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Qatar Rail wins 'Worldwide Operator of the Year' award

Qatar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) has been named 'Worldwide Operator of the Year' at the Global Light Rail Awards 2026. The award recognises the company's resilience and operational efficiency, world-class safety and service performance, outstanding customer experience, and commitment to innovation, sustainability and continuous improvement across the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram networks. CEO of Qatar Rail, Jassim Mohammed al-Ansari, accepted the award alongside members of the company's senior management team at a ceremony in London. Commenting on the award, al-Ansari said, "This achievement further strengthens Qatar Rail's standing among the world's leading rail operators and is a testament to the efforts of our teams and partners. It also reaffirms our commitment to operational excellence, safety and service quality. The results delivered across the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram networks reflect the progress and efficiency of Qatar's rail network." He added, "This global recognition also brings a responsibility to keep innovating, enhance our customers' journeys, invest in national talent and strengthen our partnerships." **(QNA) Page 5**

Hospitality Qatar opens

Hospitality Qatar 2026 is currently underway at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), running until October 14, 2026. This 11th edition of the event was officially opened by Omar Abdulrahman al-Jaber, Chief of Operations Affairs at Qatar Tourism, who highlighted its role in boosting innovation, service quality, and the overall competitiveness of Qatar's tourism sector. As a premier international hospitality and HORECA (Hotel, Restaurant, and Café) trade show, it serves as a central hub for industry professionals, regional investors, and global suppliers to network and showcase cutting-edge products and services. **Page 9**

Deputy Amir chairs first meeting of QU Board of Trustees 2026-27

His Highness the Deputy Amir, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Qatar University, Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani, chaired the first meeting of the Board of Trustees of Qatar University (QU) for the 2026-2027 academic year, held yesterday at the Amiri Diwan. At the outset, the Board reviewed the implementation status of decisions and recommendations from the fourth meeting of the previous academic year. The Board also discussed the items on the agenda and took the appropriate decisions in their regard. The Board of Trustees of QU approved a proposal for a Master of Science in Clinical Practice in the field of health and medical sciences, as well as several proposals for academic programmes in the fields of Early Childhood, Environmental Sciences, and Data Science. **(QNA)**



Qatar, Syria cement closer ties



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Syria Asaad al-Shaibani, who is visiting Qatar. The meeting discussed bilateral co-operation and ways to strengthen it, the latest developments in Syria, and a range of issues of mutual interest. HE the Prime Minister reiterated Qatar's support for Syria's unity, sovereignty, and independence, as well as for the Syrian people's aspirations for a dignified life and the establishment of a state governed by institutions and the rule of law. HE Sheikh Mohammed also reaffirmed Qatar's support for efforts to rebuild Syria and promote stability. **(QNA)**

Riyadh airport likely to remain shut this week

Authorities have extended the closure of Riyadh's international airport until Saturday and airlines scrapped flights after continuing attacks by Yemen's Houthis emptied the skies over Saudi Arabia's capital. Operations at King Khalid International Airport, Saudi Arabia's second-busiest airport after Jeddah, were suspended to "allow for the completion of procedures to ensure the safety and operational readiness of the airport's facilities", the Saudi civil aviation authority said in a statement.

Late on Monday, the Houthis said they had attacked the airport with a ballistic missile, shortly after Saudi Arabia said it had intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile fired by the group towards Riyadh. The Houthis also said in a statement that they targeted an airbase in Khamis Mushait in the kingdom's southwest with a drone. There was no immediate Saudi confirmation. A Notice to Airmen issued on Monday showed that the King Khalid International Airport will stay closed until 2100 GMT on October 17.

The airport has been shut since an attack on Saturday that killed 13 people and wounded more than 300, the deadliest in the kingdom in more than

Operations at King Khalid International Airport, were suspended to "allow for the completion of procedures to ensure the safety and operational readiness of the airport's facilities", the Saudi civil aviation authority said

a decade. On Sunday, another attack killed one person and injured nearly a dozen others. The attacks marked one of the most significant disruptions to Saudi aviation in years, adding to pressures on an industry already grappling with conflict across the Middle East and with higher jet fuel prices that are eating into profits.

They have also raised worries over civil aviation becoming a target in armed conflict. "This level of sustained intense attack on civil aviation is unprecedented," said Mark Zee, founder of OPSGROUP, a membership-based organisation that provides aviation safety advice. "I think this requires us to rethink how we view the current risk picture, and tread very carefully," he said. Air traffic tracker Flightradar24 showed planes avoiding the city on Monday, though jets were crossing Saudi airspace and landing at top hub Jeddah on the country's west coast. Reuters

Antigua and Barbuda seeks stronger Qatar ties, permanent mission in 2027

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Antigua and Barbuda is looking to deepen its economic and diplomatic engagement with Qatar with plans to establish a permanent mission in Qatar by 2027, the ambassador of the country to Qatar told *Gulf Times* in an exclusive interview. Theon Ali, who currently serves as Antigua and Barbuda's non-resident ambassador to Qatar, said the opening of a diplomatic mission in Qatar would mark an important step in relations that have developed rapidly over the past two years.

"A physical embassy in Doha is a question of when, not if, as the relationship deepens," ambassador Ali, said. "We are looking at a process that should take us into 2027. We are hopeful the process will take six months or so and the physical embassy will be established by Q3 2027."

According to the ambassador, both the countries are moving to deepen bilateral relations and expand co-operation with aviation, tourism, climate finance and financial services emerging as key areas of co-operation. "Our relationship with Qatar has moved from introduction to agreement in less than two years. Qatar's ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda presented his credentials in 2023. We signed an air services agreement in January 2025," he said. "The agreement al-



Ambassador Theon Ali

lows unlimited passenger and cargo flights between the two countries."

The ambassador noted that bilateral relations have progressed from initial engagement to a series of formal agreements and high-level diplomatic contacts in a relatively short period.

Ambassador Ali said the immediate priority is to translate the air services agreement into direct connectivity, describing aviation as the "commercial catalyst" for wider bilateral co-operation as improved connectivity would create opportunities across tourism, investment and business.

Antigua and Barbuda receives more than 1.2mn visitors annually, with tourism accounting for about 70% of its GDP and one-third of employment, and the areas of considerable note of co-operation are: aviation; climate; tourism and financial services.

"We have the destination. What we need is the capital and the con-



mestic and foreign affairs, while highlighting the country's current reality and the progress achieved in realising comprehensive development; he affirmed that the Shura Council regards these insights as a guiding light and a cornerstone for its operations.

HE the Secretary-General of the Shura Council Nayef bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud has said that the council's General Secretariat-at completed preparations for the opening of the second ordinary session. He noted that the preparations reflect a forward-looking institutional vision and draw on qualified national personnel to ensure the continuity of the council's work and improve institutional performance.

HE al-Mahmoud explained that the opening session would be followed by the first working session, during which the procedures stipulated in the Shura Council's internal regulations would be carried out.

He highlighted the General Secretariat's efforts to test technical and logistical systems and verify the readiness of all facilities to ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of proceedings. Co-ordination has also been carried out with the relevant entities to ensure the readiness of buildings, facilities, systems, technologies and personnel.



Justice minister holds meetings with ambassadors of Indonesia, Turkiye



HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi met separately yesterday with ambassadors Syahda Guruh Langkah Samudera (Indonesia) and Yakup Caymazoglu (Turkiye). During the meetings, legal and judicial co-operation relations, as well as ways to enhance and develop them, were discussed. - **QNA**

Amir congratulates Spain's King Felipe

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations yesterday to Spain's King Felipe VI on the occasion of his country's National Day. HH the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent a similar cable of congratulations to King Felipe VI. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani meanwhile sent a cable of congratulations to Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on the occasion. - **QNA**

Amir congratulates E Guinea president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations yesterday to Equatorial Guinea's President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. HH the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent a similar cable of congratulations to Mbasogo. Meanwhile, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Equatorial Guinea's Prime Minister Manuel Osa Nsue Nsua on the occasion. - **QNA**



Minister joins session with children from Noor orphan care programme in Gaza

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad participated yesterday, via videoconference, in an interactive session with children from the Noor orphan care programme in the Gaza Strip. During the session, the minister learned about the children's perspectives, interests, and aspirations for the future, emphasising the importance of providing children in the Gaza Strip with a safe and supportive environment that empowers them to build a better future. The session was attended by Taawon (Welfare Association) board chairman Dr Nabil Qaddumi, along with a number of officials. - **QNA**

Minister takes part in opening session of Geneva Peace Forum

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi participated in the opening session of the Geneva Peace Forum yesterday.

In his inaugural remarks, the minister noted the importance of rules and standards governing mediation for peace, highlighting that, in terms of Qatar's experience in mediation, these rules and standards have become more important than ever.

Mediation is not merely a matter of bringing two parties into the same room; rather, HE Dr al-Khulaifi said, it rests on trust, impartiality, confidentiality, inclusivity, and a genuine commitment to a peaceful settlement.



He added that these are not merely theoretical principles, but practical conditions that allow parties to take risks in pursuit of peace, test compromise solutions, and remain engaged in the negotiation process, even when reaching an agreement seems elusive.

The minister noted that there are things that must be protected,

notably the principles of mediation, the space for mediation itself, and multilateral peacebuilding efforts.

Wars being fought today are rarely settled by a decisive victory and are rarely resolved conclusively, he continued, explaining that the path to victory has narrowed and the path to agreement has nearly closed.

HE Dr al-Khulaifi said that mediation is the means by which that path is kept open.

For this reason, he continued, the space available for mediation must be protected.

The minister also noted that dialogue requires a safe and secure political and physical space, and that the parties must be confident that entering negotiations won't expose them to new risks.

He said that the pressures Qatar has faced have not weakened its commitment to mediation; rather, they have further strengthened it.

The more difficult dialogue becomes, HE Dr al-Khulaifi said, the greater the need for mediation.

And, he added, the more fragile the rules and standards governing mediation become, the greater Qatar's responsibility to defend them.

tar's responsibility to defend them.

The minister emphasised that the United Nations should remain focused and ready to defend mediation when it is at risk.

He highlighted that this aligns with the United Nations Charter itself, as Article 33 provides for negotiation and mediation as means of the peaceful settlement of disputes.

HE Dr al-Khulaifi said that peaceful settlement is not an ad hoc measure within the international system or something external to it; rather, it is one of its fundamental pillars.

He called on the international community to advance more rigorous rules and standards, as well as stronger legal guarantees to protect mediators. - **QNA**

Minister of health meets French envoy

HE the Minister of Public Health Mansoor bin Ebrahim al-Mahmoud met yesterday with France's ambassador to Qatar Arnaud Pescheux. The meeting discussed co-operation between the two countries and ways to further develop and strengthen it in the health field. - **QNA**

Qatar takes part in GCC meeting on food security

Qatar participated yesterday in a video conference meeting of undersecretaries of ministries responsible for agriculture and food security, alongside senior officials from Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries. HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Municipality Ali bin Mohammed al-Ali represented Qatar at the meeting. The meeting discussed plans to establish strategic GCC storage zones for food, medicine, and other essential supplies. It also reviewed mechanisms to strengthen Gulf integration and develop food and pharmaceutical security systems to enhance preparedness for challenges and ensure sustainable supplies for future generations. - **QNA**

Arab League plans emergency session on international protection for Palestinians

The Council of the League of Arab States is set to convene an extraordinary session at the level of permanent representatives today to examine mechanisms for providing international protection for the Palestinian people and ensuring respect for international law and relevant international resolutions concerning Jerusalem's legal status. The session comes in response to a request submitted by Palestine to the Arab League's General Secretariat to discuss ways to set Arab and international efforts in motion amid escalating assaults by Israeli occupation forces and armed settlers against Palestinians and their property, with such actions being enabled and abetted by the occupying government and its military. Palestine's Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Muhannad al-Aklouk, said the request to convene the session came amid escalating assaults by occupation forces, which are pursuing a systematic policy aimed at displacing Palestinian communities, expanding settlements, and gnawing away at the prospects for a two-state solution. He noted that the session would address acts of violence targeting occupied Jerusalem and its international legal status, particularly amid some countries' decisions to open embassies in the city. - **QNA**

Human trafficking can attract very severe penalties, MoI official warns

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

THE Ministry of Interior (MoI) has warned against any form of human trafficking, stressing that such an offence carries severe penalties, including lengthy prison sentences.

Speaking at a webinar on "Various Crimes and Methods of Prevention and the Anti-Human Trafficking Section for the Public", organised by the ministry, Captain Fahad Jassim al-Mansouri, an officer at the Technical Office of the MoI's Criminal Investigation Department, cautioned employers against any practices that can violate workers' rights and freedom, as well as exploiting the vulnerable sections of society.

"Human trafficking is a serious transnational crime and that those convicted could face lengthy imprisonment under Qatari law," he said. "In most cases, ladies, children and migrant workers are subjected to

such practices and employers and others should refrain from such practices."

Capt al-Mansouri cited cases in which offenders received prison sentences of up to 10 years, including one involving a 12-year jail sentence, underscoring the seriousness with which the country treats the crime.

"Visa trading as well as sexual exploitation are two key areas mostly associated with human trafficking cases," the official said. "People can become involved in trafficking-related offences without fully realising that their actions might constitute a crime."

"There are two types of crimes committed that fall under human trafficking," Capt al-Mansouri said. "One is compelling the person to do a certain work and the second one is restricting the personal freedom of a person."

"People have to be very cautious about such practices," he warned.

The official highlighted that all the practices involving coercion, forced labour or restrictions on personal freedom could



Capt al-Mansouri during the webinar.

bring individuals under the scope of human trafficking legislation.

Explaining the elements of the crime, he highlighted some of the areas that involve human trafficking.

"Human trafficking can involve recruiting, transferring, transporting, harbouring or receiving a person for the purpose of exploitation through coercion, threats, fraud, deception, kidnapping or the abuse of power or vulnerability," Capt al-Mansouri said. "Such exploitation may include sexual exploitation, forced labour, compulsory services, begging, slavery or practices similar to slavery."

Qatar commits to working with UN to assist LDCs

Qatar has reaffirmed its commitment to working with the United Nations system and all partners to accelerate the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (2022-31), describing it as a global roadmap and an international platform for achieving sustainable development in least developed countries (LDCs).

This came in a statement delivered by member of Qatar's delegation Abdulaziz Yousef Jolo during the Second Committee's meetings of the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly at the United Nations headquarters in New York, under Agenda Item 20, Groups of Countries in Special Situations.

He noted that the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action (2022-31) had reached a critical juncture amid mounting challenges related to debt, development financing, food security, climate change and conflict.

Jolo reiterated Qatar's commitment to supporting LDCs in achieving sustainable development, citing the country's hosting of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Doha in March 2023, where Qatar pledged \$60mn to support the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and its outcomes.

He added that Qatar had sought to translate this commitment into practical partnerships and initiatives.

In September 2025, the Qatar Fund for Development signed two agreements worth a total of \$21mn with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS).

The agreements aim to support establishment of a food storage mechanism for LDCs and strengthen their resilience, while allocating \$10mn to support the Office in implementing the Doha Programme of Action.

Jolo also highlighted Qatar's hosting of a high-level meeting on Global Partnerships for the Sustainable and Resilient Graduation of Least Developed Countries in December 2025, held in partnership with UN-OHRLS.

He added that preparations were underway at all levels for the high-level meeting to conduct the midterm review of the Doha Programme of Action, scheduled to take place in Doha on March 25-27, 2027. - **QNA**

Ministry holds workshop to address effects of violence against children

THE Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF), in co-operation with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, held a workshop on ways to address the effects of violence against children via videoconference, with the participation of representatives of government entities responsible for child protection in Arab countries, alongside regional and international experts, specialists, and representatives of relevant organisations.

The workshop opened with remarks by Lubna Azzam, representing the Social Affairs Sector's Family and Childhood Department at the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, followed by a speech on behalf of the MSDF delivered by the director of the Family Development Department, Fatima Mohammed al-Nuaimi.

The workshop was held in implementation of a recommendation issued at the 21st session of the Committee for Follow-up on Ending Violence Against Children, chaired by Qatar on September 18, 2025.

The recommendation, concerning the effects of violence on children, called for strengthening co-operation and co-ordination among member states and regional and international organisations, and organising a workshop to raise awareness of ways to prevent violence against children and mitigate its effects.

The workshop discussed ways to strengthen joint Arab efforts to address the effects of violence against children, exchange expertise, experiences and Arab and international best practices in prevention, protection and response, and promote a shared understanding of relevant international frameworks and standards for protecting children from all forms of violence.

It also highlighted digital violence against children and mechanisms for prevention, protection and responding to its effects.

Participants reviewed mechanisms for monitoring, reporting, referral, professional intervention and case management, to develop an integrated child protection system and improve



the effectiveness of responses to cases involving children exposed to violence.

The workshop further explored ways to benefit from the outcomes of the Global Conference in Bogota and the commitments made by Arab countries to end violence against children.

It examined mechanisms for translating these commitments into practical measures and initiatives that support national and regional efforts to provide a safe and supportive environment for children.

The workshop concluded with a set of practical recommendations aimed at strengthening joint Arab cooperation and coordination, developing child protection mechanisms, addressing the consequences of violence, supporting the exchange of expertise, and building the institutional and professional capacities of relevant entities. - **QNA**

Qatar Charity Opens Egypt Office to Expand Humanitarian Cooperation

Qatar Charity (QC) has opened an office in Egypt as part of efforts to strengthen humanitarian and development cooperation between Qatari and Egyptian organizations.

The new office will provide a platform for coordinating humanitarian programs, exchanging expertise and developing partnerships to support vulnerable communities in Egypt and people affected by protracted crises in the region.

The office was inaugurated at an official ceremony in Cairo attended by Dr. Maya Morsy, Egypt's Minister of Social Solidarity; Sheikh Hamad bin Nasser bin Jassim Al Thani, Chairman of Qatar Charity's Board of Directors; and Sheikh Jassim bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Qatar's Ambassador to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the League of Arab States.

Also present at the ceremony were members of Qatar Charity's Board of Directors, the organization's CEO, senior officials, Egyptian government representatives, and members of civil society organizations.

The opening of the office underscores the shared aspiration to strengthen cooperation between the two brotherly nations and foster more effective and sustainable humanitarian and development partnerships. Drawing on the experience of both Qatar Charity and Egyptian organizations, the office is expected to expand opportunities for joint action and enhance support for vulnerable communities.



The Cairo office is Qatar Charity's 35th field office worldwide. The organization works in around 70 countries through its field offices and partnerships with UN agencies, international humanitarian organizations and local charitable associations.

Qatar Charity's field offices enable it to assess needs, respond quickly to humanitarian emergencies, support sustainable development, and directly monitor projects. The offices also help strengthen cooperation with international organizations and local partners while ensuring alignment with the policies and plans of the countries in which Qatar Charity operates.

Chairman's Remarks

In his keynote address at the ceremony, Sheikh Hamad bin Nasser bin Jassim Al Thani, Minister of State and Chairman of Qatar Charity's Board of Directors, said: "We are pleased to witness the opening of Qatar Charity's office in the Arab Republic of Egypt, a step that reflects the deep-

express our appreciation to President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the support, cooperation and facilitation provided to humanitarian and development initiatives, which have helped strengthen partnerships between charitable organizations in the two brotherly countries."

He also expressed his appreciation to Dr. Maya Morsy, Egypt's Minister of Social Solidarity, for attending the inauguration ceremony. He further thanked Sheikh Jassim bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the League of Arab States, as well as members of the Qatari diplomatic mission, for their valuable efforts in supporting the establishment of the office and helping make this milestone possible.

He added: "The opening of this office, our 35th field office worldwide, marks an important strategic milestone in Qatar Charity's efforts to expand its humanitarian and development impact and strengthen its

humanitarian, development and social welfare initiatives worth more than QR 36 million (US\$10 million), reflecting its commitment to fostering effective development partnerships, supporting sustainable development, and expanding its positive humanitarian impact."

The Chairman of Qatar Charity's Board of Directors stressed that the opening of the office reflects the organization's belief that the most effective humanitarian action is one that remains close to the communities it serves and is carried out alongside national institutions in line with the strategies of host countries.

For her part, Dr. Maya Morsy, Egypt's Minister of Social Solidarity, said that the inauguration of Qatar Charity's office in Egypt marks a new step toward expanding institutional, humanitarian and development cooperation between the two brotherly countries, building on the growing partnership fostered under the leadership of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

She expressed hope that the new office would further strengthen cooperation by bringing together shared expertise, capabilities and visions. Dr. Morsy noted that previous period

Dr. Maya Morsy also noted that Egypt's Ministry of Social Solidarity welcomes all initiatives that strengthen cooperation between Egyptian and Arab organizations, particularly Qatar Charity, and create new opportunities for knowledge-sharing, capacity building, and partnership models based on professionalism and good governance. She stressed that growing humanitarian challenges make collaboration among institutions more important than ever, emphasizing that meaningful impact can only be achieved through the integration of expertise, resources, knowledge, capabilities, commitment, and collective action.

Concluding her remarks, Dr. Morsy expressed her aspiration to further strengthen cooperation between Egypt's Ministry of Social Solidarity and Qatar Charity in the coming period. She said she hopes the new office will serve as a starting point for partnerships with Egyptian institutions and a natural extension of the strong ties between the two brotherly nations. Congratulating Qatar Charity on the opening of its office in Egypt, she wished its leadership and staff continued success and expressed confidence that the office would help make social and humanitarian action more impactful and sustainable.



rooted fraternal ties between Qatar and Egypt and further strengthens cooperation in the humanitarian and development fields. On this occasion, we extend our sincere gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, for his continued support of humanitarian and charitable work, which has enabled it to advance its noble mission and expand its impact regionally and internationally. We also

presence close to the communities it serves. The office will provide a platform for building stronger partnerships with leading Egyptian humanitarian and development organizations and for leveraging shared expertise to support vulnerable groups in Egypt and people affected by protracted humanitarian crises elsewhere.

Through the new office, Qatar Charity plans to implement an integrated program of

had witnessed successful collaboration between Qatar Charity and Egyptian institutions, particularly in responding to humanitarian crises and supporting relief efforts. In this regard, she highlighted Egyptian-Qatari cooperation since October 2023 to help address urgent humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip, in coordination with the relevant national mechanisms responsible for coordinating humanitarian assistance to Gaza.

Dr. Maya Morsy, Egypt's Minister of Social Solidarity, stressed that this experience highlights the importance of integrating efforts and expertise among humanitarian institutions in both countries. She noted that social and humanitarian action becomes more effective when it is built on partnership, mutual trust, and the exchange of expertise, strengthening the ability to respond swiftly and reach people in need at the right time and place.

She added that the opening of Qatar Charity's office carries significant institutional value, providing a new platform for communication and coordination and creating broader opportunities for closer, more consistent, and sustainable partnerships. Dr. Morsy noted that Egypt's Ministry of Social Solidarity regards civil society organizations as key partners in social work, emphasizing that the strength of any organization lies not in a single institution but in its ability to bring different stakeholders together around a shared social and charitable purpose.

The event included a presentation highlighting Qatar Charity's achievements over nearly four decades of humanitarian work. At the end of the ceremony, Qatar Charity honored Dr. Maya Morsy, Egypt's Minister of Social Solidarity, in recognition of her support for the inauguration of the organization's new office in Egypt.

Achievements and Future Plans

Over the years, Qatar Charity has developed strong partnerships with several leading Egyptian institutions dedicated to supporting vulnerable communities. Since the beginning of 2026, the organization, through its partners in Egypt, has implemented 37 humanitarian and development projects, benefiting more than 277,000 people in Egypt and in countries affected by protracted crises, particularly Palestine, Sudan, and Yemen. Valued at over QR 12 million, the initiatives have focused on food security, healthcare, shelter, water and sanitation, and social welfare, and were delivered in partnership with prominent Egyptian humanitarian organizations.

During the inauguration ceremony, Qatar Charity unveiled a comprehensive plan for humanitarian, development, and social welfare programs through its Egypt office, valued at more than QR 36 million (US\$10 million). The plan underscores the organization's commitment to fostering effective development partnerships, advancing sustainable development, and reinforcing the values of humanitarian cooperation and solidarity.

Qatar affirms importance of digital transformation, AI for economic development

The State of Qatar affirmed that digital transformation and artificial intelligence have become key drivers of economic and social development, enhancing services, boosting productivity, supporting decision-making, and accelerating progress toward sustainable development.

The statement was delivered by member of Qatar's delegation to the 81st session of the UN General Assembly's Second Committee Sheikh Khalid Abdulaziz al-Thani, during discussions on Agenda Item 14, Information and Communications Technologies for Sustainable Development, at the UN headquarters in New York.

He stated that Qatar attaches great importance to advancing information and communications technology (ICT) and artificial intelligence within the framework of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Digital Agenda 2030. These initiatives aim to strengthen secure and sustainable digital infrastructure, promote economic diversification, and ensure digital inclusion.

He noted that Qatar is implementing its National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, focusing on promoting scientific research, developing national capabilities, supporting AI applications across various sectors, and fostering partnerships. Initiatives such as GOV AI and TASMU Smart Qatar programme contribute to accelerating digital transformation and improving the quality of public services.

He also highlighted Qatar's substantial investment in digital infrastructure to support artificial intelligence, including fibre-optic networks, data centres, and cloud computing capabilities, noting that these investments lay the groundwork



for expanding AI applications. In this context, he pointed to Qatar's announcement in December 2025 of Qat, the national AI company, which aims to invest in infrastructure and advanced AI systems while supporting digital solutions across the public and private sectors.

He added that Qatar recognises the pivotal role of global digital transformation in narrowing development gaps and stressed the importance of international co-operation in technology transfer, capacity building, digital infrastructure development, and ensuring affordable and secure access to technology. Such efforts would help ensure that technology contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, he said.

Sheikh Khalid al-Thani also highlighted Qatar's active participation in the UN process on AI governance, including its involvement in the first UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance, held in Geneva in July 2026. He reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to working with all stakeholders to harness technology and innovation in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (QNA)

Awqaf, QC partnership serves as model of institutional co-operation

QNA
Doha

HE the Minister of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs Ghanem bin Shaheen bin Ghanem al-Ghanem affirmed that the partnership between the Ministry and Qatar Charity (QC) serves as a national model of sustainable institutional co-operation, strengthening the impact of endowment and charitable work.

He made the remarks while chairing the inaugural meeting of the Joint Co-ordination and Follow-up Committee between the Ministry and Qatar Charity. Established under Ministerial Decision No. 62 of 2026, the committee seeks to strengthen strategic co-operation, unify efforts, and integrate expertise and resources, with the aim of maximising the impact of initiatives related to endowment,



Zakat, charitable, humanitarian and development initiatives, while supporting sustainable development in Qatar and abroad.

He emphasised the importance of advancing this strategic relationship and translating it into high-quality programmes and initiatives that deliver sustainable impact, contribute to national priorities, and enhance the effectiveness of endowment, charitable, and humanitarian work.

The meeting explored opportunities to expand strategic co-operation in the next phase and mechanisms to enhance integration in the design and imple-

mentation of joint initiatives and projects, in a way that improves operational efficiency, achieve sustainable impact, set joint priorities, and establish the operational, financial, and implementation timelines required for the agreed initiatives.

Under the ministerial decision, the committee is responsible for overseeing the partnership, forming joint technical working groups to assess initiatives and develop implementation plans, monitoring progress and evaluating outcomes, and addressing related challenges to ensure that the partnership's objectives and strategic

priorities are achieved.

The move aligns with the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs' efforts to expand effective national partnerships, develop the frameworks governing endowments, Zakat, and charitable work, and enhance institutional efficiency and societal impact by consolidating efforts, exchanging expertise, and making optimal use of available resources.

The partnership also supports the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, particularly in human and social development, the promotion of social responsibility, and the values of solidarity and co-operation, in away that advances initiatives and projects that deliver sustainable development and humanitarian outcomes, strengthens the contribution of the endowment and charitable sectors to society, and reinforces Qatar's standing in humanitarian and development work.

HBKU's PlasmaPure advances to semi-finals of XPRIZE Water Scarcity

THE PlasmaPure team at Hamad Bin Khalifa University's (HBKU) Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (Qeeri) has advanced to the semi-finals of XPRIZE Water Scarcity in both Track A: Desalination - System-Level Innovation and Track B: Desalination - Novel Materials and Methods. It is one of only three teams worldwide and the only team from the Gulf region to reach this stage in both technical tracks.

This achievement marks a major milestone for the University in the competition and further highlights Qatar's growing status as a hub for research and innovation,

particularly in developing next-generation desalination systems and materials.

It underscores HBKU's commitment to advancing research that addresses critical challenges facing Qatar and water-stressed regions globally. Through Qeeri's Water Centre, HBKU is developing technologies that support more sustainable water production, resource recovery, and water security in arid environments.

XPRIZE Water Scarcity is a global, multi-year competition that aims to transform seawater desalination by making it more reliable, affordable, and sustainable. The

competition attracted 674 pre-registrations from 86 countries, with 143 teams progressing to the Qualified Team stage for rigorous technical evaluation and physical testing.

The PlasmaPure team, led by Dr Khaled Mahmoud, research director of Qeeri's Water Centre, brings together a multidisciplinary team of scientists and engineers. It builds upon collaborations with HBKU's College of Science and Engineering (CSE), the University of Montreal, and the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS Canada).

For Track A, PlasmaPure is

developing an integrated desalination platform that combines multiple technologies to improve water recovery, reduce energy and environmental impacts, and enable the management and recovery of valuable resources from concentrated brine.

For Track B, the team is developing bio-inspired reverse osmosis membranes designed for challenging desalination conditions. Inspired by sharkskin, the membranes feature engineered surfaces that reduce fouling and scaling while improving water transport, with a focus on the high-salinity, high-temperature conditions found in the Gulf.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The public is hereby notified that Mary Ann T. Zambrano, has filed with the Philippine Embassy a Petition for Correction of Clerical Error in the Certificate of Live Birth (Registry No. ROB-635-2015/2015-6340749) of her son.

She requested the correction of First name recorded from

Vince Anthony T. Zambrano to
Vince Anthony Miguel T. Zambrano.
Any person claiming interest or may be adversely affected by said Petition may file their written opposition with the Philippine Embassy.

QRCS supports 124 surgeries for vulnerable patients in Sudan

THE Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has concluded its multi-speciality medical convoy at Bahri Teaching Hospital in Sudan, in collaboration with Sidra Medicine and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC).

In just one week, the team performed 124 free surgeries, exceeding the initial target of 116 and helping more underprivileged patients.

The procedures included 49 general surgeries, 55 paediatric surgeries, and 20 urology surgeries – mostly major ones.

By providing free surgical services to 124 of the most vulnerable patients, the initiative eased their financial burden, reduced waiting lists, and supported broader efforts to improve access to healthcare in the country.

A visiting medical delegation from Qatar carried out the successful medical convoy, comprising Dr Mansour Ahmed Jaber, Senior Consultant Pediatric Surgeon at Sidra Medicine, and Dr Siddik Mohiye-Eldin Siddik, Consultant General Surgeon at HMC.



Other Sudanese specialists and consultants at the host hospital contributed to the surgeries, demonstrating the importance of co-ordinated medical and humanitarian efforts to serve patients and foster experience sharing.

During the project, Dr Salah al-Daak, head of QRCS's representation office in Sudan, closely monitored progress and spoke with doctors, patients, and their families to ensure the best medical care and show solidarity and compassion.

Dr Mahmoud al-Badri, Minister of Health for Khartoum State, Dr Haider

Mohamed Abdel-Nabi, Federal Director of Therapeutic Medicine, and Dr Ahmed al-Bashir, Director of the Bahri Teaching Hospital, attended the closing ceremony.

Both QRCS and the medical delegation were honoured for their dedicated work to alleviate the suffering of underprivileged patients in Sudan and foster the exchange of expertise with Sudanese medical professionals.

In a statement, Dr al-Daak emphasised that medical convoys were part of QRCS's efforts to support Sudan's healthcare system. He highlighted the



importance of such initiatives in providing medical care and facilitating knowledge sharing between Qatari and Sudanese medics.

Dr al-Bashir hailed the mission as an excellent humanitarian initiative, noting that it revitalised the hospital's role and services.

He thanked QRCS, the Sudanese Doctors Association in Qatar, HMC, Sidra Medicine, and the people and government of Qatar for their unwavering support for Sudan.

End of the Liquidation Announcement

The Liquidator – Rami Mohammad Ali Qudah
Deloitte & Touche – Qatar Branch

declares

finalizing the procedures
of the Liquidation of

Jeeves of Belgravia W.L.L.
(the "Company")
Commercial Registry No. (68063)

In accordance with the provisions of the law, he disclaims his responsibility for the Company, and its commercial registration was canceled at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

MoCI opens applications for services for Sealine service providers

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), has opened applications for two services for service providers in the Sealine area, as part of its efforts to regulate commercial and service activities and ensure compliance with approved standards and requirements. The MoCI said that applications should be submitted at the Government Services Centre - Al Wakra branch, with all required documents provided to complete the procedures. Required documents include an undertaking to meet safety and security requirements and a tenancy declaration form stamped by the MoECC. Motorcycle shops must also submit a Civil Defence certificate. (QNA)

Daam organises event for World Mental Health Day

The Behavioural Healthcare Centre (Daam), one of the centres affiliated with the Qatar Foundation for Social Work, organised an event to mark World Mental Health Day, observed annually on October 10. The event aimed to raise awareness of mental health and workplace well-being, highlighting the close relationship between mental and behavioural health. (QNA)



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (USD)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/IRE/7868/26 EPRS CLUB INSPECTION AND QA/QC MANAGEMENT	13/10/2026 to 20/10/2026	0	26,000	13/11/2026

Scope of Work:

The objective of this contract is to provide specialized QA/QC & 3rd Party inspection services on call-off basis including Manpower, Equipment & tools for Emergency Pipeline Repair systems (EPRS) Execution Readiness Phase and Execution Response & Repair Phases.

Bid Validity: Bid Offer should be valid for 180 calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:

ITT document for this tender will be available in QatarEnergy LNG website under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the QatarEnergy LNG online platform (SMART by GEP).

Note: Local Companies (established under the Laws of State of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) are advised to refer to the tender documentation and In-Country Value (ICV) Digital Portal: - <https://icv.qa/en-US/> for details of ICV compliance that may be applicable.

Qatar Rail wins ‘Worldwide Operator of the Year’ at Global Light Rail Awards

Qatar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) has been named “Worldwide Operator of the year” at the Global Light Rail Awards 2026. The award recognises the company’s resilience and operational efficiency, world-class safety and service performance, outstanding customer experience, and commitment to innovation, sustainability and continuous improvement across the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram networks.

CEO of Qatar Rail, Jassim Mohammed al-Ansari, accepted the award alongside members of the company’s senior management team at a ceremony in London.

Commenting on the award, al-Ansari said, “This achievement further strengthens Qatar Rail’s standing among the world’s leading rail operators and is a testament to the efforts of our teams and partners. It also reaffirms our commitment to operational excellence, safety and service quality. The results delivered across the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram networks reflect the progress and efficiency of Qatar’s rail network.”

He added, “This global recognition also brings a responsibility



to keep innovating, enhance our customers’ journeys, invest in national talent and strengthen our partnerships. These priorities will support the continued development of Qatar’s rail network and contribute to the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030.”

For his part, Chief of Service Delivery at Qatar Rail, Engineer Ahmad Mohammed al-Saleh, said, “The award reflects our focus on



operational safety, readiness and customer service, supported by smart technologies and modern approaches to asset and operations management. Under different operational conditions we kept Metro and Tram services running without interruption while maintaining the highest standards of safety and reliability. This demonstrates our ability to deliver safe, reliable and world-class transport services, both day to day and during major events that attract large passenger volumes across our networks, such as the FIFA Arab Cup 2025.”

Qatar Rail maintained an average daily ridership of 200,000

passengers in 2026, while continuing to deliver safe, reliable, and seamless services.

The win builds on Qatar Rail’s “Highly Commended” recognition in the same category in 2024 and 2025. Securing the top award in 2026 marks a significant step forward and reflects the sustained improvement in its operational performance.

The annual Global Light Rail Awards celebrate excellence, innovation and best practice across the light rail and public transport sector. The 2026 awards featured 17 categories, including “Worldwide Operator of the Year”, won by Qatar Rail. (QNA)



Ashghal announces new package of Roads, Infrastructure Development Project in Izghawa, Al Thumaid

QNA
Doha

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) announced the commencement of construction works for the second package of the Roads and Infrastructure Development Project in Izghawa and Al Thumaid, at a cost of about QR418mn. This package comes as part of Ashghal’s plan to develop road and infrastructure networks and raise the efficiency of services in line with the urban and population growth in Izghawa and Al Thumaid.

In this context, Project Engineer at the Roads Projects Department at Ashghal, Engineer Tamader al-Mass, confirmed that the second package represents an important phase in completing the development of roads and infrastructure in the Izghawa and Al Thumaid. The project will provide integrated services to approximately 771 plots, in addition to schools, commercial centres, mosques and several service facilities and buildings. The package will also support population and urban growth, while providing the required infrastructure in accordance with the latest approved systems and technical standards.

The project includes the development of the road network and the implementation of various infrastructural facilities, ensuring integrated services, improving traffic flow and providing connectivity to major

roads. It will also enhance traffic safety in the area, alongside the implementation of sustainable solutions that support the expansion of green spaces and help preserve environmental quality, Engineer al-Mass added.

The second package includes the development of approximately 23km of roads, and 30km of pedestrian and cycling paths. In addition to the installation of 589 street lighting poles and the provision of 2,730 parking spaces, while also providing road safety features, traffic signs and road markings.

Regarding infrastructure works, the package includes the construction of 23km of rainwater drainage network and 6 km of treated sewage effluent (TSE) networks for irrigating green areas, covering approximately 171,650 square metres. In addition to the implementation of approximately 15km of drainage networks.

The geographical scope of the second package extends across the area between Al Dawakhil Street to the east, National Day Ceremonial Road to the north, and Al Khor Road to the south covering a total area of approximately 600,000 square metres.

To ensure that construction works are carried out effectively and to minimise disturbance of residents and road users, the project has been divided into three geographical areas, with construction works being implemented sequentially in each zone while taking the necessary measures to maintain traffic flow.

AlRayan Bank, Visa to introduce new lifestyle cards for Qatar

AlRayan Bank announced the upcoming launch of a new premium lifestyle card proposition, developed in partnership with Visa.

The initiative reflects the bank’s broader ambition to reshape how customers engage with everyday spending, bringing together rewards, personalisation, and digital innovation within a single, connected experience.

Shaped by extensive market analysis, customer research, and global benchmarking, the new proposition is built to deliver a differentiated experience for personalisation, rewards, and customer value in Qatar’s and the GCC’s card market.

It will deepen relevance across the moments that matter most to customers: shopping, dining and travel. The new offering em-



beds innovative features designed around customers’ digital lifestyles. The result is a proposition designed to reward customers in ways that feel more personal, more current, and more meaningful.

Omar al-Emadi, acting Group CEO and Group Chief Operations and Administration officer at AlRayan Bank, said: “At AlRayan Bank, we continuously challenge ourselves to anticipate the future needs of our customers rather

than simply respond to them. Our upcoming lifestyle proposition represents a significant step forward in that journey.

“We are creating an ecosystem that goes beyond traditional banking rewards to deliver experiences, flexibility, and personalised value that reflects how our customers live, spend, and engage with the world around them, including the digital and AI platforms that are increasingly part of daily life. We believe this proposition will set a new benchmark for lifestyle banking in Qatar.”

Houssam Itani, Group Chief Strategy and Technology officer at AlRayan Bank, said: “This initiative is another example of how AlRayan Bank is leveraging technology, data, and strategic partnerships to deliver personalised

customer experiences. The proposition has been designed from the ground up with personalisation, scalability, and digital enablement at its core. Customers can expect capabilities designed to respond to evolving customer expectations.”

Lucca Bianconi, Country manager at Visa Qatar, said: “At Visa, we are committed to working with AlRayan Bank to deliver payment experiences that reflect the evolving lifestyles and expectations of consumers in Qatar.

By combining Visa’s global payments expertise and trusted technology with AlRayan Bank’s deep understanding of its customers, this new proposition will bring greater choice, personalisation and value to everyday spending, while supporting the continued growth of Qatar’s digital economy.”

FREELANDER Makes Its Global Debut in the Region, Unveiling the FREELANDER 8 in Abu Dhabi

New British premium intelligent all-terrain brand names the Middle East as the starting point for its global journey



The FREELANDER 8 takes centre stage at the global brand launch in Abu Dhabi.

FREELANDER has officially launched as a global brand in the region. Its Global Brand Launch took place at Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental, Abu Dhabi, under the theme “Beyond the Legend,” where the brand also unveiled its first model, the **FREELANDER 8**.

By choosing the Middle East as the strategic starting point for its worldwide rollout, FREELANDER has given customers across the Gulf, including Qatar, a first look at a new name in premium motoring. The UAE is the brand’s first international market.

A legendary name, reborn as a standalone brand

FREELANDER is now a standalone “British Premium Intelligent All-Terrain Brand,” developed jointly by JLR and Chery. JLR owns the brand and runs its Design Hub, while Chery provides intelligent technology and supply-chain support. The brand’s vision is “to become a world-leading premium new energy brand.”

The Freelander name first appeared in 1997 and became known for combining everyday usability with real all-terrain capability. The new brand builds on that heritage and moves into intelligent, new-energy mobility.

FREELANDER 8: designed with the Gulf in mind

The **FREELANDER 8** is a mid-to-large SUV. Several of its features were developed with the region’s climate and lifestyle in mind:

Built for extreme heat: a 45 cc air-conditioning compressor for strong cabin cooling in Gulf summers.

Desert-ready capability: a dedicated Sand Mode within the nine-mode i-ATS (Intelligent All-Terrain System), with hybrid all-wheel drive and dual-chamber air suspension.

A regional first: a Qibla Compass available only in the Middle East.

Commanding presence: a 2,050 mm body width with a strong shoulder line.

Intelligent cabin: a Qualcomm SA8295P automotive-grade chip, a 46.3-inch 8K Mini LED far-side screen and a 15.6-inch LCD centre display.

Driver assistance: L2+ advanced driver assistance.

With its global debut in Abu Dhabi, **FREELANDER begins a new chapter for one of the best-known names in all-terrain motoring**, combining British heritage with intelligent technology and capabilities developed for demanding markets such as the Middle East.



Lucia Mao
CEO of FREELANDER International

“FREELANDER is a British legend. But we want to do more than just bring it back. Chinese technology opens up new possibilities. That is what ‘Beyond the Legend’ means. British soul. Chinese intelligence. A legend going further than ever.”



Peter Matkin
Chief Engineer at Chery International R&D Centre

“Before you face extreme heat, heavy rain or rough ground, we put the car through it first. So wherever you go, you can drive with confidence.”



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PearlQ Software and RAero LLC Form Joint Venture to Advance Aviation Training Across Qatar and MENA

PearlQ Software and Network Solutions, led by His Excellency Sheikh Abdulla Khalifa F M Al-Thani, CEO and Managing Director, and RAero LLC, led by CEO Brent Birdwell, have announced a joint venture to develop and deliver digital aviation training solutions across Qatar, the Middle East, and North Africa.



Brent Birdwell
CEO of RAero LLC, USA

Guided by His Excellency Sheikh Abdulla's vision and aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030, the partnership aims to strengthen local technological capabilities and support Qatar's growing aviation sector.



His Excellency Sheikh Abdulla Khalifa F M Al-Thani, CEO, Managing Director, and Mohammed Sayeed, Chief Technology Officer, PearlQ Software

RAero brings decades of aviation training expertise, modern learning management technology, and digital courseware. Brent Birdwell, an aviation training pioneer and CPaT Global co-founder, leads RAero, while Amit Bahuguna, President of RAero and a Canadian airline pilot, contributes practical operational expertise.

The joint venture will initially focus on commercial, corporate and business aviation, military

aviation, and emerging eVTOL technologies. PearlQ will lead client engagement, program management, Arabic localization, and local support, while RAero contributes its platforms, courseware, and technical expertise.

His Excellency Sheikh Abdulla emphasized developing Qatari talent and building lasting national capabilities. Brent Birdwell highlighted the shared goal of smarter training and safer aviation, while Amit Bahuguna reaffirmed RAero's long-term commitment to Qatar.

Mohammed Sayeed, Chief Technology Officer at PearlQ Software, stated that the partnership will provide aviation organizations with responsive local support and help advance Qatar's aviation technology ecosystem.

Both companies view this joint venture as the foundation for a broader strategic relationship and future collaboration.



Glaucoma: The Silent Thief of Sight

Most people assume they would notice if their eyesight was failing. With glaucoma, that is often not the case. It is one of the leading causes of irreversible blindness worldwide, and because it usually develops slowly and painlessly, many patients only discover it when significant vision has already been lost.

What is glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a group of eye conditions that damage the optic nerve, which carries visual information from the eye to the brain. This damage is often linked to raised pressure inside the eye, known as intraocular pressure.

The most common form progresses gradually, first affecting side vision. Crucially, vision lost to glaucoma usually cannot be restored. The good news is that early detection and treatment can slow or prevent further loss.

Who is at risk?

Anyone can develop glaucoma, but the risk is higher in people over 40, those with a family history of glaucoma, people with diabetes, high eye pressure or high short-sightedness, and those who have had an eye injury or long-term steroid use.

If glaucoma runs in your family, tell your relatives, as they should be screened too.

Symptoms and warning signs

In the early stages, there are often no symptoms at all. As the condition progresses, patients may notice gradual loss of side vision, blurred vision, difficulty seeing in dim light or frequent changes in glasses power.

A less common form, acute angle-closure glaucoma, is a medical emergency. Sudden severe eye pain, redness, blurred vision, halos around lights, headache, nausea or



Dr. Leena Bhatt
Consultant Ophthalmologist, Aster Hospital, Qatar

vomiting need urgent care, as delay can cause permanent damage.

How glaucoma is detected

A glaucoma evaluation begins with a consultation about your

It is recommended to have a baseline eye examination by 40, or earlier if you have risk factors, with follow-up as your ophthalmologist advises.

Treatment and daily care

Glaucoma treatment aims to lower eye pressure, protect the optic nerve and preserve remaining vision. It is personalised according to the type of glaucoma, pressure level, test results and medical history.

Most patients start with prescription eye drops. Laser treatment can improve fluid drainage, and surgery is an option when pressure is not controlled with medicines or laser.

Glaucoma care is usually lifelong, and success depends heavily on the patient. Use your drops at the right time every day, never stop them without medical advice, tell your doctor about other medicines you take, and keep your follow-up visits even when your vision seems fine. Good control of diabetes and blood pressure also matters.

Eye Care

At Aster, we support patients through every stage of glaucoma care, from screening and diagnosis to treatment, long-term monitoring and education. For patients with diabetes, our diabetic care clinic brings together internal medicine doctors, ophthalmologists and neurologists, so eye checks become a routine part of overall care.

Do not wait for symptoms. Glaucoma cannot be felt in its early stages, but it can be detected. A simple eye examination today could protect your sight for life.

Screen early. Treat regularly. Protect your sight.



vision, medical and family history, medications and any previous eye problems or surgery. It may then include:

- Eye pressure measurement and corneal thickness measurement
- Examination of the optic nerve, often with the pupils dilated
- A visual field test to check side vision
- An OCT scan to assess the optic nerve and nerve fibre layer
- Gonioscopy to examine the eye's drainage angle

These painless tests tell us whether glaucoma is present, how advanced it is and what treatment is needed.

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Inside Ilham Mestour’s Creative World at M7

Internationally acclaimed artistic director Ilham Mestour brings nearly three decades of fashion and hairstyling expertise to Doha, as Keeta fuels five days of creativity, craftsmanship and cultural exchange at M7.

There is something rather fascinating about watching an artist at work, particularly when the medium is something as familiar as hair, and the result is anything but ordinary. A few carefully considered movements, an unexpected twist, a change in direction, and what began as a collection of strands gradually assumes an entirely different character. There is technique involved, certainly, but also instinct, an understanding of form and proportion, and the kind of creative confidence that comes from years spent mastering a craft.

It is this relationship between technical precision and artistic expression that is currently unfolding at M7 in Msheireb Downtown Doha, where internationally acclaimed artistic director Ilham Mestour is leading The MESTOUR Method, an exclusive five-day programme running from October 11-15, with Keeta as hospitality partner, bringing together an eclectic selection of its restaurant partners to fuel the creative experience.

Drawing participants from Paris, London, Amsterdam and the United States, among other destinations, the programme brings an international community of professional hairstylists into an intimate environment where learning becomes as much about observation and experimentation as it is about technique.

Each session begins with Mestour demonstrating unconventional hairstyles, working through intricate constructions, unexpected silhouettes and techniques developed over nearly three decades in the international fashion industry. Participants then recreate and reinterpret the looks themselves, with Mestour moving between them, adjusting proportions, refining techniques and encouraging each stylist to discover a creative language of their own.



“After almost thirty years in this industry, I have so much I want to share,” says Mestour. “But most of all, I want them to trust their own eye, find their own way of working and take what they’ve learned into something that’s truly theirs.”

For Mestour, Doha is familiar creative territory. Her previous collaboration with M7 on Amazigh Hair Couture explored the intersection of hairstyling, cultural heritage and identity, establishing a relationship with the city’s creative community that has now brought her back.

“Doha has a special place in my heart. Working on Amazigh Hair Couture at M7 meant so much to me because it brought together hair, culture and identity,” she explains. “Coming back with The MESTOUR Method feels very personal. I’m here to share what I’ve learned, but also to meet people, exchange ideas and learn from them.”

Beyond the hairstyling stations, the experience has developed another distinctly local dimension through Keeta, which has brought

together a constellation of restaurant partners to curate the programme’s hospitality.

From coffee served by Blackout Coffee and thoughtfully assembled cheese platters from Trays, to buttery croissants and pastries from Nawar’s Bakery, a homegrown business founded by a female entrepreneur Mariam al-Thani, the hospitality experience has been designed around the rhythm of the workshop. Nando’s Qatar and Calify are among the participating restaurants, introducing different flavours and dining experiences throughout the five days.

The collaboration reflects Keeta’s growing engagement with Doha’s creative community, bringing local businesses into spaces where fashion, culture and international talent meet, and allowing hospitality to become part of the wider exchange rather than simply an accompaniment to it.

“I’m really grateful for Keeta’s support. I love that they’re bringing local restaurants and businesses into this experience,” says Mestour. “It’s lovely to see people from different backgrounds come together and support each other. For me, those connections matter, and I hope we can continue building on them long after these five days.”

And perhaps that is where the significance of The MESTOUR Method lies. Somewhere between the careful construction of a hairstyle, the exchange of ideas across different creative cultures and the conversations taking place over coffee, M7 has become a meeting point for people who understand that creativity rarely exists in isolation.

For five days in Doha, Keeta is fuelling the people behind the craft, while Mestour reminds them that the most interesting thing they can create is something unmistakably their own.

Shura prioritises legislative system development

QNA
Doha

HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem affirmed that the Council, as the State of Qatar's legislative authority, attaches great importance to developing the country's legislative framework in accordance with established constitutional principles. He noted that, in this context, and in implementation of the wise directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Council places development sectors at the core of its priorities, while taking into account the aspirations of society and the priorities of the current phase.

In an exclusive interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA) marking the opening of the second session of the second legislative term, which corresponds to the 55th annual session taking place today, His Excellency said that the Council is deeply committed to conducting exhaustive studies of draft laws from all perspectives, debating them within the Tamim bin Hamad Hall, and ensuring their alignment with development requirements and the best interests of the citizens.

HE the Speaker of the Shura Council explained that by inviting and consulting with subject-matter experts, and by clarifying all issues related to the projects submitted to the Council by relevant entities, a clear picture emerges for the Council that empowers it to make decisions that achieve its objectives and reflect the views of its members.

His Excellency emphasised that the content of the speeches delivered by His Highness the Amir at the opening of the Shura Council's legislative sessions serves as a guiding framework for the Council's work, providing a source of inspiration for its vision, pri-

orities, and the requirements of the current phase. He noted that these speeches consistently offer political directives regarding both domestic and foreign affairs, while highlighting the country's current reality and the progress achieved in realising comprehensive development; he affirmed that the Shura Council regards these insights as a guiding light and a cornerstone for its operations.

HE the Speaker highlighted that the Council's role supports and complements that of the executive branch, and that it plays a key part in implementing strategic plans and Qatar National Vision 2030, in accordance with its constitutionally mandated role. He explained that the legislative process undertaken by the Shura Council involves several stages, all characterised by full co-operation between the legislative and executive branches in the service of development goals.

His Excellency noted that the Council, in performing its legislative and oversight roles, is guided by the provisions of the country's Constitution and the supreme interests of the State. He added that the Council translates societal aspirations into fruitful discussions that ultimately lead to decisions strengthening the State's legislative framework, in accordance with the foundations established by Qatar National Vision 2030.

In response to a question regarding his assessment of the Shura Council's journey and the trust it has earned among citizens, His Excellency added that this journey, spanning more than 50 years, clearly reflects the approach of the wise leadership, dating back to the era of the founding fathers.

HE the Speaker of the Shura Council emphasised that His Highness the Amir has not only continued this approach but has also established even more solid and enduring foundations for the Council. This aligns with the requirements of the current phase

and political experience, while preserving the cohesion of society. The responsibility rests with members of the Shura Council to translate these visions and directives into tangible reality, he added. This is what the Shura Council's distinguished journey has witnessed, and there is a strive to preserve this legacy by responding to the aspirations of the citizens and realising the supreme interest of the country, under the wise leadership of His Highness.

His Excellency highlighted the Council's keen interest in issues of importance to society, foremost among them those concerning its culture, identity, and adherence to its faith, and how this is reflected



in the reality of Qatari society, which remains deeply rooted in its fundamental values and identity.

His Excellency stated that, within this framework, the Council discussed a number of issues concerning identity, the family, upbringing, the care of the elderly, and child protection, thereby reflecting the aspirations of society. He emphasized that these discussions yielded positive outcomes, whether in the form of motions, amendments to draft laws, or the submission of legislative proposals.

Regarding the assessment of legislative achievements during the previous session, HE the Speaker of

the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem explained that through 37 ordinary sessions and 81 committee meetings held during the session, the Council reviewed and approved 23 draft laws referred by the esteemed government and submitted a legislative proposal on digital child protection, prompted by the rapid global expansion in children's use of digital platforms and technologies, and the accompanying challenges and risks, such as data privacy concerns, exposure to harmful content, cyberbullying, and digital exploitation, which necessitate the development of legislative frameworks to enhance child protection in the digital environment and keep pace with rapid



technological advancements.

His Excellency added in his interview with QNA that in addition to reviewing and approving the State of Qatar's general budget before the start of each fiscal year, the Shura Council hosted ministers and officials for hearings, as well as experts and specialists during committee meetings, to examine all aspects of the draft laws under consideration or the topics tabled for discussion.

He affirmed that the Shura Council's activities during the aforementioned session were marked by diligent work and fruitful discussions, translating into a range of draft laws and propos-

als, undoubtedly contributing to strengthening the State's legislative framework, adding that the new session will see a continuation of this approach.

HE the Speaker of the Shura Council commended the co-operation between the Council and the esteemed government in addressing issues of importance to the nation and its citizens, noting that the relationship between the legislative and executive branches has been characterised by fruitful and constructive co-operation, reflecting the directives of the wise leadership and realising the supreme national interest sought by all.

He added that, against this backdrop, co-operation has been a defining feature of the relationship between the two sides, noting that communication between the General Secretariat of the Shura Council and the General Secretariat of the Cabinet has been both effective and continuous, reflecting this co-operation, alongside ongoing, efficient co-ordination regarding matters brought before the Council.

His Excellency affirmed that the Shura Council seeks to continue, strengthen, and enhance this co-operation, thereby achieving shared goals and contributing to addressing all issues and matters that benefit the nation and its citizens.

HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem added that during the previous legislative period, the Council held six hearings, hosting ministers and government officials to review their strategic plans, examine operational challenges, and clarify key policy matters, empowering Council members to make well-informed decisions regarding these entities or related draft laws.

His Excellency explained that during the new legislative session, the Council aims to continue this approach to monitor project milestones and strategic execution, ensuring complete alignment with

national development goals and citizen aspirations under the constitutional oversight mechanisms entrusted to the Shura Council.

His Excellency also affirmed that the Council maintains a robust presence across regional and international parliamentary assemblies, supporting Qatar's foreign policy, advocating for global peace, and promoting dialogue, coexistence, and Arab and Islamic causes with a consistent commitment to safeguarding human dignity. This active participation yielded concrete diplomatic outcomes, foremost among them the adoption of an emergency item submitted by Qatar through the Shura Council at the 152nd General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Istanbul, Türkiye. The item addressed ceasefires, the preservation of peace agreements, and the protection of international waterways, reflecting the Qatari people's steadfast commitment to international peace and security.

HE the Speaker affirmed that the Shura Council's parliamentary diplomacy serves to support the State of Qatar's official diplomacy aimed at achieving international peace, coexistence, and sustainable development.

His Excellency added that the Shura Council seeks to reinforce this vital role, project a positive image of Qatar, and champion Arab, Islamic, and humanitarian causes by refining its diplomatic tools, leveraging deep-seated ties with counterpart parliaments, and developing qualified national administrative cadres. He emphasised the Council's commitment to leveraging its relationships with counterpart councils and parliaments through participation in regional and international parliamentary forums, hosting delegations, or holding bilateral talks, alongside activating parliamentary friendship groups and expanding areas of co-operation and co-ordination.

Strategic Foresight Forum opens in Doha to empower youth for the future

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

THE Strategic Foresight Forum opened in Doha yesterday (Monday), bringing together officials, experts and young people from member states to strengthen youth leadership, strategic thinking and innovation.

Organised by the Ministry of Sports and Youth in collaboration with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ICESCO), the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, and the Arab Youth Council, the three-day forum, running until October 14, aims to equip young people with the skills needed to anticipate future challenges, adapt to rapid transformations and contribute to shaping the future. Speaking at the opening, Ahmed bin Mohammed al-Harmi, Assistant Undersecretary for Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Sports and Youth, stressed the importance of investing in Arab youth and equipping them with the knowledge, skills and experience needed to navigate changes in education and the labour market.

He emphasised that young people should not be viewed merely as beneficiaries of policies and programmes, but as active partners in setting priorities, developing innovative solutions and shaping the future.

Al-Harmi also announced the launch of the Qatar Youth Council, an initiative aimed at translating this vision into practical programmes that strengthen young



Panel discussion at the Forum.



Officials and dignitaries at the Forum.

people's capabilities and encourage their participation in future planning.

He described the forum as an important platform for bringing together young people, experts and policymakers from different countries to exchange knowledge, build capacities and strengthen co-operation among educational and youth institutions.

He added that the forum's success would ultimately be measured not only by its discussions but also by the practical initiatives and partnerships that emerge from it.

Dr Salim al-Malik, director-

general of ICESCO, highlighted the importance of investing in youth and providing educational and training opportunities that enable them to turn their ambitions into achievements and contribute to more prosperous societies across the Islamic world.

He noted that the global population aged 15 to 24 exceeds 1.3bn, with more than 110mn young people in the Arab region, underscoring the need to expand access to education, training and meaningful participation in development.

Meanwhile, Dr Issa bin Hassan al-Ansari, president of Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University,

stressed that developing education systems has become an urgent necessity amid sweeping global transformations.

He said the knowledge and skills acquired through general and higher education alone may no longer be sufficient to meet future challenges, particularly as artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies reshape education, employment, economies and societies.

Al-Ansari emphasised that educational institutions must prepare young people for a rapidly changing world, where information is expanding, and knowledge is constantly evolving. This requires continuous learning and the development of new capabilities beyond formal education.

Salem al-Mansouri, adviser to the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, also underscored the importance of investing in young people and equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to build the future and advance sustainable development.

He highlighted the need to anticipate transformations in education, employment and knowledge, while preparing young people to meet emerging demands.

Al-Mansouri noted that youth development remains a national priority for Qatar, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the country's development strategies, which emphasise human capital development and the preparation of skilled talent capable of adapting to change and contributing to a knowledge-based society.

Qatar's supply chain has maintained effective resilience

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

Qatar's response to disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz has demonstrated the country's growing ability to safeguard essential supplies during crises, while also exposing structural vulnerabilities that require long-term investment and regional co-operation, according to a supply chain expert at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q).

Dr Iman Adeinat, an associate teaching professor in the Operations Management Programme at CMU-Q and a member of Qatar Foundation, said the past six months underscored the need to build supply chains that can withstand prolonged disruptions rather than respond to temporary emergencies.

She identified two key dimensions of resilience: operational flexibility, which lets businesses quickly redirect shipments and find alternative suppliers, and structural resilience, which lets supply networks absorb shocks without relying heavily on emergency measures.

While Gulf countries have demonstrated considerable operational flexibility, Adeinat said their continued dependence on critical maritime routes remains a significant vulnerability. Qatar's

ability to keep essential goods flowing despite maritime transport disruptions shows how contingency planning can shield consumers from external shocks.

Businesses and logistics operators responded by moving goods overland through Saudi Arabia, rerouting shipments through Red Sea ports and Oman, and drawing on Qatar's strategic reserves. These measures helped maintain

the availability of essential goods in domestic markets despite the country's reliance on imports for a substantial share of its food requirements.

However, the impact on imports and exports has varied.

While alternative routes have helped Qatar secure imported goods, industries dependent on energy-related raw materials and maritime export channels have faced greater exposure to disruption.

This distinction highlights a central challenge for Qatar and its Gulf neighbours: resilience depends not only on maintaining supplies to domestic markets, but also on sustaining industrial production and access to export markets.

Adeinat said one of the crisis' most important lessons was that Qatari businesses did not simply wait for conditions to improve. Instead, many adjusted their operations assuming disruptions could persist.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Second edition of the Arab Human Rights Moot Court Competition begins on October 20

THE second edition of the Arab Human Rights Moot Court Competition will take place from 20 to 22 October 2026.

The United Nations Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region, affiliated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, organises the competition, which is hosted by the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies.

The competition brings together students from universities across the Arab region aiming to raise awareness of human rights issues and develop participants' advocacy and moot court skills

through a training environment that simulates real judicial proceedings.

It also seeks to strengthen their knowledge and practical skills in international human rights law through hands-on exercises aligned with relevant international standards.

The competition is open to third- and fourth-year undergraduate students and master's students enrolled in law faculties and human rights programmes. Each team must comprise at least two and no more than four students.

This year's edition features 15 universities from 11 Arab countries: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emir-

ates, and Yemen. A total of 48 male and female students are taking part in the competition.

This is the second edition of the competition, hosted by the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies.

The event will conclude with the final round and closing session, during which the winning team will be announced and participating students will receive certificates.

The initiative reflects ongoing efforts to bridge academic knowledge and practical application.

Moot court competitions in human rights have a long tradition at European universities and help develop the skills of law and human rights students, particularly in comparative law, advocacy, and strategic litigation.

Qatar Charity opens office in Egypt

QNA
Cairo

Qatar Charity (QC) announced yesterday the opening of an office in Egypt, during a ceremony held in Cairo.

The ceremony was held in the presence of HE the Chairman of Qatar Charity Sheikh Hamad bin Nasser bin Jassim al-Thani, Minister of Social Solidarity of Egypt Dr Maya Mursi, Qatar's ambassador to Egypt and its Permanent Representative to the Arab League Sheikh Jassim bin Abdulrahman bin Mohammed al-Thani, alongside a number of officials, media figures, and representatives of relevant entities and institutions.

In his remarks during the ceremony, HE Sheikh Hamad said that the opening of a Qatar Charity office in Egypt marks a significant milestone in the humanitarian and developmental co-operation between the two fraternal nations.

He described it as a practical embodiment of the bonds of brotherhood, shared history, and noble humanitarian values, rooted in co-operation, solidarity, and service to humanity, that unite them.

He added that the occasion holds strategic significance in the organisation's jour-



ney and the new office is the 35th in the organisation's global network.

This milestone, HE Sheikh Hamad continued, is ingrained in the belief that the most impactful humanitarian work is that which remains close to communities and operates alongside national institutions, in alignment with the host country's national strategies.

For her part, Dr Mursi said that the inauguration of the QC office in Egypt represents a new step that opens up broader horizons for institutional, humanitarian, and developmental co-operation between the two fraternal nations, adding to the ongoing co-operation between them.

She expressed hope for enhanced co-operation between the Egyptian ministry

of social solidarity and Qatar Charity in the coming period.

Sheikh Jassim said that the inauguration of a Qatar Charity office in Egypt represents a new step reflecting the depth of the solid, fraternal relations uniting the two countries.

He noted that relations between Qatar and Egypt are based on close historical and people-to-people ties, as well as a shared will to enhance co-operation across various fields in a manner that serves the interests of both countries and their peoples.

Sheikh Jassim pointed out that Qatar Charity through its expertise, programmes and projects endeavours to support and implement initiatives that contribute to improving living conditions, supporting

different sectors to empower the most vulnerable groups.

He emphasised Qatar's belief in the importance of responsible humanitarian work, noting that its partnerships represent the optimal way to ensure aid and projects reach their intended beneficiaries and achieve the greatest possible impact.

He said Qatar looks forward to making the office a pivot of co-operation between Qatari and Egyptian institutions in the humanitarian and development sectors.

The ceremony featured an introductory film about Qatar Charity, showcasing aspects of its mission, efforts, and initiatives, as well as the humanitarian and developmental presence it maintains in the various communities where it operates.

Hospitality Qatar 2026 is spicing up tourism sector, says QT official

By Peter Alagos
Business Editor

Hospitality Qatar 2026 serves as a vital platform for showcasing the latest innovations, and supporting ongoing efforts to improve service quality and enhance the competitiveness of Qatar's tourism and hospitality sector.

This was announced by Omar Abdulrahman al-Jaber, chief of Operations Affairs at Qatar Tourism, during his remarks at the event's opening ceremony held yesterday at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC). The 11th edition of the event will run until October 14.

According to al-Jaber, Qatar Tourism's support for the event reflects its commitment towards the burgeoning hospitality sector that has established Qatar's position as a leading global destination for tourism and business events.

"As the sector continues to experience rapid growth, supported by the country's advanced infrastructure, we remain committed to promoting excellence and enhancing the visitor experience through our initiatives and strategic partnerships," al-Jaber said.

Organised by IFP Qatar, the event brings together senior officials, ambassadors, business leaders, and industry experts to highlight the event's role in sup-

porting the development of Qatar's hospitality sector.

Hospitality Qatar 2026 has established itself as a leading platform for professionals across the hospitality, hotel, restaurant, café, and catering industries.

The 2026 edition features 120 exhibitors, including 90 local exhibitors and 30 international exhibitors from Oman, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, India, and Jordan.

The participating companies represent a wide range of sectors, including hotels and resorts, interior design and furniture, food and beverage, restaurant and catering equipment, technology, and environmentally friendly hospitality solutions.

Hayat Bayaan, director of Com-



Omar Abdulrahman al-Jaber with Philip Koutras, founder of the Ambassadors of Taste for the Global Gastronomy and Authentic World Taste, during the opening ceremony. **PICTURE:** Tahjudheen

mercial Affairs and Operations at IFP Qatar, said the 11th edition represents an important milestone for Hospitality Qatar 2026.

She highlighted the event's role in creating opportunities for partnerships between investors, suppliers, and hotels, while providing a platform to showcase the latest solutions, technologies, and

trends shaping the hospitality industry.

As part of the event's programme, the Ambassadors of Excellence Gala, held in partnership with Qatar Tourism, will honour leading institutions and brands for their contributions to excellence and development across the hospitality and tourism sectors.

Qatar gears up for winter camping season with enthusiasm and responsibility

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

Authorities registered 141 camps during the first two hours of registration for the 2026-2027 winter camping season, introducing streamlined procedures to help citizens secure their preferred locations while protecting the environment.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change received applications from senior citizens and people

with disabilities at the Land Protection Department in Duhail, where dedicated staff provided assistance and facilitated the registration process.

Hamad Salem al-Nuaimi, director of the Land Protection Department and chairman of the ministry's Winter Camping Committee, said 97 land camps and 44 marine camps were registered between 8am and 10am on the first day.

Al-Nuaimi, accompanied by Salim Qadri al-Yami, assistant director of the de-

partment and head of the field camping team, supervised the registration process and ensured applicants received the necessary support.

Applicants lauded the efficient service and welcoming atmosphere, with several saying they completed their applications within minutes. They also welcomed arrangements for senior citizens, including the waiver of registration fees, while the applicable security deposit remains payable.

Al-Nuaimi said the min-

istry, under the directives of HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, is committed to simplifying procedures and providing suitable camping locations in an organised manner.

The central region has been allocated 500 camping sites covering Umm Al Afai, Rawdat Rashid, Rawdat Aisha, the Umm Al Udam Road area, Al Kharaij and Abu Samra. A team of 30 inspectors has been assigned to allocate sites in the region.

The ministry transfers applications electronically to inspectors, who contact applicants to confirm locations. When needed, inspectors visit sites to complete the process. If a requested location is unsuitable for environmental or regulatory reasons, applicants are offered the nearest appropriate alternative.

The ministry aims to complete allocations in the central region within three days before deploying inspection teams to the south and, subsequently, the north. The northern region, one of Qatar's busiest camping destinations after Sealine, accommodates approximately 600 camps and includes land sites, marine locations and protected areas.

The Department of Nature Reserves will oversee allocations for marine camps and camps within protected areas at Sealine and Al Adaid. Authorities aim to complete all camp allocations by October 25, allowing citizens to begin setting up their camps from that date.

Bashir Abdullah, who regularly camps at Rawdat Rashid, said the season offers a chance to escape daily routines and spend quality time with family and friends. Khalid al-Ruwaili highlighted the tradition's cultural significance, noting that taking children to camps helps introduce them to Qatari customs, including welcoming guests, preparing Arabic coffee and gathering around campfires.

Nasser Mohamed Hudaib welcomed the flexibility offered to campers, saying he had changed his usual location in Salwa for a site closer to his home. Ali Saad al-Qahtani also praised the speed

of the registration process, while Ayed Hassan al-Qahtani stressed on the importance of family gatherings and enjoying nature responsibly.

Meanwhile, the ministry will intensify inspections to protect natural landscapes and vegetation. Al-Nuaimi warned that violations could result in permit cancellation, forfeiture of security deposits, and camp removal, depending on the nature of the offence. Damage to protected green areas may also result in additional enforcement measures.





The Transport Company
MOWASALAT (KARWA)

Mowasalat (Karwa) announces the following tender:

Tender Ref. No.	Tender Title	Tender Fee	Electronic Tender Fee Payment Dates	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
TC-035-EGS-2026	Repair and Reinstatement of Damaged Shade Structures, Roofing and Building Elements at Mowasalat Depots and HQ Premises	QAR 800	13 to 20 October 2026	QAR 40,000	15 November 2026

CONDITIONS:

- Interested bidder shall pay the tender fee to Mowasalat Bank Account details as shown:
- Bidder must submit proof of tender fee payment (Bank Deposit Slip + A Signed & Stamped Expression of Interest (indicating Tender Ref. No. and Title / Company Name and details of nominated contact person i.e., Tel. No., Fax No., and Email address) + Copy of valid Commercial Registration to Mowasalat Secretary - Tender Committee at email: tenders@mowasalat.com
- Tender documents will be released via email on the next working day after the tender fee payment date to all bidders who have submitted the bank deposit slip and other documents requested.
- Bonds: **Tender Bond & Performance Bond:** Bids must be accompanied by Bonds issued by a local bank operating in the State of Qatar as per the Qatar Central Bank template. Further details of bonds can be found in the tender documents. *Bids without Tender Bond shall not be considered.*
- Tender validity:** Bid validity period shall be 180 days from the bid closing date.
- Tender documents submission:** Bids must be submitted in 3 separately sealed (**IN RED WAX**) envelopes addressed to **Secretary - Tender Committee** clearly highlighting the Tender Ref. No. & Tender Title:
 - Envelope 1# must** include the Technical Bid submission (1 Original + 1 non-Editable copy in a USB)
 - Envelope 2# must** include Commercial Bid submission (1 Original + 1 Editable MS Excel spreadsheet copied in a USB)
 - Envelope 3# must** include the Tender Bond (1 Original) + 3 years Audited Financial Statements.
- Bid Closing Date:** Bid submission deadline is **12.00 noon Doha Local Time** as on the Bid closing date shown above. The 3 envelopes must be handed over to The Secretary - Tender Committee, located at Mowasalat Head Office, Industrial Area. Any tender submitted after the deadline will not be considered.



Tel.: 4458 8724 Fax: 4458 8850

Supplier Registration Mowasalat Location



Korow

دورات كوروا

Korow Academy

مركز مواصلات الطبية

Mowasalat Medical Center

كوروا للتكنولوجيا

Korow Technologies



INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
CO-RFQ-541	Supply, Installation, Testing & commissioning of Aerosol System (UL, FM, and QCDD Approved) for Diesel Generator Room at Sidra Medicine	1,000.00	N/A	03 November 2026 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-1455	Supply, Installation and commissioning of Digital Sound Mixers at QNCC	1,000.00	N/A	03 November 2026 2:00 PM
CO-RFQ-542	Supply of LED corn bulb for streetlight fixtures in South and North Infrastructure Area	500.00	N/A	29 October 2026 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-1439	Provision for Construction of Car Parking Lots & Roads to QF on Call-off Basis for 3 Years with Option to Extend up to 1 More Year	1,000.00	100,000.00	24 November 2026 2:00 PM
CO-RFQ-540	Supply and Installation of Furniture for Qatar Academy School	500.00	N/A	10 November 2026 02:00 PM

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

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

Tender Fee: Interested bidders can Sign in by visiting this link <https://suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract> and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online. All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.

Tender Fee Payment Dates: Payment of Tender Fee online will be from **13th October 2026 to 19th October 2026**.
- All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.
- Technical and commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier Portal as per instructions provided in the "Supplier Portal" work instruction.
 - The commercial bid must be valid for **180 days** from Bid Closing Date.
 - The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **180 days** from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents).
 - The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
 - Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

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



Decoding the diesel agreement between Putin and Trump

US President Donald Trump has stepped up his efforts to lower US diesel prices by lifting sanctions on Russian diesel exports and announcing a ceasefire on energy infrastructure between Russia and Ukraine. Soaring US diesel prices are hurting US truckers and farmers, and are a concern for voters and political parties ahead of November 3 midterm elections.

US prices were down 0.5% on Monday following Trump's announcements.

Trump said on Friday that Russia will immediately supply more than 300,000 metric tonnes (2.25mn barrels) of diesel to US and global markets. That is less than a day's supply for the US transport sector alone, according to US Energy Information Administration data, which shows daily use of around 2.94mn barrels per day. Trump said Russia would supply another 500,000 tonnes in November and a further 1mn tonnes

"immediately thereafter", which is less than four days' demand for US transport.

The US has lifted sanctions on Russian diesel exports, but it remains unclear what tankers could be used to export the fuel given sanctions on many, and what the condition is of Russian refineries given recent Ukrainian attacks on them. Russia was capable of exporting about 100,000 tonnes of diesel per day prior to Ukrainian drone attacks on refineries that began in 2024.

In light of damage to its refineries, Russia banned diesel exports from July to meet domestic demand and extended that ban to countries without bilateral agreements until October 31, while sustaining steady exports to "friendly" states, mostly in Central Asia. If Ukraine halts attacks on Russian refineries, Russia would be capable of meeting the initial request from Trump for 300,000 tonnes of diesel exports, according to industry sources. Russia could produce

300,000 tonnes of diesel this month if a large oil refinery hit by drones in the European part of the country were to restart, the sources said.

According to Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ukrainian strikes on oil refineries cost Russia's economy 1% of gross domestic product, which is around \$26.6bn, according to Reuters calculations. Exports of 300,000 tonnes of diesel would fetch roughly \$400mn, of which a small portion would go to Russia's state budget. Russia taxes mostly oil output, not oil and fuel exports.

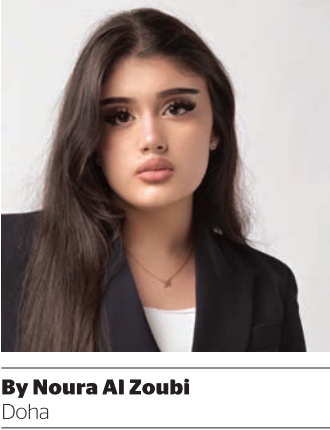
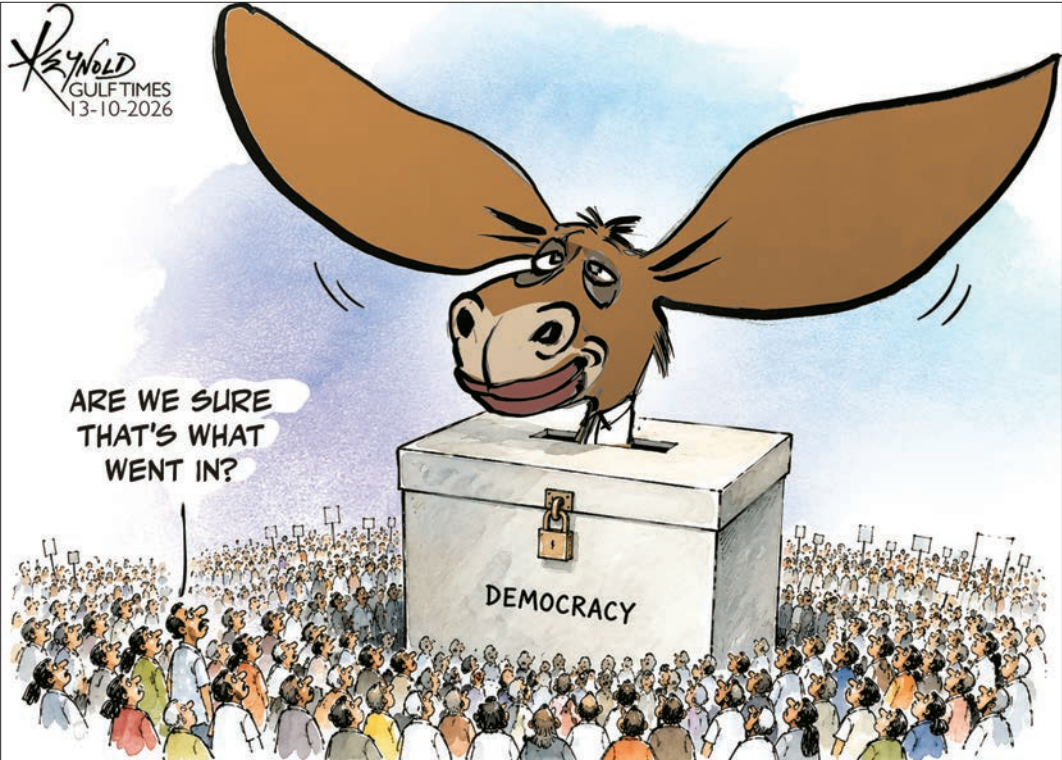
Russia has around 30 large oil refineries, while none are functioning in Ukraine. Moscow said on Saturday it had partially lifted the ban on diesel exports in place since July with immediate effect. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said Trump's diesel supply deal with Russia would embolden Moscow's attacks on Ukraine and cost more lives.

US lawmakers also criticised the move, including one of Trump's fellow Republicans, Representative Don Bacon, who said it was time to apply more sanctions that Congress had recently passed, not lift them. British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said his country would strengthen its sanctions on Russia. German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul restated Berlin's support for Ukraine's leader after Trump called for his removal, and called for more pressure to be put on Russia to resume peace talks.

The Group of Seven nations agreed recently to release fuel from their strategic reserves, coordinated by the International Energy Agency. The 32-nation IEA coordinated the world's largest emergency stocks release in March of over 400mn barrels of crude oil and products, and has recently prodded participating countries to offer any unreleased volumes to market. — Reuters



People participate in the Columbus Day Parade along Fifth Avenue yesterday in New York City. Thousands of people lined up to watch the 82nd Annual Columbus Day Parade which celebrates the contributions of Italian Americans to the nation's history, culture and achievements. (AFP)



By Noura Al Zoubi
Doha

Qatar's young environmentalists well prepared for a formal voice

Last year I joined young people from across Qatar at the Local Conference of Youth at Georgetown University in Qatar, the gathering that carries young people's views into the United Nations climate negotiations. The discussions were serious, well informed and hopeful. On the way home, I kept returning to a simple question: once our ideas left the room, how could they best reach the people shaping Qatar's environmental future?

I have been thinking about that question ever since. Over the past months I have researched it with the team at ICELIS Global, in a policy brief on youth participation in Qatar's environmental governance. My conclusion is a hopeful one, and it comes with a suggestion.

First, the hopeful part. Young people in Qatar are not waiting to be asked. They run school sustainability clubs, organise beach clean-ups and tree-planting days, and fill the programmes offered by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Ministry of Education and the Friends of the Environment Center.

Youth-led initiatives

University students organise clean-up campaigns and bring their ideas to ministry workshops. Youth-led initiatives are also reaching beyond our borders. This summer I launched SDGs Unlocked, a free online series on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, guided by an academic advisory board chaired by Professor Damilola

S Olawuyi SAN, Unesco Chair on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, and endorsed by the International Law Association's GCC Branch.

In its first season it has welcomed viewers from nearly 60 countries, and it has since become a member organisation of the Children and Youth Major Group to the UN Environment Programme. Doha, it turns out, is a very good place from which to start a global conversation.

The State has laid strong foundations for this energy. Qatar National Vision 2030, the National Environment and Climate Change Strategy and a dedicated Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, created in 2021, give clear direction, and the Environmental Protection Law of 2002 provides the legal backbone, including the assessment of the environmental impact of new projects.

The natural next step is to give young people a formal place in environmental decision-making. We are warmly invited to campaigns, competitions and events, and we are grateful for them.

What would add most now is a standing channel through which our ideas can be considered, and answered, by those who shape policy. Because environmental questions involve several institutions, among them the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Ministry of Sports and Youth and the Ministry of Education, a single, clear entry point would also help young people know where to begin.

The law already points the way. Article 33 of Qatar's Permanent Constitution requires the State to preserve the environment and its natural balance in order to achieve sustainable development for all

generations. 'All generations' includes mine, and the ones after it. Internationally, Qatar ratified the Paris Agreement in 2017.

Article 12 of that agreement commits its parties to strengthen climate education, public awareness and public participation, work now known as Action for Climate Empowerment, for which countries are encouraged to adopt national strategies.

And as a party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Qatar has recognised in Article 12 the right of every child to be heard in matters that affect them. In 2023 the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child made clear, in its General Comment No 26, that this includes taking part freely and meaningfully in decisions about the environment.

In other words, youth participation builds on commitments Qatar has already made. The opportunity now is to give them a practical form at home. This matters for Qatar, and for the whole Gulf.

Every GCC state shares the same pressures: intense heat, scarce fresh water, long and exposed coastlines, and large and growing young populations. The young people in our classrooms today will live with the consequences of the decisions taken now for longer than anyone else. It is fair, and sensible, that they help to shape them.

Three steps

My research points to three steps that would make a real difference. The first is a permanent Youth Environmental Advisory Council, established

by ministerial decision so that it endures beyond any single campaign, and hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change together with the Ministry of Sports and Youth.

It would bring together school and university students, youth organisations and young professionals, be consulted on draft environmental strategies and programmes, and receive a written response to its proposals. That response is what turns being consulted into being taken seriously. The council could also anchor a national Action for Climate Empowerment strategy, giving Qatar a clear way to show how it is meeting its Paris commitment.

The second is environmental civic literacy. Many young people care deeply about the environment but know little

about the laws that protect it, from the Constitution to the Environmental Protection Law, or about how to engage with the institutions that apply them.

A short programme offered through schools, youth centres and online would explain, in plain language, how environmental decisions are made, how impact assessments work and where young people can contribute. Knowing the rules is what gives young people the confidence to take part well.

The third is a national network of youth environmental ambassadors, drawing on school clubs, university societies and youth-led initiatives, and supported by regular surveys of young people's views. Policy would then rest on evidence of what young people think, and the findings could feed directly into Qatar's reporting on its climate commitments.

None of this is expensive or radical. Qatar already has the institutions, the strategy, the legal commitments and, above all, the young people. What remains is to build the bridge between them.

A model built here would also travel. Through its development partnerships, Qatar works with countries across the Global South, where young people make up an even larger share of the population and often face the sharpest climate risks. A Qatari approach to youth participation, tested at home and shared with GCC partners, could become one of the most useful things the region offers them.

Each time I host an episode of SDGs Unlocked, I am reminded that young people want more than inspiration; they want responsibility. Qatar has every chance to set the standard for the Gulf in how it listens to its young people on the environment, and I believe it is ready to do so.

• Noura Al Zoubi is a student at the Lycée Franco-Qatarien Voltaire in Doha and the founder and host of SDGs Unlocked, a free online series on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In November she will speak on the youth panel of the 15th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva.



UDC, The Pearl International Hospital mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month

United Development Company (UDC), in partnership with The Pearl International Hospital, hosted a community awareness event and workshop to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month, bringing together UDC employees, residents and healthcare professionals to highlight the importance of early detection, preventive healthcare and informed health choices.

Held at The Pearl International Hospital, the event builds on an awareness programme UDC introduced last year, reinforcing its commitment to making breast cancer awareness an annual community initiative.

The workshop focused on practical ways to support early detection, with healthcare specialists highlighting the importance of recognising changes and potential early signs, carrying out regular self-examinations and seeking professional medical advice when needed.

Participants were also encouraged to prioritise routine health screenings, including mammograms for eligible women, as part of a proactive approach to maintaining their health.

The programme also highlighted the important role women play in encouraging positive health choices within their families and wider communities.

A keynote address by local entrepreneur and influ-



encer Afraa al-Noaimi offered encouragement and confidence, urging women to look after themselves and one another, keep conversations about health open, share knowledge and experiences, and recognise that making time for their own wellbeing is a powerful choice.

Hospitality Development Company (HDC), Lab 33, Skin & More, Quartier Beauty and Floribunda support-

ed the event, helping enhance the community experience and support the programme's objectives.

Extending the breast cancer awareness campaign across the UDC's destinations, several prominent landmarks were also illuminated in pink from October 1, running until the end of the month, including UDC Tower, Gewan Bridge and the Crystal Walk shades.

Ooredoo named official sponsor of We Run Doha in partnership with PSG

Ooredoo announced its partnership with Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) as the official sponsor of We Run Doha.

A part of the internationally recognised PSG Run global series, We Run Doha brings families, youth athletes, corporate teams and seasoned runners together on one start line, pairing the atmosphere of a global running series with a local community event.

We Run Doha will take place on 30 October 2026 at Lusail International Circuit, featuring 1km race for kids, 5km and 10km races for adults.

Around 2,000 runners are expected to take part, giving participants the opportunity to run on the Lusail International Circuit, home of the Qatar Grand Prix.

Registration is now open. Participants can register for the 1 km kids race or the 5 km and 10 km adult races by visiting <https://psgqnbrerundoha.com/>.

Sabah Rabiah al-Kuwari, senior director Marketing Communications at Ooredoo Qatar, said: "As we build towards the Doha Marathon by Ooredoo 2027, We Run Doha plays an important role in supporting Qatar's position as a home for world-class community sport. We look forward to welcoming families, youth athletes, corporate teams and the wider running community to this exciting event."

Fabien Dilem, general manager of Paris Saint-Germain's Middle East and India Regional Office, said: "We Run Doha reflects the Club's ambition to connect with communities through sport and create memorable experiences for fans and participants. Together with Ooredoo and our partners, we look forward to making this first edition a special celebration of running, football and the PSG spirit in Qatar."

The partnership continues Ooredoo's long-running support for sport in Qatar, from grassroots participation to flagship events like the Doha Marathon by Ooredoo.



In a first, Podar Pearl School bags prestigious membership

Historic recognition for the school was announced at the Round Square International Conference 2026 held in Sydney, Australia

Podar Pearl School has reached a major milestone in its international journey, becoming the first and only Round Square Global Member School in Qatar.

Round Square is an international network of more than 300 schools across 50 countries and six continents. Its educational philosophy is centred on character education and experiential learning, giving students opportunities to learn through action, collaboration and real-world experiences.

The recognition marks an important step in the school's commitment to developing students through international collaboration, experiential learning, character development, leadership and service.

The landmark announcement was made during the Round Square International Conference (RSIC) 2026, hosted by Barker College in Sydney, Australia. The school had been a Round Square Candidate School since 2025 and, following its successful journey towards permanent membership, was formally welcomed as a Global Member during the conference.

"Becoming the first Round Square Global Member School in Qatar is a proud moment for every student, teacher and parent at Podar Pearl School," said C Muhamed Nizar, president, Podar Pearl School.

"The Round Square IDEALS reflect what we believe education should be: developing not only academic ability, but also character, compassion, leadership and a global outlook. We are grateful to the Round Square community for welcoming us and look forward to representing Qatar with pride on the global stage," he added.

Podar Pearl School was represented at the RSIC 2026 conference by a six-member student delegation: Sanjana Nalluri, Shraddha Rani Ajith, Divya Mukesh Thawani, Anokhi Pooduturi and Tanay Sanghvi of Grade 12, and Maria Saqib Qadri of Grade 11, accompanied by the school's two Round Square Coordinators, Rathi Ramanujam and Neethu Panicker.

The school's president also joined the delegation for the inaugural proceedings.

The conference brought together Round Square students and educators for a programme centred on the theme "Visions of the Future from an Ancient Land." Delegates participated in discussions, Baraza groups, cultural activities, environmental initiatives, service experiences and adventure-based learning.

The conference also provided opportunities for students from different countries to collaborate, exchange perspectives and build friendships across cultures.

Podar Pearl School also looks forward to welcoming members of the international Round Square community to Doha and creating opportunities for students from Qatar to contribute their own perspectives, culture and experiences to the global network.

The achievement reflects the collective efforts of the school's students, teachers, senior leadership and management, whose continued support has helped establish and strengthen the Round Square journey at Podar Pearl School.

From becoming a Candidate School in 2025 to receiving the Round Square flag as a Global Member School in Sydney in 2026, Podar Pearl School has taken a significant step towards becoming a stronger part of a global educational community.



4th Baraha Musical Concert taking place in January

Msheireb Properties, the developer and operator of Msheireb Downtown Doha, has announced the fourth edition of the Baraha Musical Concert, presented in collaboration with Al-Jazeera Orchestra and Choir for the second year in a row.

The concert will take place on January 14 and 15, 2027, at Barahat Msheireb in the heart of the city.

Across two evenings, the event will bring together emerging local singers and established vocal talent to celebrate the musical heritage of the region.

Al-Jazeera Orchestra and Choir returns this year following the success of its first appearance in January 2026, which drew a strong response from audiences.

This edition introduces solo performances alongside the orchestra and choir's ensemble performance.

Musically, the programme stays close to the style that resonated with audiences at the first appearance.

It draws on traditional Arabic compositions and the musical heritage of the Arabian Peninsula, in arrangements that preserve their authenticity while giving them a contemporary presence on stage.

Sheikh Nayef bin Ali al-Thani, founder of the Al-Jazeera Orchestra and Choir initiative, said: "Al-Jazeera Orchestra and Choir began with a firm belief that our musical heritage stays alive as long as young voices carry it forward."

"The audience response to our first appearance gave us confidence that we were on the right path, so we have kept the same musical character while making room this year for solo performances, allowing each voice to come through with its own character."

"We value our partnership with Msheireb Properties, which gives these talents the stage at Barahat Msheireb to share their art with its audiences."

Dr Hafiz Ali Abdulla, Executive Director of Corporate Communication at Msheireb Properties, said: "Msheireb Downtown Doha was designed as a city that carries Qatari heritage into the heart of modern urban life, and culture sits at the centre of that vision."

"Initiatives such as Al-Jazeera Orchestra and Choir bring this to life in our public spaces, turning Barahat Msheireb into a stage where the region's musical heritage meets a new generation of Qatari talent."

"Investing in national talent is part of our long-term commitment to building a city with a living cultural identity, one that enriches Qatar's cultural landscape and gives the community renewed reasons to return." - QNA

almeera becomes official retail partner of Hospitality Qatar 2026

The 11th edition of Hospitality Qatar 2026, which runs at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC) in the capital until October 14 has announced almeera as its official retail partner.

As one of Qatar's leading national retailers, almeera is expanding its business-to-business (B2B) offerings and strengthening its engagement with hotels, restaurants, caterers and others across the hospitality sector.

Over the past decade, Hospitality Qatar has established itself as a leading platform for the hospitality industry, bringing together operators, suppliers, investors, innovators and industry professionals from Qatar and international markets.

The exhibition provides an important platform for networking, business development and collaboration across the sector.

For almeera, the partnership creates a platform to strengthen

relationships across the hospitality sector.

It provides an opportunity to bring the company's retail expertise, broad product assortment, sourcing capabilities and extensive supplier network closer to businesses across the hospitality industry, while building new relationships with local and international partners.

"As a national retailer, we have an important role to play in supporting the continued development of Qatar's hospitality ecosystem. Hospitality Qatar brings together the businesses and partners shaping the sector, from producers and suppliers to hotels and restaurants," said almeera CEO Jassim Mohammed al-Ansari.

"By expanding our B2B offering and deepening these relationships, we are creating new opportunities for almeera to support the sector at greater scale and contribute to its continued growth," al-Ansari added.



Visitors, suppliers and industry stakeholders are invited to meet the almeera team at Stand B07, Hall 5, throughout Hospitality Qatar 2026, which will run until October 14 at the DECC.

Supporting local producers is at the heart of that ambition; almeera works with Qatari farms, manufacturers, and homegrown brands to bring national products to shelves country-wide, and its participation at Hospitality Qatar creates a link between these producers and hospitality buyers who can take their products further.

A broad, well-connected sup-

plier base also contributes to the resilience of Qatar's food supply, giving businesses greater confidence in the consistency and availability of what they source.

The scale of these relationships not only reflects the breadth of almeera's business but also its endeavour to serve its customers with unrelenting commitment by ensuring quality and variety.

The company works with up to 200 local companies, representing approximately QR700mn in average annual business and around 25% of total sales. Across its wider network, almeera works with approximately 750 suppliers, with sourcing spanning more than 100 countries.

Through Hospitality Qatar, almeera will also engage with new

suppliers, producers, and potential business partners, allowing the company to further diversify its sourcing network, explore new products and identify opportunities for future collaboration.

The exhibition comes during a period of wider transformation for almeera.

Following the launch of its new brand identity in April 2026, the company has continued to modernise its stores, strengthen its digital channels and further develop its customer experience and wafa loyalty programme.

Its digital platform, available through the almeera app and website, extends the company's reach across Qatar and supports its ambition to provide greater convenience and accessibility to customers and businesses alike.

Visitors, suppliers and industry stakeholders are invited to meet the almeera team at Stand B07, Hall 5, throughout Hospitality Qatar 2026.

Noudar Jewellery takes centre stage in Hollywood and New York

- **Noudar Jewellery takes centre stage in Hollywood and New York as celebrities choose the Qatari brand for high-profile appearances**
- **Daniela Avanzini, Ella Bright, Lana Raj and Liza Soberano spotlight Noudar jewellery across**
- **Saturday Night Live, the 2026 MTV Video Music Awards and the premiere of *Forgotten Island***

Noudar, the Qatari jewellery brand by Noor Alfardan, continues to make its mark on the international fashion and entertainment scene, with a series of recent celebrity appearances across New York and Los Angeles.

From *Saturday Night Live* (SNL) to the 2026 MTV Video Music Awards and a major Hollywood premiere, Noudar jewellery was selected by Daniela Avanzini, Ella Bright, Lana Raj and Liza Soberano for some of the season's most high-profile moments.

On September 26, Avanzini was seen wearing a Noudar ring for her appearance on SNL in New York, carrying the jewellery through to the evening's after-party.

The refined yet distinctive piece complemented her look, highlighting Noudar's ability to bring a con-



Daniela Avanzini

temporary edge to high-profile fashion moments.

The same evening, Raj was spotted wearing a Noudar ring for Kat-seye's special guest appearance on SNL.

The appearance further reflected Noudar's growing presence within the international entertainment landscape, where distinctive jewellery is increasingly becoming an integral part of the red-carpet and performance aesthetic.

The following day, Noudar continued its presence in Los Angeles as Ella Bright wore Noudar rings to the



Lana Raj

2026 MTV Video Music Awards at the Peacock Theatre.

The jewellery added a sculptural and contemporary finish to her look, bringing Noudar's distinctive design language to one of music's most recognisable global stages.

Also in Los Angeles, Soberano wore a Noudar ring to the premiere of Universal Studios' *Forgotten Island*, held at the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art on September 23.

Her appearance offered another striking showcase of Noudar's jewellery within the world of international film, fashion and entertainment.

Together, the recent appearances underscore Noudar's growing international visibility and its appeal among a new generation of global talent.

Rooted in Qatar and shaped by a contemporary design perspective, Noudar brings together distinctive forms, refined craftsmanship and cultural references to create jewellery that feels both deeply considered and inherently modern.



Liza Soberano

Established in 2012, Noudar draws inspiration from the visual language of the region, translating elements including geometric forms, Islamic-inspired motifs, Omani mosaic and henna into contemporary jewellery.

Its designs celebrate individuality while maintaining a strong connection to the cultural influences that inform the brand's identity.

The latest celebrity moments across New York and Los Angeles further reinforce Noudar's position on the global fashion stage, following a growing number of appearances by international celebrities and tastemakers who continue to select the brand's distinctive pieces for significant cultural and entertainment moments.



Ella Bright



Doha Design District gathers experts to map out the future

'Regenerate Cities' forum asks city's thinkers and makers to design what comes next

Doha Design District, powered by Msheireb Properties, brought together architects, designers, academics and industry leaders for a one-day forum on "Regenerate Cities: Design for What Comes Next".

The forum explored the ideas, technologies and practices redefining the built environment.

Held at SADA, Doha Design District's headquarters, the forum was presented by Msheireb Properties and Doha Design District, with AIA International as conference partner.

It examined two of the forces reshaping architectural practice: sustainability and artificial intelligence (AI).

Discussions considered how AI could support more informed design decisions, accelerate analysis, and enable architects to test multiple scenarios, while keeping human judgement, creativity, and accountability at the centre of the design process.

The discussion explored sustainability as an integrated approach spanning resource efficiency, climate-responsive design, long-term resilience, and the social value of places.

Rather than treating the future as a distant destination, Regenerate Cities asked how it could be actively designed – and how architecture could respond to a rapidly changing world.

Following opening remarks by Doha Design District director Dana Kazic, the programme brought together a diverse range of international and local perspectives, including Liya Maryam from AIA International, Fanos Panayides of John McAslan + Partners, Max De Castro of UNStudio,

Mario Saab of Cundall, and Dr Esmat Zaidan of Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

Their presentations examined how AI is being integrated into contemporary architectural practice, from data-informed planning and performance modelling to design exploration and workflow optimisation.

Speakers also addressed the need for responsible adoption, including transparent decision-making and the continued importance of professional oversight.

Sessions on sustainable cities considered how low-carbon design, efficient use of energy and materials, climate resilience and regenerative thinking could help reduce environmental impact, respond to global warming and support practical solutions to climate change.

The programme also featured a panel moderated by Salman al-Sulaiti, bringing together Eng. Ibrahim M al-Jaidah, group chief executive and chief architect at the Arab Engineering Bureau; deputy project director and senior architect Dr Moza Ghorab; Dana AlNaama, senior architect, oil and gas sector; and Jabor al-Dosari, project engineer at Qatar Museums.

Together, they explored the evolving relationship between architecture, technology and sustainability, as well as the broader needs of the cities and communities they served.

The discussion highlighted the potential for AI-enabled insights and sustainable design principles to complement one another, helping project teams evaluate performance, anticipate future demands and create adaptable, people-centred places.

Throughout the day, Regenerate Cities



Snapshots from the event.

created space not only for ideas but also for exchange, connecting disciplines and perspectives to examine how cities could be designed to adapt, endure and continue creating value for future generations.

The conversations reinforced the importance of combining technological innovation with environmental responsibility, local context and long-term community needs.

With keynotes, expert sessions, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, the forum brought together those actively shaping the future of cities across architectural practice, technology, sustainability, research, and urban development.

The conference formed part of Doha Design District's wider programme to raise awareness of the emerging factors influ-

encing contemporary design and everyday life.

In line with its mission and vision, the initiative aimed to equip a new generation of designers and practitioners with the knowledge and tools to integrate sustainability, responsible innovation, and new technologies into their creative processes, helping shape more resilient, inclusive, and future-ready cities.

300 native seedlings planted in event held to mark Arab Agriculture Day

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), in co-operation with the Friends of the Environment Centre, has planted 300 native wild seedlings and scattered local plant seeds at Umm Al Amad Rawda as part of activities marking Arab Agriculture Day.

The activity involved the ministry's Wildlife Development Department and students from Al Andalus School Complex and Ali bin Jassim bin Mohamed Al Thani Secondary School.

It aims to restore natural habitats, enhance plant diversity and support the regeneration of Qatar's native vegetation.

Ahmed Manoukh al-Enezi, a wildlife specialist at the ministry, said the campaign is part of ongoing efforts to rehabilitate natural environments and protect Qatar's rawdas, which are important habitats for native flora and fauna.

He highlighted the importance of involving students in field activities to raise environmental awareness and foster a sense of responsibility for protecting local ecosystems.



Adnan al-Balushi, representing the Friends of the Environment Centre, stressed the importance of co-operation between government institutions and civil society organisations in promoting environmental protection.

He said student participation helps instil values of sustainability, teamwork and volunteerism while encouraging the younger generation to play an active role in safeguarding Qatar's natural resources.

Doha Film Festival celebrates Qatar's screen industry with four features, an original series

Doha Film Festival 2026 will present four milestone feature films and a new original series from Qatar, showcasing the depth, ambition, and growing international potential of the country's rapidly evolving screen sector.

Spanning fiction, documentary and series, the selection reflects the range of stories emerging from Qatar and the growing capabilities of its filmmakers and production community.

Part of the "Special Screenings" programme at the festival, the three films supported by Media City Qatar are *Jodari Meno* by Jamal al-Khanji, *A Very Ordinary Life* by Mohamed Deniz, and *First to Fly* by Rodrigo Vazquez Salessi, along with *When the News Breaks You* by Hamad al-Hajri, and a special episode of *Elzam* produced by Jassim al-Romaihi and Ahmed al-Baker, an original series from Katara Studios.

Jodari Meno and *When the News Breaks You* have received funding through the Doha Film Institute (DFI)'s grants programme and participated in mentorship activities at Qumra 2025.

The selection represents the continued rise of Qatar's vibrant screen industry anchored in a strong foundation of collaboration working towards the vision of Qatar as a destination for ambitious creative work.



A scene from *A Very Ordinary Life*.

The DFI, Film Committee, Media City Qatar, and Katara Studios are contributing to the advancement of an increasingly connected ecosystem designed to support filmmakers, productions and creative talent at every stage of the creative process.

"These projects mark Qatar's increasingly meaningful role in empowering ambitious global stories and supporting the talent behind them," said DFI chief executive and Doha Film Festival director Fatma Hassan Alremaihi.

"We are building a sustainable industry by creating opportunities, developing capabilities and connecting Qatar's talent with the world," she said. "Together, we are making the vision for Doha's role as a hub for creative and cultural excellence a reality."

"What makes this especially exciting is that Doha Film Festival gives filmmakers from Qatar and the wider region a global platform to help their stories reach audiences around the world," said Media City Qatar chief executive Hamad Omar AlMannai.

Taking place on November 19-27, the Doha Film Festival brings together filmmakers, audiences and industry voices from the region and beyond to honour original storytelling and important voices in film.