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French president on state visit to Qatar

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will meet today with French President Emmanuel Macron on the occasion of his state visit to the country. Both leaders will chair an official talks session at Lusail Palace to discuss strategic relations between the two nations, ways to deepen and expand them across a variety of fields, and several regional and international issues of mutual concern. **(QNA)**

Saudi postpones major investment conference

Saudi Arabia has decided to postpone its flagship investment conference until next year, organisers confirmed in a statement yesterday, following deadly attacks which rocked the kingdom in recent weeks as the Middle East conflict widens, disrupting business. The Future Investment Initiative, or FII, was planned for October 26 to 29, but will now take place in 2027, with a new date to be announced "very soon," the organisers said. **(Reuters)**

Amir, Singapore PM widen co-operation

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Singapore Lawrence Wong held an official talks session at the Amiri Diwan yesterday. At the outset of the session, His Highness the Amir welcomed the Singaporean PM and his accompanying delegation and wished them a pleasant stay. His Highness expressed hope that the visit would help strengthen co-operation and partnership between Qatar and Singapore and broaden their scope in a manner that serves the interests of the two friendly peoples.

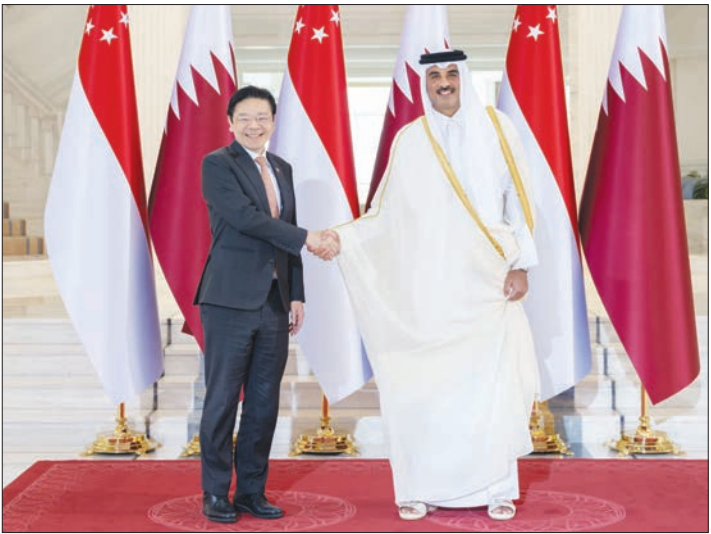
For his part, the Singapore PM expressed his gratitude and ap-

preciation to HH the Amir for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to him and his delegation, expressing hope that the visit would elevate Qatari-Singaporean relations to the highest levels. During the session, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them across various sectors, particularly the economic and investment fields. They also addressed key regional and international issues of common interest.

Prior to the session, HH the Amir and the Singapore PM held a bilateral meeting, during which they exchanged views on a number of current developments. Both leaders witnessed the signing of

the minutes of the Qatar-Singapore High-Level Joint Committee meeting, as well as the exchange of documents marking the renewal of a memorandum of understanding on liquefied natural gas and co-operation in low-carbon technology between QatarEnergy and Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The session and signing ceremony were attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi, HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Engineer Saad bin Sherida al-



Kaabi, and several other ministers.

From the Singaporean side, the session was attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim, and several senior officials accompa-

nying the delegation.

Following the session, His Highness the Amir hosted a luncheon in honour of the Singapore PM and his accompanying delegation. Earlier, the Singapore PM arrived at the Amiri Diwan and was accorded an official reception ceremony. **(QNA)**

Qatar, Singapore to elevate ties into Strategic Partnership

QNA
Doha

The ninth meeting of the Qatar-Singapore High-Level Joint Committee (HLJC) was held in Doha yesterday. The HLJC was co-chaired by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Singapore Lawrence Wong.

The meeting was attended by ministers and senior officials from both countries. The Qatar delegation included HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani; HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Mubarak al-Khulaifi; HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Engineer Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi; and a number of ministers.

The Singapore delegation included Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan; Minister for Energy, Trade and Industry Dr Tan See Leng; Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs, Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim;



and a number of senior officials of the accompanying delegation.

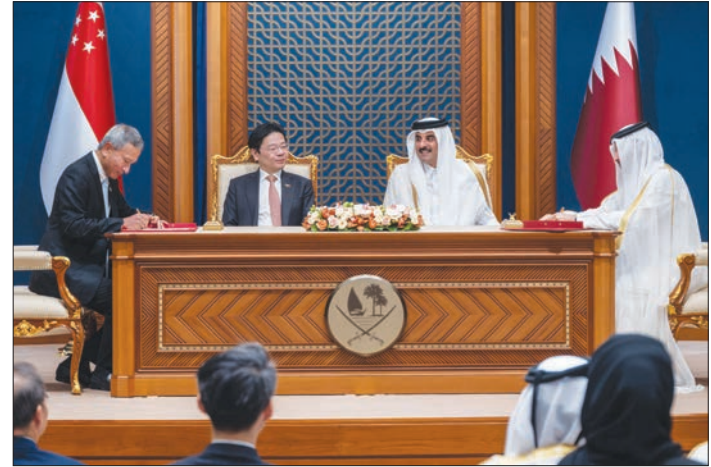
HH the Amir and the Singapore PM reaffirmed the warm and long-standing relations between Qatar and Singapore and the importance of the HLJC as the key platform for providing strategic direction to bilateral co-operation. This was underscored by the elevation of the HLJC Co-chairs to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Lawrence Wong.

Building on the strong foundations of co-operation and mutual trust between Qatar and Singapore, both leaders agreed to work

towards elevating bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership. Qatar will become Singapore's second Strategic Partner in the Middle East.

The leaders welcomed the positive outcomes from the third meeting of the Implementation Monitoring Mechanism (IMM) of the HLJC in Doha in September 2026, and reaffirmed the value of the IMM in facilitating regular follow-up and translating key decisions and agreements from the HLJC.

The leaders encouraged both sides to continue high-level and



sectoral engagements and expressed their shared desire to broaden and deepen co-operation in trade and investment, energy, sustainable development, security, education, social development, and human capital development.

The leaders welcomed the growing co-operation in artificial intelligence (AI), digitalisation, and emerging technologies, recognising these areas as having potential to become an important bilateral co-operation pillar. They

encouraged co-operation among government agencies, research institutions, academia, and the private sector in AI, digital government, cybersecurity, data, innovation, research and development, and emerging technologies.

They also encouraged exchanges of expertise and best practices, greater co-operation in developing digital and AI talent, and partnerships that promote practical applications of AI and emerging technologies. **To Page 3**

High-profile attendance to mark debut of 'CNN Global Perspectives in Doha'

By Peter Alagos
Business Editor

High-level government officials, regional decision-makers, and international executives will convene in Doha later this month for the regional debut of the 'CNN Global Perspectives: In Doha'. CNN's Middle East chapter of its Global Perspectives events franchise, slated for October 29 at the Rosewood Doha, will explore the concept of 'The Invisible World', examining geopolitical, economic and technological forces currently reshaping international relations and global commerce.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani is expected to attend the event as a distinguished guest, organisers announced yesterday at a press conference. Addressing the media, Ellana Lee, Group Senior Vice-President, GM APAC, and Global head of Pro-

ductions at CNN, said the forum comes at a critical time for international relations.

Lee said, "When the world can feel increasingly divided, we believe there's real value in bringing different people and their unique perspectives together. 'Global Perspectives' is a place where the ideas that are shaping our world can be voiced and shared. It's a meeting place where CNN's award-winning journalism can partner with thought leaders to create meaningful dialogue."

She added: "This is CNN's first Global Perspectives event here in the Middle East, and it could hardly come at a better time. There's no better place to host it than here in Qatar, in the heart of the region."

The speaker line-up includes Qatar Museums Chairperson HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. Other speakers joining the forum include Dr Mohamed Farid Saleh, Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Egypt; Wamkele Mene, secretary-general of the African Continental

Free Trade Area Secretariat; and Lei Zhang, founder and chairman of Envision.

The speakers will also be joined by Hiba Qasas, executive director, Principles for Peace Foundation; Martin John Griffiths, former UN undersecretary general for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; Dr Yifan "David" Li, CEO & co-founder, Hesai Technology, co-founder, Sharpa; Hing Chao, chairman, Wah Kwong Maritime Transport; Katie Koch, president and CEO, TCW; and Majid Jafar, CEO, Crescent Petroleum.

Panel sessions throughout the day will cover key issues across artificial intelligence, economic policy, trade, energy transition, and culture. Discussions will be moderated by senior broadcast journalists, including Christiane Amanpour, Wolf Blitzer, Becky Anderson, Richard Quest, Eleini Giokos, Bijan Hosseini, and Caroline Faraj, vice-president and editor-in-chief of CNN Arabic. **To Page 3**



PM flags off Global Security Forum 2026

QNA
Doha

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani inaugurated the 8th Global Security Forum 2026 yesterday. Convened under the title 'The Future of Alliances', the forum brings together high-ranking officials and dignitaries from over 100 nations to explore the future of alliances and collective security.

This year's event takes place

at a time when international security is at a pivotal juncture, with established alliances and international institutions facing mounting pressure from geopolitical tensions, regional conflicts, and shifts in global partnerships.

The forum provides a space for decision-makers to share viewpoints, take stock of emerging security challenges, and explore avenues for reinforcing international co-operation. In addition, the forum addresses pressures on international institutions, the growing influence of rising powers and non-state actors, and the

future of multilateral co-operation and collective security, while underscoring the pivotal role of diplomacy, dialogue, and mediation in strengthening regional and global security.

The opening ceremony was attended by HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani and HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, alongside several ministers and officials. **More stories on Page 3**



With heavy hearts and profound sadness,
all of us at ICON Medical Center mourn the loss
of a true pioneer, mentor, and healthcare giant.

We extend our deepest condolences to the
family, loved ones, patients, and the entire
community on the passing of:

Dr. NS Bhat

Senior Consultant in Orthopedic Surgery

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Security hinges on preempting attacks, says minister

HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani has said that security today extends substantially beyond conventional threats, encompassing the protection of people, the economy, infrastructure and digital space, as well as the continuity of services under all circumstances.

Speaking on the opening day of the 8th Global Security Forum (GSF 2026) in Doha, HE Sheikh Khalifa said that security is measured by a nation's ability to preempt attacks before they occur, as well as its resilience and capacity to recover, prompting nations to modernise their legislation.

Nations should invest in people and shift from reaction to preemption, he underlined, adding that they should build integrated national systems and recognise that no country can defend itself alone.

HE Sheikh Khalifa also said that crime has become increasingly complex and amorphous, with criminal networks operating from one continent to strike in another, using artificial intelligence (AI) in fraud and forgery, while cyberattacks imperil public utilities.

Money is laundered through digital assets in a matter of minutes, he added, while digital platforms are exploited to recruit young people, spread disinformation and exploit children.

The minister highlighted that the region and other parts of the world are going through a very delicate phase, with rapid security developments whose fallout affects maritime navigation, supply chains and global energy markets.

These developments, he continued, thrust regional stability to the forefront as a shared responsibility requiring the security of maritime routes, the de-escalation of tensions and the prevention of conflict spillovers.

HE Sheikh Khalifa stressed that Qatar remains committed to dialogue, mediation and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

He said that defending sovereignty, maintaining deterrence capabilities and working for peace are interconnected responsibilities, while compliance with international law and respect for human rights remain indispensable to regional and global stability.

The minister emphasised that, domestically, protecting people remained Qatar's overwhelming priority despite rising regional tensions.

He said that Qatar's security and military agencies worked to protect lives and property, secure critical facilities and ensure the uninterrupted delivery of services to citizens and residents.

HE Sheikh Khalifa noted that this state of readiness was the outgrowth of years of training, capacity-building across state institutions, enhanced joint operations and the development of emergency and crisis response plans.

He also called for removing obstacles and expanding areas of co-operation.

He stressed that Qatar places its accumulated expertise and qualified personnel at the service of this partnership and remains committed to honoring its pledges and standing by its partners in the most difficult times.

HE Sheikh Khalifa underscored that Qatar is determined to ensure its partnerships remain a source of confidence and an enduring asset on which further co-operation can be built, reaffirming the shared conviction that safeguarding security and preserving peace are responsibilities shared by all. - QNA

Interior minister meets with officials taking part in GSF



HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani held separate meetings with Pakistan's Minister of Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Raza Naqvi (pictured), Spain's Minister of the Interior Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gomez, Cyprus's Minister of Justice and Public Order Costas Fitisis, and UN Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert. The meetings took place on the sidelines of their participation in the Global Security Forum (GSF 2026), being held in Doha. Discussions focused on bilateral co-operation and ways to enhance and develop it in relevant fields, as well as other issues of mutual interest. - QNA

Qatar plays an important role in peace efforts: Pak minister

Pakistan's Minister of Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Raza Naqvi has affirmed that Qatar plays an important role in diplomatic efforts to achieve peace, noting that Qatar has chosen to pursue dialogue while others have opted to side with particular parties.

Speaking at the eighth edition of the Global Security Forum, underway in Doha, he said that the past few months had been extremely difficult for the region, adding that the conflict between Iran and the United States had created serious risks extending beyond the Middle East to the entire world.

He said Pakistan had chosen the path of peace under these circumstances and had made every possible effort to de-escalate tensions and bring both sides to the negotiating table.

He noted that Pakistan hosted the Islamabad talks in April and signed the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding in June.

Days later, he added, Qatar and Pakistan met as mediating parties during the Lake Lucerne

Summit in Switzerland.

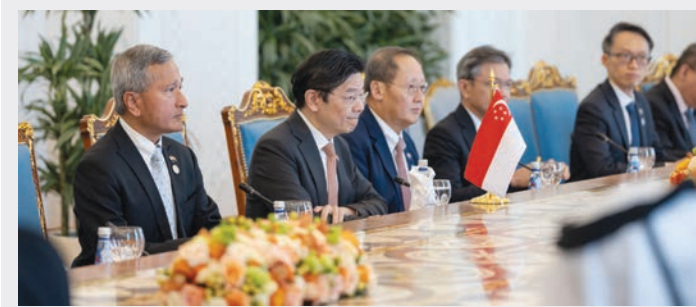
Naqvi said his country had always believed that dialogue is preferable to war.

He cited the mutual defence agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye in Makkah as a recent example of his country's commitment to regional security, stressing that the agreement was intended for defence, not war.

The minister emphasised that no country could enjoy lasting peace while its neighbours were experiencing conflict.

He added that he understands the heavy price of terrorism and insecurity, noting that Pakistan had suffered greatly, with thousands of its citizens, soldiers and police officers losing their lives.

The minister said that recent experiences had taught three important lessons: the doors of dialogue should remain open as long as it is possible to continue; trust is the most important key to any dialogue; and peace requires sincere efforts from all parties, as no single country can achieve regional peace on its own. - QNA



Amir holds talks with Singapore PM

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Singapore's Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong held an official talks session at the Amiri Diwan yesterday.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them across various

sectors, particularly the economic and investment fields.

They also addressed key regional and international issues of common interest.

HH the Amir and Wong witnessed the signing of the minutes of the Qatar-Singapore High-Level Joint Committee meeting, as well as the

exchange of documents marking the renewal of a memorandum of understanding on liquefied natural gas and co-operation in low-carbon technology between QatarEnergy and Singapore's ministry of trade and industry. Following the session, HH the Amir hosted a luncheon in honour of the Singaporean prime minister and his accompanying delegation. - QNA

Qatar, Singapore to elevate ties into Strategic Partnership

From Page 1

They also encouraged exchanges of expertise and best practices, greater co-operation in developing digital and AI talent, and partnerships that promote practical applications of AI and emerging technologies.

The leaders underscored the importance of trusted, secure and responsible digital and AI ecosystems, including co-operation on cybersecurity and digital resilience.

The leaders welcomed the strengthening of security engagement, including in the areas of defence industry, maritime security, and cybersecurity.

In this regard, both sides noted the defence services agreement signed in February 2026 between Barzan Holdings and ST Engineer-

ing valued at QR1.5bn (S\$470mn).

They also encouraged the relevant authorities to further explore engagement in digital defence, maritime security and the exchange of expertise, with a view to enhancing the resilience and security of both countries and addressing evolving traditional and non-traditional security challenges.

The leaders welcomed the renewal of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between QatarEnergy and Singapore's Ministry of Energy, Trade and Industry on Co-operation in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Low-Carbon Technology.

The MoU underscores both sides' commitment to facilitating stable LNG procurement supply chains and energy security, especially in light of recent market developments.

The leaders expressed serious concern over the situation in the Middle East.

They commended Qatar's sustained diplomatic efforts to facilitate dialogue and de-escalation in the region.

The leaders underscored the importance of upholding navigational rights and freedoms in accordance with international law, in particular the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), ensuring international shipping, including in the Strait of Hormuz, remains open, safe and secure, and the safety of seafarers and vessels in accordance with the relevant international conventions.

They reaffirmed their shared commitment to a rules-based international order and multilateralism

to address global challenges.

The leaders welcomed Qatar's Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Sectoral Dialogue Partner status and looked forward to strengthening Qatar-Asean and Asean-GCC co-operation, including through the convening of the third Asean-GCC Summit and continued efforts towards concluding an Asean-GCC Free Trade Agreement during Singapore's Chairmanship of Asean in 2027.

Both sides looked forward to the state visit of HH the Amir to Singapore as an opportunity to launch the Qatar-Singapore Strategic Partnership.

The leaders agreed to convene the 10th HLJC meeting in Singapore at a mutually convenient time, to be determined through diplomatic channels.

Municipality minister meets US official



HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah met yesterday with US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for the Middle East and Africa Mark Mitchell. They discussed co-operation and relations between the two countries in fields of mutual interest. - QNA

High-profile attendance to mark debut of 'CNN Global Perspectives in Doha'

From Page 1

Media City Qatar chief executive Hamad Omar al-Mannai said: "At a time when the region is increasingly at the centre of global conversations, our hope is for this event to bring global voices to the region and actually contribute to elevating the region's voices into these conversations through other CNN platforms."

"There is no better place to host it than in Qatar," he added. "As Qatar continues to play an important role as a trusted mediator on the international stage, it is also reinforcing its position as a centre for dialogue between regions, cultures, and perspectives."

"Global Perspectives complements that role by creating a platform where regional perspectives can be heard and elevated alongside global voices."

Al-Khulaifi meets officials attending GFS



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met separately yesterday with Lebanon's Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tarek Mitri, Libya's Deputy Prime Minister Salem al-Zadma, Somalia's State Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Ali Mohamed Omar, and Mali's Minister of State, Minister of Reconciliation, Peace, and National Cohesion General Ismael Wague.

HE Dr Al-Khulaifi also met with Poland's Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Security Adviser to the Prime Minister Robert Kupiecki and Thailand's Deputy Secretary-General of the National Security Council Woranut Khongmuang on the sidelines of the Global Security Forum in Doha.

The meetings discussed co-operation, relations and ways to support and cement them. They also discussed regional developments, along with other topics of common interest. - QNA

Al-Misnad joins session on humanitarian diplomacy

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad participated yesterday in a focus panel on "Bridging Humanitarian Diplomacy to Water Security", held as part of the Global Security Forum 2026 in Doha.

In her opening remarks, the minister expressed her appreciation to the Geneva Water Hub and the embassy of the Swiss Confederation in Qatar for organising the dialogue regarding the role of humanitarian diplomacy

in protecting water resources during armed conflicts.

This discussion comes at a critical time, HE Dr al-Misnad said, as the region faces significant security risks that could have repercussions for the broader global economy.

She further noted that the region has faced mounting challenges to water security this year, amid escalating tensions and reports of attacks targeting critical water infrastructure. - QNA



Amir sends written message to Saudi king

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a written message to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud of Saudi Arabia pertaining to fraternal relation between the two countries and ways to support and cement them. Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Eng. Waleed bin Abdulkarim al-Khereiji received the message during his meeting yesterday with Qatar's ambassador Bandar bin Mohammed al-Attiyah. - QNA



Al-Ansari meets German lawmakers

HE the Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majed bin Mohammed al-Ansari met yesterday with Alexander Radwan, a member of the German parliament representing the Christian Social Union party, and Dr. Norbert Rottgen, a member of the German parliament representing the Christian Democratic Union. The meeting in Doha focused on co-operation, relations between the two countries, and ways to support and strengthen them. It discussed the latest regional developments, particularly ongoing diplomatic efforts and joint co-ordination to de-escalate tensions and promote security and stability in the region, as well as other topics of mutual interest. - QNA

Shura Council finalises committee appointments

The Shura Council finalised yesterday the membership of its committees at its second meeting of the second regular session of its second legislative term, chaired by HE the Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanim.

HE the Secretary-General of the Shura Council Nayef bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud opened the meeting by reading the agenda. The Council then approved the minutes of its previous meeting.

The Council completed the formation of its committees by determining their membership, following the selection of their chairs at the first meeting.

The final committee membership was as follows:

The Internal and External Affairs Committee is chaired by Yousef bin Ali al-Khater, with members Yousef bin Ahmad al-Medhadi, Mohammed bin Mubarak al-Mansoori, Mubarak bin Saeed al-Khayarin, Badi bin Ali al-Badi, Nasser bin Salmine Alsuwaidi, Abdulla bin Ali al-Sulaiti, Ali bin Shabib al-Attiya, Saoud bin Jassim al-Buainain, Mohamed bin Mansour al-Shahwani, Mohammed bin

Muftah al-Muftah, Abdulla bin Jaber al-Lebdah, Taleb bin Mohammed al-Nabet, and Dr Muna bint Abdulrahman al-Maslamani.

The Economic and Financial Affairs Committee is chaired by Mohammed bin Yousef Almana, with members Mohammed bin Mahdi al-Ahbabi, Saad bin Ahmed al-Mesned, Ahmad bin Hitmi al-Hitmi, Nasser bin Mohammed al-Nuaimi, Abdullah bin Nasser bin Turki al-Subaie, Essa bin Ahmad al-Nasser, Hamad bin Abdulla al-Mulla, Umair Abdullah al-Nuaimi, and Mohammed bin Omar al-Mannai.

The Health, General Services and Environment Committee is chaired by Abdullah bin Nasser bin Turki al-Subaie, with members Dr Ahmed bin Hamad al-Mohanadi, Ali bin Saeed al-Howl al-Marri, Nasser bin Mohsen Bukshisha, Dr Hassan bin Eisa al-Fadhala, Mohammed bin Saoud al-Mesallam, Dr Muna bint Abdulrahman al-Maslamani, Dr Mohammed bin Batti al-Abdullah, Ali bin Ahmed al-Kaabi, and Mohammed bin Omar al-Mannai.

The Education, Culture, Sport and

Media Committee is chaired by Khalid bin Ahmed al-Obaidan, with members Khalid bin Ghanem al-Ali, Abdulrahman bin Youssef al-Khulaifi, Saad bin Ahmed al-Muhannadi, Dr Khalifa bin Jassim al-Kuwari, Dr Hassan bin Eisa al-Fadhala, Saad bin Ahmed al-Misnad, Ameena bint Yousuf al-Jaidah, Yousuf bin Ahmed al-Sada, Mubarak bin Mohammed al-Matar al-Kuwari, Issa bin Ahmed al-Nassr, and Nasser bin Mutref al-Humaidi.

The Social Affairs, Labour and Housing Committee is chaired by Dr Sultan bin Hassan al-Dosari, with members Nasser bin Mohsen Bukshisha, Ahmad bin Ebrahim al-Malki, Khalid bin Abbas bin Kamal al-Emadi, Ameena bint Yousuf al-Jaidah, Yousuf bin Ahmed al-Sada, Nasser bin Mutref al-Humaidi, Nasser bin Hassan Alkubaisi, Ali bin Ahmed al-Kaabi, and Umair Abdullah al-Nuaimi.

As the session wrapped up, HE the Speaker apprised the Council of his participation in the second meeting of Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) parliamentary speakers with European Parliament President Roberta Metsola in Brussels on Friday. - QNA

MCIT to reorganise structure

Certain administrative units within the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) would be reorganised, and the mandates clarified, following the ratification of Cabinet Decision No. (34) of 2026.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani ratified Cabinet Decision No. (34) of 2026 yesterday.

The decision includes the establishment of the National Centre for AI and the Digital Capability Development and Training Department.

"In line with the wise leadership's directives, this administrative reorganisation comes in response to the rapid transformations in the information and communications technology sector, particularly in artificial intelligence, in a manner that enhances the ministry's readiness to keep pace with these changes and supports the development of regulatory frameworks, policies, and national capabilities," said HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai.

The National Centre for AI will report directly to HE al-Mannai.

Comprising three departments, the Centre will play a central role in co-ordinating artificial intelligence (AI) efforts at the national level.

The new administrative structure also includes the reorganisation of several administrative units under the ministry undersecretary.

The Digital Capability Development and Training Department will be responsible for designing and delivering training programmes, enhancing technical and digital skills, developing digital competency assessment tools, and establishing partnerships with academic and technology institutions to strengthen the readiness of national talent.

Qatar Airways extends flight suspensions

Qatar Airways has extended the suspension of flights to and from Riyadh and Dammam until October 24 and reduced its flights to Jeddah, as part of an update to its flights to and from Saudi Arabia.

In a post on its official X account, the Qatari carrier said the suspension of flights to Riyadh and Dammam would remain in effect until October 24, while its services to Jeddah have been reduced from seven daily flights to four daily flights.

Qatar Airways advised passengers with existing bookings to contact the airline within 48 hours of their scheduled departure, noting that flight schedules remain subject to change.

It added that passengers can obtain the latest information and booking updates through the airline's website or mobile app, or by contacting its customer service team directly. - QNA



The Transport Company
MOWASALAT (KARWA)

Mowasalat (Karwa) announces the following tender:

Tender Ref. No.	Tender Title	Tender Fee	Electronic Tender Fee Payment Dates	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
TC/033/ITC/2026	Supply of Computing Devices (Laptops, Desktops & Monitors)	QAR 800	20 to 27 October 2026	QAR 18,000	16 November 2026

CONDITIONS:

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



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ANNOUNCES THE ISSUE OF THE FOLLOWING TENDER:

Tender No.	Subject	Tender Bond (Q.R.S.)	Closing Date
AAH/TC/06/2026	Tender for Three-Year Housekeeping Services	QAR 100,000/-	12th November 2026

- The complete tender documents can be obtained by emailing mohiddens@ahlihospital.com against receipt of a non-refundable tender fee of **QAR 5,000/-**, payable at the **Cashier's Desk, Finance Department**, Al Ahli Hospital, on or before 29th October 2026.
- The tender must be accompanied by a Tender Bond of QAR 100,000.00, issued by a bank accredited in Qatar and acceptable to Al-Ahli Hospital. The Tender Bond must remain valid for 120 days from the tender submission date.
- The successful tenderer should submit a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the contract value, which should be valid for 180 days beyond the contract period.
- The tenders should submit in three (3) sealed envelopes: one (1) envelope for Technical Offer, one (1) envelope for Commercial Offer, and one (1) envelope for Tender Bond, **Only One set of documents of each is required (No Copy is required).**
- Tenders must be addressed to the Chairman of the Tender Committee, clearly indicating the Tender Number and Subject.
- The Last date to purchase the tender documents will be on 29th October 2026
- The closing time for the submission of bid Tenders should be no later than 12:00PM of the Closing Date.

A site visit will be arrange on 1st November 2026 at 10.am

For further information please contact: **Purchasing Department**
Phone: **+974 4489 8663** – Fax: **+974 4489 8768**
Email: mohiddens@ahlihospital.com



قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy
LNG

QatarEnergy LNG
Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/IRE/7871/26 EPRS CLUB PIPELINE REPAIR TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT	18/10/2026 to 01/11/2026	0	160,000	16/11/2026

Scope of Work:

The objective is to provide the Repair Tools and Equipment required for emergency incident management of subsea pipeline systems, including clamps, connectors, wrapping and other associated repair support tools for Emergency Pipeline Repair systems (EPRS) Execution Readiness Phase and Execution Response & Repair Phases. Company also envisages multiaward for various scopes covered under this tender enquiry.Contract Duration shall be for Five (5) years with an optional extension of 2 years.

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

Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:

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

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



مؤسسة قطر
Qatar Foundation

INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
QF-RFQ-1466	Network Security Devices for Qatar Foundation on a call-off basis for 5 years	1,000.00	100,000.00	18 November 2026, 02:00 PM
QNL-RFQ-85	Provision for Shelving Services to QF-QNL on call off basis for 3 years with option to extend for one (1) more year	1,000.00	100,000.00	24 November 2026, 02:00 PM

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

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

Tender Fee: Interested bidders can Sign in by visiting this link <https://suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract> and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online.

All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.

Tender Fee Payment Dates: Payment of Tender Fee online will be from **20th October until 26th October 2026**.
- All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.
- Technical and commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier Portal as per instructions provided in the "Supplier Portal" work instruction.
 - The commercial bid must be valid for **180 days** from Bid Closing Date.
 - The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **180 days** from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents).
 - The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
 - Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

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

The Art of the Unexpected When Keeta Met High Fashion at M7

As The MESTOUR Method concludes at M7, Keeta’s five-day journey through fashion, food and artistic expression offers a rather compelling reminder of what happens when different creative worlds meet.



A Keeta delivery jacket finding its way into a high-fashion editorial, accompanied by a magnificent cascade of Diana Ross-esque curls, was hardly among the things one might have anticipated for 2026. But fashion has always had a rather delicious habit of finding beauty in the unexpected, of taking the familiar and placing it somewhere entirely unfamiliar, until its original purpose becomes almost secondary to the story it begins to tell. And somewhere between the theatrical volume of the hair, the unapologetic colour of the jacket and Ilham Mestour’s extraordinary understanding of form, an everyday uniform found itself speaking an altogether different sartorial language.

The result was wonderfully excessive, a little irreverent and precisely the sort of visual audacity that makes fashion interesting in the first place.

The image, photographed by Karima Maruan, emerged from an unlikely meeting of creative disciplines during The MESTOUR Method, an exclusive five-day hairstyling programme held at M7 in Msheireb

Downtown Doha from October 11–15, with Keeta joining as hospitality partner. What began as an opportunity to bring Doha’s food and beverage community into a space dedicated to artistic education eventually found its way into a fashion portrait.

At the centre of it all was Ilham Mestour, the internationally acclaimed artistic director whose nearly three decades in the fashion industry have taken her from backstage at major runway shows to the pages of international fashion publications. Her approach to hair has always extended beyond the conventional understanding of hairstyling, treating it instead as a discipline concerned with architecture, movement, texture and the extraordinary possibilities of the human silhouette.

Over five days, professional hairstylists who had travelled from Paris, London, Amsterdam, the United States and beyond gathered at M7 to explore that philosophy firsthand. Each session unfolded through Mestour’s demonstrations of intricate constructions

and unconventional forms, before participants attempted their own interpretations under her guidance. There were moments of technical precision, certainly, but also the freedom to experiment, question established methods and discover how individual instinct might transform something familiar into something entirely new.

And perhaps it was only fitting that this spirit of experimentation eventually extended beyond the workshop itself. For the concluding fashion image, Mestour found inspiration in an object that belonged to an altogether different world: the distinctive Keeta jacket, a familiar sight on Doha’s streets, reimagined through the visual language of high fashion.

“The Keeta jacket was my starting point, taking something you see every day and showing it in a fashion context,” explains Mestour. “The bold colours, the volume of the hair and her confidence brought it all together. Keeping the background simple gave her space to own the frame. She draws you in and holds your attention.”

The image was the result of several creative hands coming together. Raja Azzi, a Lebanon-based hairstylist working across the Middle East and Africa, and Oby, a Doha-based hairstylist from The Alexes Hair Collection, worked on the elaborate hairstyle, while makeup artist Sakshi Tejpal brought the beauty look to life. Mestour herself completed the final hair touches and finishing on Khadijah Amusat, bringing the individual elements into a cohesive visual statement, captured through Maruan’s lens.

The hair was deliberately extravagant, a glorious arrangement of bouncy curls and sculptural volume reminiscent of the unapologetic glamour of Diana Ross. Against the jacket’s bold colour and practical construction, it created a contrast that felt almost instinctively fashionable: softness against structure, theatricality against utility, the everyday against the extraordinary.

“I wanted the hair to feel powerful but still soft and playful, full of life, with bouncy curls, movement and confidence,” says Mestour.

There is, of course, a longer history to fashion’s fascination with transforming ordinary objects into extraordinary propositions. Uniforms have wandered onto runways, workwear has been elevated into luxury and garments once defined entirely by function have found themselves reinterpreted through the imagination of designers and artists. The appeal lies not necessarily in the object itself, but in the creative audacity of seeing it differently.

What made the moment at M7 particularly interesting, however, was that it had grown out of a collaboration whose original purpose was not fashion imagery at all.

Throughout the five-day programme, Keeta brought together a selection of its restaurant partners to curate the hospitality experience, extending the warmth of Doha’s food culture to an international gathering of creative professionals. Morning coffee came courtesy of Blackout Coffee, while freshly baked croissants

from Nawar’s Bakery, a homegrown business founded by Qatari female entrepreneur, accompanied the early sessions. Cheese platters from Trays, alongside meals and sweet indulgences from Nando’s Qatar, Calify, Papa Johns and B Laban and other participating merchants, brought different flavours into the workshop as the days unfolded.

Beyond the food itself, the collaboration introduced local restaurant businesses to an international creative audience, allowing them to become part of an environment that might otherwise have remained entirely within the worlds of fashion and beauty.

For Keeta, the intention was to contribute to the experience without needing to occupy its centre, recognising that there is considerable value in being present where ideas are exchanged, relationships are formed and different communities encounter one another.

“More than anything, we wanted to share the same space as these remarkable creative minds who had travelled to Doha from around the world, and extend the warmth and generosity of Qatari hospitality to them,” says a Keeta Qatar spokesperson. “M7 was the right environment for our restaurant partners to become part of a wider cultural conversation. What Ilham created with the Keeta jacket was particularly meaningful because she understood something about our identity and translated it into her own creative language. It was bold, resilient and full of character. We came into this collaboration to support the people behind the creativity, and seeing that exchange develop into something so unexpected made it all the more special.”

For Mestour, that relationship between artistic expression and the people who make it possible sits at the very heart of her method.

“For me, The Mestour Method brings together care, culture, protocol and craft: how we look after people, the stories we bring, how we work and what we create,” she explains. “Keeta took such good care of the people behind the creativity. This image celebrates what that care makes possible.”

It is an observation that gives the photograph a rather different dimension.

For Keeta, the collaboration also continues a growing engagement with the creative communities shaping Doha. Earlier this year, the brand worked with Qatari artist Mubarak Al Thani on We Are Doha, an artistic interpretation of the city’s architecture, movement and everyday life, created as part of its first anniversary in Qatar. At M7, that conversation moved into another discipline altogether, with fashion and hairstyling providing an entirely different perspective on the familiar.

Fashion, after all, has never been particularly interested in staying where it belongs. Its most compelling moments often arrive when the boundaries between disciplines begin to blur, when the ordinary is reconsidered and when someone has the imagination to see possibility in something everyone else has stopped noticing.





Galfar Al Misnad concludes 20th Annual Safe Driving Awareness Campaign



Galfar Al Misnad successfully concluded its 20th Annual Safe Driving Awareness Campaign recently with a closing ceremony recording the highest participation total numbered about 1550. Over the past 2 decades, Galfar Al Misnad has been conducting safety awareness campaigns for its employees including drivers and operators. With around 1800 pcs of vehicles and equipment in operation, the initiative aims to ensure avoid any road traffic accidents through continuous education and awareness. The objective is to update and upgrade drivers and operators to avoid any accidents whatsoever. The campaign includes impactful presentations on real life accident scenarios, emphasizing how drivers and operators can strengthen their safety awareness and better equip themselves to prevent incidents. This year's campaign theme was 'Your Safety. Your Responsibility. Drive Smart'.

The event was attended by delegates from Ministry of Interior First Lieutenant Sultan Ahmed Al Suwaidi from the Traffic Awareness Department, General Directorate of Traffic and Mr. Faisal Al Hudawi from the Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Interior. The session featured insightful presentations and video clips showcasing potential risk of using mobile phones and categorical emphasis was made on the mandatory use of seat belts by all vehicle occupants, including rear-seat passengers. Members of the senior management team of Galfar Al Misnad were joined in addressing the attendees at the event. Mr. Satish Pillai, Executive Director, reiterated the need to reduce road traffic accidents to the minimum level by imparting continuous awareness and emphasized about behavioral aspects of drivers. He appreciated continued support from MOI officials that has been extended

every year. Mr. Anwar Sadath, DGM - Plant, emphasized on anticipating road risks, the effectiveness of the campaign, and the role of IVMS monitoring in improving driving behavior and about promoting shared responsibility for safety. All senior management team addressed the Audience and emphasized their views on importance of holding onto safe driving practices.

Mr. Parag Gaikwad, Dy. Manager - HSE, presented the road traffic accident statistics for the past decade and campaign highlights, with the Key Campaign Outcomes highlighting 1,553 employees covered through safe driving awareness sessions, 178 drivers and equipment operators recognized with best drivers and best operators award, enhanced awareness of defensive driving, statutory traffic laws, use of seat belts and about distractions caused by mobile phone usage and reinforced the importance of IVMS monitoring, vehicle controls, and responsible driving behavior. The company has witnessed a continual reduction in traffic violations and road traffic accidents. Consistently providing awareness sessions to employees has largely contributed to these statistics.

Mr. Sreekumar, senior transport manager coordinated the campaign event, Mr. Abhijith, deputy manager compered the closing ceremony and Mr. Anil Prakash senior manager-maintenance given vote of thanks.



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Promoting Awareness, Inspiring Action: Galfar Al Misnad Conducts Breast Cancer Awareness Session 2026.



Galfar Al Misnad reaffirmed its commitment to employee well-being and preventive healthcare by organising its Breast Cancer Awareness Programme 2026 on 10 October, as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Held under the theme "Every Story Is Unique, Every Journey Matters," the initiative focused on promoting awareness, encouraging early detection and fostering a culture of health consciousness and collective support. The programme was led by Ms. Aparna P Krishna, Divisional Manager - HR, Galfar Al Misnad, reflecting the company's commitment to integrating employee welfare and health awareness into its workplace initiatives. The awareness session featured Dr. Bibi Zainab, Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology at American Hospital, who shared expert insights into breast cancer, early warning signs,

risk factors, screening methods and the importance of timely medical consultation. The session highlighted the significance of informed health decisions, regular check-ups and early detection in improving health outcomes. Employees and their family members, including spouses and children, participated enthusiastically in the programme. The pink dress code adopted by participants symbolised hope, strength, courage and solidarity with individuals and families affected by breast cancer. As an extension of the initiative, Galfar Al Misnad is distributing breast cancer awareness badges to employees at its Head Office, encouraging staff to wear them throughout October to sustain awareness and demonstrate collective support for the cause. The company's Medical Team also played a valuable role in supporting the successful conduct of the programme.

Through initiatives of this nature, Galfar Al Misnad continues to strengthen its focus on employee well-being, preventive healthcare and social responsibility. By encouraging awareness, open conversations and proactive health practices, the company aims to contribute to a more informed, supportive and health-conscious workplace and community.

"Every story is unique, every journey matters" — a message that underscores the importance of compassion, awareness and timely action in the collective effort to address breast cancer.



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Rosewood Doha sets the table for global culinary exchange with chefs and lounges recognised by The 50 Best

Rosewood Doha will bring an ongoing lineup of chefs and talent from establishments recognised by The 50 to Qatar, beginning this October.

Spanning collaborative dinners, restaurant residencies, festive programming and lounge guest shifts, the series will connect Rosewood Doha's culinary teams with talent recognised by The Best Restaurants, The 50 Best Restaurants Middle East & North Africa, The World's 50 Best Beverage Venues and Asia's 50 Best Lounges.

The series follows an opening chapter in July, when Singaporean pastry chef Janice Wong marked Rosewood Doha's first anniversary with a specially created cake for Butterfly Patisserie. The months ahead will unfold across Mila, Asaya Kitchen, Koo Madame and Stoke & Stoke from October through January 2027.

"Qatar's culinary scene continues to gain international attention, and Rosewood Doha has an opportunity to contribute to



that momentum. By bringing chefs and lounges recognised by The 50 into our restaurants, we are creating new connections between Doha and some of the people influencing contemporary dining around the world," Juan Samsó, managing director, Rosewood Doha, said.

The programme begins on October 30 and 31 at Mila, where Palestinian-Jordanian chef Sara Aqel will join Chef de Cuisine Marc Mahfouz for a

two-night, four-hands dinner.

Chef Aqel's cooking draws on Palestinian memory, Levantine traditions and Jordan's seasonal produce, influenced by an international career spanning Hong Kong, Paris, Miami and Dubai. At Dara Dining in Amman, she brings these influences together through homemade pasta, wood-fired cooking and close relationships with local producers.

Dara Dining entered The 50 Best Restaurants Middle East & North Africa at No. 18 in 2025, receiving the Highest New Entry Award, before ranking No. 30 in 2026. Chef Aqel was also named Mena's Best Female Chef 2026.

On November 12 and 13, husband-and-wife Chefs Kim Hee-eun and Yoon Da-hyun will bring Michelin-starred Soul Dining from Seoul to Asaya Kitchen.

The Doha pop-up will introduce guests to the restaurant's approach through limited-edition menu created for Asaya Kitchen.

From November 27 to 29, during the Formula 1 Qatar Airways

Qatar Grand Prix weekend, Stoke & Stoke will welcome Marco Maiorano, lounge manager of DarkSide at Rosewood Hong Kong, together with a visiting beverage expert from Scarfes at Rosewood London.

The guest shift will unite two homegrown Rosewood concepts recognised by The 50. DarkSide, Rosewood Hong Kong's beverage parlour, ranked No.17 on Asia's 50 Best Beverage Venues 2024. Scarfes, known for its creative beverages, live music and characterful setting, ranked No.31 on The World's 50 Best Beverage Venues 2025.

Together, the visiting beverage experts will create a special drinks experience for Doha's Formula 1 weekend, bringing the identities of Hong Kong and London into conversation with Stoke & Stoke.

In December, Singaporean Chef Reif Othman will join Koo Madame for a one-night culinary collaboration.

One of Dubai's most influential chef-restaurateurs, Chef Reif



is known for an unconventional Japanese style influenced by French and Italian fundamentals.

Reif Japanese Kushiyaki ranked No.16 on the inaugural Mena's 50 Best Restaurants list, while Chef Othman received the Chefs' Choice Award in 2022.

From December 24 to 26, Stasha Toncev will bring Dubai's 21 Grams Urban Balkan Bistro to Asaya Kitchen for a limited-edition festive breakfast.

The restaurant ranked No.31 on Mena's 50 Best Restaurant in 2024 before rising to No.26 in 2025. Its three-day residency will introduce Doha to the generosity

and craft of the Balkan breakfast table during the festive season.

On January 27 and 28, 2027, founder and creative director Holly Graham will bring Tokyo Confidential to Stoke & Stoke for a two-night lounge pop-up.

"Each visiting chef and beverage expert brings a clear point of view, but the experience is influenced by what happens when that perspective meets our own teams and culinary collection. These are not simply guest menus placed into our venues. They are new experiences created through exchange," Michael Pearson, executive chef, Rosewood Doha.



Military Sports Federation wraps up Armed Forces Futsal Championship 2026-2027

QNA

Doha

The 2026-2027 Armed Forces Futsal Championship, organised by the Military Sports Federation with the participation of 12 teams representing various Armed Forces units, has wrapped up with the Federation's President, Maj Gen Dr Yousef Desmal al-Kuwari, in attendance.

The tournament featured intense competition among the participating teams, with each vying for the title. It culminated in a final showdown between the Qatar

Amiri Naval Forces and Joint Special Forces teams, with Joint Special Forces taking a victory lap and clinching the championship title.

At the conclusion of the tournament, Dr al-Kuwari honoured the winning teams and presented medals to those who finished in the top positions in recognition of their incredible technical performance throughout the competition.

The event was held as part of the Federation's sporting events to promote sports participation among military personnel and advance a spirit of competitiveness and collaboration among the various units.

NU-Q to host symposium on digital platforms, shifting media power

Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q) will host Fresh Global Media Players: Disrupting the Digital Ecosystem? on October 29, bringing together international scholars and media industry leaders to examine how emerging platforms, business models, and regional industries are disrupting the digital media ecosystem and challenging established structures of global communication power.

Revisiting questions raised at NU-Q's first Fresh Global Media Players symposium in 2015, the event asks whether new players are transforming established media hierarchies or reproducing existing inequalities.

The symposium features three research sessions spanning the geopolitics of digital media, monetisation and business models, and regional media industries. The programme also includes a fireside chat with Elie Habib, CEO of Anghami and OSN+, examining the changing streaming landscape and its implications for regional and global media markets.



Elie Habib, CEO of Anghami

Anghami, a regional music streaming platform, became the first Arab technology company listed on Nasdaq in 2022. OSN+ is a leading Middle Eastern streaming service offering Arabic and international entertainment, including HBO.

The first session, Geopolitics of Digital Media, features Dani Madrid-Morales and Myrtle Ziwei Zeng of the University of Sheffield, and Joan Letting of Simon Fraser University. Their research examines news flows on YouTube, platform migration and digital belonging, and independent investigative media in East Africa.

The second session, Monetisa-

tion and Business Models, brings together Swapnil Rai of the University of Michigan, Po-Hsi Wu of the University of Westminster, and Gowreesh V S of Jawaharlal Nehru University. Their presentations explore asymmetrical media networks, Chinese investment in global digital games, and India's independent digital-first music sector.

The final session, A Regional Outlook, features Kay Dickinson of the University of Glasgow; Najat Alsheridah, an independent scholar based in Kuwait; and Mohammed Mohammed of LUT University, whose research with Lobna Hassan, also of LUT University, examines the region's esports ecosystem. The session addresses Netflix and Kuwaiti television cultures, alongside participation, tradition, and cultural barriers in Middle Eastern and North African esports.

"Who shapes the digital ecosystem is no longer only an academic question. It determines what audiences everywhere see, share, and believe," said NU-Q dean and CEO Marwan M Kraidy. "Answer-

ing it takes the intellectual rigour and independent inquiry we value at NU-Q, and bringing scholars from around the world to Qatar lets us pursue it from a vantage point the field has too often overlooked."

The symposium builds on NU-Q's 2015 Fresh Global Media Players symposium, which examined the redistribution of global communication power and led to a special section of the *International Journal of Communication*. Continuing this scholarly collaboration, the organisers plan to propose a second special section featuring research developed through the 2026 symposium.

Organised by NU-Q faculty Joe F Khalil and William Youmans, the symposium takes place from 9am to 4pm at NU-Q. It is intended for faculty, researchers, graduate students, advanced undergraduates, and members of the wider academic and media communities.

The fireside chat with Elie Habib will take place in the University's auditorium on October 29 from 1.15 to 2.15pm.

UDST set to host 3rd Gulf Universities Championship

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) will host the third edition of the Gulf Universities Championship from October 29 to 31. The event will feature approximately 350 students representing 24 university teams from across the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries, held under the auspices of the International University Sports Federation (FISU).

During a press conference held yesterday, the university announced details regarding the championship, participating institutions, and organisational preparations for the competitions, which will include men's futsal, basketball, and volleyball, as well as women's volleyball.

President of UDST Dr Salem bin Nasser Al-Naemi stated that hosting the championship reflects the institution's commitment to supporting Qatar's national sports policy and strengthening ties among GCC youth. He highlighted the importance of univer-

sity sports in fostering team spirit, discipline, and perseverance among students.

Director of Sports and Wellness Department Hamad al-Kuwari explained that the championship serves as an opportunity to showcase university-level athletic talent, facilitate communication, and encourage the exchange of experiences among participants. He emphasised the university's dedication to providing an exceptional competitive environment.

Hosting this championship aligns with the university's efforts to promote university sports and cultivate a culture of physical activity, in line with the goals of its 2025-2027 Health Strategy, which aims to enhance the health and well-being of the university community.

UDST teams secured three gold medals, two silver medals, and one bronze medal during their participation in the World University Championship held in Barcelona in 2025. (QNA)

Artefact, HEC Paris Doha announce strategic partnership to advance executive AI education

Artefact, a global leader in data and AI consulting, and HEC Paris, one of the world's leading business schools, announced a strategic collaboration to develop executive-level AI learning and capability-building programmes across the Middle East. Building on an established partnership in France, the initiative will launch in Qatar and Saudi Arabia before expanding from Doha across the wider Mena region.

Through the collaboration, HEC Paris will contribute its expertise in leadership development, executive education, faculty and academic excellence, as well as its regional network and institutional presence, while Artefact will bring its applied AI expertise and experience delivering AI transformations for governments and major organisations, providing access to practitioners, real-world cases and insights across AI strategy, GenAI, agentic AI, data platforms, governance and adoption.

Designed for ministers, board



members, executive teams, and senior government and business leaders, the programmes address critical strategic decisions around AI adoption. They will cover key topics including AI strategy and value creation, AI governance, investment and risk, AI operating models and service and process redesign, workforce capability and adoption at scale, and the practical application of GenAI and agentic AI.

Commenting on this partnership, Rahul Arya, managing partner and CEO, Artefact Middle

East, Southeast Asia & India, said: "This collaboration brings together world-class leadership education and deep, hands-on experience delivering AI transformation in the real world. Together, we want to give leaders the perspective, tools and practical understanding to turn AI ambition into sustainable organisational impact across the Mena region."

On behalf of HEC Paris, Doha, Joshua Kobb, Chief Growth and Impact Officer, said: "AI is reshaping how organisations create value, make decisions, and build new

capabilities. For leaders, the challenge is not simply understanding the technology but knowing how to translate its potential into strategic choices, responsible adoption, and sustainable impact. By bringing together the expertise of HEC Paris in executive education and leadership development with the practical experience of Artefact in AI transformation, this collaboration will create a learning experience grounded in both global perspectives and real-world application.

We look forward to supporting leaders across the region as they navigate the opportunities and complexities of AI and contribute to shaping the transformation agendas of the region."

The partnership will also create opportunities for broader academic and talent collaboration where Artefact practitioners will contribute to HEC Paris courses, masterclasses, hackathons, applied student projects, internships, and regional career pathways.

Qatar Week 2026 brings VCUarts Qatar and VCUarts communities together

Qatar Week 2026 brought Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar's (VCUarts Qatar) creative research, international exhibitions, and new academic ambitions to its home campus in Richmond, Virginia, connecting university leaders, faculty, students, and alumni across Virginia Commonwealth University's two art and design campuses.

The week opened with an October 12 reception at Scott House, where VCU president Michael Rao and Provost Arturo Saavedra welcomed colleagues and guests. VCUarts dean Carmenita Higginbotham and VCUarts Qatar dean Amir Berbic reflected on the

strength of the two-campus partnership and the opportunities it creates for students, creative research and international collaboration.

Connections with students and alumni gave those remarks a personal dimension. Students shared their interests and perspectives, while alumni spoke about their careers and the ways their education continues to shape their choices, work and ambitions. These exchanges offered a view of the university's impact through the people who carry it forward.

"Our relationship with Richmond is central to who we are and what we can achieve," said Berbic. "This week brought that relation-

ship into focus through the work of our faculty, the ambitions of our students and the experiences of our alumni. It also gave us time to think together about what comes next, from new academic opportunities to collaborations that draw on the strengths of both campuses."

The programme highlighted VCUarts Qatar's growing international reach, including its participation in the 2026 Venice Biennale through Aghrab Idrak | Thresholds of Perception. Organised by the university's Institute for Creative Research, the exhibition brings together faculty, alumni, students, and international collaborators in work that explores the relationships between art, design, and

technology. It remains open in Venice through November 22.

Discussions also looked ahead to VCUarts Qatar's forthcoming Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, planned to welcome its first cohort in fall 2027. With design at its core, the degree combines rigorous design study with a focused interdisciplinary learning area. Drawing on Qatar Foundation's Education City Multiversity, it will give students opportunities to apply design methods and creative thinking to challenges in other fields.

Qatar Week closed with faculty PechaKucha presentations that gave audiences a direct look into current creative research.



Through the concise presentation format, faculty shared the ideas, methods and questions driving their projects, opening further conversations about

their work and its possibilities.

Conversations will continue as colleagues develop opportunities for collaboration and begin shaping next year's Qatar Week.



Qatar Charity projects benefit nearly 390,000 people in Pakistan

QNA
Doha

During the first nine months of 2026, Qatar Charity (QC) implemented approximately 1,988 water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects and interventions across Pakistan. These efforts aim to provide safe drinking water and improve the health and living conditions of vulnerable communities.

Benefiting nearly 390,000 people, the interventions included the installation of hand pumps and solar-powered water pumps, as well as the construction of latrines, ablution facilities and water facilities at community sites, healthcare facilities and public places, the QC statement said yesterday.

Qatar Charity installed 1,593 hand pumps in Sindh, Khy-

ber Pakhtunkhwa, and Punjab, which benefited 201,982 people, bringing water sources closer to remote communities and reducing the need to travel long distances to collect water.

A further 255 solar-powered water pumps were installed. These pumps benefited more than 138,813 people, particularly in local communities, schools and healthcare facilities. Qatar Charity also installed four deep solar-powered water pumps in desert areas of Sindh, benefiting more than 2,496 people.

In the sanitation sector, Qatar Charity implemented 136 projects comprising latrines, ablution facilities and water facilities, benefiting more than 46,672 people. The projects contribute to improved hygiene practices, disease prevention and healthier, safer and more dignified environments for beneficiary communities.

QDB launches updated housing loan app, making the process fully digital

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

Qatar Development Bank (QDB) has launched an updated version of its Housing Loan App, enabling citizens benefiting from the housing loan programme to complete the procedures involved in building their homes digitally, without the need to visit the bank.

The upgraded application simplifies the homebuilding journey by bringing key housing loan services to a single digital platform, allowing beneficiaries to manage applications, complete documentation, sign contracts electronically, and track requests and payments on their mobile phones.

Under the updated system, eligible citizens can access the various stages of the housing loan process, from submitting an initial application to completing

contractual formalities and following up on subsequent transactions. The initiative is considered a further step in QDB's efforts to enhance digital service delivery and make housing finance procedures more accessible and efficient for beneficiaries.

A key feature of the updated application is electronic contract signing, which lets customers complete housing loan agreements digitally instead of travelling to a bank branch to finalise the paperwork. The app also supports electronic submission of required documents, streamlining administrative procedures and reducing the need for in-person interactions.

Meanwhile, users can create an account, submit housing loan applications, upload supporting documents, review application requirements and monitor the progress of their requests.

Beneficiaries can also follow up on payments and access relevant

MoCI bolsters anti-money laundering, terrorist financing awareness

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) organised a dialogue workshop on trust and company service providers in order to raise awareness of requirements for combating money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.

In a statement issued yesterday, the ministry said the forum reflected its commitment to strengthening co-operation with these service providers, so as to not only raise awareness about issues such as anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing requirements, but also addressing key challenges facing the sector and practical ways to resolve them.

The ministry further stressed on the fact that trust and company service providers are a key component of the national framework necessary for combating money laundering and terrorist financing because of their role in establishing and managing legal structures and ownership arrangements.

updates through the application.

The digital process covers several stages of the housing journey, including application submission, document verification, contract signing and subsequent follow-up. By consolidating these services in one platform, the updated app aims to make it easier for customers to manage the administrative aspects of building a home.

The launch reflects the growing role of digital platforms in delivering public-facing financial services in Qatar, where institutions increasingly adopt technology to improve customer experience, simplify transactions, and reduce reliance on traditional branch-based procedures.

Accordingly, QDB has encouraged beneficiaries to download the Housing Loan App from the Apple App Store and Google Play to access updated services and begin managing their housing loan processes digitally.

the Lebanese people's resolve to hold on to their land and rights.

Aoun reaffirmed Lebanon's commitment to a diplomatic solution, despite its difficulties, saying it is far less costly than a devastating war for which the Lebanese people, particularly those in the south, were paying the price.

He added that it was time for Lebanon to enjoy peace. (QNA)

Awqaf Ministry's fifth season of Ummah Seminar starts today

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs is set to launch the fifth season of its intellectual and cultural initiative, Ummah Seminar today with an opening session exploring the relationship between science and faith in Islamic thought.

The seminar will begin immediately after the Isha prayer at the Imam Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab Mosque, bringing together academics, researchers, and Islamic preachers to examine the methodological foundations for integrating science and faith. The season is being held under the theme "Science and Faith: Foundations of Building and Pillars of Advancement."

Director of Research and Islamic Studies Sheikh Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed al-Thani said the initiative seeks to deepen intellectual awareness and promote substantive scholarly dialogue in line with the ministry's 2025-2030 strategic objectives for human development, a moderate Islamic identity, and greater societal awareness.

It also supports Qatar National Vision 2030 and its goals of developing human capital and fostering a knowledge-based society grounded in values and creativity, he added.

Sheikh Dr Ahmed said the fifth season highlights the complementary relationship between science and faith as cornerstones of civilisational development and societal advancement. The opening session will examine the methodological foundations and intellectual principles needed to strengthen the integration of science and faith in contemporary knowledge.

The initiative also aims to dem-

onstrate how Islamic scholarship can reconcile the enduring authenticity of divine revelation with contemporary demands, address modern intellectual challenges, and advance renewal, knowledge production, and sustainable development. These efforts underscore the vitality of Islamic thought and its capacity to contribute to knowledge creation and guide development.

The seminar will feature three main sessions examining the relationship between science and faith from religious, intellectual, and methodological perspectives.

The first panel, on the Holy Quran and Sunnah: reinforcing principles and laying the groundwork for advancement, will be moderated by Mohammed Jassim al-Jassim, a faculty member at Qatar University's (QU) College of Sharia.

It will examine how the integration of revelation and science shapes the values underpinning civilisational advancement, how the Quran and Sunnah establish principles that drive progress, and how this integration supports scientific research and critical thinking.

The second panel will focus on Islamic jurisprudence and intellectual contributions in light of scientific facts. It will be presented by Prof Dr Nouredine bin Mukhtar al-Khadimi, a professor of Islamic jurisprudence and its principles at QU's College of Sharia.

Discussions will explore the flexibility of Islamic jurisprudence in responding to scientific and intellectual developments, the role of Islamic legal theory and objectives-based reasoning in shaping scientific thinking, and examples of Muslim scholars integrating religious and natural sciences.

The panel will also examine contemporary approaches to emerging issues.

The third panel will address the methodological foundations for integrating science and faith, featuring Dr Ibrahim al-Ahda, an imam and preacher under the Awqaf Ministry. Discussions will cover approaches to interpreting revelation amid changing knowledge frameworks, intellectual currents advocating the separation of religion and science, and the role of scientific and religious institutions in strengthening this integration.

The session will also outline a strategic vision and practical mechanisms for reinforcing the relationship between science and faith in intellectual discourse and society.

Launched in 2022, Ummah Seminar is held quarterly and serves as a sustained intellectual, cultural, and scholarly initiative aimed at enriching public discourse and fostering substantive academic dialogue on priority intellectual and knowledge-related issues.

Across successive seasons, it has established itself as a specialised platform bringing together researchers, academics, and intellectuals, particularly Qatari talent, to explore issues affecting thought, culture, and society while deepening public awareness and promoting a culture of research and dialogue.

To preserve the scholarly output of its cultural seasons and make the findings more widely accessible, the Department of Research and Islamic Studies compiles the proceedings of each season into specialised academic publications. The initiative's first publication, Cultural Incubators, was released in 2025.

Alaraby Television Network receives five nominations at the 2026 GEMA Awards



Alaraby Television Network has earned five nominations across four creative categories at the 2026 GEMA Awards, recognising the breadth of its creative work and visual identity across television and digital platforms, and strengthening its presence on the international media scene.

The nominations include News Promotion for Alaraby TV's The Clearer Picture promo; Visual Identity for the relaunch of Alaraby 2; two nominations in Programme Title Design for *Eshroun* and *Difaf*; and Digital Content for the More Than a Scroll campaign.

Nibras Hameed, director of Creative Production and Operations at Alaraby Television Network, said: "These five nominations recognised the creativity and talent of our teams across different disciplines and reflect Alaraby's growing presence on the international media stage. We are proud to have our work recognised alongside leading global media organisations and brands. This recognition reinforces our commitment to delivering distinctive, world-class visual

storytelling across television and digital platforms."

The GEMA Awards recognise excellence in entertainment marketing, including media promotion, visual identity, design, marketing, and content creation across television and digital platforms. Organised by the Global Entertainment Marketing Academy (GEMA), the awards attract entries

from leading television networks, studios, streaming platforms, and creative agencies worldwide.

The nominated entries will be evaluated by a panel of leading international professionals and creative executives from the media and entertainment industry. Winners of the 2026 GEMA Awards will be announced at a ceremony in Los Angeles on December 10.

QNB Group, Qatar Airways announce strategic global payments partnership

QNB Group and Qatar Airways have entered into a strategic global payments partnership that brings together the international reach and capabilities of two of Qatar's most recognised institutions.

The collaboration will integrate QNB's payment acceptance expertise with Qatar Airways' digital sales channels to support secure, efficient and seamless transactions for customers across the airline's global network.

QNB Group CEO Abdulla Mubarak al-Khalifa and Qatar Airways Group CEO Hamad al-Khater signed the partnership agreement, in the presence of senior representatives from both organisations.

The collaboration reflects a shared commitment to innovation, resilience, and the continued development of Qatar's digital payments ecosystem. It also demonstrates how leading Qatari institutions can combine complementary strengths to support

secure, scalable and globally connected commerce.

With both organisations operating across international markets, the partnership will support cross-border commerce and strengthen the infrastructure of digital transactions across Qatar Airways' global sales network.

Under the partnership, QNB Group will process digital payments for Qatar Airways' e-commerce transactions, while both organisations work together to enhance transaction visibility, operational efficiency and the overall payment experience across the airline's digital sales channels.

The arrangement combines Qatar Airways' global customer reach and digital commerce platform with QNB Group's capabilities and payments expertise.

Al-Khalifa said, "This partnership reflects QNB's continued focus on building globally connected financial capabilities rooted in Qatar. By combining QNB Group's payments expertise with Qatar



QNB Group CEO Abdulla Mubarak al-Khalifa and Qatar Airways Group CEO Hamad al-Khater signed the partnership agreement, in the presence of senior representatives from both organisations.

Airways' international reach, we are strengthening the infrastructure required to support secure, scalable and seamless digital commerce, while contributing to the continued evolution of Qatar's digital economy.

It further reinforces QNB's position as a leading payments innovator with a growing international footprint and the capabilities to support commerce across global markets.

"The group continues to invest in next-generation acquiring capabilities, e-commerce infrastructure, payment technologies, and advanced payment security frameworks.

The collaboration creates a powerful platform capable of supporting growing digital transaction volumes while delivering a secure, reliable, and frictionless payment experience for customers worldwide."

Al-Khater said, "As the aviation industry continues to evolve, Qatar Airways remains focused

on building the digital capabilities required to support a modern, agile and globally connected business.

"Our partnership with QNB Group represents an important step in that journey, enabling us to further enhance the technology and financial infrastructure that underpins our operations. By combining our respective strengths, we are advancing our digital transformation agenda, increasing efficiency across our ecosystem and reinforcing our position as one of the world's leading digitally enabled airlines."

Beyond payment processing, the partnership establishes a framework for continued collaboration across digital commerce, customer experience, emerging technologies, and evolving payment solutions.

Both organisations will explore opportunities that support their shared international ambitions, while responding to the evolving needs of travellers.



Egypt weighing options toward military involvement in Saudi-Yemen conflict

Egypt's parliament is expected to vote this week on whether to authorise the armed forces to help defend Saudi Arabia against attacks by Yemen's Houthis if Riyadh requests its support.

The move would bring the Arab world's most populous country closer to direct military involvement in the widening conflicts unleashed by the US-Israeli air assault on Iran in February.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi requested the approval in a speech on Saturday, saying Egypt would "never, never forget our brothers in the Gulf" and telling Saudi Arabia's leaders that Cairo would "take any measure to protect you". Like the Gulf states that have come under attack from Tehran in the Iran war, Egypt is a longstanding partner in the US-led security order that is being tested by the conflict.

Sisi's comments marked a clear escalation from the more measured tone authorities have tended to

adopt since the Iran war started. Though Egypt has repeatedly voiced strong support for its Gulf allies, Cairo has stopped short of publicly committing itself to a direct combat role in the conflict.

When Saudi Arabia signed a joint defence agreement with Turkey and Pakistan in August, Egypt did not join, though it said it was considering it. The tone started to shift after the Houthis stepped up attacks on Saudi oil and other infrastructure. Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman last month visited Egypt, where he discussed the need to ensure freedom and security of navigation in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Red Sea, on which both countries have long coastlines.

Egypt's economic stability has been tied up with the oil-producing Gulf. Remittances from Egyptian expatriate workers there are an important source of foreign currency and income for families back home at a time of double-digit inflation

worsened by surging food and fuel prices.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE and other Gulf countries have been among Sisi's key financial backers, providing tens of billions of dollars of aid, central bank deposits and investments since the army overthrew President Mohamed Morsi in 2013. "We can never forget how our brothers in the Gulf states stood by Egypt during that period," Sisi said in his speech.

Growing security concerns have also pushed Cairo towards a more active stance, analysts say. A drone strike on two gas vessels at the Mediterranean port city of Damietta in July underscored that Egypt could not expect to keep itself fully isolated from the conflict.

"I think they realise that they can't be on the sidelines about this indefinitely," said H A Hellyer, a scholar at the Royal United Services Institute think tank.

For the authorities, the economic and security concerns were "one and the same," he said.

Saudi Arabia and Egypt also have a shared interest

in securing shipping through the Red Sea, an outlet for Saudi oil blocked from leaving the Strait of Hormuz. Egypt earns billions of dollars a year from fees on Suez Canal traffic. These overlapping concerns mean "Saudi Arabia's security constitutes a dimension of Egyptian national security," said Sherif Aref, an Egyptian political researcher and journalist.

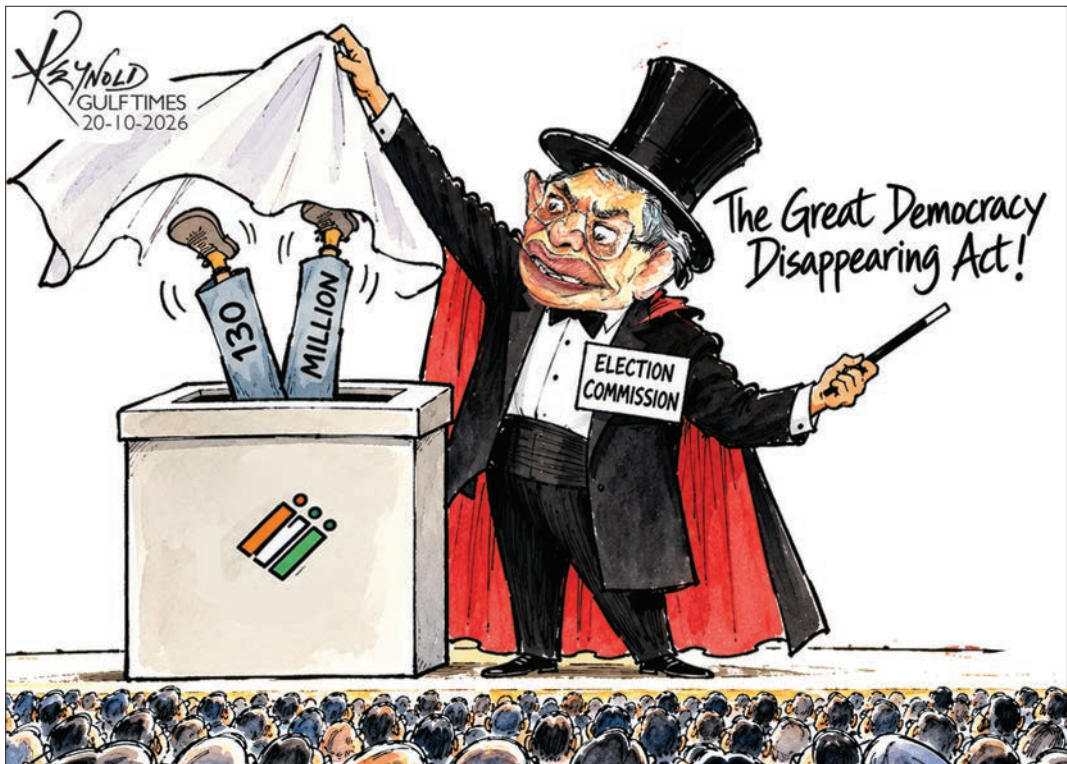
Egypt has one of the Arab world's largest armed forces, with hundreds of thousands of active personnel and large air, land and naval inventories, according to military analysts. Egypt sources equipment from a range of countries, and its air force operates US-made F-16s, French Rafales and Russian-made MiG-29s.

Sisi's speech and subsequent statements have not specified what sort of military forces, if any, Egypt would ultimately intend to send. A deployment of Egyptian troops inside Yemen itself is unlikely, military analysts say. -Reuters

All eyes on Alberta Referendum



People arrive to a voting station during the Alberta Referendum as Albertans head to the polls in Calgary, Alberta, yesterday. Reuters



What you need to know about the 2026 US midterm election

By Richard Cowan
Reuters

Early voting has been underway for weeks ahead of the November 3, 2026, midterm elections, when US voters will elect members of the House of Representatives and Senate and governors in states across the country. Held in the middle of each four-year presidential term, the midterms by definition do not involve the president. But for anyone who thinks they lack drama or importance this year, consider these two statistics ...

More than 100mn people likely will cast ballots in this year's midterm voting, if turnout is anything like the previous midterm in 2022; and as of October 12, a record \$3.8bn had been spent on political advertisements that have been aired so far. Top spending is in battleground US Senate races in Texas, Ohio and Michigan, according to AdImpact, which tracks the activities.

Elon Musk alone has spent about \$366mn to support Republicans, according to campaign finance records. Still,

midterms generally attract fewer voters than the higher-profile presidential races. More than 155mn votes were cast in the 2024 presidential election, for example.

CONTROL OF CONGRESS AT STAKE

Plenty is at stake in this midterm election as Democrats try to win majority control of the US Congress. Currently, Republicans hold a 218-214 majority in the House, where there are two vacancies and one independent who caucuses with Republicans. Democrats must win a net gain of four seats to win control.

Democrats also are fighting to win the Senate, where Republicans hold a 53-47 majority. They must net four additional seats to get control. Ten races, including those in Maine, Ohio, North Carolina, Iowa and Georgia, could decide the outcome.

CAN MIDTERMS AFFECT THE PRESIDENCY?

Midterm elections generally are dangerous territory for the political party that holds the White House and/or Congress. For 2026 that means that



US Speaker of the House Mike Johnson speaks during Republican National Committee midterm convention at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas. AFP

President Donald Trump and his Republicans controlling the US Senate and House of Representatives are in perilous political positions.

The midterms can be an opportunity for voters to, in effect, grade the president's performance, and possibly trigger White House course corrections if they receive low marks.

Midterm election results also can give aspiring presidential candidates hints on how to tailor their messages to voters in the next presidential campaign, which in this case will be in 2028.

WHAT ARE POLLS SHOWING?

Approval of Trump's performance is at an all-time low of 32%, according to a September Reuters/Ipsos poll. Domestic issues like rising consumer prices are likely to have an impact on the outcome of many races and could erode support for Republicans. At the same time, there is evidence that Democrats are more enthusiastic about voting this year than Republicans. If early voting trends continue it could point to a

Democratic win in November.

There are also signs that Latino voters who veered to Trump in 2024 might be returning to Democrats because of frustration over the economy and some of Trump's immigration enforcement tactics. However, a landslide for the Democrats is far from assured. Republicans could benefit from continued skepticism towards Democrats, a Republican spending advantage on campaigns, and fears from moderate voters over some primary wins by left-wingers.

RECENT MIDTERM HISTORY

Recent history tells the story of the shockwaves a midterm election can produce.

In the 2010 midterms, during the Democratic presidency of Barack Obama, Republicans scored major victories, winning 63 additional House seats amid an underperforming US economy and weak support for Obama's landmark healthcare reform legislation. Democrats lost their majority. In the Senate, they held onto control despite losing six seats.



US Vice-President JD Vance casts his ballot during early voting at the Hamilton County Board of Elections in Norwood, Ohio. Reuters

The Republican wave was a "shellacking," Obama lamented at the time. He subsequently faced Republican demands for significant reductions to non-defence spending.

Democrats returned the favour in 2018, with Trump in the White House. They gained a net total of 40 House seats, but lost a net two Senate seats. This year's elections also have races for governors in 39 of the 50 states and voting in nearly every state for seats in their state-level legislative bodies. Currently, Republicans control 55% of state legislative seats across the country, while Democrats hold 43.8%, according to Ballotpedia.

WHO WILL BE SPEAKER?

If Democrats manage to win the House, the next speaker -- second in line for the presidency after the vice president -- is likely to be Democratic Representative Hakeem Jeffries of New York. He is currently the House Democratic leader.

Jeffries, who would become the first Black American to hold the powerful office, would be in a position to direct House committees to launch investigations into a range of controversial activities by Trump and his associates. Jeffries repeatedly has said Democrats would look into what he has called "unprecedented levels of corruption" during the Trump administration.

Jeffries also would steer Democrats' legislative priorities through the House. He has said Democrats would focus on making healthcare, groceries,

housing, energy and other costs more affordable.

A Republican win, on the other hand, would ensure that the speaker's gavel remains in that party's hands, either with current speaker Mike Johnson or whichever Republican prevails if he is challenged for the job. Republican priorities are likely to be focused on additional tax cuts, huge increases in defence spending, and deeper social safety net reductions, building on Trump's 2025 "One Big Beautiful Bill".

MARQUEE RACES

Among the most-watched House races are Republican Representative Mike Lawler's bid for reelection to a New York district that Democratic candidate Kamala Harris won in her 2024 presidential campaign and an open seat in a Nebraska swing district where farmers and truckers face sharply higher fuel prices as a result of the US war against Iran.

Also high on Democrats' list of House seats they hope to take from Republicans are two in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey. Hovering over all of this are questions over whether Trump will try to meddle in the elections, which are administered by the 50 individual states.

Since 2020, he has repeatedly insisted there is widespread cheating in US elections, despite a lack of evidence. State election officials and Democrats in Congress have been preparing for possible legal challenges to any moves by his administration to try to intervene.

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‘Qatar continues diplomatic efforts with Iran despite disagreements’

QNA
Doha

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali al-Thani affirmed that Qatar continues to strengthen its defence capabilities while maintaining its approach of mediation and regional dialogue.

He stressed that the security of the Gulf region is a fundamental pillar of global economic stability and international supply chains.

During a panel discussion session held on the first day of the eighth edition of the Global Security Forum, currently underway in Doha, HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs said Qatar had faced three major challenges in the recent period: attacks targeting its territory, disruptions to energy supplies, and the repercussions of regional conflicts spreading into the region.

He noted that any disruption to energy supplies from the Gulf affects not only energy markets but also global supply chains, international investments, and

the assistance Gulf countries provide to various parts of the world. His Excellency emphasised that regional stability has a direct impact on the global economy, adding that since the outbreak of the recent crisis, Qatar has worked to protect its assets and enhance its defence readiness in co-operation with its allies, noting that Qatar had demonstrated its ability to defend itself.

He also noted that Gulf countries have accumulated experience in overcoming crises and emerging from them by diversifying their economies and strengthening international partnerships. Addressing security challenges, HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence explained that Qatar had discussed its defence strategy and identified three priority areas: air defence; countering drones and electronic warfare, including cybersecurity; and continuing to develop national capabilities in these fields in co-operation with regional and international partners.

He revealed that Qatar would soon announce a new partnership with regional partners to launch an initiative aimed at developing capabilities in these areas. The country would also announce the establishment of a defence industries

center in Qatar as part of a strategy to strengthen national capabilities.

He affirmed that Al Udeid Air Base continues to play a strategic role and that its development is ongoing to meet the needs of the Qatari Armed Forces. Alongside US forces, the base hosts representatives from more than 20 countries, reflecting the nature of Qatar’s defence partnerships.

Regarding mediation policy, HE Sheikh Saoud stressed that mediation and defence are complementary paths. He explained that Qatar’s mediation efforts aim to prevent conflicts from erupting and do not conflict with the need to maintain the country’s readiness to defend its security and sovereignty.

He noted that mediation requires patience and determination, citing the negotiations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, which took several years before producing tangible results. He affirmed that Qatar had demonstrated its ability to sustain mediation efforts across multiple issues in co-operation with its partners.

On relations with Iran, HE Sheikh Saoud said that achieving lasting peace requires launching comprehensive regional dialogue involving the Gulf Coop-



eration Council countries, alongside Pakistan and Turkiye, in consultation with international partners. Such a process, he said, should be based on trust, non-aggression, and addressing mutual security concerns.

He added that the historical experience of building economic relations between Germany and France after decades of conflict offers a model that could help establish economic ties to prevent future conflicts. He stressed that Iran remains a neighbouring country and that the region needs mechanisms to prevent conflicts from recurring.

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs affirmed that Qatar rejects imposing transit fees in the Strait of Hormuz, a position consistent with international

law. He stressed that any uncertainty in the strait negatively affects energy markets and the global economy. He explained that Qatar continues to maintain diplomatic communication channels with Iran despite disagreements between the two sides, emphasising that dialogue has not been interrupted and that Qatar hopes existing understandings will help build trust and prevent renewed tensions.

Concluding the discussion, HE Sheikh Saoud affirmed that Qatar would continue to maintain its defence readiness in co-operation with its partners while upholding dialogue and mediation as the best means of moving from conflict toward economic relations that strengthen security and stability across the region.



Alfardan hosts Ferrari Night at Lusail Circuit

Alfardan Sports Motors, the official Ferrari importer in Qatar, brought Ferrari owners and clients together for three days of distinctive driving experiences from October 12 to 14.

Beginning with Esperienza Ferrari at the Ferrari Qatar showroom and culminating in Ferrari Night on the Track at Lusail International Circuit, the programme showcased the Ferrari Amalfi, Ferrari 849 Testarossa and Ferrari 296 Speciale through dedicated road test drives and on-track driving, complemented by private hospitality.

Together, the events celebrated the performance, innovation and shared passion at the heart of the marque.

On October 12 and 13, Esperienza Ferrari welcomed clients to the Ferrari Qatar showroom for dedicated test drives of the Ferrari Amalfi and Ferrari 849 Testarossa, guided by Ferrari-authorized driv-

ing instructors coming especially from Italy. The sessions offered a first-hand appreciation of each model’s distinctive character, responsiveness and driving emotion.

The Ferrari Amalfi offers a contemporary interpretation of the Grand Tourer, pairing refined Italian design and everyday versatility with a 640 cv twin-turbo V8.

The Ferrari 849 Testarossa embodies a different expression of the Prancing Horse: a plug-in hybrid super sports berlinetta that combines a twin-turbo V8 and three electric motors to deliver 1,050 cv, with a design that draws on Ferrari’s sports-prototype heritage and the legacy of the Testarossa name.

Under the lights of Lusail International Circuit, Ferrari Night on the Track brought owners and their cars on October 14 for an evening where the exhilaration of driving was matched by the camaraderie of the Ferraristi community.



Guests at the event also got the chance to experience the Ferrari 296 Speciale, Ferrari 849 Te-

starossa, and Ferrari Amalfi on the 5.419km track, with Ferrari-authorized driving instructors

conducting the sessions.

Following the driving activities, Ferrari Qatar welcomed guests to a private dinner in a hospitality suite overlooking the pitlane garages, with dining catered by St. Regis Doha, a longstanding partner of Alfardan Sports Motors.

The gathering offered Ferraristi time to reconnect and celebrate the passion they share for the marque.

Tarek al-Hammoud, general manager at Alfardan Sports Motors, said: “Our relationship with Ferraristi in Qatar goes far beyond ownership. At Alfardan Sports Motors, we take pride in creating occasions that bring our clients closer to Ferrari and to one another. Esperienza Ferrari allowed clients to discover the distinctive character of the marque’s latest models from behind the wheel, while Ferrari Night on the Track celebrated the spirit of our community through the exhilaration of

driving at Lusail International Circuit and unforgettable moments shared among fellow Ferraristi.”

Al-Hammoud added: “Both experiences reflect our long-term vision for Ferrari in Qatar: to cultivate lasting relationships, honour the marque’s heritage and continually enrich the ownership journey. Through these initiatives, Alfardan Sports Motors is committed to ensuring that the emotion of Ferrari is felt not only in every drive, but in the sense of belonging that unites our community.”

Together, Esperienza Ferrari and Ferrari Night on the Track highlight Alfardan Sports Motors’ continued commitment to delivering distinctive Ferrari experiences in Qatar, bringing together product discovery, driving performance and exclusive hospitality to enrich the ownership journey and strengthen engagement with the local Ferraristi community.

Iran blames US for Hormuz ‘insecurity’

AFP
Tehran

Iran’s top diplomat yesterday accused the US of being responsible for the “insecurity” in the Strait of Hormuz, which has been at the heart of the conflict between the foes.

“The war imposed by the US and the Zionist regime (Israel), combined with the economic blockade, constitutes the principal source of insecurity in our region,” said Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, having previously referred to “the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz”.

He was speaking during a joint press conference with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, who arrived in Tehran yesterday, in his first visit since the outbreak of the Middle East war as Moscow seeks to play a mediating role.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Sunday that the trip would focus on “regional and international developments”.

Lavrov was scheduled to meet Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and hold talks with his counterpart Abbas Araghchi, according to the Russian foreign ministry.

The veteran diplomat has said Moscow’s efforts are “aimed at preventing the return of a large-scale war”, with talks at present seemingly stalled between Tehran and Washington.

SC rejects 9/11 accused bid to revive plea deal

AFP
Washington

The US Supreme Court yesterday rejected an appeal by accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two alleged accomplices that sought to revive plea deals which were later revoked.

Mohammed and two others charged with involvement in the September 11, 2001 attacks – Walid bin Attash and Mustafa al-Hawsawi – struck pre-trial agreements to avoid the death penalty in 2024, during the administration of president Joe Biden.

After criticism by some victims’ families, Biden’s defense secretary Lloyd Austin ordered the plea deals to be thrown out, sparking a legal

battle over whether or not such a move was permitted.

An appellate court ruled last year that Austin had “acted within the bounds of his legal authority.” A brief, unsigned opinion by the Supreme Court yesterday said it would not take up the appeal. The trio are among the handful of detainees still held at the notorious Guantanamo US military base in Cuba, and are set to go on trial in June 2028.

Mohammed, also known as “KSM,” was considered one of Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden’s top lieutenants before he was captured in March 2003 in Pakistan.

Much of the legal jousting in the 9/11 defendants’ cases has focused on whether they could be tried fairly after having undergone torture at the hands of the CIA.

Strikes across Sudan kill over 100

A wave of drone strikes targeting war-torn Sudan’s army-held capital Khartoum and two western areas controlled by paramilitary forces has killed more than 100 people since Sunday, according to sources. The deadliest drone strike hit near a market on Sunday evening in Al-Dibab town in the southwestern state of West Kordofan, which is controlled by RSF. Residents and medical workers said a drone struck a transport hub where villagers had gathered after a market day to find rides home, killing 80 people. Ahmed Abakar Wadi, a resident who helped bury victims, told AFP at least 50 bodies were recovered at the scene, including that of his brother. Another 47 wounded people were taken to the nearby town of Al-Mujlad where 30 later died from their injuries. (AFP)

France urges curfews in some areas after riots

Reuters
Paris

French government asked local authorities to impose curfews as it faced pressure over security failings yesterday after a weekend of riots and looting stemming from nationwide anti-government protests. Prime Minister Sebastian Lecornu ruled out a blanket curfew in Paris but not a state of emergency. But he said it was more appropriate for now to apply partial and localised curfews, without providing details.

“My determination to restore order is absolute,” he said.

Marseille banned gatherings and demonstrations. French unions meanwhile called for a new round of strikes and rallies on November 5.

Lecornu blamed far-left groups for some of France’s worst unrest

in years. “There is, after all, a far-left movement that wants to cause - we can’t put it any more strongly - profound unrest in the country in the run-up to the presidential election,” he said.

Hard-left presidential candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon urged him to provide evidence. “Otherwise, he should apologise, keep quiet and stop fanning the flames of unrest,” he said on X.

The Federation of Trade and Retail said almost 3,000 shops had been affected over the weekend. “Once again, the retail sector finds itself on the front line, at a time when it is already weakened by a succession of crises,” it said.

“Behind every ransacked shop are business owners, employees and families who have seen years of work and effort wiped out in a matter of hours,” it added, calling for social security and tax relief for affected businesses.



A man walks past a row of burnt-out vehicles on Rue Yves Toudic destroyed during protests in Paris. (AFP)

Arab Health Ministers Council holds 19th meeting

QNA
Cairo

The 19th meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of Arab Health Ministers’ Council commenced yesterday via video conference – serving as a preparatory step for the 65th ordinary session of the Arab Health Ministers’ Council and its Executive Bureau, scheduled for November 10 in Cairo.

The two-day meeting is expected to address priority health issues, including a regional strategy to leverage the expertise of Arab health professionals living abroad, aimed at supporting health sectors across the Arab region for the 2026-2030 period, as well as a strategy to improve the health of mothers, children, and adolescent girls in the region. The meeting will also explore ways to support the health sector in Sudan.

Furthermore, the meeting will review reports from bodies affiliated with Arab Health Ministers’ Council, including the Arab Blood Transfusion Services Authority, the Arab Board of Health Specialisations among others.

Discussions will also be held for the unified statement to be delivered on behalf of the council at the 80th World Health Assembly, scheduled to take place in Geneva next May.

Prime minister attends CCQ graduation ceremony



Under the patronage and in the presence of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, the Community College of Qatar (CCQ) celebrated the graduation of its Class of 2026 yesterday. The ceremony was attended by sheikhs, ministers, and ambassadors, alongside academics, faculty and administrative staff, and the graduates' families. HE Sheikh Mohammed honoured a number of students in recognition of their academic excellence and scholarly achievements. - QNA

Community College graduates record 1,162 students in largest class

The Community College of Qatar (CCQ) celebrated the graduation of 1,162 diploma and bachelor's degree holders in its 15th graduating class of 2026, the largest in the college's 16-year history.

The ceremony brought together ministers, ambassadors, academics, faculty members, administrators and families.

The number of graduates exceeded the 872 recorded in 2024 and 860 in 2025.

CCQ president Dr Khalid Mohammed al-Horr said the achievement reflects the college's efforts to provide flexible, sustainable education that meets labour market needs and supports Qatar National Vision 2030.

He highlighted seven strategic partnerships signed this year, including agreements with the National Cyber Security Agency to protect cyberspace and the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, which supported

the first graduating cohort of the Associate Diploma in Islamic Daawa programme.

Dr al-Horr also noted that six students graduated after continuing their studies inside correctional and rehabilitation institutions, underscoring the role of education in expanding opportunities.

Graduate representative Latifa Turki Methqal, who earned a bachelor's degree in human resources management, said the achievement reflected perseverance and the ability to balance education, work and family responsibilities.

The CCQ's academic divisions cover administrative sciences, science and technology, and arts and humanities.

The college holds full national institutional accreditation for five years, alongside international accreditations for programmes in cybersecurity, information technology, logistics and supply chain management. - QNA

International cinema takes centre stage next month at Doha Film Festival 2026

The Doha Film Festival 2026, organised by the Doha Film Institute (DFI) on November 19-27, will showcase a slate of gala and special screenings celebrating cinema's power to challenge conventional thinking and bring audiences compelling human stories that transcend borders and cultures.

The lineup features acclaimed international films, thought-provoking documentaries that enrich understanding, human dramas that delve into life's intricacies, and adventures set in fantastical worlds.

Together, these films reflect the diversity of cinematic voices celebrated by the festival and its commitment to forging meaningful connections through cinema.

DFI chief executive and festival director Fatma Hassan Alremaihi said that the gala and special screenings would provide a platform for audiences to converge and experience films brimming with surprises, dramas, and documentaries tackling timely and pressing issues, alongside stories full of

comedy, adventure, and exploration.

The festival will showcase a compelling lineup of films, including two thrillers: *Paper Tiger*, directed by James Gray, which tells a spellbinding story of family and the consequences of choices, and *Rage*, directed by Rami Qadeeh, which follows the adventure of two sisters.

The lineup also features *Arto*, Abderrahmane Sissako's first 360-degree film.

Other selections include *Edward Said Between Two Worlds*, a deeply personal documentary by Michael Bird exploring the life and legacy of Palestinian American intellectual, musician, and academic Edward Said; *Red Rocks*, directed by Bruno Dumont, which offers a different perspective on childhood, freedom, and imagination; and *Fing!*, a raucous family comedy adventure directed by Jeffrey Walker.

The festival is backed by several key partners, including Media City Qatar, Katara Cultural Village, and Visit Qatar. - QNA

Faith, morality and AI: Doha Debates asks who gets to decide

By Shaima Sherif
Staff Reporter

Doha Debates has raised a timely question: as artificial intelligence (AI) shapes daily life, who should decide the values that guide it, companies, faith traditions, or society itself?

That question sat at the centre of Doha Debates' town hall, "Should AI be shaped by faith?," held on October 15 at Multaqa, Education City Student Centre.

Speaking to *Gulf Times* after the event, Doha Debates managing director Amjad Atallah said the discussion was designed not simply to ask what AI can do, but who should shape the principles embedded in the technology.

"The leaders of AI companies are putting a lot of faith in their products, and they are asking for a lot of faith from us," he said. "But what about our faith traditions? Are they part of the makeup of these tools?"

Atallah said the deeper question is whether people will remain in control of how AI develops. "Are humans going to be shaping the machines or are the machines going to be shaping us?"

Doha Debates, a production of Qatar Foundation, brought religious and secular perspectives together in a Majlis-style format.

Moderated by Mozilla Foundation chief executive Nabihya Syed, it featured AI philosopher Yaqub Chaudhary, Notre Dame Law School professor of canon law Monsignor John Paul Kimes, and author, strategic futurist and transhumanist Max More.

"Left to their own devices, are the major AI developers concerned about these moral and ethical questions?" Atallah asked. "The time to have a public debate about these questions is now while we still have an opportunity to influence the course of events."

He said that one central tension was authority: who decides which values a global technology should reflect.

Another was pluralism. If one AI system serves people with differ-



ent beliefs and moral frameworks, it raises the question of whether moral neutrality is possible, or even desirable.

The third concerned function. "Should it be a tool for retrieving basic knowledge, a trusted mentor, or something else?" Atallah said.

The focus differed from a Doha Debates town hall in Qatar in January, which centred on whether humanity was ready for the possibility of superintelligence.

This time, the emphasis was deliberately on values and principles. "Today, the question of values rests largely with the companies creating AI, even though the consequences of their decisions affect us all," he said.

The town hall therefore asked whether faith communities should have a place among those shaping AI and, if so, on what terms.

Atallah said involving students and recent graduates from Qatar was central to the conversation, reflecting Doha Debates' emphasis on youth voices and Qatar Foundation's mission to unlock human potential.

"One generation from now, this new technology will be close to universal in the way cellphones and social media have become part of everyone's daily routine," he said.

Atallah added that this generation still remembers life before AI, putting it in a distinctive position to help decide how the technology should be used.

Young participants challenged guests' arguments and brought perspectives shaped by different nationalities, faiths, and worldviews, diversity that Atallah said is



Amjad Atallah

particularly important in a debate about the values guiding global technology.

The objective, however, was not to force agreement.

"Complex questions rarely have a clear answer," he said. "We don't expect everyone to agree, but the search for truth is a meaningful outcome in its own right."

Atallah said he hoped the discussion would encourage audiences to examine the systems they increasingly rely on.

"Whose values are built into the tools we use? Who made those choices, and who benefits from them?" he said. "These are questions people from every belief system should ask."

The conversation will continue beyond the event, with the full town hall due to be released on DohaDebates.com and digital platforms in December.

For Doha Debates, the question is not simply how powerful AI becomes, but whether society remains willing to scrutinise the values being built into it while there is still time to shape its direction.



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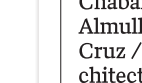
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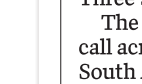
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Design Doha announces five public design commissions to be presented this Fall

Design Doha has announced the five winning public design commissions that will be unveiled as part of the second edition of the biennial, running from November 5 to January 31, 2027.

Located in Ferej Al Asmakh, the installations draw on regional approaches to water, materials, craft, climate and the built environment.

The five commissions are *Salsabil* by Meriem Chabani / NEW SOUTH; *Palm Construct* by Abdalla Almulla; *Cooling Pots* by Haitam Daoudi and Oscar Cruz / +.atelier; *Shoreline* by platau | platform for architecture and urbanism; and *Falajscape* by Studio By Three's Eugenio Fernandez and Victor Nouman.

The programme was developed following an open call across the Menasa (Middle East, North Africa and South Asia) region.

Ten designers, architects and urban practitioners were shortlisted in 2025, with five proposals now moving forward for realisation in the programme's first stage.

The commissions were curated by Javier Pena Ibanez, curator of the Public Design Commissions and director of Concentrico, the International Festival of Design and Architecture in Logroño, Spain.

"Public space is where design becomes part of everyday life," he said. "These commissions begin with knowledge that already exists within the region, from water systems and craft to materials and ways of responding to climate, and translating that knowledge into new forms for Doha today. The process behind each project is equally significant, including the people, skills and collaborations that allow an idea to become part of the city."

In addition to these commissions, Design Doha 2026 will feature more than 20 exhibitions and the work of more than 100 multidisciplinary designers and studios from across Menasa and its diasporas.

Highlights include Arab Design Now 2026, curated by Noura al-Sayeh, featuring 81 designers, 78 new commissions and 17 films. - QNA