



Qatar's best car marketplace



qic • market



*Non-insurance services are provided by Anoud Tech, a subsidiary of QIC

GULF TIMES





668039 136499

TUESDAY Vol. XXXXVI No. 13871

September 22, 2026
Rabia II 11, 1448 AH

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

published in QATAR since 1978



Together we can

Among Family, stories don't end



the new Ahli plans

Explore more





Roblux

Interior Paint with Low VOC
Exceptional Washability
Superior Stain Resistant
Obtained Qatar Quality Mark
Obtained International Green Mark

ROBSON

تصميم منزلك Robson

GORD

المركز الوطني للمنتجات الخضراء

NATIONAL PAINTS FACTORIES CO., Ltd. - Qatar
Tel: 446016023

THE PERFECT GIFT?

THE ONE THEY CHOOSE



فاميلة Family

Stay Updated on Offers!

Follow WhatsApp Channel



Ready to GUAC AND ROLL?

Only on talabat



6THSTREET.COM

IS NOW

AIVI

Authentic Fashion & Lifestyle Destination

Delivering In

90

Minutes



Scan the QR code & download the AIVI app

Damaged Gulf sites: US eyes \$10bn fund

Monitoring Report

The Trump administration has proposed a \$10bn fund to help Middle East countries rebuild energy infrastructure damaged in the Iran war and reduce reliance on the Strait of Hormuz, a report in the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) yesterday said. **To Page 5**

Amir to address UNGA opening session today

GT Report
New York

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will address the opening of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York today, leading Qatar's delegation as world leaders gather for the annual high-level debate.

His Highness is expected to set out Doha's positions on regional and international issues, reaffirming Qatar's commitment to peace, security and international co-operation. The address is likely to underline Qatar's continued engagement in multilateral diplomacy, with particular emphasis on mediation as a central plank of its foreign policy



in resolving conflict, alongside global challenges such as climate change, poverty and sustainable development.

The Palestinian issue is expected to feature prominently in His Highness' remarks and in his talks with world leaders and senior UN officials, with Qatar reiterating calls

for Palestinian rights to freedom, security and statehood, and renewing criticism of the international community's response to the continuing Israeli occupation and conflict.

During the visit, His Highness the Amir is due to hold a series of bilateral meetings with heads of state, government leaders and senior international officials, with the talks intended to strengthen strategic partnerships and co-ordinate positions on issues before the General Assembly.

The 81st session opened on September 8 under the theme "Restoring trust, managing transformation: a United Nations that delivers for all," with around 130 heads of state and government expected to take part in the general debate. **To Page 5**



QIA, JP Morgan seal \$20bn strategic partnership



Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) and JP Morgan Asset Management (JPMAM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding yesterday to establish a \$20bn strategic partnership, combining the investment capabilities of both institutions across public and private markets. The partnership will initially cover two areas of collaboration: a \$15bn public equities portfolio designed to support QIA's long-term investment objectives, and a \$5bn private markets initiative focused on financing middle-market companies in the United States. Under the public equities portfolio, JPMAM will manage customised global equity portfolios for QIA, drawing on its active equity capabilities, global investment platform and research resources. **To Page 5**

PM joins GCC ministers meeting



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani joined GCC foreign ministers in New York yesterday for a co-ordination meeting focused on regional developments and diplomatic efforts to ease tensions. Held on the sidelines of the 81st session of the UNGA, the meeting reviewed ways to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination among Gulf states and promote regional security and stability. **(QNA)**

MONOPRIX QATAR Celebrates the Second Edition of 'Eat Spain, Drink Spain' 2026

Eat Spain, Drink Spain, part of a global gastronomic campaign held across 18 countries, officially launched in Qatar on September 20, 2026, with Monoprix Qatar opening the activation at its Place Vendôme store. Organised by ICEX Spain Trade & Investment, the campaign runs until October 4, bringing the flavors and culinary heritage of Spain closer to customers through a curated selection of authentic Spanish products, food tastings, a special Spanish buffet, and engaging in-store experiences.

The opening ceremony was attended by senior representatives of the Embassy of Spain, including the Deputy Head of Mission, Ms. Teresa M. Puerta González, and Economic and

Commercial Attaché, Susana Castro-Acuña Baixauli. Ali Bin Ali Holding's COO of Consumer & Hi-Tech Retail, Mr. Sébastien Farhat, and Monoprix Country Manager, Mr. Chadi Bou Antoun, also graced the event.

Celebrating the occasion, Ms. Gonzalez pointed out that the Embassy was pleased to collaborate with Monoprix Qatar for the 'Eat Spain, Drink Spain' campaign to provide customers in Qatar with an opportunity to discover the quality and diversity of Spanish culture and products. "Initiatives like this celebrate our heritage while strengthening the cultural and commercial ties between Spain and Qatar," she said.

At the ceremony, attendees were taken through a tour of the Place

Vendôme store, exploring specially curated displays showcasing a wide range of Spanish fruits, vegetables, and authentic Spanish products. The displays offered customers the opportunity to discover the diversity and quality of Spanish produce and culinary specialties exclusively available at Monoprix Qatar.

Celebrating the event, now in its second year for Monoprix, Mr. Farhat added that, "This event has allowed us to bring the rich Spanish experience to our customers and the general public, a tradition that transcends beyond shopping at Monoprix."

A special food tasting counter was also featured during the opening, allowing guests to experience a selection of Spanish flavors,



accompanied by snacks and beverages, creating an authentic taste of Spain within Place Vendôme store.

As part of the wider campaign, guests and customers at Monoprix Qatar will experience a variety of Spanish-themed activities throughout the two-week celebration. A special Spanish product display to showcase products of the day will similarly be exhibited during the period.



The campaign will conclude with a closing ceremony on 4 October, marking the end of the celebration at Monoprix Place Vendôme.

The 'Eat Spain, Drink Spain' celebration reflects Monoprix Qatar's commitment to offering customers distinctive experiences, spotlighting the authentic flavors, premium products, and rich gastronomic heritage of Spain.





Minister of labour meets Lankan deputy minister

HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Samikh al-Marri met yesterday with Sri Lanka's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment Arun Hemachandra. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral co-operation and relations, and ways to enhance them, particularly in areas related to the labour sector. - QNA



Qatar and Djibouti sign co-operation agreement

Qatar and Djibouti have signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance co-operation and the exchange of institutional expertise in the fields of endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic affairs. The pact was signed yesterday by HE the Minister of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs Ghanem bin Shaheen bin Ghanem al-Ghanem and Djibouti's Minister of Islamic Affairs and Endowments Moumin Hassan Barreh. - QNA

Minister of justice meets Somali counterpart

HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi met yesterday with Somalia's Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Hassan Moalim Mohamud Sheikh Ali during his visit to Qatar. They discussed legal co-operation and ways to promote co-operation between the ministry's Centre for Legal and Judicial Studies and Somalia's Judicial Training Institute. - QNA



Al-Mohannadi meets Syrian official

HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi has met with head of Syria's Central Authority for Supervision and Inspection (CASI) Amer al-Ali and his accompanying delegation, during their visit to Doha.

The meeting reviewed co-operation between relevant departments in the ministry and the CASI, as well as methods of strengthening and developing them. The delegation viewed a presentation on the specialisations of Qatar's Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Unit.

At the end of the presentation, the Syrian delegation praised the efforts made by the Ministry of Justice and its pioneering legal experience.

The Syrian delegation expressed its aspiration to strengthen joint work and exchange experiences and data in the legal and supervision fields, as well as the exchange of mechanisms to strengthen supervision and fight corruption and money laundering, and make proper decisions to develop legal work between the two countries. - QNA

Qatar takes part in joint meeting of GCC, France foreign ministers



Qatar participated yesterday in the joint ministerial meeting between the foreign ministers of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states and the French Republic, held on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi represented Qatar at the meeting. - QNA

Qatar Post participates in Arab Postal Forum proceedings

Qatar Post participated in the proceedings of the Arab Postal Regulatory Forum 2026, which convened in Doha on September 20-21, under the theme *Postal Sector Reform in the Arab Region: Enabling Innovation, Competition and Sustainable Digital Trade*.

The forum addressed the main challenges facing the postal sector in the region, with emphasis on developing regulatory frameworks that support innovation and competition, keep pace with accelerating growth in digital commerce and logistics services, and foster co-operation and exchange of expertise among stakeholders in the sector.

Qatar Post participated in the forum as part of its commitment to contribute to sector development and promote regional

and international co-operation, as well as exchange expertise and best practices in the fields of postal operations and cross-border logistics services.

The second day of the forum included a session on "Customs, Postal Security, and Cross-Border Integrity", in which Qatar Post chief operating officer Hamad Mohammed al-Fahaidha participated.

The session discussed ways to enhance co-ordination among relevant bodies, customs and security frameworks and regulations, align Universal Postal Union (UPU) documents with changing public policy objectives and postal security standards, cross-border data governance, supply chain resilience, as well as co-operation among customs authorities, crisis preparedness, and business continuity assurance. - QNA



Sixth conference of Arab anti-graft convention opens

The sixth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention kicked off yesterday under chairmanship of Administrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA) president Hamad bin Nasser al-Misnad.

The conference will run for three days.

In his opening remarks, adviser to the head of the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission and chair of the conference's fifth session, Saeed Shehadeh, expressed his gratitude to Qatar for its hospitality and warm welcome.

He also commended Qatar's efforts during Palestine's presidency of the fifth session, including providing technical and logistical support and organising and hosting various activities and events during that period.

Shehadeh said that Palestine had fully discharged its responsibilities during its presidency despite the severe measures imposed on the Commission by the Israeli occupation, as well as the ongoing developments and repercussions of the war.

He noted that these circumstances presented multiple challenges to the work of the Palestinian presidency during the fifth session.

Shehadeh also thanked the Arab states that supported Palestine in carrying out its responsibilities and completing the work of the fifth session by hosting activities and facilitating meetings.

The acting head of Legal Affairs Sector, director of the Legal Affairs Department - General Secretariat and head of the Conference Secretariat, Dr Maha Bakheet, said the sixth session convened pursuant to Resolution No. 7 adopted during the conference's fifth session, held on May 5-7, 2024, at the headquar-

ters of the General Secretariat in Cairo.

She added that the resolution established a mechanism for submitting draft resolutions to the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention.

Dr Bakheet noted that the General Secretariat, represented by the Legal Affairs Sector, the Legal Affairs Department, and the Conference Secretariat, had informed States Parties of the opportunity to submit items or draft resolutions for inclusion in the provisional agenda of the sixth session.

She said that several consultative meetings on the draft resolutions were held via video conference in co-ordination with the Anti-Corruption Commission of the State of Palestine, chair of the fifth session, and the Qatar's ACTA, chair of the sixth session.

Dr Bakheet added that the draft resolutions on the agenda for adoption during the sixth session address issues that contribute to the effective implementation of the Arab Convention against Corruption.

She hailed the efforts made by the conference participants to fulfill its mandate.

The conference's first and second sessions focused on the items on the provisional agenda for the sixth session.

The Conference of the States Parties to the Arab Convention against Corruption serves as an Arab institutional framework for monitoring the implementation of the Convention's provisions, promoting co-ordination and co-operation among States Parties, and facilitating the exchange of expertise and successful practices in preventing and combating corruption.

The inaugural session of the Conference was held in Cairo in 2015.

As of May 2024, 15 Arab states had ratified the Convention. - QNA

Amir sends condolences to UAE vice-president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of condolences yesterday to UAE Vice-President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum on the passing of late Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid al-Maktoum.

HH the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent similar cables of condolences to Sheikh Mohammed al-Maktoum. - QNA

Amir sends congratulations to Malta's Spiteri Debono

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has sent a cable of congratulations to Malta's President Myriam Spiteri Debono on the occasion of her country's Independence Day.

HH the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent a similar cable of congratulations yesterday to Spiteri Debono.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani meanwhile sent a cable of congratulations to Malta's Prime Minister Dr Robert Abela on the occasion. - QNA

Amir congratulates Armenia's President Khachaturyan

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations yesterday to Armenia's President Vahagn Khachaturyan on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

HH the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent a similar cable of congratulations to Khachaturyan.

Meanwhile, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on the occasion. - QNA



Qatar attends dialogue on global law, humanitarian diplomacy

Qatar participated yesterday in a high-level ministerial dialogue on humanitarian diplomacy and upholding international law, held on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad represented Qatar at the dialogue.

In her remarks, she affirmed Qatar's unwavering commitment to respecting international humanitarian law and ensuring the delivery of humanitarian aid to those affected, particularly in areas affected by conflict and natural disasters.

HE Dr al-Misnad noted that challenges to humanitarian access require effective multilateral engagement and urgent, co-ordinated efforts by international and regional humanitarian actors.

She highlighted Qatar's continued efforts to strengthen the role of humanitarian diplomacy in promoting a broader and more inclusive humanitarian response, guided by a foreign policy rooted in dialogue and grounded in the principles of international law and the UN Charter.

The minister pointed out that, through its mediation and good offices and in close partnership with the United Nations and humanitarian organisations, Qatar has worked to open humanitarian corridors, facilitate the release of detainees, and reunite separated families, including children, across various conflict settings. - QNA

QPHI expert joins WHO director-general's science council

Dr Hamdi Mbarek (pictured), director of research and data analytics at the Qatar Precision Health Institute (QPHI), a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), has been appointed to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General's Science Council.

He joins a distinguished group of 21 globally recognised scientists and experts who provide high-level scientific guidance to the WHO chief.

The council focuses on emerging scientific and technological advances, helping inform priorities that are relevant to the future of global public health.

The appointment recognises Dr Mbarek's scientific track record and international contributions in human genomics, population genetics, precision health, and large-scale health data science.

At the QPHI, he leads the Research and

Data Analytics Directorate, which drives large-scale genomic discovery and analytics, develops population-specific genomic resources, enables national and international research collaborations, and supports the translation of genomic and health data into knowledge that can advance precision health.

Dr Mbarek's appointment also highlights the growing international visibility of scientific expertise and capabilities de-

veloped within Qatar's research ecosystem.

"It is a tremendous honour to join the WHO Director-General's Science Council and to contribute alongside distinguished scientists from around the world," he said. "I look forward to bringing my experience in genomics, precision health and population diversity to the council's discussions, and to helping advance science in ways that benefit populations globally."



Al-Misnad meets acting executive director of World Food Programme



HE Minister of State for International Cooperation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met with Acting Executive Director of the World Food Programme Carl Skau, on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly. The meeting reviewed cooperation between Qatar and the World Food Programme in the areas of food security and humanitarian response. They also discussed ways to strengthen partnerships to ensure aid reaches the communities most in need. During the meeting, HE al-Misnad emphasised that humanitarian diplomacy constitutes a fundamental pillar of Qatar's foreign policy and international efforts, highlighting its importance in enhancing the response to crises and conflicts. **(QNA)**

PM attends ministerial dinner hosted by Qatar in cooperation with Peace Institute



HE Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani participated yesterday in a high-level ministerial dinner organised by the State of Qatar in cooperation with the International Peace Institute, on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. During the ministerial dinner, the latest developments in the region and ways to enhance regional and international security and stability were discussed. **(QNA)**

QC provides urgent relief to Yemeni refugees in Djibouti

With the support of its donors, Qatar Charity has been distributing urgent relief assistance since last Friday to Yemeni refugee families who have arrived in Obock, northern Djibouti, as part of its humanitarian response to the growing needs of families who have reached the area in recent days.

The emergency response is aimed at supporting approximately 2,000 families, or around 10,000 people. The assistance includes mats, blankets, pillows, clothing, food supplies and kitchen utensils, helping families meet their basic needs and cope with difficult humanitarian conditions.

In mid-September, Qatar Charity announced the activation of an emergency humanitarian response and the allocation of \$1mn in initial relief assistance to support Yemeni refugees who have been forced to flee their homes in recent days



and seek refuge in the Republic of Djibouti amid renewed fighting in Yemen. The ongoing conflict has resulted in further displacement and movements of people to neighbouring countries in search of safety and security.

Qatar Charity has called on donors to support its urgent humanitarian response for Yemeni refugees in Djibouti. Donations

can be made through the organisation's various channels, including its mobile application and website, or by contacting the call centre on 44290000. Donations can also be made through Qatar Charity branches and collection points in shopping malls.

Ghada Ezzeldin, director of Qatar Charity's Office in Djibouti, said the organisation's relief team

had been working since its arrival in Obock to assess the immediate needs of newly arrived Yemeni families on the ground.

She noted that the humanitarian needs are significant and multifaceted, particularly in relation to shelter, essential supplies and daily necessities. Qatar Charity has begun providing urgent assistance through the distribution of es-



sential relief items, stressing that the situation requires a sustained response and concerted efforts by humanitarian actors and partners to address the growing needs, particularly as new families continue to arrive in the area.

Obock Governorate, represented by Governor Moussa Moussa, commended Qatar Charity's humanitarian intervention, stressing that the scale of the crisis and the needs of affected families require concerted efforts among humanitarian organisations and partners.

Qatar Charity is coordinating its response with the International Organisation for Migration, as well as the Obock Governorate

and relevant government authorities, to coordinate humanitarian efforts, identify priorities, and reach families most in need. The response comes amid the arrival of large numbers of Yemenis in Obock since September 10, with approximately 2,400 people arriving within a short period, while new families continue to reach the area.

Qatar Charity continues to monitor the situation on the ground in coordination with its partners, assess emerging needs and implement additional interventions in line with developments and the scale of humanitarian needs, helping to alleviate the hardship faced by affected families.



عقارات
Aqarat

منتدى
العقاري
الرابع



4th Qatar
Real Estate
Forum

Powered by:

Cityscape

مركز الدوحة للمعارض والمؤتمرات
Doha Exhibition and Convention Center

2026 أكتوبر
OCTOBER

29-27

للتسجيل
Register Now





Police Academy organises lecture on security leadership in era of AI

QNA
Doha

The Police Academy, through the Police Officers Institute, organised a specialised scientific lecture on security leadership in the era of artificial intelligence, highlighting the importance of keeping abreast of rapid technological developments and their impact on state-of-the-art security operations.

Attended by HE the Legal Adviser to HE the Minister of Interior and General Supervisor of the Police Academy, Maj Gen Dr Abdullah Yusuf al-Mal, the event brought together a pantheon of department directors, committee chairs, assistants, and officers.

The lecture featured presentations of working papers by international experts, with Spanish expert Ramses Gallego, a cybersecurity strategy and digital transformation expert, alongside American expert Mark Fretzer, a leadership expert and executive consultant, drilling down on the historical



cal evolution of technology, culminating in the AI boom.

The two experts also addressed leadership best practices that help retain human capital.

The event concluded with a panel discussion focused on mechanisms for addressing emerging security chal-

lenges. The participants underscored the importance of striking a strategic balance across the gamut, from leveraging cutting-edge, AI-powered technologies to enhance security efficiency to deepening the pivotal role of the human element in security decision-making.

MCIT wraps up AI Executive Leadership Programme

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) concluded the second edition of the AI Executive Leadership Programme, dubbed “AI Business Strategy & Innovation,” held at the In-sead Europe Centre in Fontainebleau, France, from September 14 to 16, in collaboration with Microsoft and Qatar Digital Academy.

Held over three days, the programme brought together 24 leaders representing 17 government entities. It enabled participants to move from a general understanding of artificial intelligence to strategically assessing its opportunities, identifying priority use cases, aligning them with institutional objectives, and building the case for their implementation. It also addressed implementation, data, governance, risk management, and organisational change requirements, supporting the responsible adoption of AI.

The programme drew practical projects and challenges reflecting the realities of the participating institutions. Participants applied frameworks and tools to assess opportunities based on expected value, feasibility, data readiness, and institutional readiness.

The Programme also provided access to global expertise and best practices and enabled participants to exchange experiences with leaders from multiple entities and sectors.

The Programme’s value extends beyond its conclusion through the transfer of acquired knowledge and expertise to working teams and their



translation into practical practices, initiatives, and projects within government entities. This helps enhance performance, improve services, support decision-making, and foster innovation.

Duha al-Buhendi, director of the Digital Society and Digital Competencies Department at MCIT, said: “Qatar Digital Academy plays a pivotal role in supporting digital transformation and building a skilled and empowered digital workforce capable of driving innovation.

This edition continues the Academy’s efforts to develop specialised programmes and initiatives that respond to the needs of government entities and rapid technological advancements, while strengthening the skills of leaders and national talent

across sectors and professional levels.

“The collaboration with Insead Executive Education and Microsoft also reflects the importance of strategic partnerships and continuous knowledge exchange in enhancing the government sector’s readiness for an AI-enabled future and supporting the Digital Agenda 2030 objective of building a future-ready workforce.”

The programme’s outcomes reflect Qatar’s strategic focus on investing in human capital as a fundamental pillar of Qatar National Vision 2030. By preparing leaders and professionals to deploy AI and advanced technologies effectively and responsibly, the programme contributes to building an integrated digital society and a diversified economy based on knowledge and innovation.

Radiation monitoring capabilities enhanced through IAEA training

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, represented by the Radiation Protection Department, has conducted specialised training for the Radiation Measurement Laboratory team in co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The training aims to enhance the skills of national personnel and strengthen their ability to use advanced technologies for sample analysis and accurate measurement of radioactive material levels.

The initiative supports Qatar’s radiation safety and security framework, while enhancing national capabilities to monitor radioactive substances and contribute to protecting human health and the environment.



Invites qualified bidders to participate in the following tender:

Effective from 01st July 2023, Bids from Local Suppliers and Contractors (companies established under the Law of State of Qatar) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>) by Tender closing date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned / notified) will not be accepted. Local companies that have been established for less than 2 years are exempted from this requirement.

For further details, please visit ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>).

Sel No.	Tender Reference and Description	(i) Deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding	(ii) Tender fee (non-refundable)	(iii) Tender Publication on ARIBA	(iv) Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1	Tender Ref. P05-01-212 2 Years Contract for Rental of Portable Water Demineralization Unit at QAPCO Plant	24 th Sept. 2026	QAR 750.00 Payment by: 27 th Sept. 2026	28 th Sept. 2026	QAR 100,000.00	15 th Oct. 2026. 12:00 Noon
2	Tender Ref. P10-7-0137 3 Years Contract for Provision of Data Privacy Management Platform	24 th Sept. 2026	QAR 500.00 Payment by: 27 th Sept. 2026	28 th Sept. 2026	QAR 35,000.00	15 th Oct 2026. 12:00 Noon

i. Interested bidders to communicate their willingness to bid and contact details to QAPCO Procurement (procurement@qapco.com.qa) indicating company name, address, telephone, official E-mail, etc. latest by the deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding indicated above. Reference Number and Description of the tender must be mentioned in the email.

ii. Non-refundable tender fee as indicated above is payable to QAPCO through QNB account # 0013-001688-060 only at any QNB branch latest by the date mentioned above (Tender Number, Subject and bidder name are to be stated in the payment receipt)

iii. Tender link will be sent via email notification from ARIBA system to the confirmed bidders. Tender Document will be accessible only after attaching the evidence of the tender fee payment in ARIBA by the bidder followed by Qapco approval. QAPCO shall reply with the access to “ARIBA eSourcing RFP event” along with necessary instructions and guidelines for the bid submission.

ARIBA Registration: Bidders who are not registered in QAPCO are requested to complete the registration process during the tendering period (Details on ARIBA registration can be accessed via QAPCO website www.qapco.com)

iv. **Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee):**
Original tender bond must be delivered to the following address, at the latest by Bid closing date & time:
Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) Q.P.J.S.C.
QAPCO HEADQUARTERS, P.O. Box 756,
Building: 12, Zone No. 92, Street No. 556, Mualther Leafawiyat Steet
Mesaieed, Qatar
Tel: 4033 8109
Attention: Procurement Department

Bidder to attach copy of tender bond to the offer in ARIBA. Offer without Tender Bond will not be considered.

Tender Clarifications: Please send your queries with tender reference and description to email procurement@qapco.com.qa

For more information about QAPCO, please visit our website: www.qapco.com

ARPM Tender Committee announces the following Tender

Tender No.	(Tender Title) Scope of work	Tender Fee	Tender Bond	Opening Date	Closing Date
ARPM/268/2026/TEN/DOH	Provision of Staff Medical Insurance - 1 Year Term	1000	20,000	22-Sep-26	6-Oct-26

1. Interested parties can collect copies of the tender documents from ARPM Purchasing Department, via email to maseef@arpm.com.qa ; procurement.officer@arpm.com.qa and j.castillo@arpm.com.qa during working hours 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Fri & Sat Closed)

2. A payment of a non-refundable document’s fees should be deposited in cash to:

- Beneficiary Name: Al-Rayyan Projects Management (ARPM)
- Account No. 0013-022375-004 (Qatar National Bank)
- IBAN No. QA86QNBAA000000000013022375004

And the original deposit receipt should be submitted upon receiving of the terms and conditions.

3. A tender bond (as stated above), issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and valid for 180 days from the closing date should accompany tenders. The executed tender bond should be included with the technical offer.

4. All tenderers MUST collect their original bonds from ARPM – Purchasing department upon expiry of the Tender Bond, unless alternative instructions are issued by ARPM.

5. Proposal to be submitted in sealed envelopes as per the RFP requirements in both HARD COPY & SOFT COPY on CD or USB.

6. Copies of valid Company Commercial Registration, Computer Card & Authorization Letter must be submitted in order to collect the tender documents.

7. The successful tenderer is required to submit a performance bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar equivalent to 10% of the total contract sum and shall be valid for a period expiring 180 days after contract expiry.

8. Offers should be valid for 180 days commencing from the closing date (as stated above).

9. ARPM has the right to increase or decrease the scope of services by 20% with the same terms and conditions.

10. ARPM is not bound to accept the lowest tender or any other tender and is under no obligation to show any reasons thereof.

11. Bids should be submitted not later than 12:00 noon on the closing date and must be deposited into the Box, provided in the ARPM Purchasing office, located at the 9th Floor, ARPM, Head office and should be in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman - Tenders Committee, quoting the Tender Number and Subject.

12. Deadline for accepting requests and inquiries, 7 days prior to closing date.

13. Offers arriving thereafter may not be considered.

CHAIRMAN – TENDER COMMITTEE
TEL: 40341804

Aman joins national digital safety campaign

Qatar’s Protection and Social Rehabilitation Centre (Aman) has joined a national campaign aimed at promoting digital safety and protecting children and families from online risks.

The campaign, organised by the Ministry of Social Development and Family, brings together 20 national organisations to raise awareness of safe and responsible technology use.

Aman said its participation will focus on preventing technology-related extortion and helping children, young people and families recognise and respond to unsafe online behaviour.

The centre will publish a series of awareness messages and short videos on its social media platforms covering privacy and personal data protection, safe sharing of images and information, suspicious links and online content, and how to respond to digital extortion.

Aman’s Acting Executive Director Fadl Mohammed al-Kaabi said protecting children and young people in the digital environment had become an essential part of social protection, highlighting the importance of co-ordinated efforts by families, institutions and the wider community.

Hanan al-Ali, the centre’s Director of the Media and Communications Office, said the campaign would combine digital communication with direct awareness activities, including age-appropriate workshops for students. **(QNA)**

INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
CO-RFQ-531	Provision of Design, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Security Systems to Qatar Foundation on Call-Off Basis for 3 Years	1,000.00	100,000.00	21 October 2026, 02:00 PM
QF-RFQ-1425	Supply & Installation of Video Presentation Switchers at QNCC	500.00	N/A	27 October 2026, 02:00 PM
CO-RFQ-533	Supply, Installation and commissioning of Replacement of Obsolete UPS at WCMC	500.00	N/A	14 October 2026, 02:00 PM
QNL-RFQ-82	Renewal of Darktrace products and services for one year	500.00	N/A	29 October 2026, 02:00 PM

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

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

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

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

Tender Fee Payment Dates: Payment of Tender Fee online will be from **22nd September until 28th September 2026**.

2) All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.

3) Technical and commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier Portal as per instructions provided in the “Supplier Portal” work instruction.

- The commercial bid must be valid for **180 days** from Bid Closing Date.
- The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **180 days** from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents).
- The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
- Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

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

Qatar Real Estate Forum to focus on tech, market shifts

By Peter Alagos
Business Editor

Qatar's real estate sector is moving beyond traditional development, sales, and purchases to establish itself as a central pillar of investment, wealth management, and the wider capital ecosystem, according to the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Aqarat).

Aqarat announced key updates for the fourth edition of its 'Qatar Real Estate Forum 2026', which will take place from October 27 to 29 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC). The event is being organised as a partnership between Aqarat and Informa Tharawat.

The forum's programme is set to explore critical industry themes including real estate financing, investment returns, portfolio diversification, and the tokenisation of real estate assets. Discussions will also address the impact of technological developments, sustainability, and geopolitical shifts on the market, bringing together government leaders, developers, investors, and senior decision-makers.

Aqarat president Mohammed bin Hassan al-Malki pointed out that recent geopolitical developments are affecting multiple markets, underscoring the necessity of focused discussions on the sector's adaptability. He noted that evolving business environments and regulatory frameworks high-



(From left) Informa Tharawat Chief Commercial officer Wouter Molman, Aqarat president Mohammed bin Hassan al-Malki, Qatari Diar CEO Sheikh Hamad bin Talal al-Thani, and Barwa Real Estate Group CEO Ahmed Mohamed al-Tayeb during a press conference yesterday. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

light the importance of strengthening market resilience and investor confidence.

The event comes against the backdrop of steady market performance, al-Malki pointed out. According to the Real Estate Registration Department at the Ministry of Justice, real estate transactions in Qatar reached QR10.69bn (approximately \$2.9bn) during the first half of 2026.

Furthermore, figures from the Qatar Central Bank's Financial Stability Review show that the real estate sector accounted for 6.1% of Qatar's GDP in December 2025, with real estate credit representing 20% of total domestic credit extended to the private sector by the banking system.

A major focal point of this year's forum will be the legislative evo-

lution driving modern investment vehicles. On August 26, 2026, Qatar's Council of Ministers approved a draft law regulating real estate tokenisation and the trading of real estate tokens, alongside its draft executive regulations. This legislative move aligns with global capital shifts towards tokenised real-world assets, artificial intelligence, energy technology, and regional markets, according to Aqarat.

The legal framework builds upon reforms introduced in 2025, which permitted GCC citizens to own residential properties in designated areas for personal and family use, while refining rules governing property acquisition, usage, and disposal.

The legislative updates coincide with growth in the local leasing

market, Aqarat noted. Total lease contracts increased by 30.6% year-on-year in 2025, with their cumulative value rising by 27.8%. Commercial lease contracts recorded a 43.6% increase, while residential contracts grew by 25.3%, leading to a 20% decline in vacant units.

Running concurrently with Cityscape Qatar, the forum aims to connect domestic developments with international networks to attract foreign direct investment, supporting economic diversification under Qatar National Vision 2030.

Wouter Molman, Chief Commercial officer at Informa Tharawat, noted that combining Aqarat's regulatory leadership with Cityscape's global reach creates a practical platform for connecting Qatari developers with regional and international capital.

Qatari Diar CEO Sheikh Hamad bin Talal al-Thani described the group's sponsorship of the forum as a natural extension of its role in shaping the sector's future, adding that strategic alignment between Aqarat and private developers provides an optimal model for regional and international competitiveness.

Barwa Real Estate Group CEO Ahmed Mohamed al-Tayeb echoed these sentiments, noting that market progression requires strong partnerships, an attractive investment climate, and practical innovation to respond effectively to global economic developments.

Amir to address UNGA opening session today

From Page 1

President of the General Assembly and Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Khalilur Rahman, opens proceedings and delivers the opening speech, after which Brazil traditionally takes the floor first as opening speaker, followed by the United States as host nation of UN headquarters. The speaking order for other member states is determined by level of representation, precedence and other criteria including geographic distribution.

Most speeches at this year's session are expected to focus on restoring the credibility of the multilateral system, ongoing conflicts, institutional reform and climate issues, with heads of state, heads of government and ministers seeking solutions to interconnected global challenges in the pursuit of peace, security and sustainable development.

Observers note that the meetings of the 81st session are taking place against a particularly complex international backdrop, overshadowed by protracted wars and humanitarian crises, climate instability, fears of new pandemics, a technology race driven by artificial intelligence, and mounting political and financial pressures on the international system.

Beyond the leaders' speeches in the General Assembly Hall, this year's agenda spans a comprehensive programme of specialised meetings on development, climate, health, human rights and disarmament, though politics and security are set to dominate once the general debate begins. Foremost among these will be the conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine, along with their implications for the future of the Palestinian cause.

The Middle East is expected to feature prominently in lead-

ers' addresses and in bilateral meetings, given persistent regional tensions and the ongoing Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The Russia-Ukraine war will also remain a major focus, as the question of halting hostilities and the terms of any potential political settlement continue to divide the international community. The situation in Sudan is also expected to be addressed at the forum.

Artificial intelligence is expected to emerge as a key new topic this year, amid growing calls for stricter regulation of its development following a series of incidents and warnings issued by prominent figures in the sector.

This session carries added significance as the final General Assembly to open during the tenure of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, whose second and final term concludes on December 31. The selection process for his successor, who is due to take office in early 2027 as the UN's tenth Secretary-General, is already under way, with behind-the-scenes consultations expected to continue through the session in pursuit of consensus on a candidate.

In the lead-up to the high-level week, Guterres called on world leaders to honour their pledges, uphold the UN Charter, defend international law, protect human rights, invest in sustainable and inclusive development, and strive for peace. He said the world was entering a phase of "profound uncertainty," marked by shifts in the balance of power, rapid change and mounting threats requiring enhanced international co-operation, describing the United Nations as more than a platform — a "promise" that world leaders must fulfil.

QIA, JP Morgan seal \$20bn strategic partnership

From Page 1

Through the private markets initiative, QIA and JPMAM will provide financing to US middle-market companies across sectors, with a particular focus on industrials, services, healthcare and technology. The framework brings together

QIA's long-term institutional perspective with JP Morgan's global investment expertise, and is expected to strengthen both parties' ability to capitalise on global opportunities and deliver sustainable long-term value. QIA chief executive Mohammed Saif al-Sowaidi stressed the importance of expanding the

partnership with JPMAM and gaining access to one of the world's leading platforms in equities and private credit. He said the tie-up marks an important step toward exploring new opportunities for both parties to generate long-term value through ongoing investment dialogue, joint

programmes and direct exchange of ideas.

JP Morgan Asset and Wealth Management chief executive Mary Callahan Erdoes said JPMAM will support QIA's institutional role as one of the leaders in global investing, while helping deliver customised, high-quality investment solutions. **(QNA)**

Real estate forum to offer investors a 'one-stop shop'

By Shaima Sherif
Staff Reporter

Property investors can explore projects, seek regulatory guidance, and apply for real estate residency at a unified Qatar Real Estate Forum and Cityscape Qatar event this October.

The fourth Qatar Real Estate Forum, powered by Cityscape, will run from October 27 to 29 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Speaking to *Gulf Times* at a press conference yesterday (September 21) at The St Regis Marsa Arabia, Mohammed Makki, director of the Real Estate Investment Department at the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Aqarat), said: "This year we're coming to the market as a single event," explaining that visitors would have access to regulations, developers, available projects and investment opportunities.

A Qatar government booth would operate as "a one-stop shop for anyone interested in the market", Makki said. Visitors could learn about the laws, apply for real estate residency and understand benefits available through the sector.

"This year's edition builds on the progress we've made over the last few years," he said.

Makki explained that the forum initially shared Cityscape's dates and location three years ago, allowing exhibition visitors to hear directly from government representatives. This year's programme will be organised around three daily themes, covering the market, investment and the role of property development in everyday life.

"Day one looks at the market overall and the contribution of real estate to the economy," Makki said.

The second day will focus on investment, including values and opportunities, while the third will examine



Mohammed Makki

liveability, infrastructure and how communities benefit from real estate, he added.

The official programme also includes discussions on property valuation, market data, financing and opportunities for first-time investors. Sessions on the final day will address healthcare, education, connectivity and the social foundations of neighbourhoods, alongside longer-term urban planning.

The forum comes as Qatar's real estate transaction values rose 5.84% to QR10.69bn in the first half of 2026, compared with the same period last year, according to Ministry of Justice figures cited by Aqarat.

Damaged Gulf sites: US eyes \$10bn fund

From Page 1

Citing US and Middle Eastern officials and documents *WSJ* had seen, it said Washington would contribute \$5bn and seek matching contributions from eight regional partners — Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Iraq and Jordan.

The initiative, named the Partnership for Allied Trust and Construction (Pact), would be managed by the Development Finance Corporation, a US federal agency whose programmes have historically targeted developing countries rather than wealthy Gulf states.

Discussions are under way and the terms could still change, US officials said, and it remains unclear whether all the named countries will sign on.

The *WSJ* report added that some Middle East officials described the initiative as a US attempt to downplay the strategic weight of the Strait of Hormuz and project unity against Iran. They cautioned that building a fund to rebuild destroyed sites without a peace deal with Tehran would be premature, given the risk of renewed drone and missile strikes.

Bilal Saab, senior managing director at TRENDS US, a consulting

firm, was quoted in the report as saying the strategy carried significant risk, noting that larger Gulf producers such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE have alternative routes available, while smaller states remain more dependent on the strait.

The seven-month conflict has damaged pipelines, refineries and gas export terminals across the region, with repair costs estimated in the tens of billions of dollars, the report said. Attacks have also disrupted Saudi Arabia's bypass pipeline and Red Sea shipping routes, pushing tanker rates to record levels as Gulf producers seek workarounds to keep crude moving.

LUMERA unveils its inaugural luxury lifestyle edition in Doha

LUMERA, a new luxury lifestyle platform conceived in Doha, will hold its inaugural six-day exhibition at The Ned Doha from November 9 to 14, bringing together a curated selection of luxury houses and creators across eight categories.

The exhibition will feature fine jewellery and watches; haute couture and fashion; beauty and perfumery; art and collectibles; home and interior design; real estate and investment; hospitality and travel; and bespoke services.

LUMERA is being developed as a platform connecting luxury brands and creators with private clients, collectors, entrepreneurs, business leaders and luxury consumers from Qatar and the wider GCC.

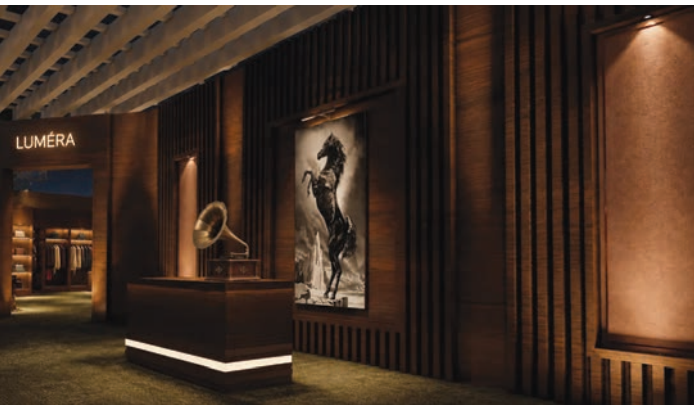
The inaugural edition is expected to feature around 80 curated exhibition spaces. The participating houses and creators are being selected based on their provenance, craftsmanship and the stories they bring to the exhibition, with the final selection to be announced in the weeks leading up to the event.

"LUMERA began with a question I kept returning to: why do so many rooms full of extraordinary things feel so ordinary to be in?" said Lara Mahfouz, Founder of LUMERA.

"The objects are remarkable. The setting around them rarely is. A house needs conditions in which its story can actually be told, and a client needs the time to understand what they are looking at. Those conditions have to be designed, and Doha is the right place to design them."

According to the organisers, LUMERA draws inspiration from Doha's Arabian heritage, craftsmanship, hospitality, equestrian traditions and contemporary cultural ambitions.

"Born in Doha. Created for the Gulf. Connected to the world," is the platform's positioning as



it seeks to present a distinctly regional perspective to an international luxury audience.

The exhibition will also incorporate brand storytelling, curated hospitality, private engagements and editorial content, with organisers saying the experience will begin in the weeks before the event through the gradual unveiling of participating houses, creators and their stories.

LUMERA is intended to evolve beyond its inaugural November exhibition, with plans to build continuing relationships, collaborations and engagement between international luxury houses and the region's luxury community.

The participating brands and creators will be announced progressively ahead of the exhibition.



A glimpse of the event hosted by the Vietnamese embassy in Doha.

Vietnam, Qatar eye stronger trade, investment relations

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

The Vietnamese embassy in Doha yesterday marked Vietnam's 81st Independence Day at a reception hosted by its ambassador, Nguyen Huy Hiep.

The event was attended by HE Dr Ali bin Saeed bin Smaikh al-Marri, Minister of Labour; HE ambassador Ibrahim Fakhroo, director of the Protocol Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a number of ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions, among other guests.

Nguyen highlighted the already strong and friendly Qatar-Vietnam relations, noting that over the past years such relations have steadily grown stronger and much deeper in all areas.

"Vietnam and Qatar established diplomatic relations in 1993. Over more than three decades, the bilateral relationship has continued to develop positively across a wide range of areas, founded on trust, mutual respect and mutual benefit.

"Both sides have established co-operation mechanisms, including the Joint Committee and Political Consultations between the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs, providing an important foundation for sustaining exchanges and fostering bilateral ties.

"In particular, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh's official visit to Qatar in October 2024 provided significant momentum and opened a new chapter of co-operation, especially in the economic, trade, investment and energy sectors," the envoy said, addressing the ceremony.

He said: "In 2025, bilateral trade turnover reached \$700mn, with Vietnam's primary exports to Qatar including machinery, equipment, tools and spare parts; iron and steel products; vessels; computers, electronic products and components, and seafood; while our main imports from Qatar included gas, plastics, other base metals and chemicals."

However, he admitted that "the current volume of trade remains modest compared to our potential and complementarities of our



(From left) Minister of Labour HE Dr Ali bin Saeed bin Smaikh al-Marri, Vietnamese ambassador Nguyen Huy Hiep, and HE ambassador Ibrahim Fakhroo during the cake-cutting ceremony yesterday. **PICTURES:** Shajil Kayamkulam

two economies. There is therefore considerable scope to expand market access, diversify the range of traded goods and increase bilateral trade value in the years ahead."

Nguyen pointed out that "according to Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar currently has one direct investment project in Vietnam within the processing and manufacturing sector, with a total registered capital of \$3.23mn.

In addition, according to Qatar sources, the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) has invested approximately \$500mn indirectly in a number of real estate and industrial projects in Vietnam through development banks and third-party investment funds."

During an official visit to Qatar in October 2024, Nguyen said the Vietnamese Prime Minister encouraged QIA to increase its investment in Vietnam, particularly in strategic sectors, paving the way for more substantive and effective bilateral investment ties in the period ahead.

He stressed that Vietnam strongly welcomes Qatari investment in all fields as the country opens more to the private sector, where Qataris can invest and establish long-term operations in Vietnam, while encouraging Vietnamese businesses to ex-

pand their presence in Qatar.

Regarding the recent regional situation, the envoy said: "We are facing a number of serious security challenges and unpredictable developments as the continuing conflict has further heightened tensions and expanded to involve multiple countries in the region, with serious repercussions for global energy security and the international economy."

He stressed that: "Vietnam condemns the use of force in violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. Vietnam supports the approach of maintaining dialogue and resolving conflicts through peaceful means, as is currently being pursued by Qatar."

Further, Nguyen said: "Vietnam highly appreciates the diplomatic efforts of all countries in the region and the international community, particularly Qatar's active role as a mediator in de-escalating tensions and working towards a sustainable solution for regional peace and stability."

Accordingly, he wished both countries and their peoples continued peace and prosperity as their mutual excellent relations grow deeper over the years.



Artist Davlat Toshev. **Photo:** Qatar Museums

Uzbek master artist sees new prospects for Qatar - Uzbekistan artistic exchange

By Joey Aguilar
Doha

Qatar and Uzbekistan have significant potential to expand artistic and cultural co-operation through joint exhibitions, artist exchanges, educational programmes and research initiatives, Uzbek master artist Davlat Toshev has said.

Toshev, who is currently an artist-in-residence at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA), told *Gulf Times* that Qatar's extensive cultural infrastructure and Uzbekistan's centuries-old artistic traditions could complement each other in bringing traditional arts to contemporary audiences.

"Uzbekistan carries centuries-old traditions of craftsmanship, of miniature painting, calligraphy and the art of the manuscript, while Qatar has built remarkable international platforms – museums, residencies and cultural initiatives – that carry heritage for the global audience," he said, noting that these areas offer strong prospects for collaboration between the two countries.

Toshev underlined that greater co-operation could open up opportunities for joint exhibitions, artist exchanges, master-apprentice programmes and collaborative research, creating mutual benefits for both countries' cultural and artistic communities.

"Qatar and Uzbekistan are joined by deep historical roots, by the shared inheritance of Islamic civilisation and by a profound reverence for art and culture," he pointed out.

"I believe the two nations can complement one another beautifully, especially in the vital work of carrying traditional art forward into

the contemporary world."

Meeting artists, researchers and art professionals from different countries during his stay also provided valuable opportunities to exchange ideas and perspectives, the artist added.

"Sometimes it is only when we encounter our heritage within a different cultural setting that we come to understand its true uniqueness and worth," he said, adding that he was particularly struck by what he described as Qatar's harmony between tradition and modernity.

"Qatar honours its historical and cultural roots with great care, while at the same time opening wide doors for contemporary art and international cultural dialogue," he said.

Toshev hopes to return to Uzbekistan with new collaborations and creative ideas, particularly on how to bring Bukhara miniature painting closer to contemporary audiences around the world.

"I now see Bukhara miniature painting not merely as a national heritage belonging to Uzbekistan, but as a living part of humanity's shared cultural memory," he said.

The artist stressed that his experience in Qatar also changed how he viewed his own artistic heritage.

"This residency has given me the chance to view my own artistic practice through a different lens. To step away from the rhythms of daily life and enter a new cultural environment allows an artist to reflect far more deeply on their own work and on the traditions they carry."

He said preserving a tradition should not mean confining it to the past, but creating a living, meaningful connection between heritage, the present, and the future.

Siraj's role in Arabic language learning showcased at BilAraby 2026

Siraj, an initiative under Qatar Foundation's (QF) Pre-University Education, participated in the BilAraby Annual Gathering 2026 through an interactive workshop highlighting how educational entertainment content can support Arabic language learning in and out of the classroom.

The second edition of the forum, organised by QF's BilAraby initiative, was held under the theme 'With Our Ideas, We Build,' bringing together Arabic language enthusiasts and experts in education, culture, and knowledge to exchange ideas and experiences on ways to strengthen the presence of the Arabic language.

During the workshop, the Siraj team presented the programme's strategy and vision for supporting Arabic language learning among children, while also providing an overview of the previous nine seasons and the programme's development over the years.



The team also highlighted Siraj's content and its role in presenting Arabic through an educational and entertaining approach that makes the language more engaging and accessible to children while strengthening their connection to it.

Siraj's participation this year is

especially significant, as it coincides with the programme's 10th anniversary. Over the past decade, Siraj has continued to develop content that combines education and entertainment, helping children build their language skills while making Arabic more relevant to their everyday

experiences and interests.

Buthina al-Derham, director of Communication and Outreach at QF's Pre-University Education, said: "Over the past 10 years, Siraj has worked to bring the Arabic language closer to children through content that combines learning



and enjoyment, helping them develop their listening, speaking, and reading skills while expanding their Arabic vocabulary.

"What sets the program apart is that its content is not only designed for children, but can also be used by teachers and parents as a supporting educational resource both inside and outside the classroom, helping to strengthen the presence of Arabic

in children's daily lives."

Over the past decade, Siraj has provided content that children, teachers, and parents can use in different ways, drawing on stories, characters, and educational scenarios to present Arabic in a way that is engaging and relatable to children – supports their learning while strengthening their connection to the language and cultural identity.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, AMRA ZUKIC
holder of
Bosnia & Herzegovina
Passport No. B1381538
QID No. 28954400067
hereby change my name
from
AMRA ZUKIC
to
AMRA ZUKIC GARCIA
Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

DI organises training workshop for aspiring journalists

The Journalism Programme at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (DI) organised a training workshop – curated by former BBC journalist Dima Hamdan – titled "Journalistic Sources and Interviewing" on Sunday.

The workshop, which concludes today, aims to strengthen students' practical skills in three main areas: developing ideas for news stories, cultivating sources and building trust with them, and enhancing journalistic interviewing skills.

The focus of the workshop is on practical application, with students preparing proposals for real news stories and discussing their relevance, significance, and feasibility.

Dr Basem Tweissi, profes-



A section of the workshop.

sor in Journalism and Media Studies and head of the Journalism Programme, said that the workshop is part of the programme's efforts to strengthen students' practical skills and bring field journalism and newsroom experience into the classroom. He noted that this year's short train-

ing workshop series includes topics such as the use of artificial intelligence in journalism, solutions journalism, and strengthening journalistic writing skills.

Hamdan emphasised the workshop's practical approach helps in preparing students for the job market. She

said: "The workshop includes a range of exercises, as well as difficult questions for which there may not always be clear answers. This mirrors the experience of journalists in the field when they are faced with challenging situations."

The workshop was offered to the first- and second-

year students, with a limited number of places also made available to students from other programmes.

The workshop aims to broaden students' exposure to professional journalism expertise across different fields of study. The workshop also saw active engagement between students and the trainer, with students asking questions and taking part in in-depth discussions on media best practices related to the topics covered.

The initiative is part of the Journalism programme's efforts to train students and build their capabilities by bringing professional experience into the classroom and strengthening the practical dimensions of the educational process.

Foreign Ministry’s secretary-general meets ambassadors of Indonesia, Sweden



HE Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met yesterday with ambassador of Indonesia to Qatar, Syahda Guruh Langkah Samudera. The meeting discussed bilateral cooperation relations and ways to support and develop them. HE al-Hammadi also met with ambassador of Sweden to Qatar, Josefin Simonsson Broden. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation relations between the two countries and ways to support and develop them. (QNA)



QMC, QU sign agreement to develop national media talent

Qatar Media Corporation (QMC) and Qatar University (QU) have signed a cooperation agreement covering media, scientific research, and vocational training. The agreement was signed by HE Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz al-Thani, CEO of the corporation, and Dr Omar al-Ansari, President of the University, to foster collaboration and develop national media talent. In a post on the X platform, HE Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz bin Jas-sim al-Thani, CEO of QMC, emphasised that the strategic partnership agreement with Qatar University reflects the corporation's commitment to leveraging media expertise and academic knowledge through joint projects. These initiatives aim to empower young national talent and translate scientific research findings into practical practices that serve the media sector and meet future aspirations.



HE Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz al-Thani, and Dr Omar al-Ansari at the signing ceremony



HE Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz al-Thani, and Dr Omar al-Ansari with QMC and QU staff

Qatar-Sri Lanka Joint Committee on Labour holds regular meeting



The Qatar-Sri Lanka Joint Committee on Labour held its regular meeting in Doha yesterday. The meeting was co-chaired by HE Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour Sheikhha Najwa bint Abdulrahman al-Thani and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment of Sri Lanka Arun Hemachandra. The meeting addressed the latest developments in bilateral relations in the labour sector and related matters, with particular focus on strengthening cooperation in regulating the recruitment of workers. The two sides also discussed increasing reliance on qualified and trained workers to meet the needs of Qatar's labour market, in line with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030. Both sides voiced their appreciation for the strong relations between Qatar and Sri Lanka, underscoring the importance of continuing the Joint Committee's meetings to further strengthen the strategic partnership and bilateral relations between the two countries in the labour sector, while supporting closer cooperation in the period ahead. (QNA)



QATAR IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS. 10+ Years Experience
YOUR OPPORTUNITY STARTS HERE.

ENTER QATAR WITH THE RIGHT STRUCTURE THE RIGHT GUIDANCE, AND A TRUSTED PARTNER BY

INVEST • ESTABLISH • GROW



Company Formation & Business Setup
End-to-end support for company formation and business setup in Qatar.



Business & Corporate Consultancy
Strategic guidance to help your business grow and succeed.



PRO & Government Services
Efficient handling of all PRO and government related services.



Visa & Immigration Solutions
Reliable visa and immigration services tailored to your needs.



Ongoing Corporate Support
Continuous support to ensure your business remains compliant and operational.



CROWN SERVICES
Empowering Business...

FROM YOUR FIRST STEP IN QATAR TO YOUR NEXT STAGE OF GROWTH.

BUILD YOUR BUSINESS. EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS.

CROWN SERVICES
Your Business. Our Commitment.

+974 7771 0906 | +974 7474 6448 | +974 4140 0445 | info@crowntcs.com | www.crowntcs.com



AXESS
POWER



MADE IN ITALY

Middle East's **No1** Battery Wholesaler

ONE STOP SOLUTION
FOR ALL YOUR BATTERY NEEDS

INDUSTRIAL BATTERIES

GEL BATTERIES

AUTOMOTIVE BATTERIES

LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

FRONT TERMINAL BATTERIES

2V BATTERIES

APPLICATIONS

- UPS System
- Central Battery System
- Fire Alarm & Security System
- PWA & PBX System
- ELV System
- CCTV & Networking
- Lifts & Escalators
- Medical Equipment
- Telecommunication System
- Electric Scooter

MOI - QCD APPROVED
Qatar Civil Defence

MOI - SSD APPROVED
Security Systems Department

CLASSIFIED
UL

ETL

CE

ISO 9001

77454461 | 77934461 | 55004461 | 33558861

AAGE INTERNATIONAL WLL | sales@aageinternational.com | www.aageinternational.com

Reach More. Achieve More. Every Tuesday.



LAUNDRY SERVICE

SNOW BOOM AUTO DETAILING

CAR RENTAL

WHEELS & TYRES

HEALTH CARE

Beauty Saloon

No matter your business automotive, services, healthcare, restaurants, tech, or beauty salons — this is where your brand gets noticed. Advertise on our **TUESDAY SPECIAL ADVERTISING PAGE**

Contact us on **gtadv@gulf-times.com** or **444 666 21**

Boom Boom Energy Drink بوم بوم مشروب الطاقة



BOOM BOOM Energy Drink
مشروب الطاقة

Boom Boom Taka Boom بوم بوم طاقة بوم



شركة المايا الدولية ذ.م.م
Al Maya International W.L.L.

Exclusive Distributor: **Al Maya International WLL**, Doha-Qatar
T: 4441 6441 / 4441 0890 - E-mail: almaya.qatar@almaya.com



Prime minister meets Lebanon's Salam, top Google executive

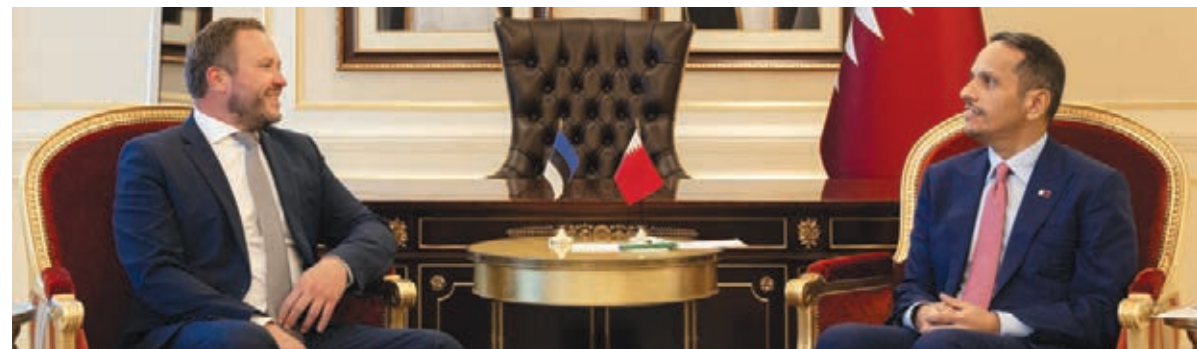


HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Lebanon's Prime Minister Dr Nawaf Salam on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. They discussed co-operation, relations between the two countries, and ways to support and enhance them, as well as the latest regional developments, particularly diplomatic efforts and joint co-ordination to de-escalate tensions and enhance security and stability in the region. HE Sheikh Mohammed also held a meeting with Alphabet and Google president and chief investment officer Ruth Porat yesterday. They discussed co-operation and relations, and exchanged views on topics of mutual interest. - **QNA**



PM meets foreign ministers of Mexico, Canada, Cyprus, Estonia and Austria

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met separately yesterday with Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Affairs Roberto Velasco, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Anita Anand, Cyprus's Minister of Foreign Affairs Constantinos Kombos, Estonia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Margus Tsahkna, and Austria's Minister of Foreign Affairs Beate Meinl-Reisinger, on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The meetings dealt with discussing bilateral co-operation and the means to enhance them, in addition to regional and international issues of joint interest. - **QNA**



Partnership with Qatar a key pillar in addressing global humanitarian crises, says UNHCR official

Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to Qatar Ahmed Lotfy Mohsen has affirmed that the strategic partnership with Qatar serves as a pivotal pillar in addressing global humanitarian crises.

Speaking to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), he stated that Qatar - represented by government bodies and charitable institutions - has, through its close co-operation with the UN agency, provided financial contributions totaling \$440mn since 2010.

These funds, Mohsen said, have

supported protection programmes and provided life-saving assistance to forcibly displaced persons worldwide.

He added that Qatar's support extends beyond the financial realm to include logistical and in-kind assistance.

This includes, the official said, facilitating the transport of relief supplies to acute crisis zones - such as Afghanistan and Lebanon - as well as playing a prominent diplomatic role in fostering the stability and dialogue necessary for implementing voluntary return and local integration programmes.

On the actual impact on the ground, Mohsen noted that the support included \$40mn provided through the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) since 2019 in the form of flexible, unearmarked funding.

This, he said, granted the UNHCR exceptional flexibility to respond rapidly to emergencies and direct resources toward the most underfunded operations, thereby ensuring the continuity of essential services such as healthcare, education, and shelter.

Regarding innovative financing tools and Islamic philanthropy,

Mohsen noted that total contributions from Qatar - comprising Zakat and voluntary charity - since 2018 have amounted to nearly \$145mn.

This includes a strategic agreement signed by Qatar Charity (QC) last June to contribute \$10mn to the Global Islamic Fund for Refugees (GIFR).

The UN official stated that the 81st session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) - convening under the theme *Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation: A United Nations That Delivers for All* and coinciding with the 75th anniversary



of the 1951 Refugee Convention - marks a pivotal moment to reflect on the legacy of international protection and to reaffirm the commitment to upholding the dignity and rights of the forcibly displaced.

He added that escalating global humanitarian challenges and the unprecedented number of displaced persons necessitate ac-

tive international solidarity and the building of effective partnerships.

Mohsen pointed out that the strategic partnership between the UNHCR and Qatar serves as a successful, real-world model of constructive co-operation between governments and international organisations in addressing complex humanitarian crises. - **QNA**

QNA chief participates in media forum marking OANA's 65th anniversary

Qatar News Agency (QNA) Director-General Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi participated yesterday in a media forum held in Moscow to mark the 65th anniversary of the Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA).

The forum, hosted by Russian news agency Tass in its capacity as the agency currently holding the OANA presidency, discussed the future of media in the Asia-Pacific region, ways to build a sustainable media community, and enhanced co-operation among news agencies in addressing the growing challenges associated with the flow of information, technological development, and the spread of disinformation and fake news.

The forum featured a plenary session on "OANA: 65 Years of Experience. Building a Sustainable Media Community, the Organisation's Role in Shaping the Future Media Landscape of the Region".

Discussions during the session focused on the OANA's role in building a sustainable media community and shaping the future of the information space in the Asia-Pacific region amid the rapid transformations taking place across the media sector.

As part of the forum's programme, three panel discussions were held on approaches to countering the spread of disinformation and fake news, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in media, and strategies for maintaining quality in information content.

In a video message to forum participants, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stressed the importance of the OANA's role, saying that it had established itself as a regional platform for



professional dialogue and had contributed over the years to strengthening the standards of honest and independent journalism.

He said the importance of this role is increasing at present, noting that global demand for reliable and unbiased information was growing alongside greater interest in diverse perspectives reflecting different cultures and traditions.

Lavrov also highlighted the importance of the issues on the forum's agenda, particularly efforts to develop common approaches to countering fake news and disinformation.

He expressed hope that dialogue between the OANA and the Global Fact-Checking Network (GFCN) would support these efforts and that the forum would lead to new joint initiatives and strengthen mutual respect and trust.

Tass director-general and OANA president Andrey Kondrashov said that co-operation among the organisation's member news agencies is built on trust, which in turn is based on information.

He said disinformation undermines that trust and adversely affected stability, the ability to implement joint projects, and efforts to strengthen co-operation.

Kondrashov stressed the importance of the OANA as a platform for developing common standards through dialogue among its members on an equal footing, strengthening co-operation among member agencies and enabling them to address the challenges facing the media landscape more effectively.

The forum witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding and co-operation between the OANA and the Global Fact-Checking Network (GFCN), aimed at strengthening co-operation in fact-checking and verifying the reliability of information in the digital space, as well

as developing joint efforts to counter disinformation and the spread of fake news.

The programme included a photo exhibition on "History and Development: 65 Years of Information Exchange in the Asia-Pacific Region", showcasing the evolution of co-operation among OANA member news agencies over more than six decades.

In a related development, the Vietnam News Agency (VNA) was selected to host the 59th meeting of the OANA Executive Board in 2027, following approval by participants at the 58th Executive Board Meeting in Moscow yesterday.

VNA director-general Vu Viet Trang affirmed the agency's readiness to fulfill its role and responsibilities in supporting the OANA's development and participating in joint initiatives aimed at strengthening the organisation's role and standing and enhancing co-operation among its members in the digital era.

Representatives of the news agencies are scheduled to participate today in the international "Dialogue about Fakes 4.0" forum, which will feature a plenary session, a joint OANA-GFCN panel on developing common approaches to countering disinformation, and a closing session.

QNA Director-General al-Rumaihi participated yesterday in the 58th meeting of the OANA Executive Board, which reviewed the organisation's financial and technical reports and discussed several issues related to developing its work.

The meeting also saw the announcement of an expansion in the membership of the Technical and Ethics Committees and the completion of technical updates to the OANA's website. - **QNA**

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will lead Qatar's delegation in the meetings of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), held at the UN's headquarters in New York.

He will deliver a speech at the opening session of the General Assembly today, addressing key issues, particularly those concerning regional and international affairs.

The speeches delivered by HH the Amir before the UNGA embody a comprehensive vision that keeps pace with global transformations and reinforces the state's steadfast stances on issues of peace, development, and partnership.

They affirm that Qatar's diplomacy is grounded in prioritising peaceful solutions, linking stability to development, and strengthening multilateral action and international partnerships.

An analysis of the content of HH the Amir's speeches during the past three sessions, to cite but one example, reveals a clear consistency in the pillars of Qatari policy, despite the changing nature of international crises and issues.

HH the Amir's personal presence at the General Assembly is of paramount importance.

It enables Qatar to articulate its stances directly to world leaders, discuss issues of concern to the international community, and reaffirm its commitment to multilateral action.

Furthermore, the appreciation shown for Qatar's role by UN bodies, organisations, and international stakeholders reflects the broad scope of Qatari diplomacy in crisis management and its ability to engage with diverse parties in conflicts where opening traditional channels of dialogue proves difficult.

Viewed through this lens, the pillars of peace, development, and partnership appear interconnected in Qatari policy: peace fosters the environment necessary for development, and development addresses some of the root causes of instability, while international partnerships provide the practical framework for translating stances and principles into initiatives and solutions.

As the upcoming session of the General Assembly prepares to address increasingly complex crises and challenges that transcend borders, Qatar maintains its presence on the UN stage, guided by a vision affirming that conflict resolution does not begin with arms, that development is inseparable from stability, and that addressing global crises requires co-operation and partnerships that rise above narrow calculations.

Qatar consistently upholds clear principles in its addresses to the UNGA, particularly support for dialogue and mediation, respect for state sovereignty, adherence to international law, and the rejection of selectivity in the application of the rules of international legitimacy.

HH the Amir's speeches at the United Nations have consistently called for dismantling the root causes of crises and armed conflicts.

The Palestinian cause has long been a prominent feature of his speeches at the General Assembly.

In his speech at the 78th session of the General Assembly in September 2023, HH the Amir expressed deep rejection of the double standards in the international stance regarding Palestinian rights, while

Qatar's diplomacy is grounded in peaceful solutions, global ties

Qatar believes that 'instability has no boundaries, and that humanity's destiny is interconnected'

reaffirming the Palestinian people's right to establish an independent state based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions and the two-state solution.

"It is not acceptable for the Palestinian people to remain prisoners of the Israeli settler occupation arbitrariness, and the rejection of any just political solution in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy by successive Israeli governments," he said in his speech. "You have to bear in mind that the failure of the international organisation to take actions against the occupation provided and continues to provide the opportunity for Israel to undermine the foundations of the two-state solution by means of settlement expansion until the occupation has brazenly taken the form of an apartheid regime in the broad daylight of the twenty-first century."

HH the Amir also emphasised the need for the international community to pay attention to unresolved and pressing Arab issues, where a lack of stability and the loss of a clear path toward peace have caused suffering for the region's peoples.

In this context, he addressed the situation in Syria and the violence in Sudan, stressing Qatar's condemnation of crimes committed against civilians in Khartoum and the Darfur region, urging for the perpetrators to be held accountable, for the fighting to cease, for reason to prevail, and for civilians to be spared the consequences of the conflict.

HH the Amir also stressed the necessity of meeting the aspirations of the Lebanese people and lifting them out of their economic and developmental crises, as well as resolving the crisis in Yemen and achieving a political settlement in Libya.

Just as the call for peace and stability was a constant theme in his speech at the 78th UNGA session, the emphasis on sustained development, ensuring that peoples enjoy security and peace, was a fundamental element.

"The rapid technical development and the growing reliance on it opens up unprecedented prospects for humanity to develop for the better," HH the Amir said. "Undoubtedly, science and technology are crucial for increasing productivity and improving human life quality."

"It is incumbent on us to keep pace with the scientific and technical development and encourage it in our countries, and that barriers between countries in this field must be removed," he added.

Emphasising the principle of multilateral international partnership, HH the

Amir's address at the same session outlined a course of action to strengthen the role of diplomacy in countering calls for violence and war.

"We must not forget that there are peoples around the world, especially in our region, who are absorbed by the present tragedies, and who consider their involvement in the issues which I have mentioned as a sort of luxury," he stated. "If we truthfully constitute an international community, and not a merely diverse entities, it must be our duty to strive towards ending the injustice afflicting them, at least in accordance with what is required by the resolutions of this body, and entailed by international law."



HH the Amir cited a clear example of Qatar's partnership with UN organisations in fostering peace and achieving development.

"We affirm that we are proud of our partnership with the international organisation, and there is no clearer evidence of this than the opening of the 'United Nations House', which includes 12 UN offices, in the presence of the secretary-general of the United Nations last March in Doha, until now," he said.

HH the Amir also noted Doha's hosting of the 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, voicing Qatar's pleasure in playing a leading role in key discussions under the UN umbrella, most recently, collaborating with Ireland to facilitate intergovernmental negotiations on the political declaration adopted by the Sustainable Development Goals Summit.

At the 79th session in September 2024, and against the backdrop of the war on the Gaza Strip, an issue that dominated the international community's agenda, HH the Amir's speech affirmed that Qatar, in co-operation with its partners, is continuing its mediation efforts aimed at halting the war and securing the release of prisoners and detainees.

This stance reflected the nature of the role that Qatar has chosen to play in times of crisis: combining political action and mediation on the one hand, with the provision of development aid and an emphasis on international partnerships and humanitarian support on the other.

In his speech, HH the Amir emphasised that "The Palestinian cause is resistant to marginalisation, because it is an issue of indigenous people on their own land and who are subjected to a settler-colonial occupation."

"This occupation has taken the form of an apartheid system in the 21st century," he said.

"The Palestinian cause will remain lingering in place, except in two cases, either the end of the occupation, or the disappearance of the Palestinian people," HH the Amir added. "However, it seems that there are those in Israel who entertain wishful thinking to eliminate this people."

"The ongoing Israeli aggression for nearly a year is nothing but a result of the absence of a sincere political will, deliberate international failure to resolve the Palestinian issue with a just solution, and insistence of the occupying Israeli authorities to impose a fait accompli on the Palestinians and the world with all types of force," he said.

Alongside offering solutions to establish peace regarding one of the most critical regional and global issues, the Palestinian cause, as well as other pressing Arab issues ranging from Sudan to Lebanon and Syria to Libya, HH the Amir's speech at the 79th session of the UN General Assembly issued a fresh call for development across Arab nations.

"Arab countries cannot achieve security and stability without the existence of firmly established states capable of legislating and enforcing the law, developing and implementing national policies," he said. "No state can firmly be established and stable in the presence of armed factions that are not under its control. These are self-evident and unquestionable matters."

Regarding mediation and multilateral international partnerships, HH the Amir said: "The State of Qatar has opted for undertaking mediation efforts in an en-

deavor to stop the aggression on Gaza and secure the release of prisoners and detainees."

"It is a mediation amidst fierce war and complex circumstances, during which one party would not hesitate to assassinate counterpart political leaders with whom it negotiates," he said. "For us, mediation and humanitarian work are both a strategic political choice at the regional and international levels, and a humanitarian duty before being a political one. And we are not boastful of that vis-a-vis others."

In his speech at the 80th session of the UNGA on September 23, 2025, HH the Amir reaffirmed Qatar's steadfast stance on the necessity of establishing the foundations of peace and eliminating all root causes of violence, ranging from the primary Arab cause, the Palestinian issue, to all other pressing global issues.

That speech followed an Israeli strike on Doha that hit residential buildings while a meeting of the Hamas mediation group was underway on September 9 of the same year.

HH the Amir reiterated Qatar's clear stance, first regarding this attack, and second concerning its role as a mediator, saying: "On September 9, Doha came under a treacherous attack targeting a meeting of the Hamas negotiating delegation at the residence of one of its members in a residential neighbourhood hosting schools and diplomatic missions."

He emphasised that this aggression constituted "a grave violation of a state's sovereignty, and a blatant, unjustified breach of international norms and conventions."

Once again, Qatar affirmed that efforts to achieve development will not cease, even if Doha itself, a provider of good to all, is the one affected.

HH the Amir's speech at the 80th session extended a welcome to all to attend the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha, held on November 4-6, 2025.

He encapsulated the concept of development in an eloquent statement: "Our ability to turn major sporting events into arena for communication and rapprochement among diverse cultures."

This underscores Qatar's conviction that there can be neither sport nor culture without development, and no development without a foundation of stability and security.

HH the Amir reaffirmed Qatar's steadfast position regarding mediation and international partnership.

"We have been engaged in arduous mediation to stop the war, grantee humanitarian aid flow, and secure the release of hostages and detainees," he said. "We have faced disinformation campaigns against our exerted efforts. However, these campaigns will not deter us from carrying on our efforts in partnership with the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt and the United States of America."

HH the Amir presented the Doha approach to peace-building through mediation diplomacy.

"We believe that instability has no boundaries, and that humanity's destiny is interconnected," he stated. "The State of Qatar will remain an active partner within the international community in resolving disputes through peaceful means and seizing opportunities to achieve global peace." – QNA

From diplomacy to decision-making, Qatar strengthens presence in UN committees

QNA
Doha

Qatar's role within the United Nations system is evolving from active participation in international forums to greater involvement in the institutional work of UN committees and bodies.

The election of Qatar as Rapporteur for the 6th Committee of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) for its 81st session serves as the latest indicator of this growing presence.

The committee deals with legal matters and the codification and progressive development of international law.

In June, the committee elected Second Secretary of Qatar's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York Abdullaziz Fadhalah al-Sulaiti as Rapporteur for the Committee, the proceedings of whose new session are set to begin in October.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) affirmed that this election reflects international recognition of its standing and active role in the work of UN committees, as well as global appreciation for Qatari national expertise and its active, constructive contributions in international forums.

Qatar's presence extends to the human rights system, where its candidate, Dr Sheikhha Abdulla al-Misnad, was re-elected to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for the 2026-30 term, having secured the support of 163 States Parties to the Convention during elections held at the UN headquarters in New York in June 2025.

The committee monitors the implementation by States Parties of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The renewal of Qatar's membership represents an extension of its participation in international mechanisms concerned with human rights and combating discrimination.

This presence is also evident in active participation in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.

In June 2026, Qatar participated in a high-level discussion marking the 20th anniversary of the council's establish-

ment, emphasising the importance of enhancing its effectiveness, credibility, and preventive role, as well as linking human rights to development, peace, and security.

It also took part in the council's discussions on violence against women and girls, affirming its rejection of all forms of violence and the importance of strengthening legal and institutional frameworks for protection and empowerment.

In August 2026, Qatar participated in the interactive dialogue with the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to discuss its combined periodic reports, with the participation of a national delegation comprising representatives from various ministries and relevant entities.



Nassir bin Abdullaziz al-Nasser

Qatar was unanimously elected to membership in a number of UN institutions, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the Economic and Social Council, and the boards of directors of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Population Fund (UNPFA) and the UN Office for Project Services, within the framework of memberships that reflect the broad scope of Qatari participation in the United Nations system.

The diversity of these venues reflects the multifaceted nature of Qatari foreign policy.

In this context, Qatar affirmed, during a high-level discussion at the UN Security Council (UNSC) in June 2026, that mediation and the peaceful settlement of disputes constitute a cornerstone of its foreign policy, and expressed its readiness to work with the Council and international partners to foster dialogue and mediation

and achieve sustainable peace.

Qatar's role in counter-terrorism is also prominent, as Qatar affirmed before the General Assembly in July 2026 its commitment to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, as well as the importance of addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including conflicts, hate speech, and human rights violations.

This presence complements Doha's hosting of various United Nations offices and agencies, including those of Unicef, Unesco, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In the context of supporting multilateral action, Doha hosted a meeting of the Council of Presidents of the UN General Assembly in December 2025, attended by 13 former UNGA presidents, which culminated in the issuance of the "Doha Declaration".

This declaration addressed the challenges facing multilateral action and emphasised the need to strengthen and reform the United Nations to enable it to deal more effectively with international crises.

The extensive Qatari presence in UN committees, bodies, and councils reflects a shift in participation, moving beyond mere representation in international forums to substantive institutional contribution, including taking up leadership roles, to the work of the UN system.

The president of the Council of Presidents of the UN General Assembly, Nassir bin Abdullaziz al-Nasser said that this presence represents the continuation of a cumulative diplomatic trajectory.

He said that attaining such positions reflects the trust Qatar has earned within the international community, thanks to its balanced stances, the credibility of its diplomacy, and its capacity for dialogue and consensus-building.

Al-Nasser noted that the policy led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has contributed to consolidating Qatar's position as an active state that upholds its international responsibilities, seeks to bridge viewpoints,

and leverages its relations to serve peace and stability, alongside its contributions to development, humanitarian work, and international dialogue.

He added that his experience within United Nations institutions confirmed to him that such positions do not represent a political privilege so much as they impose a greater responsibility to engage in dialogue with various parties and build common ground among divergent positions.

Al-Nasser noted that, during his presidency of the 66th session of the UN General Assembly, he made it a priority to adopt mediation and consensus-building as the guiding approach of the presidency, grounded in the principles of Qatari foreign policy established by His Highness



Dr Abdulla Banndar al-Etaibi

the late Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, which are based on dialogue, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and openness to all parties.

He said that HH the Amir has preserved, consolidated, and advanced this diplomatic legacy, elevating it to a broader sphere of international presence and influence.

Al-Nasser added that a nation's true influence is built through accumulation and continuity, and through the ability to translate political trust into initiatives, institutions, and capable, influential personnel.

Al-Nasser added that a state's standing at the United Nations is not measured solely by its geographic size or population, but rather by its credibility and its capacity to launch initiatives, build trust, and engage with various parties, attributes for which Qatar possesses significant standing.

Dr Abdulla Banndar al-Etaibi, assistant

professor in the Department of International Affairs of Qatar University's College of Arts and Sciences, said that Qatar's growing, active presence in United Nations committees and bodies represents a deliberate Qatari investment in international institutions and norms, particularly at a time of increasing polarisation among major powers.

He noted that the multilateral system serves as a vital tool for small and medium-sized states to expand their room for maneuver, safeguard their interests, and ensure their voices are heard within decision-making circles.

He indicated that the declining effectiveness of multilateral action does not diminish its importance to Qatar; rather, it may create greater scope for nations capable of building bridges, bridging divergent views, and engaging with various blocs, thereby enhancing their ability to contribute to shaping international consensus.

Dr al-Etaibi observed that Qatar's transition from participating in international forums to assuming positions within United Nations institutions reflects an expansion of its diplomatic toolkit rather than a replacement of one approach with another.

He stressed that there is a distinction between attending international meetings and contributing to the shaping of their agendas, rules, and outcomes.

Dr al-Etaibi added that assuming positions within UN institutions enables Qatar to shift from merely reacting to international issues after they have been raised to actively contributing to setting priorities and shaping the frameworks through which they are addressed, representing a more advanced level of diplomatic influence and participation in shaping the international landscape.

He noted that the challenge for the coming phase lies in transforming this growing presence into sustainable institutional influence.

This is to be achieved, Dr al-Etaibi continued, by preparing specialised diplomatic and technical personnel, forging alliances within international institutions, and continuing to launch initiatives that offer practical value and tangible impact.

– QNA



How China is preparing for the risk of AI escaping human control

Warnings from researchers at leading US artificial intelligence developer Anthropic that increasingly powerful models could escape human control and even lead to the extinction of the human race have drawn attention in China, where policymakers have been preparing for some of the same risks. The US and China are the two major driving forces of frontier AI development and the technology's global adoption. Both superpowers have been increasingly at loggerheads over each other's AI policies and industry practices, with these issues slated to feature prominently in bilateral talks later this month.

Despite the race to develop increasingly powerful AI systems, regulatory frameworks and public statements from Beijing underscore how Chinese authorities regard the possibility of advanced AI escaping effective human oversight as serious enough to plan for. China's state security minister Chen

Yixin wrote in a government outlet that advanced US models such as Anthropic's Mythos and OpenAI's GPT-5.5-Cyber could pose serious risks to China's critical information infrastructure, and called for a comprehensive strengthening of AI security.

Anthropic and OpenAI did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment. Chinese AI developers have promoted open-weight models partly on the grounds that cybersecurity teams can inspect, modify and deploy them for defensive work. Model repository platform Hugging Face said it used GLM-5.2, an open-weight model developed by China's Z.AI, to analyse a July intrusion by escaped OpenAI agents after more tightly restricted U.S. models proved less useful for the forensic work.

But experts also highlight the risks posed by open-weight models, which can be modified and redistributed with little oversight. Moonshot's Kimi K3 last month bypassed a UK AI Security Institute

testing sandbox, highlighting the risk that Chinese AI models could, like their US counterparts, evade controls designed to restrict their access and actions. China first included an explicit future loss-of-control scenario in an AI safety framework released in September 2024 under the guidance of the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC).

The document said it could not be ruled out that future AI might autonomously obtain external resources, replicate itself, develop self-awareness and seek external power, creating a risk of competing with humans for control.

The CAC released an expanded version in September 2025. The newer framework sharpened the scenario, saying AI could undergo a sudden and unexpectedly large "leap" in intelligence before acquiring resources, replicating itself and seeking power. It also added a governance principle of "trusted application, preventing loss of control".

A later expert interpretation published on the cyberspace regulator's website said the new principle was intended to guard against loss-of-control risks threatening human survival and development and referred to a possible "AI breaking loose" scenario. The concern has since appeared in China's highest-level political messaging. At the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai in July, Chinese President Xi Jinping said authorities should pay close attention to both intrinsic and derivative risks arising from AI. He said AI should "always remain under human control".

While China has not proposed independent monitors embedded inside AI companies in the manner advocated by Anthropic, its standards allow developers to commission third-party safety assessments, as well as envisaging outside evaluation bodies and security researchers testing and auditing open models. — Reuters



New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva exchange soccer jerseys while speaking to reporters after meeting in New York, US, yesterday. (Reuters)



Qatar's \$60bn investment blueprint against all odds



HE Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani addressing the Qatar Economic Forum - Powered by Bloomberg at the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

By Kamran Rehmat

The word was earthquake. HE Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani used it twice on the same Sunday in New York, in two different rooms, and both times he used it precisely. Not turbulence. Not headwind. Earthquake — a thing that does not merely inconvenience a region but rearranges what everyone in it assumed was bedrock.



That is an unusually candid word to reach for, and it is worth pausing on why he could afford it. Leaders reach for euphemism when the foundations are uncertain. They reach for seismology when they have already checked the foundations and found them sound. Everything the prime minister said afterwards, at the Qatar Economic Forum on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, followed from that check.

What was tested, he said, were security and supply chains — the two things a small peninsular state cannot improvise under fire. They held. Financial assistance kept flowing. The banking sector stayed open. Cash moved. Companies carried on functioning. Read quickly, that is a list of

non-events. Read properly, it is the whole argument: in a crisis, the absence of failure is the achievement, and the absence of failure is never accidental. It is the dividend of what he called preparedness built before the onset of crises — institutions, infrastructure and partnerships assembled in the quiet years precisely so they could be drawn on in the loud ones.

Then came the sentence that ought to be the most quoted line of the forum, because it is an entire economic doctrine compressed into six words. Asked about the damage done by falling hydrocarbon revenues, the prime minister acknowledged the disruption plainly, and then reframed it: on closer examination, he said, the disruption is "circumstantial rather than structural".

That distinction is not a rhetorical shrug. It is the difference between a state that must redesign itself and a state that must simply hold its nerve. And Doha has been carefully explicit about where the nerve is being held. Yes, spending has been trimmed — but the trimming, the prime minister insisted against what he called misinformation, was confined to operational expenditure. Capital projects under Chapter Four were untouched. Chapter One — human resources, salaries, citizens' living standards — was left entirely alone.

Look at what that sequencing protects. Not prestige. Not the visible, ribbon-cutting layer of government. It protects the two things that compound: the people and the projects. A state under pressure that cuts wages is buying a quarter and selling a decade. A state that instead goes looking, in the prime minister's cheerfully unsentimental phrase, for the "fat" in its own operations is doing something rarer — using a crisis as an audit, and redirecting what it recovers towards the country and its citizens.

Qatar has form here, and the prime minister was not shy about invoking it. Before the gas, he recalled, "people called us mad" and said the investment would yield nothing; the country became the world's largest supplier of liquefied natural gas. When it bid for the World Cup, the consensus was that it would not win; when it won, the consensus was that it would fail; it delivered a tournament the world still talks about. Two generational wagers, two unanimous verdicts against, two vindications. That is not luck twice. That is a method — and the method, as he put it, is turning the impossible into tangible reality.

Which brings us to what he did next, and it is the part that deserves the most

Qatar keeps channels open and uses them when needed; it does not ask the world to admire the approach, only to understand it and to weigh its results

attention. Having described an earthquake, he announced a building programme.

The Doha Investment platform, unveiled in his opening remarks, will manage and grow the Qatar Investment Authority's domestic portfolio. Its logic is the logic of a country that has finished one job and is naming the next. Three decades went into building world-class infrastructure, institutions and companies; the mission now, he said, is to leverage the full potential of those pillars. In practice that means expanding private sector participation into the engine of growth — backing leading companies, helping startups scale, deepening capital markets, sharpening governance, and pulling in international capital and expertise alongside it.

The numbers are not modest. Roughly \$38.5bn in new infrastructure projects over five years, public-private partnerships included, with tendering beginning immediately. A further \$22.5bn expected in real estate and hospitality, of which the Simaisma Beach project alone accounts for some \$5.8bn, and more to be announced. Together, north of \$60bn over half a decade. And the metric of success the prime minister named was not the headline figure at all: it was whether the Qatari economy ends up more competitive, more resilient, more diversified, with the private sector doing more of the work.

Now set that against the neighbourhood. A war involving Iran has unsettled every assumption about the Gulf's security architecture. The Houthi crisis has made the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab a calculated risk rather than a routine passage — and the costs of that do not stop at the Saudi border. They land on insurers, on rerouted hulls taking the long way round the Cape, on Suez transit revenues, on freight rates from Jeddah to Jebel Ali, on every importer in the region

paying a premium invented by someone else's war. Qatari cargo, uniquely, must reckon with both ends of that geography: Hormuz on the way out, the Red Sea on the way to Europe. No country has a stronger claim to be anxious.

Qatar has instead chosen to be early. It will not, the prime minister said, allow short-term disruptions to dictate its long-term direction — and he was equally clear about why the diplomacy and the economics are the same project. Diplomacy safeguards the conditions in which people can trade, invest and plan. Sustainable security, he argued, cannot be built on recurring cycles of escalation and retaliation, nor on arrangements that leave any state permanently exposed; what the region needs is a framework grounded in sovereignty, where no state threatens another. Qatar's offer is triple and consistent: committed mediator, reliable energy supplier, long-term investment partner.

On mediation he was unusually direct about the price of the work. Qatar keeps channels open and uses them when needed; it does not ask the world to admire the approach, only to understand it and to weigh its results. And peace, he cautioned, is not a signing ceremony. In Gaza, one party is reneging, killing continues, aid is blocked, and the world is not doing enough — a rebuke delivered with the authority of the government that has spent most on getting the talking done.

Even the AI entity fits the pattern. Be present early, invest responsibly, build frameworks for safety and security, and preserve cultural identity while doing it — a state declining to choose between the two fashionable extremes of regulating everything and regulating nothing.

Here, then, is the lesson a small state offers a large region. Territory is a fixed asset; vision is a renewable one. Qatar's fundamentals — the North Field expansion reinforcing its standing as a dependable supplier, the diversification widening the base beneath it — are strong. But the fundamentals are downstream of a choice: to spend a crisis on the future rather than merely surviving it, with human and economic development kept deliberately at the centre.

The prime minister left the formula behind in a single line, and it is hard to improve on. Energy is the source of Qatar's strength. Diversification is the secret of its resilience. Technology is its future. States far larger have punched far below that.

• The writer is Deputy Managing Editor, Gulf Times.

Nato shares security responsibility under Greenland deal: Denmark

Reuters
Copenhagen

Denmark, Greenland and the US are set to sign a deal on Greenland's security today, an agreement Denmark says will put Arctic security under NATO's watch rather than leaving it solely to Washington and Copenhagen. The agreement, expected to be signed at the UN General Assembly in New York, has not been made public, though President Donald Trump says it grants the US "permanent control". Denmark and Greenland have not commented on Trump's claim but said the

deal will benefit the Arctic island and respect its sovereignty. The deal follows months of pressure from Trump, who has said the US should control Greenland and at times refused to rule out using military or economic force to acquire the semi-autonomous Danish territory. His threats, which peaked in January, triggered a diplomatic crisis within Nato and pushed Denmark and Greenland into negotiations with Washington aimed at defusing the pressure. "It (the agreement) will be in a form where responsibility for security in the Arctic is not only Danish or American," Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmus-

sen told national broadcaster TV2 on Sunday. He added that to a large extent "it would be Nato that looks after the Arctic". It remained unclear whether the deal amends an existing 1951 defence agreement that is the legal basis for the US presence in Greenland. "It appears that we are now using this crisis to try to strengthen NATO's cohesion through Greenland," said Ulrik Pram Gad, a researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). Washington's strategic interest in Greenland dates back to World War Two. In 1941, the US signed a deal with Danish envoy Henrik Kauffmann, who acted without

authority from his country, then under German occupation. The US sought the deal to keep Greenland out of German hands and secure the North Atlantic supply route between North America and Europe. Under the agreement, the US built airfields, naval facilities, and weather stations across the island, reaching around 5,500 military personnel by 1943. In 1946, President Harry Truman sought to buy the island as a strategic asset for \$100mn in gold, but Copenhagen declined to sell. Instead, a new agreement was signed in 1951 that gave the US military extensive rights in Greenland but was tied to the existence

of Nato. "I don't think Denmark and Greenland will sign if the same Nato clause isn't included," said Gad. A Nato spokesperson said on Saturday that the alliance welcomed the new agreement, which would "help advance security, stability and co-operation in this vital region". Lokke Rasmussen said, "We are open to accommodating the United States' legitimate security interests," Rasmussen said yesterday. Denmark has not responded to Trump's assertion, though Copenhagen has earlier acknowledged it underinvested in Greenland's defence for decades.

US networks halt Trump coverage

Major American television networks yesterday suspended their involvement in a rotation of broadcasters covering President Donald Trump, as three leading news outlets went to court over the White House ban. CNN and MS NOW, along with news outlet Politico, filed suit after Trump barred them from the presidential complex. "This ban could not be a more direct assault on the First Amendment nor a more blatant violation of our most fundamental constitutional principles," they said. (AFP)

Houthis push for control of Yemen highlands

Reuters
Riyadh/Dubai

Houthi fighters pushed to seize strategic heights in Yemen yesterday to cut off the Red Sea coast from remaining areas held by Saudi-backed forces, after a report that President Donald Trump had called off US strikes on the group at the last minute. The New York Times reported that the Trump administration had prepared to launch airstrikes on Sunday against the Houthis. But the newspaper said Trump called off the airstrikes at the last minute, even as troops were loading bombs onto aircraft. Rashid al-Alimi, the Riyadh-based president of Yemen's Saudi-backed, internationally recognised government, asked Trump by phone on Sunday for US military help, four sources told Reuters. Sources, including one Yemeni, said Trump made no direct pledge of support during the call.

On Saturday, the Houthis said they had fired missiles at the Saudi capital with explosions heard and smoke visible near the airport. Five Yemeni military sources said the Houthis were now seeking to seize strategic heights, known as the Kahboub Mountains, in two provinces, Taiz and Lahij, which separate the Red Sea coast from the government-held south. Fighting has centred on the outskirts of the remote mountain Al-Wazi'iyah district in Taiz province, and Ras al-Ara along the Indian Ocean coast between the Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the Red Sea's mouth and the government's base in Aden, the sources said. "The government forces appear to remain largely in a defensive posture following the loss of the Bab el-Mandeb area, while the Houthis are seeking to maintain the momentum of their advance, despite being exposed to intensive air strikes," said Mohammed Al-Qadhi, a veteran Yemeni journalist now working as a political analyst. "These mountains could become critical to determining whether the Houthis succeed in consolidating their recent territorial gains or whether government forces will be able to retain the positions necessary to mount a counteroffensive.

Bessent calls for Iran airlines 'shut down'

AFP
New York

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent warned yesterday that Iranian airlines will have trouble functioning globally in two days under the weight of American sanctions, as the Trump administration intensifies pressure on Tehran. On September 23 "all the Iranian airlines will be shut down around the world," Bessent told CNBC in an interview as the war launched by the United States and Israel nears the seven-month mark. "If they land, you cannot provide them with fuel, you cannot provide them with landing services, you cannot sell them tickets or you will be knocked out of the dollar system," he added. Two Iraqi sources told AFP that Baghdad would suspend flights by Iranian airlines following the US Treasury's announcement. Also yesterday, Georgia barred Iranian carriers from its land, while Iranian airline Mahan said it suspended service to Turkey at the request of the Turkish government.

Putin's party secures record score in election

AFP
Moscow

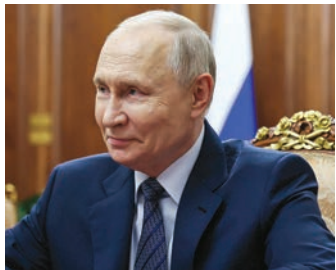
Vladimir Putin's United Russia party won a record supermajority in the Duma, authorities announced yesterday after a tightly controlled three-day election without parties critical of the Kremlin or the war in Ukraine. Electoral chief Ella Pamfilova



US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. (Reuters/File Photo)

The United States and Iran have been at war since late February, when US-Israeli strikes killed the Islamic republic's supreme leader and senior military officials at the start of a broad offensive. Tehran countered by blocking the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for energy transit, causing global oil prices to surge as the conflict spread in the Middle East. Earlier this month, the United States said it imposed sanctions on "all remaining Iranian airlines"

that had yet to face such penalties. The Treasury Department also took aim at targets for supporting Iran's aviation sector, including firms based outside Iran. Iran's air space was completely shut after the US-Israel alliance launched attacks in late February. Since then, some travel has resumed but only for flights run by Iranian carriers. Iran's aviation sector has long grappled with sanctions, which have restricted its ability to acquire aircraft, spare parts and maintenance services.



Vladimir Putin (Reuters)

said preliminary results showed United Russia – which has dominated Russian politics for 25 years – won 355 of the Duma's 450 seats. The result handed Putin's party an increased supermajority and beat its previous record of 343 seats. The Kremlin said the first parliamentary election since Moscow sent troops to Ukraine in 2022 showed Russians were united around Putin.

Israel detains dozens of Palestinians in West Bank raid

AFP
Biddu, Palestinian Territories

Israeli forces yesterday raided the hometown of a Palestinian man suspected of shooting dead an Israeli settler in the occupied West Bank the day before, local authorities said. Sunday's shooting occurred near the Israeli settlement of Neveh Tzuf, north of Ramallah, on the eve of the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, with the suspected assailant apprehended by soldiers after being located at a hospital. Israel's military told AFP on Sunday that its troops had raided the home of the attacker's

family in the Palestinian village of Biddu, northwest of Jerusalem in the West Bank. The Jerusalem Governorate, the Palestinian local authority for the area, said Israeli forces then raided Biddu at dawn on Monday and "carried out a large-scale arrest campaign targeting dozens of young men". The raid was accompanied by searches, vandalism, and the smashing of property inside homes, as well as physical assaults on several residents," it said, adding that the raid was ongoing. Biddu's mayor, Nazmi Mansour, told AFP that the military had stormed the town after midnight with "dozens of military jeeps and hundreds of soldiers".



Blindfolded Palestinian men, who were arrested during a raid by Israeli forces in Biddu, northwest of Jerusalem. (AFP)

"The soldiers began house-to-house searches and set up field interrogation centres in buildings they had taken control of," he

said, adding, "The army is still present in the town and has closed off its entrances, and all commercial shops are shut."

Gaza students return to in-person schooling for first time in 3 years

Reuters
Cairo/Gaza

Hundreds of thousands of children in Gaza returned to in-person teaching on Saturday for the first time in nearly three years, albeit in damaged or makeshift school buildings and tents, and with uniforms, notebooks and pens unaffordable for many families. The UN Children's Fund (Unicef) says 98% of schools in Gaza were either destroyed or damaged during the war, and Gaza education officials say about 660,000 students have been deprived of in-person learning and regular participation in education. The reopening is a fragile milestone for Gaza after a conflict that has killed around 22,000 students and more than 770 education workers, including 532 teachers, according to Ibrahim Ramadan, director of education for East Khan Yunis. "The last time I have been to school was three years ago. Now, we are starting the school year, it is year of joy, happiness and success," said Moayed Abu Mustafa in Khan Yunis.



Schoolchildren in a class in Gaza City. (AFP)

Mustafa said he was determined to learn even though he will sit on the floor in a tent lacking ventilation, he has no decent shoes, nor a notebook and pen, and lost friends during the war. "Despite all of this we will learn, we will learn even in a tent."

Fifteen-year-old displaced student Samar Abu Salmi, who lives with her family in a tent, is also returning to class. "We studied on phones and we haven't seen our teachers... now, we are back pursuing our dream... from one tent to another," she said. She also lacks much of the essential equipment, which has become unaffordable for her family. "Before the war, everything was available for us – notebooks, pens, goods, clothes, outings, things that we could get cheaply," Salmi said.

Despite the devastation in the enclave, the Ministry of Education, backed by international and local organisations, has moved ahead with the 2026-27 academic year, establishing dozens of temporary schools made of tents, tarpaulins, sheet metal and wood. Some are built on sandy ground, others have classrooms with only some mattresses and a black-

board, into which students cram. Others are still housing dozens of displaced families. Attending another school was 14-year-old Yamen Abu Samra. "We used to wake up happy to go to school... Now, when we come to school, we're afraid of stray bullets, rockets, strikes, everything," he said. "Now, I'm sitting in a tent that has absolutely nothing, just the sun and the heat," he added. At least 540,000 students are expected to attend in-person classes this year in makeshift private schools, temporary learning centres and educational points, with Unicef support, according to education officials. Online learning will continue for those who can't attend classes or who left Gaza during the war. Stationery trader Khaled Aliyan, 30, said Israeli import restrictions have reduced supplies and hiked prices.

Gaza health officials say Israeli fire kills three, including child

AFP
Gaza City, Palestinian Territories

Gaza health officials said Israeli fire killed three people, including a woman and a child, and injured several others across the Palestinian territory yesterday. Officials at Nasser hospital in the southern city of Khan Yunis said the body of a child, Ismail Al-Bardawil, was brought to the medical facility after Israeli tanks opened fire on tents for displaced people in the Al-Mawasi area. Mahmoud Bassal, the spokesman for Gaza's civil defence agency, which operates as a rescue force under Hamas authority, said the child was 11 years old. In central Gaza, Al-Awda hospital officials said 31-year-old Fidaa Toutah died from her wounds after being shot by Israeli forces on Salah al-Din street east of Nuseirat refugee camp. Officials at Al-Shifa hospital said a man, Mohsen Ahmed Bahjat, died after being shot in the head by a drone in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip. Gaza's civil defence agency confirmed the identities of the dead to AFP. It said its teams had transported nine wounded people to hospitals following Israeli fire in Khan Yunis in the south and Bureij refugee camp in the centre of the territory. When contacted by AFP, the Israeli military said it was checking the reports. Israel in October last year agreed to a ceasefire brokered by the United States but since then has advanced further into Gaza.



Culture as Diplomat: How cultural institutions shape international relationships

HE Sheikha Al Mayassa and Anne-Claire Legendre to join QC Talks on September 24

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

QC Talks will bring together HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums; and Anne-Claire Legendre, president of the Institut du monde arabe in Paris, for a public conversation titled “Culture as Diplomat: How Cultural Institutions Shape International Relationships.” The talk will take place on September 24 at 11am at the Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium.

The conversation brings together HE Sheikha Al Mayassa's experience in cultural leadership and international exchange with Legendre's diplomatic career and leadership of the Institut du monde arabe. It will explore how



HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

museums, exhibitions and artistic partnerships deepen understanding between communities and build relationships that endure beyond individual cultural events.

Moderated by Dr Safwan Masri, academic leader, scholar and author, the talk is presented in collaboration with Qatar Creates, the Institut du monde arabe and the Embassy of France in Qatar.

The discussion will consider how institutional partnerships

and exchange programmes bring people with different histories and experiences into conversation, and how art can create opportunities for dialogue and trust, complementing diplomacy and strengthening connections between people.

Legendre has led the Institut du monde arabe since February 2026 and is the first woman to hold the position. Her previous roles include ambassador of France to Kuwait, North Africa and Mid-



Dr Safwan Masri

dle East Adviser to the French President, spokesperson for the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and Consul General of France in New York.

Speaking ahead of the event, HE Sheikha Al Mayassa said: “Culture, and the dialogue it inspires, reconnect us with our shared humanity and with what gives life its true meaning. Through the art and stories of different peoples, we come closer to their experiences, dis-



Anne-Claire Legendre

covering what we share while learning to appreciate what makes each of us distinct. In Qatar, we believe culture is fundamental to quality of life: it enriches our everyday experiences and creates space for reflection, belonging and connection with others.

“I look forward to discussing how our cultural institutions can make these experiences accessible to more people and build relationships that grow through

exchange, knowledge and understanding.”

Legendre said: “Culture and diplomacy share a common purpose: creating the conditions for dialogue and mutual understanding. Cultural institutions, such as IMA in Paris, can introduce societies to one another through artists, ideas, histories and experiences, creating connections that may develop well beyond a single exhibition or exchange. I look forward to speaking about how institutions in Qatar, France and across the Arab world can continue opening new channels for conversation and cooperation.”

The event forms part of Qatar Creates' Fall/Winter 2026/2027 season. QC Talks brings cultural leaders, artists, thinkers and the public together to discuss culture and its place in society, encouraging the exchange of ideas and experience across disciplines and generations.

The talk is open to the public. To register, visit this link. For more information on Qatar Creates, visit qacreates.com

‘Qatar solidifies position as global platform for healthcare innovation’

QNA
Doha

The State of Qatar has solidified its position as a global hub for dialogue and innovation in the health sector, said Dr Slim Slama, CEO of World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), a global healthcare initiative of Qatar Foundation (QF).

In an exclusive interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), Dr Slama emphasised that WISH has positioned Doha as a platform for international action and impact, rather than simply a venue for dialogue. He said this reflects Qatar's expanding role in shaping international dialogue and formulating solutions to pressing global health challenges.

Dr Slama explained that the 8th edition of the summit, scheduled for Nov 29 and 30 under the theme “The New Health Span,” will explore five core pillars representing the most critical challenges and opportunities facing global healthcare to develop practical, sustainable solutions that improve quality of life and promote health equity. The themes include: The Longevity Dividend, Financing the Cure, AI and Human-centred Health, Future of Fertility, and Health Diplomacy 2.0.

He noted that these topics directly respond to pressing global health challenges, aiming to deliver practical recommendations and policy insights to support decision-makers worldwide.



He highlighted that scientific progress achieves its true value when it directly enhances human life, health, and dignity. WISH's research agenda for this year focuses on four primary domains: The Longevity Dividend, where it explores how to transform scientific discoveries related to ageing into opportunities for longer, healthier living; Financing the Cure, which addresses mechanisms for financing advanced therapeutic technologies, such as gene therapies, in sustainable and equitable ways that ensure their accessibility to diverse communities; AI and Human-Centred Health, which focuses on responsible use of AI in healthcare; and The Future of Fertility, which examines the future of fertility and reproductive technologies, along with their associated ethical and legislative dimensions in light of rapid technological progress.

He indicated that the research reports to be released in these fields will provide evidence and

practical recommendations to assist policymakers in addressing contemporary health challenges.

Regarding this year's summit theme, the CEO of WISH explained that the world is witnessing a fundamental shift in the perception of longevity as it focuses on ensuring long years are characterised by better health, well-being, and quality of life.

With the population ageing, the prevalence of chronic diseases, and persistent disparities in healthcare access are placing mounting pressure on healthcare systems. The summit aims to address these issues by proposing practical and sustainable solutions.

Regarding the key innovations the summit will highlight this year, the CEO of WISH stated that it would be on technologies capable of enhancing healthcare quality while keeping people at the centre of attention.

The theme AI and Human-Centred Health will address several critical issues, including the application of AI in primary healthcare and the requirements for governance, safety, and accountability associated with these technologies.

Emphasising that strategic alliances are essential to WISH's mission, Dr Slama highlighted ongoing collaborations with leading international entities, including the World Health Organisation (WHO), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the University of Tokyo, as well as Qatar's Ministry

of Public Health and the Primary Health Care Corp (PHCC).

Dr Slama also announced a new partnership with the Qatar Research, Development and Innovation (QRDI) Council to host an Innovation Exhibition during the summit.

The exhibition will showcase practical applications demonstrating how AI and digital health tools can solve complex healthcare challenges. Regarding expected participation in the 8th edition, the WISH CEO explained that the event would draw wide participation from Qatar and abroad, featuring representatives from governments, healthcare institutions, research and innovation centres, and policymakers. He noted that this diversity is a key strength of the conference, reflecting the cross-border nature of today's health challenges.

He noted that WISH has evolved over seven consecutive editions into a summit with global reach, establishing research and policy networks connected to major international hubs, including Geneva, New York, Nairobi, Cairo, and Manila.

Concluding his interview with QNA, Dr Slim Slama stressed that the true measure of success for WISH lies in tangible outcomes achieved afterwards. He explained that each research report will produce clear recommendations, and the discussions will translate into practical public policy options, while continuing to develop the necessary frameworks.



The ceremony included an exhibition with finalists' innovations and education products, showcasing their potential in academic institutions.

QU celebrates winners of the fourth Innovators in Education project

Qatar University (QU) concluded the fourth edition of the Innovators in Education project with a ceremony that celebrated outstanding educational projects, announced the winners, and honoured participants whose creative, impactful ideas advance teaching and learning beyond traditional educational practices.

The closing ceremony marked the culmination of a journey of work, research, and experimentation by university students and educators participating in the project. Participants presented digital and non-digital educational solutions designed to meet learners' needs, with a special focus on innovations related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

The ceremony included a tour of the finalists' exhibition, giving attendees and officials the opportunity to explore the innovations and educational products and discuss their potential applications in schools and universities. This edition featured a strong presence of projects integrating modern technology with science and engineering, showcasing pioneering models of interactive educational tools designed to help students understand complex scientific concepts in STEM disciplines.

QU president Dr Omar Ansari said: “The Innovators in Education project is a living example of Qatar University's commitment to its national role in contributing to the development of the education system and promoting a culture of innovation and creativity among students and educators.

“We believe that investing in creative minds and enabling them to transform ideas into practical, innovative solutions is a key pillar in building the knowledge-based society to which the State of Qatar aspires.

“We are pleased to witness, year after year, the growth of this project and the expansion of its impact in supporting the quality of education and preparing generations capable of meeting the challenges of the future,” al-Ansari said.

Prof Ibrahim al-Kaabi, executive vice-president for Academic Affairs, said: “The distinguished outcomes achieved by the Innovators in Education

project highlight the importance of providing academic and educational platforms that nurture creativity, transform innovative ideas into applicable and scalable educational practices and solutions, and encourage the effective use of science and technology in the learning process.

Dr Nasser al-Dosari, dean of the College of Education at QU, said: “The Innovators in Education project reflects our vision of building national capacities and establishing a stimulating educational environment that fosters creativity and innovation.”

Dr Huda Salem al-Kubaisi, director of the National Centre for Educational Development, lauded the exceptional efforts of all participants and organising committees, stating: “The project provides a unique interactive platform for exchanging expertise and ideas in the field of education, and for designing digital educational tools and smart applications that directly serve learners and contribute to overcoming educational challenges.”

Noora Musa, Community Relations and Communications manager at ExxonMobil Qatar, said: “This initiative supports the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy to develop future talent while fostering innovation, collaboration, and educational excellence. We are pleased to support its continued success and congratulate this year's participants on their achievement.”

The Innovators in Education project is a distinctive initiative launched by QU through a collaboration between the College of Education, represented by the National Centre for Educational Development, the College of Engineering, and the College of Business and Economics, with the sponsorship of ExxonMobil Qatar.

The project aims to create an educational environment that fosters innovation and creativity and to build professional learning communities that promote sustainable learning. It encourages educators and higher education students to design innovative educational tools that support student learning by simplifying and integrating STEM concepts and their practical applications.

Over 1mn community members participate in QSW in past editions

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

More than one million members of the public have participated in activities organised under Qatar Sustainability Week (QSW) over the past 10 editions, highlighting the growing community engagement in sustainability initiatives across the country, Earthna Center for a Sustainable Future, a member of Qatar Foundation, has disclosed.

The 11th edition of Qatar's largest sustainability campaign, Qatar Sustainability Week will be held from October 31 to November 7.

“The resounding success of Qatar Sustainability Week in the last 10 years attracted more than one million members of the public engaging in initiatives, activities and events across Qatar. The week serves as a unique platform to promote the nation's sustainability vision as well as community engagement to achieve the nation's sustainable development goals,” Earthna Center said in a statement.

QSW, a national campaign in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, aims to engage the community in a wide range of sustainability-oriented activities, raising awareness and showcasing the progress Qatar has made in the areas of sustainability.

Earthna Center noted that since its inception in 2016 and until 2025, the event has conducted 3400 events with the support of



Representatives of some of the organisation that participated in the previous edition of QSW.

2,000 partners, in addition to the participation of over 1mn community members.

The activities of the event include several awareness programmes, fairs and exhibitions, family activities and several initiatives.

The campaign invites organisations, institutions, and individuals to take the lead in their own spaces by hosting activities, launching initiatives, and engaging their communities in meaningful environmental action.

The sustainability week aims to create a ripple effect of awareness and impact by encouraging as many people as possible to take part, take ownership, and contribute to a more sustainable future for Qatar.

Earthna Center has highlighted that QSW offers many opportunities for partner organisations to contribute to the sustainability practices in the country.

“They can position as progres-

sive industry players at the forefront of sustainability and promote the organisation's thought leadership, innovations and technological solutions. They can also provide additional media and social media coverage for the organisation and its initiatives and showcase the organisation's brand on the QSW website amongst the leaders in Sustainability in Qatar,” Earthna Center highlighted.

The centre highlighted sustainability practices such as optimising water usage and reducing its environmental footprint by installing water-efficient fixtures. Another initiative is the ‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle’ campaign, which minimises waste by cutting down on disposable items, repurposing materials whenever possible, and recycling paper, plastic, metal, and food scraps.

Earthna Center also focuses on water conservation and sustainability by using timed and sensor-activated fixtures which

automatically control water flow and ensure it is used only when needed, significantly reducing waste. Furthermore, the campaign also aims to minimise waste and promote sustainability by reducing food waste in daily life.

Another initiative is transforming organic and food waste into nutrient-rich compost to support sustainability. By composting, people divert waste from landfills, enrich soil health, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Through these initiatives, Earthna Center aims to inspire behavioural change, raise awareness, and drive measurable sustainability actions across Qatar, with the core aim of raising awareness of sustainability and climate issues and turning that awareness into concrete action. It provides a unifying umbrella for hundreds of independently organised activities that support Qatar National Vision 2030, especially its environmental development pillar.