview broadcast by Sky with the sons of imprisoned former Pakistan prime minister and captain Imran Khan.

In a statement released on Monday morning, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said: "The Pakistan Cricket Board has initiated an internal disciplinary inquiry following media reports concerning discipline and conduct, which are currently being reviewed internally.

"The PCB handles such matters in accordance with its standard procedures. The process is being conducted under PCB regulations, ensuring that all concerned individuals are given due consideration." The statement refers to "speculative reports" from "hostile external sources".

Pakistan last week sent seven players home in the middle of England tour, called up seven more and replaced head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed.

Last week, Hesson responded to reports Salman Ali Agha - one of the seven dropped players - refused to attend a meeting with King Charles at Clarence House.

Hesson also refuted suggestions that Mohammad Imran and Mohammad Imran Jr were both called up as replacements because the PCB was confused by their names.

The statement continued: "At this stage, any speculative reports or unverified claims circulating on certain platforms, particularly those originating from hostile external sources, should not be regarded as credible.

"The PCB will not comment further at this time. The Board advises stakeholders and the public to rely on official PCB communications." Last week, Hesson did explain how Pakistan came to omit seven players from their original touring party.

Four changes were made to the bowling attack after Hesson was asked to take charge for the final Test.

However, three experienced players were dropped before Hesson came in. They were Salman, fellow batter Imam-ul-Haq and wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan.

Imam came in for criticism during the second Test at Lord's for not batting in either innings because of a calf injury.

Along with Hesson coming in as head coach, Australian Ashley Noffke has been added to the backroom staff as a replacement for fast-bowling coach Umar Gul.

Speaking on Monday at Edgbaston in the build-up to Wednesday's final Test, Noffke said he was not aware of any details of the investigation.

"I don't know too much. I sit outside that decision-making model, above us as coaches," he said.

"I guess that's one thing I've learned about being in Pakistan and coaching for a period of time, nearly 15 months with the white-ball team - there's always something going on in the background.

"Whether or not it's in or out of our control – and most of the time it's out of the players' control. We're not really in the position to know the outer workings of what's happening at the PCB in that context."

China Masters win a huge boost ahead of Asian Games: Satwik-Chirag

ANI
NEW DELHI

FRESH from their historic China Masters triumph, Indian men's doubles stars Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are looking to carry their confidence and match fitness into the 2026 Asian Games while keeping expectations in check as they prepare to defend their title.

Satwik and Chirag became the first Indian men's doubles pair to win the China Masters title after defeating China's He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu in the final.

The victory also marked their second BWF World Tour Super 750 title of the season, following their Singapore Open triumph.

Speaking at a virtual press conference facilitated by the Badminton Association of India (BAI) on Monday, Chirag said the China Masters victory had provided a significant confidence boost ahead of the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, scheduled from September 19 to October 4, particularly after the pair's difficult return from injury.

"It feels really good, obviously, to win the China Masters right before the Asian Games. It definitely gives us a huge confidence boost going into the Asian Games, especially after having a tough few months being away from the court.

India's badminton doubles stars Chirag Shetty & Satwiksairaj Rankireddy.

"So, it definitely gives us a boost that 'yes, the things that we are doing are actually working,' and we've had some really good match practice as well.

"And we just want to go out there and give our best at the Asian Games. It's a major event, and we've always looked up to and wanted to perform well at the Asian Games, and likewise, this time, too, we want to go out there and really do well for the country," he said.

The pair had endured a frustrating World Championships campaign, where they lost in the quarter-finals after returning to competitive action following a lengthy injury layoff.

However, Satwik said the China Masters served as an important test of their bodies ahead of the demanding Asian Games schedule.

"I think it was more about the physical aspect of this tournament, like how we are coping, how our body can handle. Because the Asian Games you have to play almost 10 days; you will play team events, then you have individuals. So I think it was a good test for us," he said.

The China Masters also gave the pair an opportunity to address some of the shortcomings from their World Championships campaign. Chirag explained that the pair's development is a constant "work in progress," emphasizing that they are focusing on small refinements across all aspects of their game rather than major changes.

Minister of Municipality explores Chinese tech for public services

QNA
BEIJING

MINISTER of Municipality HE Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah has held talks with representatives of Chinese companies on agriculture, public services and construction.

The meetings took place in Beijing as part of the minister's current visit to China.

He was briefed on the latest technologies in the three sectors, including smart systems designed to improve efficiency and service quality, as well as robots used for cleaning and other public services.

The talks also explored opportunities for cooperation, knowledge-sharing and the use of advanced technologies to develop Qatar's municipal services and improve operational efficiency and sustainability.

Qatar wins presidency of Permanent Arab Committee on Int'l Humanitarian Law

QNA
CAIRO

THE State of Qatar has won the presidency of the Permanent Arab Committee on International Humanitarian Law, becoming the first country to hold the position since the committee's establishment in 2025.

The Ministry of Justice said in a statement today that Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice and Chairman of the National Committee for International Humanitarian Law, HE Saeed bin Abdullah Al Suwaidi, was elected chairperson of the Permanent Arab Committee on International Humanitarian Law during the 166th regular session of the Arab League Council at the ministerial level, currently underway at the League's headquarters in Cairo.

The ministry noted that the chairperson of the Permanent Arab Committee on International Humanitarian Law is elected through direct voting from among the candidates nominated by the heads of the national committees concerned with international humanitarian law in the member states of the League of Arab States, or their representatives with relevant experience and expertise.

It noted that the establishment of the committee was based on a proposal submitted by the State of Qatar and approved by the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level during its 163rd regular session. The committee thus constitutes a permanent Arab framework dedicated to strengthening cooperation and coordination among Arab national committees in the field of international humanitarian law, exchanging expertise and best practices, and promoting a culture of respect for its rules and principles.

Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs HE Ibrahim bin Ali bin Issa Al Hassan Al Mohannadi affirmed that the State of Qatar's election to the presidency of the Permanent Arab Committee on International Humanitarian Law reflects that Arab recognition of the country's efforts in supporting justice, the rule of law, and humanitarian work. It also reflects the growing confidence in its legal and judicial institutions and the progress they have made in building a robust legislative and institutional framework.

The minister stated that this achievement also reflects the active role of the State of Qatar in regional and international initiatives related to law, justice, and humanitarian action. He noted that the establishment of the Arab Permanent Committee for International Humanitarian Law and Qatar's subsequent assumption of its presidency represent a significant milestone in the joint Arab effort to consolidate the principles of international humanitarian law and protect human beings and preserve their dignity during conflicts and crises.

The selection of Qatar to chair the Permanent Arab Committee on International Humanitarian Law embodies Arb appreciation of its growing role in supporting international humanitarian law

He added that the State of Qatar's efforts in the field of international humanitarian law are based on extensive institutional work at the national level, one of the most prominent pillars of which is the National Committee for International Humanitarian Law, which is concerned with promoting respect for and dissemination of the provisions of international humanitarian law.

The selection of the State of Qatar to chair the Permanent Arab Committee on International Humanitarian Law embodies Arab appreciation of its growing role in supporting international humanitarian law and confidence in its ability to lead a new phase of joint Arab action in this field. It also reflects the success of Qatari legal diplomacy in transforming initiatives into sustainable Arab institutions and mechanisms.

MoECC records 1,666 inspection visits, 88% cut in response time

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

MINISTER of Environment and Climate Change His Excellency Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie chaired the ministry's expanded periodic meeting of leadership to review the institutional and operational performance results for the second quarter of 2026 and to follow up on the implementation of operational plans, strategic projects, and development initiatives.

The meeting reviewed key performance indicators and results achieved in the areas of environmental monitoring, digital transformation, customer services, and the development of institutional procedures. It also discussed challenges and corrective measures needed to enhance performance efficiency in the coming period.

In a statement, the ministry stated in the area of environmental monitoring and oversight, the results for the second quarter of 2026 showed the execution of 1,666 field inspection visits, 6,444 laboratory analyses, and 6,013 analyses of laboratory samples. This reflects the expansion of monitoring coverage and the enhanced capacity to ensure compliance with environmental requirements across various sectors.

The environmental monitoring system also maintained high levels of operational readiness, which enhanced the accuracy of environmental data and the speed of response to emerging environmental developments and challenges.

Assistant Undersecretary for Environmental Affairs stated, "The results achieved during the second quarter reflect the ministry's ongoing efforts to enhance the efficiency of environmental monitoring and develop the field monitoring and follow-up system. This contributes to raising environmental compliance levels, protecting natural resources, and consolidating the principles of sustainable development."

In terms of customer service, the ministry recorded advanced performance indicators, responding to more than 3,300 calls with a response rate approaching 99 percent. The average initial response time for cases received through digital channels was only 1.4 hours, compared to the target of 12 hours, which is approximately 88 percent faster than the target time. This reflects the continuous improvement in service quality and the speed of response to public feedback and inquiries. All reports and complaints received during the period were closed according to the approved procedures and timeframes.

Regarding digital transformation, the ministry continued to develop its electronic services and systems. The main electronic systems maintained an availability rate of 99.9 percent, reflecting the stability of the technological infrastructure and the continuity of digital services.

Director of the Information Systems Department said, "Digital transformation has become a fundamental pillar for developing institutional performance, improving service quality, and enhancing decision-making efficiency. The ministry continues to develop its electronic systems and services and adopt technological solutions that contribute to facilitating the customer journey and increasing the efficiency of internal operations."

The meeting also reviewed the progress of strategic projects. The follow-up results showed that approximately 85 percent of the projects evaluated during the second quarter are progressing according to or exceeding their planned completion rates. Leaders discussed the challenges associated with some projects and the corrective actions needed to address them, emphasizing adherence to timelines and measuring the actual impact of projects on enhancing operational efficiency and improving service quality.

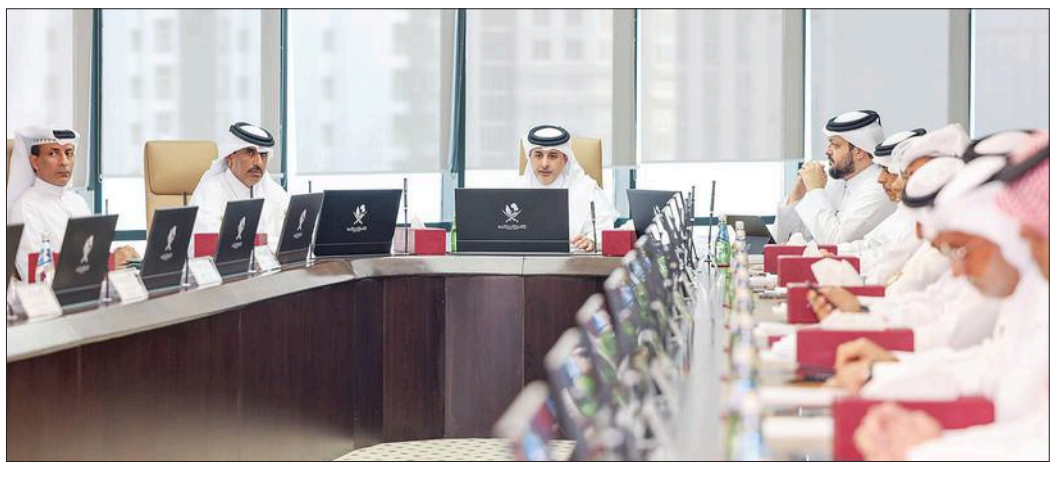
The meeting also addressed progress made in improving institutional services and procedures, strengthening the risk management and business continuity system, and developing planning and performance measurement tools to support enhanced institutional readiness and improved work quality.

Director of the Planning, Quality, and Innovation Department said, "The results of the second quarter confirm that the ministry is steadily progressing towards enhancing institutional maturity and improving the efficiency of the performance, planning, and quality system. The next phase focuses on monitoring corrective actions, maximising the institutional impact of projects and initiatives, and enhancing the use of data and indicators to support decision-making."

The ministry emphasised that performance monitoring is not limited to reviewing figures and completion rates, but aims to understand the level of progress, identify gaps and their causes, and take appropriate actions to address them, ensuring tangible and sustainable results.

The importance of leveraging performance indicators to support decision-making, enhancing integration across sectors and departments, and monitoring the implementation of corrective actions according to clearly defined responsibilities and timelines was also emphasised, with a focus on measuring the actual impact of projects and initiatives.

The meeting concluded with an affirmation of the commitment to continue implementing approved plans and projects, building upon the results achieved during the first half of the year, thereby strengthening institutional performance and supporting the ministry's objectives and the nation's priorities in the areas of environment, climate change, and sustainable development.



Singer Sid Sriram to make GCC debut in Doha

SATYENDRA PATHAK
DOHA

The concert is co-organised by Red Apple Event Management, Sky Media Organizing WLL and Blue Dolphin Contracting & Services WLL, with production handled by Apex Events. Mazzraty is the Title Sponsor, while the event is driven by BYD Mannai.

INDIAN-AMERICAN singer, songwriter and music producer Sid Sriram - one of the most celebrated and distinctive voices in contemporary Indian music - is all set to make his much-awaited GCC debut in Doha on Friday, September 25, with a spectacular live concert at Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), Hall 7.

Presented under the banner "Sound of South — Sid Sriram Live in Doha," the concert will mark the singer's first-ever performance in the Gulf, making Doha the exclusive GCC destination for his highly anticipated regional debut.

The event is expected to be one of the biggest South Indian musical experiences in Qatar this year, bringing together Sid Sriram's powerful vocals, soulful melodies and energetic live performance with state-of-the-art production.

The concert is co-organised by Red Apple Event Management, Sky Media Organizing WLL and Blue Dolphin Contracting & Services WLL, with production handled by Apex Events. Mazzraty is the Title Sponsor, while the event is driven by BYD Mannai.

Excitement among music lovers is already reaching fever pitch, with demand for tickets surging ahead of the show. The silver standing category has already sold out, prompting organisers to advise fans to secure tickets in the remaining categories before they too reach capacity.

Known for his extraordinary vocal range and his unique ability to blend the richness of Carnatic classical music with contemporary R&B, soul and modern sounds, Sid Sriram has emerged as one of the most sought-after voices in Indian cinema.

His emotive and instantly recognisable voice has given life to numerous chart-topping songs across Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and Hindi cinema, earning him millions of fans in India and around the world.

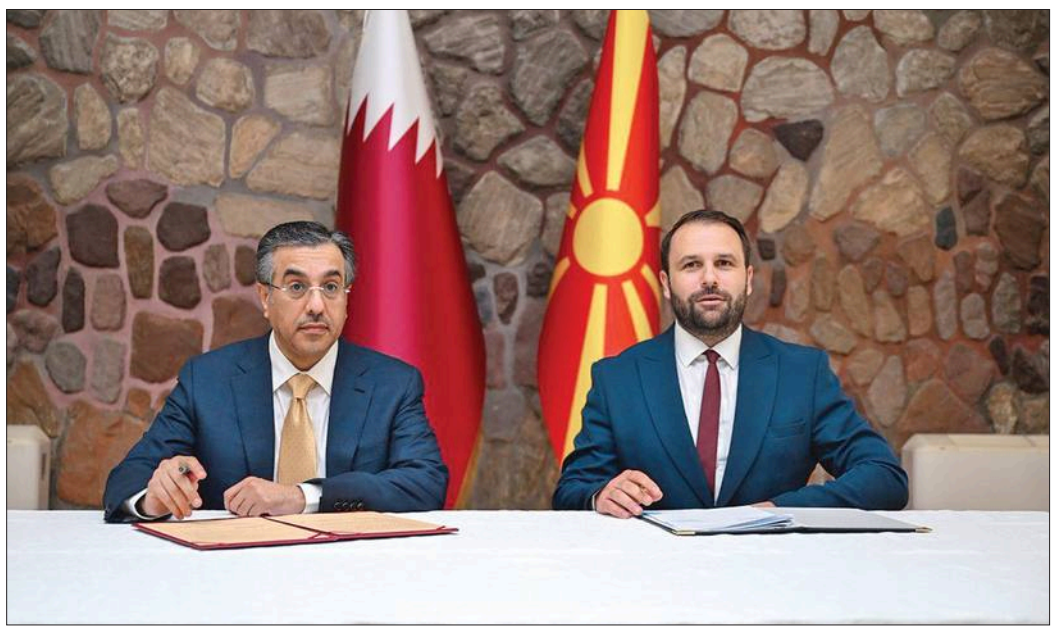
From deeply moving romantic ballads to high-energy numbers, Sriram has developed a reputation for performances that go beyond conventional concerts, creating an intensely emotional connection between the artist and the audience.

That experience will now come to Doha for the first time.

"Sid Sriram Live will be beyond just a musical concert; it will be an experience of a lifetime, with state-of-the-art production," said Jassim Mohammed, co-founder of Sound of South and CEO of Red Apple Events.

The Doha show promises to take audiences on a musical journey through some of Sid Sriram's most popular and iconic songs, performed live on a specially designed stage. Organisers are positioning the event as a major celebration of South Indian music and culture, while also offering Qatar's diverse audience an opportunity to experience one of Indian cinema's most popular contemporary voices in a live setting.

Qatar, North Macedonia sign MoU to boost cooperation in labour sector



QNA
SKOPJE

QATAR and North Macedonia have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening cooperation in the labour sector focusing on sharing expertise to develop labour markets and improve working environments in both countries.

The MoU was signed on behalf of Qatar by Minister of Labour HE Dr. Ali bin Samikh Al Marri, while North Macedonia was represented by Minister of Economy and Labour Besar Durmishi.

The agreement seeks to deepen cooperation between the two sides across a range of labour-related areas, while supporting efforts to develop labour legislation and strengthen labour market regulation. It also aims to promote a better working environment and improve productivity in the private sector.

The two sides will cooperate through joint initiatives, including the exchange of expertise, studies and visits in the areas of labour relations, labour inspection, and occupational safety and health. This will include preventive measures designed to ensure safe and healthy working conditions.

Cooperation will also extend to the exchange of views and expertise on the development of labour-related legislation. In addition, the two sides may agree in writing to expand cooperation into other areas falling within their respective areas of competence.

To facilitate the implementation of the MoU, a joint committee will be established, comprising an equal number of representatives from both sides. The committee will be responsible for coordinating and implementing areas of cooperation, as well as planning and evaluating future cooperation programmes.

It will also be tasked with interpreting the provisions of the MoU and addressing any difficulties that may arise in its implementation.

The MoU further provides for the two sides to establish specific cooperation programmes to carry out agreed activities and initiatives. These programmes will help strengthen the exchange of expertise and further support bilateral cooperation in the labour sector.

Labour minister meets several officials in North Macedonia

QNA
SKOPJE

MINISTER of Labour HE Dr. Ali bin Samikh Al Marri on Monday met separately with Minister of Economy and Labour of North Macedonia Besar Durmishi, Speaker of the Parliament of North Macedonia Afrim Gashi, and Secretary-General of the Government of North Macedonia Igor Janushev during his visit to North Macedonia.

The meetings reviewed bilateral cooperation between Qatar and North Macedonia and explored ways to further strengthen and develop it.

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They also discussed prospects for expanding cooperation in labour-related areas and benefiting from the experiences and expertise of both countries as part of ongoing efforts to develop and enhance the working environment.

Autonomous e-mobility forum kicks off

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UNDERSECRETARY at the MINISTRY of Transport (MoT) Mohammed Abdullah Al-Maadeed on Monday inaugurated the 2nd edition of the Autonomous e-Mobility Forum (AEMOB) 2026, which runs from September 7 to 9 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC).

The MoT is the Host and Strategic Partner of the event organised by Just us & Otto.

Ministry of Municipality Undersecretary Ali bin Mohammed bin Ali Al Ali and of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Undersecretary Abdulaziz bin Ahmad Al Mahmoud attended the opening ceremony, in addition to several high-profile officials and transportation industry entity chiefs.

In his keynote address, Al-Maadeed said that the transportation industry is seeing a qualitative transformation; it is no longer merely a service industry that supports development plans and meets their operational and economic requirements. Rather, he said, it has grown beyond its original role—in an era where development is increasingly linked to efficiency, sustainability, and integration—and become a strategic industry and key driver of development, thereby contributing to enhanced economic competitiveness, improved efficiency across various industries, and a better quality of life.

Given such a growing role, he noted, the transition to electric mobility and autonomous driving systems stands out as a defining feature of the industry's future. While this transformation offers promising opportunities, he said, it also presents fundamental challenges—ranging from energy requirements and digital infrastructure readiness to ensuring safety and reliability, developing regulatory frameworks, and ultimately building national capabilities and localizing technologies.

Al-Maadeed said that addressing these challenges requires not just partial or isolated solutions, but a comprehensive and coordinated approach based on an unconventional partnership among governments, the private sector, and research institutions.

Given the fast-paced global transformations, he said, the State of Qatar—guided by its wise leadership and an ambitious national vision—is heading right on toward building a modern and sustainable transportation system and has over the past years invested in advanced infrastructure, including modern road networks, a metro system, and state-of-the-art public transit fleets, alongside integrated ports, airports, and logistics zones.

Al-Maadeed also inaugurated and toured the Forum's accompanying exhibition alongside several officials where they inspected some of the newest autonomous and e-mobility technologies on display.

Day 1 included several penal discussions, including the MoT-led "Integration, Planning and Sustainability – A Future Look" that highlighted Qatar's efforts of building a smart, integrated, and sustainable transportation ecosystem driven by modern technologies in a way that helps enhance integration of all transportation modes.

This year's AEMOB Forum brings together more than 40 international and regional speakers, representing government, industry, academia, technology, research and the wider mobility ecosystem.

Across its two-day professional conference, AEMOB Forum 2026 will feature more than 50 keynote sessions and panel discussions spanning 10 dedicated mobility and industry tracks, creating a multidisciplinary program exploring autonomous and electric mobility through technology, policy, regulation, sustainability, infrastructure, research, public adoption and real-world implementation.

Further, building on the success of the Forum's inaugural edition in 2024, AEMOB Forum 2026 will extend beyond its professional conference through a strong community programme.

Yutong boosts commitment to sustainable mobility through AEMOB 2026 participation

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DOHA

YUTONG, a global leader in new energy commercial vehicles, on Monday participated in the AEMOB Forum in Qatar, in collaboration with the Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZ), highlighting its continued commitment to supporting Qatar's transition toward smarter, cleaner, and more sustainable mobility.

The participation comes at an important stage in Yutong's development in Qatar, with its local manufacturing facility in the Qatar Free Zones playing a key role in the company's long-term strategy for the region. The factory represents Yutong's commitment to strengthening local capabilities, supporting sustainable transportation development, and contributing to Qatar's industrial and economic ambitions.

Through its presence at AEMOB, Yutong showcased its vision for the future of electric and sustainable transportation and emphasised the importance of collaboration between global technology leaders and local stakeholders in accelerating the adoption of new energy mobility solutions.

The collaboration with QFZ further reflects Yutong's commitment to building a strong local ecosystem around new energy transportation, while creating opportunities for technology development, knowledge sharing, and the growth of sustainable mobility solutions in Qatar and beyond.

With decades of experience in new energy vehicles and a growing presence across the Middle East, Yutong continues to support governments, transport operators, and strategic partners in their efforts to achieve more efficient and environmentally responsible transportation systems.

Yutong's participation in AEMOB reinforces its ambition to contribute to Qatar's sustainable mobility journey and to leverage its local manufacturing capabilities as a platform for innovation and future growth across the region.