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Google Cloud onboarded to QIX

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) announced the onboarding of Google Cloud as a new member of the Qatar Internet Exchange (QIX), marking a significant milestone in the expansion of Qatar's national Internet infrastructure. QIX is a government-supported, non-profit initiative that advances the Internet ecosystem in Qatar. It serves as a central interconnection hub, linking Internet service providers, content providers, educational institutions, and government and enterprise entities, enabling the efficient local exchange of Internet traffic. Google Cloud is a global leader in cloud technology, providing infrastructure, platform capabilities, and AI-driven solutions that help organisations in Qatar and globally transform their digital operations. Through its extensive content delivery infrastructure, it enables secure and efficient access to digital services for users and organisations worldwide. Through this collaboration, QIX members will benefit from improved local access to Google Cloud services, reduced latency, and enhanced network performance. Localising traffic exchange is expected to deliver faster and more reliable digital services for Service Providers, enterprises, and end users across Qatar. **(QNA) Page 6**

'Security of Saudi Arabia critical to Qatar, region'

Cabinet approves draft law on digital protection of children

QNA
Doha

Qatar's Cabinet has called on government ministries and institutions to use His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's address to the Shura Council as a guiding framework for their work in the coming period, as it approved draft legislation on children's rights and digital protection.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting in Doha yesterday, a day after HH the Amir outlined national priorities at the opening of the Shura Council's new legislative session.

Following the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi said the Cabinet praised HH the Amir's address, which reviewed the challenges Qatar had faced in recent months and highlighted



HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani

the country's resilience, institutional preparedness and priorities for the next phase of national development.

The speech emphasised the importance of economic diversification, efficient government institutions and social solidarity, while calling for greater commitment to public service, the protection of public funds and the national interest. Expressing his appreciation for HH the Amir's prudent policies on the regional and global levels, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of

Foreign Affairs instructed ministers to develop plans and programmes to implement the address's objectives. The Cabinet also reaffirmed Qatar's foreign policy priorities, including co-operation with Gulf states, support for the Palestinian cause, and the pursuit of dialogue and peaceful solutions to regional crises. It praised co-operation between the Shura Council and the executive branch, highlighting the importance of legislation that supports the private sector and strengthens Qatar's investment environment.

Moving to the regional developments, the Cabinet strongly condemned repeated Houthi attacks on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, describing them as a serious violation of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and a direct threat to regional security, civilians and civil aviation. It reaffirmed Qatar's full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and its support for measures taken by the kingdom to protect its sovereignty, security and territorial integrity. **To Page 6**

Amir and delegation in Baku for CICA summit



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani arrived in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, yesterday to participate in the 7th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). HH the Amir was welcomed upon arrival at Heydar Aliyev International Airport by Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Shahin Mustafayev, Qatar's ambassador to Azerbaijan Mohammed bin Hamad al-Hajri, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Qatar Adish Mammadov, and members of the Qatari embassy. HH the Amir is accompanied by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and an official delegation. HH the Amir had departed Qatar earlier on Wednesday. **(QNA)**

Two ships sink near Hormuz

A container ship and a dry bulk carrier have both sunk near the Strait of Hormuz in the past 24 hours after being hit by projectiles in separate incidents, maritime officials said yesterday.

Attacks around the waterway have surged over the past 10 days, with Iran saying it is stepping up strikes in response to the US blockade of its ports and tougher sanctions introduced last month.

The Singapore-flagged GFS PRIDE, a small container vessel with a capacity of 2,824 20-foot equivalent units (TEU), sank while sailing through the strait, according to maritime security sources. "GFS PRIDE sustained damage and a fire on board, and has since sunk. All 21 crew members were safely evacuated. No injuries have been reported," the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) said in a statement yesterday, adding

that the vessel had been sailing through the strait on Tuesday.

In a separate incident, the Antigua and Barbuda-flagged Cape Dao sank close to the strait, weeks after being struck by a projectile on September 23, data from UN shipping agency the International Maritime Organisation showed yesterday. One crew member was killed, the rest of the crew evacuated straight after the strike, maritime sources said. Its UAE-based manager Peonies Shipmanagement FZE could not be immediately reached for comment.

The GFS PRIDE and Cape Dao are the second and third vessels to have sunk since the US-Iran war began on February 28, according to an analysis of IMO casualty data. "MPA is deeply concerned about the continued attacks on commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz," the Singapore authority said. **(Reuters)**

PHCC offers free flu vaccines at 31 health centres across Qatar

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) is offering free seasonal influenza vaccinations for adults and children aged six months and older through its 31 health centres across Qatar, urging residents to get vaccinated to reduce the risk of severe illness and complications.

Vaccination remains a cornerstone of infectious disease prevention and is essential at every stage of life, from infancy to older adulthood. Alongside seasonal influenza vaccines, PHCC provides routine immunisations and vaccinations for travel, Haj and Umrah in accordance with the National Immunisation Programme.



Dr Hamad al-Mudahka, executive director of PHCC's Preventive Health Department, highlighted the importance of raising awareness about vaccination and its role in protecting individual and community health. He said the department continues to promote immunisation through educational campaigns and outreach activities targeting different age groups.

Dr Khalid Elawad, manager of Health Protection at PHCC, also stressed the importance of ensuring access to vaccination services and strengthening pub-

lic awareness of their benefits.

PHCC's immunisation programme covers a wide range of vaccines, including those against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, hepatitis B, human papillomavirus (HPV), pneumococcal disease, Covid-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and meningococcal disease. Vaccination needs depend on factors such as age, health status and individual risk.

For children, the routine immunisation schedule protects against several diseases, including tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, polio, rotavirus, pneumococcal disease, chickenpox and measles. Parents are encouraged to ensure their children receive the recommended doses on time. **To Page 2**

Autonomous AI agents to drive enterprise ROI across Gulf businesses

By Peter Alagos
Business Editor

Enterprises across the Gulf region are pivoting from basic generative models to autonomous artificial intelligence (AI) agents to accelerate return on investment (ROI) and streamline cross-departmental operations, according to an industry expert.

Regional organisations are approaching AI deployment through horizontal employee productivity and deep vertical workflow solutions, Alex Rutter, managing director for AI at Google Cloud for the UK, Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA), told *Gulf Times* in an exclusive interview.

Rutter pointed out that pre-built agentic workflows are delivering faster value by understanding specific industry procedures.

"We've built a collection of industry-specific skills that power pre-built agentic workflows tailored to the needs of legal practitioners, journalists, finance professionals, and other specialists.

"These workflows are designed not only to address each field's use cases, but also to understand the steps professionals typically follow, helping them realise the value and efficiency of AI faster," Rutter explained.

He further added that deep vertical adoption across regional enterprises includes automated invoice matching, financial reconciliation, non-disclosure agreement analysis, and regulatory scanning. "The second area focuses on deep, vertical-specific solutions. For example, we work on invoice-to-payment matching and financial reconciliation, as well as legal applications such as NDA



Alex Rutter, managing director for AI at Google Cloud for the UK, Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA). **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

analysis and third-party horizon scanning," he pointed out.

Gulf businesses are also adopting generative tools like Omni to repurpose certified corporate assets for language localisation, regionalisation, and cultural adaptation at significantly lower costs

than traditional advertising agency models, Rutter added. "What we're seeing now is the emergence of tools like Omni ... These capabilities accelerate time to value while delivering results at a significantly lower cost than traditional agency models," he reiterated.

Rutter noted that large corporations across the region have struggled for decades with fragmented software systems and information silos across various business applications.

According to Rutter, Google Cloud's enterprise ecosystem addresses multi-tool friction by deploying federated connectors into widely used applications like Microsoft Office, SharePoint, ServiceNow, Salesforce, and Slack without forcing organisations to relocate underlying data. "We enable businesses to connect to their existing data sources through fully federated connectors to widely used applications, making data more accessible and useful without requiring it to be moved," he said.

To further empower enterprise teams, Rutter said the tech provider introduced Gemini Spark as a dedicated knowledge worker

platform featuring long-running autonomous agents equipped with persistent memory and skills. "Probably the most exciting thing we announced back at Google Next is the introduction of Gemini Spark. And this is what we're calling our kind of knowledge worker platform... able to access long-running agents with memory and skills that can then be shared between people," Rutter emphasised.

He stressed that unlike single-task point-in-time tools, persistent Spark agents work continuously alongside human professionals across multi-user environments, maintaining long-running context over extensive corporate datasets. This continuous contextual collaboration represents a fundamental shift in how knowledge workers and enterprise teams across Middle Eastern markets interact with intelligent technology, Rutter added.

Al-Misnad meets Venezuelan vice foreign minister



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, met yesterday with the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs for Asia, the Middle East and Oceania of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Eduardo Ramirez, who is visiting the country. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries, in addition to several topics of mutual interest. The Vice Foreign Minister of Venezuela expressed his country's gratitude to the State of Qatar for establishing an air bridge to support those affected by the two earthquakes that struck the Venezuelan capital of Caracas. **(QNA)**

Minister of Labour inaugurates 4th Lusail University career fair

HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri yesterday inaugurated the fourth edition of the Career Fair organised by Lusail University over two days, with the participation of more than 60 employers from the government and private sectors.

Participating entities represent the education, energy, industry, finance and business sectors, as well as charitable organisations and law firms.

The Ministry of Labour is participating in the fair, represented by the National Manpower Recruitment Department and the Qualifying and Skills Development Department, as part of its ongoing efforts to raise graduates' awareness of the specialisations in demand in the labour market and guide them towards career pathways suited to their academic qualifications and professional skills.

These efforts align with the objectives of the Nationalisation Plan and the National Strategy for an Effective and Highly Productive Workforce 2024-2030, which seeks to build a pool of qualified and competitive national talent capable of contributing to the growth of the national economy.

Through the ministry's pavilion at the fair, the Qualifying and Skills Development Department is providing information on the workshops, initiatives, programs and training courses offered by the Ministry to prepare Qatari graduates and children of Qatari women seeking employment.

It is also guiding students towards academic specialisations that meet labour market needs and enhancing their readiness to compete for job opportunities across key economic sectors.

Director of the National Manpower Recruitment Department at the Ministry of Labour Afrah al-Athbah said that the ministry's participation in Lusail University's Career Fair reflected its commitment to achieving nationalisation targets by aligning educational outcomes with labour market needs and guiding national talent towards promising specialisations and employment opportunities across various sectors.

She added that this was in line with the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to increase Qataris' participation in the labour market, invest in their capabilities and empower them to



contribute effectively to national development.

She added that the Ministry's participation aimed to familiarise students and graduates with the employment opportunities available in the labour market and enable them to explore different career pathways, helping them make career choices that matched their qualifications and aspirations.

She also noted that the ministry was keen to encourage students to benefit from its academic sponsorship programs and summer training opportunities across various fields.

These initiatives help develop their capabilities, equip them with the necessary skills and enhance their readiness to take up positions in the private sector.

For her part, Director of Student Life at Lusail University Talila al-Kuwari said that the University attached particular importance to the Career Fair, emphasising its commitment to providing students with a complete educational experience, from enrolment and their academic journey through to graduation, while also opening up professional opportunities for students and graduates.

Al-Kuwari also stressed the University's commitment to providing full support to par-

ticipants to ensure the success of the event and the achievement of its objectives. She noted that the University recognised the importance of building bridges between the academic and professional sectors through education and communication.

She added: "This year's Career Fair, held on 14 and 15 October 2026, featured a range of awareness activities on the labour market, including information on in-demand specialisations and the skills required. CV-writing workshops were also held alongside the fair to help students prepare professional CVs."

She explained that the fair's main objective was to provide a platform bringing students and graduates together with employers, opening up promising opportunities for employment and career development.

She stressed that it enables participating entities to identify young talent and attract promising candidates, while giving students and graduates the opportunity to understand labour market requirements, explore employment opportunities, build effective professional relationships and take part in direct interviews with recruiters, thereby enhancing their prospects of embarking on successful careers. **(QNA)**



forces and security agencies – and the sacrifices made by their personnel – in defending the home-

Amir sends congratulations to Pope of the Vatican on successful surgery

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to Pope Leo XIV following his successful surgery, wishing him continued good health and well-being. **(QNA)**

Adviser to PM meets German official

HE the Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Majed bin Mohammed al-Ansari, met yesterday with the State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr Geza Andreas von Geyr, who is visiting the country.

During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and develop them, particularly in the fields of economy, investment, security, and defence.

The meeting also addressed the latest regional developments, particularly diplomatic efforts and joint coordination aimed at de-escalation and the promotion of security and stability in the region.

Dr al-Ansari affirmed the State of Qatar's support for all diplomatic efforts and endeavours aimed at a solution that guarantees freedom of maritime navigation and paves the way for a comprehensive agreement achieving sustainable peace in the region. **(QNA)**



Al-Muraikhi bids farewell to Mauritanian ambassador



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met yesterday with the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania Mohamed Mohamed Abdullah Bebane, on the occasion of the end of his tenure. HE al-Muraikhi extended thanks to the ambassador for his efforts in supporting and strengthening bilateral relations, wishing him success in his new duties. **(QNA)**

Al-Khulaifi meets Polish deputy PM, national security bureau head

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met yesterday with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland Radoslaw Sikorski. The meeting reviewed co-operative relations and ways to support and develop them, as well as the latest regional developments, particularly diplomatic efforts and joint coordination aimed at de-escalation and the strengthening of security and stability in the region. During the meeting, the deputy prime minister of Poland commended the State of Qatar's mediation role and its diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving conflicts through peaceful means. **(QNA)**



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met yesterday in Warsaw with the Head of the National Security Bureau of the Republic of Poland, Bartosz Grodecki. The meeting discussed co-operation relations and ways to support and develop them. It also discussed the latest regional developments, particularly diplomatic efforts and joint co-ordination aimed at de-escalation and the enhancement of security and stability in the region. HE Dr al-Khulaifi affirmed the State of Qatar's support for all diplomatic efforts and endeavours aimed at reaching a solution that guarantees freedom of maritime navigation and paves the way for a comprehensive agreement achieving sustainable peace in the region. **(QNA)**

PHCC offers free flu vaccines at 31 health centres across Qatar

From Page 1

However, a missed or delayed dose does not mean a child has lost the opportunity to complete the vaccination schedule. Catch-up immunisation plans help children receive outstanding doses based on their age and vaccination history.

PHCC recommends annual influenza vaccination for everyone aged six months and older, with particular emphasis on groups at higher risk of complications, including young children, older adults, pregnant women, people with chronic conditions and healthcare workers.



Dr Hamad al-Mudahka

Because influenza viruses change each season, annual vaccination remains an important preventive measure. It can reduce the risk of severe illness and complications, lowering the likelihood of hospitalisation.



Dr Khalid Elawad

The vaccine is available free of charge at PHCC health centres across Qatar. Residents should check with their health centre about appointment requirements and arrangements for the seasonal influenza vaccination campaign.

Qatar Press Center: Messages reflecting confidence in Qatar's ability to overcome challenges

The Qatar Press Centre (QPC) commends the content of the speech delivered by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at the opening of the 55th annual session of the Shura Council. QPC affirms that the speech reflects a comprehensive strategic vision aimed at bolstering security and stability, safeguarding achievements, and continuing comprehensive development despite regional and international challenges.

QPC lauds the speech's messages of confidence in Qatar's ability to overcome challenges, grounded in strong institutions,

a cohesive society, and a forward-looking national vision. It emphasises that the State's inherent strengths and resilience enhance its capacity to manage crises responsibly and competently, transforming challenges into opportunities that support its development journey and consolidate its regional and international standing.

QPC also appreciates the praise expressed in the speech regarding the awareness and solidarity shown by citizens and residents during exceptional circumstances, as well as the commendation of the efficiency of the armed

keeping pace with current developments, conveying facts credibly and objectively, sourcing information from reliable channels, and countering rumours and misinformation – thereby fostering societal awareness and public trust in institutions.

QPC emphasises that social cohesion, institutional efficiency, and mutual trust between leadership and the people are fundamental pillars for continuing the development journey, enhancing national preparedness, safeguarding achievements, and envisioning a more stable and prosperous future.

Amir’s address a clarion call the world must heed

By Muhammad Aamer
Ambassador of Pakistan to the State of Qatar

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has sounded a clarion call that resonates far beyond Qatar.

Opening the Shura Council’s 55th annual session in a year when war reached Qatar itself, he reminded citizens, residents and the wider world that a crisis must be prepared for, faced with candour and carried as a shared responsibility.

Pakistan condemned the attacks on Qatar’s territory from the first day and has watched Doha’s response with admiration. His Highness the Amir set out the doctrine behind it with rare clarity: protect sovereignty, sustain Qatar’s role in global energy security, and keep the doors of diplomacy open.

That meant defending the homeland firmly without being drawn into war, keeping supply chains running and pressing for a ceasefire and a return to talks. It



was a masterclass in crisis statecraft.

His insistence that dialogue does not mean complacency in defence, and that defending sovereignty does not conflict with preventing a wider war, deserves a hearing in every capital.

He was equally clear-eyed about the cost. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz and damage to energy facilities at Ras Laffan, the hub of Qatar’s gas industry, disrupted exports, and state rev-

enues fell by 42% in the first half of the year.

Yet spending was cut by only 14%, without touching essential services, and the non-hydrocarbon economy, now some 80% of real GDP, kept growing. Few leaders set out such figures so plainly; that candour is itself a mark of confidence.

Resilience, His Highness the Amir observed, is not born in the moment of crisis but in the planning that precedes it, as years of military preparation and prudent public finance bear out. Qatar’s recovery will be a springboard, not a return to the past, backed by some QR221bn in projects and investment opportunities over five years.

Pakistan attaches special importance to this address. Qatar has long been our principal supplier of liquefied natural gas, so when His Highness the Amir notes that his country supplies about a fifth of the world’s LNG trade, and that any disruption is felt by consumers everywhere, Pakistani homes and factories need no persuading.

Nearly 300,000 Pakistanis live

and work in Qatar, and it meant much to them that His Highness the Amir commended residents as well as citizens for their solidarity. Having been privileged to help broker this year’s ceasefire and host talks in Islamabad, Pakistan also knows how much depends on those who keep diplomacy’s doors open.

For the wider world, the address is a timely reminder of shared responsibility. His Highness the Amir’s warning that regional and global security are interconnected, and that instability anywhere cannot be fenced off, was borne out in energy markets worldwide this year.

Securing navigation through Hormuz and shielding energy, water and civilian infrastructure is therefore an international duty, not a burden for the Gulf alone. So is accountability. Pakistan stands with His Highness the Amir in calling what has happened in Gaza a genocide whose perpetrators must not escape justice, and in seeking fair, comprehensive settlements in Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Somalia.

His Highness the Amir’s can-

did assessment of the regional crisis deserves careful international reflection. His emphasis on the interconnected nature of security, the vulnerability of vital energy infrastructure and the consequences of disruptions to maritime navigation underlines an inescapable reality: instability in the Gulf is never merely a regional concern. The international community must recognise that preventing escalation is a shared strategic responsibility, not simply an obligation resting upon the countries directly affected.

Above all, the speech asks us to appreciate the situation critically rather than comfortably: to strive for the best, prepare for the worst and accept that institutions and citizens alike must take responsibility. That creed, resting on preparedness, a diversified economy, efficient institutions and social solidarity, holds for any nation, Pakistan included.

Both Qatar and Pakistan have worked tirelessly, often through painstaking and discreet diplomatic engagement, to help bridge differences between American and Iranian positions at vari-

ous stages and through different channels. Their complementary diplomatic efforts, grounded in mutual trust, regional understanding and a shared preference for de-escalation, represent a strategically important convergence on the international stage.

Qatar’s established mediation capabilities and Pakistan’s longstanding relationships with key regional and international stakeholders offer considerable scope for facilitating communication, narrowing differences and preventing dangerous miscalculations. At this critical juncture, this partnership deserves to be strengthened as an instrument of regional stability and constructive diplomacy.

In conclusion, His Highness the Amir said the truest way to honour the late Father Amir, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, whose vision strengthened the institutions that held firm this year, is to safeguard his achievements. Pakistan, which observed a day of national mourning at his passing, stands shoulder to shoulder with Qatar as it does exactly that.

Ambassadors hail Amir’s address at Shura Council

By Joseph Varghese and Ayman Adly
Doha

Ambassadors from various missions in the country have lauded the address delivered by His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, at the opening of the 55th session of the Shura Council. They highlighted notable steps taken by Qatar, especially amid the prevailing geopolitical situation, and the leadership’s efforts to steer the country toward greater prosperity and heights despite the challenges.

Shane Flanagan, Australian ambassador

Honoured to have been present during His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani’s speech at the opening of the 55th session of the Shura Council. We mourn the passing of His Highness the Father Amir Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and recognise his enduring legacy and contribution to Qatar’s prosperity. We recognise Qatar’s resilience in the face of aggression and commend its steadfast commitment to diplomacy and regional stability. We share His Highness the Amir’s conviction that ending the war is an urgent priority, recognising that the longer the war continues, the greater its regional and global costs. Equally important is the restoration and protection of freedom of navigation in West Asia. Safe passage through these vital maritime corridors is essential to protecting international supply chains, global energy markets, and regional stability.

Oliver Oweza, Ambassador of Germany

“His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani’s address at the opening of the Shura Council’s second legislative term comes at a time when the region faces profound challenges and diplomacy matters more than ever. His Highness the Amir’s emphasis on co-operation, dialogue and building resilience sends an important message that resonates well beyond Qatar’s borders.

Qatar has consistently demonstrated the value of keeping channels of communication open and pursuing diplomatic solutions, even under the most difficult circumstances. Germany greatly appreciates Qatar’s commitment to mediation and its constructive role in promoting peace in the region and beyond.

Our close partnership is built on a shared conviction: lasting peace, stability and security can only be achieved through dialogue, co-operation and mutual trust. We remain committed to working together towards this goal.”

Arnaud Pescheux, Ambassador of France

I was honoured to attend His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani’s address to the Shura Council, which conveyed a powerful message of resilience, confidence and determination. I was particularly inspired by His Highness’s emphasis on dialogue and diplomacy, combined with his firm commitment to safeguarding Qatar’s sovereignty and national security.

This vision resonates deeply with France’s own commitment to peace, stability and respect for international law. France and Qatar



Shane Flanagan, ambassador of Australia



Gonzalo Voto Bernales Gatica, ambassador of Peru

enjoy an exceptional relationship, built on mutual trust, friendship and a shared vision for a peaceful and prosperous region. In these challenging times, I wish to reaffirm France’s unwavering solidarity with Qatar, its leadership and its people. I am confident that Qatar’s resilience, its commitment to dialogue and its constructive role on the international stage will continue to make a positive difference in the region and beyond.

More than ever, France stands alongside Qatar, as a trusted friend and strategic partner. Together, we remain committed to promoting dialogue, strengthening regional stability and building a future of peace, security and prosperity.

Theon Ali, Antigua and Barbuda ambassador

“I note with appreciation the Amir’s statement that Qatar continued to fulfil its responsibilities to global energy security and the world economy even while managing a crisis at home. That is the mark of a state that understands the weight of its position and it is exactly the kind of principled leadership that Antigua and Barbuda values in an interconnected world.”

Ashraf Khodjaev, Ambassador of Uzbekistan

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani’s address to the Shura Council was a powerful testament to leadership under pressure. His Highness reminded us that “resilience isn’t born in the moment of crisis; rather, it is the result of the planning that precedes it.” Qatar’s conduct throughout recent events, defending its sovereignty while keeping “the doors of diplomacy open,” reflects wisdom that Uzbekistan deeply values and shares.

We welcome His Highness the Amir’s emphasis on dialogue and the peaceful resolution of disputes, and his call to secure navigation in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, which is vital for global energy security and trade. We also commend Qatar’s economic strength, with non-hydrocarbon sectors at approximately 80% of real GDP, and its determination to use recovery “as a springboard to accelerate economic diversification.” Equally inspiring is the focus on human capital, which



Oliver Oweza, ambassador of Germany



Ashraf Khodjaev, ambassador of Uzbekistan

His Highness the Amir described as “the foundation of national progress.”

Uzbekistan and Qatar enjoy dynamic, trust-based relations, built on regular high-level contacts and growing co-operation in energy, investment, logistics, education, and culture. Our shared commitment to diversification and innovation opens broad opportunities for partnership.

We also join His Highness in honouring the memory of the late His Highness the Father Amir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, whose legacy continues to inspire Qatar’s progress. Uzbekistan stands ready to deepen our strategic partnership for the prosperity of both nations, and for peace and stability in our regions and beyond.

Gonzalo Voto Bernales Gatica, Ambassador of Peru

The speech delivered by His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at the inauguration of the 55th Ordinary Session of the Shura Council addressed the pressing issues facing Qatar and the wider international community. It offered reassurance amid ongoing uncertainty while reaffirming Qatar’s position on both domestic and international affairs.

His Highness the Amir reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to safeguarding Qatar’s sovereignty while emphasising the importance of diplomacy and dialogue as the means to achieve peace. His message served as a clear reminder of Qatar’s determination to prevent further escalation and pursue peaceful solutions to regional and international conflicts.

Building on the legacy of Late His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, who worked tirelessly to advance Qatar’s comprehensive renaissance, His Highness the Amir emphasised the resilience of the nation and its determination to remain actively engaged on the international stage. He also underscored the preparedness of Qatar’s people and institutions to face any eventuality. At the heart of his message was a clear commitment to placing people at the centre of national priorities, continuing a vision that has long guided the



Karim Morcos, ambassador of Canada



Theon Ali, Antigua and Barbuda ambassador

country’s development.

His Highness the Amir also highlighted the measures undertaken to maintain the country’s momentum and ensure the continuity of essential supplies, including food, during a particularly challenging period. Equally noteworthy was His Highness the Amir’s emphasis on education and digital transformation as essential pillars for addressing future challenges. These priorities demonstrate Qatar’s determination not only to navigate the current circumstances but also to continue investing in the knowledge, innovation, and capabilities needed for long-term progress.

In keeping with the emphasis placed on Qatar’s recovery and continued development, Peru also stands ready to contribute to the strengthening of bilateral economic ties. With significant opportunities for co-operation in the mining and energy sectors, as well as in agriculture and food supply chains, Peru can be a valuable partner in supporting Qatar’s economic diversification objectives while further deepening the longstanding friendship between the two countries.

Karim Morcos, Ambassador of Canada

His Highness the Amir’s speech was clear, confident, and forward-looking. At a time when many countries are navigating uncertainty, his emphasis on resilience, economic diversification, institutional effectiveness, and investment in people reflected a vision grounded in both ambition and pragmatism. The message was not simply about weathering challenges, but about building the foundations for long-term prosperity.

From a Canadian perspective, there is a striking convergence between Qatar’s vision and Canada’s own economic priorities. Canada is increasingly focused on diversifying trade and investment partnerships, attracting global capital, advancing AI and emerging technologies, strengthening supply chains, and building sustainable growth through innovation. The recent elevation of Canada-Qatar relations through a Strategic Dialogue comes at exactly the right moment. Qatar’s success in leveraging its energy strengths while investing in a more diversified,



Arnaud Pescheux, ambassador of France

knowledge-based economy creates significant opportunities for collaboration. Equally, Canada offers a compelling destination for Qatari investment across sectors ranging from energy and critical minerals to technology, infrastructure, AI, and advanced manufacturing. As both countries pursue diversification and resilience, the scope for partnership is expanding rapidly, and I believe the future of the Canada-Qatar relationship has never been more promising.

Ahmed Abdulrahman Nassar al-Shuraim, Ambassador of Kuwait

The address presented a comprehensive vision for continuing Qatar’s development, reinforcing national sovereignty and preserving the country’s achievements. He noted that the Amir’s reference to the legacy of His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, underscored the importance of building on past accomplishments through institutional co-operation and legislative development.

Al-Shuraim also underlined the importance attached to Gulf security, energy supplies and maritime navigation, praising the efforts of Qatar’s armed forces and security agencies in protecting the country. He said the address demonstrated how national security, economic progress and Qatar’s international responsibilities could advance together.

Ammar bin Abdullah bin Sultan al-Busaidi, Ambassador of Oman

The ambassador described the speech as carrying important messages about the priorities of the current period. He said Qatar’s experience in confronting exceptional challenges demonstrated the value of institutional preparedness, strategic planning, social cohesion and economic diversification. He stressed that closer consultation and co-ordination among Gulf Cooperation Council states were increasingly important amid rapidly evolving regional developments. He said stronger political, security, and economic co-operation would help protect shared interests and reinforce regional stability. He also described Qatar-Oman relations as an important foundation for Gulf co-operation, supported by longstanding ties and a shared commitment to development and security.

Fayez Abu al-Rub, Ambassador of Palestine

The ambassador welcomed His Highness the Amir’s reaffirmation that the Palestinian cause remains a priority for Qatar. He said the position reflected Qatar’s consistent political and humanitarian support for the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights. He particularly welcomed His Highness the Amir’s condemnation of the situation in Gaza, his call for

accountability under international law and his warnings about Israeli actions in the occupied West Bank and repeated incursions into Al-Aqsa Mosque. He said these messages were especially significant amid the severe humanitarian consequences of the war in Gaza and continuing violations affecting Palestinians.

Salah Attia, Ambassador of Algeria

The ambassador described the address as a strategic roadmap for Qatar’s domestic and foreign policies. He praised the country’s institutional readiness and social unity, as well as its continued commitment to mediation, dialogue and peaceful solutions. He also highlighted the close alignment between Qatar and Algeria on regional and international issues, particularly support for Palestinian statehood.

Mohamed Setri, Ambassador of Morocco

The speech reflected the wisdom of Qatar’s leadership and the effectiveness of its policies in managing exceptional circumstances while sustaining development. He particularly welcomed the forward-looking economic vision, including the announcement of projects and investment opportunities over the next five years, which he said demonstrated Qatar’s determination to maintain development momentum despite regional uncertainty.

Walid al-Faqi, Ambassador of Egypt

The ambassador described the address as transparent, direct and clear in its assessment of the challenges facing Qatar amid the regional conflict. He said His Highness the Amir presented a comprehensive strategic vision for managing the crisis and stressed that Qatar’s mediation efforts demonstrated its commitment to justice, dialogue and negotiated solutions. He called for intensified regional and international efforts to prevent further escalation.

Zaid Mefleh al-Louzi, Ambassador of Jordan

The ambassador praised Qatar’s commitment to mediation and peaceful conflict resolution, noting that diplomacy and national security were complementary priorities.

Badr al-Din Abdullah Mohammed Ahmed, Ambassador of Sudan

The ambassador commended Qatar’s commitment to stability, development and responsible dialogue, describing its contribution to regional understanding as constructive and important.

Mohamed Jaafar al-Sadr, Ambassador of Iraq

The ambassador highlighted the importance of economic diversification and investment in human capital, describing them as essential to Qatar’s ability to adapt to international developments.

Bilal Qabalan, Ambassador of Lebanon

The ambassador praised the leadership’s firm stance in confronting challenges and its commitment to negotiations, while welcoming the reassurance conveyed to expatriate communities and the recognition of the role of Qatar’s armed forces and security agencies.

Qatar committed to achieve SDGs

The State of Qatar affirmed its commitment to continuing to work with all countries and partners to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This came in a statement delivered by Third Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the UN Mohammed Hassan al-Emadi before the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly during its 81st session, under agenda item 17 on sustainable development at UN Headquarters in New York.

Al-Emadi said that Qatar continues to implement its national plan, Qatar National Vision 2030, in pursuit of sustainable and inclusive development. He added that it also works towards a more diversified and sustainable economy and strengthening the role of all sectors by implementing the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030.

He said that the State of Qatar reaffirms its commitment to enhancing multilateral development cooperation at the international level and is working to translate this commitment into practical steps through the long-term partnerships established by the Qatar Fund for Development with the UN system and international institutions.

He noted that multi-year partnerships with UN agencies reflect the State of Qatar's commitment to providing more flexible support, thereby advancing sustainable development.

Al-Emadi said that Qatar continues to play its role in hosting international conferences that contribute to advancing the global development agenda, including hosting the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha in 2025 and preparing to host the High-Level Comprehensive Midterm Review of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in March 2027.

Regarding the current situation in the region, he noted that Qatar had condemned the attacks carried out by the Islamic Republic of Iran against its sovereignty, territorial



integrity and territorial waters, as well as attacks targeting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of brotherly countries.

He described these attacks as a flagrant violation of international law, international humanitarian law and the Charter of the UN, reiterating the need to comply with the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026), including those relating to rights and freedom of navigation in accordance with international law, particularly through vital maritime routes.

He stressed that the obstruction of navigation poses a direct threat to the security of energy supplies and global food security.

The Third Secretary at Qatar's Permanent Mission to the UN affirmed that the country's priority remains containing the escalation and creating space for diplomatic efforts.

He noted that Qatar continues to engage with its partners to bring the positions of the parties closer together, establish common ground and reach a peaceful solution that preserves comprehensive and sustainable security, peace and stability in the region.

Al-Emadi also reiterated Qatar's condemnation in the strongest terms of the Houthi group's attacks on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, in the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which resulted in injuries.

He described the attacks as a serious violation of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and a direct threat to regional security, the safety of civilian objects and air navigation, reaffirming the State of Qatar's full solidarity with the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. (QNA)

Qatar affirms continued support to UNHCR for humanitarian responses

The State of Qatar emphasised that, over the past several years, it has strengthened its position as a strategic partner of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) through its continued support for humanitarian responses to emergencies worldwide.

This support has helped bolster UNHCR-led programmes across numerous fields, enabling more than 9.5 mn refugees, forcibly displaced people, and members of host communities around the world to access essential assistance, services, and protection.

This was highlighted in remarks delivered by Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the UN Office in Geneva Abdulaziz Mohammed al-Mansouri, during the general debate at the 77th session of the Executive Committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), convened in Geneva.

The State of Qatar is grateful for the efforts led by UNHCR under the leadership of HE High Commissioner for Refugees Dr. Barham Salih to coordinate international efforts to protect refugees and build a better future for them, al-Mansouri said.

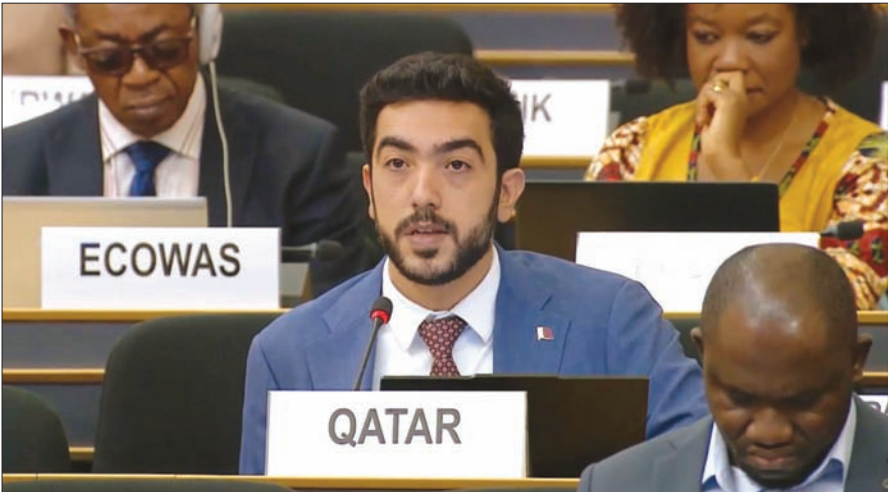
Al-Mansouri vigorously condemned attempts to forcibly displace the Palestinian people or alter the geographic and demographic character of the occupied Palestinian territory. He called on the international community to compel Israel to halt its settlement and expansionist plans.

UNRWA must be supported, and a just solution to the issue of Palestinian refugees must be found in accordance with international law and relevant UN resolutions, he stressed.

Marking the 75th anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, Al Mansouri eloquently underscored the importance of strengthening international protection for refugees and upholding international law.

The State of Qatar has supported the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and hopes that the 2027 Global Refugee Forum will provide an opportunity to renew commitments and expand partnerships, al-Mansouri pointed out.

He asserted that Qatar continues to strengthen its cooperation with the UN and its agencies and organisations while pursuing humanitarian and development efforts to support refugees and forcibly displaced people worldwide.



ing humanitarian and development efforts to support refugees and forcibly displaced people worldwide.

This commitment stems from Qatar's belief that international solidarity is a shared responsibility and that protecting human dignity and meeting essential needs must remain at the core of the international response, al-Mansouri underlined.

Al-Mansouri clarified that from 2012 through June 2026, the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) provided more than USD544mn in aid to refugees and host countries, with funding distributed across multiple sectors, particularly education, health, relief, and economic growth,

The Education Above All (EAA) Foundation has recently renewed its cooperation with UNHCR to help 200,000 refugee children who are out of school gain access to education by 2028, he recalled.

Al-Mansouri noted that the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) and UNHCR have completed a QFFD-backed project designed to bolster access to health care and strengthen the referral system for Syrian refugees in Jordan, ensuring that patients receive specialised and emergency health services.

Qatar Charity and UNHCR signed two agreements in June 2026, totalling approximately USD844,808, to support more than 15,000 of the most vulnerable forcibly displaced people in Lebanon and the Middle

East and North Africa region, al-Mansouri continued.

Al-Mansouri further stressed that the State of Qatar has held that preventive diplomacy, mediation, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts deserve special emphasis. He affirmed that Qatar continues to leverage its diplomatic efforts to support pathways to peace and reconciliation.

This approach stems from Qatar's belief that ending conflicts and addressing the antecedents that give rise to them offer a viable off-ramp to preventing forced displacement over the long term and creating conditions that enable refugees and displaced people to return voluntarily and rebuild their lives, al-Mansouri remarked.

For his part, Dr Barham Salih thanked the State of Qatar for its partnership and unyielding support for refugees, particularly in education and in responding to emergency needs while upholding international law.

Dr Salih hailed ongoing efforts to help refugee children enrol in school, as well as the goal of helping 200,000 refugee children who are out of school gain access to education by 2028, describing it as a noble goal.

He likewise praised the expansion of the partnership beyond the aforementioned initiative, reiterating his gratitude for the State of Qatar's efforts to promote mediation, address the antecedents of conflicts, and maintain peace. (QNA)

MWANI
QATAR



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AUCTIONS COMMITTEE

AUCTION NO. (MQ /AC/AUCT/18/2026)

FOR SALE OF TILES / GRANITE PAVING / FURNITURE / VEHICLES FOR SCRAP OR RE EXPORT / MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Mwani Qatar Auction's committee announces a public auction for the sale of goods mentioned above according to the following terms: -

Document fees	last Date for		Time & Date of Sale
QAR 200	Document collection	Inspection of Goods	Saturday 09:00 AM 31/10/2026
	27/10/2026	29/10/2026	

1.	Document collection	Documents for the above mentioned auction can be obtained from the Finance and Accounting Department of MQ, via Email, Tel No. (40453724/3568 - 31265655 / 30121037) , after depositing the non-refundable amount mentioned above at MQ A/C No. (0850 - 102030 - 060) at QNB and submitting the bank depositing receipt and copy of Qatari ID for personal bidder / the Commercial Registration for companies . (07:30 - 14:30) . E MAIL (mwaniAR@mwani.com.qa)
2.	Goods inspection	Hamad Port , Messaied (CT3 / LCL2) after issuing of gate pass (as per the rules and regulations) For only one person , (07:30 - 14:30) .
3.	Auction Place	MQ, main building Hamad Port, Messaied, 1st floor
4.		The successful bidder shall pay the full amount due for the goods awarded to them, and the goods will be delivered to them on the day the auction is awarded or on the following day, unless such day falls on an official holiday, in such case the deadline shall be extended to the following day. Delivery shall be made against a receipt to be attached to the sale form. As an exception to the foregoing, the successful bidder may pay (10%) of the value of the goods upon award of the auction and shall pay the remaining balance within five working days from the date of the award, provided that the goods shall not be delivered until the full price has been paid. If the successful bidder delays taking delivery of the sold goods for more than ten days from the date of sale, storage charges shall be collected from the successful bidder in accordance with Mwani Qatar tariff. If fifteen days elapse from the date of the award without the goods being collected, the Committee shall have the right to resell the goods by public auction and forfeit the amount paid.
5.		The inspection permit and the Auction Card will be issued for One person only , after paying the documents fees and port entry permit fees . No inspection will be without the inspection permit and it is not allowed to attend the Auction without the Auction Card.
6.		Goods will only be delivered to the winning bidder, and the resale is not allowed in the Auction yard.
7.		Safety measures will be applied at all stages of the auction (preview, sale, receipt of goods) and all bidders must abide by the instructions for tour safety and to facilitate the auction procedures.
8.		For further information you can call Auction Secretary on the following numbers : (55570022 - 40453597) OR via email (auction.secretary@mwani.com.qa) during working hours.

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FUGRO

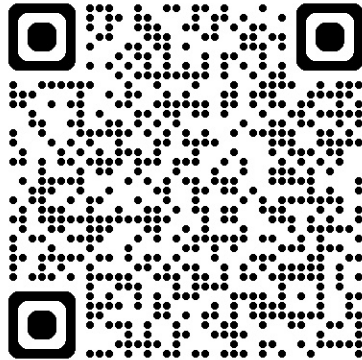
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MoEHE honours private schools, kindergartens in third edition of my white flag shield initiative

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), through its Administration of Private Schools and Kindergartens and School Licensing Department, has held a recognition ceremony to honour 207 private schools and kindergartens under its “my white flag” shield initiative, including 63 institutions that earned the trophy, the initiative’s third and highest level.

The trophy recognises private schools and kindergartens that have maintained clean records, free of violations and official warnings, for three consecutive years, demonstrating compliance and excellence.

Addressing the ceremony, Director of the Ministry’s Private Schools and Kindergartens Department and Acting Director of its Private Schools Licensing Department, Dr Rania Yousry Mohamed, said the event marked the completion of the shield’s first cycle and the recognition of the first cohort of private schools



and kindergartens.

Of the institutions honoured, 63 received the trophy, 45 received the shield, and another 99 were awarded certificates of appreciation, Dr Mohamed said.

She highlighted the increase in the number of private educational institutions honoured this year, eloquently pointing to growing institutional awareness. The total reached 207 institutions, comprising 126 schools and 81 kindergartens, compared



with 166 institutions last year.

Dr Mohamed further noted that the shield initiative was launched to promote institutional excellence and recognise schools and kindergartens that make compliance with laws and regulations an integral part of their daily culture, suggesting that these institutions translate that commitment into a safe and stable learning environment, a positive relationship with parents, and responsible co-operation with the Ministry.

The shield’s criteria are clearly defined, Dr Mohamed said, explaining that they include maintaining a clean record free of violations and warnings throughout the academic year, having no substantiated complaints against the school or kindergarten, ensuring accuracy in dealings and responsiveness, and maintaining a positive relationship with families,

She elaborated that the shield’s three tiers were designed to reflect sustained compliance: a certificate



of appreciation in the first year, the shield in the second year, and the trophy in the third year, provided the institutions continued to meet the established criteria.

The official noted that the spike in the number of institutions honoured this year came despite stricter eligibility criteria and the inclusion of licensing-related warnings among the shield’s criteria. This, she said, underscored the seriousness with which schools and kindergartens are working to improve their practices and meet the requirements governing their operations.

Dr Mohamed emphasised that this progress is an outgrowth of the continuous partnership between MoEHE and the educa-

tion sector, grounded in clarity of expectations, support, and follow-up to foster an educational environment worthy of the community’s trust.

She also expressed gratitude for the efforts of school license holders, school leaders, administrative and educational teams, and the Ministry’s working committees in deepening commitment and upholding the criteria.

Overall, the “My White Flag” shield reflects the Ministry’s steadfast efforts to elevate administrative and educational awareness and encourage private educational institutions to operate according to the highest standards of quality, transparency, and governance.

Leadership Innovation Forum to examine how institutions can outlast their founders

By Shaima Sheriff and Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporters

The third Leadership Innovation Forum 2026 will examine Qatar’s experience in education, infrastructure, and oil and gas for lessons on building institutions that sustain success beyond leadership changes.

Announcing the details at a press conference, the QLC said the forum will take place on October 28, 2026, under the patronage of HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Chairperson of the QLC Board of Directors.

Organised by the Qatar Leadership Centre (QLC) the forum will be held under the theme “Strategy Before Execution: Building Institutions That Endure Beyond Their Leaders”.

The forum will explore how strategic planning, governance and institutional culture can help organisations preserve their achievements and continue developing after their founders or senior leaders leave.

Abdulla Mohammed Khalifa al-Binali, Director General of the QLC, said the forum reflects the Centre’s commitment to advancing leadership thought and encouraging the exchange of expertise across sectors. “Successful leadership is not limited to achievements realised during one’s tenure; rather, it extends to building institutions capable of sustaining success through successive leadership transitions,” he said. “Through this forum, we aim to embed the importance of strategic thinking and facilitate the exchange of experiences that support institutional sustainability and capacity building.”

Qatar Media Corporation will support the forum’s media presence and help communicate its mission and objectives. The partnership, the Centre said, underlines the role of national media in spreading leadership knowledge, showcasing inspiring institutional experiences and bringing key ideas to a wider audience, fostering dialogue on the future of leadership and institutional sustainability.

Professor Steven Wright, director of the Leadership Knowledge Base at QLC, said the edition would address the fundamental question of what makes an



Abdulla Mohammed Khalifa al-Binali

institution last beyond the people who established it.

“This one really is challenging. It’s challenging; ultimately the key question, the ultimate question and the ultimate test for leaders is whether they are actually building institutions that last and have a legacy of success for the future,” he said.

Wright explained that the 2026 edition builds on the previous two forums, which examined innovation and decision-making.

“In 2024 we looked at how leaders innovate, in 2025 we looked at how leaders decide, and now we ask the ultimate question of what leaders leave behind and how that is the measure of success,” he said.

The forum will use Qatar’s institutional development as a series of case studies, examining how organisations have built resilience and sustained their achievements across generations of leadership.

Wright identified education, infrastructure, and oil and gas as three key areas for discussion.

The education panel, titled “The Roots of Knowledge”, will examine how Qatar’s education institutions developed in response to national needs, beginning with teacher training, and how they have contributed to building a wider education ecosystem.

“Education is what builds the people and has the legacy in that area,” Wright said, adding that the discussions would consider how the country’s experience could inform future leadership.

A second panel will focus on infra-

structure, exploring the scale of Qatar’s development and the leadership decisions that have sustained achievements over time.

The third will examine the oil and gas sector, focusing on the long-term economic decisions and strategic vision that have contributed to Qatar’s development and its position in the global energy industry.

Wright said the discussions would consider the decisions behind these achievements and the lessons future leaders could draw from them.

“By bringing those together we’re ultimately asking the question of how success can be achieved beyond the founders of those institutions, which is the ultimate test for leaders to achieve,” he said.

Ali Ahmed al-Kuwari, Public Relations manager at QLC, said the forum was designed to help participants connect vision and strategy with effective implementation and share practices that support more resilient, sustainable institutions.

He stressed that institutional sustainability depends on more than quickly implementing initiatives.

“The real challenge lies in their ability to continue achieving results and preserving their gains after leadership changes,” al-Kuwari said.

He said the forum would highlight the importance of long-term planning, developing competencies, documenting institutional knowledge, preparing second-tier leaders and establishing governance systems that ensure continuity.

Al-Kuwari added that the event aimed to move beyond theoretical discussion by producing ideas participants could apply in their workplaces, particularly in strategic planning, governance, and preparing future leaders.

The programme will also include strategic leadership workshops for QLC alumni, along with discussions aimed at strengthening professional networks and encouraging the exchange of experience across sectors.

The forum aims to establish a recurring platform to examine the future of leadership and institutional development, with its central question extending beyond what leaders achieve during their tenure to what remains after they leave.

QMC-QLC partnership to bring forum’s ideas to wider audience

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

Qatar Media Corporation (QMC) will help bring discussions on strategic leadership, institutional development and national talent to a wider audience through its first media partnership with the Qatar Leadership Centre’s (QLC) Leadership Innovation Forum.

The partnership was announced at a press conference for the forum’s third edition, organised under the patronage of HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Chairperson of QLC.

Ali Issa Rashid of QMC described the collaboration as an important step in supporting initiatives that contribute to Qatar’s institutional development.

“What we witnessed today, through the announcement that Qatar Media Corporation will be the media partner for this forum, is certainly a significant step,” he said, noting that this was the first time QMC had served as media sponsor of the forum.

Rashid said the corporation remained committed to supporting events connected with state institutions, with backing from its leadership, including HE Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani and chief executive officer HE Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz al-Thani.

The partnership aims to communicate the forum’s ideas, proposals and strategies beyond the conference, reaching different segments of the public.

“The corporation is consistently committed to reaching every segment of the public to communicate the ideas and opinions that will be presented at the forum,” Rashid said.

He added that QMC’s network of television and radio organisations, along with co-operation with newspapers and the Qatar News Agency, would help amplify initiatives that support the development of Qatari citizens and employees.

Rashid also praised the Qatar Leadership Centre’s work since its establishment in 2008, highlighting its role in developing



Qatari talent serving across government institutions and the private sector.

The forum will be held under the theme “Strategy Before Execution: Building Institutions That Endure Beyond Their Leaders”. It will examine how organisations can preserve their achievements and remain effective beyond leadership changes.

Professor Stephen Wright, Director of the Leadership Knowledge Base at the Qatar Leadership Centre, said the forum would explore what leaders leave behind and whether the institutions they build can keep succeeding after they leave.

Discussions will draw on Qatar’s experience in education, infrastructure and oil and gas, examining strategic decisions and institutional practices that support long-term development. The programme will also include strategic leadership workshops for the centre’s alumni.

Rashid said the partnership would help the forum communicate its outcomes to a broader audience, reinforcing the media’s role in sharing knowledge and highlighting initiatives that support Qatar’s development.

“The corporation has always been committed to supporting such initiatives,” he said.

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION FOR VOLUNTARY WINDING UP

QFC Insolvency Regulations 2005 – Article 59

Alpen Capital Investment Bank (Qatar) LLC

QFC Number: 00028, Registered office: P.O. Box 24580, Doha, Qatar

Notice is hereby given that on **2 October 2026**, **Alpen Capital Corporation Limited**, the sole member of **Alpen Capital Investment Bank (Qatar) LLC**, passed the written resolutions that the Company be wound up voluntarily and that **Lloyd Edward Hinton ID Number 126427** of **Insolve Plus Ltd, 14 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4BX** be appointed Liquidator for the purpose of the winding up.

Type of Liquidation: Members’ Voluntary Liquidation

For further information, please contact Cristina Bordei by telephone on +44 20 7495 2348 or by email at cristinabordei@insolveplus.com.

Lloyd Edward Hinton FIPA
Liquidator

NOTICE OF FINAL GENERAL MEETING

MASIMO GULF LLC QFC NO. 01527

IN MEMBERS’ VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

NOTICE OF FINAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Article 67 of the Qatar Financial Centre Insolvency Regulations 2005, the final general meeting of **Masimo Gulf LLC** will be held at **Insolve Plus Ltd, 14 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4BX, United Kingdom, on 16 November 2026 at 10:00 a.m. UK time (1:00 p.m. Qatar time)**. Remote attendance is available.

The purpose of the meeting is for the Liquidator to lay before the members his final account showing how the winding up has been conducted and how the Company’s property has been disposed of, and to provide an explanation of that account.

Members wishing to attend remotely should contact matthewnorton@insolveplus.com.

Lloyd Edward Hinton FIPA
Liquidator



Dukhan Bank announces Thara'a savings account grand prize winner



Thara'a QR1mn winner.

Dukhan Bank announced that Ali al-Sulaiti has won the QR1,000,000 grand prize in the latest draw of Thara'a, the Bank's Sharia-compliant savings account. The draw was conducted under the supervision of a representative from the Qualitative License and Market Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

In a press statement, al-Sulaiti said: "I am delighted to have won the QR1mn prize. My journey began with modest savings, and I wish all other customers the best of luck in the upcoming draws. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Dukhan Bank for its exceptional service and for offering customers such a

rewarding savings opportunity through the Thara'a Savings Account."

Dukhan Bank continues to reward its customers through its enhanced Thara'a Savings Account campaign. Running until December 31, the campaign features four grand prizes of QR1,000,000 each, plus monthly prizes: two QR20,000 prizes and 60 QR5,000 prizes, awarded through scheduled draws throughout the year.

Customers can open a Thara'a Savings Account through the Dukhan Bank website or mobile app, or by visiting any of its branches, and participate in the draws subject to the applicable eligibility criteria. For more information, customers may call 800 8555.

NU-Q to host public speaking masterclass

Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q) will host Fast FWD @NU-Q, a professional development session on October 29, featuring a public speaking masterclass led by NU-Q faculty member and broadcast journalist Scheherazade Safla-Gaffoor.

Titled "Influential Public Speaking: Communicate with Confidence, Clarity, and Impact," the session will explore practical techniques for managing nerves, strengthening vocal delivery, and speaking with greater confidence and credibility in professional settings, from leading meetings to moderating panels.

Fast FWD @NU-Q is a free professional development event for alumni of Qatar Foundation (QF) schools and current NU-Q juniors and seniors, offered in partnership between NU-Q's Executive Education Program and Student Experience office. The event also includes a networking meet-and-greet and a complimentary buffet lunch, giving participants a chance to build practical skills and professional connections within Qatar's community.

Safla-Gaffoor, an assistant professor in NU-Q's Journalism and Strategic Communications Program, brings nearly 30 years of experience in broadcast journalism, on-air presenting, and podcasting to the session. Her career spans television networks across the Middle East, Europe, and Africa, including Channel Five in London, South Africa's first 24-hour news channel ENCA, TRT World in Turkey,



and Al Jazeera English. She was also a senior reporter and producer for Euronews's The Exchange and its flagship show, Qatar365.

Beyond broadcasting, Safla-Gaffoor produces and hosts 1001, a podcast launched in March 2025 that creates a platform for women across the Global South. The show explores topics ranging from the challenges of podcasting in a male-dominated industry to reporting from Cape Town's Cape Flats ganglands, and it was nominated for the Women Podcasters Network Awards 2026. She also teaches first-year journalism, broadcasting, and audio journalism at NU-Q.

Her work also explores representation in African media, including her doctoral research on the challenges facing Black women in South Africa's podcasting industry.

The seminar will start at 9am at NU-Q, followed by a networking meet-and-greet session at 10.15am and a complimentary buffet luncheon at 12.45pm. The event is free and open to alumni of Qatar Foundation schools and current NU-Q juniors and seniors. Seating is limited.

How healthcare leaders are tackling patient care gaps through Georgetown-KSAU-HS programme

Being a healthcare leader today means more than treating the patient in front of you. It can also mean asking why a patient waited so long for care, why information didn't follow them from one hospital to another, or why a problem in one department created bigger problems elsewhere.

Those are the kinds of questions 29 healthcare leaders in Saudi Arabia spent five months examining through the inaugural Executive Leadership for Integrated Healthcare Management (ELIHM) programme, delivered by Georgetown University in Qatar's (GU-Q) Executive and Professional Education department in partnership with Georgetown University School of Health and King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences (KSAU-HS).

Georgetown's School of Health contributed to the curriculum and facilitated faculty appointments, bringing in senior leaders from MedStar Health, Georgetown's academic health system partner, to share real-world lessons from healthcare practice. All modules were taught by MedStar Health senior executives.

The question one team ad-

ressed was what happens between a woman's first breast cancer screening in Saudi Arabia and her treatment.

The team started with the numbers. During their presentation, they pointed to data showing low breast cancer screening rates in Saudi Arabia and a younger age of diagnosis compared with Europe.

But as they looked more closely at the problem, they reached a different conclusion about where the biggest gap was.

"The problem is not with the patient. The problem is with the system," one team member told the audience.

The system, they found, often waits for patients to initiate screening rather than reaching out to them. No one may clearly own the patient's journey from screening to diagnosis and treatment. And when imaging or other diagnostic tests happen at one institution, that information may not follow the patient to the next.

By the time a patient reaches a tertiary care centre, those gaps can mean more delays, repeated tests and more work to fill in what is missing. Patients with abnormal results would be assessed at a one-

stop diagnostic clinic within two weeks, with a confirmed diagnosis and treatment plan within 60 days, in line with the World Health Organisation's Global Breast Cancer Initiative target.

The team proposed a more proactive approach. Women ages 40 to 69 would be actively called and recalled for screening.

The proposal would also give patients a designated navigator to help them move through the system. A digital safety net called "No Woman Lost" would flag patients at risk of falling out of the pathway before delays grow, and record whether each gap came from the patient, the referral process, the diagnostic service or a lack of capacity.

The idea was bigger than screening. It was about making sure someone, somewhere in the system, was responsible for what happened next.

That was one of five healthcare challenges tackled by the ELIHM cohort. The participants came from six Saudi organisations: KSAU-HS, Health Holding Company, Prince Sultan Military Medical City, Security Forces Hospital, King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, and the Ministry

of National Guard Health Affairs.

Over five months, participants worked through leadership and management modules before applying what they learned to challenges within their own healthcare systems. They presented their five capstone projects at the program's completion ceremony on Sept. 28 at KSAU-HS.

Other teams tackled challenges such as chronic disease management and coordination between primary care and hospitals.

"As referenced by the first group, nine times out of 10, it is not the patient who is at fault. Instead, something about the system is broken," said Christopher J King, PhD, dean of Georgetown University's School of Health. "Improvement requires us to interrogate the status quo with an interdisciplinary lens so patients get the right care, at the right time, and by the right provider."

For Munirah Alkhuwaiter, PhD, ELIHM programme director, that shift in perspective is at the heart of the program.

"ELIHM creates a focused space for healthcare leaders to strengthen their leadership practice, exchange perspectives, and learn



Munirah Alkhuwaiter

across institutional boundaries," Alkhuwaiter said. "Its real impact begins when learning extends beyond the individual, shaping how institutions work together and how the healthcare ecosystem moves forward."

Andrew Henley, chief operating officer and senior strategy adviser at GU-Q, said systems thinking matters because decisions made inside a hospital can have consequences far beyond a single department.

"The results matter to people who have no reason to know how the system is organised," Henley said. "For them, integration can



Dr Talal al-Otaibi

mean arriving at a specialist's office without having to explain everything again, or spending less of the afternoon waiting for care."

That is what the capstone projects were designed to address: the gaps patients experience when different parts of a healthcare system do not work together.

The teams' recommendations will be considered for further development following the final presentations.

Georgetown and KSAU-HS have also begun early conversations about a future ELIHM cohort and a separate leadership program for nurses.

CRA announces onboarding of Google Cloud as member of QIX

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) announced the onboarding of Google Cloud as a new member of the Qatar Internet Exchange (QIX), marking a significant milestone in the expansion of Qatar's national internet infrastructure.

QIX is a government-supported, non-profit initiative that advances the internet ecosystem in the State of Qatar. It serves as a central interconnection hub, linking internet service providers, content providers, educational institutions, and government and enterprise entities, enabling the efficient local exchange of internet traffic.

Google Cloud is a global leader in cloud technology, providing infrastructure, platform capabilities, and AI-driven solutions that help organisations in Qatar and globally transform their digital operations. Through its extensive content delivery infrastructure, it enables secure and efficient access to digital services for users and organisations worldwide.

Through this collaboration, QIX members will benefit from improved local access to Google Cloud services, reduced latency, and enhanced network performance. Localising traffic exchange is expected to deliver faster



and more reliable digital services for Service Providers, enterprises, and end users across Qatar.

Commenting on the announcement, Ali al-Suwaidi, Director of Technical Affairs at CRA and Chair of the QIX Steering Committee, stated: "The onboarding of Google Cloud represents an important step in the evolution of the Qatar Internet Exchange. Welcoming a global cloud provider strengthens QIX's role as critical national internet infrastructure, enhances traffic localization, and improves network performance. This milestone reflects our continued commitment to building a resilient, high-performance internet ecosystem that supports Qatar's digital transformation objectives."

Ghassan Kosta, Regional General Manager - Qatar, Oman, Bahrain & Iraq, Google Cloud, said: "Joining the Qatar Internet Exchange

marks a significant step in our commitment to enhancing the digital experience for our customers and partners in Qatar. By localizing traffic exchange, we are ensuring faster, more reliable access to Google Cloud's suite of services and AI technologies. This move not only optimises network performance but also supports the Qatar National Vision 2030 by contributing to a more robust and resilient national digital infrastructure."

The addition of Google Cloud reinforces QIX's position as a trusted interconnection platform for global cloud and content providers serving the Qatari market. It is also expected to encourage broader participation from government entities, enterprises, academic institutions, and research networks, contributing to a more interconnected and resilient digital ecosystem.

This milestone aligns with Qatar National Vision 2030 by strengthening national digital infrastructure, enabling innovation, and supporting the development of a knowledge-based economy. Enhanced connectivity and network efficiency will deliver tangible benefits to consumers and businesses, reinforcing Qatar's position as a leading regional digital hub. (QNA)

Meeza, Microsoft to bring Microsoft Sovereign Private Cloud to Qatar

Meeza, Qatar's leading Managed IT Services and Data Centres provider, and Microsoft announced yesterday plans to bring Microsoft Sovereign Private Cloud to organisations in Qatar with Azure Local as the foundation.

Delivered from Meeza's local data-centre environment and supported by its connectivity and end-to-end managed-services capabilities, the offering will enable customers to run selected critical, regulated and sensitive workloads on cloud-consistent infrastructure deployed and operated within Qatar.

As organisations across Qatar accelerate digital transformation and explore new opportunities presented by artificial intelligence, government entities, critical-infrastructure operators and regulated industries must balance innovation with requirements for data residency, security, resilience and operational control. The new offering gives these organisations greater choice over where and how they deploy and manage their applications, data, and infrastructure.

Under the planned service model, Microsoft will provide the

Azure Local technology underpinning the environment, while Meeza will provide the Qatar-based data-centre infrastructure, hardware, connectivity, deployment and ongoing managed services. This combination will give customers access to a locally delivered environment, a consistent Azure operating model and a single local service provider to support the full lifecycle of their deployment.

The offering will support a hybrid-cloud approach, allowing organisations to place workloads in the environment that best matches their operational, security and regulatory requirements. Customers can run selected workloads in Meeza-hosted Azure Local environments and, where appropriate, connect to Microsoft Azure public-cloud services, providing a foundation for future modernisation as their business and technology requirements evolve.

Meeza's high-capacity connectivity services are planned to connect customers' private-cloud environments with Microsoft Azure. This will provide the infrastructure foundation for hybrid-cloud scenarios, business

continuity, and disaster recovery, including the ability to replicate and recover eligible workloads between Microsoft Azure and Meeza-hosted Azure Local environments, subject to each customer's selected services and architecture.

For government entities, Meeza's connectivity to Qatar's Government Network is planned to provide a dedicated route to eligible Azure Local workloads hosted in Meeza's data-centre environment without relying on the public internet. Together with Meeza's local operations and managed services, this will provide a resilient foundation for government, regulated and mission-critical workloads.

The locally delivered service model is intended to help organisations modernise applications, reduce latency, support business continuity and apply consistent security and governance across their hybrid-cloud environments. It will also provide flexible options for scaling infrastructure and workloads while retaining greater local control over data and operations.

Mohamed Ali al-Ghathani, CEO of Meeza, said: "By combin-

ing Microsoft Azure technology with Meeza's local infrastructure, connectivity, data centre capabilities, and managed services, we can provide customers with a comprehensive cloud environment delivered and managed locally in Qatar.

Ahmad El Dandachi, country general manager, Microsoft Qatar, said: "As Qatar accelerates its digital transformation and AI ambitions, organisations need greater choice in how they deploy and operate critical workloads. Microsoft Sovereign Private Cloud, with Azure Local as its infrastructure foundation, brings Azure capabilities into locally operated environments and gives customers greater control over where their infrastructure, workloads and data reside."

Through the offering, organisations will have access to a single local provider that supports their environment from initial assessment and deployment through ongoing operations. The integrated delivery model is designed to simplify private-cloud adoption and application modernisation while giving customers greater control over their infrastructure, workloads and data.

'Security of Saudi Arabia critical to Qatar, region'

From Page 1

The Cabinet said Saudi Arabia's security was inseparable from Qatar's security and the collective security of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

On the agenda, the Cabinet approved draft legislation on children's rights and digital protection, alongside measures to strengthen safeguards for children and regulate radiation-related activities. The proposed child rights law, prepared by the Ministry of Social Development and Family as part of its 2025-30 strategy, aims to establish a comprehensive legal framework

for children's care and protection, ensuring they grow up in a safe and stable environment. The Cabinet said the draft law would be published for 10 days on Qatar's Al Meezan legal portal and the Sharek platform to gather public feedback before undergoing legislative review.

The Cabinet also approved a draft law on the digital protection of children, following a study coordinated by the Cabinet's General Secretariat in consultation with relevant authorities. The Ministry of Social Development and Family was tasked with taking further measures based on a separate study into digital safety

among children and young people in Qatar.

Also, the Cabinet approved a draft decision by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to introduce a radiation practice code covering nuclear gauges and well logging.

Prepared in cooperation with QatarEnergy, the proposed rules aim to establish safety requirements for the possession, use, transport and storage of radioactive sources, in line with standards issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The measures are intended to strengthen oversight and protect workers, the public and the en-

vironment from radiation exposure. The draft will be published for seven days of public consultation before legislative review. The meeting concluded with the Cabinet approving draft memorandums of understanding on co-operation between the Qatari and Armenian justice ministries, and on transport and supporting logistics services between Qatar and Bahrain.

Other matters reviewed included reports on government service fees, civil aviation security, labor co-operation with the Republic of North Macedonia and agricultural co-operation and food security among GCC states.

MoECC promotes responsible recycling, disposing practices on E-Waste Day

By Staff Reporter
Doha

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) marked World E-Waste Day yesterday, highlighting the importance of proper electronic waste management and encouraging the recycling of used electrical and electronic devices to protect the environment, preserve natural resources and support Qatar's sustainable development efforts.

The ministry's participation in the annual occasion reflects its commitment to promoting responsible consumption, encouraging sustainable environmental practices and reducing the environmental impact of improper electronic waste disposal, amid rapid technological development and the growing use of electrical and electronic devices.

The ministry also stressed that

electronic waste is an environmental challenge that requires greater public awareness of safe, responsible disposal practices. Such waste may contain materials and components that can negatively affect the environment and human health if not handled and disposed of properly.

Meanwhile, electronic waste offers an important opportunity to recover valuable materials and reuse them in industrial processes. This can reduce natural resource consumption, minimise waste volumes, improve material-use efficiency, and support the transition to a circular economy.

In addition, the ministry offers a service to request the collection of electronic waste from homes, encouraging individuals to dispose of unused electronic devices responsibly and ensuring the waste reaches appropriate collection and treatment channels.

Citizens and residents can access the service by submitting an

online request through the designated website: <https://environment.mecc.gov.qa/ewaste/>

The service supports shared environmental responsibility and encourages community members to adopt sustainable practices when dealing with used electronic devices, rather than disposing of them with ordinary household waste.

Accordingly, the ministry called on individuals and institutions to help reduce electronic waste by extending device lifespans, maintaining and repairing them whenever possible, reusing or donating those that remain functional, and handing damaged equipment to authorised collection and recycling entities.

It also stressed the importance of avoiding the disposal of electronic devices and batteries with ordinary household waste, urging the public to follow safe practices that help reduce pollution and protect natural resources.

QICDRC hosts Case Digest H1 2026 session

The Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre (QICDRC), in collaboration with LexisNexis, hosted a discussion session reviewing some of the most significant cases before the Court in the first half of 2026, alongside the publication of its H1 2026 Case Digest.

Held at QICDRC, the discussion session brought together members of the legal and dispute resolution community to examine notable decisions and explore the key legal points and practical takeaways emerging from recent QICDRC case law.

Muna AlKaabi, Case Progression Manager, and Mohamed al-Ansari, Case Manager, led the discussion session and provided an overview of selected cases and the legal principles arising from the Court's recent decisions.

Faisal bin Rashid al-Sahouti,



CEO of QICDRC, said: "The publication of our latest Case Digest reflects QICDRC's continued commitment to enhancing awareness and understanding of the Court's jurisprudence. By making key decisions and their practical implications more accessible to the legal and business communities, we aim to contribute to greater legal clarity and support the development of an informed and transparent dispute resolution environment."

The Case Digest H1 2026

brings together selected QICDRC cases from the first half of the year, providing legal practitioners, businesses and interested stakeholders with a concise overview of significant decisions and developments in the Court's case law.

Through its Case Digests and related knowledge-sharing initiatives, QICDRC continues to promote a deeper understanding of its jurisprudence and contribute to the development of legal knowledge and dispute resolution practice in Qatar.

'Qatar endeavours to balance development with sustainability'

QNA
Doha

Qatar has reaffirmed its commitment to balancing economic development with environmental protection and the sustainable management of natural resources, as the country marked Arab Environment Day yesterday.

HE Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie said stronger Arab co-operation was essential to addressing environmental challenges and achieving sustainable development while safeguarding the rights of future generations.

In a statement, the minister said Arab Environment Day provides an opportunity to strengthen joint regional efforts and persistently promote sustainability as a shared responsibility.

Eng Abdulaziz al-Mahmoud, the ministry's Assistant Undersecretary, said the ministry was continuing to develop the country's environmental management system through enhanced monitoring and inspection, more efficient management of natural resources, and support for sustainable initiatives and practices.

Meanwhile, Assistant Under-



HE al-Subaie on the occasion of Arab Environment Day admonished for greater regional efforts and co-operation to address impending environmental challenges

secretary for Climate Change Affairs Ahmed al-Sada highlighted the importance of strengthening national adaptation efforts and developing innovative solutions to address climate change.

He said these efforts would help improve Qatar's resilience to climate-related challenges and support a more sustainable future for coming generations.

Assistant Undersecretary for Protection and Natural Reserves Dr Ibrahim al-Maslamani said

protecting biodiversity and natural habitats remained central to environmental conservation.

He highlighted the ministry's work in managing nature reserves, protecting wildlife and restoring ecosystems to preserve Qatar's natural heritage.

For his part, Assistant Undersecretary for Environmental Affairs Yousef al-Hamar said environmental prevention and oversight were key to protecting both the environment and public health.

He said the ministry was strengthening monitoring, inspection and regulatory enforcement, including the application of environmental requirements, to reduce pollution and improve compliance.

The ministry said environmental protection required co-ordinated efforts by government institutions and the wider community, alongside greater public awareness and the adoption of sustainable practices.

It reaffirmed its commitment to protecting natural resources and biodiversity, strengthening environmental monitoring and adapting to climate change.

The initiatives support the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030, which seeks to advance sustainable development while preserving resources for present and future generations.

MoPH warns against weight-loss product promoted via social media

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has warned against using the weight-loss product "Gastro Zero - Phyto Fibre Drink" after laboratory analysis found two undeclared, harmful pharmaceutical substances - sibutramine and sildenafil - making it an adulterated product that could pose a public health risk.

In a warning on X, the ministry said its Drug Quality Laboratory detected these substances in the product, despite their absence from the packaging

ingredients list. The ministry also warned of the potential health risks associated with its use. It emphasised that the product is not licensed in Qatar and is being promoted on social media platforms. Consequently, the public is urged to exercise caution and refrain from purchasing or using the product, particularly given the lack of assurance regarding its safety and compliance with approved health standards.

UDC and CMU-Q sign MoU to advance education, research and community development

The partnership will create opportunities for joint research, knowledge exchange and student engagement, with a focus on AI, computer science, business administration and information systems



United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl and Gewan Islands, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q), a Qatar Foundation partner university, to establish a framework for cooperation in education, scientific research, strategic studies and community development.

The MoU was signed during a ceremony at the Oyster Building on The Pearl Island, attended by senior representatives of both organisations. Yasser Salah Al Jaidah, President and Chief Executive Officer of UDC, and Professor Michael Trick, Dean of CMU-Q, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective institutions.

The agreement brings together UDC's experience in developing integrated destinations and CMU-Q's academic and research capabilities, creating opportunities to apply specialised knowledge to UDC's projects, programmes and wider community.

Areas of cooperation include scientific research and strategic studies, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI), computer science, business administration and information systems.

Commenting on the partnership, Al Jaidah said: "At UDC, we recognise that the development of successful destinations is driven not only by the quality of the places we create, but also by the knowledge, capabilities and innovation that support them. This MoU therefore provides UDC with a valuable platform to engage with Carnegie

Mellon University in Qatar across areas that are increasingly relevant to the future of our business and communities.

"Through collaboration in research, education, knowledge exchange and student engagement, we can connect academic expertise with real-world opportunities and translate shared knowledge into practical value for UDC, CMU-Q and the wider community."

Professor Trick said: "Strategic partnerships bring together the deep knowledge of a university and the real-world expertise of industry, a combination that sparks innovation and shapes how we approach problem-solving with our students. We are very pleased to work with UDC and provide our students with opportunities to learn about the complex strategy behind building communities."

Student training and workforce development in focus

Aysha Al-Shriem, Executive Director of Corporate Affairs at UDC, said the partnership would provide students with opportunities to gain practical experience while enabling UDC employees and executives to benefit from CMU-Q's academic programmes.

"We are very happy to have signed this memorandum of understanding with Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar. The aim is to help students access internship and training opportunities, as well as work on projects by learning from UDC's business practices," she said.

The agreement will also enable UDC employees and executives to benefit from training programmes offered by CMU-Q. UDC also hopes to consider graduates for employment and involve students and faculty members in its corporate social responsibility initiatives throughout the year.

Al-Shriem highlighted the partnership's relevance to Qatar National Vision 2030, particularly in developing talent and equipping the workforce with up-to-date industry knowledge and skills.

"The aim is to develop the current generation and strengthen the capabilities of our existing workforce, both Qatari nationals and expatriates, by equipping them with the latest market trends. Carnegie Mellon has strong academic and research capabilities in areas such as artificial intelligence, where it is a leading institution," she said.

"By combining UDC's on-the-job training with CMU-Q's academic expertise and research, we can equip our employees and fresh



graduates with the skills they need and contribute to achieving the country's broader vision."

She added that UDC had a track record of establishing partnerships with various organisations in Qatar, with the agreement further reflecting its commitment to talent development and continuous learning.

"We are interested not only in hiring graduates, but also in training them and supporting their continued professional development while keeping pace with the latest trends," Al-Shriem said.

Beyond research and education, the MoU provides for the exchange of professional expertise and researchers, as well as joint

conferences, seminars and specialised workshops.

The collaboration may also draw on the wider academic resources of Carnegie Mellon University, including selected schools and research institutes in the United States.

For UDC, the partnership supports its approach to destination development, bringing together residential, commercial, educational, social and community experiences within an integrated ecosystem. By combining academic knowledge with practical experience, the collaboration aims to translate research and learning into initiatives that benefit the company, students and the wider community.



QNL hosts Libraries Lead Forum

QNA
Doha

Qatar National Library (QNL) has opened the fifth edition of its Libraries Lead Forum, bringing together library professionals, industry experts, and community leaders from Qatar and around the world.

Running from Oct 14-15 at the library under the theme “Reimagining Libraries as Social Infrastructure,” the forum explores how libraries serve as essential spaces for connection, equitable learning, and collective growth in a world defined by rapid technological advancement.

HE the Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that libraries are no longer mere repositories for books, as some might believe, nor simply places for borrowing or reading them. Instead, they have evolved beyond this role to embrace cultural and educational responsibilities that transcend the traditional concept of a library.

He said that the work of QNL serves as a clear example of the objectives of libraries in general. It acts as a hub for intellectuals, families, and all segments of society. Its activities are no longer confined to a specific field but have expanded to encompass cultural programs and educational initiatives that benefit the entire community.

He added that libraries play a major role in development, education, and empowering citizens, and the unique design of the QNL, unparalleled anywhere else, facilitates



tates the provision of these opportunities.

Al-Kuwari highlighted that the space QNL provides for children and people of all ages to sit surrounded by books, an environment that encourages the pursuit of knowledge, fosters a connection with books, and instills an appreciation for the importance of knowledge. This demonstrates that libraries have moved beyond their traditional, conventional concept, evolving instead to fulfil diverse educational, cultural, and social roles.

In his opening remarks, HE the Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari reflected on this year's forum theme: “At its core, our forum theme envisions the Library as a cornerstone of community, a space where people gather to learn, exchange ideas, cultivate trust, and unlock new possibilities. It challenges us to consider everything a library brings to a person's life: knowledge they can use, skills that help them grow, and a genuine sense of belonging.”

He added: “At QNL, serving our

community is a sacred trust, one through which we preserve our shared heritage, broaden access to knowledge, and open doors for learning and connection.”

In her welcome address, Executive Director of Qatar National Library Tan Huism said: “There is an important difference between designing services for our communities and designing them with our communities. Qatar National Library is proud to bring together colleagues from Qatar, the region, and around the world to challenge our assumptions, learn from one another, and explore what we can do differently tomorrow that we are not doing today.”

In a pre-recorded video keynote, President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Leslie Weir emphasised the importance of transforming libraries into inviting spaces that play a pivotal role in the knowledge infrastructure of communities, inspire individuals, and provide them with broader opportunities to acquire knowledge.

She called for diversity in the materials and resources provided by libraries, as well as a wide range of classifications and collections that allow visitors to discover the content and reinforce their understanding of the library's role as a sustainable space for learning. She also highlighted the importance of experimenting with various types of activities and organising guided tours to help visitors explore diverse collections and discover the wealth of knowledge resources libraries offer. In his remarks, President of the Arab Federation for Libraries and Information (AFLI) Prof Emad Issa Saleh discussed

the transformations libraries have undergone and the shifts in user needs and expectations driven by digital advancement. He emphasised the importance of launching innovative initiatives to attract users and developing services that align with their aspirations.

He emphasised that the key challenge facing libraries is reaching segments of the population that do not currently visit them, a task that requires listening to users and understanding their needs and perspectives. He noted that QNL possesses outstanding initiatives and experience that contribute to spreading culture, fostering learning, and facilitating access to knowledge.

He indicated that the AFLI seeks to document best practices adopted by Arab libraries and to exchange expertise regarding them, thereby supporting the advancement of library operations and the launch of initiatives rooted in the needs of Arab societies, rather than simply importing experiences from outside the region.

Representatives of seven regional libraries, namely, the House of Wisdom in Sharjah, Abdul Hameed Shoman Public Library in Jordan, Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) Library in Qatar, Ithra Library in Saudi Arabia, Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt, the Iraqi National Library and Archives, and Sultan Qaboos University Library in Oman, then shared how their institutions are making a positive impact in their communities.

In the forum's first day, attendees joined six breakout sessions on topics ranging from cultural memory and active citizenship to digital knowledge systems and



children's futures, including presentations by the Library's specialists on the Manara research repository and on investing in childhood through libraries.

On Oct 15, a panel discussion on reimagining libraries as social infrastructure will range from building a fair future through artificial intelligence (AI) to library transformation in the Middle East and North Africa.

It will be followed by parallel sessions: a breakout session on harnessing AI to strengthen social infrastructure, and a series of lightning talks by library and information professionals. The forum will close with remarks by Katia Medawar, Director of Public Engagement at QNL.

The forum began on Oct 13 with an interactive pre-forum workshop, “Co-Designing the Social Library: Tools for Community-Led Transformation,” led by Assistant Professor and Head of the Information School at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University Dr Khulud Ali Sahrari.

The workshop equipped participants with practical frameworks and participatory design methods to shape services and spaces that build social capital and bridge digital and social divides.

The forum aims to highlight the pivotal role of libraries in empowering community members by ensur-

ing equitable access to technology, fostering digital literacy, and supporting lifelong learning, leveraging the unique position libraries hold in building informed, connected, and thriving communities.

In this context, the forum highlights the role of libraries in equipping individuals with essential digital and knowledge-based skills, and in providing nurturing environments that foster collaboration and exploration while boosting self-confidence and independence, thereby enabling them to participate actively in the digital age.

It also focuses on supporting lifelong learning and expanding educational, professional, and economic opportunities by enabling individuals to acquire the skills and competencies necessary for their personal growth and the realisation of their future aspirations.

To achieve its objectives, the forum relies on several key pillars, especially expanding digital access and social inclusion by connecting underserved groups with technology, knowledge resources, and free training. It also focuses on fostering informed and active citizenship, promoting positive societal engagement, and strengthening community ties by providing spaces for collaboration, dialogue, and the exchange of experiences.

DFI 2026 International Short Film Competition unveils 22 films

QNA
Doha

Doha Film Institute (DFI) has announced 22 films for the International Short Film Festival (DFF) 2026, taking place from Nov. 19 to 27.

Spanning cultures, continents and cinematic approaches, the selection of 2 world premieres and 19 Mena premieres bring together emerging and established filmmakers whose distinctive perspectives illuminate personal experiences, collective histories and the complexities of a changing world.

The selection includes *For The Opponents* by Federico Luis, winner of the Short Film Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival 2026 and *A Few Moments of Happiness* by Shaden Safiedine Tazi, winner of the Best Short Film in the 2026 Venice Film Festival Orizzonti section, alongside a rich cross-section of international cinema and compelling stories from the Arab world. From the realities of life in Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan and Yemen to the Peruvian Amazon and rural Indonesia, the selected films reflect the vitality of short-form filmmaking as a space for experimentation, discovery and urgent storytelling.

The competition will be evaluated by an international jury comprising French-Moroccan producer Karim Aitouna; Malaysian filmmaker Amanda Nell Eu, director of *Tiger Stripes*, which received the Cannes Critics' Week Grand Prize and was supported by Doha Film Institute; and Swiss-Rwandan



actress and filmmaker Kayije Kagame. Bringing together diverse creative practices and international perspectives, the jury will deliberate on the selection to recognise outstanding achievements in short-form cinema, assessing the films' artistic vision, originality and storytelling.

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, Festival Director and CEO of Doha Film Institute, said: “Short films give filmmakers the freedom to take creative risks, challenge conventions and bring fresh perspectives to the screen. They are a powerful reminder that cinema does not need to be bound by scale to leave a lasting impact. At Doha Film Festival, we champion this spirit of bold experimentation and discovery.”

“This year's International Short Film Competition celebrates the diversity and creative power of independent cinema. The selected films are deeply rooted in their communities while speaking to experiences that transcend borders and we look forward to welcoming these voices to Doha.”

The three-member jury will acknowledge excellence in short-form filmmaking with prizes including the Best Film Award (US\$20,000), Best Director Award (US\$12,000), Best Performance Award (US\$7,000) and a Special Mention Certificate.

Visit Qatar announces return of Qatar T100 Kick Off Run for 2026

Visit Qatar, in partnership with the Professional Triathletes Organisation (PTO), has announced the return of the Qatar T100 Kick Off Run, inviting residents and visitors of all ages and abilities to take part in 1km and 5km community runs ahead of the 2026 Qatar T100 Triathlon World Championship Final.

Taking place on December 10 in Lusail, the 1km run will begin at 5.45pm, followed by the 5km at 6.30pm. The community runs will kick off a three-day racing programme, followed by the Qatar T100 Triathlon World Championship Final on December 11 and the T100 Age-Group World Championships on December 12.

Designed to encourage community participation and make the sport accessible to a wide range of participants, both runs are untimed and open to indi-

viduals, families and children.

The weekend programme will also feature open 100km and Sprint-distance triathlons for amateur athletes, with relay options introduced across both distances for the first time. The expanded programme offers participants more opportunities to take part in the event and experience the race course against the backdrop of Lusail's waterfront.

The Qatar T100 Triathlon World Championship Final marks the culmination of the 2026 T100 Triathlon World Tour, bringing leading professional triathletes to Qatar to compete for the season's world championship titles.

This event further strengthens Qatar's position as a leading destination for international sporting events, bringing another world-class competition to the country and adding to its dynamic sporting calendar.

Media City Qatar completes two drama series, expands portfolio to 30-plus creative projects

QNA
Doha



Media City Qatar has completed the drama series *Lamma Shefet* and *Kawalees*, a year after announcing support for the two projects during its participation in the international MIPCOM Cannes exhibition, marking the practical progress of drama projects and their transition from development to completion.

The two-drama series were developed by ImagiQ Productions, a company licensed by Media City Qatar. *Lamma Shefet* stars Aimee Sayah and Mohamad al-Ahmad, while *Kawalees* stars Dima Kandalaft.

This achievement is part of Media City Qatar's growing portfolio of supported content, which now includes more than 30 local projects: 10 documentaries, seven shows and programmes, five se-

ries, five films, three electronic games and two podcasts.

As part of this support, three films produced by companies licensed by Media City Qatar were selected for the special screenings programme at Doha Film Festival 2026. They are the documentary *First to Fly* by Alaqt, filmed in Qatar, Bulgaria and Madagascar; *Jodari Meno* by The Film House, which follows the journey of a Qatari diver between Qatar, Zanzibar and Italy; and *A Very Ordinary Life* by Lusail Films.

On regional content and international partnerships, “CNN Creators” has continued to be produced weekly in Doha since its launch in October 2025. Mean-

while, the partnership with Euronews, which has been in place since 2021, has delivered more than 550 episodes across five programmes, generating more than 11bn TV impacts and nearly 60mn YouTube views.

In music, Rahbani 3.0 released *Nabd Qatar*, featuring the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra. The piece premiered during the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025 final.

On talent development, licensed company RCD Media organised an advanced masterclass with internationally acclaimed filmmaker Asghar Farhadi, a two-time Academy Award winner.

The masterclass benefited around 60 members of Qatar's filmmaking community. This was complemented by practical training programmes through the Euronews Academy and CNN Academy, as well as internship opportunities for students from Northwestern University in Qa-

tar at Euronews' headquarters in Brussels.

In this regard, CEO of Media City Qatar, Hamad Omar AlMannai, said that supporting creative businesses aims to create favorable conditions for producers and filmmakers to develop ambitious work at home and bring it to new markets.

AlMannai also noted that participation in MIPCOM Cannes 2026 provides an opportunity to showcase Qatar's efforts to build a stronger platform for storytelling, production and international collaboration.

Media City Qatar provides an integrated environment for media companies to grow, including 100% foreign ownership, competitive incentives, streamlined licensing procedures, and advanced production and broadcast infrastructure. These offerings strengthen Qatar's position as a regional and international hub for media and creativity.

UDC, CMU-Q sign MoU to advance education, research and community development

United Development Company (UDC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q) to establish a framework for co-operation spanning education, scientific research, strategic studies and community development.

The MoU was signed at a ceremony at the Oyster Building on The Pearl Island, in the presence of senior representatives from both organisations, with Yasser Salah al-Jaidah, president and CEO of UDC, and Prof Michael Trick, dean of CMU-Q, signing on behalf of their respective institutions.

The agreement combines UDC's experience in developing integrated destinations with CMU-Q's academic and research capabilities, creating opportunities to connect specialised knowledge with practical applications relevant to UDC's projects, programmes and wider community. Areas of co-operation include scientific research and strategic studies, particularly in Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science, Business Administration and Information Systems.

In a press statement, al-Jaidah said: “At UDC, we recognise that the development of successful destinations is driven not only by the quality of the places we create, but also by the knowledge, capabilities and innovation that support them. This MoU therefore provides UDC with a valuable platform to engage with Carnegie



Mellon University in Qatar across areas that are increasingly relevant to the future of our business and communities.

Through collaboration in research, education, knowledge exchange and student engagement, we can connect academic

expertise with real-world opportunities and translate shared knowledge into practical value for UDC, CMU-Q and the wider community.”

For his part, Professor Michael Trick, dean of Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, said: “Stra-

tegic partnerships bring together the deep knowledge of a university and the real-world expertise of industry, a combination that sparks innovation and shapes how we approach problem solving with our students. We are very pleased to work with UDC, and for our students to have opportunities to learn about the complex strategy behind building communities”.

Beyond research and education, the MoU creates opportunities to exchange professional expertise and researchers, as well as to hold joint conferences, seminars, and specialised workshops.

It also opens potential pathways for CMU-Q students to gain practical experience through internships, employment opportunities and participation in UDC community initiatives across The Pearl and Gowan Islands. The collaboration may also leverage Carnegie Mellon University's broader academic resources, including selected schools and research institutes in the United States.

For UDC, this connection is particularly relevant to its approach to destination development, where residential, commercial, educational, social and community experiences come together as part of a wider ecosystem.

By bringing together academic thinking and practical experience, the partnership creates a foundation for ideas to move beyond the classroom and into the places and communities they are ultimately intended to serve.



Qatar Charity provides healthcare to more than 14,000 people in Rwanda

QNA
Doha

As part of its efforts to strengthen social protection and improve access to healthcare for the most vulnerable groups, Qatar Charity has implemented a comprehensive healthcare project in Rwanda, benefiting 14,904 people over the course of a full year. The project was funded by Qatar's Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs and implemented in co-ordination with the relevant Rwandan government authorities and institutions.

The project aims to help eligible families access essential and specialised healthcare services without financial hardship by covering their contributions to Rwanda's community-based health insurance scheme. This support helps improve beneficiaries' health and well-being, enhance their quality of life, and strengthen household stability.

As part of follow-up visits to monitor the project's implementation and strengthen co-operation with official partners, Godfrey Kayigana, Director General of Social Affairs and Community Development at Rwanda's Ministry of Local Government, highlighted the project's humanitarian impact and its role in expanding access to essential healthcare services for vulnerable families.

The Rwandan official expressed his sincere appreciation to Qatar Charity for its effective management of the project and its commitment to transparency in beneficiary selection. He noted that

these efforts help ensure that assistance reaches those who need it most, contributing to their well-being and supporting sustainable development within Rwandan society. He also described Qatar Charity as a trusted partner in humanitarian and development work.

Beneficiaries were selected in co-ordination with Rwanda's Ministry of Local Government and the Mufti of the Republic of Rwanda, Sheikh Musa Sindayigana. This co-ordination helped ensure that support reached the most vulnerable families in accordance with clear and transparent criteria, prioritising those with the greatest needs. During field visits, the delegation followed up on the project's progress and met with several beneficiaries, who spoke about the importance of the health insurance coverage provided through the initiative.

The beneficiaries expressed their appreciation for being able to access healthcare services covered by the scheme, explaining that the cost of medical care had previously made it difficult for them to obtain the treatment they needed, given their limited incomes and household expenses.

The project reflects the commitment of Qatar's Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs to supporting sustainable development programmes implemented by Qatar Charity and strengthening health security for vulnerable groups. It also embodies the values of solidarity and humanitarian co-operation, contributing to a better quality of life for thousands of people and their families.

QNA
Doha

Qatar Museums (QM), through its International Co-operation and Government Affairs Department and in collaboration with the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science and the Unesco Regional Office for the Gulf States and Yemen, has launched the "Conventions: 101" Workshop Series 2026 at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art.

Taking place on October 13, 14 and 29, the three-day series aims to introduce young professionals and university students to Unesco's cultural conventions and their pivotal role in protecting heritage.

The initiative coincides with celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Unesco Regional Office in Doha, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening cultural co-operation and developing the next generation of heritage professionals.

The event opened with a session featuring welcoming remarks by Director of International Co-operation and Government Affairs at QM, Dr Fatima Hassan al-Sulaiti, who spoke as the organizer and on behalf of QM, and HE Acting Director of the Unesco Regional Office for the Gulf States and Yemen and Head of its Social and Human Sciences Sector Amina al-Hamshari.

It also included recorded keynote remarks by Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to Unesco and President of the organisation's Executive Board, Dr Nasser al-Henzab.

As part of its comprehensive programme, the series comprises three specialized workshops focusing on the protection of cultural property, World Heritage and intangible cultural heritage. Through practical case studies, simulations, debates and interactive group activities,



participants will explore the role of international frameworks in guiding efforts to preserve cultural heritage and how these frameworks can be applied in real-world contexts.

In this context, al-Sulaiti said she is proud to launch the 'Conventions: 101' Workshop Series as part of Tamkeen, an initiative launched by QM's International Co-operation and Government Affairs Department, as part of its continued efforts to deepen knowledge and build capacity in culture and heritage.

She affirmed that, in developing the series, the aim was to create a practical and accessible platform that brings Unesco's cultural conventions closer to young professionals and students, helping them understand how they can be applied in practice.

Al-Sulaiti also reaffirmed the commitment, through Tamkeen, to creating unique opportunities for young people in Qatar and across the Arab region to learn, exchange experiences and build

the skills needed to contribute to safeguarding our shared cultural heritage.

For his part, Director of the Unesco Regional Office for the Gulf States and Yemen in Doha, Salah Khalid, highlighted the significance of the partnership, saying that as the Regional Office marks 50 years in Qatar, this series highlights the strength of its strategic partnership with QM and Qatar's commitment to translating Unesco's conventions into practical initiatives that safeguard heritage and support sustainable development.

He noted that Unesco believes the future of cultural heritage depends on younger generations' ability to understand, safeguard and develop it.

Salah Khalid also highlighted that the initiative strengthens awareness of Unesco's cultural conventions and equips young professionals in Qatar and across the region with the skills needed to protect and manage heritage for future generations.

The workshops are conducted in Arabic. In-person participation is available to residents of Qatar, subject to available places, while those interested across the Arab region can participate online through a live broadcast.

Outstanding participants from Qatar and the wider region will be selected to take part in the 2027 Youth Empowerment Forum in Doha, extending opportunities for learning, exchange and professional development.

The series forms part of the "Empowering Arab Youth for Sustainable Heritage" programme, launched by the department in 2025 to empower Arab youth in culture, heritage and creativity.

Tamkeen seeks to connect theory with practice by combining academic learning, practical training, field visits and direct engagement with experts and leading institutions in Qatar, while supporting regional collaboration and professional networks.

Crafting Design Futures enables MENASA's creative talent to showcase in Mexico



QNA
Mexico City

Crafting Design Futures residency, developed by Design Doha as part of the Qatar, Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture, joined Design Week Mexico's *Visión y Tradición* programme, bringing four designers from Qatar and the wider Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region into collaboration with Mexican master artisans.

Open at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City until November 1, 2026, *Visión y Tradición* forms part of Design Week Mexico 2026 (DWM26), developed this year around the theme "Perspectives from the Global South." The programme brings together international designers with Mexican creators, placing exchange, shared making and different forms of creative knowledge at the centre of the exhibition.

Through Crafting Design Futures, four collaborations explored glass engraving, clay, ceramics and hand-hammered copper. Syrian designer Kenan Alkuwatly worked with master engraver José Cruz; Lebanese designer and multidisciplinary artist Shirine Sbaiti with ceramic artisans Norberto y Rosi; Qatar-based Iranian designer Yasamin Shaikhi with Estudio Guerrero; and British-Indian architect and designer Armaan Bansal with Alan Pureco's family workshop.

The residency encouraged each pair to develop the work together. Initial ideas changed through the process of making as designers encountered techniques, materials and knowledge built through years, and in some cases generations, of practice. The resulting objects reflect not only the designers' original concepts, but the creative contribution of the artisans and the conversations between them.

Fahad al-Obaidly, Director of Design Doha, said: "One of

the most important lessons of Crafting Design Futures is that craft is not simply a means of producing a designer's idea. It is knowledge in its own right. We ask our designers to enter these workshops ready to listen and to allow the artisan's experience to change their thinking and ultimately the object itself. That requires time, which is perhaps one of the greatest luxuries we have today. In a world where design is increasingly shaped by digital tools and speed, working directly with materials and with people who have spent decades understanding them gives designers a very different perspective on value, authorship and collaboration. It also teaches a more responsible way of working with craft communities by building something together."

This approach is reflected across several Years of Culture programmes taking place in Doha this fall, marking a key moment in the Qatar, Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Cul-

ture. The programme highlights a shared interest in how traditional knowledge can inform contemporary creative practice, particularly as Qatar continues to invest in preserving its own heritage while developing its creative and design sectors.

Expanded Tradition, curated by Ana Elena Mallet and opening at M7 on 27 October, brings together makers from across Mexico who are reinterpreting inherited techniques through contemporary practice, from silver filigree and natural dyes to textiles and lacquerware. Acclaimed chef Elena Reygadas brings Panadería Rosetta to the Doha Design District, accompanied by Perla Valtierra's handmade ceramics.

The programme continues with Fernando Laposse's The Sower, opening during the Design Doha Biennale, connecting Mexican and Qatari traditions through a wider exploration of ways traditional knowledge can inspire new creative possibilities.

Sidra Medicine to host Qatar Pediatric Endocrine and Diabetes Conference 2026

QNA
Doha

Sidra Medicine, a member of the Qatar Foundation, will host the Qatar Pediatric Endocrine and Diabetes Conference (QPED 2026) from November 27 to 28, 2026.

The conference will cover the latest approaches to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diabetes and endocrine disorders in children and adolescents.

Held under the theme "Advancing Excellence in Pediatric Endocrine and Diabetes Care," QPED 2026 will focus on developments that are changing the management of pediatric endocrine conditions. These include diabetes technologies, earlier intervention for Type 1 diabetes, new approaches to childhood obesity, precision medicine and emerging therapies for rare endocrine disorders.

Dr Khalid Hussain, Senior Attending Physician at Sidra Medicine and Conference Chair of QPED 2026, said: "Pediatric endocrinology is advancing rapidly, particularly in areas such as diabetes technology, precision medicine and emerging therapies. We are also seeing an important shift in Type 1 diabetes, with greater focus on identifying children at risk and considering interventions earlier in the disease pathway. QPED 2026 will provide a platform for healthcare professionals to discuss how these advances can be translated into better and more personalised care for children and their families."

The two-day scientific programme will address Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, childhood obesity, growth and puberty disorders, thyroid conditions, endocrine emergencies and rare endocrine disorders.

A dedicated session on the fu-

ture of Type 1 diabetes will examine screening and prevention, immune-modulating therapies and cell-based treatments, including islet transplantation and stem cell approaches. The programme will also highlight continuous glucose monitoring, insulin pumps and hybrid closed-loop systems and their growing role in the management of childhood diabetes.

Childhood obesity will be another key focus of QPED 2026. Experts will discuss the recognition, evaluation and management of obesity in children, as well as emerging treatment options. The conference will also feature updates on new therapies for monogenic obesity, achondroplasia and growth disorders.

Dr Ahmed al-Hammadi, Chair of Pediatric Medicine at Sidra Medicine, said: "Children with diabetes and endocrine disorders often require care from multidisciplinary teams. Bringing together physicians, nurses, diabetes educators, dietitians, researchers and allied health professionals allows us to share knowledge across specialties and strengthen the way we manage these complex conditions. Our goal is ultimately to improve outcomes and quality of life for children and young people."

In addition to expert-led scientific sessions and case-based discussions, QPED 2026 will feature practical workshops on diabetes technology, insulin therapy and carbohydrate counting, as well as healthy lifestyle and behavioural approaches to obesity management.

The conference is aimed at pediatric endocrinologists, diabetologists, pediatricians, primary care and family medicine physicians, nurses, diabetes educators, dietitians, pharmacists, allied health professionals, researchers and healthcare students.



Could hackers get inside my fridge?

Hackers who sabotaged refrigeration systems at hundreds of French supermarkets exploited the growing connectivity of equipment that was once largely mechanical. From refrigerators and heating systems to security cameras and alarm networks, an expanding range of devices can now be monitored and controlled remotely, creating new opportunities for cybercriminals.

In theory, yes. If a device is connected to the internet, directly or through an app, cloud service or home network, it can potentially be hacked.

In 2015, researchers demonstrated at a Las Vegas hacking conference how a Samsung smart refrigerator could be compromised, allowing them to intercept some of the internet traffic passing through the device. In many cases, attackers are more interested in stealing data, disrupting services or using connected devices as a way into a larger network.

The most common targets are devices connected to the internet and controlled remotely.

These include security cameras, video doorbells, alarm systems, smart locks, thermostats and central heating systems. Smart appliances such as refrigerators, ovens and washing machines can also be vulnerable if they are connected to the wider internet.

Routers, not appliances, account for more than three-quarters of all attacks on connected devices,

according to security-industry data. The number of such devices has grown rapidly as manufacturers have added internet connectivity to products that were once entirely mechanical. Once inside a device, a hacker can generally do one of two things: gather information or take control of the device.

A camera can show the inside of a home, a device with a microphone can pick up sound, and a compromised router can expose everything that travels through the network. Hackers who take control of a device can switch it on or off, change settings or lock users out of their accounts. A compromised thermostat could affect heating, while a hacked freezer or refrigerator could disrupt temperature controls.

In more serious cases, attackers may use poorly secured devices to gain access to other systems on the same network or to steal personal information linked to online accounts. Cybersecurity experts generally recommend changing default passwords, enabling two-factor authentication where available and regularly installing software updates.

Consumers should also remove or replace devices that no longer receive security updates, keep most devices on a local network and only connect products to the wider internet when there is a clear reason to do so. — Reuters



Vessels in the Strait of Hormuz in a file picture. (Reuters)

By Rory Miller

Qatar has a physical and geographic dependance on the maritime world. It only has one land border – with Saudi Arabia – and it is situated halfway along the western coast of the Arabian Gulf, which is defined as a closed or semi-enclosed sea under the UN law of the sea.

Qatar's status as a maritime actor is linked to its rise as a global gas player during recent decades.

It became the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in 2010. While it no longer holds that position it remains the world's lowest cost producer of LNG. All of Qatar's gas exports are delivered by sea. In 1996 it took possession of its first bespoke LNG tanker. As of January 2026, it was home to the world's largest and most advanced LNG tanker fleet and had signed contracts to double fleet size by the early 2030s.

In recent years, Qatar has also developed extensively its non-energy related maritime sectors including commercial fleets, state-of-the-art port facilities, and maritime technology and sustainability programmes. These moves are intended to facilitate diversification out of energy by attracting inward investment that creates local jobs and generate non-hydrocarbon revenues.

This is part of a long-term strategy set out in 2008 in the Qatar 2030 National Vision (QNV2030) that focused on leveraging hydrocarbon resources to build a diversified knowledge-based economy. Fast forward to 2024, and the 3rd National Development Strategy (NDS3) has shifted its focus to specialist economic "clusters" to achieve non-hydrocarbon economic growth. One such cluster is focused on developing the port economy as a re-export hub in select high-value products.

In order to achieve these ambitious plans, Qatar is committed to a stable, functioning, maritime order based on international norms, laws and institutions. It has always preferred to settle maritime disputes at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) or the International Maritime Organization (IMO), where Qatar currently serves a third consecutive term as an elected member of the IMO council. But the maritime domain is not only a source of gas or a transport route for LNG and non-hydrocarbon goods that needs the protection of the rules-based order. It is also a resource in itself that can be used to achieve national strategic objectives and, no less importantly, to get other regional and global actors to take Qatari interests into account before they act.

This worked well until the US-Israel-Iran conflict of 2026. During the blockade of Qatar between 2017 and 2021, energy connectivity through LNG exports was an important factor in Qatar's successful avoidance of regional isolation. Its role in the maritime domain also allowed



Qatar to demonstrate value to partners and customers and to present the country as a highly reliable, trustworthy provider of energy from a stable, hi-tech maritime base. Speaking in 2021, Qatar's then minister of energy and industry, Dr Mohammad Bin Saleh al-Sada, explained that during the blockade, "We have never missed a single shipment of oil or gas... That shows how committed Qatar is, to our reliability".

Qatar is not alone among small energy exporters in prioritising reliability in its energy narrative. Speaking in 2022 in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and rising Norwegian energy exports to Europe, the country's energy minister Terje Aasland, made a similar statement to the one his Qatari counterpart made the previous year. "Norway", he explained, "will remain a stable and predictable supplier of oil and gas through the energy transition."

However, the "Earthquake" of 2026, as Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, has described the Iran conflict and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, has tested maritime actors all over the world. One consequence is that it has made it much harder for Qatar to use the energy-maritime nexus to build-up resilience at home or to extend its influence around the world.

In the wake of this conflict, Qatar will look to rebuild its energy and shipping connectivity, including its status as a highly reliable LNG exporter and a stable hi-tech re-export hub at the heart of the maritime domain. This may occur through increased investment in the port economy to make it even more competitive on both the regional and global levels. Such funds could come from the redirection of sovereign wealth back home, such as the recently announced Doha Investment platform which has set aside US\$38.5bn in new infrastructure projects over five years.

In 2019, during the blockade, Qatar bought a majority share in Golden Pass, an LNG terminal and export facility located in Sabine Pass, Texas. One reason for this investment was to globalise Qatar's energy business as a way to deliver LNG directly to clients around the world without relying on shipments from the Gulf. These moves may now speed up and expand. Given the current reduced levels of domestic LNG production and soaring shipping rates across the globe, we may also see Qatar convert parts of its large LNG tanker fleet into a global LNG shipping business with clients all over the world. We are seeing some signs of this in recent weeks with the offer for lease of a small number of LNG tankers

These and other strategies will ultimately assist the future of LNG exports and the ongoing evolution of Qatar's ports into leading trans-shipment and re-export hubs. But they will also look to ensure that the energy-maritime nexus remains a key contributor to Qatar's efforts to build resilience at home and influence abroad in the service of its national strategic and economic goals.

• The writer is a professor of International Politics and director of the Small States and Energy Studies Programs at Georgetown University in Qatar @RoryDavidMiller

Lebanon has an engine, it still needs a compass

President Aoun and Prime Minister Salam lead the most capable team Lebanon has had in a generation. What the Lebanese are waiting for is the vision that tells them where that team is taking the country

By Jamil Mroue

The Middle East is on fire, and on more fronts at once than most of us can remember.

Two wars are being fought at the same time. The American and Israeli war on Iran, which began on February 28, is now in its eighth month, and the Strait of Hormuz has become a hunting ground for tankers.

In Yemen, Saudi Arabia is bombing the Houthis, who struck Riyadh's airport three times in a single week this month; the third attack killed at least twelve people. President Trump says America "may" join that fight, and Washington has raised no objection to talk of sending Syrian troops to Yemen.

Israel goes to the polls on October 27 divided over the very identity of the state, while settlers in the occupied West Bank carry out about six attacks a day on Palestinians and their property, by United Nations count. Even the Gulf has not been spared. The rift between Riyadh and Abu Dhabi over Yemen has only begun to thaw.

In this storm, Lebanon is a small ship without a rudder. It did not look this way 21 months ago. When Joseph Aoun took the oath as president in January 2025, and Nawaf Salam formed his government weeks later, the Lebanese felt something they had almost forgotten: hope. The president promised that the state alone would hold weapons, that the judiciary would be independent, and that the law would rule. The government's ministerial statement promised reform and won the confidence of parliament. For the first time in more than half a century, a sovereign state seemed within reach.

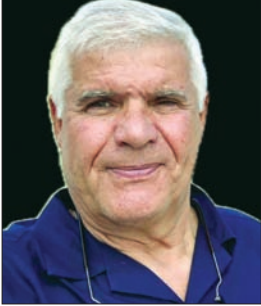
Today that hope is sinking into the same sectarian mud the Lebanese have tried so hard to leave behind. Consider what happened this month. At the Dahr al-Baidar checkpoint, on the road from the Bekaa to Beirut, security forces stopped two men, suspected members of Hezbollah, carrying about half a ton of TNT and C4. It was one of three seizures of explosives announced in less than two weeks. Prime Minister Salam has promised to act "with the required firmness". But the Lebanese know what C4 has meant in their history: assassinations, and the long shadow of civil war. Their fear is not imagined. It is remembered.

These are a people who have earned the right to be heard. They have survived two wars in three years: the first from October 2023 to the ceasefire of November 2024, the second since March 2 this year. The health ministry counts some 9,000 people killed since October 2023. The World Bank put the reconstruction bill for the first war alone at \$11bn. The second war has added much more, and no one has finished counting. The bank now expects the economy to shrink by 6.4% this year, after it grew by 4.2% in 2025, and prices to rise by 17.5%. The cost of fuel and food is climbing beyond what ordinary families can pay.

Meanwhile, the old ways persist. Civil society has been numbed by decades of empty promises. Parliament, elected in 2022 and shaped by the long years of Syrian and then Iranian domination, voted in March to extend its own life by two more years. Corruption, extortion and complacency at the top have not disappeared. They have simply learned to wait.

Let us be plain. The team at the helm is the best-qualified that Lebanon has had in a generation. Many ministers have restored the power of their ministries after years of decay. That deserves credit, and it should be said.

But they work in silos. Each ministry rows its own boat, in its own direction, at its own speed. Their achievements do not add up to a plan, and a plan is what the moment demands. A government is not the sum of



its ministries. It is the direction they share. Without that direction, good work is wasted, and a public that sees no destination concludes there is none.

This is the heart of the matter. The Lebanese do not doubt the words of their leaders. They do not doubt their ability. What they cannot see is the vision. And a vision that is not shown to the people does not exist for them. To understand why this matters so much, remember where Lebanon has been. For decades, its vision of itself was held prisoner. The armed Palestinian presence, Syrian rule, Israeli occupation and Iranian command through its Lebanese ally each took a piece of the state's right to decide. The enthusiasm that greeted Aoun and Salam in 2025 was not about two men. It was about the chance, at last, to pursue that vision free from foreign masters.

The Lebanese are not naive. They know the limits imposed by a region at war, by an Israeli occupation that still bleeds the south, and by an empty treasury. Long experience has taught them not to expect miracles. Through war, occupation and bankruptcy, they protected one thing: their idea of what Lebanon could become.

That is why the disappointment today runs so deep. It is not that their leaders have failed to deliver the impossible. It is that they have not yet stood up for the possible. Disappointment of this kind is dangerous. It spreads like an epidemic, quietly, from household to household, until it becomes despair. A nation in despair turns back to the sect, the militia and the patron, because they at least promise something. That is the road back to the past, and the Lebanese have walked it before.

There is still time to choose another road. Lebanon needs to find its centre of gravity, and only President Aoun and Prime Minister Salam can give it one. That task is not mysterious.

They must speak to the nation directly and honestly: where we stand, what we face, and where we are going. They must bind the separate successes of their ministries into one national plan, with dates and targets that every citizen can measure.

They must call on the Lebanese, at home and abroad, to carry that plan, above sect and above party. And they must show, by firm action, that the state alone holds the weapons, as the president promised on the day he took office. None of this needs a new constitution or a foreign conference. It needs will, and it needs voice.

Leadership in such an hour is not measured by how much is done in silence. It is measured by whether the people know where they are being led. The Lebanese have endured foreign guns, foreign rule and foreign occupation. They can endure hardship again. What they cannot afford is one more lost hope.

• Jamil Mroue is a Lebanese writer and analyst. He was publisher and editor-in-chief of The Daily Star, Beirut, and editor-in-chief of Al Hayat, London.



Paediatrician urges to keep kids home, vaccinate on time to curb influenza spread

By **Joey Aguilar**
Doha

Keeping sick children at home and ensuring timely vaccination are among the most effective ways to curb influenza spread, particularly in schools and nurseries where close contact can accelerate transmission, a paediatric specialist said.

Prof Dr Mohamed A Hendaus, head of Paediatrics at The View Hospital and Qatar University in Doha, told Gulf Times that influenza can cause significant illness in children, ranging from fever, cough, sore throat and body aches to serious complications such as pneumonia and dehydration.

“Influenza is more than a common cold,” Hendaus said, urging parents, schools and the wider community to take the virus seriously.

Influenza A, including the H1N1 subtype, can spread rapidly in schools, nurseries, playgrounds and family gatherings. Infected children may also transmit the

virus to siblings, parents, grandparents and other relatives, particularly those at increased risk of complications.

Hendaus said keeping children with a fever at home is one of the simplest ways to limit transmission, despite parents’ concerns about missed school days, examinations, and work commitments.

Sending a child to school with a fever, particularly when accompanied by a cough, fatigue or body aches, puts classmates, teachers and school staff at risk.

“Administering paracetamol to reduce fever before school does not make a child non-contagious,” he said, explaining that fever-reducing medication may ease discomfort but does not eliminate the virus or prevent its spread.

Parents should keep children home when they have a fever or are too unwell to participate in normal school activities, he said, calling it a responsible way to protect the community.

Hendaus recommended annual influenza vaccination for everyone aged six months and older, unless medically contraindicated, noting that it reduces the risk



Prof Dr Mohamed A Hendaus

of infection and severe illness. “Although no vaccine offers complete protection, vaccination remains one of our most effective defences against serious influenza disease,” he said.

Parents should arrange vaccination for eligible children as early as possible in the influenza season, particularly those with chronic medical conditions.

Children younger than five, especially those under two, and those with asthma, heart disease, diabetes or weakened immunity may face a higher risk of complica-

tions. Families should consult their paediatrician about vaccination and additional preventive measures.

He also stressed the importance of everyday precautions, including regular handwashing with soap and water, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow, avoiding touching the eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands, cleaning frequently touched surfaces and ensuring adequate ventilation at home and in classrooms.

Children who develop flu-like symptoms should rest at home, drink plenty of fluids and be monitored for worsening symptoms. Antibiotics do not treat influenza because a virus causes it, and healthcare professionals should guide medication decisions.

Hendaus urged parents to watch for dehydration, as fever increases fluid needs while illness may reduce how much children drink. Vomiting and diarrhoea can further increase the risk.

Warning signs include reduced urination, dry mouth, no tears when crying, and unusual lethargy. Urgent medical attention

is necessary if a child experiences difficulty breathing, bluish or grey lips, severe or persistent chest pain, seizures, confusion, reduced responsiveness or significant dehydration. Parents should also seek medical advice if a fever or cough improves but subsequently returns or worsens, according to Hendaus.

He noted that children with severe or progressive illness, those requiring hospitalisation and those at increased risk of complications may need antiviral treatment, which should begin as soon as possible when indicated.

Hendaus said schools can help prevent outbreaks through clear illness policies, good ventilation, hand hygiene and timely communication with parents. Healthcare professionals can reinforce vaccination and identify complications early, while employers can offer flexible arrangements to parents caring for sick children.

Combining vaccination, hygiene, early recognition of warning signs and keeping sick children at home can reduce transmission and help protect classrooms and families, he said.

CMU-Q showcases nation’s top coders at Qatar collegiate programming contest

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q), a Qatar Foundation partner, hosted the seventh annual Qatar Collegiate Programming Contest (QCPC), bringing together 100 high school teams and 35 university teams for a challenging test of coding and problem-solving.

The event gave young programmers a platform to showcase their technical abilities, teamwork, and problem-solving skills in an intensive, timed competition. The Hamad Bin Jassim Centre for Computer Science Education organised the contest, a collaboration between CMU-Q and the Jassim and Hamad Bin Jassim Charitable Foundation.

“The Qatar Collegiate Programming Contest has helped create a community of young programmers in Qatar,” said Michael Trick, dean of CMU-Q. “As young programmers develop their skills, this community flourishes and creates a culture

of innovation, progress and creativity in Qatar.”

First held at CMU-Q in 2021, QCPC has grown to become the largest national programming competition in the GCC region.

Ali Ibrahim al-Gharib, CEO of the Jassim and Hamad Bin Jassim Charitable Foundation, said: “We are proud to see the reach of the Qatar Collegiate Programming Contest continue to grow and attract such creative young minds. Equipping students with advanced computing skills is essential for driving innovation. The talent and determination on display this year give us great optimism for Qatar’s technological future.”

Throughout the two-day competition, participating teams tackled a series of complex programming challenges under strict time constraints, demonstrating their technical knowledge, creativity and ability to work together.

In the university track, teams from Carnegie Mellon Univer-

sity in Qatar swept the top three positions, securing gold, silver, and bronze medals.

In the high school track, DPS-Modern Indian School won gold, Park House English School took silver, and Birla Public School earned bronze.

The top two university and high school teams will advance to the Africa and Arab Collegiate Programming Championship, bringing them one step closer to competing on the international stage.

Eduardo Feo Flushing, assistant teaching professor of computer science, was part of the team that brought QCPC to Qatar in 2021, said: “The level of problem-solving we saw this year was outstanding. These students aren’t just writing code; they are working under pressure to solve highly complex programming challenges. It is incredibly rewarding to witness the next generation of computer scientists pushing their limits and succeeding.”



Students living in Qatar meet under one roof to compete in teams by designing computer-based programs that solve real-life problems using high-level programming languages such as C, C++, Java and Python. The contest then qualifies the top teams to the Arab Regional Contest (ACPC).

Healthy digital habits vital to keep mental health issues at bay

Dr Sanaa al-Harashsheh, research manager at the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), Qatar Foundation’s (QF) global healthcare initiative, examines through her work how digital life affects the mental health of children and families.

Her message to parents is simple: prevention is far better than cure. Problematic digital use can develop gradually, so families should start with healthy boundaries early. “Start with prevention, because the cost will be a lot later,” she says, pointing to psychological and social costs, as well as something families cannot recover – time lost together.

Her concern is not only what children see online, but what slowly changes at home. She describes the risk as hidden and unnoticed, and it often starts at the dinner table. Parents call children down for a meal, only for them to stay in their rooms or reply by message from elsewhere in the same house. “It has affected the daily interaction between the family and the relationship,” she says.

Emotions run high too. Children whose devices are taken away “get angry, they get stressed out,” she says. Games add pressure of their own – with teammates abroad, some children wake at midnight to play for fear of missing out or being excluded from their gaming group. “You don’t know who is playing with your children,” she explains.

“This also raises cybersecurity concerns. Children may communicate with people they have never met offline, making conversations about privacy, suspicious messages, and inappropriate contact essential.”

For some, screens become an escape. A child struggling in class, or



Dr Sanaa al-Harashsheh.

in conflict with parents or siblings, may play to feel better. “It’s to escape the situation they’re in,” she explains. “But at the end, it’s not a solution. It’s temporary.”

A research paper co-authored by Dr al-Harashsheh, published in Scientific Reports in 2024, surveyed 331 students in Qatar’s schools and found that problematic internet use and spending more time online for entertainment were associated with greater physical and mental fatigue, while time spent online for schoolwork was not.

What children do online, and why they do it, therefore matters – it’s not simply about the amount of screen time. Nearly a third of participants in Dr al-Harashsheh’s study showed signs of problematic internet use, with coping with stress or escaping problems among the commonly reported features.

Digital use can also become concerning when it displaces face-to-face interaction. It is “very serious,” she says, because real interaction happens face to face, not behind a screen. Some children come to prefer their online circle

to talking with parents, cousins or relatives. Years of reduced human contact may show up later as loneliness, anxiety and low mood, a risk she sees stretching across the decades ahead. None of this, she emphasises, means technology is the enemy. “This does not mean that technology itself is harmful. It can support education, communication, creativity and social connection. The goal is a healthy relationship with it.”

Boundaries work best when children understand them, says Dr al-Harashsheh. She encourages parents to talk with their children about why limits exist, how they benefit them, and to follow them too. “If I don’t control myself with the device, how will my kids take it?” she asks.

“Children learn from what adults do, not only what they say. Families can protect personal information, use privacy settings and teach children to recognise scams and unwanted contact. Monitoring tools can help, but should not replace communication and trust.”

Telling children to put the screen down is not enough; they need something to move on to. “Parents should offer real alternatives and take part themselves, from a walk or sport to bowling or a camping trip. Take the child out, spend time as a family and ensure everyone is present both physically and mentally,” she says. Time together supports children’s social, emotional and behavioural development, as well as family relationships.

She explains that responsibility is shared: parents shape habits through communication and role modelling; schools can strengthen digital literacy and online safety; and technology providers and policymakers can help create healthier digital environments.

Msheireb Properties, IWG launch Signature co-working spaces in Doha

Msheireb Properties and International Workplace Group (IWG), the global leader in hybrid-working solutions, have announced the official opening of Signature at Msheireb Downtown Doha (MDD). Signature is IWG’s premium brand of co-working spaces and flexible offices.

Operated under a management agreement between the two partners, the new centre is a distinctive addition to IWG’s network in Qatar. It offers the business community advanced workspace options that support productivity and partnership, within an urban environment designed around sustainability. The opening included a tour of the centre’s facilities and integrated workspaces for guests and partners.

The opening marks a new milestone in MDD’s growth as an integrated business destination. Signature joins a growing commercial community that is home to government and media headquarters and local and international organisations, alongside the Doha Design District, which brings together creatives and entrepreneurs. Members benefit from everything the city offers. They can access it through its central location and direct connection to the Doha



Metro, enjoy the hospitality, retail, and culture of Msheireb Galleria, Msheireb Museums, and the city’s international hotels, and work in

LEED Gold- or Platinum-certified buildings. Working there becomes part of a complete urban life.

Hassan Ali al-Emadi, Chief

Commercial Officer at Msheireb Properties, said: “The opening of Signature at Msheireb Downtown Doha is a distinctive addition to

the integrated business community we continue to develop, strengthening the city’s position as a leading destination for com-

panies and organisations seeking modern, flexible workspaces. Signature’s choice of Msheireb Downtown Doha reflects confidence in the competitive strengths the city offers, combining a strategic location, advanced infrastructure and sustainability in ways that meet the ambitions of the business sector and support its growth.

Tareq al-Jaidah, partner and CEO of Al Jaidah Brothers, said: “For the first time, we are bringing our premium brand to the Qatari market, alongside the brands that already serve our clients here. The launch responds to a growing number of businesses and professionals looking for a higher standard of workspace and service, while keeping the flexibility that has become central to how they work.”

IWG is the global leader in its sector, operating approximately 4,000 locations across more than 120 countries, with 83% of Fortune 500 companies among its customers. The launch of Signature further diversifies MDD’s commercial community and reinforces Qatar’s position as an attractive destination for business and investment, supporting the country’s economic diversification.

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