

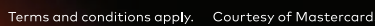
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# GULF TIMES BUSINESS



Commercial Bank is the Official Mastercard Race Partner of the McLaren Mastercard Formula 1® Team at the 2026 Qatar Grand Prix. Offer valid from August 12 to October 12. 20 winners will be drawn on October 18.

**By Peter Alagos**  
Business Editor

**From left:** Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Assistant Undersecretary for Infrastructure and Operations Affairs Sami Mohammed al-Shammari, and Ghassan Kosta, Regional general manager for Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and Iraq at Google Cloud. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam

The Qatar Central Bank (QCB) issued on Tuesday government bonds on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, valued at QR400mn, reports QNA. In a statement, the QCB outlined the varying maturities of the bonds as follows: QR250mn (tap issuance), maturity date September 3, 2028, with a yield of 4.90%; and QR150mn (tap issuance), maturity date August 19, 2031, with a yield of 5.30%. The QCB noted that total bids for the bonds reached QR4bn.

**QNA**  
New York

The partnership supports the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third Financial Sector Strategic Plan by contributing to the diversification of Qatar's financial sector, expanding institutional capabilities and strengthening the country's position as a regional destination for financial services.

# Lesha Bank, GIP sign MoU for global infrastructure investments

**QNA**  
Doha/New York

Lesha Bank and Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP), a part of BlackRock, both active institutional investors in global infrastructure, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen their strategic partnership, with an ambition for Lesha Bank to invest more than \$1bn alongside GIP.

The MoU underscores the shared commitment of Lesha Bank and GIP to expanding their local, regional and global infrastructure investment portfolios, with a particular focus on supporting the GCC's continued infrastructure development and capturing opportunities arising from the region's long-term economic transformation.

The MoU was signed by Group

CEO of Lesha Bank Mohammed Ismail al-Emadi and Chairman and CEO of GIP Adebayo Ogunlesi at the Qatar Economic Forum (QEF) special edition held in New York alongside the UN General Assembly, where Lesha Bank is a participating sponsor of the QEF.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Lesha Bank HE Sheikh Faisal bin Thani Al-Thani said: "This collaboration with GIP marks an important step in our strategy, as infrastructure continues to emerge as a defining pillar of global investment. By combining our regional insight with GIP's international infrastructure expertise, we are well positioned to unlock long-term value for our investors while strengthening the foundations of sustainable, cross-border growth for both institutions."

For his part, al-Emadi said: "We have invested together in a number

of successful assets, including a European airport and midstream infrastructure alongside a global energy major. We look forward to further deepening our partnership as we continue to scale our Global Infrastructure Investments asset class, a key strategic focus for us."

Chairman and CEO of GIP Adebayo Ogunlesi said: "We are pleased to deepen our partnership with Lesha Bank, with whom we share a strong conviction in the long-term outlook for infrastructure investment. We look forward to building upon our successful relationship to pursue compelling investment opportunities together."

Both parties have an established track record of jointly investing in infrastructure assets globally and intend to leverage their relationship to pursue further opportunities to invest together in real assets across global markets.



**The MoU underscores the shared commitment of Lesha Bank and GIP to expanding their local, regional and global infrastructure investment portfolios, with a particular focus on supporting the GCC's continued infrastructure development and capturing opportunities arising from the region's long-term economic transformation**

## Chamber eyes investment prospects in Burkina Faso

Qatar Chamber first vice chairman Mohamed bin Towar al-Kuwari met recently with Kassoum Kiendrebeogo, an official attached to the presidency of Burkina Faso and chairman of Sahal Tech Innovation Lab.

The meeting was held in the presence of Dr Mohamed bin Jawhar al-Mohammed, Qatar Chamber board member, and Amidou Coulibaly, charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Burkina Faso in Qatar.

The meeting discussed investment prospects in Burkina Faso across various sectors, including infrastructure, agriculture, mining, artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, cloud and high-performance computing, cybersecurity, startups, innovation, manufacturing, and technology.

Both officials also discussed the possibility of organising a business forum bringing together the private sectors of both countries to explore areas of cooperation, gain insight into Burkina Faso's investment climate, and learn about the incentives and facilities provided by the government to encourage foreign investment.

Al-Kuwari highlighted Qatar's interest in investing in Africa, which offers promising prospects across various sectors. He noted that Qatar Chamber encourages Qatari investors to explore Burkina Faso, particularly in promising sectors.



**Qatar Chamber first vice-chairman Mohamed bin Towar al-Kuwari and Sahal Tech Innovation Lab chairman Kassoum Kiendrebeogo are joined by Dr Mohamed bin Jawhar al-Mohammed, Qatar Chamber board member, and Amidou Coulibaly, charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Burkina Faso in Qatar, during a recent meeting at the chamber's Lusail headquarters.**

For his part, Kiendrebeogo expressed his appreciation to Qatar Chamber for participating in the STIC'26 Africa Technology Innovation Excellence Forum and Awards, held in Burkina Faso last month under the theme 'AI Solutions for Africa'.

He noted that the event represented an initial bridge between the innovation ecosystems of Burkina Faso and Qatar, and a new step towards developing this relation-

ship into more structured cooperation in the technological, economic and investment fields.

Al-Mohammed underscored Qatar Chamber's participation in STIC'26 as important, noting the interest of Qatari investors in learning more about Burkina Faso's investment climate, as well as the facilities, guarantees, and incentives available to attract foreign investment.

## MoCI, QDB host workshop on governance, risk management and compliance

**QNA**  
Doha

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in cooperation with Qatar Development Bank (QDB) have organised a workshop on governance, risk management, and compliance.

The event was attended by private sector representatives, entrepreneurs, and small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) owners, the Ministry has said, adding that the workshop is part of its joint efforts together with QDB to raise awareness of the importance of adopting best practices in governance, risk management and compliance, and fostering an investment environment conducive to business growth and investment attraction.

This should contribute to diversifying the national economy and enhancing its competitiveness and sustainability, the MoCI has said.

The workshop has covered a number of specialised topics, enabling participants to gain a better understanding of the concepts of governance, risk

management and compliance, and the importance of integrating them to support business sustainability.

It has also introduced participants to the roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders, accountability mechanisms, and sound decision-making practices, while providing them with a practical approach to identifying and assessing risks.

Participants have learned about the key requirements for ensuring that SMEs comply with applicable laws and regulations, as well as ways to translate the principles of governance, risk management and compliance into an integrated corporate framework, with the aim of enhancing institutional performance and building successful and sustainable investment partnerships.

The workshop is part of the MoCI's series of ongoing workshops and initiatives seeking to enhance the performance of the private sector and SMEs and supporting higher levels of efficiency, transparency and sustainability, in line with the objectives of the Qatar National Vision 2030.

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## GWC expands UAE presence, strengthening Qatar's GCC market connectivity

Gulf Warehousing Company (GWC) has expanded its UAE operations with two new subsidiaries, a strategic partnership with Meydan Free Zone and a growing Quick-Commerce network. The developments strengthen an integrated regional presence connecting customers in Qatar with capabilities and markets across the GCC. During the first half of 2026 (H1), GWC expanded its UAE capabilities while operating alternative sea-land and air-land routes linking Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Bahrain during periods of regional disruption. GWC Group's UAE operations, based at National Industries Park, connect businesses in the Emirates with Qatar and the Group's wider GCC logistics network. Building on this footprint and in response to sustained customer demand, GWC Group established two new subsidiaries in the UAE serving the commercial trading and energy sectors. The group also formalised a strategic partnership with Meydan Free Zone, connecting company formation and market entry through Meydan with GWC Group's logistics and distribution network across Qatar and other GCC markets.

During H1, GWC Group operated three multimodal trade corridors across the GCC, including a TIR-enabled air-land route through Hamad International Airport, providing additional options for moving essential goods and customer shipments between Qatar and key regional markets. Sheikh Abdulla bin Fahad bin Jassim bin Jaber al-Thani, GWC Group managing director, said: "The capabilities we have built in Qatar remain the foundation of our regional growth. Our expansion in the UAE forms part of our long-term commitment to building a more connected logistics network across the region. "We will continue investing in infrastructure, advanced logistics solutions and strategic partnerships that support business continuity, expand access to markets and strengthen trade across the GCC." Alongside its UAE growth, GWC Group continued expanding its operations in Oman and Saudi Arabia. In the Sultanate, GWC Group has expanded its freight, contract logistics, cold-chain and cross-border operations, including the completion of one

of the Sultanate's first frozen bulk vessel operations. In the Kingdom, the Group inaugurated GWC Al Nakheel, a Grade-A ambient cross-docking facility in Jeddah, expanding its cold-chain and regional distribution capabilities. Matthew Kearns, GWC Group CEO, said: "What differentiates our proposition is the ability to connect customers in Qatar with capabilities across the GCC rather than serve each market in isolation. By strengthening the wider regional network serving Qatar and key GCC markets, our expanded UAE presence gives them faster, more seamless access to markets and more options for moving and distributing goods across the region." Backed by a regional logistics platform spanning 20 strategic locations across the GCC, a global network extending to more than 120 countries through over 550 freight partners, more than 4mn sq m of logistics infrastructure, and the movement of more than 2mn tonnes of freight annually, GWC Group continues to extend the capabilities established in Qatar across an integrated regional platform connecting the country with the UAE and wider GCC markets.



**From left:** Sheikh Abdulla bin Fahad bin Jassim bin Jaber al-Thani, GWC Group managing director, and Matthew Kearns, GWC Group CEO.



QFZ CEO Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Faisal al-Thani and Emerson Global Sales Group president Judson Duncan during a signing ceremony on the sidelines of the Qatar Economic Forum: UNGA Special Edition 2026 in New York.

## QFZ signs MoU with Emerson to advance Qatar's industrial automation capabilities

Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZ) and Emerson have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to advance cooperation in industrial automation and technical services by establishing a regional operations centre in Qatar's free zones.

QFZ CEO Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Faisal al-Thani and Emerson Global Sales Group president Judson Duncan signed the agreement on the sidelines of the Qatar Economic Forum (QEF): UNGA Special Edition 2026 in New York.

Plans for the proposed regional operations centre cover a range of specialised capabilities, including a flow-metre calibration and service hub with an in-house laboratory for testing and calibrating flow metres used across processing facilities in Qatar and the GCC. The centre would also feature a repair facility and rapid spare-parts service for field instrumentation, strengthening access to specialised technical support across the region.

Further capabilities include the assembly, integration, and

testing of automation and safety systems, alongside a dedicated training center to support technical skills development and collaboration.

The MoU also supports wider ecosystem development through collaboration with Emerson partners, suppliers, research institutions and academia. These efforts will help reinforce industrial value chains, develop Qatari talent and expand access to Emerson's expertise and solutions across Qatar and regional markets.

Sheikh Mohammed said, "Emerson is one of the world's leading global industrial companies, and I am delighted to welcome them to Qatar's Free Zones. This investment in Qatar will enable Emerson to take advantage of significant growth opportunities within the region. This builds upon the free zone's industrial clusters, further bringing together global expertise, advanced technologies and specialised capabilities locally.

"This exciting partnership reflects the strength of the wider relationship between Qatar and

the US, and is a real sign of trust in the ecosystem that we are building locally. This is a key milestone within Qatar's economic diversification, re-enforcing our position as an attractive base for regional & international business"

Duncan said, "This agreement marks an important step in strengthening Emerson's presence and capabilities in the region. Qatar's ambition to advance its industrial and digital landscape, supported by QFZ's integrated ecosystem and strategic connectivity, provides a strong platform for growth.

"We look forward to expanding access to Emerson's automation technologies, services and expertise, while helping customers enhance reliability, efficiency and operational performance."

Through strategic collaborations, QFZ continues to create pathways for industrial innovation, operational excellence and sustainable growth. These efforts reinforce QFZ's value proposition for investors and its role in advancing Qatar's globally competitive industrial ecosystem.

## Qatar Chamber discusses fostering trade, investment ties with Kuwait and Sweden

Qatar Chamber chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani held separate meetings with Ahmed Abdulrahman al-Shuraim, the ambassador of Kuwait to Qatar, and Josefin Simonsson Broden, Sweden's ambassador to Qatar. Sheikh Khalifa and al-Shuraim discussed economic and trade cooperation between Qatar and Kuwait and ways to strengthen it, as well as opportunities for cooperation between the Qatari and Kuwaiti private sectors to support bilateral trade and investment and enhance partnerships between business communities in both countries. Both officials stressed the importance of continued communication between the private sectors and exploring new areas of cooperation that serve mutual interests and contribute to strengthening economic and trade relations between the two countries. Meanwhile, Sheikh Khalifa and Broden discussed economic and trade cooperation between Qatar and Sweden and ways to strengthen it, as well as opportunities for cooperation between the private sectors of both countries, particularly in the fields of artificial intelligence, healthcare, and food security. The two officials also discussed



Qatar Chamber chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani in a meeting with Ahmed Abdulrahman al-Shuraim, the ambassador of Kuwait to Qatar.



Sheikh Khalifa in a discussion with Swedish ambassador Josefin Simonsson Broden.

the possibility of signing a memorandum of understanding between Qatar Chamber and the Swedish Chamber of Commerce, with a view

to developing cooperation between the private sectors of both countries and enhancing mutual partnerships and investments.

## AlRayan Investment marks conclusion of IFN Qatar Dialogues 2026

AlRayan Investment and AlRayan Bank's senior management recently joined Islamic finance and investment leaders at the IFN Qatar Dialogues 2026. Discussions underscored the continued growth of Islamic finance and Qatar's increasing prominence as a regional financial hub.

The unique format of the forum included two 90-minute panel discussions by expert panellists from Qatar and across the GCC, Southeast Asia, and Europe, who deliberated on relevant and pressing topics in the Islamic banking and asset management industry.

The panels covered several industry themes, including Shariah standardisation, the growing role of artificial intelligence, liquidity, investment diversification, and the need for more Shariah-compliant products to further develop the market for investors and corporates.



AlRayan Investment and AlRayan Bank senior management during the IFN Qatar Dialogues 2026.

A session on AlRayan Bank's QR500mn debut green sukuk issuance in 2025 featured Akber Khan, acting CEO of AlRayan Investment, and Tahir Hayat Pirzada, GM Group Treasurer and head of Financial Institutions at AlRayan Bank.

The conversation explored the success of the issuance and what it signals for the future of sustainable Islamic finance, including investor appetite and the challenges that need to be addressed as the market continues to evolve.

## Ahlibank announces platinum sponsorship of QFBA Finance Researcher Award 2026

Ahlibank has announced its platinum sponsorship of the QFBA Finance Researcher Award 2026, reinforcing its support for national initiatives that promote research excellence, innovation and knowledge creation across Qatar's financial sector. Launched by Qatar Finance and Business Academy in 2024, the Finance Researcher Award is a national initiative that recognises excellence in financial research and supports Qatar National Vision 2030. As part of Ahlibank's involvement, Sara Ahmed Fakhroo, head of Human Resources at Ahlibank, is serving as a member of the

board of trustees for the QFBA Finance Researcher Award 2026. Mohamed Mousa al-Namla, chief executive - Human Resources, Administration and Support Services at Ahlibank, said: "The award provides an important national platform to recognise research excellence and encourage knowledge creation in areas that are vital to the continued development of Qatar's financial sector. "Through this sponsorship, we are pleased to support students, academic researchers and emerging talent whose ideas can contribute to the future of banking, finance and financial innovation in Qatar."

**As part of Ahlibank's involvement, Sara Ahmed Fakhroo, head of Human Resources at Ahlibank, is serving as a member of the board of trustees for the QFBA Finance Researcher Award 2026**

