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Milipol Qatar 2026 opens tomorrow

- Over 270 companies taking part in the exhibition at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre
- The exhibition coincides with the Doha International Conference on AI and Security

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Milipol Qatar 2026, the international exhibition for homeland security and safety, opens tomorrow (Tuesday) under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, bringing together more than 270 local and international companies to showcase the latest technologies and solutions in the security sector.

The exhibition details were announced yesterday at a press conference addressed by Milipol Qatar Committee chairman Major-General Nasser bin Fahad al-Thani and Karen Galstyan, director of the Milipol Network, in the presence of representatives of the event's sponsors, supporting organisations, and other guests.

The three-day exhibition, organised by the Ministry of Interior, will run until October 22 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre, providing a platform for security officials, industry leaders, specialists and technology providers to exchange expertise, explore emerging innovations and strengthen international co-operation.

Maj-Gen Nasser confirmed at the press briefing that all preparations for the exhibition have been completed.

"This year's edition will feature more than 270 local and international companies and seven international pavilions, covering an exhibition area of 23,000 square metres," he said. "The exhibition will provide a platform to explore the latest security technologies and solutions, strengthen co-operation and facilitate the exchange of expertise."

The official added that the exhibition will feature seven international pavilions.

An outdoor display area will showcase the Ministry of Interior's vehicle fleet, highlighting the equipment and operational capabilities used in maintaining security and public safety.

The exhibition is expected to provide opportunities for participating companies and government entities to explore solutions addressing evolving security requirements, including the deployment of modern equipment, integrated security systems and technology-driven approaches to protecting people and infrastructure.

The programme will coincide with the Doha International Conference on AI and Security, bringing together distinguished leaders and experts to discuss the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in security operations and the opportunities and challenges associated with emerging technologies.

The concurrent events underline the increasing importance of technological innovation in homeland security, as authorities and security organisations worldwide seek to improve threat detection, operational efficiency and their ability to respond to evolving risks.

Milipol Network director Galstyan highlighted the longstanding partnership between Milipol Qatar and the Ministry of Interior, which dates back to the exhibition's launch in 1996. **To Page 8**

Saudi coalition, Houthis trade strikes as disruption spreads

AFP
Riyadh

The Saudi-led coalition and Iran-backed Houthis traded strikes yesterday as fighting raged in the intensifying conflict that has disturbed life for residents of the kingdom's capital Riyadh and war-ravaged Yemen.

Disruption in the world's top crude oil exporter has continued to spread as the Houthis keep up their strikes, with Riyadh's landmark Kingdom Centre skyscraper ordering "mandatory" remote working until further notice for office tenants.

No reason was given for the order, but it follows a security alert and two drone interceptions around the capital on top of waves of Houthi attacks on Saudi targets in recent weeks.

Meanwhile, the Saudi-led coalition backing the internationally recognised government has launched repeated air raids on Houthi-controlled regions of Yemen.

An alleged Saudi air strike yesterday in northern Yemen's Saada governorate killed at least nine people and wounded 16 others, the Houthis' Saba news agency reported.

The coalition meanwhile said that two pilots were killed when their helicopter crashed in Najran near the Yemen border, while the Houthis said they "downed an Apache helicopter belonging to the Saudi enemy" in the same area.

The coalition blamed a "technical malfunction" for the incident, which inflicted its first military fatalities since the long-running war with the Houthis reignited in July.

Schools in the Saudi capital and surrounding areas also extended online learning into a second week, while Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport remains closed after 13 people were killed in a major attack last week.

The Saudi coalition's decade-plus war with the Iran-backed Houthis has returned with ferocity during the US-Iran war, with regular attacks reported by both sides. **To Page 8**

Qatar media 'must unite' against fake news

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Qatar's media institutions must strengthen co-operation with security agencies to counter disinformation, confront emerging information threats, and safeguard national security, speakers stressed at a panel discussion organised by the Qatar Press Centre (QPC) in collaboration with the Joaan bin Jassim Academy for Defence Studies.

The discussion brought together participants in the seventh National Defence Course at the National Defence College, editors-in-chief of local newspapers and representatives of government and security institutions to examine the challenges posed by artificial intelligence (AI), digital transformation and information warfare.

Gulf Times editor-in-chief Faisal al-Mudahka highlighted what he described as a "war of narratives", noting that Qatar had faced repeated smear campaigns in recent years, often employing similar tactics despite changing circumstances.

He pointed to the growing use of AI in media campaigns during regional conflicts, citing instances in which Iranian-affiliated entities allegedly used the technology to promote their narratives and target Gulf states.

AI-Mudahka also noted that newspapers' digital transformation depended partly on their ownership structures and available resources, as many publications had been established long before the advent of websites.

QPC vice-chairman Jaber al-Harimi underlined the media's contribution to protecting the country's interests and countering misleading narratives. **To Page 8**

Speakers at the panel discussion, including Gulf Times editor-in-chief Faisal al-Mudahka (third left).

Gord rolls out AI platforms to drive corporate sustainability

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

The Gulf Organisation for Research and Development (Gord) has expanded its sustainability innovation portfolio with a new generation of artificial intelligence (AI)-powered platforms targeting indoor air quality, industrial decarbonisation, corporate environmental performance and automated sustainability reporting.

"Gord's research, development and innovation activities have evolved beyond the built environment to address the growing need for intelligent, data-driven solutions across industries and complex organisations," Gord founding chairman Dr Yousef Alhorr told Gulf Times in an exclusive interview.

The latest initiatives include Comlada, an advanced air quality monitoring system; Cemento AI, a platform designed to optimise cement manufacturing; Mat-Index, a corporate sustainability assessment and benchmarking tool; and Sustainable AI, which automates environmental, social and governance (ESG) data management and reporting.

"These integrated sustainability solutions reflect the needed shift towards intelligent, data-driven and AI-enabled climate action systems," Dr Alhorr said. "They are used to help buildings and multi-sector organisations advance their net-zero and sustainability ambitions."

Comlada enables continuous, real-time monitoring of up to 20 indoor air quality parameters, including formaldehyde and volatile organic compounds.

Combining configurable sensors, intelligent network systems and a cloud-connected dashboard, the platform provides facility managers with actionable information to improve indoor environments and occupant well-being.

It also supports compliance with international green building and healthy building standards, including Gord's Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS), among others.

In the industrial sector, Cemento AI applies physics-informed artificial intelligence and thermodynamic modelling to optimise cement manufacturing, an industry responsible for an estimated 7% to 8% of global carbon emissions.

"The platform integrates data from industrial production lines to improve process control, reduce material and fuel consumption, monitor clinker quality and lower carbon dioxide emissions," Dr Alhorr said. "It also supports carbon credit monitoring and allows manufacturers to test operational scenarios, including fuel switching, in a controlled environment."

By combining operational and environmental data, Cemento AI aims to help manufacturers improve efficiency and protect profit margins while reducing their carbon footprint.

Gord's enterprise-focused initiatives include Mat-Index, or the ESG Business Maturity Index, which helps large companies, small and medium-sized enterprises and microbusinesses assess and benchmark their sustainability performance.

"The platform evaluates organisations across 33 sustainability themes through 99 assessment questions, mapping their progress across six maturity levels," said Dr Alhorr. "It provides prioritised recommendations for improvement, tracks performance over time and recognises achievements through Bronze, Silver, Gold and Diamond ratings." **To Page 8**

Rafeeq, Qatar's national super app, stands with young Ahmad until his treatment is fully funded

Qatar's national super app turns its Instagram, TikTok and X channels into a non-stop community live stream, alongside creators Ahmad Pato and Ali Shamso, to raise QAR 10.2 million for a young boy's medical care

Rafeeq, Qatar's first all-in-one national champion super app and a Qatari national technology company, has launched a special live broadcast across its official Instagram, TikTok and X accounts to support Ahmad, a young boy on a long and costly treatment journey, and has pledged to keep the broadcast running until the full cost of his treatment, approximately QAR 10.2 million, is secured.

The live stream went on air on Saturday, 17 October at 3:00 pm. Rafeeq is hosting Ahmad on the broadcast alongside two of Qatar's most popular content creators, Ahmad Pato and Ali Shamso, who are co-hosting the stream. Unlike a conventional fundraising appeal with a fixed end time, Rafeeq has committed that the broadcast will not close until the target is met, turning a single live session into a sustained, nationwide campaign that invites everyone in Qatar to stand with Ahmad.

According to the estimate issued by his treating hospital, the cost of Ahmad's treatment exceeds QAR 10.2



million, the vast majority of it for the specialised medical equipment, supplies and medication his care requires. By opening its platforms, audience and partner network to Ahmad's cause, Rafeeq is turning the reach of a national digital platform into real,

tangible support for one child and his family.

Rafeeq is providing the production, channels and promotion behind the broadcast, and is mobilising its community of customers, partner businesses and creators to share the stream

and contribute. Donations are being collected in partnership with Thani Humanitarian Organization, directly through the Rafeeq app: users simply open the Charity section, select the Thani Humanitarian tab and choose Ahmad's case to contribute.

The initiative reflects the values on which Rafeeq was founded: a Qatari company built to serve every home in the country, carrying forward the spirit of solidarity and compassion that defines Qatari society.

"Ahmad is one of our own, and his fight is our whole community's fight," said Abdullah Thamer Al Humaidi, Chief Executive Officer of Rafeeq. "As a Qatari company that reaches every home in this country, our responsibility goes beyond commerce. We will not switch off this live until Ahmad's treatment is fully funded, and we invite every individual, family and business in Qatar to stand with him."

"Thank you to everyone who is watching, sharing and helping me. I am being brave, and I know I am not alone," said Ahmad.

How to Support

Watch the live broadcast on Rafeeq's official accounts, @gorafeeq, on Instagram, TikTok and X; donate in the Rafeeq app under Charity > Thani Humanitarian > Ahmad's case; and share the stream with family and friends. Every contribution, whatever its size, brings Ahmad one step closer to completing his treatment.

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المدرسة الهندية الإسلامية الخاصة

Indian Islamic School



رايتي بيضاء
قوية

يسر وزارة التربية والتعليم العالي أن تتقدم بالتهنئة إلى

المدرسة الهندية الإسلامية - فرع أبو هامور

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Qatar Foundation creates a unique ecosystem for educational excellence

By Noor Alrawi

After nearly three decades in British education, moving to Qatar marked a significant turning point in Dr Fella Lahmar's academic career. At Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), she has helped establish the School of Education, developing graduate programmes that connect international educational research with Qatar's national priorities and intellectual heritage.

Her work spans comparative education, Islamic education, decolonisation, and inclusive learning. At its heart is a central question: how can societies learn from the world while remaining confident in their own values, traditions and aspirations?

In this interview with *Gulf Times*, Dr Lahmar reflects on the differences between the British and Qatari education systems, the importance of compassion and inclusion, and the role of teachers in shaping a knowledge-based society.

1. Having worked in both the UK and Qatar, what can the two higher education systems learn from each other?

I spent nearly three decades in British education, from community schools in Nottingham to supervising PhD students and leading and validating degree programmes. The UK has considerable strengths from which Qatar can learn, particularly rigorous quality assurance, peer review, and professional recognition for university teaching.

However, my research also examines how market-driven reforms have reshaped British education. Since the introduction of tuition fees in England in 1998, higher education has increasingly been framed as a private investment rather than a public good. Tuition fees have risen substantially, maintenance grants for disadvantaged students were abolished in 2016, and graduates face significant repayment obligations. Universities are under pressure to compete for fee income, while schools operate within systems of rankings, inspections and performance measures that can reduce teaching to what an auditor can assess.

My research has also explored how Muslim schools in England have had to navigate this competitive environment.

Qatar offers a different perspective. It treats education as a public responsibility, providing free government schooling and undergraduate study at Qatar University for Qatari citizens, alongside scholarships that extend opportunities to other institutions and levels of study.

The two systems can learn from each other. Qatar can draw on Britain's established traditions of academic scrutiny and professional development, while the UK can reflect on Qatar's commitment to public investment in education and widening access. The fundamental question is whether education is primarily an individual financial burden or a shared investment in society's future.

2. How has Qatar's culture influenced your academic work and sense of belonging?

Doha felt like home from my very first visit. Culture is not simply what we know; it is the environment we breathe. It lives in shared values, manners and unspoken expectations—in how people greet one another, show respect, extend hospitality and care for their families.

Here, I no longer need to translate myself. The cultural codes I grew up with, including respect for elders, generosity, the centrality of family and the indirect courtesy of Arab speech, are part of everyday social life.

Even the built environment reinforces this connection. Minareteins, where my office is located, incorporates architectural symbolism that reflects the relationship between knowledge and faith. Across Doha, the Museum of Islamic Art and the lanes of Souq Waqif connect the present with a history I recognise as my own. Ramadan and Eid are celebrated throughout society, and the rhythm of the call to prayer is part of daily life.

As a Muslim woman who wears the hijab, I have also experienced a profound sense of ease and safety. In England, I was often conscious of being visibly Muslim and, at times, concerned about walking alone after Maghrib. Rebuilding that sense of security took time. In Qatar, my faith is understood as part of who I am, rather than something I must continually explain or justify. That sense of belonging has freed energy that I can devote to my academic work.

The move also transformed my scholarly position. In Britain, my research on Islamic education, decolonisation and equity often addressed the experiences of a minority

Dr Fella Lahmar, Assistant Professor of Education and Programme Co-ordinator of the MA in Comparative Education at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, discusses what Qatar and the UK can learn from each other, the role of Islamic intellectual heritage in shaping education, and the priorities needed to prepare future generations.



seeking recognition. In Qatar, these questions have become part of a broader national conversation about educational development and societal renewal.

Qatar Foundation initially invited me as a consultant to help develop graduate programmes in comparative education that would meet international quality standards while engaging seriously with Islamic civilisational heritage.

Comparative education too often measures educational systems against a European benchmark. But a different starting point is possible. Civilisations advance not by importing finished products from elsewhere or by simply imitating their own past, but by bringing ideas into purposeful engagement with people, places and contemporary challenges.

At its height, Islamic civilisation translated, debated and developed Greek, Persian and Indian knowledge without abandoning its own intellectual foundations. Our programmes draw on that spirit of openness. We want students to be firmly grounded in their heritage while engaging critically and generously with educational thought from across the world, including the West. The aim is not to replace one intellectual centre with another, but to prepare educators who can learn from everyone without losing their own point of reference.



3. Beyond academic achievement, what makes an education system successful?

It begins with rahma—compassion. The Qur'an describes the Prophetic mission as "a mercy to the worlds" (21:107). The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) also described his mission as that of a teacher who makes things easier rather than causing hardship. Compassion and teaching belong together.

I have seen what happens when they become separated. In England, league tables, audits and rankings have reshaped the work of schools and universities. Too often, teachers are encouraged to perform for inspectors while children become data points. What can be measured begins to determine what matters, even though the things that matter most are not always measurable.

A society is not built simply by accumulating buildings, devices and qualifications. These are products of civilisation, not its foundations. Education should also cultivate ethical principles, aesthetic appreciation, practical reasoning and the skills through which knowledge becomes part of everyday life.

My research for the Decolonising Education for Peace in Algeria project examined five linguistically diverse Algerian communities. It highlighted how oral storytelling, poetry, crafts and inherited social customs transmit values of reconciliation, respect and care across generations.

The historian Ibn Khaldun recognised the close relationship between knowledge, craftsmanship and flourishing social life. Knowledge is transmitted not merely through books but through living relationships between teachers and learners, and through habits of thought and practice. Education that breaks this intergen-

erational transmission risks weakening the foundations on which a society builds its future.

That is why Qatar's heritage of poetry, art, the sea, the desert and the majlis belongs in the classroom. Museums such as the National Museum of Qatar, the Museum of Islamic Art and Mathaf can also serve as open classrooms, connecting young people with their identity and imagination.

Yet rootedness must not mean repetition. An idea can be authentic and still fail to translate into meaningful action. Education also needs to develop aql—reason in its fullest sense: the ability to question, solve real problems and turn ideas into institutions. Reason without compassion becomes cold, while compassion without reason risks becoming merely sentimental.

A successful education system must also care for vulnerable learners as seriously as it supports the most academically talented.



ward-looking civilisational outlook. Education City brings leading international universities together alongside Qatar's own institutions. The important question is whether this international presence strengthens national capacity and enables Qatari teachers, researchers and ideas to contribute more substantially to global knowledge.

This is why a hometown School of Education matters.

Qatar University's College of Education plays a major role in preparing the nation's teachers. HBKU's School of Education is intended to complement that work rather than duplicate it. As a graduate, research-focused school, it takes a distinctly comparative approach, grounded in the region's intellectual heritage while engaging critically with educational ideas from around the world.

Its location in Education City provides opportunities to connect research, teacher preparation and classroom practice with Qatar Foundation schools, international universities and research centres.

The objective is not to choose between local identity and international excellence. It is to bring them into a productive relationship, so that international engagement strengthens Qatar's capacity to develop its own educational approaches and contribute to the world on its own terms.

5. What is the biggest lesson you have learned from establishing a new School of Education?

I had previously designed and validated academic programmes, but founding a school taught me something different: an institution is built through relationships before it has a building or a curriculum.

What gives a new school life is trust among faculty, students, university

leadership and external partners, including the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and schools across Qatar. These relationships need to be grounded in a shared understanding of the kind of educator society needs.

Working closely with HBKU's senior leadership, especially colleagues in the Provost's Office, has been particularly formative. It brought me into discussions about strategy, governance and long-term institutional impact much earlier and more deeply than I might have experienced in a conventional academic role.

That experience pushed me beyond my comfort zone, but it also demonstrated how much can be achieved when people combine expertise, ethical leadership, a clear vision and a genuine commitment to excellence.

The challenge is to balance ambition with academic rigour: to establish programmes that meet international standards while responding meaningfully to Qatar's educational priorities and regional challenges.

Ultimately, a new school is not established simply by launching programmes. It grows when a community comes together around a shared purpose and builds the relationships and structures needed to sustain it.

6. What educational priorities should Qatar focus on to prepare future generations?

Qatar invests in resources that many countries can only aspire to: modern facilities, technology, international partnerships and scholarships. But while a country can import the products of other civilisations, it cannot import the people who will build its own future. The priority is to turn these resources into human capability.

I would highlight five areas. First, turn knowledge into action. The real measure of education is not how much information students accumulate, but whether they can apply it to solve prob-

lems, build institutions and innovate. Learners should engage with real challenges in schools, communities, industry and research.

Second, invest in teachers. Every reform ultimately succeeds or fails in the classroom. Teachers need rigorous initial preparation, continuing professional development, professional trust and career pathways that attract and retain talented people. No education system can rise above the quality of its teaching.

Third, combine rootedness with openness. Arabic, Islam and cultural identity are most powerful when they remain foundations of learning rather than ceremonial symbols. A secure sense of identity enables young people to engage confidently with the world, learning from other civilisations without being absorbed by any one of them. The movement of knowledge across borders has always enriched intellectual life. Qatar's openness to international talent is part of that tradition.

Fourth, cultivate character, compassion and inclusion. Prosperity brings opportunities, but it also presents challenges. Education can nurture responsibility, perseverance, a respect for time and a commitment to serving others. It must also cultivate rahma (compassion), ensuring that no learner is pushed to the margins because of disability, language or background.

Fifth, develop discernment in an age of misinformation. The danger today is not only ignorance but the illusion of knowledge. AI-generated content can appear authoritative while being inaccurate, and qualifications can sometimes signal achievement without demonstrating genuine understanding. Education needs to teach students to verify information, evaluate sources, question assumptions and distinguish information from knowledge.

Our intellectual tradition has long emphasised the importance of verifying reports and examining claims before accepting them. That discipline is increasingly essential.

Ultimately, the goal is to nurture a generation that does not merely consume the achievements of others but contributes original ideas and solutions to the world, drawing confidently on its own intellectual and cultural foundations.

7. How does Qatar Foundation empower educators, and what opportunities does its wider ecosystem offer teachers?

Qatar Foundation offers something that was much harder to access in the UK: a remarkable concentration of educational, research and professional resources in close proximity.

Within Education City and the wider Qatar Foundation ecosystem, educators can connect with international universities, a national research university, Qatar National Library, Sidra Medicine, schools serving diverse learners, research institutes and the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE).

In Britain, comparable collaborations can take years of competitive funding applications and co-ordination across institutions and cities, with no guarantee that resources will materialise. Qatar Foundation brings international talent together and supports opportunities for research, collaboration and professional development.

For teachers, the potential is significant. They can work alongside researchers, engage with new evidence and help translate research findings into classroom practice. Students and teachers can benefit when universities and schools are connected through shared projects, joint supervision and sustained professional relationships.

The opportunity now is to turn this institutional proximity into deeper, lasting collaboration. That is central to the work of HBKU's School of Education. We are developing partnerships with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, as well as with schools and institutions across Qatar's education sector.

When research, teacher preparation and classroom practice inform one another, education becomes more than a collection of separate institutions. It becomes a connected ecosystem in which knowledge can be tested, refined and put to work.

For me, the central challenge is how we continue transforming Qatar's investment in education into transforming its investment in education into the human capability, ethical purpose and intellectual confidence needed to shape its own future. That means preparing educators who are rooted in their heritage, open to the world's knowledge, compassionate towards learners and equipped to turn ideas into meaningful change.



Ministers council General Secretariat announces project to upgrade major digital infrastructure

The General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers has launched a project to upgrade its digital infrastructure, aiming to optimise system efficiency, advance digital transformation, and strengthen technical readiness and operational resilience.

The project was announced during a contract-signing ceremony between the General Secretariat and Qatar Detamation Systems (QDS) at the General Secretariat's headquarters, attended by HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi.

The contract was signed by the Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers, Hamad bin Ahmed al-Muhannadi, and Abdulrahman

al-Darwish, CEO of Al Darwish United Group, which owns QDS, in the presence of senior General Secretariat officials.

The project aims to establish a state-of-the-art, integrated technology infrastructure that strengthens system security and data protection. It focuses on four key areas: upgrading digital infrastructure, bolstering business continuity, enhancing the security of applications and on-line platforms, and strengthening data protection in line with leading international standards and best practices.

Director of the Information Systems Department at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, Alshayma Ahmed Al-malki, stressed that the project goes beyond technical upgrades,

laying the groundwork for advanced digital capabilities that meet evolving institutional needs.

She highlighted that it will also provide greater flexibility in adopting cutting-edge technologies and solutions, enhancing the General Secretariat's ability to adapt to rapid changes across government operations.

Almalki further explained that investment in digital infrastructure is a cornerstone of long-term institutional development, noting that the project will establish a scalable, upgradeable technology ecosystem capable of accommodating future requirements and supporting continuous improvements in work processes.

She added that the project's

strategic value lies in translating this investment into tangible gains in operational efficiency, enabling departments to perform their duties more effectively and ensuring that technological advancements align with institutional priorities.

Overall, the project reflects the General Secretariat's commitment to advancing digital transformation through secure, flexible technology infrastructure that supports sustainable institutional development.

It also marks a significant step toward an integrated digital workplace that accelerates service delivery and strengthens data-driven decision-making, in line with Qatar's vision of an advanced, innovative digital government. (QNA)

Amir condolences with Saudi king

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 have sent cables of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud of Saudi Arabia on the martyrdom of two National Guard officers in a reconnaissance helicopter crash in Najran Region. (QNA)

Shura Council bureau holds meeting



The Bureau of the Shura Council held a meeting yesterday, chaired by HE the Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al Ghanem. The first meeting of the second ordinary session of the second legislative term, corresponding to the 55th annual session of the Shura Council, addressed a number of items on the agenda and approved the agenda for the Council's next session. (QNA)



MCIT, Scale AI, QU collaborate on AI platform

Qatar University (QU), the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), and Scale AI have signed an agreement to collaborate on the development of the National Co-Advisor Platform, an AI-powered solution designed to enhance academic advising and support student success at QU.

The initiative is part of ongoing efforts to improve academic advising services through a unified digital platform that provides students and academic advisors with more efficient and flexible access to academic information and support, tailored to students' individual academic needs. The platform will combine an AI-powered interactive virtual assistant with advanced analytical tools that help advisors identify students who may require additional support, prepare for advising meetings, document outcomes, and follow up on required actions.

The platform will provide students with 24/7 access to personalised academic guidance, including information on academic program requirements, university policies and regulations, course registration eligibility and prerequisites, academic deadlines, and progress towards graduation. For advisors, it will automate a number of administrative and documentation tasks, allowing them to dedicate more time to personalised guidance, meaningful student engagement, and proactive support.

The initiative also seeks to strengthen early intervention by using academic data to identify indicators of academic difficulties and provide advisors with prioritised alerts and recommended interventions. In addition, the platform aims to reduce course registration errors that could affect student's academic progress or delay graduation. It will also provide university leadership with comprehensive insights and analytics to monitor academic progress and support data-driven decision-making.

The National Co-Advisor Platform will be integrated with QU's relevant databases, providing academic advisors with a comprehensive digital workspace and students with a round-the-clock virtual assistant, while ensuring human oversight of administrative processes and decisions.

Highlighting the importance of the collaboration, Dr Shima al-Quradaghi, Associate Vice-President for Student Success and Development at QU's Student Affairs, said: "This partnership represents an important strategic step toward advancing academic advising at Qatar University and reflects our commitment to leveraging modern technologies and AI to enhance the student experience and promote academic success. Through this platform, we aim to provide more personalised and proactive academic guidance, while enabling academic advisors to focus on direct, meaningful student engagement. This will help identify students' needs earlier, support informed academic decisions, and ultimately strengthen their journey toward successful degree completion."

Eman al-Kuwari, Director of Digital Innovation at MCIT said: "This collaboration reflects our focus on moving AI from potential to practical application by addressing real institutional needs. Through partnerships that bring together government, academia and technology providers, we aim to create an enabling environment for the responsible adoption of AI and the development of solutions that deliver measurable value. The National Co-Advisor Platform is a practical example of how AI can support more efficient and personalised services while maintaining human oversight as a core element of decision-making."

Amr Samir, Qatar Country Lead at Scale AI, said: "This agreement is the result of months spent listening to Qatar University's advisors, faculty and staff. Together with MCIT and Qatar University, we are building the National Co-Advisor Platform to put AI to work for students and the advisors who guide them, with human oversight at its core, in service of Qatar National Vision 2030."

The collaboration supports the objectives of QU's Strategy 2023-2027, particularly its focus on student centricity and digital transformation, while enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of academic support services. It also contributes to national priorities under the Third Qatar National Development Strategy by supporting the development of a highly skilled and productive workforce. (QNA)

Chairman of ROLACC Board of Trustees meets Uruguay's FM



HE the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center (ROLACC), Dr Ali bin Fetais al-Ma rri, met with the Uruguay's Foreign Minister, Mario Lubetkin, in the capital, Montevideo.

HE Dr al-Marri also met with the Intendant of Montevideo, Mario Bergara, and the Mayor of Punta del Este, Javier Carballal. The meetings reviewed co-operation between the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center and Uruguay, with the aim of strengthening regional and international efforts to combat corruption. Uruguay holds the chairmanship this year of the Group of 77 and China and the Southern Common Market (Mercosur), which comprises Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. It also chairs the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which comprises 33 countries. (QNA)

Awqaf ministry disburses over QR91mn in Zakat assistance in Q3-2026



The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, through its Zakat Affairs Department, announced that it provided QR91,381,807 in Zakat assistance during the third quarter of 2026, benefiting 2,934 families across Qatar.

Director of the Zakat Affairs Department Mohammed Abdul Latif al-Mahmoud said the latest figures reflect the department's religious and social responsibility to safeguard Zakat funds and ensure they reach eligible recipients through an institutional framework grounded in accuracy, transparency and rigorous eligibility verification.

The verification process combines desk-based assessments with field visits, while the state covers all administrative and operational expenses. Thus, the full amount of Zakat funds can be directed to their Sharia-mandated beneficiaries, Al Mahmoud added.

He said the department's efforts are aligned with Awqaf's 2025-2030 strategy and Qatar National Vision 2030, particularly its pillars for building a cohesive and sustainable society.

Head of the Zakat Disbursement Section Abdullah Saeed al-Marri outlined the assistance provided during the third quarter, reporting that monthly recurring aid totaled QR35,796,992 to help families in need maintain living stability.

One-time assistance amounted to QR33,001,133, helping families meet unexpected financial obligations, al-Marri said.

Medical assistance totaled QR17,864,350 to provide health care for eligible cases, while QR3,088,232 was allocated to people struggling with debt.

The department also provided QR1,631,100 to support medical treatment for patients from Gaza residing in Qatar, he added.

Assistant Director of the Zakat Affairs Department for Administrative Affairs, Dr Salem Jarallah al-Marri, said the department is committed to substantially expanding digital solutions and making payments easier through smart applications, its website, automated payment machines and rapid collection services.

He noted that the digital transformation system covers the entire process, from submitting and reviewing applications to transferring aid directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts. It also offers Zakat calculators and online Sharia consultations.

The ministry urged individuals and companies to pay their Zakat through officially approved channels, thereby helping ensure that funds are allocated efficiently and transparently to eligible recipients and maximising their impact on those in need. (QNA)

Doha Bank launches 'Your Success Deserves More' salary transfer campaign

Doha Bank has launched 'Your Success Deserves More' campaign, offering a special package of exclusive benefits, exceptional incentives, and rewards upon salary transfer. The campaign features cash rewards of up to QR120,000, or up to 2.6mn Avios with Qatar Airways Privilege Club, along with a wide range of other benefits and premium banking services provided by Doha Bank.

Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Fahad bin Faisal al-Thani, the Group CEO of Doha Bank, stated: "At Doha Bank, we remain steadfast in our commitment to excellence across every aspect of our business. This commitment takes even greater significance at this stage, as the bank enters a new era, with a strong focus on embracing innovation and delivering customer-centric banking services that provide an unparalleled banking experience. This campaign is a practical expression of this vision."

Charif Al-Baba, acting chief retail banking officer at Doha Bank, said: "Doha Bank places great importance on building strong and lasting relationships with our valued customers. From their first salary transfer to a comprehensive suite of premium banking products and services, we are committed to delivering exceptional value at every stage of their banking journey. Through this campaign, we have ensured that customers can unlock highly rewarding benefits every time they tap into any of Doha Bank's products and services."

Running till December 31, 2026, the campaign reflects Doha Bank's commitment to delivering an unmatched banking experience. It celebrates customers' professional success with exceptional added value to their monthly salaries through unprecedented rewards and benefits.

Customers who transfer their salaries with Doha Bank will receive cash rewards of up to QR120,000, or up to 2.6mn Avios, enabling customers to enjoy exquisite travel and lifestyle rewards of their choice with Qatar Airways Privilege Club.

The campaign also offers a variety of additional benefits linked to the bank's diverse banking products and services available through its various channels. These benefits reflect Doha Bank's vision of delivering prime customer experiences through innovative and exceptional banking solutions and rewards.



MoECC sows 5,000 seeds and plants 300 wild seedlings in Al Suwairiyat

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), through its Wildlife Development Department, has launched an environmental campaign at Rawdat Al Suwairiyat in the Al Ghuwairiya area, involving the sowing of 5,000 seeds and the planting of 300 wild seedlings.

The initiative forms part of the 2026 program to restore natural vegetation in Qatar's rawdas, or natural low-lying depressions that collect seasonal rainwater. Following rainfall, these areas can quickly burst into bloom, forming temporary desert meadows that support native vegetation, provide habitats for birds, animals and insects, and contribute to groundwater replenishment.

The campaign aims to conserve and restore rawdas, enhance vegetation cover and biodiversity, raise public awareness of the importance of wild plants, and encourage community involvement in protecting natural habitats.

In a statement issued Sunday, the Ministry said sowing seeds at this time of year was particularly important to take advantage of seasonal rainfall, which helps native plants germinate and regenerate natural vegetation. The campaign coincides with the start of the rainy season.

The ministry added that its conservation and restoration programs use modern technologies, including geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, satellite imagery analysis and spatial databases, to identify priority areas for protection and tailor fieldwork to the specific needs of each site.

It stressed that successful restoration efforts depend on selecting suitable native plant species, protecting sites after



planting, and preventing harmful practices such as tree cutting, shrub uprooting and driving over vegetation. (QNA)



قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy

The General, Limited Tenders Committees and Supply Chain Department announces the following Tenders:

Important Notice:
Suppliers and Contractors who are already registered with QatarEnergy via Mushтарыat Portal can "Buy Tender Online and download Tender Document" from QatarEnergy website (Mushтарыat Portal).

Effective from 1st July 2023, bids submitted by a Local company (companies incorporated in Qatar) acting as Tenderer in accordance with this Invitation to Tender, will not be accepted by QatarEnergy without any further notification, if such companies are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>) by the specified Original Tender Closing Date or Original due date for submission of COMMERCIAL Package in case of two stage Tendering as per ITT. However, any Local company that has been established within last two (2) years is exempt from this mandatory ICV certification requirement.

Sl. No	Tender Number	Tender Sale Period Start Date End Date	Tender Closing Date	Tender Bond	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
1	GT26104700	19.10.2026 25.10.2026	30.11.2026	700,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR

Title of Tender: CLEANING AND SPECIALIZED OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES AT QATARENERGY REFINERY, MESAIEED

Mid-Tender Meeting Location : To be advised if required

Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : To be advised if required

* Tender documents can be purchased and downloaded from QatarEnergy Website-> Supply Management-> Tenders page during the Tender Sale Period mentioned above against each Tender. Request for issuance of Tender after the specified Tender Sale Period will not be entertained.

* Always refer to QatarEnergy Website (www.qatarenergy.qa) -> Supply Management -> Tenders page for up to date information on QatarEnergy Tenders. Subscribe to Tender Alert to receive notification in your email on new Tenders

* Changes to Tender Sale Period and Bid Closing Date will be updated in QatarEnergy website/Mushтарыat Portal only.

* Brief Scopes of Work for the above tenders are posted on the QatarEnergy website/Mushтарыat Portal.

* Suppliers and Contractors who are in possession of a valid SAP ID issued by QatarEnergy are instructed to maintain their Company Registration and Communication details upto date and valid via QatarEnergy Mushтарыat Portal on urgent basis.

* No queries will be entertained, or bids received, from entities who have not purchased tender documents in compliance with the above provisions.

* QatarEnergy invites all prospective Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in QatarEnergy Tenders to register online and obtain a QatarEnergy SAP Vendor Code, a mandatory requirement for the issue of Tender Documents by QatarEnergy.

* Prospective Qatar based Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in future QatarEnergy Tenders shall obtain an ICV score, Relevant information pertaining to ICV, ICV Scorecard, ICV Certification, and ICV Guidelines are available on the ICV Digital Portal - <https://icv.qa/en-US>

Snoonu, MoQ introduce Qatar’s first mall-to-doorstep delivery service

Snoonu and Mall of Qatar (MoQ) are expanding their strategic partnership with a new mall-to-doorstep delivery service, giving shoppers the freedom to enjoy their visit without carrying their purchases.

Powered by Snoosend, Snoonu’s on-demand delivery solution, the service allows customers to arrange the collection and delivery of their purchases from participating stores at Mall of Qatar directly to their preferred destination.

Shoppers can continue exploring the mall’s retail, dining and entertainment offerings without carrying their shopping bags throughout their visit or transport them home, making their shopping journey more comfortable and seamless.

The initiative combines Mall of Qatar’s diverse retail offering with Snoonu’s technology-enabled delivery capabilities, introducing a practical service that connects in-store shopping with doorstep delivery. For participating retailers, it provides an additional way to serve customers without establishing their own delivery infrastructure.

The initiative also reflects the changing relationship between physical retail and digital



services, demonstrating how technology can complement the in-person shopping experience rather than replace it. By connecting purchases made at the mall with convenient doorstep delivery, Snoonu and Mall of Qatar aim to create a more integrated retail journey that extends beyond the shopping floor, further supporting Mall of Qatar’s commitment to service excellence at every stage of the customer journey.

Hamad al-Hajri, founder and CEO of Snoonu, said: “Through Snoosend, we are making the shopping experience more convenient and flexible, while cre-

ating new opportunities for retailers to connect with and serve their customers. This collaboration is another step in our commitment to developing practical, customer-focused solutions that respond to the evolving needs of the Qatari market.”

Rony Mourani, CEO of Mall of Qatar, said: “This service gives them the freedom to continue their visit while their purchases are delivered to their preferred destination. Expanding our partnership with Snoonu allows us to introduce another practical benefit for our customers and support our retailers with an additional delivery option.

Sidra Medicine advances microbiome research at Mena Microbiome 2026

Sidra Medicine, a member of Qatar Foundation, opened on Saturday the second edition of the Mena (Middle East and North Africa) Microbiome Conference 2026 in Doha, to explore the latest advances in microbiome science and their potential applications in healthcare.



Dr Annalisa Terranegra and Dr Souhaila al-Khodor with Sidra Medicine’s chief research officer Prof Khalid Fakhro.

Held under the theme ‘From Biomarkers Discovery to Microbiota-based Therapeutics’, the first day focused on the role of the microbiome in women’s and children’s health, precision nutrition, and innovative therapeutic strategies, highlighting the potential of microbiome research to improve disease prevention and treatment.

Women’s and infant health was a central focus of the first day, with scientific discussions examining how the microbiome influences reproductive health, pregnancy outcomes, and early infant development.

Conference co-chairs Dr Souhaila al-Khodor and Dr Annalisa Terranegra presented research on the role of microbial genomics in maternal and child health and precision nutrition.

Their key sessions highlighted how the maternal microbiome contributes to an infant’s microbial development during the first 1,000 days of life as well as the role of breast milk microbiome in infant health and the impact of pregnancy complications on early interactions between the immune system and microbiome.

Khodor, will combine carefully screened donor samples, clinical assessments, advanced metagenomic sequencing, and computational analysis to identify microorganisms with potential therapeutic value.

Supported through a Joint Funding Call programme by the Qatar Research Development and Innovation Council and the Ministry of Public Health, QMicrobe aims to strengthen Qatar’s microbiome research capabilities and support future therapeutic development.

It will also help establish standardised research protocols and create opportunities for collaboration across healthcare, academia, and biotechnology.

Dr al-Khodor, who is the director of the Reproductive and Perinatal Health Translational Research Programme and principal investigator at Sidra Medicine, said: “By establishing a collection of samples from carefully screened healthy paediatric donors, QMicrobe will provide researchers with a resource to investigate microorganisms and microbial functions with potential therapeutic value.”

The initiative could support future research into metabolic disorders, inflammatory and autoimmune diseases, infections, and certain neurodevelopmental conditions,” she said.

QMicrobe will be done in collaboration with Dr Majdi Osman, physician scientist from Cambridge University in the United Kingdom.

Dr Osman’s session at Mena Microbiome addressed advances in faecal microbiota transplantation and emerging microbial therapies.

He also discussed current clinical applications, ongoing research, and the opportunities and challenges involved in developing microbiome-based treatments.

While QMicrobe will initially focus on establishing research infrastructure and demonstrating feasibility, its long-term goal is to support the development of microbiome-based therapies and future clinical studies in Qatar.

The initiative will also help generate locally relevant research data reflecting Qatar’s diverse population.

Day 1 also spotlighted a new study by Sidra Medicine, investigating how the type of fat a mother eats during pregnancy shapes her child’s brain development, and whether it influences the risk of neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism spectrum disorder and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder.

The study, led by Dr Terranegra in collaboration with Oxford University’s Wellcome – Shoklo Malaria Research Unit, is a result of a grant awarded to her by the Waterloo Foundation in the UK.

“Neurodevelopmental conditions, including autism, are a significant public health concern in Qatar, and the country has made this a national priority through the Qatar Foundation’s Autism Strategy 2025-35,” Dr Terranegra said. “Our project directly supports that strategy by addressing prevention and early identification, not only treatment, through a modifiable factor: maternal nutrition during pregnancy.”

Ahlibank launches ‘Pink for a Reason’ campaign for breast cancer awareness month

Ahlibank has launched its ‘Pink for a Reason’ campaign in conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, aiming to raise awareness of the importance of early detection and encourage individuals to prioritise their health.

The campaign reflects Ahlibank’s ongoing commitment to corporate social responsibility and its dedication to supporting community initiatives that promote health awareness and a culture of prevention. By engaging employees and sharing educational content across its digital platforms, the Bank aims to encourage healthy practices and highlight the importance of early detection in improving treatment outcomes.

Sara Ahmed Fakhro, head of Human Resources at Ahlibank, said: “At Ahlibank, we believe that caring for the health and well-being of our employees and the wider community is a shared responsibility, and that awareness plays a fundamental role in prevention and early detection.

“Through our ‘Pink for a Reason’ campaign, we aim to



turn awareness into meaningful action by encouraging individuals to prioritise their health and undergo appropriate regular screenings.”

She added: “We are equally committed to fostering a positive culture of health and well-being, both within and beyond the workplace, recognising that even small initiatives can make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and their families.”

As part of the campaign, Ahlibank will share a series of educational and awareness materials across its social media platforms throughout October, delivering important

health messages and encouraging the community to adopt healthy habits while emphasising the importance of prevention and early detection.

Through this initiative, Ahlibank reaffirms its commitment to supporting the health and well-being of its employees and the wider community, while strengthening its role in community-focused initiatives that create a positive and lasting impact. The bank firmly believes that promoting health awareness is a shared responsibility that contributes to building a healthier and more informed society.

Qatar guest of honour at Cairo International Book Fair

Qatar will be the guest of honour at the 58th Cairo International Book Fair.

Sheikh Jassim bin Abdulrahman bin Mohammed al-Thani, Qatar’s ambassador to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the League of Arab States, received the guest-of-honour insignia on behalf of Qatar at the closing ceremony of the 57th edition on February 3, 2026.

The General Egyptian Book Organisation has set October 31 as the deadline for Egyptian, Arab and international publishing houses to submit applications to participate in the upcoming fair, which will run from January 20 to February 2, 2027.

Established in 1969, the Cairo International Book Fair is among the Arab world’s oldest and most

prominent book fairs. Over the decades, it has become a major annual gathering for publishers, writers, intellectuals and readers from Egypt and around the world. In addition to its extensive book displays, the program features literary discussions, cultural and artistic events, and activities for children, fostering dialogue, creativity and cultural exchange. (QNA)



GULF HELICOPTERS COMPANY (GHC) Q.P.S.C.

Invites prospective suppliers to participate in the following tender

Tender Reference and Description	Submission of information & willingness for bidding	Tender fee (non-refundable)	Tender Package Issuance	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
RFQ-GHC/SCO/047/2026 Fully Fitted Office Space Lease with Facilities Management for Three (3) Years	Until 22 nd October 2026	QAR 1,000/- (Until 12:00pm Noon 25 th October 2026)	26 th October 2026	QAR 80,000/- (Valid for 120 calendar days after Closing Date)	10 th November 2026 12:00 pm

Brief Scope: GHC intends to lease a fully fitted office space, including use of common areas. The proposed building must have minimum 2,100 sqm net rentable area, within 15 kms from GHC Heliport. Contract term will be three (3) years (First 2 years as lock-in period). The proposed office must be fully fitted with Facilities Management. Tenderer may propose (fully furnished or unfurnished) options. Awarded Office Space must be handed over to GHC within 30 calendar days from Letter of Award.

i. Interested tenderers to communicate their willingness to bid and send contact details to GHC email (procurement@gulfhelicopters.com) indicating company name, address, telephone, official email, authorized company representative, etc. latest by 22nd October 2026. GHC tender reference numbers and description must be mentioned in the email.

ii. Non-refundable tender fee of QAR 1,000/- is payable to GHC, only through QNB account # 0013-036531-001 IBAN # QA80QNBAA00000000013036531001 via online or at any QNB branch. Interested tenderers shall attach the evidence of the tender fee payment and send it via tenderer’s official email to GHC email: procurement@gulfhelicopters.com, latest by 25th October 2026, 12:00 pm for GHC approval.

iii. Tender package will be sent via email to the confirmed participants from tender@gulfhelicopters.com by 26th October 2026. GHC shall provide the necessary instructions and guidelines for the bid submission.

iv. Original of the Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee) must be submitted by hand to the following address:
Gulf Helicopters Company,
P O Box: 811, Al Areeesh Street,
Ras Abu Abboud, Doha, Qatar
Tel: +974 44 333 888
Attention: Supply Chain Manager
Attach a copy of tender bond to the technical offer. Offer without Tender Bond will not be considered.

v. For any clarifications on the above, please send your queries with tender reference and description addressed to Supply Chain Mail to email procurement@gulfhelicopters.com

vi. For the submissions of technical and commercial proposals shall be submitted to tender@gulfhelicopters.com

Note: Tenderers who are not registered with GHC will be requested to complete the supplier registration process during the tendering period.



Public Announcement

To all Ships, Fisherman, and Mariners
Subsea Survey Works Offshore in “North Field”
By the Vessel “Fugro Resilience”

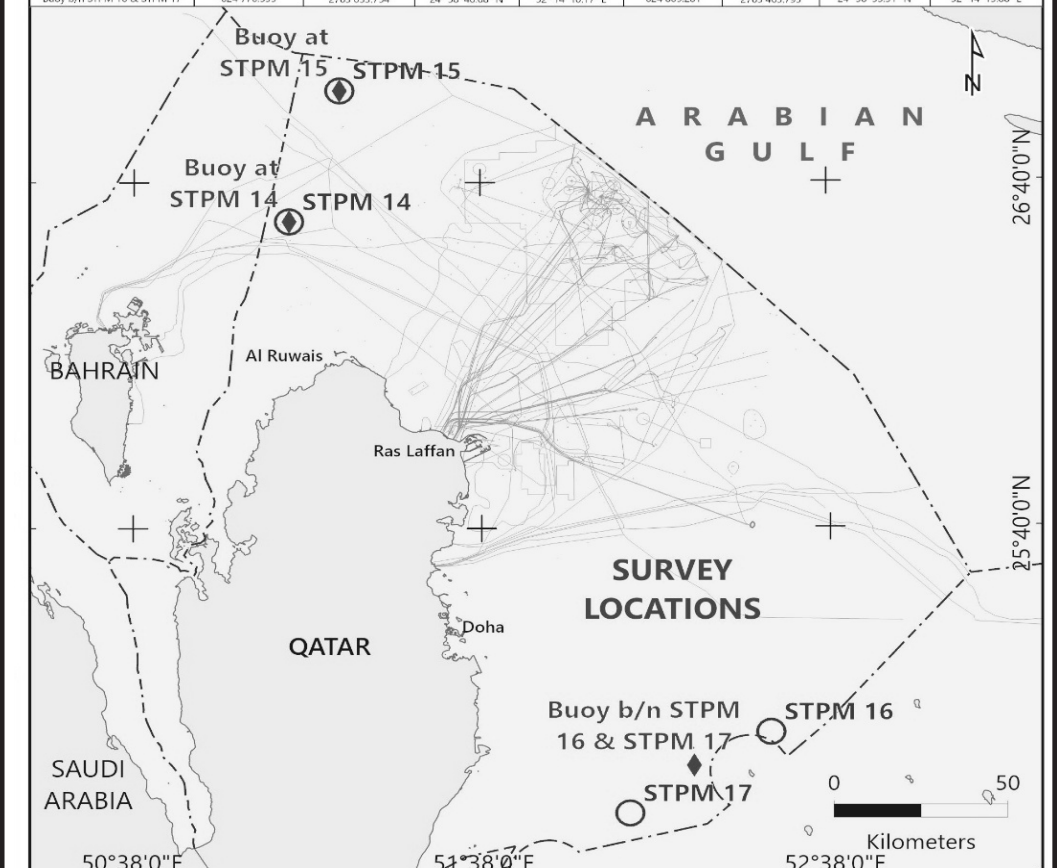
Subsea Survey Works Offshore Qatar from 19 October 2026 to 15 January 2027

In pursuant and under directives from the Marine Safety Department, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners, and Fisherman that “QatarEnergy LNG” formerly known as Qatar Gas Operating Company Limited intends to undertake metocean survey by the vessel “Fugro Resilience” in Sensor Tower Platforms (STP) locations, bound by the coordinates and location map shown below.

All Vessels, Mariners, and Fishermen are expected to keep clear of the survey locations during the operations.

QatarEnergy LNG takes no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to outside parties in association with this operation following the publication of this notice.

Location	Nahrwan 1987, UTM Projection, Zone 39 CM 51° E				WOSBA, UTM Projection, Zone 39 CM 51° E			
	Easting (m)	Northing (m)	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Easting (m)	Northing (m)	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
STPM 14	508 063.657	2936 954.023	26° 33' 18.67" N	51° 04' 51.44" E	508 161.755	2937 366.912	26° 33' 25.07" N	51° 04' 55.07" E
STPM 15	522 541.834	2978 884.789	26° 56' 1.75" N	51° 13' 37.4" E	522 639.405	2979 317.871	26° 56' 4.07" N	51° 13' 41.07" E
STPM 16	646 914.480	2773 628.400	25° 04' 30.4" N	52° 27' 33.92" E	647 013.261	2774 260.515	25° 04' 37.07" N	52° 27' 27.87" E
STPM 17	606 326.000	2747 678.000	24° 50' 30.54" N	52° 03' 8.17" E	606 424.654	2748 109.945	24° 50' 39.27" N	52° 03' 11.84" E
Buoy at STPM 14	508 068.425	2936 942.813	26° 33' 18.99" N	51° 04' 51.61" E	508 166.523	2937 375.702	26° 33' 25.29" N	51° 04' 55.17" E
Buoy at STPM 15	522 535.344	2978 876.782	26° 56' 1.49" N	51° 13' 37.19" E	522 633.505	2979 309.864	26° 56' 7.74" N	51° 13' 40.78" E
Buoy b/n STPM 16 & STPM 17	624 770.533	2763 033.754	24° 58' 46.68" N	52° 14' 10.17" E	624 869.281	2763 465.795	24° 58' 53.31" N	52° 14' 13.88" E



For more details contact +974 66190399



Minister takes part in GCC meeting on post, telecommunications

The State of Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), participated in the 30th Meeting of the GCC Ministerial Committee for Post and Telecommunications, held in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Qatar's delegation was led by HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai, alongside ministers responsible for the postal and telecommunications sectors across GCC member states.

The meeting reviewed and approved the agenda items and recommendations submitted by the 32nd Meeting of the GCC Committee of Undersecretaries of Post and Telecommunications Ministries, held on September 27, 2026. These covered telecommunications legislation and regulation, Internet-based applications and

services, roaming, space-related matters, and postal services. The Committee also reviewed progress on the telecommunications sector action plan, sector performance indicators, and recent developments in international co-operation in related fields.

In his address, HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai emphasised the importance of continued co-ordination and co-operation among GCC member states in the postal and telecommunications sectors, particularly as rapid technological advances create new demands for regulatory frameworks, infrastructure, and service delivery. He also highlighted the value of sharing regional expertise and advancing joint initiatives to strengthen GCC integration and improve the quality of services provided to users.

On the sidelines of the ministerial meeting, HE Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai held a bilateral meeting with Minister of Communications and Information Technology of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Engineer Abdullah Alswaha. The meeting reflected ongoing efforts to strengthen co-ordination between the two countries, expand bilateral co-operation in communications and information technology, and advance areas of mutual interest.

Qatar's participation reflects its commitment to strengthening GCC co-operation in the postal and telecommunications sectors, exchanging expertise and best practices, and co-ordinating regional positions in regional and international forums. These efforts aim to support the continued development of both sectors and advance the shared interests of GCC member states. (QNA)

Qatar delegation attends memorial for victims of genocide committed against Palestinians

The State of Qatar participated in a memorial event for victims of the genocide committed against the Palestinian people, especially in the Gaza Strip, organised by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in co-ordination and co-operation with the Permanent Mission of the State of Palestine to the League.

The State of Qatar's delegation was headed by ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Permanent Representative to the Arab League Sheikh Jasim bin Abdulrahman bin Mohammed al-Thani. (QNA)



QNA holds training course on graphic design

QNA
Doha

Qatar News Agency (QNA) is holding a three-day training course on graphic design as part of the 2026 training programme of the QNA Training Center, with the participation of agency staff and employees of government entities.

The course aims to enhance participants' design skills and creative and artistic capabilities, enabling them to use modern design tools and techniques to produce professional visual content that serves media work and meets the demands of the digital environment.

Led by graphic designer Aws Khalil, the course covers advanced design principles and visual iden-



tity development. Topics include a review of fundamental design principles, the differences between traditional and advanced design approaches, and the development of visual identities. Participants also analyse successful brand identities and take part in a practical workshop to develop a visual identity for a hypothetical project, applying the concepts and skills covered in the course.

Another module focuses on the advanced use of design software, including Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop and InDesign, as well as advanced image compositing and editing techniques, infographic and interactive content design, and the use of layers, filters and advanced effects. The programme also includes a workshop on creating a professional multimedia advertisement.

PHCC organises campaign to promote mental well-being

The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), through its Health Education Department and in collaboration with multidisciplinary teams across health centres, organised an awareness campaign Under the 2026 theme, "Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change." The campaign aimed to promote mental well-being, reduce stigma, encourage early recognition of mental health concerns, and empower individuals and families to seek appropriate support.

Director of Clinical Operations and Senior Consultant in Family Medicine at PHCC Dr Maryam al-Emadi emphasised that mental health is an essential component of overall health and well-being. She highlighted the importance of integrating mental health promotion into primary healthcare through multidisciplinary collaboration, strengthening prevention, early recognition, and timely access to appropriate services. She further noted that listening to patients' experiences and understanding the challenges they face are fundamental to providing compassionate,

integrated, and person-centred care.

Manager of Health Education and Consultant in Community Medicine at PHCC Dr Sarah Rashid Musa explained that effective mental health education extends beyond raising awareness to understanding individuals' lived experiences, identifying barriers to seeking support, and empowering them with practical skills to manage their well-being.

She emphasised the role of health educators in promoting mental health literacy, strengthening coping and self-management skills, and supporting sustainable behavioural changes through realistic well-being goals and appropriate guidance.

The campaign featured interactive educational stations addressing mental health awareness, stress management, emotional well-being, and healthy coping strategies. Participants engaged in practical activities, including breathing and grounding exercises, emotional expression, and guidance on quality sleep, physical activity, balanced nutrition, and supportive social relationships. (QNA)

Qatar attends 9th GCC-Russia Joint Ministerial Meeting in Bahrain



Qatar participated in the 9th Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Strategic Dialogue between the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and the Russian Federation, held in Manama. Qatar's delegation at the meeting was headed by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi. (QNA)

Qatar participates in 168th Session of GCC Ministerial Council



The State of Qatar participated in the 168th session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), held yesterday in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain. HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi chaired the delegation of the State of Qatar to the meeting. (QNA)

Qatar participates in 52nd session of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers

QNA
Baghdad

The State of Qatar participated in the 52nd session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC), held in Baghdad, Iraq.

The State of Qatar was represented at the session by Rashid bin Saeed al-Khayarin, Consul General of the State of Qatar in Jeddah and Qatar's Permanent Representative to the OIC.



Building permit complex records strong output in third quarter 2026

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

The Ministry of Municipality's Building Permit Complex reported robust performance in the third quarter of 2026, with thousands of licenses, certificates, permits and plan approvals issued across the country's construction sector, according to the newly released statistics through the Ministry's X account.

The complex issued 1,947 licenses and certificates during the period. Building completion certificates made up the largest share, with 957 issued, confirming that many construction projects reached the final stage and were cleared for occupancy and use. Property completion certificates followed, with 407 certificates, while maintenance permits totalled 376. Demolition permits totalled 207.

Building permits, which cover new building permits, addition and modification permits, and renewal permits, totalled 2,226 during this period. Small projects accounted for the

overwhelming majority, with 1,631 permits, pointing to sustained activity in residential and modest-scale construction. Other projects, excluding minor and major developments, received 501 permits, while major projects, typically large-scale commercial, infrastructure, and mixed-use developments, received 94 permits.

The complex's technical affairs department also recorded a heavy workload, as shown by the number of approved plans. Building completion certificates accounted for by far the largest volume of approved plans at 31,067. Maintenance permits followed, with 3,722 approved plans, while demolition permits totalled 1,745. Property completion certificates recorded 204 approved plans.

Meanwhile, the figures show an integrated permitting system that handles the full lifecycle of construction, from initial design approval and building permit issuance through maintenance and renovation work to demolition and completion certification.

The National Archives of Qatar celebrates Arab Document Day

The National Archives of Qatar celebrated Arab Document Day, observed annually on October 17, reaffirming its commitment to safeguarding the nation's documentary memory and preserving Qatar's historical heritage. This ensures that the nation's stories and historical evidence remain alive in the consciousness of future generations.

On this occasion, the National Archives highlighted the significance of documents in preserving history and chroni-

cling the nation's journey. As authentic records of past events and milestones, these documents serve as a vital resource for fostering awareness of national identity and connecting new generations to their historical roots.

The National Archives adopted the theme, "Stories of the Past Remain Preserved Between the Lines," underscoring the value of documents as a repository that safeguards the past's details and protects them from being lost to time.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, LIYA SANAS AMIRJAM

holder of

UZBEKISTAN Passport No. FA5816400
QID No. 31686000007

hereby change my name

from

LIYA SANAS AMIRJAM

to

LIYA MOHAMED SANAS AMIRJAM

Any objection, please contact

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
within 3 days from the
publication of this notice.

Qatar Charity Launches ‘Winter Heroes’ Campaign for Vulnerable Communities Worldwide

Qatar Charity (QC) has launched its 2026 “Winter Heroes” campaign to provide essential assistance to vulnerable families facing harsh weather and prolonged humanitarian crises.

The campaign seeks to raise QAR 120 million for winter relief, humanitarian assistance and development projects globally, as well as social welfare programs in Qatar.

The initiative was unveiled at a press conference attended by Mr. Abdulaziz Jassim Hejji, Executive Director of Communications and Community Impact at Qatar Charity; Ms. Aisha Abdulrazzaq AlKuwari, Director of Humanitarian Operations; and Mr. Faisal Rashid Al-Fehaida, Executive Director of Alaqraboon Center.



How to Donate

Donations can be made through Qatar Charity’s website and mobile app, at its branches and collection points across Qatar, or by calling the Donor Service Center on

44290000

Assistance Before the Cold Intensifies

Hejji said the campaign broadens the idea of humanitarian heroism to include not only those enduring harsh winter conditions, but also anyone helping protect others and ease their suffering, from donors and volunteers to mothers and children involved in charitable work.

He added that it underscores everyone’s ability to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.

He explained that Qatar Charity chose to launch the campaign in October, before the winter cold sets in and the most severe cold spells reach the targeted countries. The early launch reflects the organization’s emphasis on proactive giving and preparedness, helping to ensure that assistance reaches beneficiaries before conditions worsen, in line with the principle that prevention is better than cure.

He added that the campaign aims to encourage early giving, engage donors as partners in humanitarian action, raise awareness of the hardships vulnerable families face during winter, and demonstrate the tangible impact of donations on beneficiaries’ lives.

He added that a key feature of this year’s campaign is the involvement of children and young people in interactive activities and awareness initiatives. These activities aim to promote giving, humanitarian action, volunteerism and social responsibility from an early age, while encouraging young people to become active contributors to humanitarian efforts rather than simply recipients of humanitarian messages.

He added that early giving not only gives people in need a better chance to cope with winter but also reflects the values of solidarity and compassion deeply rooted in Qatari society. It also makes every donor a genuine partner in humanitarian action.

Hejji also thanked media organizations and social media influencers for helping promote the campaign and raise awareness of its objectives, describing them, along with donors, as partners in its success.

Priority for the Most Severely Affected Communities

Aisha Abdulrazzaq AlKuwari, Director of Humanitarian Operations at Qatar Charity, said the “Winter Heroes” campaign would focus on supporting the most vulnerable people in countries affected by disasters and protracted humanitarian crises, as well as communities facing low temperatures and severe weather conditions.

The campaign will also support orphan families and other beneficiaries sponsored by Qatar Charity worldwide. AlKuwari noted that winter conditions compound the hardships faced by displaced people, refugees and families in need, adding that the campaign aims to raise QAR 70 million with the support of donors to fund assistance around the world.

She explained that the countries targeted by the campaign include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Lebanon, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Kosovo, with assistance to be allocated according to humanitarian priorities and needs on the ground.

She added that the assistance would include a



food and heating, threatening the safety of vulnerable families and compounding their suffering.

Winter Assistance for Orphans

AlKuwari said the campaign would allocate part of its humanitarian assistance to provide winter essentials for orphans sponsored by Qatar Charity in several countries, as part of its comprehensive social welfare efforts.

failure and medical insurance for orphans, while providing emergency aid to those facing exceptional circumstances such as illness or loss of income. It will also create opportunities to sponsor additional beneficiaries and support other social welfare projects. Around 23,000 people in Qatar are expected to benefit from the campaign.



Hejji thanked individuals and companies in Qatar for their continued trust and support.

He urged them to contribute to the “Winter Heroes” campaign, stressing that every donation, regardless of its size, can help provide warmth, safety and food to tens of thousands of families facing difficult humanitarian conditions and make each donor a winter hero.

wide range of essential winter supplies, including blankets, winter clothing, heaters, heating fuel, tents, plastic sheeting for tents, food supplies and cooking stoves, as well as other items needed to help families cope with winter conditions.

AlKuwari stressed that the campaign would give particular attention to regions affected by conflict and protracted humanitarian crises, where plunging temperatures increase the urgent need for shelter,

She added that the initiative aims to provide sponsored children and their families with safer and more stable living conditions, while easing the seasonal pressures that winter places on low-income households.

The campaign will also mobilize support for food security and development projects in several countries, helping improve access to food and enabling vulnerable families to strengthen their livelihoods and become more self-reliant.

Alaqraboon Center to Provide Assistance in Qatar

In Qatar, the “Winter Heroes” campaign will provide winter essentials and other assistance to low-income families, orphan households and workers. It will also provide health assistance and tailored support to people facing humanitarian hardship, helping promote social solidarity and ease the pressures on vulnerable families during winter.

Mr. Faisal Rashid Al-Fehaida, Executive Director of Alaqraboon Center, said the center aims to raise more than QAR 50 million with the support of donors to fund assistance programs in Qatar. The initiative, he added, builds on Qatar Charity’s community development and social welfare efforts, helping to strengthen social solidarity and ease the pressures on low-income groups.

He explained that the assistance would include food parcels and winter kits for low-income families, winter clothing for orphans and other sponsored beneficiaries, as well as winter kits, medical treatment and health awareness programs for workers.

The campaign will also support health initiatives, including assistance for people with kidney



Call for Support

Qatar Charity called on individuals, companies and institutions in Qatar to support the “Winter Heroes” campaign, emphasizing that every contribution can make a tangible difference in the life of a family facing cold weather and financial hardship.

The organization said early donations would help accelerate the preparation, transportation and distribution of assistance before the coldest period of winter, helping thousands of families withstand harsh winter conditions more safely and securely.



QC launches ‘Winter Heroes’ campaign

Qatar Charity (QC) has launched its 2026 “Winter Heroes” campaign to provide essential assistance to vulnerable families facing harsh weather and prolonged humanitarian crises.

The campaign seeks to raise QR120mn for winter relief, humanitarian assistance and development projects globally, as well as social welfare programmes in Qatar.

The initiative was unveiled at a press conference attended by QC executive director (Communications and Community Impact) Abdulaziz Jassim Hejji, director (Humanitarian Operations) Aisha Abdulrazzaq AlKuwarei, and Alaqraabon Centre executive director Faisal Rashid al-Fehaida.

Hejji said the campaign broadens the idea of humanitarian heroism to include not only those enduring harsh winter conditions, but also anyone helping protect others and ease their suffering, from donors and volunteers to mothers and children involved in charitable work.

He said that the QC chose to launch the campaign in October, before the winter cold sets in and the most severe cold spells reach the targeted countries.

AlKuwarei said the “Winter Heroes” campaign would focus on supporting the most vulnerable people in countries affected by disasters and protracted humanitarian crises, as well as communities facing low temperatures and severe weather conditions.

The campaign will also support orphan families and other beneficiaries sponsored by Qatar Charity worldwide.

AlKuwarei said the campaign aims to raise QR70mn with donor support to fund assistance worldwide, and targets Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Lebanon, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Kosovo.

Al-Fehaida said the centre aims to raise more than QR50mn with the support of donors to fund assistance programmes in Qatar.

The campaign will also support health initiatives, including assistance for people with kidney failure and medical insurance for orphans, while providing emergency aid to those facing exceptional circumstances such as illness or loss of income.

The campaign is expected to benefit around 23,000 people in Qatar.

Qatar Charity called on individuals, companies and institutions in Qatar to support the “Winter Heroes” campaign, emphasising that every contribution can make a tangible difference in the life of a family facing cold weather and financial hardship.

Donations can be made through Qatar Charity’s website and mobile app, at its branches and collection points across Qatar, or by calling the Donor Service Centre on 44290000.

CMU-Q welcomes largest cohort

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q), a Qatar Foundation partner, has opened the 2026-27 academic year with a record total enrolment of more than 490 students, up 7% from the previous year.

The growing student body includes the university’s largest incoming class to date, welcoming 145 first-year students to campus in Education City.

The 2026-27 student body re-

mains strongly connected to the local community, with Qatari citizens making up 37% of the student population.

CMU-Q dean Michael Trick noted that the university’s growth reflects a sustained demand for rigorous, interdisciplinary education.

“Our community continues to grow not only in size, but in diversity, depth, and ambition,” he said. “I am excited to see an even

deeper impact on the knowledge economy in Qatar as our students graduate and bring their technical expertise, critical thinking, and vision into the workplace.”

The record enrolment coincides with strong recognition in the latest US News & World Report 2027 Best Colleges undergraduate rankings.

Carnegie Mellon University rose six spots to No 14 overall among national universities.

Saudi coalition, Houthis trade strikes

From Page 1

Yesterday Egypt’s parliament postponed a vote on President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi’s request to authorise military support for Saudi Arabia, two lawmakers told AFP, extending deliberations today.

And Iran’s newly appointed Defence Minister Mehrdad Akhlaghi threatened to inflict “enormous damage” on the United States and its allies if Wash-

ington resumes its military campaign.

After an uneasy, four-year truce, Yemen’s conflict has surged back to life and intensified when the group seized strategic territory along the Red Sea coast last month.

The Houthis have hit Saudi targets including tankers in the Red Sea, oil facilities and Riyadh’s King Khalid International airport.

A Houthi projectile injured at least six people in southern Saudi Arabia yesterday.

Early setup of winter camps ahead of 2026-2027 season

By Ayman Adly

Staff Reporter

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has allowed registered campers who have confirmed their designated locations to begin setting up their winter camp before the official launch of the 2026-27 camping season on October 25, aiming to streamline procedures and prevent congestion.

The decision, issued under the direction of HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, is intended to give campers more time to prepare for the short winter season while ensuring an orderly start.

Salim Qadri al-Yami, assistant director of the Wildlife Protection Department and head of the ministry’s field camping team, said campers

who have completed registration, co-ordinated with the relevant inspector and confirmed their locations, may begin setting up immediately.

Early access is expected to ease traffic congestion and let campers organise their sites without compromising environmental protection, site preservation, or safety requirements.

Al-Yami noted that the ministry has introduced new camping areas and updated site names to improve its camping database and ensure greater accuracy in geographical co-ordinates.

The ministry has also opened new camping sites in Sealine and Khawr Al Adaid this year.

The ministry has authorised up to 5,000 camping cabins across the two areas, while stressing the importance of preserving the natural landscape and preventing environmental damage.

The ministry has also updated camping regulations, particularly those governing fire safety,

to reduce accidents and protect lives, property and vegetation.

Campers experiencing difficulties with registration or site confirmation can contact the ministry’s operations room through its hotline, 16066.

Aisha Mohamed al-Muhaiza, head of Infrastructure and Project Management at the ministry’s Information Systems Department, said the ministry upgraded the electronic registration system to speed up bookings and improve coordination with government agencies.

Bookings for Sealine reached 100% of available sites on the first day of registration for the southern region.

Reservations in other southern areas reached 90% by Thursday, while the central region recorded 90% occupancy within three days.

Overall, 50% of the camping sites allocated nationwide had been booked.

QRCS hosts Managing IFRC Operations Training

The Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) hosted the Managing Operations Training (MOT) workshop, organised by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), to strengthen the professional and operational capacity of disaster response personnel and facilitate experience-sharing between national societies and the federation.

The one-week event was attended by 44 specialists who had already completed the mandatory virtual pre-courses from IFRC and 17 national societies (Qatar, UK, Tanzania, Syria, Norway, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Japan, Lebanon, Spain, Canada, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Austria, and Germany).

“Crises and disasters have become increasingly complex,” said QRCS assistant secretary-general (Relief and International Development) Mohamed Bader al-Sada. “Besides technical expertise and resources, this situation requires capable leaders and personnel to manage operations, co-ordinate effectively, and make the right and timely decisions.”

“That is why this MOT work-



shop is so important, as it focuses on humanitarian operations management capacity-building, co-ordination enhancement, support for National Societies, resource management, safety and security, and transition from response to recovery,” he said.

Al-Sada revealed capacity-building plans for the QRCS’s Emergency Response Units (ERUs), mainly in field hospitals, WASH, and psychosocial support.

Cristhian Cortez, IFRC Mena (Middle East and North Africa) deputy regional director, said: “Successful operational management should leave behind not only assistance delivered, but also stronger national societies, better

preparedness, and greater resilience for future emergencies.”

“In an emergency, information will rarely be complete,” the official said. “Resources will often be insufficient. Priorities may compete, and decisions will need to be made quickly. The quality of our leadership is reflected in how we navigate these uncertainties, support our teams, maintain accountability, and keep affected communities at the centre of our decisions.”

By the end of the MOT Learning Programme, participants should be able to identify and apply appropriate IFRC resources, tools, policies, systems, and procedures in providing strategic and operational management to operations.

Qatar media ‘must unite’ against fake news

From Page 1

“The media has always served as a primary and significant line of defence,” he said, stressing its responsibility to project an accurate image of Qatar and its achievements while refuting false claims and disinformation.

He emphasised that co-operation between media institutions and state entities should be continuous, rather than activated only during crises.

Al-Arab editor-in-chief Faleh Hussein al-Hajri said that recent events had demonstrated the importance of media strength in confronting campaigns targeting Qatar.

He argued that traditional media could remain relevant despite the emergence of new platforms, providing outlets adapted to changing circumstances while preserving content quality and credibility.

Al-Watan editor-in-chief Mohammed Haji called for a clearer distinction between popularity and genuine influence on social media.

He noted that a large following did not necessarily translate into the ability to address societal concerns or analyse regional developments meaningfully.

Haji advocated developing a generation of responsible influencers equipped to engage with public issues.

Awad al-Ahbab, an adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former deputy ambassador to Venezuela and Albania, proposed forming a specialised group of qualified media commentators capable of addressing current affairs on television with strong subject knowledge and cultural awareness.

Meanwhile, Eng. Hamad Jassim al-Bahar of the Ministry of Municipality proposed establishing an integrated smart media-monitoring platform called Al-Hudhud (The Hoopoe).

The proposed system would track news, analyse emerging trends, identify publishing sources, and assess the potential impact of content about Qatar, helping relevant authorities respond more effectively to rumours.

Al-Bahar highlighted the potential of influencers and content creators as a form of soft power, suggesting a professional and legal framework to help them.

QPC general manager Sadiq Mohammed al-Ammari said that the centre had been active since mid-2023, supporting newspapers, media professionals and content creators.

Its training programmes, he said, focus on verifying information, professional reporting, and countering disinformation.

Al-Ammari also outlined its ambition to develop versatile journalists who can write, film, and edit content for multiple platforms.

Participants also called for closer co-ordination between civilian media and military and security institutions.

Brigadier-General Khamis Mohammed al-Muraikhi, director of Airport Security at the Ministry of Interior, proposed a joint committee to identify requirements and develop a co-ordinated media strategy.

Other speakers highlighted the need to protect media sovereignty against AI-generated misinformation, clearly communicate official statistics, and balance the public’s right to information with the protection of sensitive security details.

The discussion concluded with a reflection on press freedom and responsibility, with participants warning that while the media can be a strategic partner in safeguarding society, irresponsible reporting can also threaten national security.

Milipol Qatar 2026 opens tomorrow

From Page 1

Milipol Qatar was the first event in the Milipol exhibition series to be held outside France, establishing a platform in Qatar for international engagement in homeland security and safety.

“This year, this event will host up to seven national pavilions – the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, North America, China, Czech Republic, and of course France, that brings the biggest pavilion with more than 20 companies on site,” he said. “The topic division sectors will be cybersecurity, access control, surveillance, and civil defence.”

Galstyan also noted that a notable feature of this year’s edition will be the introduction of the 30th Anniversary Awards.

“For the first time, Milipol Qatar will present the 30th anniversary awards, recognising the companies that have exhibited with us the first three decades, honouring their loyalty and contributions to the exhibition’s growth and continued success,” he said.

Praise for Qatar’s progress on linking development and population trends

By Shaima Sheriff

Staff Reporter

Qatar has made significant progress in integrating population dynamics into its economic and social development, with advances in healthcare, education, gender equality, and women’s workforce participation, a UN official said.

Jocelyn Fenard, representative of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) GCC Office, made the remarks on the sidelines of Qatar National Population Day 2026, hosted by the National Planning Council in partnership with UNFPA, the Permanent Population Committee and the Ministry of Public Health.

He underlined Qatar’s remarkable progress over recent decades in understanding population dynamics and integrating them into economic planning, noting the country’s development across several key sectors.

Fenard said the annual observance provided an important platform for substantive discussions on population issues, adding that the UNFPA had supported and participated in Qatar’s National Population Day for several years.

“For us, it is a very important event,” he said, describing the UNFPA as a strong supporter of the initiative.

Fenard said that the UNFPA works in more than 150 countries across development and humanitarian settings, focusing on public health and population-related issues.

In Qatar and across the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), the organisation works with governments to advance progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in areas linked to



Jocelyn Fenard

population change and the lives of women and girls.

He highlighted improvements in healthcare, education and social protection, along with progress in gender equality and women’s integration into the labour force, as key aspects of Qatar’s development.

His remarks underline the importance of understanding population trends not only as demographic indicators, but also as factors that influence economic planning, public services and social development.

Population dynamics can shape the demand for healthcare and education, workforce participation and the policies needed to support changing societal needs. Integrating these considerations into national planning is therefore essential to sustainable, long-term development.

Qatar National Population Day offers an opportunity to focus on these issues and strengthen dialogue between national institutions and international partners.

Fenard’s comments also highlighted the value of continued co-operation between Qatar and the UNFPA in supporting development priorities and advancing the SDGs, with particular attention to population-related challenges and opportunities affecting women and girls.

Gord rolls out AI platforms to drive corporate sustainability

From Page 1

Meanwhile, Sustaino AI is designed to simplify ESG data management and reporting for enterprises, listed companies, SMEs and government entities.

The platform extracts structured sustainability data, maps it against international reporting frameworks and maintains an audit trail explaining its outputs.

It can automate carbon accounting across Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions while supporting reporting under frameworks including the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards S1 and S2, and the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

“Real-time dashboards, benchmarking and AI-generated recommendations are intended to help organisations streamline compliance, strengthen transparency and improve sustainability performance,” Dr Alhorri noted.

Alongside its technology-driven initiatives, he said that Gord continues to advance the adoption of GSAS, with nearly 2,700 projects in Qatar having achieved recognition under the system, representing a combined built-up area of more than 3.1bn square feet.

The portfolio spans major infrastructure and developments, including FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 stadiums, ISF City and the Qatar Rail network, as well as healthcare and educational facilities, parks, residential communities and commercial projects.

Nearly 200 projects received GSAS recognition in Qatar in 2025 alone.

More than 150 were recognised for incorporating sustainable design and construction practices, while the remaining projects received recognition for sustainable site development and environmentally responsible operations after occupancy.

Gord’s sustainability agenda is also gaining a regional dimension following the adoption of its Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS) by the GCC Standardisation Organisation as a regional standard, GSO 3000:2025.

The move is expected to encourage wider uptake of the system across the Gulf, with Gord rolling out capacity-building activities to support implementation.

“GSAS frameworks have already been implemented in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, while introductory programmes, capacity-building initiatives and strategic alliances have extended the organisation’s reach to Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Algeria,” Dr Alhorri said.

US retaliation on EU curbs expected

US ambassador to the EU Andrew Puzder told the *Financial Times* that European companies could face “devastating” retaliation from Washington if Brussels moves ahead with plans to limit US firms’ access to the market. Puzder’s warning comes after the EU decided to allocate the bulk of valuable mobile satellite spectrum to European companies while reducing the share US operators can acquire — a push to reduce reliance on Big Tech. **(Reuters)**

Delivery under US-Russia diesel deal to take weeks

AFP
Moscow

Shipping Russian diesel to the US market will take 15 to 20 days once contracts are signed, a senior Russian official said in an interview broadcast yesterday, though a date for that signing has yet to be announced.

US President Donald Trump announced the controversial agreement with Moscow last week, seen as a way to try to lower fuel prices for American consumers ahead of crucial midterm elections on November 3.

“Negotiations are currently under way regarding the commercial terms — that is, on finalisation of the contracts,” Russian Deputy Prime Minister for Energy Alexander Novak said in an interview with state-run media outlet Vesti.

US resumes intelligence-sharing with Ukraine after pause: Zelensky

Reuters
Kyiv

The US has resumed providing Ukraine with critical intelligence to help it defend against Russian missile strikes, after a brief pause, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in comments published yesterday.

Ukraine has relied on US intelligence to spot the fast-moving ballistic missiles that Russia has

fired in waves at its cities. US President Donald Trump had said earlier this week that Washington was still sharing intelligence, despite Ukrainian officials saying some Russian strikes had occurred without warning.

Speaking to NBC’s Meet the Press, Zelensky said intelligence-sharing had been interrupted but later “de-blocked”. “We are very thankful for this,” he said. “Now it works.”

But Zelensky said that other US

actions, such as signing a deal to import Russian diesel and waiving sanctions on Russia that had been slated to take effect this week, will hurt Ukraine.

“If the US will officially take the side of Russia, of course if these two countries will be together, of course we will not prevail and we will not be able to stand,” the president said.

Over the past week, a widening rift between Trump and Zelensky has sparked concerns that their

tumultuous relationship could lead to even worse outcomes for Kyiv. Zelensky told NBC that he hopes Trump will remain an ally of Ukraine.

“We want to trust him, and I hope that he will change his decisions,” Zelensky said. “Because I think that it’s all mistakes and it will not help us. And it will not help US.”

Ukraine gets US help that Russia does not receive, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told NBC,

citing intelligence-sharing and the provision of US munitions to other countries for resale to Ukraine.

But Bessent, speaking with “Meet the Press” after it aired Zelensky’s interview, did not directly answer when asked multiple times whether the US views Ukraine as an ally.

“Zelensky presents a false binary this morning that Ukraine must win,” Bessent said. “The war must end, and that will be with some kind of a negotiated settlement.”

‘It’s like we had a war’: France counts cost of violent protests

AFP
Paris

France was reeling yesterday from widespread damage caused by violent protests the day before that saw 1,800 people arrested, a historic town hall torched and widespread looting.

“It’s like we had a war,” a 78-year-old resident in central Paris, Mehmet Ozeden, told AFP amid burnt street barricades from the protests.

The convulsion raised the stakes for President Emmanuel Macron, who is in his final months in power before elections to replace him in six months’ time. It followed weeks of student protests that had also turned violent at times.

Macron, who Saturday vowed that anyone who had engaged in vandalism or looting would be prosecuted and punished, was to address the nation yesterday evening at 1800 GMT, his office said, after meeting key ministers.

Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said 1,800 people were arrested over the protests and looting, with investigations under way “to identify the perpetrators of these acts so they can be brought to justice”.

Torched cars, smashed shopfronts and burnt debris scarred numerous streets in Paris, where officials said 557 people were in custody — around a third of them minors — after a “record” number of 855 arrests Saturday.

The capital experienced “a level of violence that we have never, I believe, seen before”, said Paris deputy mayor Lamia El Aarajie.

US President Donald Trump waded into the debate yesterday



People enter a ransacked Franprix store as clashes erupted at Place de la Republique following demonstration in Paris yesterday. **(AFP)**

afternoon, blaming immigration for the unrest and urging France to tighten its migration rules.

“France is burning! The immigration of people from an entirely different world, people with hatred in their hearts, has shattered that once great country,” Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform. “Close your Borders and take control, before it is too late!”

Trump’s post comes after similar comments made by Vice President JD Vance on Saturday.

Hundreds of shops were looted in Paris and other cities, including Marseille, Bordeaux, Nice and Strasbourg, on the margins of protests over the cost of living.

One person died during the main march in Paris, but officials said the case was health-related and not linked to the protest violence.

Around 1,500 shops and retailers were damaged, causing huge losses estimated in the hundreds of millions of euros, according to the

Retail and Trade Federation.

One Paris resident, Anita Gras, out for a jog, said she saw young men loot a sports shoe retailer.

“It’s appalling, terrifying — groups of young people came here yesterday (Saturday), looting, smashing everything, with total impunity,” said another resident, 57-year-old Cecile Rogue, surveying a pile of charred bicycles.

The city of Limoges lost its 19th-century town hall to a fire. The local prefect, Maurice Barate, told news channel LCI it had been deliberately set by “a wild horde” and was only brought under control early yesterday.

The mayor of Lyon, Gregory Doucet, said “the chaos that reigned in the city for several hours was abominable”.

One Lyon trader, Jean-Christian, slammed those behind the violence: “They were really animals.”

“We saw them looting, men high on adrenaline.”

One killed, 15 injured in Ukrainian drone attack on St Petersburg

Ukrainian drone attack on oil facilities, logistics and data centres in Russia’s St Petersburg and the Leningrad region left one dead and 15 were injured, local authorities said yesterday.

St Petersburg’s governor Alexander Beglov said fires had broken out at the St Petersburg oil terminal, an oil depot and industrial warehouses.

Russian e-commerce company Ozon said that its logistics hub in St Petersburg was on fire and the internet company VK said that its data centre in the Leningrad region had been attacked by drones, but services were available to users as normal.

Ukrainian drone producer Fire Point said yesterday that the Ukrainian military had struck a VK data centre near St Petersburg. Russian air defence units downed 1,015 Ukrainian drones over Russian regions overnight, the Russian Defence Ministry said. Russia is constantly responding to Ukrainian attacks with systematic, large-scale strikes, it was reported. **(Reuters)**

Albanian PM refuses to quit as protests enter sixth day

AFP
Tirana, Albania

Albanian police fired water cannon and tear gas yesterday as violent anti-government protests entered a sixth day and Prime Minister Edi Rama rejected demonstrators demands that he resign.

Violent demonstrations have rocked Tirana since Tuesday with protesters calling for action over poor university conditions, high tuition fees and corruption. Hundreds of protesters gathered again at noon in front of the education ministry chanting “Rama, resign” amid a tense standoff with police. After police bid to disperse the



A police officer fires a projectile against protesters during an anti-government demonstration in central Tirana. **(AFP)**

crowds the protests scattered across the city centre, escalating in hours-long violent clashes.

Protesters set ablaze litter bins in the streets, smashed windows, including at the headquarters of

the governing Socialist party, and set fire to a police station and the entrance of the interior ministry.

Chaotic clashes extended to main boulevard and square with demonstrators throwing rocks, Molotov cocktails and charging pyrotechnic devices, as the police responded with rubber bullets and tear gas. Ambulances were seen rushing in and out of the scenes of clashes to pick up the injured.

The ministry of Health told AFP that 16 police officers were injured — 14 of them when protesters attacked the police station. Before the protest, shops and offices in the city centre secured their doors and windows with metal shutters while city workers removed paving stones.

Out-of-control truck kills 13 at religious festival in India

A speeding truck in India killed 13 people when it ploughed into a crowd at a Hindu festival, officials said yesterday, with President Droupadi Murmu describing the deaths as “heartbreaking”.

The heavily loaded truck reportedly lost control in the early hours of Sunday and hit devotees gathered at a temple in Gwalior, in the central state of Madhya Pradesh.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency cited hospital officials as saying 13 people had died.

“I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the swift recovery of those injured,” Murmu said.



The damaged front body of the truck in Gwalior. **(Reuters)**

India recorded more than 183,000 road traffic deaths in 2025, or over 500 a day, according to roads ministry. **(AFP)**

Japan to launch historic round-trip mission to Mars moon to retrieve samples

AFP
Tokyo

Japanese scientists are readying a mission to Mars’ moons to retrieve samples that could help unlock the origins of the Solar System and life on Earth, in what aims to be the first round trip to the Martian region.

The unmanned Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) probe, a collaboration with US and European space agencies as well as numerous universities and tech companies, could also help lay the groundwork for eventual human exploration.

The flagship H3 rocket carrying the MMX is set to blast off from the Tanegashima Space Center tomorrow at 4:41am (1941 GMT Monday), according to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

“Being able to be involved in such a grand mission is incredibly exciting,” Makoto Arita, project manager of JAXA’s H3 rocket team, told reporters two days before the launch.

The spacecraft will arrive near

Mars around August next year, where it will orbit one of its moons, Phobos, before landing and collecting at least 10 grams (0.35 ounces) of material from the surface during three years of operating within the Martian sphere.

A rover dubbed IDEFIX — the French name for the comic hero Asterix’s dog — will first conduct surface observations aimed at ensuring a safe landing.

“The sampling (from) Phobos is of course the world’s first, but it means... this is the first round trip to the Martian system,” MMX’s project manager Yasuhiro Kawakatsu told AFP.

JAXA said the mission will also explore the possibility of using Phobos as a “natural space station” by establishing the requirements for a round trip to Mars — something “essential for crewed Mars exploration”.

It will also observe the Red Planet’s moon Deimos, although it will not land on it, before returning to Earth. JAXA hopes the mission will reveal how Mars and its two moons formed, a key piece of knowledge



A Propulsion Module (L) and Exploration and Return Modules, making up the MMX spacecraft, are seen at the Tanegashima Space Centre in Minamitan, Kagoshima prefecture. **(AFP/File Photo)**

in working out how the Solar System was born.

One theory for the origin of the Martian moons — the “giant impact” hypothesis — is that they formed after a celestial body collided with Mars.

The “capture” hypothesis,

meanwhile, postulates that the moons are asteroids captured by Mars’s gravity.

Determining which theory is correct will help reveal “how a habitable environment for life might have arisen on the terrestrial planets”, JAXA said, referring

to the four rocky worlds closest to the Sun — Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars.

“MMX will shed light on the transport mechanisms that delivered water, volatiles, and organic compounds from the outer Solar System to the inner rocky planet region — processes that may have played a key role in making these worlds habitable,” said Patrick Michel, a French astrophysicist working on IDEFIX.

“If Phobos and Deimos are indeed remnants of these early delivery systems, they may hold clues to the origins of life itself, or, to be more correct, to the transport of the materials that were key to the emergence of life on rocky planets,” he told AFP.

MMX is a collaboration with France’s National Centre for Space Studies (CNES), the German Aerospace Center (DLR), Nasa, the European Space Agency (ESA), and about 20 universities and tech companies.

The development of the spacecraft’s landing legs was particularly difficult, as gravity on Phobos is ex-

tremely weak, JAXA scientists say.

Japan’s unmanned Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) — the “Moon Sniper” — tipped over after touching down on Earth’s Moon in 2024, but still transmitted data and survived several two-week lunar nights.

Japan also has experience in bringing back samples from space, including JAXA’s unmanned Hayabusa-2, which returned 5.4 grams of rock and dust collected from an asteroid several hundred million kilometres from Earth in 2020.

On the upcoming mission “we have to travel very close to Mars and return”, which means escaping the planet’s heavy gravity, Kawakatsu told reporters.

Phobos orbits about 6,000km above the Martian surface.

“Going deep into what we call the ‘gravity well’ is difficult,” Kawakatsu said.

JAXA scientists say sand and rocks from Phobos may offer a wider variety of samples than those on the planet itself, especially if it was formed by a collision between a celestial body and Mars.



Why the battle for Taiz matters

The city of Taiz is rapidly emerging as the most important battlefield in Yemen's reignited civil war, pitting the Iran-allied Houthis against the internationally recognised government, which is backed by a Saudi-led coalition.

Houthi forces have encircled Taiz in recent weeks by cutting its main road south to Aden, causing widespread displacement and worsening a humanitarian crisis.

Any Houthi victory in Taiz, Yemen's third-largest city, would mark one of the biggest turning points in the country's long civil war, which resumed this summer after a four-year truce.

Taiz city has an estimated population of almost 600,000. Government sources said 80,000 had fled in the latest fighting.

Taiz has been on the frontline between the Houthis and the government since the first days of the conflict that started in early 2015 and has long been seen as a bastion of opposition to the Iran-allied group.

It is the last major urban stronghold of anti-Houthi forces in the southern highland area of Yemen: the rugged hills above both Aden, where the internationally recognised government is based, and the coastal plain around the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

A Houthi takeover of Taiz would make it much harder for government forces to maintain their

counterattack around Bab el-Mandeb and keep the Houthis at arm's length from Aden.

It would also mean a resounding symbolic defeat for the government and the military coalition of Saudi-backed Yemeni forces fighting the Houthis.

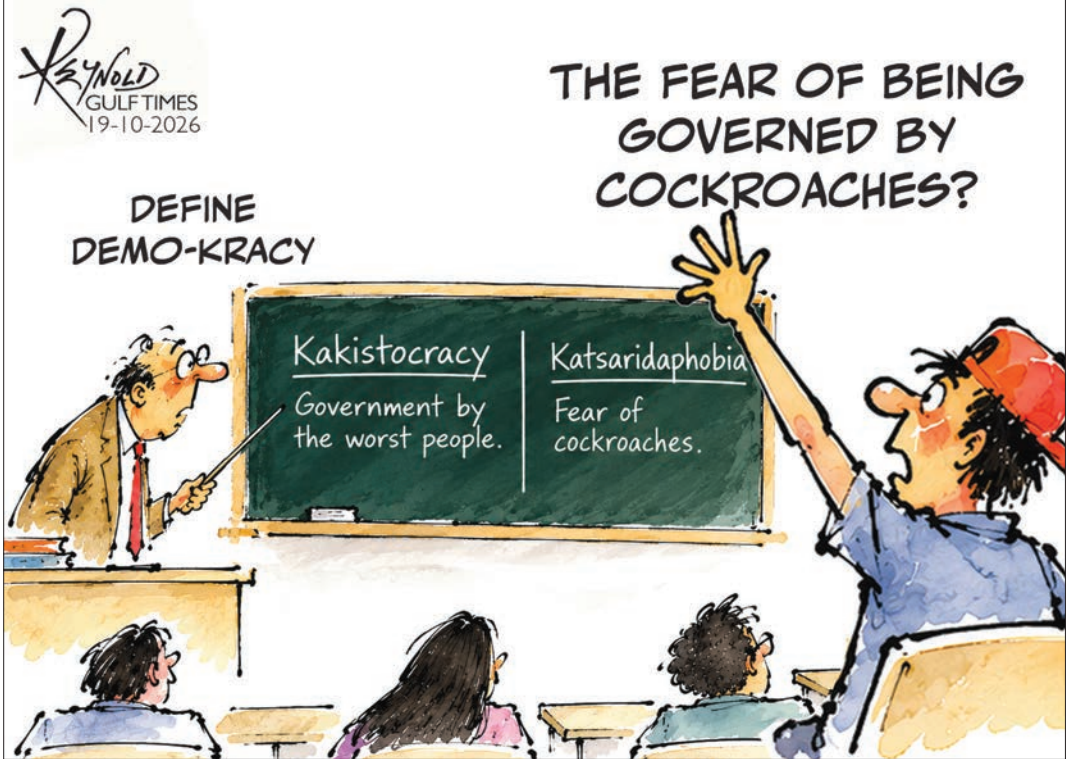
As fighting in Yemen resumed in recent weeks, the Houthis began making advances to cut off Taiz by seizing territory to the south of Jebel Sabar along the road to Aden, which snakes about 200km through rugged hills where fighting is slow and difficult.

Sections of the road are now under Houthi control, including at the towns of al-Turbah and Mudiriyat al-Misrakh, leaving Taiz encircled since early October, with the Houthis sometimes shelling government positions in and around the city.

Government forces, backed by airstrikes from the Saudi-led coalition, are trying to drive the Houthis back from their recent gains and reopen the road, but were still losing ground around Taiz rather than recapturing territory in mid-October.

Inside Taiz, residents have told Reuters about the shortages they now face of basic items and the huge increase in prices they see in the city markets since the Houthis cut the road to Aden.

Aid agencies have reported widespread shortages of fuel, food, medicines and clean water. Wheat flour stocks in the city are nearly exhausted, the World Food Programme said in mid-October. — Reuters



‘He lost the war’: The reckoning Trump is delaying until after November vote

By Jasim al-Azzawi

“He lost the war.”
John



Mearsheimer does not often speak in four words.

The University of Chicago political scientist has spent four decades arguing that great powers miscalculate when they overreach.

This fall, he delivered his verdict on Trump's Iran campaign with a bluntness rare even for him.

“This is a devastating defeat for the United States,” he said.

Asked what Washington could do to regain leverage, Mearsheimer found the question almost beside the point.

Iran, he argued, is not overplaying its hand. It is simply waiting.

The timeline explains why.

The United States and Israel opened the war on February 28 with a plan for rapid regime change.

According to the *New York Times, Trump's aides privately dismissed it as “farfical”: the plan rested on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's belief that a joint strike would send Iranians into the streets within days.

The strikes continued for 39 days before a ceasefire took hold on April 8.

The uprising never came.

When Netanyahu later pressed for a joint appeal urging Iranians to rise up, Trump refused outright.

“Why ... should we tell people to take to the streets when they'll just get mowed down,” he told Netanyahu, according to Axios.

Netanyahu went ahead alone. During a Persian festival, he urged Iranians to flood the streets. Almost no one came.

The ceasefire held for three months. It collapsed on July 8.

The war that Washington calls “Operation Epic Fury” has continued ever since.

There has been no second uprising, no fallen government, and no exit.

Mearsheimer's reading of that record is unsparring.

Iran “still has its missiles, nuclear capabilities and regional proxies”. It has “fended off regime change”.

Geostrategically, he argues, it “is stronger than ever” despite suffering heavy casualties and billions of dollars in infrastructure losses.

“Nobody can tell a plausible story about how this war ends,” he said.

The belief that air power alone can produce regime change is, in his words, “a delusional perspective”.

Any serious student of military history, he argues, should have rejected it from the start.

Trump has conceded none of this. Instead, he has settled on a timetable.

“I think they were very close to having one” regime, he said of the uprising.

He then told *TIME magazine that the war would probably end “right after the election” before adding, with characteristic hedging, “maybe before”.

In September, Trump rejected an Iranian proposal for a seven-day ceasefire that would have reopened the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, he told aides that he expected to resume major strikes after the midterms unless Tehran satisfied him first.

“I don't think you could ever have peace” with Iran, Trump has said.

He has also insisted that “by annihilating Iran, we've created peace in the world”.

The sentence does not quite parse. Neither, his critics argue, does the strategy behind it.

That criticism now stretches across the ideological map.

Representative Thomas Massie, the Kentucky Republican who has emerged as the war's most persistent congressional opponent, calls it flatly unconstitutional.

Congress, he notes, never authorised it.

Massie has also accused the Pentagon of manipulating its own casualty count.

He points to a *New York Times report that the department quietly reduced its death toll from 18 to 14.

It did so by claiming, in Massie's words, that “there have been two Iran wars separated by a brief ceasefire”.

He calls the distinction “this absurd ruse”.

Massie warns that the campaign “will radicalise new generations of terrorists”.

He has introduced articles of impeachment against the defence secretary over the war.

Tucker Carlson, once among Trump's most reliable broadcast allies, also broke with the president during the war's opening days.

He branded the conflict “Israel's war” and accused Trump of subordinating American interests to Netanyahu's.

By April, Carlson was telling his audience that he felt he had “misled” listeners who had voted for Trump partly on his word.

The economic warnings have escalated with the political ones.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) now projects global growth of just 3.1% in 2026, while inflation is expected to climb to 4.7%.

It explicitly attributes both trends to the war's disruption of oil and gas markets.

IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva has described the resulting energy shock as “large but contained so far”.

Yet she has also cautioned that “even if the war in the Gulf were to end soon, the problem of high energy prices would likely persist for some time”.

The World Bank's assessment is harsher still for the region closest to the fighting.

Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) economies are projected to contract by an average of 4.3% this year.

That represents a downward revision of nearly six full percentage points from the World Bank's spring forecast.

Neither institution is given to alarmism. Their numbers describe a war that has already cost the global economy real growth, regardless of how it ends.

The regional danger extends far beyond Iran's borders.

Iran-aligned Houthi forces have already struck Saudi oil facilities, tankers, and transport hubs. Explosions have rattled Riyadh itself.

Mearsheimer has warned that a desperate, cornered Washington could pull the Gulf states, Jordan, and Israel deeper into a war none of them started.

Iran's proxies give Tehran reach far beyond its own territory, even as its formal military absorbs the damage.

A second American campaign after the midterms would rest on the assumption that the outcome will somehow differ, even if the strategy does not.

Rather than containing the danger, such a campaign risks widening it.

Mearsheimer, Massie, and the IMF approach the war from different vantage points.

Yet each describes the same underlying failure: a campaign that achieved none of its stated aims and possesses no credible theory for achieving them later.

A president who built his political identity on ending wars now owns one with no visible finish line.

He faces a reportedly furious rupture with the ally who persuaded him to enter it. Only the midterm calendar now stands between him and a decision he has all but promised to make badly.

If the renewed campaign Trump has signaled for after November produces the same result as the first, the verdict will be difficult to escape: a regime still standing, an economy still bleeding, and a region still bracing for the next round.

The reckoning will not be measured only in barrels of oil or points of GDP.

It will be measured by how this war is remembered alongside every other American war that promised a quick victory and failed to deliver one.

• The writer is a prominent news anchor, programme presenter and media instructor.

Houthi escalation is complicating traditionally busy ‘winter season’



By Kristian Coates Ulrichsen

Houthi attacks on energy and civilian infrastructure in Saudi Arabia have resumed after a four-year hiatus and have caused a wave of postponements of major events in the kingdom.

The escalation by the Iranian-backed movement, which has controlled large swathes of Yemen since 2014, adds another layer of complexity to the regional security landscape just as the Gulf States gear up for the traditionally busy “winter season” of big events.

With the US distracted by the midterm elections on November 3 and the White House focused almost exclusively on measures that might bring down domestic energy prices, there may be little prospect of any meaningful international approach to Yemen for the next several weeks.

When the US and Israel launched the Iran War on February 28, the region was nearing the end of its busy winter programme that, for the past two decades, has positioned the Gulf States as a regional hub on the sports, art and culture, music, and conference circuits.

Events that were forthcoming were either postponed until the autumn, in the expectation that the disruption caused by the conflict would last a matter of months, or put into a holding pattern, such as the Formula One Grand Prix races in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Other events, such as the Qatar Economic Forum, were also pushed back from their spring dates.

With the ceasefire ending the kinetic phase of the war on April 8 and the US and Iran signing the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on June 17, hopes were high that a line could be drawn under the disruption of the spring.

While the MoU quickly unravelled as American and Iranian officials interpreted the terms of the framework agreement differently, throughout the summer there was a gradual easing of the restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz and large-scale conferences began to return to the region.

A case in point was LEAP 2026, Saudi Arabia's flagship global technology conference, which took place over four days in Riyadh between August 31 and September 3, which saw a high turnout of companies and attendees, and signified a “back to

business” mentality ahead of the autumn.

The latest intensification of regional conflict has altered calculations as officials confront the prospect of an extended period of deep uncertainty.

Thus, the Bahrain Grand Prix took place over the first weekend in October but was held in Malaysia instead and rebranded as the “Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia”.

The Qatar Economic Forum was also relocated outside the region as organisers held a special leadership gathering in New York on September 20, ahead of the annual United Nations General Assembly gathering in the city.

Saudi Arabia hosted the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup in Jeddah over two weeks, but the final, played in front of a full house of more than 60,000 spectators, may be the last big regional event for some time.

Just three days after the Green Falcons defeated the UAE to win their first Gulf Cup since 2004, the current wave of attacks on Saudi airports began.

These indiscriminate acts of aggression, amounting to war crimes, against civilian targets by the Houthis, killed at least 20 people and injured hundreds of others.

The strike on King Khalid International Airport, the gateway into Riyadh, was particularly noteworthy, but amid the global condemnation which followed, few countries appeared ready to engage in military operations against the Houthis.

Instead, countries worldwide reviewed their travel advisories regarding travel to Saudi Arabia, and event organisers and attendees began to reassess the risks involved in traveling to the kingdom, especially as King Khalid International Airport suspended its operations.

While the World Petroleum Congress went ahead with its energy summit in Riyadh, albeit with several key speakers appearing remotely rather in person, other events quickly began to be rescheduled or cancelled altogether.

The FIFaE Finals (in eSports) were postponed indefinitely on October 15, just a day before they were due to begin in Jeddah, as was the PIF Saudi International, the finale to the yearlong Asian Tour in men's professional golf.

In men's tennis, the Six Kings Slam, a flagship exhibition

tournament featuring the world's best players as part of the annual series of Riyadh Season events, was pushed back from late-October to the end of December.

Speculation about the AFC Asian Cup, scheduled for January and February 2027, also swirled but organisers maintain that the tournament remains on track.

Thus far, this latest round of disruption remains limited to Saudi Arabia.

The DP World (formerly European) Tour's own season-finale golf tournaments in Abu Dhabi and Dubai look set to go ahead as planned in early November, barring any unforeseen deterioration, as does the Formula One Grand Prix races in Qatar and Abu Dhabi which are the climax to the championship race in late-November and early-December.

Officials from across the region will closely monitor the golf and motor racing events for reassurance that they can operate without incident, while the AFC Asian Cup will be a critical test of the ability to host a weeks-long major sporting event with 24 participating nations and large numbers of visitors.

It is, after all, less than a year before Qatar hosts the men's Basketball World Cup which, in stature, is the second most prestigious global sports event after its football counterpart.

Above all, the rapid growth of the Houthi threat to stability highlights how the region remains vulnerable to the threat of asymmetric attacks, in this case from a heavily armed non-state actor with ostensibly very little left to lose.

Whereas Saudi Arabia was seen by many analysts as a safe haven during the spring, owing to its geographical size and Red Sea coastline which provided a vital workarround to the Strait of Hormuz, those early perceptions of comparative security have now been flipped on their head.

This is the new reality that faces the Saudi leadership and the need to engage effectively to counter the Houthi threat may give new impetus to regional mediators to find a diplomatic end to the crisis.

• The writer is a leading scholar specialising in Gulf politics and international political economy, and a fellow at the Baker Institute and co-director of the Middle East Energy Roundtable.



A highway leading to the Diplomatic Quarters in Riyadh. —Reuters

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Amiri Guard commander meets EU ambassador



HE the Commander of the Qatar Amiri Guard, Major General Staff Mohammed bin Sultan al-Suwaidi, met yesterday with the ambassador of the European Union (EU) to the State of Qatar, Antonio Maggioro, at Barzan Camp. The meeting addressed matters of mutual interest and ways to enhance and further develop cooperation. The meeting was attended by the deputy commander of the Amiri Guard and several senior officers. **(QNA)**

Qatar, Norway hold political consultations

The foreign ministries of the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Norway have held the third round of political consultations in Oslo. The Qatari side was chaired by HE Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi, while the Norwegian side was chaired by Torgeir Larsen, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The consultations addressed bilateral cooperation and ways to further strengthen and develop it. Members of the delegation accompanying al-Hammadi attended the meeting. **(QNA)**

MoC urges calligraphers to take part in Akhlaq award

Qatar's Ministry of Culture (MoC) has called on all calligraphers and innovators worldwide to register for and participate in the second "Akhlaq" ("Morals") international calligraphy art award. It recalled that the final deadline of Nov. 1, 2026, is approaching for receiving submissions for the first phase. The primary objective of this contest is to substantially revive this kind of art while safeguarding its enduring traditional rules and spotlighting the value of the highest moral values as a pivotal theme of the competition, in addition to reinforcing human values and helping protect both Arab and Islamic heritage. The award broadly aspires to achieve an integrated artistic perspective that deepens values and elevates the sta-

tus of morality in culture and the arts. It likewise intends to affirm that the highest moral values and Arabic calligraphy are inextricably linked. In addition, the prize aims to support innovators and encourage calligraphers around the globe to connect, share expertise, and sharpen their individual skills. The contest's organising panel has set mandatory requirements for all participants, foremost among them consummate mastery of the time-honoured rules of Arabic calligraphy. Each participant may submit one work and must choose their own text from the approved list of 20 proposed sentences for the first phase. Before submitting their work, participants are required to fill out the

online registration form and submit a scanned copy of the work, at a resolution of no less than 600 dpi, to the designated email address. All participants are required to observe confidentiality and integrity by refraining from adding any signature or symbol that may identify them on their artwork. The Ministry has allocated cash prizes to recognise the winners and support their artistic careers. This initiative reflects the stature of Arabic calligraphy as an artistic treasure that has grown out of a rich cultural heritage. This kind of art is no longer merely ink on paper, but rather the pulse of a nation and an expression of a civilization that gives written form to the highest human values. **(QNA)**

Qatar participates in 6th International Dates Council



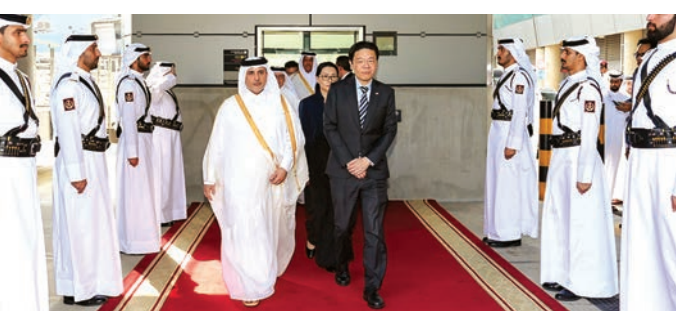
The State of Qatar participated in the 6th session of the Members' Council of the International Dates Council, held yesterday via video conference from Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. The meeting was attended by several of ministers and representatives from member states. HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah led the State of Qatar's delegation at the meeting. The meeting addressed a number of items on the agenda. HE the Minister of Municipality offered contributions and proposals designed to support the council's work and further the achievement of its objectives. **(QNA)**



PM holds phone call with UAE FM

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani held a phone call with the UAE's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan. The call discussed co-operation, relations between the two countries and ways to support and cement them. It also addressed regional developments, along with topics of common interest. **(QNA)**

Singapore PM arrives in Doha



The Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore, Lawrence Wong, arrived yesterday in Doha for an official visit to Qatar. He and his accompanying delegation were received at Hamad International Airport by HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, the Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the State of Qatar, Pong Kok Tian, and the ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Republic of Singapore, Abdulaziz bin Ahmed al-Malki. **(QNA)**

Ministry marks Cultural Heritage Day

Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Culture, celebrated the International Day of Intangible Cultural Heritage, observed annually on October 17, through a series of events organised in collaboration with the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science and the Unesco Regional Office in Doha. The celebration featured a live performance of Qatari Ardah (traditional sword dance), an art and heritage exhibition showcasing traditional crafts, and the presentation of authentic local cuisine. Additionally, a documentary film was screened, highlighting Qatar's efforts to document and safeguard its intangible cultural heritage. The director of ministry's Heritage and Identity Department, Sheikha Najla bint Faisal al-Thani, said that



cultural heritage in Qatar receives significant attention, rooted in a firm belief in the importance of preserving, documenting, and transmitting it to new generations. Representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) to the Gulf States and Yemen, and director of its Doha office, Salah Khaled, expressed his appreciation for Qatar's efforts in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. He noted that this commitment extends beyond the national level to the broader Arab region, and the Gulf

states in particular, while commending Qatar's pivotal role in the successful inscription of "Bisht" as an element of this intangible heritage. Meanwhile, cultural heritage expert at the ministry, Hamad Saeed al-Baloushi, highlighted the successes achieved by the State in this field. He affirmed that Qatar's leadership of the joint Arab initiative, which led to the inclusion of "Arab Bisht" on Unesco's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during the organisation's meetings in India, is a significant milestone. **(QNA)**

Al-Ahli Hospital's 2nd diabetes conference highlights childhood obesity and advances in diabetes care

Al-Ahli Hospital has successfully hosted its Second Diabetes and Endocrinology Conference at the Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel, bringing together approximately 360 healthcare professionals and specialists from Qatar and abroad to discuss the latest advances in diabetes management, endocrinology, obesity treatment, and metabolic health. Held under the theme "Informed Decisions, Impactful Outcomes", the one-day conference featured 11 scientific presentations addressing developments in diabetes diagnosis and treatment, continuous glucose monitoring, insulin pump technology, obesity management, and strategies to prevent diabetes-related complications. The event provided a platform for scientific exchange, interdisciplinary collaboration, and continuing medical education, reinforcing the importance of evidence-based approaches to improving patient outcomes. A key highlight of the conference was the presentation of findings indicating that approximately 30% of children in Qatar may be at risk of developing type 2 diabetes in association with obesity. The findings underscored the importance of early intervention, preventive healthcare, and coordinated efforts involving families, healthcare professionals, and educational institutions to address childhood obesity and its long-term health implications. In his remarks, Khalid Mohamed al-Emadi, CEO of Al-Ahli Hospital and Medicare Group, highlighted the importance of advancing medical knowl-

edge, strengthening preventive healthcare, and raising public awareness of major health challenges affecting the community. He emphasised the role of scientific conferences in bringing healthcare professionals together to exchange expertise, explore emerging medical developments, and strengthen collaboration across Qatar's healthcare sector. Al-Ahli Hospital continues to prioritise clinical excellence, continuous medical education, and evidence-based healthcare practices. Through its scientific and community health initiatives, the hospital seeks to improve health outcomes and support the ongoing development of healthcare services in Qatar. Addressing diabetes and obesity, particularly among children and adolescents, remains an important public health priority requiring sustained collaboration between healthcare providers, families, and the wider community. Engineer Jamal Hammad, deputy CEO and director of Projects at Al-Ahli Hospital and Medicare Group, highlighted that diabetes prevention requires a shared commitment from the healthcare sector and families, with particular emphasis on promoting healthy habits from an early age. He stressed the importance of raising parental awareness of obesity-related health risks, encouraging regular physical activity, and establishing balanced dietary habits to help reduce the likelihood of developing type 2 diabetes. The conference discussions also examined the relationship between sedentary lifestyles,



unhealthy dietary choices, and increasing obesity concerns among children and adolescents. Dr Abdulazim Abdulwahab, medical director of Al-Ahli Hospital, emphasised the value of scientific conferences in bringing together specialists from the public and private healthcare sectors to exchange knowledge and explore developments in the comprehensive management of diabetes and obesity. He also discussed advances in obesity treatment, including newer medical therapies and their implications for managing obesity-related conditions, particularly type 2 diabetes. These developments highlight the importance of individualised treatment approaches and integrating medical and lifestyle interventions into comprehensive patient care. The scientific programme explored recent advances in managing type 1 and type 2 diabetes, including continuous glucose monitoring systems, insulin pumps, modern pharmaceutical treatments, and technologies

that support glucose monitoring and early identification of potentially dangerous fluctuations. Presentations also addressed diabetes-related complications affecting the eyes, blood vessels, bones, and extremities, alongside associated metabolic conditions such as polycystic ovary syndrome and insulin resistance. Dr Mohamed Elrishi, head of Endocrinology and Diabetes at Al-Ahli Hospital and chair of the conference, highlighted the importance of equipping healthcare professionals with current clinical knowledge while empowering patients to understand their conditions better and actively participate in their treatment and long-term care. He also announced plans to establish a dedicated insulin pump clinic at Al-Ahli Hospital, marking another step in developing specialised diabetes services and supporting patients who require advanced insulin therapy. The conference delivered 11 scientific presentations and awarded participants eight accredited continuing medical education (CME) points, supporting the ongoing professional development of healthcare practitioners across both the public and private sectors. The conference also featured a presentation by Dr Turki al-Hababi, head of Obesity Medicine at Qatar Obesity Centre and director of the National Obesity Treatment Centre at Hamad Medical Corporation. His presentation focused on strengthening collaboration between specialised secondary care services and primary healthcare centres in managing obesity.



QCF launches fourth edition of 'Chess in Schools' project, 'Niqla'

The Qatar Chess Federation (QCF) has launched the fourth edition of its "Chess in Schools" project, "Niqla", in partnership with the Ministry of Sports and Youth and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, to promote chess in schools and expand the pool of players. The project involves several public and private schools. As part of the initiative, the federation organised a "Chess and Education" course at the Chess Training Centre's meeting hall, attended by male and female teachers. The course aimed to equip them with the skills needed to teach chess and manage related activities in schools. The course covered the key benefits of playing chess at different educational stages, methods of teaching the game using the ChessKid website, and an introduction to arbitration rules and the procedures for organising internal tournaments. It also focused on training and qualifying teachers to manage school chess teams and organise annual tournaments bringing together teams from different schools. Mohamed al-Mudahka, president of the Qatar Chess Federation, said the launch of the fourth edition of the "Chess in Schools" project was part of the federation's efforts to expand the game's reach and promote chess culture within educational institutions. He added that the annual course was a key pillar in developing the game and increasing its presence in schools by preparing qualified teachers to train students, manage chess activities and officiate competitions.



He said these efforts would increase participation across age groups, broaden the pool of competitors in local tournaments, and boost the number of players registered and ranked with the International Chess Federation (FIDE). Al-Mudahka explained that using chess as an educational tool in schools helps develop students' thinking skills and mathematical abilities while improving their understanding of arithmetic operations. The Qatar Chess Federation president thanked the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and all course participants for their support and contributions to achieving the programme's objectives. The Qatar Chess Federation places considerable emphasis on developing chess in schools through programmes and initiatives designed to identify promising talent, refine skills, and nurture abilities. These efforts aim to expand the player base and prepare a new generation of chess players who can represent the sport and make a strong impression in upcoming competitions.



The 2nd Diabetes and Endocrinology Conference brought together 360 healthcare professionals and specialists from Qatar and abroad.

Christina Aguilera spotted in Qatari fine jewellery brand

International music icon Christina Aguilera wore rings by Noudar at MISTR's second annual National PrEP Day, held at The Abbey in West Hollywood, California, on October 10. Styled by celebrity stylist Chris Horan, Aguilera's jewellery selection brought the distinctive artistry of the Qatari fine-jewellery brand to the forefront



Christina Aguilera wearing Noudar Henna Ring.

of the occasion, highlighting the brand's continuous growing presence on the international stage. Recognised for its considered approach to design, Noudar brings together cultural heritage, intricate craftsmanship and a contemporary aesthetic. The appearance underscores the brand's ability to translate its distinctive design language into pieces that

resonate across international fashion and celebrity circles, while remaining rooted in the artistic traditions that inform its creations. Founded in 2012 by Noor Alfardan, Noudar is a Qatari fine-jewellery design brand that draws inspiration from the region's rich cultural heritage, reinterpreting traditional motifs through a contemporary lens. Its collections explore the relationship between history, artistry and modern expression, incorporating references to geometric patterns, Islamic art, ceremonial adornment, Omani mosaics and the intricate detailing of henna. Each design reflects a thoughtful balance

between heritage and innovation, creating jewellery that carries cultural significance while embracing a distinctly modern sensibility. Under the creative vision of Noor Alfardan, Noudar continues to establish its identity within the international fine-jewellery landscape, presenting a perspective on contemporary luxury that is deeply connected to its Qatari origins. Through its distinctive approach to design and craftsmanship, the house celebrates jewellery as both an expression of personal style and a reflection of enduring cultural artistry. Christina Aguilera's appearance in Noudar rings marks another moment of international visibility



for the brand, bringing its unique design philosophy to a wider audience and reinforcing its position as a contemporary jewellery house with a distinct cultural identity.



Milipol Qatar 2026 attracts more exhibitors despite regional challenges

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporters

The 2026 edition of Milipol Qatar has attracted more exhibitors than its previous edition, with companies from various countries making efforts to participate despite logistical difficulties and challenges stemming from the regional situation, Major General Nasser bin Fahad al-Thani, chairman of the Milipol Qatar Committee, has said. Answering a question from *Gulf Times* on the sidelines of yesterday's press conference announcing the details of the Milipol Qatar 2026 edition, the official said the strong participation reflected the event's standing as an important platform for the security industry. The 16th edition of the homeland security and safety exhibition, Milipol Qatar 2026, opens tomorrow (Tuesday) at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC). "Even if there are a lot of geopolitical turbulences in



Major General Nasser bin Fahad al-Thani.
PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

the region, Milipol Qatar has great participation and is a very good exhibition," he said, noting that the 2026 edition had attracted more exhibitors and new companies compared with the previous edition. The chairman of the exhibition noted: "Participating companies have faced considerable challenges in transporting goods and arranging their participation amid the prevailing regional cir-

cumstances. However, their willingness to attend demonstrated the importance they attach to the exhibition." He also thanked Qatari companies that support Milipol Qatar and participate in the event every year. The three-day exhibition, organised by the Ministry of Interior, brings together international companies, security specialists and officials to showcase technologies and solutions related to homeland security and public safety. Highlighting the importance of keeping pace with emerging security threats, Major General Nasser bin Fahad al-Thani also pointed to the exhibition's Doha International Conference on AI and Security, which provides a platform to discuss developments in the security landscape and ways to strengthen protection against cyberattacks. He stressed the need to continuously monitor changes in the cyber domain and prepare for po-

tential threats, including hacking, as security challenges evolve. Asked about the participation of international delegations, as seen during previous editions, al-Thani said Milipol Qatar continues to attract prominent visitors and delegations from different countries. He said delegations from interior ministries, police forces and Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries have been invited to attend the exhibition. The participation of these delegations, he added, would provide opportunities for security officials and industry representatives to meet, exchange expertise and explore developments in homeland security. Milipol Qatar is a key international gathering for the homeland security and safety sector, bringing together industry players and government representatives to explore technologies, solutions and co-operation opportunities in a rapidly changing security environment.

Qatar Museums opens Fahad Bin Ali Palace with Wooden Doors of Qatar and Atharna 2026

Qatar Museums (QM) announced yesterday (October 18) two exhibitions opening at Fahad Bin Ali Palace: 'Wooden Doors of Qatar: From Storage to Stories' and 'Atharna 2026: Life and Death in Pre-Islamic Qatar'. Wooden Doors of Qatar will present 52 pieces from the National Collection of Historic Doors, held by the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ), alongside an additional door on loan from the Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum. Atharna 2026, the second edition of the Archaeology Department's annual pop-up exhibition, will showcase recent excavations, research and archaeological discoveries that deepen understanding of prehistoric and pre-Islamic life in Qatar. Both exhibitions will be on view from October 26 to May 29, 2027 at the historic Fahad Bin Ali Palace in Doha. Constructed continuously between 1952 and 1963 near the Amiri Diwan, Fahad Bin Ali Palace will welcome the public for the first time as a major exhibition venue. Its distinctive entrance reflects the Doha Deco architectural style.



munity knowledge to explore how these architectural artefacts, shown together for the first time, shaped domestic and social life, expressed identity, protected privacy, and responded to Qatar's climate. Presented across the courtyard and surrounding galleries of Fahad Bin Ali Palace, Wooden Doors of Qatar combines an immersive installation inspired by a traditional Qatari home with a conservation display offering insight into how the collection was documented, cleaned, stabilised, braced and

mounted in protective frames. Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Hamad al-Thani, director of NMoQ, said: "The historic doors preserve an important record of Qatar's architectural and social history. We hope communities across Qatar will contribute their knowledge and memories, helping us enrich the stories held alongside the collection for future generations." Ajmal Maiwandi, director of Aga Khan Cultural Services for Afghanistan and Qatar, said: "Conserving heritage is about far more than repairing an object. This project demonstrates how careful and patient work can sustain craftsmanship, transfer knowledge to a new generation and include Qatar's heritage within a wider conversation about how we care for the places and histories that shape us." **Atharna 2026** Also opening at the palace, Atharna 2026: Life and Death in Pre-Islamic Qatar presents new findings from Neolithic and pre-Islamic burial mounds and the scientific methods used to study them, offering visitors an immersive journey into life, death and cultural connections in prehistoric Qatar. Visitors first encounter a reconstructed burial mound and enter an archaeologist's tent, where they are introduced to topics such

as bioarchaeology, conservation and material analysis. From there, they move into an atmospheric exhibition space featuring jewelry, weapons and other artefacts excavated from pre-Islamic graves in Qatar. The exhibition also highlights how scientific research can reshape understanding over time, including the study of shell beads discovered at Al Thakhira during separate excavations and later reconnected through careful documentation. Faisal Abdulla al-Naimi, director of the Archaeology Department at QM, said: "Atharna 2026 brings the public closer to the work of archaeology, from excavation and careful documentation to bioarchaeological research, conservation and material analysis undertaken in partnership with Sidra Medicine and other institutions. It shows how scientific research can reconnect objects, people and stories separated by time, and reflects our commitment to sharing new discoveries and encouraging communities across Qatar to understand, value and protect their archaeological heritage." Through its research-led approach, Atharna 2026 invites visitors to better understand how archaeology connects objects, people and stories across time, while encouraging respect for Qatar's archaeological heritage.

NSD committee unveils details, programmes for 2027 edition

The National Sport Day Committee unveiled details for the 2027 edition of National Sport Day (NSD), scheduled to take place across the country in February 2027. For the first time, the event will coincide with the holy month of Ramadan, held under the theme "Ramadan... A golden opportunity". The details and new identity for the upcoming edition were announced during a press conference held yesterday at Lusail Sports Arena, attended by representatives from various partner organisations. The NSD Committee outlined the event's direction and programmes, and explained that the event's theme reflects the Committee's commitment to embedding sports into daily routines, even during Ramadan, to support public health and inspire individuals to make positive, lasting changes to

their physical activity habits. Adviser to the Minister of Sports and Youth (MSY) and President of the NSD Committee Abdulrahman bin Musallam al-Dosari emphasised that this national occasion serves as a vital milestone for fostering community awareness regarding the importance of sports and its role in enhancing quality of life. He noted that holding the upcoming edition during Ramadan offers a unique opportunity to encourage the community to reorganise daily routines and integrate physical activity into their lifestyles throughout the holy month. Regarding the programmes for the upcoming edition, events will be held across public parks, walking, and running tracks, and various sports facilities throughout the country, allowing community members to engage in physical activities in convenient locations close to where they live. (QNA)

Tasweer to open 'As the Image Unfolds - The Language of Athar'

Tasweer, Qatar's leading platform for photography, will open "As the Image Unfolds - The Language of Athar" at Bayt Al Wakrah on October 26. The exhibition features new photographic works by Mohammed Fakhroo, Ghada al-Mawlawi and Raja Aderdor developed during their participation in the five-month Tasweer Residency titled As the Image Unfolds. Taking its title from the Arabic word athar, meaning traces or imprints, the exhibition explores how image-making can be both a means of recording and a way of reimagining - drawing on personal, cultural and visual traces to develop individual bodies of work. The exhibition will be on view until December 15.



From the Project "For Sale?" by Mohammed Fakhroo, Tasweer Residency: As the Image Unfolds - The Language of Athar 2025-2026.

Khalifa al-Obaidly, director of Tasweer, said: "Photography has the ability to hold traces of people, places and experiences long after a

moment has passed. Through this residency, Mohammed Fakhroo, Ghada al-Mawlawi and Raja Aderdor have each developed their own

visual language through research, experimentation and conversation. The Language of Athar allows audiences to see where that process has taken them, and how photography can connect memory with the way we understand the world around us today." The artists were mentored by al-Obaidly together with artists Ghayyan al-Amine and Maria Ovsyannikova, who also curated the exhibition. The residency combined mentorship, critique and sustained studio development, giving each photographer space to test ideas and expand their practice. The exhibition includes al-Mawlawi's Portals of Belonging, Fakhroo's For Sale? and Aderdor's Signs Seen, Yet Unseen - three distinct projects that interpret the



From the Project "Signs Seen, Yet Unseen" by Raja Aderdor, Tasweer Residency: As the Image Unfolds - The Language of Athar 2025-2026.

idea of traces through personal, cultural and visual perspectives. The Language of Athar also forms part of the wider Qatar Creates 2026/2027 season, a period that sees Qatar's cultural calendar come alive across art, design, photography, heritage and other creative fields.

The public opening will take place on October 26 from 5pm to 7pm at Bayt Al Wakrah. The exhibition will then be open Saturday to Thursday from 9am to 7pm, and Friday from 1.30pm to 7pm. Admission is free, with advance ticket booking required through the Tasweer website.