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US embassy staff advised to leave Saudi

Washington has ordered non-essential US embassy staff and their families to leave Saudi Arabia, the State Department said yesterday, as the kingdom comes under sustained deadly attacks by Yemen's Houthis. It came after a diplomatic source told AFP that "all American staff and their families have been ordered to depart from the US embassy" in the Gulf kingdom. The source added that families of embassy staff had also been ordered to leave the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and Bahrain, all of which have been targeted by Iran during the Middle East war. US State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott subsequently confirmed the order in a post on X, but said it applied to "non-emergency US government employees and their family members in Saudi Arabia only". He linked the move to Houthi attacks on the country, including airports, saying "the safety and security of Department personnel and their families remain our highest priority". Saudi Arabia has this month come under near-daily attacks from the Iran-backed Houthis, including a strike on Riyadh's international airport that was the kingdom's deadliest in years, as the war with the group escalates. On Wednesday, the Saudi energy ministry said that falling debris from the successful interception of a drone targeting an oil facility killed two people and injured a further two. (AFP)

Amir, Macron attend One Planet CEOs Summit

QNA
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and French President Emmanuel Macron attended the 9th Annual One Planet Sovereign Wealth Fund CEOs (OPSWF) Summit, held at the Rosewood Hotel yesterday. HH the Amir and the French president viewed a display showcasing the participating companies and organisations, highlighting their economic and investment activities.

The summit included a speech by the French President as well as founding members, and a plenary session for CEOs. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani attended the summit, alongside several Sheikhs, CEOs of participating companies, businesspersons, and senior officials from brotherly and friendly countries.

Addressing the event, President Macron said that the financial sector represents an essential partner in addressing climate change, underscoring France's commitment to supporting efforts aimed at directing financial flows in line with climate goals. He added that, since the launch of the OPSWF initiative in 2017, he



had held a firm conviction that the financial sector must be an essential partner in addressing climate change. After nearly a decade, this conviction had grown stronger and more significant.

The French president said that the sovereign wealth fund alliance within the initiative now comprises 51 leading global institutions, commending its continued commitment, alongside sovereign wealth funds, to directing financial flows in line with climate goals and affirming that France will remain a strong supporter of this ambitious approach.

For his part, QIA Chief Executive Officer Mohammed bin Saif al-Sowaidi affirmed that hosting

the summit reflects the authority's commitment to safeguarding and managing Qatar's capital in a manner that serves the interests of future generations. He noted that rapid transformations in the global investment landscape, driven by technological progress, developments in energy systems, and demographic changes, alongside geopolitical and economic uncertainty, make climate considerations a fundamental pillar in assessing asset resilience and its capacity to deliver sustainable value over the long term.

Al-Sowaidi emphasised that he was proud to be one of the founding members of the OPSWF initiative, noting that hosting



تميم بن حمد
@TamimBinHamad

'A moment of pride in Qatari-French relations'

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has hailed the fruitful talks he held with French President Emmanuel Macron in Doha, underscoring the progress achieved in bilateral relations and the two countries' shared commitment to consolidating security and stability and serving the mutual interests of their peoples. In a post on his official account on X, HH the Amir described his talks with President Emmanuel Macron, on a state visit to Qatar, as fruitful, saying that they discussed ways to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries and expand bilateral co-operation, and exchanged views on key regional and international issues. HH the Amir expressed pride in the progress achieved in Qatari-French relations and reaffirmed the two countries' shared commitment to consolidating security and stability and serving the mutual interests of their peoples. (QNA)

the summit under the theme 'Capital Across Generations' reflects the essence of QIA's noble mission to safeguard and manage Qatar's capital for future generations. **To Page 12**

PM, French minister Barrot co-chair Qatar-France Strategic Dialogue

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Noel Barrot, co-chaired the sessions of the Fourth Strategic Dialogue between Qatar and France held in Doha yesterday. The dialogue focused on strengthening relations and the strategic partnership between the two nations in the political, diplomatic, economic, investment, defence, security, educational, healthcare, cultural, and sports spheres, as well as humanitarian and development co-operation. The progress made across areas of co-operation since the third Strategic Dialogue, held in June 2025, was also reviewed. The dialogue further addressed regional developments, primarily the Palestinian cause and the situation in the Gaza Strip, alongside efforts aimed at achieving peace. The dialogue also covered the situations in Lebanon, Sudan, and the Horn of Africa, as well as developments concerning Iran and tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, and their implications for regional security and freedom of maritime navigation. Furthermore, the two sides discussed Qatar's mediation efforts to resolve conflicts through diplomatic means, de-escalate tensions, and promote regional security and stability. They underscored the importance of continued co-ordination and consultation on regional and international issues of common interest. (QNA) **Qatar-France joint statement on Page 11**



Cabinet approves draft law on adopting state budget for 2027

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting held at the Amiri Diwan yesterday. Following the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohammadi, stated that at the outset of the meeting, the Cabinet welcomed the outcomes of the talks between His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and French President Emmanuel Macron during his state visit to Qatar, which concluded yesterday.

The Cabinet affirmed that the French president's visit and the fruitful talks held during it, which focused on bilateral co-operation and the strategic partnership between the two countries, ways to strengthen and develop these relations at various levels, particularly in the economic, investment, security and defence fields, as well as developments in

the region, together with the atmosphere of friendship that prevailed throughout the visit and the meetings held during it, had taken the historic relations between the two friendly countries to a new stage. This was marked by a firmly established strategic partnership, expanded mutual investments and enhanced co-operation across various fields.

The visit also contributed to deepening mutual understanding and joint co-ordination on various issues, serving the interests of both countries and their peoples and promoting development, security, stability and peace in the region and the world.

The Cabinet also welcomed the outcomes of the ninth meeting of the Qatar-Singapore High-Level Joint Committee, held in Doha on Monday and co-chaired by HH the Amir and Singapore PM Lawrence Wong.

The joint statement issued at the conclusion of the meeting reflected the progress in relations between the two friendly coun-

tries and their shared commitment to elevating these relations to the level of a strategic partnership. The Cabinet also commended the participation of HH the Amir in the Seventh Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), held earlier this month in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

The Cabinet expressed its hope that the summit's outcomes would contribute to strengthening co-operation among Asian countries and enhancing opportunities for development and progress for their peoples.

The Cabinet also commended the meetings held between HH the Amir and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the sidelines of the summit. The meetings reflected a shared desire to further strengthen Qatar's relations with both friendly countries and expand co-operation across various fields. **To Page 12**

Badr pact to create synergy in defence manufacturing, R&D, training

QNA
Doha

In a step that reflects the commitment to strengthening joint co-operation and developing strategic partnerships, the joint memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the multilateral 'Badr' project was signed yesterday in Doha between Qatar's Ministry of Defence, the Indonesian Ministry of Defence, the Pakistani Ministry of Defence, and the Turkish Ministry of Defence, the Defence Industrial Production Organisation in Pakistan, and the Presidency of Defence Industries

under the Turkish Presidency.

The signing of the MoU was attended by HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani, Minister of Defence of Pakistan Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister of National Defence of Türkiye Yasar Guler, Federal Minister for Federal Defence Production in Pakistan Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj, Deputy Minister of Defence for Logistics and Defence Industries and Technology Affairs of Indonesia Marshal Yusuf Jauhari, and Head of Türkiye's Defence Industry Agency (SSB) Prof Haluk Gorgun.

The MoU aims to foster co-



operation in the field of defence manufacturing, enhance defence capabilities among the four countries, and promote collaboration in technical defence training, as well as in research and development areas, thereby contributing

to the creation of solutions and industries worthy of the evolution of modern defences.

The MoU was named 'Badr', referring to the full moon, to signify how the four nations complement one another through this agree-

ment, given its immense importance in terms of both defence and the economy.

This MoU holds significant economic importance for the signatory countries, as it will leverage each country's capabilities in the

field of defence manufacturing, achieving co-operation, integration, and the development of defence industry capacities, thereby meeting the needs of allied and friendly countries.

This MoU will also contribute to broadening the horizons for defence co-operation among the participating nations, fostering the development of their relations within the defence industry sector, and strengthening multilateral co-operation, thereby supporting security and stability and achieving shared objectives. Other friendly nations may join the MoU, in accordance with criteria agreed upon by the four countries.

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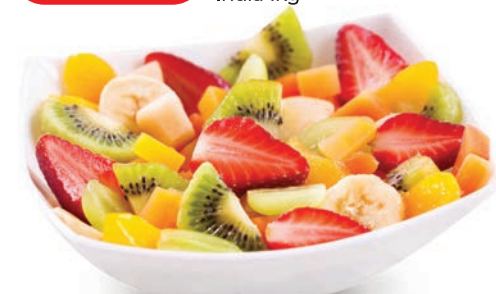
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٢٠ غرام / ٣٥ قطعة
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QAR 20



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كلاسيك ٧٥٠ غرام
Sadia Broasted Chicken
Strips Classic 750gm

QAR 15



بوك شرائح جبنة متنوعة
٤٠٠ غرام / ١ حبة
Puck Slice Cheese
Asstd 400gm X 1pc

QAR 10



ميلكا شوكولاتة متنوعة
١٠٠ غرام / حبتان
Milka Chocolate
Asstd 100gm x 2pcs

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120gm 5+1



3 LTR.

QAR 15

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Qatar takes part in World Summit on Investing in Children's Well-being

The State of Qatar, through the Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF), is participating in the World Summit on Investing in Children's Well-being, which started in the Republic of Uzbekistan yesterday.

Held under the theme "Investing in Children's Well-being: A Path Towards Sustainable and Equitable Development for Future Generations", the summit will run for two days.

Representing the State of Qatar is HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi, alongside several high-ranking officials and representatives of governments, international organisations, and institutions concerned with childhood and social development.

The State of Qatar's participation reflects its commitment to strengthening international co-operation and sharing expertise and experiences in child protection and care, supporting efforts to develop social policies and programmes that promote child



well-being, and ensuring that children have equitable opportunities in care, education, health, and social protection, thereby improving their quality of life and supporting their upbringing in a secure and stable environment.

The summit has discussed an array of key issues related to investing in children's well-being, strengthening child-sensitive social protection systems, early childhood development, and developing policies and financing mechanisms that support social care services, in addition to exploring ways to strengthen international partnerships and expand

initiatives targeting the most vulnerable groups.

The event has also underscored the importance of investing in a child's early years as one of the fundamental pillars of sustainable human development through supporting early education programmes, bolstering health and social care services, and developing child protection systems, thus ensuring equitable opportunities for growth and development for all children.

The summit features panel discussions and high-level deliberations addressing international experiences and best practices in social investment targeting children, mechanisms for bolstering integration among government sectors, international institutions, and civil society, as well as a review of innovative initiatives that contribute to improving the quality of services provided to children and their families.

The summit is also taking place alongside the Second International Conference on Childhood Cancer, which aims to strengthen international cooperation in

combating childhood cancer.

The MSDF's participation underscores the State of Qatar's commitment to children's and family issues and its keenness to support international initiatives aimed at promoting children's well-being and protecting their rights, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the objectives of the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030, and Qatar National Vision 2030, which places human and social development at the forefront of its priorities.

On the sidelines of the summit, HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi met with the Adviser to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Director of the National Agency for Social Protection (NASP) Mansurbek Olloyorov.

Both sides discussed aspects of co-operation in social action and family affairs and exchanged perspectives on avenues for enhancing co-operation between the two countries in these fields. (QNA)

Amir condolences with Saudi king

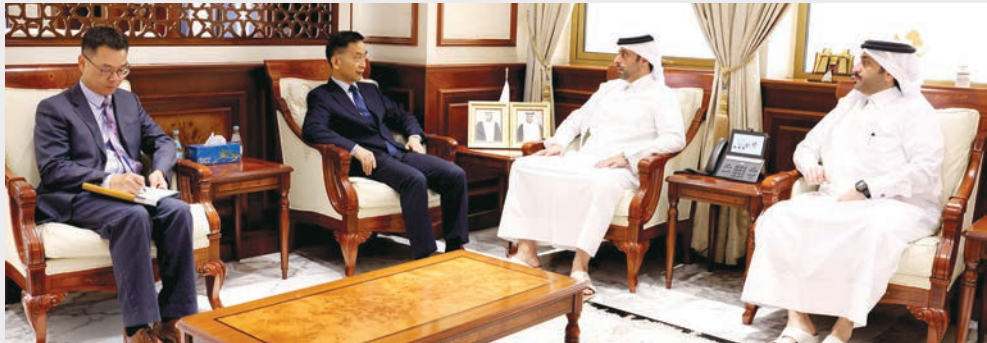
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the death of Princess Mashael bint Saud bin Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Saud bin Faisal al-Saud. (QNA)

Environment minister meets Sudanese counterpart



HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie met with the Minister of Environment and Sustainability of the Republic of the Sudan Dr Obye Yousuf al-Sheikh Mohamed, who is currently visiting the country. During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to strengthen co-operation in the fields of environment, climate change, sustainability, in addition to a number of topics of mutual interest. (QNA)

Al-Attiyah meets Chinese ambassador



HE the Minister of Municipality, Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah yesterday met with the ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the State of Qatar Cao Xiaolin. The meeting dealt with the two countries' relations in the spheres of mutual interest. (QNA)

Al-Muraikhi bids farewell to Sierra Leone ambassador

HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met yesterday with the ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the State of Qatar Ahmed Tejan Fadlu-Deen, on the occasion of the conclusion of his tenure. HE al-Muraikhi extended his thanks to the ambassador for his supportive efforts in strengthening bilateral relations, wishing him all the best in his future endeavours. (QNA)



GAC celebrates the 19 graduates of the Customs Management Diploma

The General Authority of Customs (GAC) celebrated the graduation of 19 employees who completed the 2026 academic year's Customs Management diploma programme in Qatar. The Community College of Qatar organised the graduation ceremony, which Talal Abdullah al-Sheebi, GAC's assistant chairman for Customs Affairs, attended. Accordingly, GAC congratulated the graduates, commending their efforts throughout their educational journey and highlighting the importance of developing their scientific knowledge and professional skills to enhance the efficiency of customs operations. The programme reflects the GAC's commitment to



qualifying and empowering national talent to meet the customs sector's evolving demands. Meanwhile, the graduating cohort represents the outcome of cooperation between the General Authority of Customs and the

Community College of Qatar, aimed at preparing national personnel and equipping them with specialised knowledge and practical skills aligned with the latest developments and requirements of customs work.

4 Shura Council committees hold first meetings, elect deputy chairs



Four committees of the Shura Council held yesterday their first meetings for the second ordinary session of the council's second legislative term, corresponding to its 55th annual session, and elected their deputy chairs by acclamation in accordance with Article 30 of the council's internal regulations. The Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee, chaired by Khalid bin Ghanem al-Ali, elected Salem bin Rashid al-Muraikhi as its deputy chair. The Health, Public Services and Environment Af-

fairs Committee, chaired by Abdullah bin Nasser bin Turki al-Subaie, elected Ali bin Ahmed al-Kaabi as its deputy chair. The Education, Culture, Sports and Media Affairs Committee, chaired by Khalid bin Ahmed al-Obaidan, elected Issa bin Ahmed al-Nasr as its deputy chair. The Social Affairs, Labor and Housing Committee, chaired by Sultan bin Hassan al-Dhabit al-Dosari, elected Ahmed bin Ibrahim al-Malki as its deputy chair. (QNA)



Qatar, Turkmenistan hold political consultations

The fourth round of political consultations between the ministries of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar and Turkmenistan was held in Ashgabat. The Qatari side was led by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi, while Turkmenistan was led by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmet Gurbanov. The two sides reviewed co-operative relations and a number of issues of common interest. (QNA)



A-Marri meets UNODC official

HE the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center (ROLACC) Dr Ali bin Fetais al-Marri met with the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Monica Juma, in Vienna. The meeting discussed co-operation between the UN office and the ROLACC, including joint programs under a partnership established in 2009 and activities planned for next year. Juma stressed the importance of cooperation between UNODC and civil society organisations in international efforts to combat corruption. (QNA)



Qatar joins UN-backed talks to advance peace efforts in Sudan

The State of Qatar has participated in the Sixth Consultative Meeting on Enhancing Co-ordination of Peace Initiatives and Efforts in Sudan, which opened in Geneva yesterday under the auspices of the United Nations. The meeting brought together 27 international and regional delegations to discuss efforts to secure a ceasefire and coordinate humanitarian relief operations in Sudan. Qatar's delegation was headed by Director of the Arab Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nayef bin Abdullah al-Emadi. The meeting is part of broader international efforts to support peaceful solutions to the conflict in Sudan and strengthen co-ordination among the parties concerned. Participants are seeking to advance initiatives that could help restore security and stability in the country, amid continued efforts to address the conflict's humanitarian consequences. (QNA)

Galal El-Hamamsy: The journalist who helped shape modern Egyptian media

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Egyptian journalist Galal El-Din El-Hamamsy helped shape modern Arab journalism through his pioneering work in newspaper publishing, news agency development and media education. His career, marked by bold political commentary and a commitment to press freedom, is the focus of the latest instalment of the Qatar Press Centre (QPC)'s series on pioneers of Arab journalism. From leading major Egyptian newspapers to helping establish the Middle East News Agency (Mena) and laying the foundations for academic journalism education at Cairo University, El-Hamamsy left a lasting imprint on the profession and generations of journalists.

Born in Damietta on July 1, 1913, El-Hamamsy grew up in a culturally rich household. His father, Mohamed Kamel El-Hamamsy, was a poet and literary figure who served as an adviser to the "Prince of Poets", Ahmed Shawqi. The family's extensive library helped nurture his early passion for writing.

He began his journalistic career as a sports editor for Kawkab al-Sharq in 1929, while still at secondary school. Despite graduating in architecture from Cairo University in 1939, journalism remained his principal calling.

His breakthrough came in 1937, when Rose al-Yusuf magazine selected him to accompany a Wafd Party delegation to London to cover its activities. He subsequently joined Dar al-Hilal, working for Al-Musawwar, before moving to Al-Masry, where he demonstrated an innovative approach to newspaper design, drawing on his engineering background.



Galal El-Din El-Hamamsy (photo representation)

He founded Al-Usbu' magazine in 1946 and later became editor-in-chief of Al-Zaman and Akhbar al-Youm, among other publications.

El-Hamamsy's career was closely intertwined with Egypt's political life. A member of the Wafd Party, he was elected to the Chamber of Deputies in 1942. His political allegiance subsequently shifted towards Makram Ebeid, a prominent Wafd dissident.

His involvement in publishing The Black Book, which alleged corruption and abuse of power by then-prime minister Mustafa El-Nahas, led to his arrest and imprisonment until 1944.

Following his release, he continued his political and journalistic work, building a reputation for tackling contentious public issues.

One of his most significant contributions was helping establish the Middle East News Agency. He served as its chairman from 1955 to 1959, overseeing efforts to build its professional infrastructure and establish it as Egypt's first national news agency. The agency later played a key role in covering major

events, including the Suez Crisis.

Returning to Akhbar al-Youm as editor-in-chief in 1959, he gained widespread recognition for his column "Smoke in the Air" (Dukhan fi al-Hawa), which addressed public affairs and controversial issues.

His opposition to press nationalisation in the early 1960s led to his dismissal and prompted him to enter academia. In 1962, he joined the American University in Cairo as a journalism professor and head of its publications department.

He later returned to the press, working with Al-Akhbar and Al-Ahram, where he helped establish a department for journalistic studies.

El-Hamamsy played a key role in establishing Cairo University's Institute of Media in 1971, helping lay the foundations for academic journalism education. He taught its early students and launched the university newspaper Sawt to bridge classroom learning and professional practice.

His books, including The News Reporter, The Newsroom, News Agencies, Newspaper Management and The Ideal Newspaper, became valuable resources for journalism education across the Arab world. His political writings also addressed democracy and public affairs.

Known for combining literary expression with investigative rigour, El-Hamamsy emphasised documentation, accuracy and the media's responsibility to uncover the truth.

He died on January 20, 1988, following a heart attack while exercising. His legacy endures through his writings, institutional contributions and influence on modern Egyptian and Arab journalism.

Shura unveils new website, calls for more public participation

QNA
Doha

The General Secretariat of the Shura Council yesterday launched the council's redesigned website in the presence of HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanim, as part of efforts to advance digital transformation and improve communication with the public.

The new platform is designed to provide easier access to information and data on the council's work and activities, while encouraging communication and public participation.

HE the Secretary-General of the Shura Council, Nayef bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud, said the website's launch was one of the outcomes of the General Secre-

tariat's 2025-2030 strategic plan, particularly its objectives of expanding public engagement and improving operational efficiency through digitalisation and innovation. He said the council was committed to strengthening its ties with the community and addressing issues affecting people's needs.

During the launch, Director of the Information Systems Department at the General Secretariat, Hassan Youssef Abdullah, outlined the website's main electronic services, which are divided into two categories. The first allows users to submit requests to the council, including requests to attend a session, visit the council, arrange media coverage and conduct a press interview. The second focuses on public engagement through the "Sawtak" service, which enables people to raise

issues and submit proposals to the council.

Abdullah said "Sawtak" offers three features. The first, "Issues for Discussion," allows the council to put topics and issues forward for public debate and invite people to share their views and proposals. Relevant council departments will follow up on and review submissions, with the results of the discussions to be published on the website after approval by the council.

The second feature, "Opinion Poll," allows the council to conduct polls on specific topics. The public can vote, and the results will be published on the website after the council approves them. The third feature, "Suggested Topics," enables members of the public to propose topics related to the Shura Council's work and mandate, encouraging public

participation and the exchange of ideas and opinions. The relevant department will receive and review proposals and refer them to the authorities responsible for decision-making for consideration and appropriate action.

The Director of the Information Systems Department said all these services operate through Qatar's National Authentication System. Citizens and residents must register their details through the system to participate. The launch of the redesigned website is part of the General Secretariat's efforts to improve its digital services and expand opportunities for public participation, strengthening direct communication with citizens and residents and supporting the council's role in engaging with community concerns and aspirations.

Winter camping registration reopens today for all zones

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Registration for all winter camping areas across Qatar will reopen today, October 22, and will remain open until October 31, allowing those who missed the initial registration period to submit applications.

Applications can be submitted through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's website or the Bee'ah (Environment) mobile application, the ministry has announced on its website.

The ministry had divided registration for the winter camping season into three phases based on the geographical distribution of camping areas: the Central Zone

from October 11-13, the Southern Zone from October 14-16, and the Northern Zone from October 17-21. Registration is now open again for all zones from October 22-31.

As part of its season preparations, the ministry has updated the registration system and supporting technical infrastructure to improve efficiency, stability, and readiness to process applications, while streamlining the registration process for citizens.

The ministry has also allowed campers to set up their campsites early, immediately after submitting their applications, obtaining permits and securing their designated locations. This means they no longer need to wait until October 25, as the original official schedule stipulated.

Primark enters Qatar with new Doha store in partnership with Alshaya



International fashion retailer Primark opened its first store in Qatar yesterday at Doha Festival City, in partnership with leading international retail franchise operator Alshaya Group. The opening marks Primark's 21st international market and its fourth country in the Middle East, following Kuwait in 2025 and the UAE and Bahrain this year.

The flagship Primark store in Qatar offers over 52,000sq ft of shopping space across three floors, with its much-loved mix of style, value and everyday essentials, and over 400 colleagues joining the business. Opening day celebrations included entertainment, giveaways, and activations designed to create a memorable shopping journey for customers experiencing Primark for the first time in the country. A second Qatar store will follow in Villaggio Mall early next year.

Eoin Tonge, Primark CEO, said: "It's been a significant first year for Primark in the region, and we've been excited by the response from customers as we've grown our presence. Today's opening in Qatar builds on that momentum and marks the milestone of our 21st market globally. Together with Alshaya Group, we're continuing to bring Primark to new places and new customers, with a second store in Qatar to follow early next year."

John Hadden, CEO, Alshaya Group, added: "As we continue our partnership with Primark to bring the much-loved brand to the region, we are really proud to open

our sixth store in our fourth country in the region - in just a year. The response to the first Qatar store has been amazing - thank you to all our customers who joined us at the opening, and to our partners at Al Futtaim, as we continue our exciting journey with Primark."

Commenting on the grand opening, Mohamed ElSharkawy, associate director - Malls Leasing at Doha Festival City, said: "As a key retail partner of Al-Futtaim, Alshaya Group plays an important role in strengthening our retail offering, and we are pleased to welcome Primark to Doha Festival City. Primark's arrival reflects our position as Qatar's leading retail, lifestyle and leisure destination, bringing together global brands, exceptional experiences and a vibrant community offering. We continue to shape the country's retail landscape by setting high standards in guest experience, curating a distinctive retail mix and creating a destination where shopping, leisure and community engagement come together. Our focus remains on delivering lasting value for our guests and partners while driving the continued evolution of retail in Qatar."

Looking ahead, Primark's expansion across the GCC is set to continue with a second store in Kuwait opening at Aventura Mall early next year, and the brands first-ever store in KSA opening in March 2027, further strengthening the brand's presence across existing markets and bringing Primark to even more communities throughout the region.

Qatar Airways set to operate direct service to Western Sydney International Airport in 2027

Qatar Airways yesterday announced the next phase of its expansion in Australia, with plans to launch direct passenger services between Hamad International Airport and Western Sydney International Airport from 15 December 2027. Western Sydney becomes Qatar Airways' seventh gateway in Australia, alongside Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, and Canberra. The new route will initially be served by three weekly flights using the airline's Boeing 777-300ER aircraft with 42 Business Class and 312 Economy Class seats. Passengers will also be able to enjoy Starlink Wi-Fi free of charge.

The new route will complement the broader growth plans of the Qatar Airways-Virgin Australia partnership across Australia, supporting additional network development opportunities and enhanced access to international destinations for Australian travellers.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer, Hamad al-Khater, said: "Our launch at Western Sydney International is the next chapter in our long-standing partnership with Australia, one of our most important markets. "The new route will link Western Sydney directly with Doha and, through Hamad International Airport, with more than 170 destinations across the Middle East, Africa, Europe and beyond, strengthening existing ties and creating new opportunities for trade, tourism and investment between Australia, Qatar and the wider world," he added. **(QNA)**

Qatar participates in commemoration of Arab Document Day



The State of Qatar participated in the annual commemoration of "Arab Document Day", organised yesterday by the General Secretariat of the Arab League at its headquarters in Cairo. The event was held in coordination with the Arab Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ARBICA) and with the participation of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO).

The State of Qatar was represented at the event by Mohammed Ali al-Dirham, member the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the Arab League.

Held this year under the theme "The Palestinian National Archive: Memory Under Occupation: From Erasure to Preservation", the event highlighted the centrality of the Palestinian cause to the Arab nation. It shed light on the systematic targeting of Palestinian memory, amid ongoing violations and practices by the Zionist entity with the aim of erasing Palestinian identity, obliterating its cultural landmarks, and stealing or falsifying historical facts. The event underscored the critical importance of prioritising the preservation of Palestinian documentary

and cultural heritage.

The commemoration of Arab Document Day, observed annually on October 17, featured an exhibition titled "Palestine in Arab Documents", which showcased reproductions of documents related to Palestine held by various Arab archival and documentation institutions affiliated with the Arab Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives.

The event also featured the honouring of Palestinian institutions and individuals who have made significant contributions to preserving Palestinian memory. Furthermore, the League of Arab States was recognised for its prominent role in supporting the Palestinian cause since its inception, as well as for its efforts in safeguarding the Arab documentary heritage.

The event also featured a panel discussion titled "Palestine in Arab Documentary

Memory," which explored the role of the League of Arab States in preserving Palestinian documentary memory. The discussion covered efforts to safeguard and provide access to Palestinian heritage within the framework of joint Arab action, as well as the work of archival institutions in documenting the involvement of Arab states in the Palestinian cause. Furthermore, it addressed the protection of Palestinian national memory against erasure, with Gaza serving as a primary example. The session also saw the launch of an expanded edition of the book "Palestine in Arab Documents", which compiles a vast collection of records concerning Palestine held by various Arab archival and documentation institutions, produced in collaboration with the Egyptian National Archives.

The commemoration of Arab Document Day in 2026, marking a quarter-century since the initiative was established by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) in 2001, aims to highlight the vital importance of documents in preserving Arab history and identity, and in safeguarding the collective memory and rights of peoples against erasure. **(QNA)**

Awqaf delegation reviews Arabic language teaching experiences in Saudi Arabia

A delegation from the Sheikh Abdulla bin Zaid al-Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Center at the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs visited Saudi Arabia to explore the experiences of several Saudi institutes and universities in teaching Arabic to non-native speakers. The visit aimed to review curricula, teaching methods and modern educational technologies to help improve the centre's educational programmes.

The delegation visited the King Salman Global Academy for Arabic Language, the Arabic Language Teaching Institute at Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University, and the College of Language Sciences at King Saud University. **(QNA)**



Awqaf ministry concludes fourth Qur'an competition

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs concluded its fourth Qur'an competition, with 544 students from 144 centres participating, including 78 Qataris.

The competition covered five memorisation categories, from five parts to the entire Holy Qur'an.

The ministry awarded prizes to the top 20 teams, ranging from QR20,000 to QR6,250, and QR500 each to 100 outstanding students.

Winning centres will be announced early next week. The initiative promotes Quran memorisation and Islamic values in line with Qatar National Vision 2030. **(QNA)**

7th edition of Build Your House Exhibition to convene on Monday

The seventh edition of Build Your House Exhibition will be held from Oct 26-28, at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC).

In a statement, NeXTfairs said that this year's edition will bring together more than 250 exhibitors from over 10 countries, alongside an expanded conference programme featuring more than 50 speakers.

Building on six successful editions that have collectively attracted more than 150,000 Qatari visitors, Build Your House returns with increased participation from exhibitors and sponsors. As Qatar's premier platform



for residential construction, renovation, design and smart living, the exhibition continues to connect Qatari homeowners with the companies and industry professionals supporting their building and renovation projects.

The exhibition will showcase products, services and innovations across five key sectors: consultants, contractors, suppliers, smart solutions and general services. From architectural design



and construction to building materials, energy-efficient technologies and home automation, visitors will be able to explore solutions for different stages of their residential projects. Comple-

menting the exhibition, the conference programme will provide industry insights and practical guidance on emerging trends and developments in residential construction. **(QNA)**



DOLPHIN ENERGY
دولفين للطاقة

Dolphin Energy Limited

Invitation to Tender

Tender Number	Description	Tender Bond	Deadline for Tender Submission, 12 Noon (Qatar Time) on
RFP-QC-ITC-1951	Call-Off Contract for IT Manpower Services (Upstream)	USD 65,000	18 th November 2026
RFP-QC-OPU-1949	Call-Off Contract for Hiring Portacabins and Ablution Units	QAR 10,000	3 rd November 2026

Dolphin Energy Limited (Qatar) is inviting companies to participate in the above Tenders.

Only companies with proven experience, technical knowledge, as well as a demonstrated track record in the supply of the services required should apply.

How to Tender

Expression of Interest (EOI) Form and Scope of Services/Works can be downloaded from the company's website:

<https://www.dolphinenergy.com/en-US/Supplier/>

Interested companies must complete the EOI Form and submit to company's email address within two (2) working days from the publication date of this advertisement.

Following receipt of completed EOI Form, interested companies will receive a Request for Proposal (RFP) through Dolphin Energy's SAP Ariba to tender.

Deputy PM meets defence ministers of Badr MoU signatory countries



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani has held talks with senior defence officials from Pakistan, Türkiye, and Indonesia following the signing of a multilateral MoU for the Badr project, aimed at strengthening cooperation in defence industries. HE Sheikh Saud met in Doha yesterday with Minister of Defence of Pakistan Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister of National Defence of Türkiye Yasar Guler, Deputy Minister of Defense for Logistics and Defence Industries and Technology Affairs of Indonesia Marshal Yusuf Jauhari, along with Head of Türkiye's Defence Industry Agency (SSB) Prof Haluk Gorgun. Discussions focused on matters of mutual interest, ways to advance cooperation in these areas, and mechanisms for operationalising the MoU. **(QNA)**

QNL, NCSU explore impact of public history in Mideast

Qatar National Library (QNL) and North Carolina State University (NCSU) explored the stories, voices, and histories that shape the region's collective memory during a two-day conference held on Oct 19-20.

Bringing together academics, researchers, and cultural practitioners from across the globe, the event mapped the current state and future trajectory of public history in the Middle East.

Central to the conference was a focus on the shifting paradigms of historical documentation. While traditional historical research has relied heavily on official and organisational records, public history places the "human subject" at its core. By turning to individual records, family archives, and community narratives, the discipline engages the public through museums, cultural institutions, and media to construct a more inclusive historical record.

"At Qatar National Library, we recognise that history extends far beyond official state records; it lives within the personal archives, oral traditions, and shared experiences of our communities," said Maryam A al-Mutawa, Head of Collection Access at Qatar National Library. "This conference is a vital step toward ensuring the diverse voices of our region are preserved, studied, and amplified for generations to come."

Commenting on the significance of the conference, Dr Akram Khater, Director of the Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies at North Carolina State University, said: "This first-of-its-kind conference marks an important moment for public history in the Middle East. Qatar National Library, through its pioneering work in preserving cultural heritage and creating an intellectual space where scholars, communities, and the public can engage with the past, is an ideal partner for this gathering. Its mission resonates deeply with the Khayrallah Center's work in building archives, digital projects, exhibitions, and community partnerships around the histories of Arab migration and diaspora."

The first day focused on foundational frameworks, navigating the complexities of digital public history, archives, and digital networks. Participants examined the transition in museum practices from state-led narratives to private and community collections and joined panels on community



and oral traditions that elevated historically overlooked voices.

Building on this foundation, the second day shifted its focus to "People, Spaces, and Living Heritage." Scholars examined urban memory and the history of marginalised communities within changing landscapes, offering insights into post-conflict zones. The conversations then addressed the integration of cultural heritage and historical landscapes into modern education.

On the day following the conclusion of the conference, interactive workshops were held to explore topics related to public history, historical documentation, and community heritage. The workshops were sponsored by the Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South at Northwestern University in Qatar, in collaboration with the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History and the Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies at North Carolina State University. **(QNA)**

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QC opens Sheikh Eid health centre in Somalia



Qatar Charity (QC) has inaugurated the Sheikh Eid bin Mohammed Al Thani Health Centre in Garasbaley District, Banadir Region, in the presence of HE Dr Abdullah bin Salem al-Nuaimi, ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Federal Republic of Somalia; Dr Hassan Mohamed Hussein, Governor of Banadir Region and Mayor of Mogadishu; members of the Federal Parliament's House of the People; local officials; and community leaders.

The centre is one of Qatar Charity's most significant health projects in Banadir Region. It is expected to serve about 50,000 residents of Garasbaley District and neighbouring areas, including internally displaced people living in the district, which hosts one of Mogadishu's largest displacement settlements.

Built on a 2,000sq m site, the centre is an integrated health facility that provides essential and specialised medical care. It responds to the community's growing needs and improves access to quality healthcare. The facility includes a maternity ward; antenatal and postnatal care services; an emergency department; an isolation ward; radiology and medical laboratory units; vaccination and health statistics departments; a pharmacy; and a range of service and administrative facilities. It is also equipped with a solar power system to ensure service continuity and high operational efficiency.

At the inauguration ceremony, Dr Hassan Mohamed Hussein, Governor of Banadir Region and Mayor of Mogadishu, praised the



support the State of Qatar and Qatar Charity provided to the Somali people. He said the Centre was a valuable addition to the region's health infrastructure and would improve healthcare standards while easing the hardship of thousands of families who previously lacked access to nearby medical services. He added that the project represented a successful model of humanitarian and development cooperation, and he expressed appreciation for Qatar Charity's role in supporting vital sectors, particularly health, education, and social services.

For his part, Abdulfattah Adam Moalim, director of Qatar Charity's Somalia Office, expressed his delight at the opening of the centre, around eleven months after its foundation stone was laid. He explained that the project was developed in response to urgent healthcare needs in Garasbaley District and neighbouring areas.

He added that the centre would provide integrated health services to thousands of residents and displaced families and, given its size and advanced equipment, would also serve as the district's administrative hub for health centres. He stressed that donors in Qatar

made the project possible and that it reflects Qatar Charity's continued commitment to improving quality of life and strengthening essential services for communities most in need.

Dr Abdirahman Ahmed Mahmoud, Director of the Directorate of Health and Human Services in Banadir Region, said the centre would play an important role in improving public health indicators, particularly maternal and child health. He expected it to help reduce maternal and child mortality by bringing specialised health services closer to beneficiaries.

Residents and community elders in Garasbaley also welcomed the centre's opening and thanked the State of Qatar and Qatar Charity for the vital project. Agaas Mahmoud Ali Agaas, a traditional elder from Banadir Region, said the centre marked an important improvement in residents' lives, enabling thousands of families to access healthcare without having to travel long distances for treatment.

The opening of the Sheikh Eid bin Mohammed Al Thani Health Centre forms part of a series of health projects and programmes implemented by Qatar Charity in Banadir Region. Qatar Charity recently performed 40 cardiac catheterisation procedures for children with congenital heart defects and is preparing to launch the country's first open-heart surgery campaign. It is also implementing a project to provide dialysis services for 100 patients with kidney failure, in cooperation with the Somali Turkish Recep Tayyip Erdogan Training and Research Hospital in Mogadishu.

Commercial Bank launches 'Pay by Plate', Qatar's 1st frictionless fuel payment method

Commercial Bank has introduced Pay by Plate, a global first innovative solution in merchant acquiring.

Exclusively available to Commercial Bank cardholders, this breakthrough is a new, convenient way to pay for fuel automatically using their vehicle's plate number. The innovation offers a completely frictionless experience, requiring no phone, card, or human interaction.

To activate Pay by Plate, customers can log in to the CBQ Mobile App, register their vehicle plate number, and securely link it to their preferred card.

By transforming the car's license plate into a secure payment method, Commercial Bank is not only redefining convenience in Qatar but also setting a new global benchmark for merchant acquiring banks.

Transactions are triggered instantly upon vehicle detection at the station, with no manual input required and seamlessly integrated with Commercial Bank's customised Pay by Plate payment module. The service is powered by Commercial Bank's PCI-compliant systems, ensuring higher standards of secure data privacy and transaction integrity.

Stephen Moss, Group CEO, said: "At Commercial Bank, every innovation begins with our customers. We are constantly striving to find new ways to make their banking experience more seamless and convenient, as well as staying at the forefront of global trends in mobility and contactless payments.

"That vision inspired a global first innova-



tion right here in Qatar. With the introduction of Pay by Plate, we continue to enhance our digital banking proposition whilst also supporting Qatar Central Bank's vision of driving digital transformation in Qatar."

The launch of Commercial Bank's Pay by Plate paves the way for a new chapter of seamless payment and digital innovation on the roads of Qatar, reinforcing the bank's position as a global leader in digital banking.

Customers can now experience this world-first technology at West Bay Petrol Station.

DR Congo deputy PM meets Qatar's ambassador

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the National Economy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo), Daniel Mukoko Samba, met with the ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Hamad bin Dhaen al-Kuwari. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries. **(QNA)**

MWANI QATAR



موانى قطر

TENDERS AND AUCTIONS COMMITTEE

TENDERS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tenders and Auctions Committee of Mwani Qatar hereby announces the below tenders with the following terms and conditions:

SL no.	TENDER FOR	TENDER NO.	TENDER BOND	DOC FEES	CLOSING DATE	Remarks
1	ONE TIME MAINTENANCE FOR RAIN WATER DAMAGES AT HAMAD PORT AND AL RUWAIS PORT	MQ\TAC/TEN\450\2026	QRS. 60,000	QRS. 400	2.11.2026	Two envelopes.
2	ONE TIME MAINTENANCE FAÇADE AREAS DAMAGES CAUSED BY HEAVY RAINS AND STRONG WINDS HAMAD PORT	MQ\TAC/TEN\451\2026	QRS. 15,000	QRS. 200	1.11.2026	Two envelopes.
3	ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY FOR MQ	MQ\TAC/TEN\453\2026	QRS. 40,000	QRS. 300	12.11.2026	Two envelopes.

1 - Tender documents can be obtained (via Email) from the Finance and Accounting Department Tel No. (40453724/3568) , after depositing the non-refundable amount mentioned above at MQ A/C No. (0850 – 102030 – 060) at QNB and submitting the bank depositing receipt and copy of the Commercial Registration to Finance and Accounting Department : (mwaniAR@mwani.com.qa) Tel. (40453724 / 3568 – 31265655 / 30121037) .

2 - Offer should be accompanied with a Tender Bond / issued by one of the Banks operating in Qatar for the amount shown in the above table and valid for 120 days from the closing date. The offer which is not accompanied by the Tender Bond will not be considered. The successful bidder should submit a Performance Bond of 10% of the total Tender value, which should be valid for (90) days after the expiry of the contract period.

3 - Offers should be valid for ninety (90) days commencing from the tender closing date and MQ has the right (after Tenders and Auctions Committee approval) to increase or decrease the items/services by 20% of the contract value according to its conditions and prices.

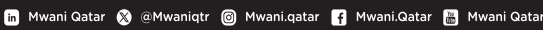
4 - The deadline for submitting offers will be **02:00 pm** of the date shown above. Any offer arriving thereafter will not be considered.

5 - The offers should be deposited in the Tenders and Auctions Committee Box of MQ as per the address given above. It should be in closed envelopes, sealed with red wax and addressed to the Chairman, Tenders and Auctions Committee of MQ , writing the number and subject of the Tender. The tender submitting party should confirm that he has received the receipt for delivering the tender

6 - The offers must be submitted in **Two envelope system, (Technical original and copy one envelope + Commercial original and copy one envelope)** The envelopes should not bear any mark denoting the name of the Company. **The original Tender bond and copy of the ICV certificate must be attached with the Original Technical offer.**

7 - Every tenderer should attach document showing previous similar experience in the field of the required items/servicer.

8 - For more clarification, please contact Tenders Secretary on (tender.secretary@mwani.com.qa) or 55570022.



www.mwani.com.qa

DFF 2026 honours Qatar’s filmmaking talent in Made in Qatar Competition

Doha Film Festival (DFF) 2026 will spotlight the creativity and ambition of Qatar’s filmmaking community through its Made in Qatar Competition, bringing together eight films that explore deeply personal experiences, family bonds, cultural memory and the imaginative possibilities of cinema.

The selection reflects the breadth of stories being developed and produced in Qatar, with filmmakers drawing on a range of genres, perspectives and cinematic approaches.

From intimate explorations of human relationships to supernatural encounters and fantastical journeys, the films demonstrate the growing diversity of voices shaping the country’s screen industry.

The competition will be judged by a distinguished jury comprising of Qatari filmmaker Al Johara



al-Thani, Lebanese actress and filmmaker Yumna Marwan, and Palestinian Belgian filmmaker and producer Nael Khleifi. Their combined experience across acting, directing and film production brings a range of creative perspectives to this year’s showcase of homegrown cinema.

CEO of Doha Film Institute and Festival Director of DFF, Fatma Hassan Alremailhi said: “Film-making in Qatar is about creating

the space, confidence and opportunity for our storytellers to bring their visions to life. Every film shares a creative voice, a distinctive perspective and a contribution to the cultural landscape we are building together.

Through Made in Qatar, we are committed to championing homegrown talent, encouraging bold and original stories, and providing a platform for them to connect with audiences and the international film community.”

The 2026 Made in Qatar Competition titles are *Abu Fanoos* by Amira Abujbara and Horia El Hadad; *After the Rain* by Kholood al-Ali; *Constant* by Maysaa Al-mumin; *Crawling Into Myself* by Hamad al-Fayhani; *Ghafleh* by Tony El Ghazal; *In the Silence After* by Sebastian Delascasas; *Kantqtaa* by Yazid Taki; and *Light to Ashes* by Nadia AlKhater. (QNA)



Moldovan delegation visits MoJ to learn about Qatar’s legal system

An official delegation from the Republic of Moldova visited the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) headquarters yesterday to learn about Qatar’s legal and judicial system and its mechanisms for providing legal services, real estate registration, and notarisat

ion services. The delegation attended a presentation on the ministry’s service system and how to access its services, as well as achievements in digital transformation that

have helped improve services and make them more accessible online through the ministry’s digital platforms.

The delegation also learned about the services provided at the ministry’s offices and branches in government services complexes, including the procedures for completing transactions. It was briefed on the latest developments in the Sak program, particularly the complete discontinuation of manual systems and the transition

of all real estate registration and notarisat

ion services. At the end of the visit, the Moldovan delegation praised Qatar’s judicial system and its notable progress, describing it as an advanced model for developing judicial services. The delegation expressed its desire to strengthen legal and judicial cooperation with Qatar and benefit from its advanced expertise in the field. (QNA)

QSFA continues to bolster women’s participation through sports for all oasis

The Qatar Sports for All Federation’s (QSFA) sports for all oasis programme for women and girls continues to attract substantial participation across age groups.

These activities are held from Sunday through Wednesday each week over a three-month period at Ruqaya Preparatory School for Girls in the Umm Al Senem area, under the umbrella of the Ministry of Sports and Youth.

The programme grows out of QSFA’s efforts to strengthen its societal role by dedicating sporting programmes to women and girls and promoting their participation in sports. The Federation aims to provide opportunities for different age groups to practice a variety of sports in an atmosphere that respects privacy, encouraging them to pursue physical activity and make sports as integral a part of their lifestyles as possible.

The activities run daily from 4pm-7pm, bringing together mothers accompanying their daughters and girls of different ages, highlighting the familial and societal nature of the programme.

The agenda features a diverse range of sports, including soccer, volleyball, badminton, and basketball, alongside fitness workouts, walking, bodyweight strength training, and stretching and balance exercises. Professional female trainers oversee the activities, supported by an all-female administrative and technical team.

Meanwhile, the ladies’ sports evening continues at Oxygen Park in Education City, welcoming mothers and girls aged 12 and older. The latest session drew 319 women and girls and featured fitness and stretching exercises, soccer, netball, and volleyball, as well as a dedicated recreational area for children, fostering a safe and com-

fortable environment for mothers to engage in physical activity.

The sports for all oasis programme has recorded substantial turnout among women and girls, said QSFA Executive Director Abdullah al-Dosari, commending mothers for accompanying their daughters and praising participation across age groups.

Al-Dosari added that this participation gives the programme a strong familial character, reflecting QSFA’s commitment to making sports a space that brings family members together and encourages them to pursue a more active lifestyle.

He said the program’s organisation stems from the Ministry of Sports and Youth’s priority of fostering women’s engagement in sports by providing a secure and comfortable environment that respects privacy and is supervised by professional female administrative staff. (QNA)

UDC to unveil new residential development; announce limited-time sales offer at Cityscape Qatar 2026

United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl Island and Gewan Island, will participate in Cityscape Qatar 2026 from October 27 to 29 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), bringing together its established residential offering and the next phase of its residential development strategy.

At Stand H3.A10, visitors can explore UDC’s completed residential offerings across The Pearl Island and Gewan Island, including a limited-time offer on Crystal Residence apartments.

The participation will also mark the unveiling of a new residential development on The Pearl Island. The opening-day reveal will showcase the project’s masterplan, architectural vision and residential offering, introducing a new dimension of living within one of Qatar’s established residential destinations.

UDC president and CEO Yasser Salah al-Jaidah said, “Cityscape comes at an important point in UDC’s continued evolution. We are no longer looking at development simply in terms of individual projects.

“Our focus is on how destinations mature, how market needs change and how we continue to create relevant opportunities within communities that people already know and value. The Pearl Island has demonstrated the strength of that approach over many years, while Gewan Island represents the next generation of our destination strategy.”

He added: “The new development reflects this thinking. It introduces a residential proposition that adds something distinctive to The Pearl Island, responding to demand for greater space, privacy and family-oriented living while benefiting



UDC president and CEO Yasser Salah al-Jaidah.

from The Pearl Island’s established services.

“Cityscape provides the right platform to bring these different elements together and give buyers a clearer view of both the opportunities available today and where UDC is taking its residential portfolio next.”

Beyond the unveiling, UDC’s Cityscape presence will demonstrate the breadth of its residential portfolio and the different ownership opportunities available across its two destinations.

Visitors will be able to explore completed apartments at The Pearl Island alongside Crystal Residence on Gewan Island, allowing prospective buyers and investors to consider both immediately available homes and off-plan op-

portunities according to their individual requirements.

Earlier this year, UDC introduced two ownership options at Crystal Residence for one- to four-bedroom apartments on Gewan Island: a six-year payment plan with a 7.7% down payment and no interest, and a seven-year lease-to-own programme with a 2% buy-in fee. At Cityscape Qatar 2026, UDC will announce a limited-time offer on the six-year payment plan, further enhancing the development’s appeal and supporting sales momentum.

Throughout Cityscape, UDC will host scheduled and walk-in consultations for homebuyers and investors, broker briefings, media meetings and stakeholder engagements.

The conversations will extend beyond individual properties to address the broader considerations that influence residential decisions, including location, lifestyle, community infrastructure, ownership models and long-term value.

UDC’s participation at Cityscape Qatar 2026 will provide an opportunity for visitors to engage directly with the teams behind its residential developments and gain insight into the company’s continued approach to destination development and long-term value creation.

QSCCB holds workshop to promote self-confidence and self-esteem

The Qatar Social and Cultural Center for the Blind (QSCCB), of the Ministry of Culture, staged a human development workshop to strengthen self-confidence and self-esteem, present practical methods for developing personal character, and help participants withstand life and career challenges.

Presenting the workshop, trainer Jawahir al-Rumailhi addressed self-confidence as an individual’s belief in their capabilities and potential to achieve goals and navigate difficulties. She highlighted the importance of self-awareness, personal values, and accepting one’s available potential.

The gathering further discussed the significance of self-confidence in enhancing mental health, human performance, and success, as well as mitigating the impact of psychological stress. It also examined the role of self-confidence and self-esteem in building positive social relationships founded on effective communication and mutual respect.



Al-Rumailhi outlined the foremost challenges that may impair an individual’s self-confidence, including fear of failure, excessive self-criticism, comparison with others, and previous negative experiences. She underscored the importance of recognising these challenges and making every effort to overcome them through positive approaches.

The workshop delved into the substantive role of religious foundations, including the Holy Qur’an and Prophetic Sunnah, alongside psychological expertise, in strengthening self-confidence, fostering self-esteem, and

supporting mental health and positive human behaviour.

The trainer also outlined practical strategies, including recognising strengths and areas for improvement, self-acceptance, countering negative thoughts, setting realistic goals, and reinforcing a balanced self-image through positive affirmations.

The workshop underscored the substantial role of self-confidence in enhancing professional performance, productivity, leadership and communication skills, and career advancement. These skills are as valuable to personal development as they are to professional growth, helping solidify the foundations for success in both areas.

The event also reflected QSCCB’s unrelenting commitment to putting into practice cultural, awareness-raising, and developmental programmes that bolster members’ personal and social skills, augment their capabilities, and foster substantive, active engagement in society. (QNA)

Marza Hypermarket signs agreement for new building to establish 7th branch in Qatar

Marza Group marked another significant milestone in its journey of growth and expansion with the successful signing ceremony for a new building to establish the 7th branch of Marza Hypermarket in Qatar.

The signing ceremony, held on October 19 at 6pm at Signature by Marza Restaurant, marked an important step in Marza Group’s continued expansion in Qatar’s retail sector.

The agreement was signed in connection with securing a building owned by Khalid Alyafei Group for the establishment of the upcoming Marza Hypermarket branch.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Khalid Alyafei Group Founders Khalid Mohammed Saif al-Yafei and Saif Mohammed Saif al-Yafei.

Representing Marza Group, Ja-far Kandoth, managing director; Gafoor Kandoth, director; Haris Kader, Group general manager; and Nizar Kappikandi, buying manager, attended the ceremony alongside members of the management and operations teams.

The event represented an important milestone in strengthening



Marza 7th outlet signing ceremony.

the business relationship between Khalid Alyafei Group and Marza Group, reflecting their shared commitment to business development and long-term co-operation.

The agreement for the new building forms part of Marza Group’s strategic expansion plans, aimed at extending its retail presence and providing greater accessibility, convenience, and enhanced shopping experiences to customers across Qatar.

With a strong commitment to quality products, competitive prices, and excellent customer service, Marza Hypermarket continues to build its reputation as a growing retail destination in Qatar.

The establishment of the seventh branch is expected to further strengthen Marza Group’s market presence while creating

new opportunities for business growth, customer engagement, and employment.

The ceremony also highlighted the dedication, teamwork, and continuous efforts of Marza Group’s leadership, management, and employees, whose valuable contributions have played an important role in the organisation’s ongoing success.

The signing ceremony concluded successfully, marking the beginning of another promising chapter in Marza Group’s expansion journey.

With the upcoming seventh branch, Marza Group continues to move forward with its vision of sustainable growth, retail excellence, and delivering exceptional value to customers throughout Qatar.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **APRIL JANE MORENO**
holder of
PHILIPPINES Passport No. P2190203D
QID No. 29860802304

hereby change my name

from
APRIL JANE MORENO

to
APRIL JANE MORENO BENEDICTO

Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **YOUSUF SAFIQR RAHMAN**
holder of
BANGLADESH Passport No. B00959055
QID No. 28705007682

hereby change my name

from
YOUSUF SAFIQR RAHMAN

to
YOUSUF MIA SAFIQL ISLAM

Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.



NCSA president meets with Canadian officials at Milipol Qatar 2026



President of the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA), Engineer Abdulrahman bin Ali al-Farahid al-Malki met yesterday with the Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister of Canada, Scott Gilmour and the Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet (National Security and Intelligence) of Canada, Dominic Rochon on the sidelines of Milipol Qatar 2026. The meeting addressed avenues for bilateral co-operation in cybersecurity and explored a number of issues of mutual interest, contributing to cyber readiness and fostering a secure and sustainable digital environment. **(QNA)**

MoI showcases updates to Civil Defence Technical Requirements Guide at Milipol Qatar 2026

Represented by the General Administration of Civil Defence, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) showcased the most prominent updates in the third edition of the Civil Defence Technical Requirements Guide, within the second day of the activities of the Milipol Qatar 2026 Exhibition and Conference for Internal Security and Safety.

During a security seminar on civil defence and national preparedness for emergencies and crisis management, First Lieutenant Engineer Hessa Ahmed al-Jassim, an officer from the General Directorate of Civil Defence at the MoI, said that the third edition of the guide includes updates to several technical requirements for installing sprinkler systems in industrial facilities and warehouses, as well as provisions regarding single-staircase configurations in residential buildings, hotels, labour accommodation, and offices.

She indicated that these updates are intended to help address the challenges faced by consulting firms when implementing fire prevention and safety requirements.

The updates include requirements for staircases in residential buildings, offices, hotels, labour accommodation, and military housing, as well as regulations for basement levels, which allows for greater design flexibility, while maintaining compliance with requirements for fire-resistant separation and protective doors, she added.

In regard to medium-risk warehouses and factories, First



Lieutenant al-Jassim emphasised the necessity of installing automatic sprinkler systems in buildings with a total area exceeding 1,115sq m, pointing out that all spaces located under a single roof are counted toward the total area when determining whether this requirement applies.

She also noted that the updates include regulations for adjacent buildings, allowing them to be treated as separate structures provided that specific requirements are met, such as the inclusion of a two-hour fire-rated partition wall with no openings, while also taking into account the construction materials used and the independence of the roof structures.

First Lieutenant Hessa Ahmed al-Jassim concluded the seminar by pointing out that handling modifications to buildings that have already received prior approval depends on the nature of the change and its impact on safety and fire prevention requirements, in accordance with the technical specifications adopted by the General Directorate of Civil Defence. **(QNA)**

QIAF to host book exhibition alongside Kalanjali Youth Festival

The Qatar Indian Authors Forum (QIAF) is organising a book exhibition alongside the Kalanjali Youth Festival from Oct 23-30 at Ideal Indian School, Abu Hamour, Doha. The exhibition will be open daily from 5pm-9pm. Books in Malayalam, English, and Arabic, written by Indian writers residing in Qatar, will be on display. The exhibition offers visitors an opportunity to explore the books, meet the authors in person and interact with them. Alongside established writers, the exhibition will also feature books by budding student authors. The exhibition will also provide a

platform for literary and creative expression through storytelling, poetry recitation, humour, literary discussions and other related activities. "Our aim is to bring readers and book lovers closer to books and their authors. The previous book exhibition organised alongside the Kalanjali Youth Festival received an encouraging response from students, parents, teachers, representatives of the Indian Embassy and the general public," the organisers said in a press release. Admission is free and open to the public.

Belgium, Qatar share openness and dialogue to strengthen global security: Belgian interior minister

By Joseph Varghese
Staff reporter

Belgium shares with Qatar a common vision that openness, dialogue and international co-operation are essential to safeguard global security and prosperity, noted Belgian Minister of Interior Bernard Quintin.

Addressing the Global Security Forum, 2026 yesterday (Wednesday), Minister Quintin highlighted the strategic importance of closer co-operation between the two countries, stressing "international connectivity must be protected rather than restricted in response to growing geopolitical tensions and transnational security threats."

Quintin described Doha as an important platform for dialogue, especially as international ten-



Minister Bernard Quintin speaking at the Global Security Forum 2026.

sions make diplomatic engagement increasingly challenging.

He stated: "Qatar's ability to keep channels of communication open is invaluable. And in today's international context, it is more necessary than ever."

Drawing parallels between the two countries, Quintin noted that although Belgium and Qatar occupy different geographical positions, both derive significant economic and strategic benefits from

their openness to the world.

He explained: "Belgium serves as a major European and international crossroad, with the Port of Antwerp, Brussels Airport and the presence of European Union institutions and Nato headquarters reinforcing its global connectivity. Qatar, meanwhile, occupies a strategic position linking East and West, at the heart of a region vital to international trade and security."

The minister said this connectivity is a major source of strength for both countries but also exposes them to increasingly complex security risks,

"The port infrastructure that supports our economy is also exploited by international drug trafficking networks. The digital technologies that bring our citizens closer together are misused by cybercriminals, by terrorist networks and by those who spread

hatred. The trade routes that foster exchange can also be used by criminal organisations and human trafficking networks," he said.

"Criminal networks", he warned, "have become adept at exploiting cross-border connections, adapting rapidly and taking advantage of gaps in national security systems."

"Our responses must therefore evolve just as fast, and there is the need for stronger international co-ordination to counter threats that transcend national borders," continued the minister.

The Belgian minister also pointed to the complementary strengths of the two countries, with Belgium drawing on its ties with the European Union and Nato, while Qatar continues to build strategic partnerships and play a recognised role in international mediation.

NCSA director general: International co-operation key to cybersecurity



Director General of the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) Ahmed Mohammed al-Mutawa al-Hammadi affirmed that the State of Qatar considers international co-operation a fundamental pillar of its cybersecurity strategy.

In his remarks during the third and final day of the Global Security Forum 2026, hosted by Doha, he noted that issues concerning alliances and co-operation have never been raised with such clarity and significance among the world's nations as they are today.

In this context, he noted that international relations and alliances have undergone radical shifts as the world moves increasingly toward a multipolar order. He added that the strategic need to forge alliances based on common ground and mutual interests has become greater than ever, ensuring their effectiveness in protecting the interests of states and safeguarding their sovereignty.

NCSA Director General highlighted that nations are rapidly accelerating the adoption of digitalisation across many of their vital functions and operations, alongside the integration of emerging technologies and artificial intelligence; furthermore, digital tools and assets have become widely available on a global, commercial scale.

He pointed out that these developments have given rise to significant strategic threats, which could, in certain areas, be turned

to one's advantage, but have also compounded the risks to the interests, functions, and sovereignty of states.

NCSA Director General added that the adoption of emerging technologies has increased the complexity of cyberattack methods, leading to a rise in automated attacks and threats targeting supply chains.

He indicated that the cost of data breaches has already reached significant levels, while the global cost of cybercrime has climbed into the trillions of dollars, a figure expected to continue rising over time, thereby posing grave risks to global security interests and the sovereignty of nations.

He noted that as these threats and challenges grow, the value of exchanging lessons learned and experiences, from which we can all benefit, becomes increasingly significant. He pointed out that, despite the relatively recent establishment of the NCSA, it has successfully leveraged international

partnerships to serve both national and international security.

At the bilateral level, he said, the NCSA has signed and implemented a number of regional agreements with key allies and partners, including the United States, the United Kingdom, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Republic of Singapore, which NCSA greatly values.

NCSA Director General expressed his aspiration to sign and implement further agreements, with the aim of exchanging lessons learned and expertise in areas such as policy development, the protection of critical national infrastructure, the building of institutional and human capacity, and the establishment of co-operation rooted in executive and operational action.

Regionally, the NCSA collaborates with regional blocs, within the frameworks of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and the Arab League, to align perspectives on policies, strategies, and standards, and to strengthen operational co-operation.

This is particularly relevant given the persistent threats facing the region, especially those targeting its critical infrastructure. It is of strategic importance to establish a regional framework and structure that enable the formation of a unified front against these threats.

Internationally, he noted that the Agency participates in a number of organisations and initiatives that address various cybersecurity issues, such as the United

Nations' global mechanism for incident response and containment teams, the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation, the International Telecommunication Union, and the Common Criteria framework.

These entities work to establish standards and rules governing conduct in cyberspace, share best practices in policy and governance, and enhance global cyber readiness through well-established international capacity-building initiatives.

He underscored the importance of recognising that the more we expand the exchange of expertise and succeed in applying it effectively within national contexts, the safer the world becomes in the digital age in which we live.

He emphasised that the key to protecting interests, safeguarding sovereignty, and fostering prosperity lies in leveraging all available avenues for dialogue and putting them into practical action, alongside establishing frameworks that enable the implementation of initiatives in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

Concluding his remarks, NCSA Director General Ahmed Mohammed al-Mutawa al-Hammadi emphasised that the more diverse the channels relied upon to discuss and address issues, the greater the lessons and experiences that can be shared, ultimately adding tangible value to our contributions and solutions as we confront the growing security challenges we face today. **(QNA)**

NCSA participates in Milipol Qatar 2026



launch of the National Cyber Risk Management Framework and the Enterprise Cyber Risk Management Framework, as well as the announcement of several strategic initiatives reflecting the Agency's commitment to strengthening cybersecurity in Qatar.

Through its pavilion, the

Agency is showcasing its efforts to safeguard Qatar's cyberspace, alongside the services of the National Cyber Security Academy and initiatives aimed at protecting personal data privacy.

The pavilion also features videos introducing visitors to the Agency's awareness programs, training

courses and workshops, which are conducted throughout the year for different segments of society.

In addition, the Agency is serving as Platinum Sponsor of the Doha International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Security, held on the sidelines of Milipol Qatar 2026. **(QNA)**

'Do not wait until you become a victim': Cyber agency urges vigilance

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter



Sara al-Kuwari

of technical knowledge, helping both technology professionals and ordinary users understand the importance of cybersecurity.

"The Agency also provides awareness and guidance to people, whether they are technical or non-technical," al-Kuwari said, highlighting the need to make cybersecurity knowledge accessible to everyone.

She explained that the agency also plays an important role in protecting personal data at individual and societal levels, while raising awareness of software vulnerabilities and the importance of keeping systems updated.

"If a vulnerability is found in certain software or updates, it alerts individuals to install the updates," she said.

Al-Kuwari pointed people to the agency's Instagram account as a source of information on updates and alerts, encouraging them to follow official guidance to help protect their devices and personal information.

Beyond public awareness, the agency also provides training for people who want to understand the methods used in cyberattacks. Such training can help participants recognise how attackers operate, how scams are

carried out and how information may be exposed or stolen.

She said the aim is to equip people with the knowledge to identify risks and take steps to protect themselves before their information is compromised.

Asked whether the agency offers training or programmes, al-Kuwari confirmed that it provides training opportunities and also referred to engagement with commercial organisations.

Her message is that cybersecurity should not be treated as a concern only for technical experts. By staying informed, paying attention to security alerts and learning to recognise common threats, individuals can take practical steps to reduce their exposure to online risks.

As more personal information is handled digitally, awareness remains an important first line of defence against cyber threats.



NPC participates in OPSWF CEO Summit

The National Planning Council (NPC) participated in the 9th annual One Planet Sovereign Wealth Funds (OPSWF) CEO Summit, hosted by the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) in Doha on Oct 20 and 21 under the theme “Capital Across Generations” bringing together 51 members managing assets worth more than USD48tn.

In his remarks, HE the President of the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau and Secretary-General of NPC Dr Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak al-Khalifa underscored that Qatar National Vision 2030, the National Development Strategies, and the country’s investment approach embody a single promise delivered through multiple pathways, reflecting a firm conviction in sustaining progress across generations.

Dr al-Khalifa added that the Third National Development Strategy (NDS3) 2024-2030 represents the final stage of the strategies designed to realise the national vision. He noted that the strategy was developed with the decades beyond 2030 in mind, highlighting two key targets: achieving annual productivity growth of 2% and securing cumulative net foreign investment worth USD100bn.

The strategy also builds on Qa-



tar’s standing as a leading global energy supplier and one of the world’s foremost producers of liquefied natural gas (LNG), while developing new sectors to drive growth and substantially advance economic diversification, he highlighted.

Addressing the crisis facing the region, Dr al-Khalifa said national institutions, social cohesion, and trusted partnerships had enabled Qatar to absorb the shock and mitigate its effects. Essential services continued uninterrupted, the non-hydrocarbon economy sustained its growth, the country maintained its high sovereign credit ratings, and its stock of foreign direct investment continued to grow.

The crisis didn’t create these strengths; it revealed them, he

added, underscoring that Qatar’s response represents not a departure from the national plan, but an acceleration of it.

Dr al-Khalifa outlined the NPC’s role in supporting and monitoring the implementation of NDS3, providing reliable and internationally comparable data through the National Statistics Center, and applying strategic foresight to test today’s decisions against a range of possible future scenarios.

Concluding his remarks, Dr al-Khalifa stressed that the responsibility extends beyond managing what is owned today; it also encompasses ensuring that future generations inherit broader opportunities, greater resilience, and a stronger foundation on which to build their future. (QNA)

AlRayan Bank sponsors Qatari employees to join QFBA’S Kawader Malia Programme

AlRayan Bank has selected and sponsored a group of Qatari employees to participate in the Kawader Malia Programme, a flagship national development initiative delivered by the Qatar Finance and Business Academy (QFBA) to strengthen the capabilities of Qatari professionals in the financial sector.

The initiative reflects AlRayan Bank’s continued commitment to investing in its people and developing national talent, providing employees with opportunities to enhance their professional capabilities while building a strong pipeline of skilled professionals and future leaders to support the Bank’s long-term growth.

Running from September 3, 2026, to January 27, 2027, Kawader Malia offers a structured learning and development experience aligned with the evolving requirements of the financial industry. The selected employees participating in the program will attend training sessions at QFBA for one week each month throughout the programme period.

Kawader Malia is a structured, certification-bearing program. Participation forms part of AlRayan Bank’s broader employee certification framework, which also develops staff toward externally recognised CISI qualifications, including Fundamentals of Financial Services, International Intro-



duction to Investment, and Risk in Financial Services.

The programme offers three key pathways: Risk and Compliance, Investment and Wealth Management, and Retail Banking, providing participants with focused learning in core areas of the financial services industry.

This tailored approach reflects AlRayan Bank’s broader commitment to continuous learning and professional development, ensuring that learning opportunities are aligned with employees’ roles, development needs and career progression. As part of this commitment, support for professional certification and qualification programs is available to all AlRayan Bank employees.

Through its participation in Kawader Malia, AlRayan Bank is providing its employees with the opportunity to deepen their professional knowledge, strengthen their technical and leadership capabilities, and gain broader exposure to the skills and competencies required in an increasingly dynamic financial sector. The programme also complements

the bank’s wider approach to professional development by connecting structured learning with individual career development and progression.

Fouzia al-Ansari, GM – Human Resources at AlRayan Bank, said: “Investing in our people is fundamental to AlRayan Bank’s long-term success. By selecting and sponsoring a group of Qatari employees to participate in Kawader Malia, we are providing them with a valuable opportunity to expand their knowledge, strengthen their capabilities and gain new perspectives that complement the experience they build within the bank.”

She added: “Our approach to talent development goes beyond training. It is about creating clear opportunities for our employees to grow, take on greater responsibilities and prepare for future leadership roles. Through structured, certification-bearing programs and our wider certification support available to all employees, we are equipping our people with recognised, industry-relevant qualifications.

Programmes such as Kawader Malia, delivered by a leading national institution such as QFBA, support our efforts to build a strong pipeline of highly skilled Qatari professionals who can contribute to the continued development of AlRayan Bank and Qatar’s financial sector.”

Panellists at Doha-AIS underscore importance of predictive technologies in crisis management

A panel discussion at the Doha International Conference on AI and Security (Doha-AIS 2026) examined the challenges and opportunities emerging from advances in artificial intelligence (AI), as the conference took place alongside the 16th Milipol Qatar 2026.

The panellists underscored the importance of beefing up digital innovation and intelligent forecasting mechanisms to substantially improve crisis-response efficiency and advance decision-making frameworks across a variety of critical sectors.

Held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC), the panel discussion brought together a pantheon of officials and technology and digital security specialists who discussed predictive intelligence, crisis leadership, and decision-making superiority. They delved into technological solutions and the strategic thrust toward leveraging AI in crisis management and decision-making processes.

Director of the Digital Innovation Department at Qatar’s Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) Iman al-Kuwari emphasised the pivotal significance of predictive AI in strengthening decision-making systems and crisis management.



She noted that the primary challenges during crises do not stem from a shortage of information, but rather from tight time constraints and rapidly evolving circumstances.

MCIT is committed to furnishing leaders and decision-makers with timely information and mechanisms designed to help them make proactive, well-informed decisions, al-Kuwari underscored, highlighting key integrated capabilities that serve as a model for Qatar’s national AI system.

She explained that these capabilities encompass a data fabric, designed to provide reliable, standardised information from various government entities and

agencies; a prediction engine, intended to help institutions anticipate future developments with a high degree of confidence; and a decision-making cockpit, designed to steer leaders toward the most accurate options and analyses.

The capabilities also include governance and accountability to ensure human responsibility, auditability, and data protection, alongside interoperability and expertise to bolster government integration and deliver efficient services to citizens and employees, al-Kuwari continued.

Al-Kuwari further highlighted Qatar’s substantial achievements in this field, particularly its deployment of predictive systems to

manage crowd movements across eight stadiums during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The integration of AI into legislative and research processes has also substantially reduced the time required to prepare analyses and responses from days to literally mere minutes, she asserted.

For his part, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) Dr Mohammad Saleh Ali AlShaikh underscored the importance of addressing operational and cybersecurity challenges. He noted that intelligent systems can effectively monitor unusual situations and help fend off potential cyberattacks targeting or tampering with stadium data.

He added that efforts were being made to bolster routine and predictive maintenance to address dynamic loads and sudden electrical surges, thereby helping ensure the stability of the power supply to data centres.

Research at HBKU focuses on integrating AI with physics to enhance predictive accuracy, safeguard data centre infrastructure, and improve the energy efficiency of graphics processing units (GPUs), central processing units (CPUs), and the electrical grid in a hot climate such as Qatar’s, Dr AlShaikh pointed out. (QNA)

Participants at Doha-AIS urge leveraging smart technologies to enhance internal security

Participants at the Doha International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Security (Doha-AIS) 2026 have called for the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies into internal security systems.

During a panel discussion, titled “A Global Approach to Ethics, Governance, and Responsible AI”, speakers emphasised the need to improve the ability to predict and respond to cyber threats, in order to keep pace with the rapidly evolving security risks worldwide.

Aisha al-Asmakh, a researcher at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, presented a vision for strengthening the security of maritime infrastructure in the State of Qatar, through integrating renewable energy sources with AI technologies to protect offshore gas platforms, pipelines, and subsea communication networks.

Al-Asmakh presented a model for a wind-powered offshore platform designed to supply energy to unmanned maritime vehicles, incorporating intelligent monitoring systems powered by clean energy. The model is intended to enable the early detection of security threats and improve response times.

She said the study’s findings showed that integrating renewable energy with AI could improve maritime operations, en-

ergy management and real-time decision-making. She also called for the development of a national AI platform capable of supporting both civilian and security applications.

For his part, Sami Salem, Government and Public Sector associate at PwC, emphasised that adopting an AI-driven approach to national security offers strategic advantages. These include the ability to anticipate crises early, accelerate the transition from threat detection to decisive action, enhance co-ordination among relevant national entities, and build institutional capacity to address future challenges.

Meanwhile, Shawq al-Qahtani, Senior Information Security Assurance Engineer at beIN Media Group, discussed the challenges of maintaining control over AI systems and the importance of technological sovereignty as these systems become increasingly capable of moving beyond providing answers to executing actions.

Al-Qahtani stressed the need for robust governance of intelligent technologies, effective data controls, clearly defined access rights and privileges, decision traceability, and mechanisms to ensure data recoverability. Such measures, she said, are essential to strengthening the security and reliability of AI systems. (QNA)

Qatar, UNOCT discuss human rights safeguards

Qatar’s National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) has discussed ways to strengthen human rights protections in counter-terrorism policies and law enforcement with a senior official from the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).

HE the NHRC Chairperson Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiyah held talks with Nigel Lazarus, a law enforcement official at the UNOCT, on the sidelines of the 2026 Global Security Forum in Doha. Also attending were senior UNOCT representatives.

Discussions focused on integrating human rights standards into counter-terrorism measures, supporting victims, reviewing legislation and safeguarding privacy and personal data.

The two sides also examined the responsible use of emerging technologies and artificial intelligence in law enforcement and counter-terrorism operations.

HE al-Attiyah outlined the mandate of the NHRC, an independent national institution operating in accordance with the Paris Principles and holding “A” status, the highest accreditation category for national human rights institutions.

The meeting also followed discussions held in May between the committee and the UN office’s branch in Doha.



Participants highlighted the legal safeguards that should accompany counter-terrorism measures, including the right to liberty and security, fair trial guarantees, the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment, and respect for the principle of non-refoulement, which prohibits returning people to places where they face a real risk of persecution or serious harm.

They stressed the importance of ensuring that national laws and practices remain consistent with international human rights obligations.

The talks also addressed the role of national human rights institutions in promoting accountability for violations linked to counter-terrorism measures, monitoring compliance with international standards and raising public

awareness of legal protections.

Both sides discussed human rights concerns arising from the use of artificial intelligence and other modern technologies, particularly in relation to privacy and personal data protection.

They explored practical initiatives to strengthen co-operation in the coming period, including a proposed co-ordination and follow-up mechanism involving the UN office’s Doha branch. The mechanism would help identify priorities, planned activities and the steps needed to implement them.

The meeting comes amid wider international efforts to address the human rights implications of counter-terrorism policies while ensuring that security measures comply with international legal standards. (QNA)

Qatar gears up to welcome professional, amateur athletes for the T100 finals 2026

With 50 days to go until the 2026 Qatar T100 Triathlon World Championship Final, Doha prepares to host the Final for the second time, welcoming the world’s leading triathletes alongside people from across the community who are gearing up to take part.

Taking place from December 10 to 12, the event will mark the culmination of the 2026 T100 Triathlon World Tour on a course that brings together the country’s coastal and urban landscapes, from a swim in the Arabian Gulf to cycling through Lusail and running through Lusail Plaza and Boulevard.

Whether taking on the full challenge, joining a relay team across the 100km and Sprint distances or participating in the community Kick Off Run, people of different ages, backgrounds and fitness levels can be part of a world-class sporting event.

Among those taking part is Alia al-Hamad, Qatar’s first female triathlete to compete in World Triathlon races. Returning for her second Qatar T100, she will compete in the 30–35 age group.

“I started as a runner who was afraid of deep water, and I became a triathlete. You don’t have to be good at everything from the beginning; you must be willing to start, learn and keep going,” said al-Hamad.



Dr Saif al-Azzawi

Michael Anderson, a former Qatar motocross champion and teacher, has also embraced triathlon as a way to challenge himself and discover more about his physical and mental limits. He said: “Pushing yourself into situations where you learn things about your mind, body and soul is something that can’t be replicated. That’s why I started getting into triathlons.”

For Dr Saif al-Azzawi, a Qatar-based Consultant Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeon and father of two, training alongside friends in Qatar has reignited his passion for the sport and inspired him to take on the Qatar T100.

“Rather than viewing getting

older as a reason to become less active, I decided to use it as a reason to challenge myself more. For me, Qatar T100 is much more than a race. It represents fatherhood, resilience, discipline and leading by example,” said Dr al-Azzawi.

Former Olympic cross-country skier Danny Silva also brings a distinctive sporting journey to the event. Having begun his sporting career in triathlon, Silva was inspired by Portugal’s first Olympic gold medal in 1984. “Triathlon was the missing link to who I was, am and will ever be. I just wish I could have seen it earlier. But better late than never,” said Silva.



UDST introduces CORE Wellness Programme to support professionals

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST), through its College of Health Sciences, has introduced the CORE Wellness Programme, a curriculum-wide initiative that integrates holistic health into students' education as they prepare for professional practice. CORE stands for Clinical, Occupational, Resilience and Emotional Wellness.

In a statement yesterday, UDST said that the programme recognises that health professions education involves developing clinical and technical skills alongside the ability to understand and manage the demands of training and professional practice.

The programme progresses through three stages across students' education. Exposure in Year 1 introduces the foundations of wellness, helps students recognise factors that may affect their health, and familiarises them with available support.

Immersion in Years 2 and 3 will provide opportunities to apply wellness strategies in laboratory and practice-based settings. Mastery in Year 4 will connect wellness with professional identity, leadership and practice.

Commenting on the initia-

tive, Dr Shahrokh Esfandiari, Dean of the College of Health Sciences said: "We believe preparing health professionals extends beyond clinical knowledge and technical competence. It also means helping students develop the awareness and resilience needed to navigate the demands of their education and future practice. CORE Wellness brings this perspective into the curriculum in a structured way, supporting our students as they progress from understanding wellness to applying it within their professional lives."

The initiative is being implemented across programmes within the College of Health Sciences. CORE Wellness complements UDST's 2025-2027 Wellness Strategy, which takes a holistic approach to student wellbeing across eight dimensions: physical, mental, social, occupational, environmental, financial, spiritual and cultural wellness.

By bringing this broader framework into Health Sciences education, the initiative provides students with a structured way to consider wellbeing not as a separate aspect of university life, but as part of their development as health professionals. (QNA)

HEC Paris-QF partnership bolstering Qatar, France ties

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

Educational partnerships between Qatar and France are helping develop globally minded leaders, strengthen professional networks and turn business knowledge into opportunities for innovation and economic growth, HEC Paris alumnus Salman Shaban said *Gulf Times*.

Shaban said the partnership between HEC Paris and Qatar Foundation showed how executive education could strengthen bilateral relations by bringing together professionals from different cultures and backgrounds to exchange ideas and apply their business knowledge.

"It is one of the most practical and impactful ways to strengthen ties between two countries, because it builds relationships, tolerance and diversity between people, cultures and countries," he said.

He added that the partnership's impact extends beyond the classroom, with graduates carrying their experience, knowledge, and professional networks into their organisations and communities in Qatar, France, and beyond.

"The real impact comes after graduation," Shaban said, describing alumni as an important link between education and economic development.

Shaban, who received the inaugural Qatar Foundation Alumni Mentorship Award while representing HEC Paris, said the recognition reinforced his belief that professional success should be accompanied by a commitment to helping others reach their potential.

"Education is about impacting



Salman Shaban

'Education is about impacting others reach their potential, while meeting your professional milestones,' – Salman Shaban, HEC Paris alumnus

others reach their potential, while meeting your professional milestones," he said.

He highlighted Qatar Foundation's international alumni network, which has enabled him to

build relationships through events in cities including Paris, Singapore, Dubai, Doha, Shanghai, London and Boston.

These connections, he explained, have helped encourage cross-border collaboration and provided opportunities to discuss executive education, impact leadership and sustainable business on international platforms.

Shaban said Qatar Foundation's ability to bring universities, businesses, alumni and communities together created an environment in which knowledge could develop

into practical partnerships and new opportunities.

His work with HEC Paris as a Selection Committee member, Capstone Advisor, and Capstone Jury member has also shaped his understanding of the qualities future leaders need.

"The first is adaptability, because markets and technologies change quickly. The second is cross-cultural fluency: the ability to work with people from different backgrounds and build trust across borders," he said.

He added that leaders also need a commitment to sustainable and responsible business, the confidence to turn ideas into action, and the humility to keep learning.

Beyond leadership development, Shaban said the HEC Paris-Qatar Foundation partnership could help Qatar diversify its economy by connecting learners with research centres, entrepreneurs, innovators and opportunities for mentorship and incubation.

He said he had seen alumni collaborate to establish businesses, develop technologies, explore international markets and introduce new concepts to Qatar.

He added that such outcomes demonstrated how professional education and strong networks can support private-sector development and entrepreneurship.

"When you join HEC Paris in Qatar, you become part of something larger than a business school," Shaban said.

As Qatar continues to invest in innovation and diversify its economy, he said, the value of educational partnerships lies not only in the qualifications they provide but also in the people, ideas, and several ventures they help bring together.

BUC signs MoU with Cisco Networking Academy to strengthen industry collaboration, career readiness

Barzan University College (BUC), in partnership with Swinburne University of Technology, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Cisco Networking Academy, marking a new step in its commitment to strengthening connections between higher education and the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry.

Dr Guy Diedrich, Global Innovation Officer and senior vice president, represented Cisco Networking Academy at the signing ceremony. The agreement establishes a foundation for closer engagement between BUC and Cisco, creating opportunities to explore how industry expertise can enrich academic learning and student development.

For BUC, this collaboration is an important step towards connecting students with the perspectives, skills and real-world challenges shaping the technology sector. It supports the College's broader ambition to strengthen career readiness and prepare graduates to contribute to an increasingly digital economy.

Dr Hassan al-Derham, CEO and chairman of Barzan University College, said: "Building strong relationships with industry is central to our vision for



Barzan University College. Our collaboration with Cisco reflects our commitment to connecting education with the opportunities and challenges of a changing economy. We want our students to graduate with the knowledge, skills and capabilities to contribute to Qatar's development and the ambitions of Qatar National Vision 2030."

Dr Lotfi Belkhir, Chief Academic Officer and Academic Dean of Barzan University College, added: "Meaningful industry en-

gagement helps students with the current needs and challenges of industry. This MoU fully aligns for closer collaboration with Cisco and supports our commitment to keeping education relevant to the evolving ICT landscape. We look forward to exploring opportunities that enrich learning and strengthen our students' readiness for their future careers."

Through its partnership with Swinburne University of Technology, BUC is committed to delivering education that combines

academic quality with industry relevance.

The agreement with Cisco reinforces this approach, supporting the College's focus on helping students connect their studies with professional practice and develop a deeper understanding of the sectors they aspire to enter.

The signing marks another milestone in BUC's efforts to expand its industry network, enrich the student experience, and develop talent for Qatar's growing knowledge-based economy.



CMU-Q introduces new alumni association board

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q), a Qatar Foundation partner, has introduced a new alumni association board, establishing a dedicated leadership body to strengthen alumni ties, foster collaboration, and support the Tartan community.

The newly formed board reflects the campus's academic breadth and history, bringing together graduates from 15 years of cohorts and representing four CMU-Q academic programmes. "Our alumni are our greatest ambassadors," said Michael Trick, dean of CMU-Q. "Establishing the Alumni Association Board will strengthen lifelong connections and create new opportunities for our graduates to engage, collaborate, and give back to the CMU-Q community."

Fadhel Annan, associate dean for strategic engagement, emphasised the importance of deepening community ties: "The Alumni Asso-

ciation Board marks an important milestone in strengthening alumni engagement, fostering lifelong connections, and creating meaningful opportunities for collaboration and mentorship."

The board is led by president Sheikh Mohammad bin Faisal al-Thani (Business Administration 2011), alongside vice presidents for Biological Sciences, Dr Abdulrahman al-Subaiey (2017); Business Administration, Dr Sara al-Asmakh (2009); Computer Science, Fatima Youssef (2025); and Information Systems, Dr Eman al-Kuwari (2014). The leadership team is completed by treasurer Amiko Gogitidze (Business Administration 2024) and secretary Ramsey Massouh (Business Administration 2011).

Carnegie Mellon's Education City campus opened in 2004, and its alumni network now includes more than 1,500 young professionals, most of whom work in Qatar.

HBKU concludes international conference on industrial electronics, emerging tech

Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) hosted the 52nd Annual Conference of the IEEE Industrial Electronics Society (IES), IECON 2026, in Doha, which concluded yesterday. Held at the Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel, the milestone event marked the first time the conference was held in the Middle East.

The four-day international conference brought together nearly 2,000 research submissions from global experts, practising engineers, and industrial pioneers. Attendees convened to explore transformative breakthroughs across power electronics, smart grids, artificial intelligence, robotics, cybersecurity, and Industry 5.0. These fields are key to developing more efficient industrial processes, integrating renewable energy, and strengthening the critical infrastructure.

The conference's focus on applied engineering research and industrial engagement aligns with



Qatar's priorities in sustainability, digital transformation, and economic diversification. It also reflects HBKU's role as a research university connecting scientific inquiry with national needs and opportunities for technological development.

HBKU Vice President for Research Dr Eyad Masad highlighted

the importance of connecting scientific advances with real-world applications, emphasising the role of research universities in bringing together academic expertise and industrial capabilities. He underscored HBKU's role in advancing research and innovation through cross-sector partnerships to support Qatar's transi-

tion to a sustainable, knowledge-based economy, in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030.

The opening ceremony also featured leaders from academia and industry. The hybrid programme included international keynote speakers, technical sessions, industry panels, tutorials, workshops, enabling exchange re-



search findings and explore practical applications.

Dr Mounir Hamdi, dean, College of Science and Engineering, HBKU, stated: "Hosting IECON 2026 underlines HBKU's commitment to connecting research excellence with the challenges and opportunities shaping Qatar's future. Advances in emerging tech-

nologies and intelligent systems have important implications for national development. Bringing this international research community to Doha creates opportunities to exchange expertise, strengthen connections between academia and industry, and support the development of solutions to shared challenges."

The case of Stephen Hubbard

President Vladimir Putin announced the release of American citizen Stephen Hubbard from Russian detention on Wednesday, at the start of talks with US special envoy Steve Witkoff.

Hubbard, 74, a retired schoolteacher, grew up in Big Rapids, Michigan, and served in the US Air Force and National Guard, according to military records cited by the ‘New York Times’.

He earned a master’s degree in English and lived in Japan for 25 years where he taught English before moving to Cyprus and then, in 2014, to Izium in eastern Ukraine with a Ukrainian partner, according to his sister, Patricia Hubbard Fox.

Fox told Reuters in 2024 that Hubbard subsisted on a pension of about \$300 a month and had few connections with local people. The siblings last spoke in September 2021. Russia launched its full-scale war in Ukraine in February 2022 and captured Izium two months later. Ukrainian forces retook the city in September 2022, but Hubbard was already in Russian custody by then.

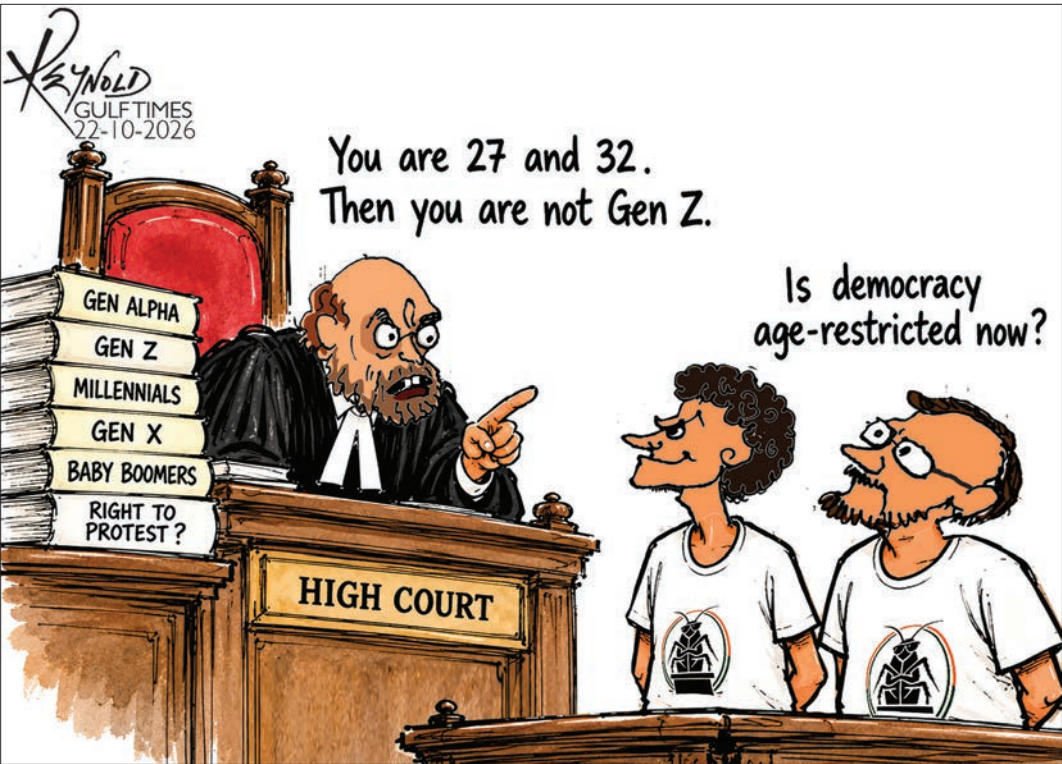
Russian state media said Hubbard had been detained in April 2022 and alleged he had been manning a Ukrainian military checkpoint. Reuters could not independently establish the circumstances of his capture. Fox said she recognised her brother in

a YouTube video showing a man being questioned about his views on Putin and the war. Another video showed him with his hands bound, being struck with a sandal. Reuters could not verify when or where the videos were recorded.

Following a closed trial, a Moscow court convicted Hubbard of being a mercenary in October 2024 and sentenced him to six years and 10 months in prison. Prosecutors said Hubbard had joined a Ukrainian territorial defence unit, received training, weapons and ammunition, and was promised \$1,000 a month. Russian state media said he had pleaded guilty to the charges he faced.

Fox questioned the reported confession, however, saying Hubbard held pro-Russian views and was unlikely to have taken up arms in his seventies. Martin De Luca, his US-based lawyer, told Reuters in June 2025 that Hubbard had told him the charges against him were false and that he was not in any combat or military unit. He cited Hubbard as telling him Russian soldiers had simply grabbed him from his house.

In January 2025, Washington designated Hubbard as wrongfully detained, enabling the US government to pursue negotiations for his release. The State Department has said Russia refused to grant US officials consular access. - Reuters



The mechanics of alliances

By Rory Miller

Countries may share AI frameworks, semiconductor supply chains, or 5G infrastructure but a technological partnership that lacks a security function is not an alliance. On the other hand, an alliance, which is a partnership with a security function, is rarely, only about technology. It is never only based on a promise by one partner to another to transfer technology, share proprietary information, or collaborate on hi-tech R&D.

Indeed, traditional explanations as to why states form alliances have not placed much emphasis on technology beyond the catch-all term of “side-benefits”. Rather, over the decades, alliance formation has been explained mainly as a response to shared threats, as a way to shore up domestic stability and regime survival, in order to reduce dependency on any one partner, and to build reputation in the eyes of the leader.



States deliberately design alliances in accordance with their preferences and interests and an alliance’s design will influence technology flows between members. For example, in a bilateral alliance, comprising of two members, the dominant partner can control the weaker partner’s access to technology. In an alliance consisting of more than two members, known as a multinational or multilateral alliance, the dominant actor has less leverage but members can also find it harder to achieve consensus on important issues, which can slow down technological cooperation.

It also matters whether an alliance is formal or informal in design. Formal alliances, of which Nato is the best example, are governed by agreed rules, tend to be long-lasting if not permanent institutions, and are defined by co-operation on multiple levels – operational, political and strategic. They also include cost and burden sharing obligations that can create conditions that facilitate or inhibit technology transfer inside the alliance.

On the other hand, informal alliances – including the anti-ISIS counterterror coalition founded by the US in 2014 and the three-way Makkah Joint Defence Agreement of 2026 – are more flexible and temporary arrangements. They do not have rigid entry requirements or any cost or burden-sharing obligations. This reduces entry and participation costs for members but also offers far fewer opportunities for technology transfer.

National strategic objectives also determine whether technology is best accessed through a security alliance or a strategic partnership with no security function. For example, states pursuing non-military objectives – achieving AI leadership, building data centre infrastructure, or developing a global hydrogen hub – will look to build long-term partnerships that deliver the technology needed to achieve these ambitions. States primarily concerned with pursuing defensive objectives – such as protecting infrastructure from cyber attacks



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif pose after signing a joint defence agreement in Makkah, Saudi Arabia. — Reuters

or deterring conventional military threats – will prioritise alliance relations to gain partners who can deliver specific security-focused technological capabilities.

This option may also appeal as a way to free-ride, whereby a state extracts technological benefits from a partner without contributing political or military resources to the goals of the alliance. For example, several of the 50-plus states that joined the anti-ISIS coalition established by the Obama administration in 2014, did so to access American military technology, while contributing little substantive military support.

However, gaining tech know-how or advanced capabilities through alliance participation can serve as a disincentive for self-reliance or regional co-operation, further entrenching existing technology-dependencies. This can also lead to conditionality, whereby the dominant actor who supplied the technology can set strict conditions for the use of their technology that curtails freedom of action and is, in these terms, a dilution of sovereignty.

In the worst case scenario, attempting to access technology through alliance membership also holds out the risk of entrapment, whereby a state, having accepted advanced technology from a dominant partner, is drawn into the patron’s conflicts. That said, in a world of rising instability, insecurity and disorder, advances in cutting edge civilian and military technology, including dual use technology, is increasingly blurring the lines between security alliances and strategic partnerships that lack a security function.

It is also the case that, the role of cutting-edge technology in the great-power rivalry between the US and China is also reshaping geopolitics and creating powerful incentives for regional actors to enhance relationships with both of these leading technology players. This evolving reality is very evident in the Arab Gulf where the GCC states, like those in other regions of the world, are attempting to navigate the intensifying competition between the US and China for technological primacy.

This competition is a contest over military tech ranging from hypersonic weapons systems, to cyber capabilities and the integration of AI into warfighting. But it also covers AI governance frameworks, the semiconductor supply chain, 5G and 6G telecommunications infrastructure, data sovereignty, cloud architecture and even clean tech.

In the Gulf context, at least until the current Trump administration, Washington held out the promise of R&D collaboration with local partners but maintained a restrictive approach toward the diffusion of the most sought after dual-use technologies. Instead, US technological engagement in the Gulf mostly occurred in the military sphere: through advanced weapons sales, the adoption of military interoperability and access to cutting-edge military AI.

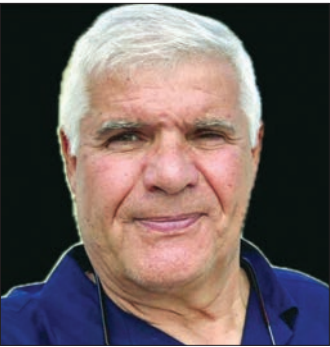
US Central Command (Centcom) is a recognised leader in developing battlefield military technology and operates three cutting-edge task forces working on military AI for the navy (task force 59), army (task force 39) and airforce (task force 99). The Chinese approach is different.

It is based on economic development, infrastructure investment, and civilian technology deployment rather than co-operation inside security alliances. These deepening Chinese tech linkages are generating new forms of interdependence.

This model can definitely foster dependence among China’s partners on Chinese tech, such as 5G infrastructure. However, in the short term, increasing the number of major tech partners you work with beyond the US -- whether China or the EU -- also provides some opportunities for increased tech autonomy in the Gulf. In the longer-term, China’s technological engagement with the Gulf, a form of strategic competition with the US, has the potential to transform the region’s security architecture.

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

The terrain of war and the expanse of peace



By Jamil K Mroue

Yemen has lived with history, and history has broken its teeth on Yemen. Rome tried. In 26 BCE Augustus sent Aelius Gallus, his prefect of Egypt, with 10,000 men into the land the ancients already called Arabia Felix – Fortunate Arabia, for its incense and its rains. Misled by a Nabataean guide, wasted by thirst and fever, the column reached the walls of Marib and turned back; Strabo, the general’s friend, recorded that the greater part of the force was lost, to sickness rather than to arms.

The Ottomans tried twice: from 1538, when Hadım Suleiman Pasha seized Aden, through Ozdemir Pasha’s capture of Sanaa in 1547, until the Zaydi imams drove them out a century later; and again from 1872, under Ahmed Muhtar Pasha, until 1918. Of 80,000 soldiers sent from Egypt in the first decade, the chroniclers say, 7,000 came home. Anatolia still sings the lament those campaigns bequeathed, the Yemeni Turkish: “That is Yemen, its rose is the meadow; those who go do not return – why, I wonder?”

Not an anthem – something heavier: a nation’s grief set to a tune. Nasser tried. He sent a company to Yemen in September 1962 and, by his own admission, ended up reinforcing it with 70,000 men; by 1967 he was calling it his Vietnam – having meant, among other things, to settle in Aden the account Britain had opened at Suez in 1956.

And the towering founder of Saudi Arabia, Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman, who in 1934 sent Prince Faisal down the Tihama to take Hodeidah while Prince Saud’s column starved in the highlands, preferred the Treaty of Taif that May to a march on Sanaa, and is remembered for cautioning his sons against ever entering those mountains again. Yemen, like Afghanistan, is fortress terrain. Hardiness is bred in the bone of its people.

Yet the fortress has been better at keeping others out than at carrying its own people forward. When Carsten Niebuhr, sole survivor of the Danish king’s expedition, climbed from Mocha to Sanaa in the summer of 1763, he mapped a governed country whose port had given coffee its

name – a map that served Europe for two centuries. Since then, through the internecine quarrels of tribe, sect and region, Yemen has slid backwards, failing, despite a geography of rare strategic value, to find a modernising anchor and latch on to the phases of progress that lifted its neighbours.

Where Yemenis found that anchor, they flourished – abroad. Saudi Arabia was the grand opportunity: the great construction and banking houses of Jeddah were raised by sons of Hadhramaut, and from the Swahili coast to Hyderabad, Java and Singapore the Hadhrami trading communities remain among the most dynamic on the Indian Ocean rim. But success was in exile.

At home, tribal culture and sectarian bias kept Yemen out of the Gulf Cooperation Council, on whose agenda its membership has stood, in one form or another, for most of the Council’s existence: a formal bid in 1996, a seat at a few committees since 2001, full membership never. The fingers of blame point in all directions. All the protagonists were culprits of omission, and none more than the Yemenis themselves.

With every crisis, arriving with monsoon regularity, the ditches were dug deeper, and the present one threatens to dig deepest of all. The truce of 2022 broke in July: a Saudi strike on the runway at Sanaa to keep an Iranian aircraft out; a Houthi missile at a Saudi airport; a declared “blockade” of Saudi shipping; a Houthi sweep down the Red Sea coast toward the Bab al-Mandab; and then, this month, missiles into King Khalid Airport in Riyadh – 13 dead in a hall full of pilgrims – Aramco’s headquarters struck, schools shuttered, Saudi jets over Sanaa again, Egypt offering to defend the kingdom and Washington weighing its bombers. Here are the facts. Neither Saudi Arabia nor the Houthis are going anywhere. Neither can conquer the other; neither can absorb or assimilate the other. Can Riyadh garrison mountains that broke Rome, bled the Porte and swallowed Nasser’s best divisions? Can Sanaa’s missiles buy what Sanaa’s treasury cannot – bread, work, a future? Can either prosper in the other’s ruin?



The Houthis now field, by the UN experts’ count, more than 10 times the fighters they had in 2015; the kingdom holds the wealth, the skies and the alliances. They can continue the folly of the days that brought us here, or take the short cut to the negotiating table, where this conflict will end in any case. If the past is toxic and the present tragic, what is left is the future.

Two young men hold it. Mohammed bin Salman is forty-one; Abdul-Malik al-Houthi is in his forties. Their careers as rulers are contemporaneous – Sanaa fell to one in September 2014, the Saudi defence ministry to the other four months later – and not dissimilar in the drama of their initiatives or in their errors of rule. Both have kept iron grips on their realms. One lifted a vast society, in a few short years, out of the austerity of centuries. The other upended a chronically broken order, holds the ground on which seven or eight in 10 of Yemen’s forty-odd million live, and turned motley tribal levies into a formidable asymmetric force. They can seek further methods of mutual destruction, or they can sober up and seek mutual development. The terrain of war and the expanse of peace are theirs to choose.

Let no one say the choice is Tehran’s. Iran does not dictate to the Yemenis – a former American ambassador to Riyadh concedes as much – and Saudi Arabia has stature enough to chart its own course. Both nations watch with deep wariness the fantastical design, announced in Jerusalem in September 2025, of an Israel as “super-Sparta” bestriding the region; both know the Palestinian wound is festering and infectious and must be healed; both stand to gain from equitable relations with Iran and with the superpowers alike.

Almost no war achieves its intended purpose. War is a hydra; strike off one head and two grow back; and it is a gamble who the last man standing will be – or whether there will be two, limping to the same table they could have reached upright. Herodotus, the father of history, gave the line to Croesus: “In peace, sons bury their fathers; in war, fathers bury their sons.” Mohammed bin Salman has said as much himself. Asked in May 2017 why he did not simply march on Sanaa, he answered that it could be done in days, but not at the price in lives it would exact; four years later he called the Houthis Arabs who would, in the end, “have to work with their brothers.” He was right then. Let him, and let the man in Sanaa, be right now. The rank that endures bears no rancour; the glory that lasts is never seized in anger.

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

Qatar, France expand ties at 4th strategic dialogue in Doha

QNA
Doha

In light of the deep-rooted historical relations and ever-evolving co-operation between Qatar and France, President Emmanuel Macron paid a state visit to Doha from 20 to 21 October 2026. The in-depth discussions between His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, and President Emmanuel Macron reflected the strength and enduring nature of bilateral relations and the mutual trust that characterises them.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening their historic partnership and intensifying co-operation in defence, security, energy, economic affairs, and academic and cultural exchanges, alongside close political and diplomatic coordination. They welcomed the fourth edition of the bilateral strategic dialogue, held on the margins of the state visit and co-chaired by HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, and Jean-Noel Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic.

Regional and International Situation

The two leaders exchanged views on the latest developments concerning several regional and international issues, particularly the escalation in the region, ways to de-escalate tensions, ensure freedom of navigation and energy security, and ultimately achieve sustainable peace through dialogue, diplomacy and peaceful means.

Against the backdrop of highly sensitive security and geopolitical developments unfolding in the region, the French president recalled France's absolute solidarity with Qatar. The two leaders condemned Iranian military attacks against countries in the region which constitute a serious breach of international law.

They reaffirmed their long-standing support for all efforts aimed at reaching a diplomatic solution to permanently address the threats posed by Iran, and in particular to ensure verifiably the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program. The French president praised Qatar's mediation efforts to this end. They reaffirmed the need to restore freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz without constraints or fees and expressed their support for efforts aimed at achieving this objective.

They also reaffirmed their continued work with their international partners to promote regional and international security and stability, agreeing to intensify consultations and coordinate joint diplomatic efforts to contain tensions and de-escalate, particularly in light of the challenges facing the region. In this context, Qatar reaffirmed its commitment to its role as a reliable partner in supporting global energy security and the stability of energy supplies.

The two leaders commended their distinguished co-operation on regional and global issues and reaffirmed their commitment to



achieving peace and lasting stability in the Middle East. They reaffirmed their support for the two-state solution, with an independent Palestinian state living side by side with Israel in peace and security, in line with the New York Declaration. France and Qatar reiterated their opposition to any annexation of the West Bank and called for an end to Israeli settlement policies and settler violence.

They expressed their support for United Nations Security Council Resolution 2803 and the comprehensive plan put forward by US President Donald Trump to end the conflict in Gaza, and stressed the need for all parties to fulfill all their obligations under the relevant agreements and frameworks, including the implementation of the ceasefire, the withdrawal of Israeli forces in accordance with the agreed arrangements, and the urgent, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza without conditions or restrictions. They also expressed their support for the holding of Palestinian elections.

Regarding Lebanon, France and Qatar reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the stability and sovereignty of the country, as they have been doing consistently as members of the Quintet committee. In this regard, the two countries stated that the upcoming end of UNIFIL's mandate must not create a security vacuum, which could destabilise the country and the entire region. They emphasised the importance of maintaining an international presence and support to the Lebanese authorities and Lebanese Armed Forces, in view of implementing UNSCR1701, on which any lasting solution must be based.

The two countries reiterated their support to the Trilateral Framework Agreement and its full implementation by all parties, in order to move towards the restoration of Lebanese authorities' sovereignty all over the territory, the disarmament of Hezbollah and the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. France and Qatar also highlighted the importance of reforms, particularly economic and financial ones, and reaffirmed their intention to continue providing humanitarian aid to the civilian population, which has been severely affected.

Qatar and France affirmed their continued co-operation in support of stability in Libya, Syria, Sudan, the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes region and Yemen, support for the UN-led political processes, and ef-

forts to advance a just and lasting peace in Ukraine. On Syria, they reaffirmed their willingness to work together to support projects that contribute to the stabilisation and economic recovery of Syria, in close co-operation with the Syrian authorities.

They underscored the importance of strengthening equitable and strategic partnerships with African countries, contributing to the sustainable development of the African continent, and cooperating in various areas of mutual benefit in partnership with African countries.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to deepening the partnership between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council by fostering further structured cooperation.

Qatar and France reaffirmed that the fight against terrorism remains a central pillar of bilateral co-operation and emphasised the importance of continued collaboration to prevent and counter terrorism, safeguard their citizens, and address evolving security threats that transcend national borders. They also agreed to deepen co-operation in cybersecurity and in combating terrorism, violent extremism, and illicit financial flows, recognising the need for a coordinated and comprehensive approach to addressing shared security challenges.

An Enhanced Defence and Security Partnership

Both sides agreed to strengthen their defence capabilities through expanded military co-operation, including between their land forces, marking a new chapter in the Qatar-France military partnership. A Letter of Intent was signed to select KNDS France and John Cockerill Defence to modernise the Qatar Amiri Land Forces. The two sides aim to conclude the remaining negotiations soon. Qatar expressed its appreciation for the deployment of air defence capabilities and its interest in further co-operation in this domain.

The Rafale, operated by both countries, remains a key pillar of air-force co-operation and interoperability and will be further strengthened through enhanced capabilities for the Qatar Amiri Air Force to address growing threats. They underscored that their defence co-operation culminated in the signing of a Letter of Intent on defence security guarantees between the two countries and stability in the Middle East, in the wake of the proceedings of the High Military Committee between

the two countries, the latest round of which was held in January 2026.

This contributes to deepening joint co-ordination, addressing regional challenges, supporting stability, safeguarding the safety and security of maritime navigation, and intensifying cooperation in the field of joint training. France and Qatar reaffirmed the importance of their security and defence operational co-operation. They welcomed the progress made over the past year in their co-operation, in particular through the contracts signed for radar systems and communication satellites. The two sides also expressed their desire to explore new forms of co-operation and to examine ways to deepen co-operation in the areas of planning, training, and exercises for joint military operations.

Both sides agreed to strengthen their respective defence capabilities through expanded military co-operation, including between their land forces, marking a new chapter in the Qatar-France military partnership. This co-operation will include enhanced capacity-building and integration between the Qatar Amiri Land Forces and the French Army.

The two sides commended the strength of their joint co-operation in the field of homeland security, illustrated by the holding of Milipol in Doha and by France's participation, as guest of honor, in the Watan exercise. Qatar and France also welcomed the strengthening of their partnership in the field of civil protection, notably through their joint support for the Syrian Civil Defence. They welcomed the signing of a renewed and expanded three-year action plan between the Ministry of Interior and the Internal Security Force of Qatar and the Ministry of the Interior of France, which will give this partnership a lasting framework in both homeland security and civil protection.

An Expanded Economic, Energy, Trade and Investment Partnership

Qatar and France expressed their commitment to prioritising direct investments in both countries, with a focus on strategic sectors such as energy, communications technology, digital transformation and artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, defence and security, particularly cybersecurity, and defence industry projects, as well as culture, transport and urban infrastructure, real estate, tourism, education, and healthcare, while giving priority to favorable investment opportunities in both countries.

Joint statement between Qatar and France on occasion of President Macron's visit to Doha



The two countries reaffirmed their commitment to expanding the scope of their co-operation in the field of energy security in light of the escalation in the region. This aspect will focus, without being limited to, industrial co-operation, research and development, diversification of sources, as well as co-operation in water management, and engagement in ongoing dialogue with key public and private stakeholders in both countries. The two sides highlighted the importance of the One Planet Summit and the outcomes of its meetings, and reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the Paris Agreement and reviewing the progress made in fulfilling their respective commitments under the agreement.

The two sides noted the existing Qatari investments in the French Republic across several sectors, including consumer and luxury goods, telecommunications, real estate, industry, healthcare, and financial services. Since 2025, the Qatar Investment Authority has also invested in a range of direct investments and through the French Future Champions Fund, a joint fund between the Qatar Investment Authority and Bpifrance. All these investments have contributed to supporting economic development, creating employment opportunities, and promoting innovation in both countries. In this regard, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to continuing to explore new investment opportunities in the French Republic, particularly in promising future-oriented sectors, including quantum technologies and artificial intelligence.

Qatar and France reaffirmed their commitment to expanding co-operation in construction, transport, tourism and smart cities, and to exploring additional opportunities for French companies in the State of Qatar, including in infrastructure. The two sides also affirmed the important role of scientific research and higher education in advancing sustainable development and social and economic transformation, and underscored the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation in these fields.

Cooperation on Culture, Education and Sports

The two countries affirmed their desire to enhance co-operation in the fields of the arts, education, culture, and heritage, deepen and broaden partnerships between cultural and educational institu-

tions, and support investment in the creative industries in both countries. They jointly reiterated their long-standing support to the Institut du monde arabe and they underlined its valuable contribution to cultural dialogue and mutual understanding between the Member States of the League of Arab States and France.

In the fields of arts, culture and creative industries, the two sides committed to implement the 2025 agreements and welcomed the fruitful developments that have resulted in the fields of cinema, museums, arts and crafts and libraries.

The two sides will work to strengthen ties between linguistic, educational, academic, and research institutions, enhance co-operation in the fields of sports and youth engagement, and facilitate tourism between the two countries through coordinated promotional and visitor-attraction initiatives.

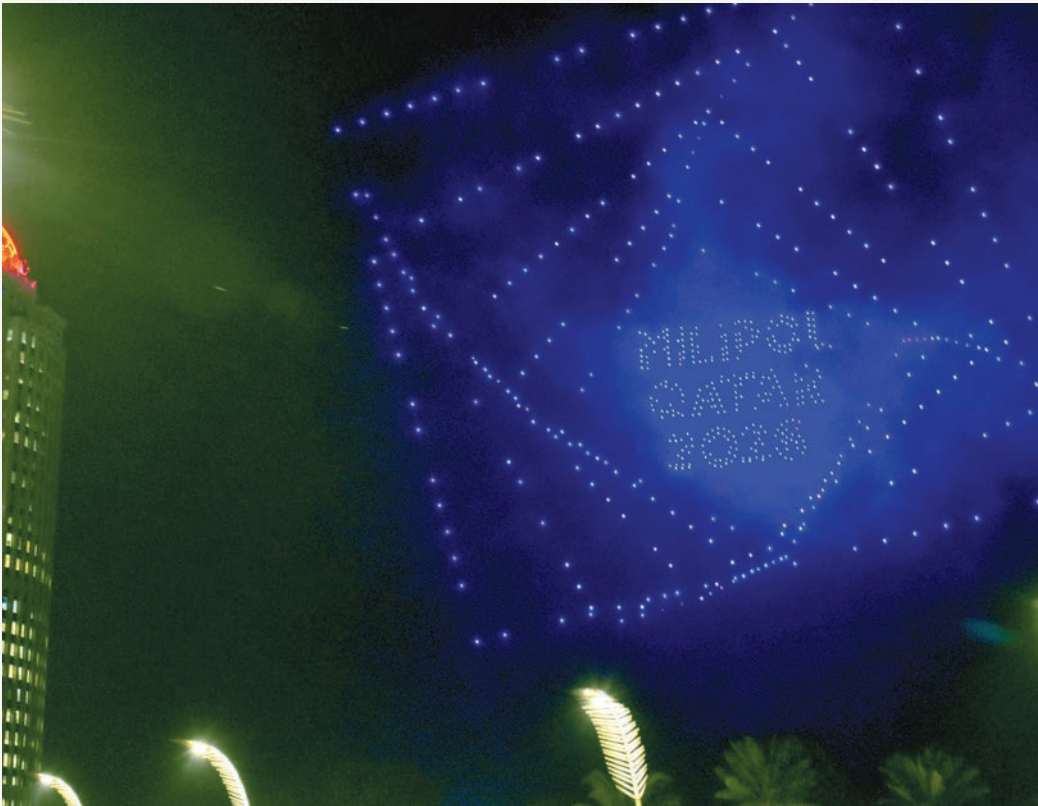
Joint Action Centered on Humanitarian and Sustainable Development Challenges

The two leaders underscored the strength of their longstanding partnership and highlighted the importance of joint co-ordination in addressing regional and global issues that require collective action, thereby contributing to international peace and stability.

The two sides emphasised that the distinctive strength of the France-Qatar partnership lies in its ability to look beyond the bilateral relationship and serve shared causes around the world, with France and Qatar working side by side in third countries and regions.

This outlook is reflected in the close consultation between the two countries on major international crises, and in the humanitarian and sustainable development partnership that the Qatar Fund for Development, the Agence Française de Développement Group and the Crisis and Support Centre have patiently built over the years in support of populations in need in developing countries. It finds growing expression in military support, in economic projects and in cultural action. It is also increasingly directed towards global public goods and the Sustainable Development Goals, as Qatar Investment Authority's hosting and chairing of the One Planet Sovereign Wealth Fund Summit eloquently illustrated. Together, France and Qatar intend to make this shared engagement a lasting force for stability, development and dialogue.

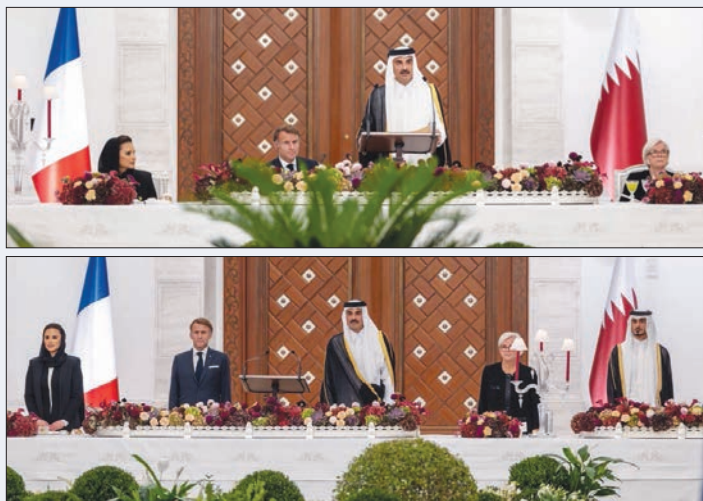
Spectacular fireworks mark 30 years of Milipol Qatar



A spectacular fireworks and drone show was held on the sidelines of Milipol Qatar 2026, celebrating its 30th anniversary. The stunning display lit up the skies over the DECC in West Bay. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen



Glimpses of French President Emmanuel Macron's state visit to Qatar



Amir, Macron attend One Planet CEOs Summit

From Page 1

The two-day summit brought together a distinguished group of investors and global financial institutions to strengthen dialogue and co-operation in long-term responsible investment and discuss ways to enable institutional capital to deliver sustainable value whose impact extends across generations, amid the structural transformations taking place in the global economy. The summit sessions addressed several key issues, including financial innovation, climate risk management, and investment in

nature. They also examined how to balance the opportunities and challenges posed by technological innovation and sustainability requirements to support the development of a more resilient investment ecosystem capable of keeping pace with future changes. The summit was attended by a number of senior officials and leaders of sovereign wealth funds and global investment institutions, including Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) Sheikh Saoud Salem Abdulaziz al-Sabah and Governor of the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia Yasir al-Rumayyan alongside

a number of sheikhs, ministers, CEOs, and senior officials from brotherly and friendly countries. In essence, QIA has been one of the founding partners of the OPSWF initiative since 2017, working in collaboration with its counterparts worldwide to promote the integration of climate considerations into long-term investment decision-making. Hosting this summit in Doha underscores QIA's commitment to the principles of responsible investment and reflects Qatar's growing standing as a global platform for dialogue and international co-operation.



Cabinet approves draft law on adopting state budget for 2027

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The Cabinet then reviewed the topics on its agenda and approved a draft law adopting the state's general budget for fiscal year 2027 and decided to refer it to the Shura Council.

The Cabinet also approved a draft Cabinet Decision issuing the Implementing Regulation of Law No. 11 of 2026 on the Owners' Association. The draft Decision, prepared by the Ministry of Municipality in co-ordination with the Real Estate Regulatory

Authority, aims to complete the framework for implementing the law by establishing the procedures and controls necessary to apply its provisions.

The Cabinet approved a draft MoU on police co-operation between the Ministry of Interior of Qatar and the Federal Police of Belgium; a draft MoU on co-operation in the field of energy between Qatar and Saudi Arabia; and a draft MoU on twinning between Doha Municipality and Cairo Governorate in Egypt.

Concluding its meeting, the

Cabinet reviewed the 2024 and 2025 annual reports on the work of the National Traffic Safety Committee; a report on the outcomes of HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change's participation in Oman Climate Week (Muscat - September 2026); and a report on the outcomes of HE the Minister of Justice's participation in the 15th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Abu Dhabi - September/October 2026). (QNA)

French president leaves Doha



French President Emmanuel Macron left Doha yesterday following a two-day state visit to the country. The president and the accompanying delegation were seen off at Hamad International Airport by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani. (QNA)

WEEKEND PRICE

٢٢-١٠-٢٠٢٦ في جميع منافذ سفاري
22-10-2026 at All Safari outlets



لحم ضاني الهندا كجم
Indian Mutton 1 kg



لحم بقري باكستان بدون عظم كجم
Pakistan Beef Boneless 1 kg



لحم خروف أستراليا كجم
Australian Lamb 1 kg



سمك القاروص باراموندي الإمارات كجم
Fresh Sea Bass (Barramundi) UAE 1 kg



جمبري صغير السعودية كجم
Fresh Prawns Small KSA 1 kg



سمك ليدي فيش عمان كجم
Fresh Lady Fish Oman 1 kg



ماكربيل صغير السعودية كجم
Fresh Mackerel Small KSA 1 kg



بيض ابيض ٣٠ حبة
White Fresh Egg 30 Pc Tray



بصل مصر كجم
Onion Egypt 1 kg



بروكلي عمان كجم
Broccoli Oman 1 kg



موز الإكوادور كجم
Banana Ecuador 1 kg



تفاح جالا إيران كجم
Aapple Gala Iran 1 kg



زمان اليمن كجم
Pomegranate Yemen 1 kg



يوسفي نادوركوت جنوب أفريقيا كجم
Mandarin Nadorcott South Africa 1 kg



برقوق احمر إيران حوالي كجم كجم
Plum Red Iran (Approx 1kg) 1 box



جوافة فيتنام كجم
Guava Vietnam 1 kg



كيوي تشيلي كجم
Kiwi Chile 1 kg



زيت زين دوار الشمس ١.٥ لتر ١ حبة
Zain Sunflower Oil 1.5 Ltr x 1 pc



شيرين ارز بسمتي طويل الحبة ٤.٥٤ كجم
Shireen Everyday Steam Basmati Rice 4.54 kg



ساديا دجاج شواية ١١٠٠ كجم ١ حبة
Sadia Chicken Griller 1100 gm