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Doha set to host World Investment Forum on Oct 25

Doha is set to host the 9th edition of the World Investment Forum, organised in partnership between Qatar and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), from October 25 to 27 under the theme Investing in the Future. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced yesterday that the forum will bring together high-level participants, including ministers, senior government officials, CEOs, business leaders, investors, sovereign wealth fund officials, representatives of international organisations, investment bodies, financial and development institutions, and entrepreneurs from around the world. **(QNA) Business Page 1**

Bolsonaro leads in Brazil's poll

Brazil's Flavio Bolsonaro heads to an October 25 runoff election in first place and buoyed by sweeping gains in Congress, leaving President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva with a tough battle to win a fourth term. In a surprise result that defied opinion polls, Bolsonaro finished two percentage points ahead of the veteran leftist Lula and outperformed the first-round election results of his father, the far-right former president Jair Bolsonaro. The 45-year-old Bolsonaro, who was little known until a few months ago, pitched himself as more moderate than his firebrand father. **(AFP)**

Sheikh Khalifa meets Syrian minister

HE the Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani met with Minister of Emergencies and Disaster Management of Syria Raed al-Saleh. The discussions focused on ways to develop joint work in the fields of emergency response, search and rescue, and training, while also supporting Syria in building its national capacities.

Qatari-Saudi forum aims to empower SMEs in light of regional developments

QNA
Doha

As part of efforts to strengthen regional co-operation and support the readiness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to address challenges in the evolving regional and global operating environment, the Qatar Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the Saudi Arabia Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, in collaboration with Qatar Development Bank (QDB), held a webinar entitled 'Empowering SMEs to Adapt to Regional Changes'.

The webinar was held against the backdrop of rapidly evolving regional developments and their impact on supply chains, trade and financial flows. It aimed to highlight key practices, policies and technological solutions at national, regional and international levels that can help SMEs strengthen their operational resilience and ensure business continuity during disruptions.

The workshop covered a number of key areas, including national measures supporting business continuity, mechanisms for regional co-operation to enhance corporate resilience, and

the impact of regional developments on the business environment and supply chains. It also showcased supporting technological solutions that can enhance SMEs' preparedness and ability to respond to changing circumstances, including digital payments, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and smart logistics.

The workshop also focused on sharing best practices and practical experiences aimed at enabling SMEs to strengthen their preparedness and enhance their ability to adapt to changing circumstances and crises. Discussions also explored ways of leveraging technological solutions and regional co-operation frameworks to support business continuity and strengthen operational resilience.

On the occasion, Dr Abdulaziz Khalid al-Ali, Managing Director of the Qatar Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, emphasised that organising the workshop in collaboration with Saudi Arabia Centre for the

Fourth Industrial Revolution and Qatar Development Bank reflects the importance of co-ordinating efforts and sharing expertise to support SMEs in addressing regional developments.

He said: "SMEs represent a fundamental component of the economic ecosystem, and enhancing their ability to adapt to regional changes requires co-ordinated efforts, knowledge sharing, and the effective use of technological solutions and innovative practices. Through this workshop, we seek to provide a platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange on policies, practices and technological solutions that can contribute to strengthening the resilience and business continuity of SMEs."

The workshop forms part of the organisers efforts to strengthen co-operation and knowledge exchange among government entities, the private sector, experts and specialists, while providing an opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with SME resilience. **(QNA)**

US monitoring Siberia plague institute death

The United States is closely monitoring the case involving a laboratory worker who died at a plague research institute in Siberia, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said yesterday. "We're watching and monitoring it closely," Rubio told reporters before leaving for a trip to Europe. "I don't think it's cause for alarm, but it is cause for focus and a cause just to keep an eye on it." A laboratory worker at the Irkutsk Anti-Plague Research Institute of Siberia and the Far East fell ill and died in undisclosed circumstances, prompting authorities to quarantine dozens of people, and the head of Russia's health watchdog to fly to the region. There were conflicting reports about how and where the laboratory worker, whose age was given as 28, had fallen ill, but the authorities said she had died of pneumonia. **(Reuters)**

Turkiye, Pakistan agree to deploy forces in Saudi

Members of Makkah pact activate mutual defence commitments amid Houthi attacks

AFP
Riyadh

Turkiye and Pakistan will undertake a "rapid deployment" of troops to Saudi Arabia as part of a new mutual defence alliance, the three countries said yesterday, as the Gulf kingdom faces escalating attacks from Yemen's Houthis. The three countries in August signed the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement committing them to come to each other's aid in the event one were attacked.

The pact unites Nato's second-largest army, that of Turkiye, with the Islamic world's only nuclear-armed state, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. Their representatives held an emergency meeting in Riyadh yesterday where they noted recent attacks on Saudi Arabia, in particular ones targeting the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah, without mentioning the Iran-backed Houthis by name.

The trio "reaffirmed their unequivocal rejection of any attack or threat against the kingdom's security and territorial integrity", they said in a joint statement. They also agreed "to move immediately to the practical implementation of the collective defence commitments and to take the necessary measures to provide the agreed military forces and capabilities and ensure their rapid deployment in the kingdom."

The statement did not specify what sort of role the troops would fill once in Saudi Arabia.

The kingdom has faced repeated Houthi attacks targeting its cities, oil infrastructure and ships

Pro-govt forces close but yet to recapture Yemen's Mocha

Yemeni military sources said pro-government forces had cut off the only supply route to the Houthi-held city of Mocha yesterday, but stopped short of confirming an official announcement of the port's recapture. The Houthis, who are fighting the Saudi-backed, internationally recognised government, seized the historic port city during a lightning offensive last month, extending their control over all of Yemen's Red Sea coast. Houthis seized Yemen's capital Sanaa in 2014, sparking a brutal civil war that had been frozen since a 2022 ceasefire but reignited in July. The government has announced a major counteroffensive, backed by the Saudi-led coalition that has supported it since 2015. Earlier on Monday, the Aden-based government said its forces "were able to take control" of Mocha, while sweeping operations continued. **(AFP)**

ever since Yemen's civil war flared back to life in July. In September, the group launched a new offensive that seized swathes of territory from Yemen's Saudi-backed government, which on Monday launched a counteroffensive with Riyadh's support seeking to retake all Houthi territory, some of it held for more than a decade.

Turkiye's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan al-Saud after a committee meeting of Makkah defence pact in Riyadh, yesterday. **(Reuters)**

Leading economist warns of 'significant bubble' in artificial intelligence

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

An internationally renowned economist has warned of a 'significant bubble' in the area of artificial intelligence (AI), and said that it could burst at any time in the near future.

"The rapid expansion of the AI industry is great, but at the same time there can be some repercussions to come as there is a huge bubble in the AI sector," Prof Ha-Joon Chang, a Board Member of Qatar Foundation, said.

Prof Chang was speaking to *Gulf Times* from the sidelines of a talk

at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, where he discussed the need for industrial diversification, especially for small countries like Qatar. Prof Chang is the author of 17 internationally recognised books as well as numerous articles in a number of journals and other publications. He is a research professor at the Department of Economics of SOAS University of London and co-director of the Centre for Sustainable Structural Transformation.

"Just like the Dotcom Bubble in the early 2000s, there is a huge bubble in the AI sector. So the question is, when is it going to burst? But there is one. I am afraid that a lot of people will get hurt

Prof Ha-Joon Chang

and a lot of these AI data centres might have to be shut down. So it is not a pretty picture, but it is coming. I don't know when, I don't know how serious, but it is coming," cautioned Prof Chang.

Prof Chang's latest book is *Edible Economics*, and his writings have been translated and published in 45 languages and in 46 countries. Worldwide, his books have sold around 2.5mn copies. According to the economist, the path of technological progress and how individuals and companies deal with them are very complex. "I think initially a lot of those services, tradeable services in which some countries had considerable

success, like software coding and reading medical scans, are going to be replaced by AI. But they might find that some of it actually cannot be really done well by AI. Then if they need humans to do more difficult things, probably they might go back to the same countries and those countries need to be ready for the next phase," he explained.

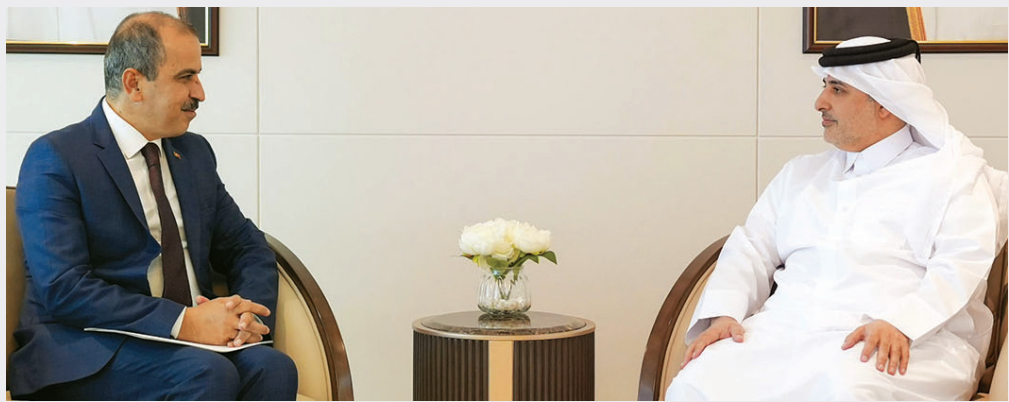
As for claims that AI could be very detrimental to the human race, Prof Chang said that such potential dangers are contained in many technologies, and AI also might have some potential threats. "Fossil-fuel technologies and nuclear energy are examples of technologies with potentially

damaging consequences. Nuclear energy has the potential to destroy the world. So I don't know whether AI is unique in that. I mean, I think a lot of that talk is basically the AI industry wanting to draw attention to them so that they can raise more money," he pointed out.

Chang also discussed the implications of artificial intelligence for Qatar and other economies, particularly the future of internationally traded services. "It is never straightforward. There's never complete displacement. Demand could eventually grow for people capable of handling more complex tasks that AI cannot perform effectively," he added.



Minister meets Turkish ambassador



HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie met yesterday with Türkiye's ambassador to Qatar Yakup Caymazoglu. During the meeting, they discussed aspects of co-operation between the two countries in the fields of environment and climate change as well as ways to enhance them, in addition to topics of mutual interest. - QNA

MoFA spokesperson meets senior UK official



HE the Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majed bin Mohammed al-Ansari met yesterday with the head of the British Office for Sudan and UK Special Representative to Sudan, Richard Crowder. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation, relations between the two countries, and ways to support and enhance them. They also discussed the latest regional and international developments, particularly in Sudan, in addition to topics of mutual interest. - QNA

Qatar takes part in 2nd Global CSR Forum

Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF), is participating in the second Global CSR Forum, held under the theme *From Commitment to Impact*.

The forum opened yesterday in Riyadh, bringing together ministers, officials, experts, and specialists in corporate social responsibility (CSR).

HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi is representing Qatar at the two-day forum.

Qatar's participation reflects its commitment to strengthening the social responsibility ecosystem and promoting partnership and integration among the government, private, and non-profit sectors, in addition to facilitating the exchange of expertise, experience, and leading practices to maximise social impact and advance sustainable development.

HE al-Nuaimi participated in an international ministerial session on "Promoting CSR at the Global Level".

The session examined the current state and evolution of social responsibility and the roles of various sectors in expanding its impact.

It also addressed key challenges, successful initiatives and experiences, incentives for private-sector participation, and the importance of national indicators in measuring progress and impact.

During the session, HE al-Nuaimi highlighted Qatar's experience in social responsibility, along with key national initiatives and efforts, particularly those aimed at fostering community engagement, embedding a culture of shared responsibility, and expanding



cross-sector partnerships and co-operation to support the State's social priorities and advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

Qatar's participation also provides an opportunity to strengthen communication, exchange expertise with participating countries and entities, explore areas of mutual interest, and adopt successful practices that can further develop national initiatives and enhance their positive, lasting impact on society.

On the sidelines of the forum, HE al-Nuaimi met with Türkiye's Minister of Family and Social Services Mahinur Ozdemir.

The two sides reviewed aspects of co-operation in social work and family affairs and exchanged views on ways to strengthen collaboration between their countries. - QNA

Experts take legal oath at Ministry of Justice

A new batch of experts took the legal oath yesterday for registration in the Ministry of Justice's roster of experts, in accordance with the regulations stipulated in Law No. 16 of 2017 regulating expert work.

The new batch comprised 12 experts from national cadres, with expertise in various specialisations, including accounting, real estate, mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, information technology, cybersecurity and cybercrimes.

The director of the ministry's Experts Department, Abdullah Abu Shahab al-Marri, congratulated the 12 on their taking of the legal oath.

He emphasised the importance of their role as assistants to judges and one of the pillars of achieving effective justice, based on their legal responsibility to show evidence and proofs related to the technical aspects of various cases, and the role expert reports play in expediting the issuance of judgments and the adjudication of cases.

Al-Marri noted that, under the directive of HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi, the ministry is committed to strengthening the capabilities of national cadre and providing the expertise needed to keep pace with Qatar's comprehensive development in all fields. - QNA



Second Doha Dialogue on Labour Mobility opens in Dar es Salaam

Senior officials and experts from more than 33 Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), African and Arab countries convened yesterday in Dar es Salaam for the 2nd Doha Dialogue on Labour Mobility between Africa and the GCC+.

The gathering held on October 5-6 is focused on translating shared commitments into practical, measurable co-operation across the labour-mobility cycle.

Co-chaired by Tanzania, Qatar and the African Union, the meeting brought together national delegations, the African Union Commission and leading international and regional organisations.

Participants included the Executive Bureau of the GCC Council of Ministers of Labour and Council of Ministers of Social Affairs, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), alongside senior officials, specialists and civil society representatives.

Opening the proceedings, HE the Under-secretary of the Ministry of Labour Sheikhha Najwa bint Abdulrahman al-Thani welcomed delegates and thanked Tanzania for hosting the Dialogue.

She also recognised the African Union Commission and partner organisations for their contribution to its preparation and success.

HE Sheikhha Najwa said Tanzania's hosting of the second edition gave practical expression to the partnership between countries of origin and destination.

Bringing the Dialogue to Africa, she said, demonstrated that it was not a one-sided exchange, but a collective undertaking in which participating states shared responsibility for shaping a more orderly, equitable and productive future for labour mobility.

HE Sheikhha Najwa noted that the Doha Declaration on Labour Mobility, adopted in May 2024, had established an important foundation for co-operation.

She added that the initiative's value

should be measured not by the number of meetings convened or issues debated, but by the delivery of tangible, measurable and enduring results, with the immediate priority being to define areas for joint implementation, assign clear responsibilities and establish credible measures of progress.

HE Sheikhha Najwa called on delegates to move beyond established principles by identifying deliverable areas of collective action and agreeing how success would be assessed.

Zuhura Yunus, Tanzania's deputy permanent secretary for Labour, Employment and Relations at the Prime Minister's Office, said the meeting offered an important opportunity to examine the principal challenges and develop practical recommendations for ministerial consideration and adoption.

She called for closer collaboration among labour administrations in inspection, wage protection and occupational safety and health.

Mohammed Hassan al-Obaidli, the di-

rector-general of the Executive Bureau of the GCC Council of Ministers of Labour and Council of Ministers of Social Affairs, commended Qatar's initiative and its leading role in establishing and supporting the Dialogue.

He also welcomed Tanzania's hosting of the second edition and acknowledged the African Union Commission and other partners for sustaining its momentum.

Al-Obaidli highlighted the progress made by GCC states in education and vocational training, anticipating future skills needs and aligning provision with labour-market demand.

Established under an agreement between Qatar and the African Union, the Doha Dialogue is a voluntary, non-binding and state-led consultative platform.

It enables African and GCC countries to exchange expertise and effective practice, strengthening regional co-operation and partnerships designed to improve labour mobility from Africa. - QNA

NCSA organises national cybersecurity conference

Under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) organised the fifth National Cyber Governance and Assurance Affairs (NCGAA) conference yesterday.

Held under the theme of *Securing the Digital Future in an Era of Convergence*, the event was attended by HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali bin Mohammed al-Mannai, and NCSA President Eng. Abdulrahman bin Ali al-Farahid al-Malki, alongside top officials and representatives of government entities and private firms in the nation.

The conference featured the launch of the national cybersecurity risk management framework and the institutional cybersecurity risk management framework, as well as the announcement of several high-impact initiatives reflecting strategic directions aimed at strengthening cybersecurity.

In his inaugural remarks, al-Malki stressed that securing the digital future has become a strategic responsibility that goes beyond protecting systems to encompass ensuring confidence, continuity and adaptability.

This action, he said, requires a proactive cybersecurity approach grounded in innovation, information and expertise interchange, strengthening national capacities, as well as public-private sector collaboration and persistently remaining focused on emerging threats.

Al-Malki added that a secure and enduring digital future can be built by virtue of achieving cyber resilience that substantially supports innovation and growth and maintains the trust of society and



the economy in digital services and technologies.

The NCSA, he continued, has been working to strengthen national cyber resilience to ensure that it is capable of preempting sophisticated cyber threats, responding to them and healing from their impacts, with a particular emphasis on the continuity of services and critical infrastructure.

The director of National Cyber Governance and Assurance Affairs at the NCSA, Eng. Dana Yousef al-Abdulla, said that when people talk about securing the digital future, they are talking about one of the key enablers of Qatar's development and transformation journey under Qatar National Vision 2030.

She asserted that cybersecurity today is not limited to protecting systems and data; it is also tied to service continuity, protecting infrastructure, supporting the digital economy and strengthening trust in the digital environment.

Al-Abdulla added that as the cyber challenges facing critical sectors continue to mount, it is no longer possible to address them in isolation. Instead, convergence among regulatory authorities,

critical sectors and technology providers has become essential to strengthening cyber resilience readiness.

She unveiled a new collaboration with the Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA), including the launch of a tailored compliance programme for entities regulated by the QFMA and the adoption of supplementary controls for the national cybersecurity standards, further strengthening the integration of cybersecurity and sectoral regulation.

Al-Abdulla also announced the launch of projects and initiatives aimed at advancing the cybersecurity landscape, including planning for the post-quantum era and examining a roadmap for implementing the Operational Technology Cybersecurity Assessment Programme developed by the International Society of Automation (ISA).

The programme, she noted, will play a role in strengthening the security of critical sectors, while also unlocking new economic opportunities for companies and cybersecurity service providers.

During the conference, several companies and enterprises that

had obtained accreditation and compliance certifications under the National Information Assurance (NIA) standard, as well as the Qatar Common Criteria Scheme (QCCS), were honoured.

The conference also saw the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the NCSA and Crest International, aimed at strengthening co-operation, raising cybersecurity standards and achieving mutual recognition of requirements for accredited providers of penetration testing services.

The conference featured panel discussions and presentations involving a contingent of cybersecurity experts.

The first session focused on digital sovereignty in a convergent world: an outlook on future trends in achieving sovereignty, with the second session examining readiness for the post-quantum era: aligning governance, industry and assurance.

The third session was laser-focused on convergence in regulatory requirements, data governance, artificial intelligence (AI) and supply chains.

The fourth session drilled down on risks associated with the use of artificial intelligence in operational technology, while the sessions concluded with a presentation on who owns cybersecurity risk when everything is interconnected.

On the sidelines of the conference, four workshops were held on the national and institutional framework for information security risk management, opening new business opportunities and strengthening trust through penetration testing certification, the national information assurance standard certification for financial market participants, and the evolving landscape of data privacy, including trends, risks and challenges. - QNA



QRCS provides drinking water to 80,000 families in Gaza

As part of the "Supporting Water Services in Gaza" project, the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has been deploying water tankers daily to provide clean drinking water to up to 80,000 displaced families in camps and shelters across the blockade, at a total cost of \$400,000.

Dr Akram Nassar, head of the QRCS's representation office in Gaza, said the new water project came in response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, with tanker trucks deployed to distribute up to 6mn litres of potable water.

In the coming period, the QRCS has plans to launch several water and sanitation projects, including the provision of clean drinking water; rehabilitation of sewage networks at 25 shelter centres; supply of 500 portable toilets; construction of five water tanks equipped with latrines, washbasins, and taps; installation of high-quality solar panels to operate five water purification plants; and rehabilitation of a water well and provision of a solar-powered pump.

The estimated number of beneficiaries is approximately 108,000 people, with a total cost of more than QR 12mn.

Donations can be made via the website (www.qrcs.org.qa), the mobile app (QRCS), the donor service hotline (66666364), the home donation collection hotline (33998898), and donation collection agents/desks at malls and shopping centres.

Philippines fully implements e-Visa system in Qatar

By Joey Aguilar
Doha

The Philippine ein Qatar has announced the full implementation of the Philippine electronic Visa (e-Visa) system in Qatar, effective on October 5, allowing eligible Qatar residents to apply online for temporary visit visas to the Philippines.

Under the new system, the embassy said in a post on its social media pages that eligible Qatar residents can submit e-Visa applications through the official Philippine e-

Visa website and pay the applicable fees via direct bank transfer, where required.

Once approved and issued by the embassy, the e-Visa can be accessed remotely through a computer, laptop or mobile device.

Visa holders may present either a digital or printed copy upon travel to the Philippines.

The embassy said the e-Visa will no longer be affixed to the applicant's passport.

Applicants are also reminded to complete the Philippines' online e-Travel registration after their e-Visa has been issued.

Applicants must complete the registra-

tion within 72 hours before arrival in the Philippines to help avoid difficulties at ports of entry.

The Philippines embassy stressed that applicants should not complete the e-Travel registration before their e-Visa is issued.

It also clarified that Philippine e-Visas cannot be converted into other visa types and that the authorised period of stay cannot be extended.

Foreign nationals planning to travel to the Philippines for purposes such as study, employment or other non-tourism activities are advised to apply for a regular visa sticker



through the Philippine embassy in Qatar.

The full implementation of the e-Visa system is expected to provide eligible

travellers in Qatar with a more convenient and accessible way to obtain Philippine visas for temporary visits.

MoFA secretary-general meets Norway's envoy



HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met yesterday with Norway's ambassador (non-resident) to Qatar Olav Myklebust. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation, relations between the two countries, and ways to support and enhance them, in addition to topics of mutual interest. -QNA

Ministry of Justice official meets Arab League secretary-general



HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice Saeed bin Abdullah al-Suwaidi, who is also chairman of the National Committee for International Humanitarian Law and chair of the Arab Permanent Committee for International Humanitarian Law, has met with Arab League of Arab Secretary-General Nabil Fahmy. The meeting took place on the sidelines of a workshop in Cairo on the national implementation of international humanitarian law. The two sides reviewed the work programme of the Arab Permanent Committee for International Humanitarian Law and discussed ways to strengthen its regional role in promoting the principles and culture of international humanitarian law and raising awareness of its provisions, thereby supporting Arab states in implementing the law at the national level. -QNA



Public Prosecution and UN partner on training course to combat human trafficking

The Public Prosecution, through its Institute of Criminal Studies, organised a regional training course on combatting trafficking in persons in conformity with international standards.

Convened in partnership with the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for Southwest Asia and the Arab Region, the course brought together 10 members from the Public Prosecution, alongside 10 members from the Public Prosecutions of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states.

The course covered the legal framework for combating trafficking in persons, the relevant international treaties, the nature and elements of the crime, the concept of human trafficking and how it differs from similar offenses, and the role of the Public Prosecution in investigating, uncovering and prosecuting the crime, and gathering evidence.

The course followed recommendations by the Public Prosecutors of the GCC states to promote the exchange of expertise and training programmes among training institutes across all member states. - QNA

GCC honours Qatar Charity for its housing initiatives

The General Secretariat of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) has honoured Qatar Charity (QC) in the non-profit institutions category for its housing initiatives delivered by its Alaqraboon Centre for families in Qatar.

The Secretariat presented the recognition during the fourth Gulf Housing Week in Bahrain.

The honour recognises Alaqraboon Centre's efforts to develop practical housing solutions and implement initiatives that address social needs, strengthen family stability, and improve quality of life.

The honouring took place during the ceremony announcing the results of the seventh GCC Housing Award, 2026, held under the theme *Integrated Services Housing Project Enhancing Quality of Life*.

GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi presented the commemorative shield and certificate to Alaqraboon Centre Executive Director Faisal Rashid al-Fehaida, in the presence of HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi.

The recognition highlights Alaqraboon Centre's contribution of more than QR11mn towards housing support for low-income families in Qatar.

It also underscores the importance of co-operation between government bodies, civil society institutions and non-profit organisations in promoting family and social stability and advancing sustainable development.

"This honour reflects the humanitarian and social role of Qatar Charity's Alaqraboon Centre," al-Fehaida said. "Through targeted initiatives and sustainable solutions, the Centre helps meet the housing needs of low-income families in Qatar, strengthen their stability and improve their quality of life."

"It also underscores the importance of further strengthening co-operation and partnerships across sectors and developing sustain-



able community-based housing initiatives," he said. "These efforts can create a lasting positive impact on families and communities while advancing housing solutions that meet the needs of families facing financial hardship."

In May 2025, Qatar Charity was honoured at an official ceremony held in Kuwait during the 23rd GCC Housing Ministers Meeting.

Recognised in the private-sector and charitable-organisations category, the QC received the award in appreciation of its contributions and initiatives in Qatar's housing sector, supporting social and charitable objectives.

These efforts include covering rental costs

for low-income families and implementing the "Renovation" project, which repairs old homes and provides suitable furniture to create healthier living environments.

In September 2025, Qatar Charity was also honoured at a ceremony in Kuwait alongside ministerial meetings of GCC civil service, labour, and social affairs authorities.

The organisation received an honorary shield recognising its position as one of Qatar's leading civil society organisations in the social and humanitarian sectors, its outstanding charitable and social work, and its tangible positive impact locally and internationally.

Qatar Tourism Awards announces 4th edition shortlist, opens public voting

The Qatar Tourism Awards, developed in partnership with the World Tourism Organisation (UN Tourism), has announced the shortlist for its fourth edition, and public voting is now open.

A total of 276 nominees have been shortlisted from more than 1,623 submissions across 35 subcategories spanning seven main categories.

Residents and visitors can cast their votes from October 5 to 12, 2026, giving the public a direct role in recognising this year's nominees.

The awards ceremony, taking place on November 23, will recognise this year's winners for their contribution to the continued development of Qatar's tourism sector and their role in delivering high-quality experiences for visitors and residents.

Service Excellence leads this year's shortlist with 83 nominees across 11 subcategories: Outstanding 3-Star Hotel (four), Outstanding 4-Star Hotel (six), Outstanding 5-Star Hotel (15), Exceptional Spa

Experience (eight), Exceptional Resort Experience (seven), Exceptional Holiday Home Experience (eight), Outstanding New Tourism Accommodation (four), the "Heart of Hospitality" Award (10), Leading Chief Concierge (five), Tour Guide of the Year (six), and Leading Destination Management Company (10).

Gastronomic Experiences features 61 nominees across six subcategories: Outstanding Fine Dining Experience (12), Exceptional Casual Dining Experience (10), Premier Quick Service Experience (10), Noteworthy Cafe Experience (10), Outstanding Authentic Qatari Dining Experience (10) and Outstanding New Restaurant (nine).

Iconic Attractions & Activities features 40 nominees across six subcategories: Outstanding Cultural Tourism Experience (six), Unforgettable Adventure Tourism Experience (seven), Leading Local Retail Brand (nine), Premier Shopping Mall Experience (five), Premier Theme Park Experience (six) and Iconic Local Attraction (seven).

World-Class Events features 25 nominees across four subcategories: Top MICE Event of the Year (nine), Leading Event Celebrating Local Culture (five), Premier Sport Event of the Year (five) and Outstanding Multi-purpose MICE & Events Venue (six).

Digital Footprint has 25 nominees across three subcategories: Outstanding Destination Campaign (eight), Tourism Influencer (Content Creator) of the Year (10) and Outstanding Qatar Travel Vlog of the Year (seven).

Smart & Sustainable Tourism features 30 nominees across four subcategories: Tourism Innovation Award (six), Accessibility Initiative of the Year (eight), Leading Sustainable Attraction (seven) and Leading Eco-Friendly Accommodation (nine).

Community Leadership completes the shortlist with 12 nominees for Hotelier of the Year.

The Qatar Tourism Awards recognise organisations and individuals contributing to the growth and development of Qatar's tourism sector.



Through the awards, Qatar Tourism aims to promote service excellence, innovation and best practices across the industry, while recognising the achievements of tourism stakeholders in Qatar.

The full list of shortlisted nominees is available here: <https://www.qatartourism.com/en/qatar-tourism-awards/nominees>

Public voting is also open from October 5-12, allowing the public to help select the winners in two categories: Tourism Content Creator of the Year and Qatar Tourism Vlog of the Year.

Audiences can vote via the official website: <https://qtawards.qa/vote>

Qatar ranks 5th in region for AI readiness in new AI-Human Skills Synergy Index

Qatar ranked fifth in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region and 46th globally on the new AI-Human Skills Synergy Index featured in Coursera's Global Skills Report 2026.

The first-of-its-kind Index measures how learners across 98 countries develop artificial intelligence (AI) skills alongside the human skills needed to apply them, while accounting for each country's broader AI readiness.

Qatar's position comes as the country advances its National AI Strategy, which connects talent development with AI deployment.

A \$20bn partnership between Brookfield and Qai, Qatar's national AI company, will invest in

AI infrastructure and include skills development.

The ALIF programme, delivered through Qatar Digital Academy, in collaboration with Scale AI, provides government employees with practical training to apply generative AI effectively and responsibly.

A national upskilling initiative with Google Cloud also aims to provide more than 50,000 learning opportunities by 2030.

Now in its eighth edition, the Global Skills Report 2026 draws on a subset of learning data from more than 300mn learners across Coursera and Udemy.

The report combines insights into AI and human skills development with broader national readi-



Kais Zribi

ness data from Oxford Insights' Government AI Readiness Index.

Across Qatar, enrollment in AI courses increased 70% year-on-year (y-o-y).

Trending AI learning themes include generative AI, agentic AI and AI agents, and large language model application and modeling.

Other prominent themes include AI and machine learning foundations and model- and assistant-specific skills.

Enrolments in agentic workflows grew 187%, AI security increased 148%, and generative AI rose 132%.

Learners in Qatar are also developing the human skills needed to evaluate AI outputs and guide their use at work.

Communication and presentation, adaptability and resilience, and people leadership and management are among the trending human skills themes, together

with planning and prioritisation and ethics and governance.

Enrolment in complex problem-solving increased 82% y-o-y, while critical thinking grew 46% and innovation rose 34%.

The report examines which AI and human skills learners develop together more distinctly than the global average.

In Qatar, learners pair adaptability and resilience with both generative AI and prompting and AI interaction.

They also pair AI product strategy and personalisation with emotional intelligence and empathy.

These combinations can help people adjust workflows and decisions as AI tools and requirements

change, while considering human needs, context, and the consequences of AI use.

Kais Zribi, Coursera general manager for the Middle East and Africa, said: "As Qatar advances its AI readiness, realising the full value of AI will depend on equipping the workforce with both technical capabilities and essential human skills."

"Broadening access to this kind of learning will help Qatar translate its AI investments into gains in productivity and career opportunities in support of Qatar National Vision 2030," he said.

The Global Skills Report 2026 is available at <https://www.coursera.org/skills-reports/global>



(From left) Abdulla Ali al-Misnad, chief administrative officer at Vodafone Qatar, and Abdulla Nasser Mubarak, chief corporate support officer at almeera, during a signing ceremony.

Vodafone Qatar, almeera launch two-way loyalty points conversion

Vodafone Qatar and Al Meera Consumer Goods Company (almeera) have announced a new strategic partnership bringing together their loyalty programmes, iPoints and wafa, to give customers greater flexibility in how they use their rewards across telecom services and everyday shopping.

As part of the partnership, Vodafone Qatar customers will be able to redeem their iPoints at almeera stores, while almeera customers will be able to convert their wafa points into Vodafone iPoints, providing access to a wider range of lifestyle benefits.

The collaboration reflects both companies' commitment to creating greater value, flexibility, and convenience for their customers by connecting loyalty programmes across complementary sectors.

It also marks the first phase of a broader long-term partnership between Vodafone Qatar and almeera, with both organisations exploring further opportunities to develop integrated customer experiences.

For almeera, the partnership supports the continued evolution of wafa from a traditional retail loyalty programme into a broader customer rewards and engagement ecosystem, giving members more choice in how they use their rewards.

The partnership also reflects almeera's continued investment

in technology, digital platforms and customer intelligence, supporting the development of more seamless and personalised experiences for wafa members.

Partnerships with key organisations across Qatar are an important part of this approach, helping to extend the value and relevance of wafa beyond grocery shopping and into more areas of customers' everyday lives.

Baran Yurdagul, COO at Vodafone Qatar, said: "This partnership reflects our continued commitment to enhancing the customer experience and delivering greater value. By expanding the iPoints programme through strategic partnerships with organisations such as almeera, we are creating more opportunities for customers to benefit from the programme, while continuing to strengthen our offering beyond connectivity."

Jassim Mohammed al-Ansari, CEO of almeera, commented: "wafa is evolving beyond a traditional retail loyalty programme. Our partnership with Vodafone Qatar gives customers greater flexibility to use the value they earn across two programmes that are part of their everyday lives. As we continue to expand the wafa ecosystem, our focus is on building partnerships that make loyalty simpler, more useful and more rewarding for our customers."

Visit Qatar to showcase Qatari culture through The Garden Souq during Singapore race week

During the race week in Singapore, Visit Qatar will bring The Garden Souq by Visit Qatar to Raffles Hotel Singapore from October 7 to 9, offering visitors an introduction to Qatar's culture, cuisine and craftsmanship through an open-air experience on the hotel's lawn.

Delivered as part of Visit Qatar's partnership with Audi Revolut F1 Team, the activation will welcome Singapore residents and international race visitors to discover the country's traditions through a contemporary interpretation of the traditional souq.

The experience brings together a series of interactive stations. At The Majlis, guests can enjoy traditional Arabic coffee and dates accompanied by a live oud performance. Flavours of Qatar showcases local cuisine, while The Artisan's Workshop lets guests personalise a leather charm. Visitors can also customise a cap with Qatar-inspired patches at The Doha Stamp or



create a bespoke perfume blend at Scents of Qatar.

The activation builds on Visit Qatar's international partnerships to strengthen Qatar's global tourism profile, leveraging the reach of major sporting events to showcase the destination's cultural identity and engage new audiences.

The Garden Souq by Visit Qatar will be open to the public daily from 5pm to 10pm, with free admission.

Al-Ahli Hospital, Al Koot Insurance sign strategic partnership agreement

In a significant step toward enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of healthcare services in Qatar, Al-Ahli Hospital and Al Koot Insurance & Reinsurance Company have signed a strategic partnership agreement to streamline access to medical care for guests covered by Al Koot.

Effective October 1, eligible Al Koot-insured guests will be able to access Al-Ahli Hospital's outpatient clinics and Emergency Department without the need to obtain prior approval from the insurance provider. The initiative is designed to simplify administrative procedures, reduce waiting times and facilitate faster access to medical services, while maintaining the highest standards of quality and patient safety.

The partnership represents a first-of-its-kind initiative within Qatar's private healthcare sector and reflects the growing importance of collaboration between healthcare providers and insurance companies in creating a more integrated, efficient and guest-focused healthcare experience.

The agreement also aligns with both organisations' shared vision to enhance operational efficiency, reduce administrative barriers, and develop service-delivery models that respond more effectively to evolving guest expectations.

Khalid Mohammed al-Emadi, CEO of Al-Ahli Hospital and Medicare Group, said the agreement represents an important milestone in the hospital's ongoing efforts to enhance healthcare delivery and improve the overall guest experience.

"At Al-Ahli Hospital, we believe that delivering an exceptional healthcare experience extends beyond clinical excellence. It also re-



quires us to continuously improve the systems and processes that enable our guests to access care efficiently and conveniently."

He added that strategic partnerships with leading insurance providers play an important role in building a more integrated and responsive healthcare ecosystem.

"Our partnership with Al Koot reflects our commitment to developing practical solutions that create greater value for our guests, enhance operational efficiency and contribute to the continued advancement of Qatar's healthcare sector. We will continue to invest in initiatives that make healthcare more accessible, efficient and guest-focused, while maintaining our commitment to quality and patient safety."

Jamal Hammad, deputy CEO and director of Projects at Al-Ahli Hospital and Medicare Group, described the agreement as a significant step forward in enhancing the experience of Al Koot-insured guests.

"This partnership is about making the healthcare journey simpler and more efficient. By removing the need for prior approval for outpatient and emergency services, we can significantly reduce administrative steps and help our



guests access the care they need more quickly."

Hammad noted that the agreement covers all outpatient clinics and Emergency Department services, which together account for approximately 80% of the hospital's total visits, giving the initiative a significant impact on the overall guest experience.

He clarified that the first phase of the agreement does not include prior approvals for medications or inpatient admission and hospitalisation procedures.

The agreement follows extensive co-ordination and assessment between Al-Ahli Hospital and Al Koot, focusing on simplifying administrative processes while ensuring operational efficiency and adherence to established medical and insurance requirements.

"This initial phase will allow both organisations to closely monitor the impact of the initiative, particularly in relation to waiting times, daily patient flow and service efficiency. The results will provide valuable insight into the potential for expanding the scope of the partnership in the future," Hammad said.

He also highlighted the long-

standing relationship between Al-Ahli Hospital and Al Koot, noting that the latest agreement builds on years of collaboration and reflects both organisations' shared commitment to continuously enhance the services provided to guests.

The partnership is part of Al-Ahli Hospital's broader commitment to continuously improve the healthcare journey through service innovation, operational efficiency, and strategic collaboration.

Since its establishment, Al-Ahli Hospital has continued to expand and develop its medical services, bringing a wide range of specialities and healthcare services together under one roof. Through initiatives such as this partnership, the hospital continues to explore new ways to improve accessibility, simplify the guest journey and deliver greater value to the community.

The collaboration with Al Koot reinforces the importance of strong partnerships across Qatar's healthcare and insurance sectors. It supports the broader objective of creating a more seamless, efficient and guest-centred healthcare experience.

UDST, Qatar Cool sign MoU to strengthen collaboration

QNA
Doha

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) and Qatar Cool signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen co-operation in student innovation, applied learning, research, professional development, and sustainability.

The MoU was signed at the University of Doha for Science and Technology by President of the University, Dr Salem bin Nasser Al-Naemi and Acting Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Cool, Nahar Saleh al-Mutawah.

The collaboration will include student competitions and hackathons, innovation and applied learning initiatives, research projects, curriculum development, internships and training, and initiatives focused on sus-



tainability and energy efficiency. These activities will connect academic learning with current industry practices and challenges.

Commenting on the MoU, President of UDST Dr Salem Al-Naemi, said: "Industry partnerships are an important part of UDST's applied education model, providing students with opportunities to apply their knowledge to real-world challenges. Our collaboration with Qatar Cool reflects our

commitment to connecting education with industry needs and creating meaningful opportunities for our students to develop their skills, innovation and applied professional capabilities."

Acting Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Cool, Nahar al-Mutawah, commented: "We believe in the important role the next generation of engineers can play in developing innovative solutions to real-world challenges.

Through this initiative, we aim to give students the opportunity to apply their academic knowledge to a practical industry challenge, helping to bridge the gap between academic learning and business needs.

"The QC³ Hackathon reflects Qatar Cool's commitment to encouraging creative approaches to energy efficiency and environmental stewardship, while contributing to community development and supporting the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030," he said.

The partnership also supports the University's applied learning approach by bringing industry perspectives into the educational experience and creating opportunities for students to engage with professionals, explore emerging technologies, and develop solutions relevant to Qatar's energy and sustainability priorities, he added.

Qatar attends launch of report on Arab food, water security

Qatar participated in the launch of the 14th Arab Cultural Development Report, issued by the Arab Thought Foundation under the title of "Arab Food and Water Security: Accumulated Crises and Promising Initiatives", at an event held yesterday at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

Qatar was represented at the event by Amna Abdulrahman al-Sulaiti from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the Arab League.

Addressing the opening session, Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Fahmy said that the report reflects the close relationship between culture and development, noting that effective resource management and the rationalisation of consumption require public awareness, policies grounded in knowledge and foresight, and institutions capable of meeting future needs.

He said that water and food security are integral to the broader concept of Arab national security, emphasising that Arab water rights are matters of sovereignty and security,

while also offering opportunities for co-operation in pursuit of mutual interests.

Fahmy stressed that water and food must not be used as tools of war or political pressure.

He underscored the need to move from managing crises after they occur to anticipating and preparing for them, adding that the General Secretariat is developing an Arab early warning and foresight system that connects water, food, and climate security indicators with political, economic, social, and security dimensions.

Fahmy also described Arab integration in this field as a practical necessity, calling for the region's diverse capabilities and expertise to be harnessed in building a joint Arab capacity that is better prepared and more effective in addressing risks and challenges.

He stressed that the initiative should not end with the report's launch, but should serve as a starting point for turning its ideas and recommendations into practical proposals that strengthen the institutions and mechanisms of joint Arab action. (QNA)

Qatar Airways Privilege Club introduces 'Double Qpoints Accelerator', 'Tier Restoration' offers for members travelling from Doha

Qatar Airways Privilege Club announced yesterday two limited-time offers, giving members travelling from Doha an enhanced opportunity to collect Qpoints and retain their current tier or restore their tier status.

From October 5 to 10, Burgundy, Silver, Gold, and Platinum members will be able to book flights from Doha and collect double Qpoints. The offer applies to travel between October 5 to December 18, allowing members to progress faster towards retaining their current tier status.

From October 11 to December 18, members will have the opportunity to restore their previously held membership status when booking journeys from

Doha. Travel under the offer can take place between October 11 and April 1, 2027.

The Tier Restoration offer is available to members whose tiers were downgraded between March 1 and October 6, as well as members whose tier is due to expire between October 5 and December 18.

By extending the opportunity, Privilege Club is providing members with additional time and flexibility to continue enjoying the benefits of their membership status.

Together, the two offers provide Privilege Club members travelling from Doha with greater flexibility to accelerate their progress towards tier retention or restore previously held status. The initiative reinforces

Privilege Club's commitment to rewarding loyalty and enhancing the membership experience while connecting travellers to more than 170 destinations worldwide.

This initiative has been introduced by Qatar Airways' award-winning loyalty programme in recognition of the exceptional circumstances experienced across the region in recent months, which may have affected travel plans for some members.

Building on the measures introduced since the beginning of the disruption, Privilege Club will continue to provide additional offerings for members in the local market, as a gesture for their continued support and trust in Qatar Airways.

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Geekdom nurtures Qatar's growing creative community

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

What began as a space for people to celebrate their passions is becoming a platform for Qatar's artists, aspiring entrepreneurs, and creative communities, with Geekdom founder Abdulla al-Musallam calling on young people to embrace their interests and turn their talents into opportunities.

Geekend 2026, held from October 1 to 3 at the Geekdom Building on Lusail Boulevard, recorded its highest attendance yet, bringing together artists, illustrators, families, independent creators, and small businesses to celebrate creativity and shared interests.

Speaking to *Gulf Times* during the event, al-Musallam, who is also the chief administrative officer of the Doha Film Institute, said the growing turnout reflected the community's increasing appetite for spaces where people could express themselves freely and connect with others.

"We've seen record numbers this year attending the event," he said, describing how families across generations had come together over shared interests.

"I've seen a lot of people make new friends, exchange, adding each other on Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok. And it's lovely to see these friendships happen over bonding, over things that they are passionate about."

For al-Musallam, this sense of belonging is central to Geekdom's purpose. The event isn't simply about entertainment or showcasing creative work; it's about providing a welcoming environment where people can discover others who share their interests.

The growth, however, has brought a new challenge.

"The event is growing in a way that we didn't expect, that we need to actually find a bigger space to accommodate everybody," he said, adding that the aim was to serve the community more effectively as it expands.

This year's Geekend placed particular emphasis on artists and illustration, with three days of live drawing competitions inviting participants to respond to announced themes and create art-



Abdulla al-Musallam

work on the spot. Their work was displayed on the Visit Qatar wall, allowing visitors to see the creative process unfold.

An illustration contest organised in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan also culminated in an award ceremony during the event, bringing together local artistic talent and Japanese cultural influences.

Al-Musallam said the standard of work produced by participants was a reminder of the creative potential within Qatar.

"There is a lot of raw talent in Qatar," he said. "When you see the actual products, they are really mind-blowing."

Beyond the artwork, Geekend also provides a platform for independent creators and small businesses seeking to reach audiences and establish themselves in the market.

Al-Musallam said organisers selected around 27 participants for the latest edition from more than 100 applicants, including small businesses and individuals showcasing their creations.

The limited spaces reflect the growing demand for opportunities to exhibit, sell products and connect with customers. Yet al-Musallam stressed that Geekdom's work extends beyond selecting vendors for a weekend event.

"Geekdom is not just a pop-up event. It's a year-round programme," he said.

Throughout the year, Geekdom works with individuals and aspiring entrepreneurs, collaborating with organisations such as Scale7, Qatar Development Bank's creative business incubator, and Media

City Qatar to help creators understand how to establish and grow their ventures.

The support includes guidance on business planning, pricing, monetisation, and inventory management — practical skills that can be difficult for creators who start with passion but have limited business experience.

"When Geekdom first started, people were passionate," al-Musallam said. "They didn't care if they sell one product for QR50, but it cost them QR100."

Helping creators understand the financial realities of running a business is therefore an important part of the programme. The intention is to help individuals move from selling their work occasionally to building sustainable businesses, while making them aware of the resources available in Qatar.

Al-Musallam said the programme also encourages participants to consider establishing their own businesses, helping them find a place within the country's wider creative ecosystem.

For him, the initiative is personal. He founded Geekdom in 2013, driven by his own enthusiasm for the communities and interests that inspired the platform.

"Geekdom is my baby," he said, reflecting on how the initiative has grown beyond what he initially imagined.

His message to young people who may feel hesitant about sharing their interests or presenting their work is simple: they should not be embarrassed by what excites them.

"Celebrate your passion. Be unapologetically geeky," he said.

"If I can come and enjoy and be proud of what I am, what I am passionate about, why can't you?"

As Geekdom continues to attract larger crowds and more creators seek opportunities to participate, Geekdom's next challenge will be to find room for that growth while maintaining the community spirit that shaped its beginnings.

For al-Musallam, success lies not only in attendance figures or the number of businesses taking part, but in whether people leave feeling confident enough to share their work, meet like-minded individuals, and take the next step toward turning a passion into something of their own.



PSG QNB We Run Doha to bring 2,000 runners to Lusail circuit

The We Run experience comes to Doha with PSG QNB We Run Doha.

More than 2,000 runners are expected to take part in the first We Run Doha on October 30, taking place at the Lusail International Circuit, with the support of Paris Saint-Germain (PSG).

Building on the launch of PSG Running earlier this year, PSG QNB We Run Doha marks a new step in the Club's running initiative.

More than a race, PSG QNB We Run Doha will offer participants the rare opportunity to run on one of the world's most iconic motorsport venues. For one day, Lusail International Circuit will be transformed into a unique Rouge & Bleu playground, combining the thrill of racing on a Formula 1 circuit with the atmosphere of a community festival inspired by Paris Saint-Germain.

Whether aiming for a personal best, sharing an active day out with family and friends, or simply enjoying the entertainment and festivities throughout the venue, every participant can experience running in a truly exceptional setting.

Throughout the day, Lusail International Circuit will come alive with entertainment, warm-up sessions, partner activations, food and beverage areas and dedicated fan experiences, making the event far more than a race and creating an unforgettable day for participants and spectators alike.

Participants can choose from three race formats.

Designed for runners looking to challenge themselves, the 10km offers the perfect balance between speed and endurance. Whether chasing a new personal best or simply embracing the challenge, participants will experience the unique sensation of running on the legendary Formula 1 circuit at Lusail.

Accessible yet rewarding, the 5km is open to runners of all abilities. It is the perfect opportunity to discover the We Run experience, enjoy the excitement of racing on the iconic circuit and share the moment with fellow participants in a unique Rouge & Bleu atmosphere.

Reserved for children, the 1km Kids Race offers young runners the chance to experience the excitement of crossing a Formula 1 circuit finish line. A fun, accessible and memorable introduction to running, designed to inspire the New Generation in a safe and festive environment.

QNB will serve as the Official Naming Partner of the event, which will be known as PSG QNB We Run Doha, while Lusail International Circuit will serve as the Official Venue Partner, bringing the event to one of Qatar's premier sporting destinations and a world-class venue for some of the country's most prominent sporting events.

The event will also be supported by PSG's official partners, including Qatar Airways, Visit Qatar, Ooredoo, Aspetar,

and Whoop, who will bring their unique expertise and experience to enhance the participant experience. Al Rayyan Water, QSFA and Al Meera will also join the event as Supporting Partners.

The experience will extend beyond the race itself, with participants having the opportunity to celebrate their achievement alongside fellow runners and members of the PSG community. A special PSG guest will also attend the event, adding to what promises to be an unforgettable experience for participants.

Competition will be at the heart of the event, with male and female winners recognised in both the 5km and 10km races. Each winner will have the opportunity to travel to Paris for an unforgettable PSG experience, giving them the chance to continue their We Run journey in the city where the Club was founded.

Register now at: [YD5] <https://psgqnbwerundoha.com/>

Runners and PSG supporters are encouraged to register and follow the official We Run Paris social media channel for the latest announcements, race information and event updates.

PSG QNB We Run Doha marks a new milestone in the development of the PSG Running initiative. While supporting new running experiences around the world, PSG is also preparing the return of We Run Paris in Spring 2027. Further details will be announced in the coming months.

QCSF Padel Tournament wraps up

QNA
Doha

The QCSF Padel Tournament Season 2026-2027 has concluded following four days of competition. Organised by the Qatar Collegiate Sports Federation (QCSF) in collaboration with the Qatar Padel Federation and Qatar Foundation, the event was held at The Dome courts at Qatar Foun-

dation and attracted enthusiastic participation, underscoring the sport's growing popularity within the university community.

In the men's competition, the City University of Qatar (1) team claimed the championship title, while Qatar University (2) finished second and the Police College (1) team secured third place.

QCSF Secretary-General Rashid Saeed Adhba and Federation Board Member Hamad Saleh al-Shaiba

honoured the top three teams.

In the women's competition, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (2) secured the title by topping the standings. Qatar University (1) finished as runner-up, while the University of Doha for Science and Technology took third place.

Amina al-Kaabi, a member of the women's sports committee at the QCSF, presented awards to the top three teams in the women's competition.





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Beyond the Pink Ribbon:
Understanding the Genetics of Breast Cancer
What Every Woman Should Know

Dr. Mariam Fida, MD, PhD

Consultant | Medical Genetics

Preimplantation Genetic Testing (PGT)

October arrives each year cloaked in pink, serving as a global reminder of the ongoing fight against breast cancer. While the pink ribbons beautifully symbolize solidarity and hope, true awareness stems from understanding the science behind the disease. One of the most critical shifts in modern medicine is the recognition of cancer as a genetic disease, a malfunction in the very blueprint of our cells.

Cancer as a Genetic Disease

Cancer is fundamentally a disease of genetic alterations, meaning it is caused by mutations or alterations in the DNA that regulate cell growth. However, this does not mean that every cancer is inherited. When these genes are damaged, cells divide uncontrollably, eventually forming tumors.

There is a vital distinction between cancer being sporadic, caused by somatic mutations, and cancer being inherited, caused by germline mutations. Most breast cancers are sporadic, meaning the genetic mutations occur over a person's lifetime due to aging or environmental factors. Conversely, about 5% to 10% of breast cancers are hereditary. These cases occur when an individual inherits a pathogenic germline variant from a biological parent. This germline variant is present in every cell of the body from birth, substantially increasing the lifetime risk of developing breast and ovarian cancers.

The Importance of Genetic Testing and Family History

For individuals with a strong family history of cancer, knowledge truly is power. A strong family history might include multiple relatives diagnosed with breast or ovarian cancer, diagnoses at an unusually young age (under 50), or a male relative with breast cancer. In these scenarios, clinical genetic testing becomes a vital tool in proactive healthcare management.

Genetic testing involves a simple blood or

saliva sample to analyze selected genes for clinically significant variants associated with hereditary cancer risk. Identifying a genetic mutation before cancer ever develops allows individuals and their healthcare providers to rewrite the narrative. Instead of waiting for a tumor to appear, high-risk individuals may, depending on the specific genetic finding, age, family history and clinical guidelines, undergo enhanced screening such as earlier and/or more frequent breast imaging, including MRI, or consider risk-reducing surgery.

Key Genes Involved in Breast Cancer

The most widely recognized genes associated with hereditary breast cancer are BRCA1 and BRCA2. In their normal state, these are tumor suppressor genes that protect the body by helping repair damaged DNA. Pathogenic variants in these genes can impair normal

contribute to the growth of the cancer.

If a tumor is ER/PR positive, doctors can use hormone therapies. Tamoxifen primarily blocks estrogen receptor signaling, while aromatase inhibitors reduce estrogen production in the body.

HER2 (Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2): HER2 is a protein involved in regulating cell growth. When a tumor is HER2-positive, it has an excess of HER2 protein, which can cause the cancer to grow and spread more aggressively.

If the tumor is HER2-positive, targeted therapies like Trastuzumab (Herceptin) can bind to HER2 and interfere with HER2-driven cancer signaling and growth.

Tumors that lack all three receptors are classified as Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC). Because TNBC cannot be treated with hormone or HER2 therapies, treatment may include

NORMAL BRCA FUNCTION

Cell maintains genomic stability

1 DNA damage occurs

2 BRCA1/BRCA2 help coordinate repair

3 Homologous recombination repairs the DNA

4 Cell remains healthy

HARMFUL VARIANT

Higher risk of cancer due to impaired DNA repair

1 DNA damage occurs

2 Pathogenic BRCA1/BRCA2 variant

3 DNA repair is less effective

4 Damage accumulates (genomic instability)

5 Abnormal cells may grow out of control

DNA repair and substantially increase the lifetime risk of breast cancer, with risk estimates reaching approximately 70% or more in some studies.

Beyond BRCA, genetic panels now screen for other important genes:

- PALB2:** Partners with BRCA2 to repair DNA; pathogenic variants can significantly elevate breast cancer risks.
- TP53:** The “guardian of the genome.” Mutations can cause Li-Fraumeni syndrome, leading to a high risk of multiple cancers, including early-onset breast cancer.
- CHEK2 and ATM:** Moderate-risk genes involved in DNA damage response. Certain pathogenic variants are associated with a moderate increase in breast cancer risk, although the magnitude of risk varies according to the specific variant and individual factors.

The Role of Receptors: ER, PR, and HER2

If the tumor cells have estrogen receptors (ER-positive) and/or progesterone receptors (PR-positive), hormones can

chemotherapy, immunotherapy in selected patients, and other targeted approaches depending on the stage and molecular characteristics of the tumor.

A Call to Action: Screening Saves Lives

This Breast Cancer Awareness Month, let the science empower you rather than frighten you. Thanks to incredible strides in genetic counselling, targeted therapies and screening technologies, a breast cancer diagnosis is no longer a singular, predictable path. Early detection remains one of our most formidable weapons.

Mammograms and clinical screenings can identify changes in breast tissue long before they can be felt as a lump. If you have a family history of cancer, take the brave step to speak with a genetic counsellor. Empower yourself with information, schedule your routine screenings, and encourage the women and men in your life to do the same.

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World Teachers’ Day: 60 years of advancing the profession

QNA
Doha

The world marked World Teachers’ Day on October 5 as educators confront a profession undergoing profound change, from the rise of artificial intelligence and digital technologies to climate change, migration and displacement, alongside persistent concerns over pay, workloads, working conditions and professional autonomy.

This year’s observance has added significance as it marked the 60th anniversary of the ILO/Unesco Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, adopted on October 5, 1966. The landmark instrument established international benchmarks for teachers’ rights and responsibilities, professional preparation and continuing education, recruitment and employment, and teaching and working conditions.

Unesco hosted the global celebration at its headquarters in Paris yesterday, bringing together teachers, education ministers, policy-makers and other stakeholders to examine the future of the profession. The programme will feature high-level discussions on protecting and advancing the status of teaching, along with the presentation of the ninth Unesco-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development.

Held under the theme “Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our futures,” this year’s observance focused on the challenges affecting teachers’ status and on strategies to protect, promote and elevate the profession, according to Unesco.

Six decades after the 1966 Recommendation, Unesco says the teaching profession is being reshaped by digital technologies and artificial intelligence, climate change, inclusion, migration and displacement. At the same time, teachers continue to confront more established challenges involving salaries, workloads, working environments, professional autonomy and their voice in education policymaking.

These pressures affect three interconnected dimensions of teachers’ status: their symbolic status, reflected in the recognition and value accorded to the profession; their professional status, shaped by autonomy, institutional support and participation in policymaking; and their material sta-



tus, reflected in salaries, workloads and working conditions. Unesco says these factors directly affect teachers’ ability to fully perform their role.

Technology, meanwhile, is changing more than the tools used in classrooms. The spread of digital technologies and artificial intelligence is prompting a reassessment of traditional aspects of teaching, from designing learning content and assessing students to developing critical-thinking skills and helping learners navigate an increasingly complex digital information environment.

That transformation is placing greater emphasis on continuous professional development, enabling teachers to use digital tools and artificial intelligence responsibly and effectively while preserving the human and educational dimensions of teaching.

At the centre of these changes is a fundamental principle: the quality of an education system depends not only on the strength of its curricula and programmes, but on the people who bring them to life. Teachers translate educational content into learning experiences, adapt instruction to students’ different needs and abilities, and help turn education policy and curriculum into mean-

ingful outcomes in the classroom.

Reflecting on this year’s World Teachers’ Day theme, Iman Salman al-Mohannadi, Director of the Training and Development Center at Qatar’s Ministry of Education and Higher Education, told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that supporting teachers must be reflected in education policies, programmes and professional environments rather than remain a slogan, as teachers are a cornerstone of education quality.

She said Qatar views teachers as central to education quality and has built a professional development system spanning teacher preparation and induction, continuous training, career pathways, professional licensing and opportunities for advancement.

Among the ministry’s initiatives is the “Beginning Well” programme, which provides newly appointed teachers with training, mentoring and field-based support during their first year to help them transition into professional practice and establish themselves in the classroom.

The “Khibrat” programme offers another model of investment in Qatari teachers, providing professional immersion and exposure to education systems in countries with advanced practices. Participants

are then expected to translate their experiences into applied projects in Qatar, al-Mohannadi said.

The aim, she added, is not simply to help teachers meet the demands of their current roles, but to equip them to play a greater role in shaping the future of education.

The ministry has increasingly tailored professional development to teachers’ needs and the rapid changes transforming education, moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach toward training based on teachers’ experience, specialisation and professional roles.

Digital skills, artificial intelligence, data analysis, active learning and personalised learning are among the areas receiving greater attention. The approach is reflected in the ministry’s involvement in the National Personalised Learning Platform, launched in December 2025 by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Scale AI during the AI Summit Qatar.

The ministry has also showcased AI applications designed to support teachers and students, while stressing responsible use and privacy protection, she said.

AI is already part of teacher preparation programmes, including the “Tamheen” programme, which combines workshops on AI applications with educational and subject-specific competencies and field training. The ministry also offers specialised training in digitalisation, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

“We do not view technology as a substitute for the teacher, but as a tool that enables teachers to have greater impact, better understand their students’ needs and make data-informed educational decisions,” al-Mohannadi said.

Professional licensing is another element of the system, based on national standards designed to strengthen professional practice and improve the performance of teachers and school leaders. The “Beginning Well” programme also gives new teachers mentoring, feedback, field experience and access to professional learning communities, helping them build confidence and competence early in their careers, she added.

Making teaching an attractive profession, al-Mohannadi said, requires more than any single measure. Teachers need to feel valued, have opportunities for growth, receive professional support and see clearly how

MoEHE to mark World Teachers’ Day tomorrow

QNA
Doha



Under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) will mark World Teachers’ Day tomorrow under the theme “Giving That Bears Fruit for Generations.”

The ceremony will honour 80 teachers from government schools in recognition of their outstanding contributions to education.

It will also acknowledge their role in advancing the educational process, developing students’ abilities and skills, and instilling the values and principles needed to shape their character and prepare them for the future.

The celebration will also feature an accompanying exhibition showcasing distinguished educational projects and applied research presented by

students and teachers.

It will highlight the teacher’s role in developing students’ research, critical-thinking, and innovation skills, as well as in harnessing knowledge and modern technologies to enhance educational practices and improve learning outcomes.

The ceremony reflects the Ministry’s commitment to recognising teachers’ efforts, highlighting their standing and vital role in nurturing future generations, and raising community awareness of the importance of their educational mission in alignment with the human development goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, which place education and human capacity development at the forefront of national priorities.

their work affects students’ learning and future prospects.

Six decades after the international recommendation on the status of teachers, she said, the central question is how the profession should evolve in the years ahead.

“The teacher of the future is no longer simply someone who possesses knowledge, because knowledge has become widely accessible,” she said. Instead, teachers must be able to apply knowledge, design meaningful learning experiences, use technology and AI responsibly, interpret data, respond to individual differences and build positive relationships with students.

Key skills for the future teacher include digital and AI literacy, critical thinking, problem-solving and innovation, data analysis and evidence-based decision-making, continuous professional learning, personalised instruction, communication and relationship-building, and the ability to adapt to change.

Above all, al-Mohannadi stressed the importance of preserving the human and national mission of the profession.

Qatar’s vision of the future teacher, she said, is one who combines human capability with technology – professionally skilled, digitally aware and capable of innovation, but above all able to make a meaningful difference in students’ lives.

The 60th anniversary of the international recommendation on the status of teachers carries deep

historical and symbolic significance, marking six decades since the world established a framework for recognising teachers’ rights, responsibilities and working conditions, educational consultant Rashid Al Ouda al-Fadhli told Qatar News Agency (QNA).

He said the anniversary represents a global recognition that education reform begins with teachers who have professional stability and adequate material conditions.

Yet many of the challenges facing the profession have persisted – and in some cases deepened – over the past six decades, al-Fadhli said. Teachers’ status is no longer simply a question of pay, but also of social recognition, psychological pressure, administrative workloads and the need for continuous professional development.

Teachers are increasingly expected to combine the roles of educator, technology expert and emotional support provider amid rapidly changing social conditions, he said, making the status and attractiveness of the profession a continuing global concern.

“Investing in teachers means investing in people and in the capacity to achieve lasting progress,” al-Fadhli said.

Artificial intelligence will not replace teachers, but it will expose the difference between teachers who merely transmit information and those who add value through teaching, guidance and human connection, he said.

HOPE Qatar launches Sadeeqi Inclusion Championship 2026 for schools, colleges

HOPE Qatar Centre for Persons with Disabilities has launched a pan-Qatar inter-school and inter-college championship to raise awareness, shift mindsets, and build a more inclusive generation.

The championship is designed to reach more than 200,000 school and college students across Qatar, with approximately 5,000 shortlisted participants progressing to the championship stage.

Through creativity, communication, performing arts, visual expression, and other student-led activities, the initiative aims to encourage young people to understand disability, challenge misconceptions, and recognise the abilities, contributions, and aspirations of persons with disabilities.

The Sadeeqi Inclusion Championship is founded on a simple belief: lasting inclusion begins with a change in mindset, and that change can begin in schools and colleges.

“Schools and colleges are among the most powerful environments for shaping attitudes and values,” said Dr Rajeev Thomas, founder and chief mentor of HOPE Qatar.

“By introducing students to the concepts of disability, accessibility, empathy, equality and inclusion at an early age, the initiative seeks to nurture a generation that does not simply understand disability but actively embraces differences and recognises the value of every individual,” he added.

“Through this unique, first-of-its-kind championship in Qatar, students are encouraged to move beyond awareness towards acceptance, understanding, friendship and meaningful inclusion.”

The Sadeeqi Inclusion Championship 2026 forms part of HOPE



Qatar’s celebration of 20 years of creating opportunities for persons with disabilities and advocating for a society where every individual has the opportunity to learn, participate, contribute and belong.

The initiative also reflects the aspirations of Qatar National Vision 2030, particularly the development of a cohesive, inclusive society that values human potential and ensures opportunities for all.

With thousands of young people participating directly and hundreds of thousands reached through the wider initiative, Sadeeqi aims to create a ripple effect that extends beyond classrooms and campuses, reaching families, educators and the wider community.

The championship is envisioned not as a one-time competition, but as a movement towards a more informed and accepting society.



As Qatar continues to strengthen its position as a global platform for disability inclusion, including the upcoming Global Disability Summit in 2028, initiatives such as Sadeeqi can help ensure that the conversation around disability reaches the next generation.

“The aspiration is to see more students who understand disability, more children who accept differences naturally, more educators who champion inclusion, and a society where persons with disabilities are recognised not by their limitations, but by their abilities, aspirations and contributions,” said Dr Rizwanah Adeebh, Partnership Officer at HOPE Qatar.

“Sadeeqi Inclusion Championship 2026 therefore carries a message that extends far beyond the competition. It is a reminder that differences should never be barriers to friendship, understanding, and belonging because, no matter how different we may be, we can still understand one another,

learn from one another, and, most importantly, become friends. And this is Sadeeqi – Friends Beyond Differences,” she added.

Through Sadeeqi, HOPE Qatar invites schools, colleges, students, educators, and the wider community to join this journey and help build a Qatar where inclusion is not simply an ideal, but a way of life.

“As part of the nationwide competitions that are scheduled to be conducted for college students on 23 and 24 October, and for school students on 30 and 31 October, contestants will indulge in various events including painting, poster making, debates, elocution, creative writing, video making, reel making, singing, miming, and a host of other events,” said Asha Shiju, consultant and mentor at HOPE Qatar.

“Each event will be based on a topic related to disability and making friends with persons with disabilities”



The faculty panel during the special Open House.

WCM-Q welcomes students, parents to special Open House

Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) welcomed more than 140 high school seniors and their parents to a special Open House, giving prospective students a chance to learn about studying medicine at WCM-Q and how to prepare for the transition from high school to college.

Organised by the Office of Student Outreach and Educational Development, the one-day event was designed for Grade 12 or Year 13 students and their parents, giving them a chance to learn more about WCM-Q’s admissions process, requirements and application timelines. Participants also learned more about the college’s academic curriculum, outreach programmes, state-of-the-art facilities and student life.

Noha Saleh, director of pre-medical administration, student outreach and educational development, opened the event with a presentation on admissions requirements, timelines and outreach programmes available for high school students. The event also included two panel discussions, allowing participants to hear directly from WCM-Q students, faculty and staff. Attendees also had an opportunity to ask questions during the Q&A sessions that followed each panel discussion.

The faculty panel featured Dr Amal Khidir, associate professor of paediatrics, Dr Majda Sebah, assistant professor of chemistry, and Dr Simeon Scott Andrews,

lecturer in chemistry and biochemistry. Dr Rachid Bendriss, professor of English as a second language, assistant professor of education in medicine, and associate dean for foundation, student outreach and educational development programmes, moderated the panel.

Dr Bendriss said: “We understand that choosing a career in medicine and a college to attend is not easy. We are happy to host this event to allow graduating students and their parents to ask questions, explore their options, and better understand the opportunities available to them at WCM-Q and in the medical field. I believe the participants benefited greatly from interacting with faculty, staff and students and learning more about the journey to becoming a doctor.”

Farhan Aziz, director of admissions at WCM-Q, moderated the student panel, which featured final-year medical student Reem al-Janahi and second-year pre-medical students Noof AlMalik and Mustafa Shammout. Their participation gave attendees firsthand insight into life at WCM-Q, including the academic experience and the transition into the pre-medical and medical programmes.

While WCM-Q offers weekly small-scale Open Houses throughout the academic year for prospective students from various high school grade levels, this event was organised on a larger scale specifically for final-year high school students and their parents.

GHC launches campaign to counter tobacco risks

QNA
Riyadh

The Gulf Health Council (GHC) has launched the “Today Before Tomorrow” awareness campaign on non-traditional tobacco and nicotine products, running from October 4 through October 31.

The purpose of this drive is to empower young people across GCC nations to repudiate these products by understanding their risks, handling peer pressure, while adopting behaviours that support sound physical and psychological development.

The slogan underscores the importance of making a healthy choice today before experimentation becomes a habit that can be difficult to quit: “Today” represents awareness, choice and control, while “tomorrow” represents justification, delay and the risks that may follow.

The campaign primarily targets youth ages 15-24, with parents, youth-focused content creators, schools and educational institutions, and health and youth organisations as secondary audiences.

The campaign spotlights the risks of vapes, nicotine pouches and heated tobacco products; dispels the notion that smoke-free or tobacco-leaf-free products are safe; and explains that nicotine is highly addictive and may affect developing brain functions tied to attention, learning and impulse control.

It likewise addresses the fallacy that nicotine helps relieve stress, explaining that temporary relief may reflect the alleviation of withdrawal symptoms, which can drive repeated use and continued dependence.



Instead, it promotes practical coping strategies, including physical activity, calm breathing, pursuing hobbies, talking with someone they trust and seeking support when needed.

The campaign also promotes media literacy, helping participants distinguish reliable health information from promotional content and recognise marketing techniques that can make these products more appealing.

The effort comes amid tobacco-related deaths exceeding 7mn annually and tobacco use among approximately 37mn children ages 13-15, according to a 2024 World Health Organisation (WHO) report.

E-cigarette use is associated with a threefold higher likelihood that young people will subsequently smoke conventional cigarettes. A 2024 study covering five Gulf countries found that more than 50% of adolescents who attempted to buy cigarettes were not refused, underscoring the importance of early prevention.

In addition, the campaign includes a two-track interactive behavioural assessment, with 10 questions per track. One evaluates young people's knowledge,

attitudes and behaviours regarding these products, while the other assesses specialists' and parents' knowledge. Participants receive recommendations to help identify practical steps towards healthier behaviours.

Doha hosts conference on Holy Qur'an and human knowledge

QNA
Doha

The second conference on the Holy Qur'an and Human Knowledge convened in Doha yesterday.

The event aims to advance sound human knowledge when it comes to the Holy Qur'an. It was kicked off concurrently with the opening of the Book of the Ummah Forum, bringing together a pantheon of researchers, academics and specialists from nine countries, underscoring the strong academic interest in the event.

The event is being organised as part of a longstanding institutional partnership between the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, through its Department of Islamic Research and Studies, and Qatar University (QU), through the Ibn Khaldun Center for Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies.

The partnership broadly aligns with Awqaf's 2025-2030 strategy and Qatar National Vision 2030, emphasising a shared commitment to supporting scientific research and building a knowledge-based society.

Dean of the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies at QU Dr Ibrahim bin Abdullah al-Ansari heaped praise on the Awqaf-QU scientific partnership, asserting that it constitutes a quintessential national model when it comes to joint efforts for the advancement of scientific research and knowledge-building.

This forged partnership highlights the significance of joint efforts among scientific institu-



tions to navigate contemporary intellectual challenges, al-Ansari pointed out.

Al-Ansari noted that bringing together efforts centred on the Book of Allah, the Almighty, and drawing inspiration from its guidance across various fields of knowledge is one of the most profound forms of impactful scholarly work.

He pointed out that the Holy Qur'an has throughout history

served as a foundation for Islamic civilisation and a source of inspiration for scholars and researchers, contributing to a scientific and intellectual renaissance whose impact has been felt across diverse fields of civilisation, science and the arts.

The Muslim Ummah attained its civilisational standing when it made the Holy Qur'an an imam to guide its scientific and intellectual journey, drawing from it the values of knowledge, faith and action, al-Ansari recalled.

He suggested that what matters more is to persistently deepen the connection with revelation, drawing on its guidance to build human knowledge, promote sound thinking and strengthen the Ummah's civilisational contribution in a world undergoing rapid intellectual and knowledge transformations.

Director of Ibn Khaldun Centre for Social and Human Sciences Dr Badrane Benlahcene said the conference aims to reconnect the sciences with their ethical and human



purposes and move beyond merely citing Qur'anic texts to examining their epistemological structure and value system.

He revealed that the organising committee received approximately 2,000 research abstracts covering the conference's four areas – philosophy, linguistics, law and politics. The abstracts underwent rigorous screening and peer review, ultimately resulting in the selection of 17 final papers to be presented by researchers from Qatar, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Turkiye, Yemen, Oman, Iraq and Sudan.

Meanwhile, the second forum garnered widespread attention to examine the scholarly experience of this series and highlight its role in laying the intellectual foundations over the course of decades.

Director of Research and Islamic Studies at Awqaf Sheikh Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed al-Thani highlighted that both the conference and forum materialise Awqaf's commitment to leveraging Sharia knowledge in building people, indicating that the current edition invariably keeps building on the inaugural one, which had produced three scientific volumes.

Third National Forum for social workers begins

QNA
Doha

The Third National Forum for Social Workers, organised by the Ministry of Social Development and Family, began yesterday under the slogan Professional Responsibility and Social Impact.

The two-day forum is held under the patronage of HE Minister of Social Development and Family (MSDF) Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi, with the participation of experts, specialists, and social workers.

HE Undersecretary of MSDF Khalifa bin Issa al-Kubaisi stressed that social work is a profession grounded in a profound responsibility towards individuals, families, and society, requiring knowledge, competence, commitment to professional ethics, and the ability to respond to changing social needs.

He said the Ministry attaches great importance to developing professional practice and enhancing social workers' capabilities, in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030, the Third National Development Strategy (2024-2030), and the Ministry's Strategy (2025-2030).

He added that the forum's slogan captures the essence of



social work, stressing that professional responsibility extends beyond performing one's role to achieving a tangible impact on the lives of individuals and families.

He expressed hope that the forum's sessions and discussions would facilitate the exchange of expertise and generate practical recommendations to advance professional practice and strengthen co-ordination among relevant authorities.

For his part, Director of the Community Development Department at the Ministry Nasser al-Mughaisib noted the forum provides a national platform for social workers to exchange

expertise and review local and international practices, contributing to higher-quality social services and translating professional recommendations into initiatives with a tangible and sustainable impact.

He explained that the programme addresses professional responsibility in social work, community partnerships for sustainable social development, and the future of the profession in light of artificial intelligence applications.

It also includes roundtable discussions on vocational training, the electronic platform for social workers, institutional integration, attracting qualified

professionals, and building professional career paths.

The forum aims to support practitioners' professional development, promote knowledge exchange, keep pace with modern practices, and strengthen competencies to respond to social and developmental transformations. It also examines governance models and experiences and develops practical proposals for using artificial intelligence to enhance social services.

The first session, From Legislation to Impact – Professional Responsibility in Social Work, examined the role of professional responsibility, legislation, and professional frameworks in translating principles and standards into effective practices with a tangible impact on individuals, families, and society.

It also discussed ways to translate legislative and professional frameworks into practical measures that strengthen social work and its societal impact.

The second session, Partnerships and Sustainable Development, reviewed the importance of co-ordination among institutions and entities concerned with social work and the role of partnerships in developing initiatives and programmes that support sustainable development and improve social services. It also featured professional

perspectives and experiences on building effective, sustainable partnerships that strengthen social efforts and address the needs of families and society.

Another session, Artificial Intelligence in Social Practices and the Future of Social Work, examined opportunities to use AI technologies to develop social practices and services and enhance the profession's ability to respond to individual and family needs. It also stressed the importance of keeping pace with technological developments while preserving the human dimension and professional values in social services.

The ministry continues to develop policies and regulations governing the practice of social professions, emphasising the need for a legislative framework that regulates professional practice, strengthens efficiency and quality standards, and reinforces the role of social professions in serving society.

Through the forum, the ministry reaffirms its commitment to supporting social workers, advancing professional practice, and strengthening co-ordination among stakeholders to develop more efficient social services that respond to the needs of individuals, families, and society and achieve sustainable social impact.

Ehsan Centre launches Holy Qur'an contest for elderly

QNA
Doha

The Centre for Empowerment and Elderly Care (Ehsan) has announced the launch of a Holy Qur'an competition for the elderly as part of its efforts to provide programmes and initiatives addressing their religious, cultural, and social needs and enhancing their quality of life and active participation in society.

In a statement issued yesterday, the centre said the competition aims to encourage elderly participants to recite, memorise, and reflect on the Holy Qur'an, while providing an opportunity for positive competition in a spiritual atmosphere that strengthens their connection with the Book of Allah Almighty and recognises their efforts in learning, memorising, and mastering the recitation Tajweed of the Holy Qur'an.

The centre emphasised that the competition reflects its commitment to providing specialised programmes that respond to the needs and interests of the elderly and encourage their participation in community and religious activities. It also seeks to highlight outstanding participants and honour their achievements, reinforcing their status, capabilities, and sense of social inclusion and appreciation.

The centre noted that the competition will be conducted in accordance with approved terms, regulations, and judging criteria designed to ensure integrity, transparency, and equal opportunities for all participants.

A specialised committee of qualified judges will assess participants based on precise, scientifically grounded standards, including accuracy of memorisation, correctness of recitation, adherence to Tajweed rules, and quality of delivery.

The centre announced that registration will open for the target groups in accordance with the published terms and guidelines, encouraging prospective participants to register promptly and review and comply with the competition requirements.

The initiative is part of a series of programmes and activities aimed at enhancing the spiritual and psychological well-being of the elderly, creating interactive spaces that enrich their lives and foster community engagement.

It also reflects the centre's belief in the value of investing in their experience and potential and recognising their contributions to society.

Al-Noor Centre launches drive to empower people with visual disabilities

QNA
Doha

Al-Noor Centre for the Blind has launched an initiative meant to strengthen the inclusion of people with visual disabilities in society, reflecting the idea that their light is among the community and highlighting those persons' capabilities and achievements.

Having been launched in partnership with Qatar Media Corp, the initiative comprises a combination of societal awareness programmes, interactive experiences, media and digital content, as well as efforts to foster partnerships with a variety of community institutions.

Director of the Communication and Media Office at Al-Noor Centre for the Blind, Shaheen al-Sulaiti highlighted that the initiative is primarily part of the centre's thrust towards expanding the scope of awareness and societal engagement and, at the end of the day, deepening the presence of those persons in various fields and engaging with them.

The initiative is built around a fourfold set of key goals, al-Sulaiti outlined, stating that these include substantially raising awareness, strengthening inclusion, empowering people with visual disabilities, and highlighting their abilities and achievements.

He noted that achieving these goals requires the substantive integration of the roles of educational, service, cultural, sports and media institutions, given that inclusion is invariably a shared responsibility that does not rest with any one entity.

Al-Sulaiti further pointed out that the six-month programme comprises a wide range of activities and events, explaining that October events will spotlight independence through World Sight Day and White Cane Safety Day, while November programmes will address topics related to children and families, along with educational visits.

December events will focus on inclusion, community participation and highlighting capabilities, while January will feature activities related to Braille and its importance in education and access to knowledge, al-Sulaiti



remarked, affirming that several community and awareness-raising activities will also continue throughout February and March.

He explained that through the initiative, the centre seeks to create an impact that extends beyond the events themselves by substantially raising awareness of the rights and capabilities of people with visual disabilities, helping dispel stereotypes, and encouraging institutions to develop their services and practices in ways that enhance accessibility and inclusion.

The initiative also seeks to build partnerships whose impact can

continue beyond the initiative's conclusion, al-Sulaiti elaborated.

The initiative suggests that inclusion is a shared responsibility that requires sustained engagement across different sectors and continued efforts to ensure that people with visual disabilities can participate fully in society.

In a separate development, the centre marked World Teachers' Day, observed annually on October 5, in recognition of the role teachers and educational staff play in supporting and empowering people with visual disabilities, developing their capabilities and skills, and strengthening their independence and participation across different areas of life.

Overall, the centre's observance of the occasion also pays tribute to the efforts teachers make to provide professional educational services that prioritise the individual needs of the centre's members by employing accessible pedagogical methods and tools and leveraging assistive technologies and Braille.

These efforts enhance opportunities to access knowledge and acquire skills with greater inde-

pendence and effectiveness.

Executive Director of Al-Noor Centre for the Blind Mishaal Bin Abdullah al-Nuaimi emphasised that teachers are the fulcrum of the service systems the centre provides, highlighting that their roles go far beyond imparting knowledge to encompass capacity-building, fostering self-confidence and self-reliance, and helping discover and advance members' capabilities.

The centre has always been committed to investing in strengthening the functionaries' professional capabilities and capitalising on high-end assistive technologies and methods so as to keep abreast of developments in visual impairment and leave an enduring footprint through the services provided to those members, al-Nuaimi pointed out.

He noted that the centre seeks to integrate the roles of educators, rehabilitation staff, specialists and families into an all-encompassing support system that helps members develop their potential, strengthen their independence and participate more fully in the community.

ICC unseals warrants for Taliban education ministers

AFP
The Hague

The International Criminal Court yesterday unsealed arrest warrants for two Afghan education ministers accused of committing crimes against humanity through the Taliban government's restrictions on women and girls.

The warrants, for Habibullah Agha, minister of education, and Neda Mohammad Nadeem, minister of higher education, were issued on September 9, 2025 and remained under seal until yesterday.

The two officials are accused of gender-based persecution linked to policies that have barred girls aged over 12 from school and excluded women from higher education following the Taliban's return to power in August 2021.

The ICC warrants were likely to increase international pressure on the Taliban government. The two warrants against the ministers were issued after the ICC, in July 2025, authorised warrants for Afghanistan's Supreme Taliban Leader Haibatullah Akhundzada and Supreme Court President Abdul Hakim Haqqani, parts of which have been made public.

Both Agha and Nadeem have played key roles in implementing the supreme leader's vision for Afghanistan.

"There are reasonable grounds to believe" the suspects committed "the crime against humanity of persecution on gender grounds", the court said.

Quebec votes as separatist surge poses test for Canada PM

AFP
Montreal, Canada

Quebec separatists eyed a return to power in Canada's majority French-speaking province yesterday in an election that could test Prime Minister Mark Carney's message of national unity to confront the US.

Carney is popular in Quebec, and the possible success of the separatist Parti Quebecois (PQ) is not seen as a repudiation of his stance towards President Donald Trump, whose trade war and an-

nexation threats have infuriated Canadians.

Instead, the PQ's rise after 12 years in opposition has been tied to frustration over affordability, and an enduring desire to protect the French language in an increasingly anglophone country. "I want Quebec to still be speaking French in 100 years," PQ voter Francis Chali-four, a 49-year-old teacher, said after voting.

A PQ victory would make its leader Paul Saint-Pierre Plamondon, a 49-year-old lawyer known by his initials, PSPP, the province's next premier.

He said he was feeling both "on edge and serene" after voting in Montreal.

Pre-election polls had given PQ about 30% support, but in the province's first-past-the-post electoral system that could be enough to secure a majority in the 127-member assembly, with vote-splitting expected among several federalist parties.

PSPP has maintained he will call a referendum on leaving Canada if elected, just not while Trump is in office.

He has said a decision on Quebec's independence "requires con-

ditions that allow for an informed and calm debate."

That shouldn't be "hijacked by the theatrics of an unpredictable president," he added, ruling out a referendum until at least 2029.

Quebec has held two previous votes on leaving Canada. Federalists won comfortably in 1980, but the 1995 result was excruciatingly close, with just 50.58% voting to stay in Canada.

Results in the province of roughly 9mn people were expected to be known after polls close yesterday.

For Carney, the Quebec vote comes amid what can easily be

called a fraught political season.

His Liberal government enjoys broad support, and many Canadians credit him with leading national, and at times international, opposition to Trump.

But in addition to the possible return of separatist governance in Quebec, voters in the oil-rich province of Alberta will hold a non-binding vote this month on whether they want independence.

PSPP may not have majority backing for an independent Quebec, but his plans to target the British monarchy appear far more popular.

Spanish PM calls snap polls after bill defeat

AFP
Madrid

Spain's Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez yesterday called a snap election for November 29, after parliament rejected housing relief measures proposed by his minority government amid nationwide protests.

The defeat on Friday was just the latest political setback for Sanchez, one of the few left-leaning government leaders still in power in Europe.

"To do more, we need to renew and broaden the support of the people," Sanchez said in a televised address, adding that his aim was "to secure a much broader, progressive majority in parliament".

The next general election was scheduled to take place by August 2027. His announcement came after tens of thousands of people marched in Madrid and other cities on Saturday demanding action on housing affordability.

The government's proposed measures, which included automatic renewal of tenancy contracts and restrictions on evicting vulnerable tenants, were voted down by opposition parties in Spain's parliament. The defeat infuriated the protesters and underscored the difficulties Sanchez's minority coalition government faces in passing legislation.

The protests were fuelled by the eviction last month of 87-year-old Maricarmen Abascal from the Madrid flat where she had lived for decades. Hundreds of demonstrators have occupied a tent camp in central Madrid for more than a week, demanding housing reforms. One of them, 19-year-old student Sara Prieto Aparicio, told



PM Pedro Sanchez leads the meeting of his party's Federal Executive Committee at his party headquarters in Madrid. (AFP)

AFP that she believed that calling the snap election "was the best thing to do".

"There is a big mobilisation by citizens and I think this favours elections," she said.

"This wave of indignation is unstoppable and we are not going to stop," Alicia del Rio, a spokesperson for the Madrid Tenants' Union, one of the protest leaders, said while renewing a call for a general strike.

Recent opinion polls have generally put the main opposition conservative Popular Party (PP) ahead of the Socialists.

The PP would likely need to partner with the far-right Vox to form a government however.

Making housing the central campaign issue "could mobilise left-leaning voters," said Federico Santi, a Europe analyst at political risk consultancy Eurasia Group.

He said an early election could help limit further erosion of support for the Socialists, amid rampant inflation, legislative deadlock and corruption scandals.

Supporters march to demand Khan's release

Reuters
Islamabad

Thousands of supporters of Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan have started a march to Islamabad to demand his release, his party said yesterday, amid deep divisions with the Pakistani leadership.

The rally began on Sunday in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which is ruled by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-

e-Insaf (PTI) party, with stops planned at several places before reaching Islamabad.

"I call upon you all to come out, the youngsters to come out for the sake of your leader who is sitting in jail," said Sohail Afridi, the chief minister of the province, who is leading the march.

The rift between Khan's party and the Pakistani leadership dates to Khan's 2022 ouster by parliament, which he blamed on the military — a charge the army denies.

It deepened after Khan's arrest

in May 2023 sparked riots in which his supporters attacked military installations, prompting a crackdown in which thousands of PTI supporters were detained and dozens sentenced by military courts.

Khan, 74, a former cricket star, has described himself as a political prisoner. Before his 2023 arrest, he had fallen out with the military, which is seen by analysts as the ultimate arbiter of politics in the nuclear-armed nation. The military and current civilian government deny that he is a political prisoner.

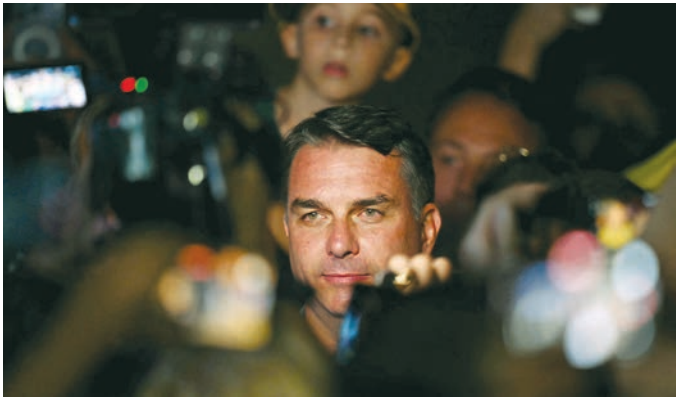
Bolsonaro edges past Lula as nail-biter election in Brazil goes to a run-off

AFP
Brasilia

Right-wing senator Flavio Bolsonaro finished ahead of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in Sunday's election in which neither scored a majority, sending the tight race to a run-off in three weeks.

In a surprise result that defied opinion poll projections showing Lula in the lead, Flavio Bolsonaro scored 47% of the vote to the incumbent's 45%. If Bolsonaro triumphs in the October 25 election, the Latin American powerhouse will join a steady rightward march in the region in recent elections, a trend championed by US President Donald Trump.

The election results included a series of landslide wins for the right in parliament in a massive setback to Lula, who at almost 81 is seeking a fourth term in office to cement his legacy. "I admit I was convinced I would win in the first round. The game is about to start. In extra time, we will win over the Brazilian people," the 80-year-old said. "I'm very



Flavio Bolsonaro reacts following the partial results of the presidential election in Brasilia. (AFP)

good at knockout stages."

The veteran leftist has branded the election a battle between democracy and "barbarism," warning voters that Brazil's sovereignty was at stake in the face of US pressure.

Flavio Bolsonaro was a little-known senator a few months ago when his father anointed him his political heir, unable to run himself as he serves a 27-year sentence for an attempted coup after losing a 2022 election bid.

However, his father's powerful name won over the country's conservative base and he slid past Lula despite a campaign marked by scandals and mudslinging.

"I am truly happy with the result," Flavio Bolsonaro said after results came through, hailing the "very real possibility" of a run-off victory.

Voters in the deeply polarised nation were jaded by familiar choices, and few voted with conviction.

US, German scientists win Nobel medicine prize for work on light and brain

Reuters
Stockholm

American Karl Deisseroth and Germans Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine yesterday for developing optogenetics, a technique that uses light to control individual nerve cells in the brain.

The Nobel Assembly of Sweden's Karolinska Institute said Deisseroth, 54, Hegemann, 71, and Nagel, 73, had been selected for their "discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels and optogenetics." "This method (optogenetics) makes it possible to switch on, or off, the activity of individual nerve cells in a living brain," said Thomas Perlmann, Secretary-General of the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet.

Anna Wedell, a professor in genetics and a member of the Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine, said a new era in neuroscience had opened but it was only the beginning.

"For the first time we can actu-

ally start to understand how the brain processes information and how different neurons interact across the brain," she said.

The trio will share a prize sum of 12mn Swedish crowns (\$1.2mn). Announcements will follow in the coming days on this year's Nobel physics, chemistry, literature, peace and economics prizes, with the winner or winners of the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize to be announced on Friday.

Deisseroth said he was still awake in the early hours when he was called from Stockholm. "I was not yet asleep, being a night owl, and now I don't think I'll be able to sleep for quite a while," he said.

Deisseroth was training to become a neurosurgeon when he encountered patients he could not help at a psychiatric clinic. That encounter — witnessing suffering he had no tools to treat — prompted a question that would define his career: Why does the brain work so differently in different people?

The answer would come from an unexpected place: an alga, and two German scientists driven by equally simple curiosity.



The event where the winners of the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine were announced in Stockholm yesterday. (AFP)

Hegemann, fascinated by exploration and unknown territory, began investigating in the early 1990s how the alga Chlamydomonas reacts to light in half a millisecond.

He hypothesised that a single protein both captured light and acted as an ion channel. Nagel tested this hypothesis by injecting Chlamydomonas genes into frog eggs, discovering channelrho-

dopsin-2 — a light-sensitive ion channel.

In 2003, Nagel and Hegemann published findings showing the protein could be introduced into human cells to generate electrical impulses using light. Deisseroth showed the technique in rat nerve cells in 2005, and the method was named optogenetics in 2006.

One scientist at Hegemann's

Max Planck Institute in Frankfurt in 2007 recalled researchers tapping optical fibers salvaged from Christmas decorations to microscopes. "We didn't really know how it worked. We didn't really have any tools," said Dima Kuzmin, a neurochemist at the time. "And it was massively exciting."

The three laureates' research is now providing insights about brain disorders. Animal models are being used to understand schizophrenia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy and addiction — conditions that affect millions of people worldwide and have limited treatment options.

Deisseroth used optogenetics to control the movements of mouse whiskers by activating specific nerve cells in the motor cortex. He also used light to wake sleeping mice, confirming that specific nerve cells control wakefulness.

"There are mouse models of dementia, epilepsy, addiction. By understanding which cells are active in these diseases in mice, we can understand where to look in humans," Wedell said.

Researchers are also applying

the technique to try to restore vision to people blinded by retinitis pigmentosa by inserting a light-sensitive protein into the retina. They also hope optogenetics could improve cochlear implants, potentially allowing more precise stimulation of the auditory nerve than current electrical devices.

"When you think about it in the retina, all patients need to do is open their eyes and you have the light. So it makes a lot of sense as a potential therapy," said Paul Bresge, CEO of US biotechnology company Ray Therapeutics.

The most advanced of the treatments are autism spectrum disorder therapy by a US-based biotech company MapLight, co-founded by Deisseroth, and a vision restoration medicine for retinitis pigmentosa by Nanoscope, also based in the US, though both are still some way from reaching patients.

Manuel Valero, researcher at Barcelona-based Hospital del Mar, where he heads the Neural Computation Laboratory, said optogenetics had "allowed us to push the boundaries between science and science fiction."



Qatar seeks practical tech solutions to transform tourism: MCIT official

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

Qatar is taking a problem-solving approach to tourism innovation, seeking to identify challenges across the visitor journey and turn promising technology ideas into solutions that can be tested and deployed, a Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) official has said.

“Our core mission is to move innovation from conversation to implementation,” Amna al-Kaabi, head of Emerging Technologies, told *Gulf Times* on the sidelines of the ministry’s “Innovation in Action: Tourism” session yesterday.

She highlighted the potential of generative and agentic artificial intelligence (AI), immersive technologies, computer vision, robotics and connected systems to deliver more personalised services, smoother visitor journeys and richer cultural experiences.

The MCIT’s Tasmu Innovation Lab is bringing tourism stakeholders, government entities, technology providers and innovators together to identify challenges and develop practical solutions that can

be tested through pilots and proofs of concept.

Al-Kaabi said the initiative aims to ensure technology is adopted where it delivers measurable value, rather than simply following emerging trends.

“Ultimately, it serves our broader goal of better government services, stronger economic sectors and enhanced experiences for everyone in Qatar,” she said.

The tourism session is part of the wider “Innovation in Action” series, which brings stakeholders together to address sector-specific challenges and explore technology-driven solutions.

Al-Kaabi said tourism was selected because of its importance to Qatar’s economic diversification and international growth, as well as the complexity of the visitor experience, which spans multiple interconnected services.

“Tourism also depends on a connected visitor journey across culture, hospitality, transport, digital services and other partners,” she said. “That makes it a sector where the right innovation, applied in the right place, can have a visible impact on both the economy and the visitor.”

Rather than adopting every emerging technology, the initiative focuses on iden-



Amna al-Kaabi at the MCIT’s ‘Innovation in Action: Tourism’ session yesterday.

tifying specific challenges and determining which technologies can address them effectively.

“These tools can help deliver more personalised information and services, smoother visitor journeys, richer cultural experiences and more efficient operations across the tourism ecosystem,” al-Kaabi said.

Potential applications could span the

visitor journey, from trip planning and navigation to discovering Qatar’s cultural attractions and accessing services.

However, al-Kaabi stressed that the priority is to test technologies in real-world settings and determine where they can deliver the greatest value to visitors and tourism-sector partners.

She described the Tasmu Innovation Lab as the MCIT’s national innovation engine, working with government entities and sector partners to identify priority challenges, define potential use cases and connect them with innovators capable of developing solutions.

The lab provides advisory services, research, training, workshops, sandbox environments and proof-of-concept development, allowing organisations to validate solutions before making larger investments.

“This approach helps organisations test and validate solutions before making larger-scale investments, reducing risk and focusing innovation on measurable value,” al-Kaabi said.

The tourism session feedback will be assessed based on potential impact and readiness for testing.

The most promising opportunities

could then be developed into defined use cases and matched with suitable innovators and technology partners.

The lab will support the development, testing and refinement of selected proofs of concept, creating what al-Kaabi described as a “clear pathway from idea to real-world deployment”.

For visitors, the long-term objective is a tourism experience that is more seamless, accessible and personalised, while helping tourism partners operate more efficiently.

The initiative also supports Qatar’s wider digital transformation agenda under the Digital Agenda 2030 by creating pathways towards technologies that address actual needs.

Testing solutions before wider investment will allow tourism stakeholders to assess what works in Qatar’s specific environment and determine which innovations merit broader deployment.

As Qatar continues to strengthen its tourism offering, the initiative reflects a shift towards using technology not simply as an additional feature of the visitor experience, but as a practical tool to address challenges and create greater value across the sector.

NUQ opens ‘All That Is Unseen’ exhibition



The Media Majlis Museum at Northwestern University in Qatar (NUQ), in partnership with the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI), launched its Fall 2026 exhibition titled “All That Is Unseen”.

Running through January 21, 2027, the exhibition features works by the London-based international art collective Marshmallow Laser Feast.

The immersive exhibition integrates research-driven installations, film projections, and live performances to explore unseen natural dimensions.

It includes contributions from director Terrence Malick, the late producer Edward R Pressman, Cate Blanchett, Daisy Lafarge, Jon Hopkins, Johann Johannsson, Meredith Monk, Howard Skempton, and Jonny Greenwood.

NUQ dean and chief executive Marwan M Kraidy noted that the exhibition aligns with the university’s mission by combining creativity, technology, and research.

Media Majlis Museum director Alfredo Cramerotti emphasised that the collaboration reinforces cross-cultural dialogue and evidence-based storytelling, while ACMI chief executive Seb Chan expressed optimism for the exhibition’s reception following successful runs in Melbourne and New Zealand. – QNA



Qatar steps up programme to strengthen fish stocks

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

The Fisheries Department at the Ministry of Municipality is set to release around 7mn fish fingerlings into local waters by the end of 2026 as part of a wider strategy to strengthen fish stocks, support the sustainability of marine resources and develop the country’s aquatic wealth, according to department director Abdulaziz Mohamed al-Duhaimi.

He said the department has already released around 3mn fingerlings during 2026 and plans to release another 4mn before the end of the year.

The programme is part of ongoing efforts to restock targeted fish species and improve the productivity of the local marine environment.

The department has also recorded tangible increases in the production and availability of several fish species following the implementation of stock-enhancement programmes.

Al-Duhaimi pointed out that the Aquatic Research Centre, which operates under the Fisheries Department, produced 9,573,327 fingerlings last year – 8,263,970 fingerlings of fish species such as grouper, spangled emperor, safi, seabream and Blonde ray, and 1,309,357 shrimp fingerlings.

Selected species, including grouper, Yellowfin Seabream, Safi, seabream and Blonde ray, were subsequently released into Qatari waters.

According to al-Duhaimi, the stock-enhancement programme’s results have been particularly evident in grouper production.

Since the programme began in 2020, annual grouper production has doubled, rising from around 1,000 tonnes in 2020 to more than 2,000 tonnes in 2025.

The department has assessed the impact of fingerling releases by analysing production statistics for targeted species and gathering information from fishermen and marine users.

The department is also preparing a genetic tracking project using DNA fingerprinting to determine the proportion of released fingerlings in Qatar’s overall fish production.

The initiative is expected to provide more



Abdulaziz Mohamed al-Duhaimi

precise scientific evidence of the stocking programme’s effectiveness.

Al-Duhaimi said the centre’s plans include expanding the range of species produced for release.

Among the species being considered are Sordid Rubberlip and Parrotfish, whose stocks have been depleted and whose availability in local markets has declined, as supporting their populations would help preserve marine biodiversity and strengthen the sustainability of the local fisheries.

The country currently has four fishermen’s ports – Al Wakrah, Al Khor, Al Thakhira and Al Ruwais – with approximately 1,100 berths for fishing vessels and boats.

The facilities are equipped with water and electricity services as well as firefighting systems.

Al-Duhaimi said work on developing Al Wakrah Port and deepening the navigation channel at Al Thakhira Port is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2027.

Further, the country currently has around 502 licensed fishing vessels and 813 fishing boats.

The fishing gear permitted for each vessel or boat is specified in its licence in accordance with regulations designed to control fishing activities and protect fish stocks.

Meanwhile, measures to regulate fishing practices have contributed to the recovery of important species.

Al-Duhaimi said a decision to prohibit the capture of kingfish using gillnets for 45 days



each year during the breeding season has helped increase the species’ stock.

Average annual production rose from 1,839 tonnes during 2013-15, before the measure was introduced, to 3,181 tonnes during 2023-25, a 73% increase.

Production reached 3,484 tonnes in 2025, the highest among the 36 stocks assessed in the local waters.

However, al-Duhaimi stressed that the increase resulted from an integrated management system rather than a single measure.

The number of fishing vessels has remained unchanged since 1993, while the department continues to assess the individual impact of different conservation measures.

The Fisheries Department maintains restrictions on bottom trawling and other fishing practices that can damage seabed habitats, capture juvenile fish and affect non-target marine organisms.

These measures aim to protect shrimp breeding and nursery grounds and reduce pressure on marine resources during critical life-cycle stages.

In addition, inspection and monitoring campaigns are carried out at sea and in fishing ports.

Violations are documented through official reports, and legal procedures and penalties are applied according to the type, severity, and recurrence of each offence.

QSFA launches athletics championship for girls’ primary schools



Students from 12 girls’ primary schools nationwide took part in the inaugural Sports for All Athletics Championship, organised by the Qatar Sports for All Federation (QSFA) under the umbrella of the Ministry of Sports and Youth and hosted by Maymouna Bint Al Harith Primary School for Girls.

The tournament was part of the QSFA’s efforts to expand sports participation among school-children, promote physical activity, encourage students to participate in sports, strengthen their physical and athletic capabilities, and foster the values of competition and sportsmanship.

The event featured a range of track and field contests, with students representing Al Thumama, Al Huda, Al Khwarizmi, Mesameer,

Amna Mahmoud Al Jaidah, Al Taawun, Al Shamal, Halima Al Saadia, Maryam Bint Imran, Khadija, Moza Bint Mohammed and Maymouna Bint Al Harith primary schools for girls.

QSFA executive director Abdullah al-Dosari said that the inaugural event drew broad participation, underscoring the public’s strong interest in school sports, and stressed the importance of providing more opportunities for girls to practice sports and hone their skills from the early school years.

He added that the QSFA is committed to organising tours and sports programmes in lock-step with educational initiatives, primarily targeting students across various grade levels and age groups. – QNA

Waste removed from marine environment

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC)’s Marine Protection Department has removed waste dumped into the marine environment, including a cable reel, because it posed risks to maritime navigation safety and negatively affected the marine environment and marine life.

The ministry co-ordinated with the relevant authorities to remove and dispose of the waste in accordance with approved procedures and methods.

In the meantime, the MoECC stressed the importance of refraining from dumping waste or equipment into the sea, as such practices threaten the marine environment and navigation safety.

It called on community members and sea users to co-operate with the relevant authorities and report any practices or violations that could harm the marine environment or endanger navigation safety.



Visit Qatar brings Power Slap to Doha for the first time

Visit Qatar will welcome “Power Slap” to Doha for the first time on November 19, as “Power Slap 27: Quinones vs Godfrey,” presented by Monster Energy, takes over Ali Bin Hamad Al Attiyah Arena (ABHA Arena) with two championship titles on the line.

Held in partnership with Visit Qatar, the event will bring leading Power Slap athletes to the city as part of a major combat sports weekend, coinciding with UFC Fight Night in Doha.

The main event will see current Power Slap Middleweight Champion Isaih “Puerto Rican Pretty Boy” Quinones face undefeated No. 1-ranked middleweight Darren “Taran-tula” Godfrey of England for the middleweight title.

The co-main event will feature undefeated lightweight champion Robert “Real Deal” Trujillo, who will defend his title for the third time against No. 1 ranked lightweight Bryan “Baby Yoda” Scambler.

Further details on the full Power Slap 27 fight card will be announced in the coming weeks.

