



**YOUR SAFETY AND
COMFORT ARE OUR
PRIORITY**

Stay Connected with GigaHome.
Activate your new home internet
online in just a few taps.



Scan to
activate



Amir discusses de-escalation and energy market stability with US President Trump

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani received a phone call yesterday from President of the United States of America H E Donald Trump.

The call discussed the latest regional and international developments amid the accelerating escalation in the region, particularly the implications of recent tensions on international maritime security and the stability of global energy markets and supply chains.

During the call, H H the Amir reaffirmed the State of Qatar's role as a trusted partner in supporting the stability of global energy markets and its continued commitment to fulfilling its obligations to international partners.

His Highness also underlined the importance of intensifying international efforts to prevent further escalation in the region and adopting diplomatic means as the primary path to addressing crises in a way that preserves regional and global security.

For his part, the US President expressed appreciation for the State of Qatar's role in regional mediation and its ongoing efforts to support stability, stating that the United States is keen to coordinate with the State of Qatar on various issues, particularly energy security and global market stability. — QNA

Amir, President of European Council discuss situation in Gaza, Lebanon



DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani met at his office in the Amiri Diwan yesterday with President of the European Council H E Antonio Costa and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting discussed regional and international updates, particularly the developments in the Middle East, foremost among them the situation in the Gaza Strip and the Republic of Lebanon, in light of the ongoing escalation and its humanitarian and security repercussions.

The two sides also discussed the impact of this escalation on regional security, especially on the security of international maritime navigation and the stability of global energy markets. They emphasized the importance of maintaining the smooth flow of energy supplies and enhancing security and stability in vital maritime routes.

The meeting also considered ways to strengthen the strategic partnership between the State of Qatar and the European Union, affirming the State of Qatar's role as a reliable partner in supporting global energy security, including the supply of liquefied natural gas to international markets.

Additionally, the two sides explored prospects for expanding bilateral cooperation, particularly in the energy, trade, and investment sectors, in a way that promotes mutual interests. — QNA

Cabinet approves revised building rules to enhance urban living

DOHA: The Cabinet, which met yesterday with Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani in the chair approved the draft decision of the Minister of Municipality to amend some provisions of Decision No. 7 of 1989 regarding architectural conditions and technical specifications for buildings.

The draft decision, prepared by the Ministry of Municipality, comes within the framework of a comprehensive national approach to housing policies and urban planning, and is based on integrated planning and engineering studies that addressed the actual needs of Qatari families and the requirements of

contemporary lifestyles, with the aim of improving the quality of life and enhancing urban well-being in residential areas.

This is achieved by striking a well-thought-out balance between the requirements of urban density and land use efficiency on the one hand, and residential comfort and the quality of the urban environment on the other, through providing simplified architectural requirements and more flexible planning controls that are suitable for family growth, ensuring privacy and well-being, without compromising approved engineering and architectural requirements, or the requirements of safety and environmental sustainability, and in line with the comprehensive



- The draft decision, prepared by the Ministry of Municipality, comes within the framework of a comprehensive national approach to housing policies and urban planning, and is based on integrated planning and engineering studies.

- Cabinet praised the results of the talks between Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani with Prime Minister of the United Kingdom H E Keir Starmer, during his working visit to the State of Qatar.

urban plan of the state, consistent with QNV 2030 and the objectives of the Third National Development Strategy.

Following the meeting, Minister of Justice and Minister of

State for Cabinet Affairs H E Ibrahim bin Ali Al Mohannadi stated that at the outset of the meeting, the Cabinet praised the results of the talks between Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad

Al-Thani with Prime Minister of the United Kingdom H E Keir Starmer, during his working visit to the State of Qatar. The visit embodied the countries' depth of relations and strategic partnership, and the two reflected shared concern for maintaining security and stability in the region and the world, as well as the stability of supply chains, and the continued flow of global energy through the Strait of Hormuz.

The Cabinet then considered the topics on its agenda, and took note of the Shura Council's approval of a draft law amending some provisions of the Labour Law issued by Law No. 14 of 2004.

The draft law, prepared by the Ministry of Labour, comes

within the framework of developing the labour market system and keeping pace with economic and social changes, through updating a number of provisions regulating labour relations and the recruitment of workers, especially with regard to regulating and expediting the resolution of labour disputes, in order to contribute to achieving balance and stability in the work environment, in line with the objectives of the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030.

The Cabinet also approved a draft law issuing the unified system (law) for volunteer work in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, and referred it to the Shura Council. — QNA → P2

Qatar emerges as key player in next-gen financial infrastructure

JOEL JOHNSON
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Venture capital investment across the Gulf, especially Qatar, is undergoing a significant transformation, moving away from opportunistic funding toward more strategic, long-term deployment aligned with national economic agendas, according to market experts.

Speaking to *The Peninsula* on regional investment trends, Silvana Moschini, CEO of Unicorns Media, said governments in the Gulf are no longer passive participants in the startup ecosystem but are actively shaping it.

"Over the past few years, venture capital in the Gulf has moved from opportunistic funding toward strategic capital deployment aligned with national transformation agendas," she noted. "Governments are no longer just observers of the tech economy,

they are active architects of it."

This shift is being driven by a growing alignment between public policy and private capital. Across the GCC, sovereign wealth funds, family offices, and institutional investors are increasingly channeling funds into sectors such as fintech, artificial intelligence, climate technology, and digital infrastructure.

"The shift is from funding startups simply because they are 'tech' to funding platforms that build long-term economic capabilities," Moschini stated, highlighting the maturation of the region's venture ecosystem.

Within this regional landscape, Qatar is emerging with a distinctive strategy. Rather than focusing on retail-driven cryptocurrency markets, the country is prioritising institutional-grade digital finance infrastructure. Moschini pointed to regulatory developments led by Qatar Financial Centre as a key example. → P2

'Qatar's environmental status stable, no cause for concern'

SANAULLAH ATAULLAH
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Minister of Environment and Climate Change H E Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie has reassured the public that the country's environmental condition remains stable, emphasizing that there are no indicators or phenomena that warrant concern.

In an interview with Qatar Television yesterday, the Minister emphasised that comprehensive and integrated environmental monitoring systems are in place nationwide, continuously monitoring air quality, water conditions, radiation levels, and potential oil spills.

He stated that Qatar operates a nationwide network of monitoring stations that transmit real-time data directly to a central operations room. "This network includes 48 air quality monitoring stations, 20 roadside stations, and additional stations located in



Ministry employs a holistic and integrated approach to environmental management. These systems monitor a wide range of environmental indicators, with data being analysed and evaluated by specialised teams to support timely decision-making and necessary actions whenever required.

H E Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie

territorial waters to monitor marine conditions."

Dr. Al Subaie highlighted that the Ministry employs a holistic and integrated approach to environmental management.

"These systems monitor a wide range of environmental indicators, with data being analysed and evaluated by specialised teams to support timely decision-making and necessary

actions whenever required," said the Minister.

He said that among the key systems currently in operation are those dedicated to monitoring air quality, water quality, radiation levels, and oil spill detection. The Minister noted that these systems rely on advanced technologies to provide accurate and reliable data, ensuring that any abnormal indicators are swiftly identified and addressed.

On radiation monitoring, Dr. Al Subaie described it as a critical area of focus. He explained that the Ministry operates an independent radiation monitoring system that tracks radiation levels across various locations, including both land and territorial waters.

"This system provides precise data and is supported by a comprehensive baseline radiation map of the country, developed before any recent regional developments, which serves as a reference for normal radiation levels," said the Minister. → P5

European Council President reaffirms solidarity with Qatar, Gulf states

VICTOR BOLORUNDURO
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: European Council President António Costa (pictured) yesterday underscored the European Union's unwavering support for Qatar and other Gulf nations amid regional tensions, stressing the need for a stable ceasefire and the restoration of freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

Speaking at a press conference during his visit to Doha, Costa described the trip as a timely opportunity to listen to Gulf leaders and extend the EU's partnership during a fragile period fol-

lowing recent escalations.

The visit, part of a broader Gulf tour that included the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, comes shortly after a US-Iran ceasefire brokered by Pakistan. Despite the truce, concerns persist over reported attacks on several Gulf countries, including strikes that tested regional air defences.

Costa expressed full solidarity with the Gulf states and their people, condemning Iran's actions that violated sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"Iran's attacks have violated their sovereignty and territorial integrity, and this is unacceptable," he said. He

also thanked Gulf partners for ensuring the safety of European citizens residing in the region.

Outlining the EU's immediate priorities, Costa pointed to the urgent need for a stable and lasting ceasefire in the region, which he said is essential to pave the way for sustainable peace. He also stressed the importance of restoring freedom of navigation in key maritime corridors, particularly the Strait of Hormuz. "Since the beginning of this conflict, the European Union has consistently called for de-escalation and negotiations in full respect of international law," he noted.

Costa warned that ongoing disruptions to maritime routes, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, pose serious risks to global supply chains and the international economy. He described these waterways as "vital arteries" for world trade, stressing that ensuring their security is both "crucial and urgent."

In this regard, he highlighted ongoing efforts by European partners, including France and United Kingdom, to assemble an international coalition aimed at guaranteeing safe and unimpeded passage for commercial shipping. → P2

