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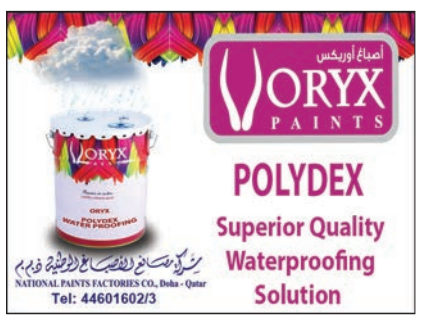
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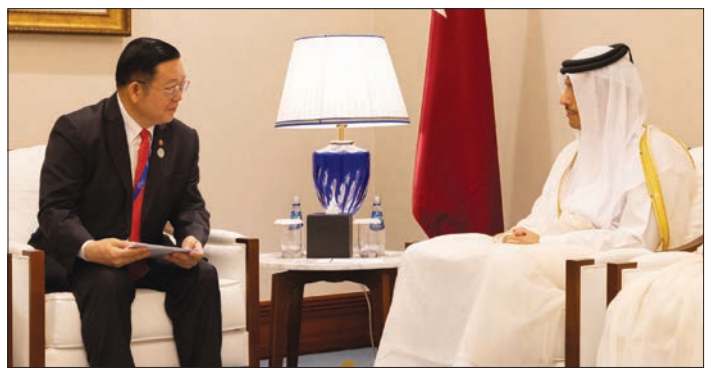
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Riyadh airport partly reopens

QNA
Doha

Flights resumed at Riyadh's international airport yesterday following a series of deadly attacks on the facility that saw it closed for two weeks, even as Yemen's Houthis targeted the country with strikes. King Khalid International Airport's website showed several domestic and international flights scheduled on Sunday, including arrivals to the kingdom from Dubai, Paris and Cairo. The renewed operations at the airport came as explosions rattled Riyadh early Sunday, after a text message was sent to residents warning of a hostile threat targeting the city. The airport closure was a major blow for Saudi Arabia, with the kingdom's flagship investment conference postponed until 2027 as residents scrambled to find alternatives to enter and exit the country. The prestigious motor sport race, the Dakar Rally, also added its name to a long list of events to be cancelled, postponed or relocated amid the fallout from the war. (**AFP**)

PM meets Asean chief



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), Dr Kao Kim Hourn on the sidelines of the World Investment Forum (WIF) being held in Doha. The two sides discussed co-operation relations between Qatar and Asean, in addition to topics of mutual interest. (**QNA**)

PM, Turkish FM discuss developments in region, diplomatic efforts underway

A phone call was held between HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkiye, Hakan Fidan. During the phone call, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and enhance them, in addition to the latest developments, particularly the diplomatic efforts underway and the joint co-ordination aimed at de-escalating tensions and promoting security and stability in the region. HE the Prime Minister affirmed Qatar's support for all diplomatic efforts and initiatives aimed at reaching a solution that ensures freedom of maritime navigation and paves the way for a comprehensive agreement that achieves sustainable peace in the region. (**QNA**)

'Beyti Beytak' anchors in Doha



QM Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani graces the opening of 'Beyti Beytak • My Home is Your Home' exhibition yesterday at the historic Fahad bin Ali Palace in Doha. Beyti Beytak explores how architecture responds to ideas of home, hospitality and belonging across the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (Menasa) region. **PICTURE:** Qatar Museums

→Full story on Page 11



WIF opens in Doha, PM attends inaugural session

The 9th edition of the event will see over 5,000 participants, including heads of government, ministers, entrepreneurs, academics and experts, alongside 406 speakers

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

The World Investment Forum (WIF) 2026 got underway yesterday in the presence of the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani at Sheraton Hotel. Hosted by Qatar in partnership with UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) under the theme 'Investing in the Future', the 9th edition of the forum is being attended by over 5,000 participants, including heads of government, ministers, senior executives, leaders of international organisations, entrepreneurs, academics and experts, alongside 406 speakers.

Speaking at the opening of the forum, the Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, HE Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed al-Sayed, said that Qatar has chosen openness, flexibility and partnership as a crystal-clear approach to navigating the transformation of the global economy, pointing out that Qatar has invested over decades in human capital, infrastructure, institutions, technology, and innovation, and in building partnerships based on mutual benefit and shared interests.

The minister said: "The global economy is witnessing profound transformations due to geopolitical tensions, disruptions in supply chains, accelerated technological developments, artificial intelligence, and the transition toward a more sustainable economy. All of these are factors reshaping the landscape of global trade and investment."

"To face these transformations and the associated uncertainty, Qatar has chosen a clear approach: openness, flexibility, and partnership. As an experienced nation, we in Qatar believe that trade and investment are not two separate paths, but rather two complementary engines for economic growth and diversification," explained the minister.

"From this standpoint, and through our National Strategy for External Trade, we are working to enhance the security and sustainability of supply chains and the resilience of our imports, open new markets for our goods and services, diversify our economic partnerships, and strengthen our integration with global markets," he continued.

Pedro Manuel Moreno, acting secretary-general of UNCTAD, said the world has entered a new age of investment, the age of strategy. He said: "We are seeing profound changes that demand our attention. For decades, capital followed costs and efficiency. Countries competed on price. And many developing economies built their first industries that way. That era produced real gains."

Moreno noted that those assumptions no longer hold and the market's hand is no longer so invisible. "Governments in every region now use subsidies, investment screening and trade policy to secure the industries they consider critical, like artificial intelligence, semiconductors, clean energy, critical minerals.

"According to our data, these sectors now draw nearly half of all new greenfield investments worldwide, up from one-sixth just five years ago. We are saying, actually, that markets are no longer discovered; they are designed. We have entered a new age of investment — the age of strategy," he explained.

In a message read out at the opening session on his behalf, Antonio Guterres, secretary-general of the United Nations, said that in a year of profound global challenge, the theme, 'Investing in the Future', affirms a critical truth, investment is an expression of confidence that tomorrow can be better than today. To Page 8

Qatar building digital economy based on knowledge, innovation

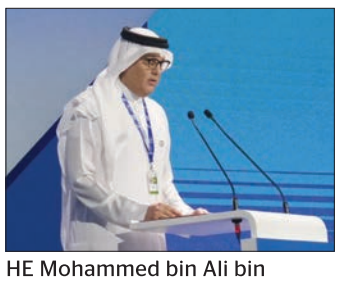
QNA
Doha

HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali bin Mohammed al-Mannai has said that Qatar is moving forward with building a digital economy rooted in knowledge and innovation. This is being achieved through investments in digital infrastructure, the development of national talent, the promotion of artificial intelligence adoption, and the establishment of trust and responsible governance, all of which support the realisation of the goals set out in the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Digital Agenda 2030.

This came during his remarks at the opening of the session titled 'Investing in AI for an Inclusive Digital Future' held as part of the 9th World Investment Forum 2026, hosted by Qatar in partnership with UNCTAD from Oct 25-27 under the theme 'Investing in the Future'. He commended the partnership with UNCTAD and underscored the importance of directing investments toward future technologies to foster sustainable development and shared prosperity.

HE the Minister pointed out that AI has become one of the key factors influencing the direction of global capital, in light of the rapid growth of investments in digital infrastructure and data centres. He noted that the primary challenge facing governments is to transform these investments into sustainable national capabilities, economic opportunities, and services that contribute to improving the quality of people's lives.

He indicated that Qatar is adopting an integrated approach to strengthen its position in the digital economy, anchored by four key pillars. The first of these is investment in sovereign, scalable digital infrastructure. In this context, he pointed to the $20bn partnership announced between "Qai" and Brookfield to develop comprehensive AI infrastructure, which will enhance high-performance computing capabilities in the region. He added that the second pillar focuses on investing in people and developing digital skills. Qatar aims to provide over 50,000 training opportunities in digital fields and artificial intelligence by 2030, thereby helping to prepare national talent for the requirements of the future economy.



HE Mohammed bin Ali bin Mohammed al-Mannai speaking at the event.

HE al-Mannai underscored that the third pillar focuses on accelerating the adoption of technology and entrepreneurship by developing AI use cases within the government sector, and by supporting both established companies and startups in this field through an incentive package valued at QR6bn, thereby fostering innovation and enhancing the competitiveness of the national economy.

Regarding the fourth pillar, HE the Minister emphasised the importance of building trust through the responsible governance of AI. He noted that, during the Global Dialogue on AI Governance held by the United Nations in July, Qatar stressed that human rights and meaningful human oversight must remain at the core of the development and use of these technologies.

He also pointed to Qatar's support for the development of AI governance frameworks that account for global linguistic and cultural diversity, including the Arabic language, to ensure that various societies can benefit from modern technologies in a fair and inclusive manner.

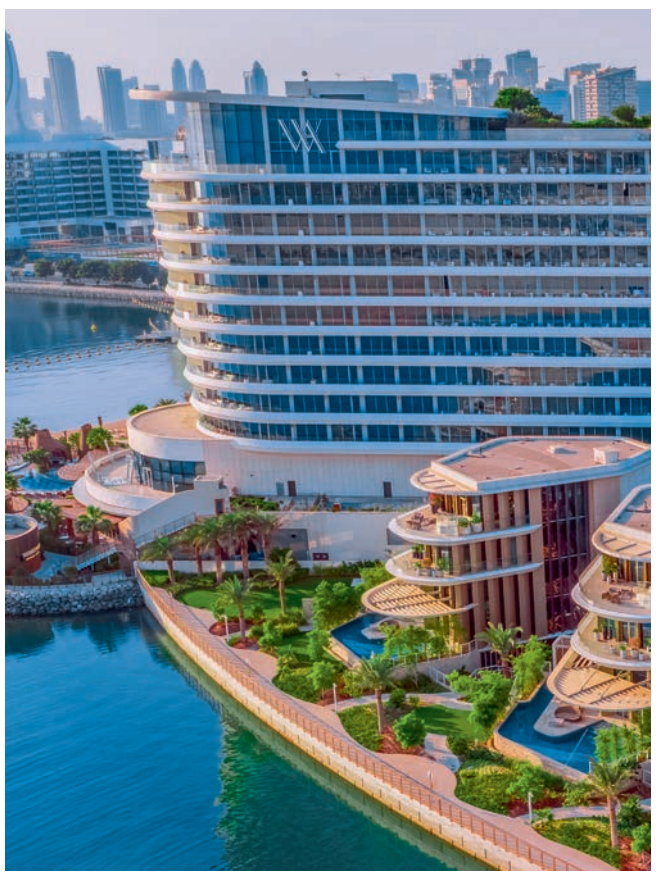


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Bespoke menus, exceptional culinary expertise and full-service event for weddings, social celebrations, governmental occasions, corporate events and gatherings.



Waldorf Astoria Doha Lusail is expanding its renowned hospitality beyond the hotel with the launch of its Outside Catering Services, bringing the brand's signature culinary excellence, personalized service and timeless luxury to events and occasions across Qatar.

Launched in December ²0²5 following growing demand from clients, the service offers a fully bespoke catering experience for social celebrations, weddings, governmental events, corporate occasions, brand activations, gala dinners, conferences and private gatherings, from intimate events to large-scale occasions.

At the heart of the offering is a fully customized culinary experience, with menus created around the client's vision, guest profile and event requirements. The culinary selection places Qatar's rich gastronomic heritage and Arabic cuisine at the forefront, alongside an extensive choice of Asian, European, African and international cuisines. The offering includes breakfast, lunch and dinner menus, canapés, desserts and patisserie, live cooking stations, beverage services and bespoke dietary options.

The service is designed to bring the standards of Waldorf Astoria to any setting, including private residences, villas, palaces, corporate offices, event venues, ballrooms, outdoor locations, beach venues and wedding destinations across Qatar.

"Our outside catering service allows us to take what our guests value most about Waldorf Astoria Doha Lusail – exceptional food, impeccable service and attention to every detail – and bring it directly to their chosen venue," said Wladimiro Gadioli, Executive Chef at Waldorf Astoria Doha Lusail.



"From traditional Qatari and Arabic cuisine to international culinary concepts, every menu is developed around the occasion and the people we are serving. Our aim is to make every event feel personal, seamless and unmistakably Waldorf Astoria."

The culinary offering can also draw inspiration from Waldorf Astoria Doha Lusail's diverse restaurant portfolio, including SUSHISAMBA, Scarpetta and Wyld Erth, allowing clients to incorporate selected culinary concepts and experiences from the hotel into their bespoke catering arrangements.



From the initial consultation and venue assessment to menu development, tasting, setup and service, the dedicated outside catering team manages each stage of the experience. Clients can also benefit from site visits and personalized consultations to ensure that every element is carefully planned around the venue, guest requirements and occasion.

The team has already demonstrated its ability to deliver at scale, having successfully provided football stadium catering for FIFA VIP guests, further showcasing its operational capabilities for large and complex events.

With a minimum booking lead time of 48 hours, subject to event requirements and availability, Waldorf Astoria Doha Lusail Outside Catering Services offers clients a complete solution for creating exceptional events across Qatar.

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QATAR

Amir condoles with Canada's governor-general Arbour

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of condolences yesterday to Canada's Governor General Louise Arbour on the victims of the fire that broke out at a Canadian Armed Forces base in the province of Alberta, wishing those injured a speedy recovery.
HH the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent a similar cable of condolences to Arbour.
HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani meanwhile sent a cable of condolences to Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney. **– QNA**

Amir congratulates Tokayev

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations yesterday to Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on the occasion of his country's National Day.
HH the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent a similar cable of congratulations to Tokayev.
Meanwhile, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov. **– QNA**

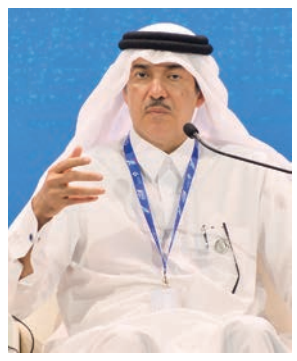
PM meets MSCI chairman

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with MSCI chairman and chief executive Henry Fernandez on the sidelines of the World Investment Forum (WIF), held in Doha. **– QNA**

PM holds meetings with Libya, Congo Republic, Lesotho leaders



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met separately yesterday with Libya's Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Mohammed Dbeibeh, Republic of Congo's Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of Co-ordination, Development Infrastructure, and Land Planning Jean-Jacques Bouya, and Lesotho's Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and National Security Samuel Matekane, on the sidelines of the World Investment Forum (WIF), held in Doha. During the meetings, co-operation, relations between the countries and ways to support and develop them were discussed, in addition to regional developments. **– QNA**



HE Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed al-Sayed speaking during the panel discussion: **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

Qatar proved its resilience amid crisis, says minister

By Joseph Varguese
Staff Reporter

Qatar has shown great resilience in connecting with other countries and providing value chains, especially in the recent months of geopolitical uncertainty, HE the Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed al-Sayed said yesterday.

Taking part in a panel discussion on "Rebuilding Global Value Chains for Growth and Resilience", HE Dr al-Sayed said: "Qatar has shown great resilience in the last few months during this crisis. We intend to connect more and we are not going backward. Actually, we intend to connect more, to be open, as we always. So we intend to be open and need to connect with different economies."

Speaking about Qatar's approach to connecting investment, trade, services and domestic businesses with international markets, the minister said that the country is determined to deepen its global economic engagement rather than retreat from international markets.

HE Dr al-Sayed outlined four key pillars underpinning Qatar's approach: strengthening supply chains, expanding access to international markets, developing exports of goods and services, and deepening global partnerships to attract investment and support businesses.

Qatar intends to use trade agreements and partnerships, including those involving the Gulf Co-operation Council, to access new markets and broaden domestic companies' international reach.

HE Dr al-Sayed said the country's export strategy would extend beyond goods to place greater emphasis on services.

As Qatar continues to develop its industrial base and expand manufacturing capabilities, it is also prioritising sectors such as logistics, advanced manufacturing, technology, and artificial intelligence (AI), in line with its strategic sectoral priorities.

"We intend to double down on this," the minister said.

He also highlighted Qatar's role as a long-term international investor through both its sovereign investment fund and private sector, saying that both were keen to expand overseas and establish partnerships with international counterparts.

"Before being an FDI (foreign direct investment) global hub for trade and business, we are an investor, we are a long-term investor," HE Dr al-Sayed said. "We will ensure resilience of our value chain and work together with our partners in GCC and globally."



Al-Misnad meets EIF board chairman

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and chair of the Executive Board of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) for Trade-Related Assistance to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Kadra Ahmed Hassan. **– QNA**

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Auction No: GCCA137/2026

Auction Documents Collection Date	Auction Documents Fee	Technical Submission Date	Commercial Submission Date	Auction Bid Bond	Auction Performance Bond
From 25/10/2026 to 28/10/2026	QAR1000 Non-refundable	On or Before 02/11/2026	04/11/2026 10:00 AM	QAR50,000	QAR100,000

1. Auction documents and the terms & conditions can be collected from Spacemaker Factory located in New Industrial Area, Building#64, Street#3, against a fee of QAR1000 paid in cash at the Company's Cashier. Auction Documents Collection Date is from 25/10/2026 to 28/10/2026, from 8:30am to 3:30pm - Auction documents can be reviewed prior to Purchasing.
2. Companies interested to participate in the auction has to collect the auction documents by submitting an authorization letter for the person who will collect the documents (should be under the bidder's sponsorship), along with copy of his QID, Company CR, Tax Card, Commercial License, Establishment Card, company's owner QID, National Address Certificate (all valid and newly Printed - 1 month) and an official email address for communication.
3. The auction items will be sold on As Is, Where Is Basis, and subject to the Auction's Terms & Conditions.
4. Technical submission, auction bid bond submission, and performance bond submission shall be submitted on or before 02/11/2026 as stated in the Auction's Terms & Conditions.
5. Commercial submission shall be on 04/11/2026 at 10:00AM. The commercial submission will be at Spacemaker Factory located in New Industrial Area, Building#64, Street#3.
6. Viewing of the auction items, which is limited to the companies who obtained the auction documents only and it will be from 25/10/2026 to 01/11/2026, from 8:30am to 3:30pm, except for Fridays. The location for viewing the items is specified in the Auction's Terms & Conditions.
7. No individuals or middlemen shall be allowed to participate in this Auction, which is restricted to registered companies only.
8. All communications/clarifications/follow-ups/updates related to this Auction is through this email: GCCA137@gulfcontracting.com. The bidders are strictly prohibited from communicating with Gulf Contracting and its staff through any other channels (visits, calls, SMS or WhatsApp messages…etc). Should a bidder fail to comply, this might lead to disqualification from this Auction.

Note: No offer will be accepted unless the Auction's Terms & Conditions are accepted, stamped and signed by the bidder as requested and by providing the required documents in full and strictly within the given date and time.

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QNB Group Supports QCS's ongoing Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign, "It's Time"



QNB Group, a leading financial institution in the Middle East and Africa is supporting Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) ongoing "It's Time" campaign as its official sponsor. Taking place throughout October to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The campaign aims to raise public awareness, promote early detection, and encourage healthier lifestyles.

The sponsorship forms part of QNB Group's ongoing efforts to support public health and well-being, in line with its sustainability strategy and commitment to creating long-term value for the communities it serves. Through health education and community engagement, the Group supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being. These efforts also align with Qatar National Vision 2030's human development objectives, including the promotion of a healthy and prosperous society.

Commenting on the partnership, Ms. Mona Ashkanani, General Manager of Qatar Cancer Society, expressed her appreciation for QNB's support and emphasized the importance of collaboration between national institutions in advancing public health awareness.

"QNB's sponsorship of the 'It's Time' campaign reflects a strong model of community partnership, enabling us to extend our awareness messages to wider audiences through outdoor advertising and educational activities throughout October," she said.



Ms. Mona Ashkanani
General Manager of Qatar Cancer Society

"At QCS, we believe that raising awareness is a shared responsibility. Through this partnership, we aim to encourage women to prioritize their health, undergo recommended screenings, and strengthen psychological and community support for those living with and beyond cancer," Ashkanani added.

As part of its sponsorship, QNB Group supported an extensive outdoor awareness campaign across Qatar, featuring messages on major roads and 140 advertising screens in shopping malls and public spaces. The initiative aims to reach a wide audience and highlight the importance of breast health and early detection.

The sponsorship also covers awareness workshops and educational lectures organized by QCS throughout October at schools, universities, companies, and government ministries. These activities focus on breast cancer risk factors, warning signs, common misconceptions, and the importance of regular screening.

The Group also supported the creative workshop "Turn Your Idea into a Work of Art," designed to empower cancer survivors, encourage self-expression, and strengthen their confidence and social engagement.

The sponsorship also included "It's Time – Pink Evening," an awareness gathering that brought together media professionals and influencers. Ms. Mona Ashkanani, General Manager of QCS, and a QNB representative attended the event. Dr. Ertifaa Al Shammari, Consultant Breast Cancer Surgeon and QCS Honorary Ambassador, delivered an educational presentation highlighting key facts about breast cancer and the importance of early detection.



Qatar Cancer Society
الجمعية القطرية للسرطان

A Partnership That Makes a Difference.
A Commitment That Inspires Awareness.

QNB

Official Sponsor of "It's Time"
Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign

حملة التوعية بسرطان الثدي
Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign
جا الوقت IT'S TIME

Thank you for your support in raising awareness
about breast cancer and promoting the importance of early detection.

Together, We Inspire Awareness ... Together, We Make a Difference.

qatarcancersociety



QATAR

Minister stresses importance of preparing national talent

QNA
Doha



HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, underscored the criticality of continuously developing national talent capable of taking the helm of vital leadership roles, highlighting its pivotal role in strengthening institutional resilience, ensuring operational continuity, and responding more effectively to fluctuations.

He made the remarks while chairing the 26th Annual Qatarisation Review Meeting, attended by senior executives and representatives of companies participating in the energy sector strategic Qatarisation plan.

HE the Minister praised energy companies for their resilience in responding to and adapting to rapidly evolving, unforeseen circumstances, alongside their steadfast commitment to worker safety across the energy sector.

HE al-Kaabi highlighted the strategic importance of Qatarisation as the energy sector builds on its achievements and strengthens business continuity. He added that the sector remains committed to achieving its strategic energy objectives and supporting the human development pillar of Qatar National Vision 2030.

HE al-Kaabi stressed the importance of substantive Qatarisation that goes beyond the numbers, focusing on attracting and retaining national talent and implementing effective development programmes. These efforts can help Qatari professionals build rewarding career paths while enabling companies to develop qualified national talent for vital leadership roles, both now and in the future.

The Minister also presented the annual Qatarisation crystal awards, recognising companies for their achievements across four categories. Nakilat won for support and liaison with the education sector, Qatar Shell for supporting Qatarisation, North Oil Company for support for learning and development, and QatarEnergy LNG for best Qatarisation progress.

Separately, HE al-Kaabi presented the annual Qatarisation certificates, awarded to companies that made the greatest progress compared with the previous calendar year across three categories.

Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) won for support and liaison with the education sector, Oryx GTL for supporting Qatarisation, and Qatar Fuel Additives Company (Qafac) for support for learning and development.

Qatar brings investors together to shape the future of investment

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter



Hammad Mohamed al-Nasser (left) at the forum.

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) warns that 80% of foreign direct investment went to just 20 economies in 2025, as Doha hosts a global forum seeking more inclusive and sustainable investment.

Global foreign direct investment (FDI) rose 6% to $1.6tn in 2025, but 80% flowed to just 20 economies, highlighting the growing challenge of directing capital to developing countries.

The figures took centre stage at the opening press conference of the ninth World Investment Forum (WIF) in Doha yesterday, where officials called for stronger international co-operation to ensure investment generates broader economic opportunities.

Organised by UNCTAD in partnership with Qatar, the forum brings together governments, investors, and business leaders to discuss investment priorities amid geopolitical tensions, shifting supply chains, and rapid technological advances.

The UNCTAD's latest Global Investment Trends Monitor, released to coincide with the forum, showed that although international investment increased, new investment projects and cross-border transactions continued to decline worldwide.

Investment in critical development sectors, including infrastructure, energy, health and food systems, fell by more than 25% in developing countries.

"The central question is where investment goes, what it builds, and who benefits," a UNCTAD representative said, describing the unequal distribution of capital as a central development challenge.

The forum will examine how countries can attract investment while ensuring it strengthens productive capacity, creates jobs and delivers lasting benefits to local economies.

Qatar's director of the Trade and Development and Investment Promotion Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), Hammad Mohamed al-Nasser, said hosting the forum reflected the country's commitment to investment as a pillar of economic diversification, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy.

He highlighted Qatar's investment framework, which allows 100% foreign ownership in most sectors, along with incentive programmes worth $100mn to support local and foreign investment.

Al-Nasser urged international participants to explore investment opportunities in Qatar, hoping the forum would lead to practical proposals, agreements, and memoranda of understanding that support sustainable economic growth.

More than 5,000 participants and 400 speakers are expected to take part in over 80 sessions across seven thematic tracks, covering investment policy, finance, technology, entrepreneurship and emerging opportunities.

A high-level panel will examine the future of investment in the Gulf Co-operation Council region.

Experts discuss strengthening global trade positions

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter



Panellists during the discussion. **PICTURE**: Shaji Kayamkulam

Experts discussed ways to strengthen global trade positions by investing in alternative shipping routes, transport infrastructure, and digital connectivity during a panel discussion on the opening day of the World Trade Forum 2026, which began yesterday at the Sheraton Hotel Doha.

Participants at a high-level discussion on "Rebuilding global value chains for growth and stability" stressed that global trade had shown remarkable resilience despite successive crises, but warned that supply chains need greater investment, more predictable trade rules, and closer public-private cooperation to be more robust and less vulnerable to future shocks.

World Trade Organisation (WTO) director-general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said global trade in goods and services reached a record $35tn last year, while goods trade grew by 3.5% in the first half of this year, nearly double the WTO's earlier forecast of 1.9% for the year.

She attributed the stronger-than-expected performance to the efforts of businesses and policymakers to keep goods moving despite disruptions caused by tariffs, unilateral trade measures and instability affecting key maritime routes, a shift from managing disruptions as they occur to building systems capable of withstanding future shocks.

"Businesses have increasingly relied on alternative pipelines, land bridges, air freight and different transport routes to maintain the flow of goods. However, these alternatives have raised costs for shipping, logistics, insurance and freight, while capacity constraints at ports, delays in unloading and customs clearance bottlenecks have added further pressure," she explained.

Okonjo-Iweala said investment in alternative routes and infrastructure was essential, even if existing disruptions were eventually resolved. She called for greater investment in ports, shipping facilities, land bridges, alternative pipelines and berthing capacity.

She also urged reforms to WTO rules to help businesses trade under fair, open, and transparent multilateral arrangements, arguing that decision-making must speed up to keep pace with changes in the global economy.

"Despite mounting disruption, around 72% of global trade continues to take place under WTO rules. So we need to reform some of our rules in order to help business to trade on their fair, open, and transparent multilateral rules," she noted.

John Denton, secretary-general of the International Chamber of Commerce, said political fragmentation should not be confused with a breakdown in commercial connections between economies.

"Businesses are continuing to adapt and reorganise their supply chains, but uncertainty over trade policies, tariffs and contractual conditions is undermining investment and economic activity," he said.

Citing a survey of about 135 chambers of commerce worldwide, Denton identified uncertainty as the biggest obstacle preventing businesses from moving beyond resilience towards stronger, sustained growth.

"Greater predictability in trade rules and policies would help companies make long-term decisions, expand operations and invest with more confidence," he said.

Former CIA director and partner and chairman of KKR Global Institute, General David Petraeus, said the global economy has moved away from an era of relatively frictionless globalisation toward one marked by renewed great-power rivalry, rising trade barriers, and greater regionalisation.

"Supply chains that once relied on just-in-time logistics are increasingly shifting towards just-in-case models, requiring companies to maintain greater redundancy and alternative sources of supply," he said.

Petraeus said Gulf countries are already investing in infrastructure and developing alternatives to vulnerable maritime chokepoints. He cited the increased use of Saudi Arabia's Red Sea port of Yanbu and the UAE's Fujairah as examples of efforts to diversify transport routes and reduce dependence on contested waterways.

"Private investment would play a major role in strengthening the region's infrastructure, including energy generation, storage and transmission, data centres, semiconductor production and other foundations of the digital economy," he highlighted.

Investors should look beyond conventional transport infrastructure and consider digital trade and technology-enabled connectivity, he said, noting that future trade corridors would depend as much on data flows as on physical infrastructure.

The session was moderated by Adrian Finighan, principal presenter, Al Jazeera English.

"Trade is resilient. It is not robust. We have to go from resilience to robustness," she said, calling for

Jobs, service quality at heart of sustainable tourism investment

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter



HE Saad bin Ali al-Kharji and Shaikha al-Nuwais at World Investment Forum 2026 yesterday.

Qatar is focusing on restoring tourism demand, protecting jobs, and extending investment benefits to local businesses as it strengthens Doha's position as an international destination, officials said yesterday.

Speaking at the Sustainable Investment in Tourism session at the ninth World Investment Forum (WIF) in Doha, Qatar Tourism Chairman HE Saad bin Ali al-Kharji said that recent regional challenges had made supporting tourism businesses and retaining skilled employees a priority.

"The biggest challenge was for me to keep business running and keep that employment," he said, recalling the difficulties of supporting the private sector amid disruptions in the region since March.

HE al-Kharji said he was particularly concerned about businesses losing experienced staff during difficult periods, warning that dismissing trained employees could make recovery more challenging when demand returned.

"The last thing I want to see is that they will dismiss some employees or staff," he said, stressing the importance of retaining skilled workers who would be needed to help the sector return to normal operations.

Qatar has responded by stepping up international promotional campaigns, strengthening partnerships with airlines and travel trade partners, and announcing the return of major events and new experiences to its tourism calendar.

"These are about restoring demand, strengthening the tourism sector's resilience, and generating sustained economic activity across the hospitality sector," HE al-Kharji said.

The approach builds on investments made under Qatar National Vision 2030 and the legacy of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which expanded the country's infrastructure, hospitality capacity, transport networks and event-hosting capabilities.

However, UN Tourism secretary-general Shaikha al-Nuwais said the real measure of tourism investment should be what destinations and communities gain after projects are completed.

"World-class infrastructure can bring someone to a destination. But it's people who make them want to return," she said, highlighting the importance of service delivery and recognition across the industry.

Al-Nuwais pointed to the role of Qatar Tourism's awards in recognising exceptional service, arguing that the visitor experience is central to encouraging repeat travel and building a destination's long-term competitiveness.

She also called for investment to connect with local economies, create opportunities for workers, and protect the natural and cultural assets tourism depends on.

Al-Misnad meets Lebanese minister of economy and trade



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with Minister of Economy and Trade of the Republic of Lebanon Dr Amer Bisat on the sidelines of the World Investment Forum in Doha. During the meeting, both sides discussed bilateral co-operation and ways to strengthen and expand it, as well as a range of matters of mutual interest. (**QNA**)

MoFA secretary-general of meets Turkish ambassador



HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met yesterday with Turkiye's ambassador to Qatar Yakup Caymazoglu. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation between the two nations and ways to strengthen and expand it, as well as a range of matters of mutual interest. (**QNA**)



Shura Council committees elect deputy chairs

The Shura Council's Internal and External Affairs Committee and the Economic and Financial Affairs Committee held their first meetings yesterday for the second ordinary session of the second legislative term, corresponding to the Shura Council's 55th annual session, and elected their deputy chairs by acclamation in accordance with Article 30 of the council's internal regulations.

The Internal and External Affairs Committee, chaired by Yousef bin Ali al-Khater, elected Abdulla bin Ali al-Sulaiti as its deputy chairperson.

Meanwhile, the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, chaired by Mohamed bin Yousef Almana, elected Engineer Ahmad bin Hitmi al-Hitmi as its deputy chairperson. (**QNA**)



From left: Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Abdulaziz Nasser Abdulaziz al-Marzouq, Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi, HE Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed al-Sayed, and Fahad al-Gergawi.

GCC urged to turn integration into investment opportunities

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries should co-ordinate industrial strategies, replace imports with locally made products, and build cross-border investment corridors to strengthen regional integration, trade, and shared business opportunities, ministers said.

Speaking at the session on "The Future of Investment in the Gulf Region" during the ninth World Investment Forum (WIF) in Doha yesterday, ministers from across the Gulf highlighted the need to move beyond attracting foreign capital and create practical opportunities that encourage investment, expand manufacturing and connect regional markets.

Bahrain's industry and commerce minister, Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, said governments needed to take a more proactive role in identifying and developing investment opportunities based on actual market demand.

Rather than simply promoting their countries to international investors, he said governments should identify products they can manufacture locally instead of importing.

GCC Secretary-General Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi said the region should be viewed as an interconnected economic and investment system rather than six separate national markets.

He cited the bloc's gross domestic product of $2.4tn, external trade exceeding $1.3tn and sovereign wealth fund assets of more than $5tn as indicators of its economic and financial capacity.

Albudaiwi also said foreign direct investment stock in GCC countries exceeded $792bn in 2025, including more than $171bn in investment between member states.

Intra-GCC investment therefore represented approximately 22% of the total, according to the figures presented during the session.

HE the Minister of State for Foreign Trade Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed al-Sayed said that recent crises had shown how closely Gulf economies are connected and how their industries can complement one another.

He said the GCC had maintained the movement of goods through alternative routes despite disruptions affecting the Strait of Hormuz, demonstrating the value of regional connectivity.

He called for stronger links between industries, with the private sector playing a central role in using resources across the value chain to expand intra-GCC trade and manufacturing.

The UAE representative also highlighted trade agreements' role in opening markets and attracting investment.

He cited the UAE's Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs), which aim to reduce tariffs and improve market access for businesses.

The UAE's foreign trade reached Dh3.8tn, or approximately $1.1tn, in the previous year, according to figures shared during the session.

Trade with CEPA partner countries contributed to non-oil trade growth, illustrating how market access can create opportunities for businesses and investors.

Kuwait's state minister for economic affairs and investment, Abdulaziz Nasser Abdulaziz al-Marzouq, said the region had the energy, capital, human resources and regulatory environment needed to develop high-value industries, particularly in technology.




The fleet of Toyata Yaris cars that Safari will give away.

Safari launches 'Shop & Drive' promotion with 25 Toyota Yaris cars up for grabs

Safari, one of Qatar's leading hypermarket chains, has officially launched its much-awaited 'Shop & Drive' promotion, offering customers an exciting opportunity to win a total of 25 Toyota Yaris cars through raffle draws.

The promotion, which commenced today (October 26), is available across all Safari outlets in Qatar.

Customers making purchases worth just QR50 at any Safari outlet will receive an e-raffle coupon, giving them the chance to participate in the lucky draws and win a brand-new Toyota Yaris.

The promotion features eight lucky draws, with a total of 25 cars to be awarded.

Three lucky winners will each receive a Toyota Yaris in the first seven draws, while four winners will be selected in the eighth and final draw.

Running until October 25, 2027, the promotion will hold its first lucky draw on December 6, at Safari Mall, Abu Hamour.

The second draw will take place on January 24, 2027, at the Safari outlet on Salwa Road Outlet, followed by the third draw on March 17, 2027, at Barwa Village Outlet.

The fourth draw is scheduled for April 29, 2027, at Al Khor Outlet, while the fifth will be held on June 14, 2027, at Ezdan Mall in Al Gharafa.

The sixth draw will take place on July 29, 2027, at the Birkat Al Awamer outlet, followed by the seventh draw on September 13, 2027, at Safari's outlet in GWC Logistics Village.

The eighth and final lucky draw will be conducted on October 25, 2027, at the Al Shahaniya outlet.

Safari's previous mega 'Shop & Drive' promotion, which concluded with its seventh lucky draw on September 12, received an overwhelming response from customers.

The campaign awarded a total of 30 Bestune cars, further strengthening Safari's reputation for introducing rewarding promotional campaigns.

Safari's tradition of offering exceptional prizes dates back to 2005, when the company marked the opening of its Safari Hypermarket on Salwa Road with a promotional campaign offering one kilogram of gold as the grand prize.

Since then, Safari's promotional initiatives have created numerous winners and brought exciting rewards to customers across Qatar.

Safari also made history in the country's retail sector by becoming the first retailer to offer QR1mn as a single grand prize.

Over the years, the company has awarded an impressive range of prizes, including substantial cash rewards, gold, luxury SUVs, Toyota Land Cruisers, Nissan Patrols, Toyota Fortuners, and numerous other vehicles.

With its latest 'Shop & Drive' promotion, Safari continues its longstanding tradition of introducing innovative and rewarding campaigns.

By combining attractive prizes with exceptional shopping experiences, Safari remains committed to customer satisfaction and delivering added value to shoppers throughout Qatar.

MoPH observes infection prevention, control week

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), in collaboration with the healthcare sector, celebrated Qatar Infection Prevention and Control Week from October 18-23, under the theme "Generations of Infection Prevention. Past. Present. Protected".

The initiative supported the ministry's efforts to raise awareness of the importance of infection prevention and control and to strengthen practices that protect patients, healthcare workers, and community members.

The celebration coincided with World Infection Prevention and Control Week.

As part of the celebration, the MoPH, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, organised a virtual seminar on the history of infection prevention and control, the efforts undertaken under Qatar's National Infection Control Programme, and the role of innovation and technology in advancing infection control.

Awareness activities were also organised in healthcare facilities, targeting healthcare professionals, patients and their families, visitors and community members.

These activities aimed to strengthen preparedness for the early detection of infection risks and outbreak response, and to showcase initiatives, innovations and digital technologies that support infection prevention and control efforts.

Dr Ameena al-Fakhro, the director of the MoPH's Healthcare Quality Department, emphasised the importance of continuing national efforts to strengthen infection prevention and control as an element in improving the quality of healthcare services.

She highlighted the role of healthcare professionals in reducing infection risks across healthcare facilities in Qatar, noting that successful prevention is measured not only by the ability to manage infection cases, but also by the ability to prevent them from occurring in the first place.

"This year's theme reflects the importance of building on the accumulated experience and achievements in the field of infection prevention and control, promoting evidence-based practices, and leveraging modern technologies and innovations to develop prevention methods and enable the early detection of risks, thereby contributing to the protection of patients, healthcare professionals and members of the community," Dr al-Fakhro explained.

This year's celebration honoured healthcare pioneers whose vision and dedication helped lay the foundations of modern infection prevention and control, while recognising the daily efforts of infection prevention and control specialists and frontline workers to protect patients and healthcare professionals.

As part of the celebration, the MoPH launched a comprehensive awareness campaign to emphasise that infection prevention and control is a shared responsibility and that adherence to preventive measures and safe practices helps reduce infection transmission and improve healthcare quality.

The campaign aimed to raise national awareness of the importance of infection prevention and control, promote adherence to preventive practices, and highlight progress in this field-from basic practices to surveillance systems, data, and modern technologies.

It also emphasised that innovation and technology support specialists' expertise and efforts, rather than replacing them.

Qatar Armed Forces chief of staff attends closing ceremony of 40th infantry competition



Qatar Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General (Pilot) Jassim bin Mohamed al-Mannai has attended the closing ceremony of the 40th Infantry Competition for the Qatar Armed Forces, held under the patronage of HE Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs.

Organised by the Military Parade Centre, the competition concluded with the General Command Support Force securing first place in the overall evaluation.

The Military Police Forces ranked second, while Ahmed bin Mohammed Military College finished third.

The closing ceremony was attended by a number of senior commanders and officers from the Qatar Armed Forces, reflecting the importance of the competition in promoting military discipline, professionalism and operational readiness.

Chief minister of Kerala meets Qatar's ambassador



The chief minister of India's Kerala state, VD Satheesan, met with Qatar's ambassador to India, Mohammed bin Hassan Jabir al-Jabir. During the meeting between the two a range of issues were discussed including co-operation relations between the two countries. **(QNA)**

Qatar's envoy receives award from Spain's king



King Felipe VI of Spain has awarded Abdullah bin Ibrahim al-Hamar, Qatar's former ambassador to Spain, the Order of Civil Merit in recognition of his diplomatic efforts for strengthening bilateral relations between Qatar and Spain during his tenure from 2019 to 2024.

Al-Hamar, currently Qatar's ambassador to Germany, received the decoration from Pascual Navarro Rios, Spain's ambassador to Germany, at a ceremony held in Berlin. **(QNA)**

قطر ستيل
QATAR STEEL

Qatar Steel Tender Committee is pleased to announce the following tender:

Tender number	Tender description
SC-SU-02-2026	**Segregation and processing of steel scrap material on call off basis at various yards outside of Qatar Steel plant, contract period: 5 years** Qatar Steel invites competent and experienced contractors to participate in this tender to execute the service at various sites in Qatar. **Duration: 5 years - start date: 1st July 2027** **Brief scope of work:** The selected contractor shall provide all necessary resources, equipment, manpower, and industry best practices to carry out the required activities, including cutting, downsizing, punching, handling, and any other processing necessary to make the steel scrap suitable for transportation and delivery.
Tender fees (Non-Refundable)	500 QAR
Tender bond	250,000 QAR
Last date for payment of tender fee	08th November 2026
Date of issue of tender	15th November 2026
Bank account	A/c No. 240/450008/1/11/0 with Doha Bank, being Qatari Riyal account. IBAN: QA52DOHB02400450008001011000

Interested companies are requested to:

1. Pay the tender fees to our bank account (mentioned above)
2. Send the following details to our email: servicecontracts@qatarsteel.com.qa
   - Tender number and title
   - Proof of payment (bank receipt)
   - Confirm the email to which tender to be issued

Qatar Steel shall issue Tender document through email on the "Date of issue" (mentioned above).

For queries, you may contact Procurement, Qatar Steel Co., telephone number 44778778

www.qatarsteel.com.qa

Qatar-Algeria ties get a boost

QNA
Doha

Director General of the Algerian Investment Promotion Agency (AAPI) Omar Rekkache said Qatar-Algeria economic co-operation is growing out of the brotherly ties between the two countries, providing a cornerstone for substantially bolstering investment and opening up plenty of opportunities for deeper economic engagement.

On the sidelines of the 9th World Investment Forum 2026, Rekkache said the two countries' robust economic co-operation reflects the bonds of fraternity between their peoples, pointing to promising investment opportunities and a genuine desire to strengthen bilateral co-operation and take it to new heights.

Rekkache cited Baladna's powdered milk production project in Algeria as one of the foremost examples of investment co-operation between the two countries. Valued at more than $3.5 bn, the project ranks among the major, structurally significant investments. He added that the company is studying another project currently under preparation.

The Algerian official also lauded Qatar's organisation and hosting of the 9th World Investment Forum 2026, held in partnership with UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) under the theme "Investing in the Future".

قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy
LNG

QatarEnergy LNG
Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/MNT/7915/26 Inspection and Maintenance of Metering Systems on Call-off Basis	21/10/2026 to 11/11/2026	0	250,000	16/11/2026

Scope of Work:
Company requires services for inspection and maintenance of metering systems installed across company facilities (and future installations) which are constructed by different manufacturers with various types of measurement systems, for a duration of Five (05) years.

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

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

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

QATAR

‘Amiri decision marks qualitative leap in development of legislative processes’

The General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers affirmed that the issuance of Amiri Decision No. 38 of 2026, which regulates the drafting of legislation, marks a qualitative leap in the development of government legislative processes in Qatar. It embodies the General Secretariat’s strategic objective of achieving legislative excellence and leadership in supporting the quality and monitoring of government decision-making.

The decision establishes an integrated institutional framework that governs planning and coordination among government entities, enhances the quality and efficiency of legislative drafting, and aligns it with national priorities and policies, thereby contributing to the realization of the goals set forth in the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy (2024-2030).

This decision replaces Amiri Decision No. 33 of 2000 concerning the procedures for drafting legislation, a framework that governed this process for over 25 years. It adopts a more comprehensive methodology that encompasses the entire legislative cycle: from planning and identifying the need for legislation, through drafting, study, ex-ante impact assessment, and public consultation, to final adoption, promulgation, implementation monitoring, and ex-post impact evaluation.

The provisions of this decision shall take effect as of Jan 1, 2027.

Its implementation shall be further supported by a “manual for legislative drafting procedures, to be issued by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, following approval by the Council of Ministers, which will detail the methodologies, guidelines, and templates necessary for executing these provisions.

In this regard, Assistant Secretary-General for Legislative Affairs at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, Abdulaziz Mubarak al-Buainain told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the Amiri Decision draws upon a wealth of accumulated institutional legislative experience, building on this foundation while updating its mechanisms to align with the requirements of the coming phase.

He indicated that the new system introduces specialized tools, particularly the annual legislative plan, the integrated government legislative plan approved by the Council of Ministers, the legislative dossier, the legislative rapporteur, and legislative impact assessment (conducted at three stages: before enactment and after implementation). Other key components include public consultation, an expedited legislative track, and an annual report on the state of legislation in the country.

Furthermore, the system leverages digital platforms for drafting legislation, exchanging feedback, and managing documentation.

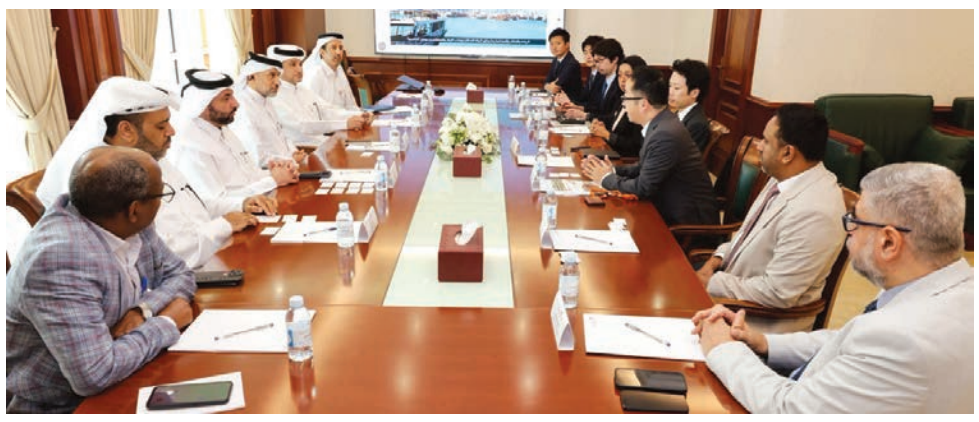
These tools foster proactive planning, standardize procedures, embed transparency, and support decision-making in line with institutional best practices, all of which directly enhance the quality of legislation.

He emphasized that the quality of legislation is measured not only by the soundness of its legal drafting, but also by its ability to achieve its objectives, the ease of its implementation, and the extent to which its impact can be continuously measured. He noted that the new system defines roles and responsibilities at each stage of drafting government legislative instruments, leading to clearer and higher-quality legislation, strengthening overall confidence in the legislative environment, and supporting sustainable development.

For his part, Director of the Legislation Department at the Council of Ministers Secretariat General, Majed Hassan al-Ghanem told QNA that the Amiri Decision establishes a unified, practical framework for the preparation of government legislative instruments. It defines the mechanisms for coordination among government entities and sets timelines for their responses to draft legislation circulated to them, all of which serves to enhance the efficiency of procedures and improve the quality of the outcomes intended by government legislation. (**QNA**)

Municipality Ministry explores AI, robotics for agri research

QNA
Doha



The Ministry of Municipality, through its agriculture and food security sector, explored avenues for co-operation with a Japanese delegation representing HarvestX and Mitsubishi Corp to substantially bolster agricultural development and food security in the State of Qatar by applying artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics to agricultural research and developing innovative technological solutions.

The meeting was chaired by Assistant Undersecretary for Agriculture and Food Security Affairs at the Ministry of Municipality, Yousef Khalid al-Khulaifi, with representatives from the ministry’s agricultural research department in attendance. Discussions focused on Japan’s experience in deploying AI-powered robots and their role in advancing agricultural operations and boosting production efficiency.

Participants also explored opportunities to transfer and adapt these technologies to local environmental, production conditions through research trials on food-security crops at farms and research stations.

Al-Khulaifi underscored the importance of leveraging cutting-edge technologies and AI-powered applications to develop the agricultural sector and devise practical solutions to challenges facing domestic production, thereby optimising efficiency and sustainability and bolstering the national food security system.

Director of the Agricultural Research Department, Hamad al-Shammari, welcomed co-operation on research trials to assess the effectiveness of robotics and AI-powered technologies in improving the yields and quality of food-security crops. He stressed the importance of rigorous scientific and practical evaluation to determine their suitability for local conditions and the potential to scale up their use.

The Japanese delegation was invited to participate in the Qatar International Agriculture Exhibition in January 2027 to showcase its experience in applying advanced technologies to agricultural operations and unlock opportunities for knowledge transfer and the exchange of expertise.

The meeting wrapped up with discussions on the foremost challenges facing the agricultural sector and the potential to deploy AI and robotics to develop practical, locally tailored solutions that strengthen research co-operation and open up new avenues for sustainable agricultural production.

QRCS launches three-month long Warm Winter Campaign

Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has announced the launch of its Warm Winter Campaign 2026-2027.

Under the theme of “Warmth and Serenity”, the three-month drive involves a wide range of winterisation projects and aid for the benefit of more than 57,000 people in many vulnerable countries, including Palestine (Gaza and the West Bank), Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Lebanon, and Jordan.

Among the forms of aid to be provided are winter clothing, mattresses, blankets, heaters, heating oil, and tarpaulins. The projects will be undertaken by QRCS’s foreign representation offices/missions, in co-operation with host National Societies and competent authorities.

Abdullah Sultan al-Qattan, Acting Secretary-General of QRCS, stated, “Through our Warm Winter Campaign, we urge generous donors to just imagine a poor family enduring the winter with no roof over their heads and no blankets or warm clothes for their shivering kids. That is not a figment of the imagination; sadly, it is how millions of displaced people around the world have been living for years.”

“Now, imagine the same family making it through the winter, with their children warmly dressed and adequately protected. In these two contrasting scenarios, Zakat and Sadaqah are what makes the difference,” he added

Al-Qattan hailed Qatar’s longstanding traditions of solidarity, benevolence, and being there for humanity.

He said, “When the need arises, benefactors are the first to step forward. Since its birth two decades ago, our annual Warm Winter Campaign has always been widely received. Similarly, QRCS has consistently delivered on its promises with maximum efficiency and dedication”.

“Today,” he continued, “a new chapter of our humanitarian mission is beginning.”

He urged people living in Qatar to contribute enthusiastically: “Everyone is invited to help thousands of underprivileged families survive this winter without suffering. Let’s uphold the values of fraternity and compassion, starting with a single word: Imagine”.

Mohamed Bader al-Sada, Assistant Secretary-General for Relief and International Development at QRCS, gratefully thanked the Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities (RACA) for making the Warm Winter Campaign possible.

“In the planning phase, we selected the countries where harsh winter conditions and displacement crises combine, such as Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Afghanistan, and Yemen. This approach maximises the impact of humanitarian aid and ensures timely delivery to those who need it most,” al-Sadah explained. (**QNA**)

QC expands access to Holy Qur’an for blind people in Kosovo, Albania





Qatar Charity (QC) has distributed 250 copies of the “Baseera Mushaf”—a Braille edition of the Holy Qura’n to people with visual disabilities in Kosovo and Albania, helping them read, listen to, and memorise the Qura’n more independently. The initiative delivered 160 copies in Kosovo and allocated another 90 to Albania, in co-ordination with Islamic authorities and relevant local organisations in both countries.

Launched in 2014, the initiative reflects Qatar Charity’s commitment to serving the Holy Qura’n and making it accessible, in different languages, to blind people in underserved communities worldwide.

In Kosovo, Qatar Charity’s country office worked with the Islamic Community of Kosovo to identify potential recipients. The Community reported 300 people with visual disabilities who could benefit from the Mushaf, highlighting demand well beyond the number of copies currently available. Under the distribution plan, the Faculty of Islamic Studies in Pristina hosted an event attended by Kosovo’s Chief Imam, where 160 copies were provided.

In Albania, Qatar Charity partnered with the Albanian Muslim Community to identify beneficiaries and co-ordinate distribution. They identified 90 blind people, with a copy of the Baseera Mushaf allocated to each beneficiary.

The distribution launched at an event in Durrës, attended by 30 beneficiaries and Wissam al-Jafiri, Minister Plenipotentiary and representative of Qatar Embassy. The remaining copies will be delivered through local mufti offices in co-ordination with the authorities.

The events demonstrated the initiative’s meaningful humanitarian and educational impact. Beneficiaries welcomed the opportunity to engage with the Holy Qura’n through reading, listening, and memorisation. The initiative also deepened co-operation with local Islamic institutions and reinforced the importance of designing inclusive humanitarian programmesmes that respond to the needs of persons with disabilities.

MoECC accomplishes 2,259 requests across 32 radiation protection services

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC) completed 2,259 requests across 32 radiation protection services in the first eight months of 2026, substantially bolstering processing efficiency and streamlining regulatory oversight.

In a Sunday statement, MECC said average processing times fell nearly 27%, comparing requests submitted from the launch of its new electronic system in April through August 2025 with those submitted from January through August 2026.

Processing times for licences to import and export radioactive materials improved by 36.1%, while those for radiation-emitting equipment improved by 19.1%.

Completed requests included 724 personal-license renewals for radiation-related work and 607 new-license applications, alongside applications to issue, renew, and amend licenses for radioactive materials, radiation-emitting equipment, vehicles, and related activities.

At border crossings, streamlined procedures and a review of harmonised code lists in co-ordination with relevant authorities cut by 50.2% the number of customs declarations requiring radiation protection department review, expediting clearance and bolstering operational efficiency.

The average time to complete a customs declaration fell about 41%, from 12 hours and 59 minutes to 7 hours and 39 minutes, while the average initial response time plunged nearly 70%, from 5 hours and 10 minutes to 1 hour and 34 minutes. For express-courier shipments, average inspection time after assignment to the responsible officer dropped 20%, from 20.5 minutes to 16.4 minutes, comparing January-August 2025 with the same period in 2026.

MECC said it would continue to automate radiation-protection services and strengthen electronic integration with relevant authorities to expedite processing and further consolidate efficiency while fully upholding radiation safety and security requirements. (**QNA**)

WIF opens in Doha, PM attends inaugural session

From Page 1

He highlighted: “Your theme is also a call to action. Artificial intelligence, semiconductors, clean energy, advanced technologies and critical mineral sectors account for almost half of new global greenfield investment. These sectors are expected to reshape economies and global production, creating significant opportunities to drive sustainable development.”

Rebeca Grynspan, secretary-general, UN Trade and Development, UNCTAD (on special leave), said investment is one of the most consequential acts in international life.

“To invest is to trust that a contract will be honoured across a border, to believe that another country’s workforce, another country’s institutions, another country’s future are worth building alongside your own. One of the central paradoxes of today is that the world is producing record levels of investment alongside record levels of distrust. That a boom of capital expenditure is coinciding with a proliferation of risk,” said Grynspan.

The three-day forum agenda includes 108 sessions and high-level dialogues across eight main tracks, covering investment in artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises, investment policies, sustainable finance and business, tourism and culture, climate and the environment, investment promotion, and special economic zones.

Ooredoo powers future of homeland security as telecom sponsor of Milipol Qatar 2026

Ooredoo concluded its participation as the exclusive telecom sponsor of Milipol Qatar 2026, the International Event for Homeland Security and Safety, held from October 20 to 22 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).

From a dedicated stand, Ooredoo demonstrated how secure, resilient and intelligent connectivity underpins modern security operations.

Visitors experienced satellite-enabled tactical connectivity combining Ooredoo Starlink with managed SD-WAN for always-on communications in the most remote environments; Mission-Critical Push-to-Talk services that interoperate seamlessly with existing TETRA radio networks; and Ooredoo Flow, the location intelligence platform powered by MCIT, which turns spatial data into actionable operational insight.



The showcase also featured Ooredoo’s growing portfolio of AI-powered security intelligence, including natural-language video search and summarisation, and evidence and document intelligence for investigators.

Also on display was Ooredoo’s Bodycam and Dashcam Solution, a smart IoT-enabled video surveillance solution combining wearable body cameras and vehicle dashcams with centralised cloud monitoring, real-time video management and AI-powered analytics to enhance safety, security and operational visibility.

In recognition of its contribution to the event, Ooredoo received two awards at Milipol Qatar 2026: the Exclusive Telecom Sponsor Award, acknowledging its role at this year’s event, and the Silver Category Award, marking more than 20 years of partnership with Milipol. Hassan Ismail al-Emadi, Chief Business Officer at Ooredoo Qatar, accepted the awards on the company’s behalf.

Al-Emadi said: “Safety and security sit beneath everything a connected nation does, and supporting the institutions that protect Qatar is a responsibility we are proud to carry. Through our participation as Exclusive Telecom Sponsor of Milipol Qatar 2026, we demonstrated how secure connectivity, mission-critical communications and applied AI can strengthen the capabilities of this vital sector.”

Katara Holy Qur’an Recitation Award draws 1,304 entries from 60 countries

The 10th Katara Award for Qur’an Recitation has drawn 1,304 entries from 60 countries, with the competition’s episodes slated to air during the Holy month of Ramadan, the Cultural Village said. Katara aims to encourage reciters to adorn the Holy Qur’an with beautiful voices, discover outstanding recitation talent adhering to the rules of tajweed.

Entries included 570 submissions from 18 Arab countries and 734 from 42 non-Arab countries, marking the first time international entries have outnumbered those from Arab countries, Katara said in a statement.

A screening committee will evaluate the submissions and select the top 100 contestants, from whom 15 finalists will be chosen to compete in Doha. One contestant from each episode will advance to the final stage.

The three top winners will be announced during a special programme produced in collaboration with Qatar Television, which will broadcast episodes during Ramadan. The judging panel comprises six members: three specialists authorised in Qur’anic readings and versed in the rules of tajweed, and three experts in vocal modes. Katara plans to produce a recording of the first-place winner reciting the entire Qur’an.

The award offers a total prize pool of QR 800,000, with QR 500,000 for first place, QR 200,000 for second and QR 100,000 for third.

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs has served as the award’s official sponsor since its launch in 2017.

Tasmeem Doha 2026 to explore shared knowledge in art, design



Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts (VCUarts Qatar), a partner university of the Qatar Foundation, will host its international art and design biennial, Tasmeem Doha 2026, from November 1–7 at its Education City campus. The week-long event will include workshops and knowledge circles, an exhibition, and a speaker series, included as an official collateral event of the Design Doha Biennial (DDB) 2026. Centred on the theme hawwil, or "transmit," creative practitioners and scholars will come together through making and critical discourse to explore the value of inherited and shared knowledge in contemporary art.

"This edition draws on the Islamic principle of knowledge as a trust (amanah) meant to benefit all, reframing knowledge gained within creative practices as a shared responsibility rather than individual expression," said the curatorial team, Sara al-Afifi, (BFA, 2019; MFA, 2024), Hind al-Saad (BFA, 2019, MFA 2024) and Reham Mohamed (BFA,2019), in a joint statement.

The programme kicks off with six workshops from November 1-4, followed by a knowledge circle (halaqa). The workshops give participants hands-on experience in pattern design and archives, printmaking and digital tools, alongside experimental approaches to materials and making. On November 4, after the workshops end, participants will be invited to join a knowledge circle to reflect on and share their experiences together. These halaqas are also open to the public, bringing Tasmeem Doha 2026's theme of transmitting knowledge to life.

The accompanying exhibition, Secrecy Is Immoral, will be on view from October 27 to December 3, with an opening reception on November 4 from 6.30 to 8pm, at The Gallery at VCUarts Qatar.

The exhibition, featuring a collective of creators, explores knowledge as a living, evolving process through works that question historical narratives and power structures, preserve cultural memory and experiment with ways of sharing knowledge. It affirms that the value of knowledge lies not in its control, but in its circulation.

Tasmeem Doha 2026 culminates on November 5 and 7 during its speaker series, which coincide with the opening of the Design Doha Biennial 2026 and is part of a broader partnership between VCUarts Qatar and DDB.

Hosted at the VCUarts Qatar Atrium, the first day will explore creative inheritance, archives and the relationship between tradition and innovation through three talks and a panel discussion moderated by Al-Shaima Ayoub, Visual and Material Culture researcher at Qatar Museums.

Under the theme "Intergenerational Knowledge," the session will feature Elham AlDawsari, Saudi conceptual artist and writer; Ali Van Godil, award-winning creative director and founder of House of Gul; and architect Yasaman Esmaili, founder of the architectural design office Studio Chahar.

AlDawsari combines personal storytelling with archival practice, including researching and recording the lives of middle-and lower-income women in Riyadh before the Internet.

Meanwhile, Van Godil works across art, design, and film, connecting ethics and aesthetics. Esmaili combines traditional methods and new technologies through participatory architectural design, focusing on local communities and environmental stewardship.

The second day brings together practices that rethink how knowledge is gathered, connected, and reinterpreted. From shared forms of knowledge through writing practices, to accessible anthropology, and cross-cultural work that blends research with humour, each expands how we access, share, and engage with knowledge.

Under the theme "Reframing Knowledge," lectures will feature American writer and educator Kameelah Janan Rasheed; the founder of Anthropology Bel3araby Lab, Farah Hallaba; and a closing keynote by the art collective Slavs and Tatars, whose work explores language, politics and identity across Eurasia.

The session will also include a panel moderated by Ayoub Rasheed studies reading, writing, and black knowledge production, while Anthropology Bel3araby aims to make anthropological knowledge accessible in Arabic through publications, workshops, and programmes.

The renowned art collective, Slavs & Tatars, examines language, politics, and identity across Eurasia, bringing scholarly research into conversation with humour and vernacular traditions.

The speaker series will conclude with a performance by Ramallah-based electronic musician Muqata'a, who uses samples and field recordings in his compositions, and Bethlehem-based filmmaker and interdisciplinary artist Fairouz Hasan, whose work explores memory and political absence.



UDST welcomes applications from students for Fall 2027

QNA
Doha

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) announced that admissions for the Fall 2027 semester are now open, inviting prospective students from Qatar and around the world to pursue their academic and professional ambitions at Qatar's first applied university.

Applicants will be able to apply online for Master's, Bachelor's, and Diploma programmes through the University's official website, udst.edu.qa

As part of its commitment to making higher education accessible and supporting talented students, UDST offers 12 types of scholarships and tuition fee exemptions for eligible students. Qatari nationals and children of Qatari women remain eligible for tuition fee exemptions for undergraduate programmes, subject to the applicable requirements.

Commenting on the opening of admissions, UDST President Dr Salem Al-Naemi said: "At UDST, we believe that access to quality applied education creates opportunities for individuals to realise their potential and contribute to the communities around them. Through our academic programmes and scholarship opportunities, we remain committed to supporting talented students as they pursue their ambitions and prepare for meaningful careers."

He added: "Our international student community is an important part of the UDST experience, bringing together students from diverse backgrounds and more than 93 countries. We welcome students from Qatar and abroad to join a learning environment that combines practical education, industry relevance, and a vibrant campus experience, while preparing graduates to contribute to Qatar's continued development and the wider global community."

With more than 80 academic programmes across its five colleges, UDST provides a diverse range of academic pathways designed to meet the evolving needs of industry and Qatar's workforce. Its applied learning approach combines academic knowledge with practical experience, preparing students with the skills and competencies required to succeed in their chosen fields.

It's Time: QNB Group supports ongoing QCS breast cancer awareness campaign



QNB Group, a leading financial institution in the Middle East and Africa, is supporting the Qatar Cancer Society's (QCS) ongoing "It's Time" campaign as its official sponsor. Taking place throughout October to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the campaign aims to raise public awareness, promote early detection, and encourage healthier lifestyles.

The sponsorship forms part of QNB Group's ongoing efforts to support public health and well-being, in line with its sustainability strategy and commitment to creating long-term value for the communities it serves.

Through health education and community engagement, the Group supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being. These efforts also align with Qatar National Vision 2030's human development objectives, including promoting a healthy and prosperous society.

Mona Ashkanani, general manager of QCS, thanked QNB for its support and emphasised the importance of collaboration among national institutions to advance public health awareness.

"QNB's sponsorship of the 'It's Time' campaign reflects a strong model of community partnership, enabling us to extend our awareness messages to wider audiences through outdoor advertising and educational activities throughout October," she said.

"At QCS, we believe that raising awareness is a shared responsibility. Through this partnership, we aim to encourage women to prioritise their health, undergo recommended screenings, and strengthen psychological and community support for those living with and beyond cancer," Ashkanani added.

As part of its sponsorship, QNB Group supported an extensive outdoor awareness campaign across Qatar, featuring messages on major roads and 140 advertising screens in shopping malls and public spaces. The initiative aims to reach a wide audience and highlight the importance of breast health and early detection.

The sponsorship also covers awareness workshops and educational lectures organised by QCS throughout October at schools, universities, companies, and government ministries. These activities focus on breast cancer risk factors, warning signs, common misconceptions, and the importance of regular screening.

The Group also supported the creative workshop "Turn Your Idea into a Work of Art," designed to empower cancer survivors, encourage self-expression, and strengthen their confidence and social engagement.

The sponsorship also included "It's Time – Pink Evening," an awareness gathering that brought together media professionals and influencers. Mona Ashkanani, general manager of QCS, and a QNB representative attended the event. Dr Ertifaa al-Shammari, Consultant Breast Cancer Surgeon and QCS Honorary Ambassador, delivered an educational presentation highlighting key facts about breast cancer and the importance of early detection.



AZF holds Pink Walk in collaboration with QCS

Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF), in collaboration with Qatar Cancer Society (QCS), organised the Pink Walk on Saturday at Aspire Park to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The event began at 4pm and attracted approximately 1,000 participants. The walk covered a one-kilometre route along Aspire Lake, with organisers and specialised female trainers accompanying participants throughout.

The event also featured a Pink Corner, where participants learned about the importance of early detection and breast cancer prevention. Specialised female trainers led warm-up and relaxation exercises, and participants received gifts.

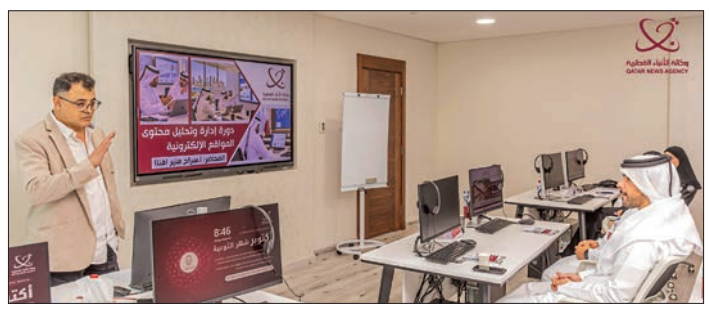
Ameena Jassim al-Kuwari, director of Marketing at Aspire Zone Foundation, said: "We would like to thank Qatar Cancer Society for its collaboration in organising the Pink Walk, which contributes to raising awareness of the importance of prevention and early detection of breast cancer and other types of cancer.

"We would also like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the sponsors whose support contributed to the success of this event and played an important role in achieving its objectives. We believe that awareness is the first step towards a healthier society. Aspire Park, as a community destination that brings people together every day, provides an ideal setting to share awareness messages and encourage everyone to take care of their own health and the health of their loved ones."

The event reflects Aspire Zone Foundation's commitment to its social responsibility and its contribution to achieving Qatar National Vision 2030, particularly its Human Development pillar. It also coincides with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, during which organisations worldwide work to raise awareness of cancer risks, highlight prevention methods, and raise funds to support research.

This year's edition was supported by its main partners, Jetour and Qatar Cancer Society; strategic partner, New Balance; media sponsor, Qommunication; humanitarian partner, Qatar Red Crescent; and event partners, Naseem Medical Centre, Symphony, Aseel Water, Kahramaa, and the National Centre for Cancer Care and Research.

QNA organises course on website content management



Qatar News Agency (QNA) launched a training course yesterday, on managing website content and improving audience reach. The three-day training course is organised as part of QNA Training Centre's 2026 training plan.

With the participation of the agency's employees and personnel from government entities, the course aims to train participants to manage websites effectively and use them more efficiently.

Presented by Siraj Muneer al-Sawabni, senior monitoring supervisor at QNA's Editorial and Media Monitoring Department, the course aims to improve the quality of media content in terms of analysis and the materials broadcast or published on the website, including how the content is presented to readers and subscribers.

It also seeks to expand and facilitate access to the content for the widest possible audience, including those with an interest in the subject, by improving search engine optimisation (SEO) and enhancing visibility in generative AI search engines through generative engine optimisation (GEO).

This training course is part of Qatar News Agency's efforts, represented by QNA Training Centre, to develop the media skills of the agency's staff and other personnel working in government entities and institutions across various fields, strengthen and build their professional and creative capabilities in modern media, stay up to date with the latest international developments in the field, and maximise the benefits they derive from the knowledge and skills acquired, enabling them to perform their tasks to the fullest. (**QNA**)

Theatre Affairs Centre holds workshop to foster creativity, advance puppetry skills

The Theatre Affairs Centre at the Ministry of Culture has launched a puppetry workshop designed to foster creativity, build artistic and technical skills, and furnish participants with tools to think outside the box and bring new theatrical experiences to life.

Running through Thursday, the workshop explores the fundamentals and techniques of puppet manipulation, familiarising participants with the world of puppet theatre, including its forms, aesthetic features and technical requirements.

The sessions will cover the fundamentals of puppet manipulation and a range of techniques, building the knowledge and skills needed to understand the art form and what it takes to bring puppets to life on stage.

The workshop also aims to sharpen participants' creative instincts, strengthen their capacity to think outside the box and channel their artistic imagination into novel ideas and experiences. It further seeks to spur initiative and encourage participants to undertake artistic projects that draw on the skills acquired during the sessions.

Through exposure to diverse artistic and theatrical forms, participants will deepen their understanding of puppetry, explore the puppet's performance space and examine how set design and scenography shape a production's visual identity and aesthetic appeal.

The workshop seeks to unlock new prospects for participants to translate their skills into theatrical projects while broadening their understanding of puppetry techniques and the creative possibilities of the art form. (**QNA**)

United Nations chief calls for boosting investments in developing nations

Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres projected that the artificial intelligence (AI) and technology sectors will shape global economies and production, creating significant opportunities to advance sustainable development. He further urged the private sector to increase investment in developing nations.

Speaking during the ninth edition of the World Investment Forum, Guterres noted that the world is facing immense global challenges. He emphasised that by focusing on the theme "Investing in the Future," the forum underscores an undeniable truth: investment is an expression of confidence that the future can be better.

In a message delivered on his behalf by Director of the Division on Investment and Enterprise at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Nan Li Collins, UN Secretary-General stated that AI, semiconductors, advanced technology, and the critical minerals sector account for one-third of all new global investments. While these sectors are expected to reshape global economies and production, offering vital prospects for advancing sustainable development, only a marginal fraction of this investment reaches the least developed and low-income countries.

Guterres highlighted that the forum serves as an opportunity to encourage the private sector to boost investment in developing countries, particularly in renewable energy, technology, and critical minerals, thereby creating opportunities that benefit these societies. Furthermore, the event provides a platform to demonstrate global support for the commitments made last year in Seville, aimed at fostering development and investment. (**QNA**)

OPINION

What changes if Democrats win?

Nonpartisan analysts say Democrats stand a good chance of winning the US House of Representatives and possibly the Senate in the November 3 midterm elections, which would give them a slice of power in Washington after two years of Republican control. Democrats argue that Republicans have allowed President Donald Trump's administration to declare war and control spending, even though the US Constitution reserves those powers for lawmakers.

Trump did not secure approval from Congress before he launched the war with Iran on February 28, and Democrats have voted repeatedly to end the fighting unless he does so. One of these resolutions passed with support from a handful of Republicans, but Trump's administration ignored it.

With control of the House or the Senate, Democrats could cut defence spending to pressure Trump to obtain permission from Congress to continue the war. They could also require administration officials to testify publicly about their plans. Trump has largely halted direct US financial and military aid to Ukraine, despite broad support from Democratic and Republican lawmakers as it fights a Russian invasion.

Most recently, he has angered members of Congress, including many Republicans, by lifting sanctions on Russian diesel and waiving sanctions on Russian energy only weeks after signing them into law. With a victory in both chambers in November, Democrats would be able to decide what gets voted on and when. That could allow them to approve new aid to Ukraine, which likely would pass with the two-thirds majorities needed to overcome a Trump veto.

They could also target other Trump activities. For example, Representative Gregory Meeks of New York, who could head the House Foreign Affairs Committee if Democrats win control, has introduced bipartisan legislation to block Trump's plan to bring Russian diesel back into the global market.

Support for Israel has plummeted among Democrats over its conduct in the Gaza war, which has killed tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians. The ongoing violence in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's close alliance with Republicans have also been factors.

Democrats could limit or end military aid to Israel, which amounted to $3.8bn in the most recent fiscal year. That is more than was provided to any other country. Nearly half of House Democrats voted this summer to cut off aid to Israel. Some of those who voted against that effort, such as Meeks, have backed limits on providing weapons like heavy bombs to Israel. — Reuters



Polling in midterms suggests verdict of US-Iran conflict

By Jasim al-Azzawi



Trump has lost the war. He is cornered, and a second round of bombing will not save him, even if Netanyahu joins him again. That uncomfortable sentence is now circulating among the war's most serious critics, and eight months into Operation Epic Fury, the facts on the ground make it hard to argue otherwise.

Start with the regime Washington set out to topple. The war opened on February 28 with a decapitation strike built on the premise that killing Iran's leadership and bombing its infrastructure would send millions into the streets to finish the job. John Mearsheimer, the University of Chicago political scientist, has delivered the verdict in four words: "He lost the war."

Pressed on how Washington regains leverage, he called the question almost beside the point, since "this is a devastating defeat for the United States." The regime that was supposed to fall is still standing in Tehran: no mass uprising, no toppled government, no new flag over the Supreme Leader's office. Instead, Mearsheimer's account says the war has left Iran "stronger than ever" geostrategically, despite absorbing enormous losses.

Robert Pape has spent three decades studying this question, and his conclusion predates the war. "For over a century, states have been trying to topple regimes with air power alone," he told CBS News, "and I'm choosing my words carefully, it has never worked." Pape modeled the Iran war for 20 years before it started and watched his own model play out in real time: a decapitation strike, a regime that survived it and turned "more vicious, a stronger regime than before." He does not see an off-ramp. Asked in late July whether the war would end around the midterms, Pape said flatly, "I don't think it's an end to the war … We're seeing a longer war, not a shorter war."

Retired Army Col Douglas Macgregor, a former senior Pentagon adviser, has made the deeper structural point: that Washington never controlled the decision to go to war in the first place. "Just as we are a co-belligerent in Ukraine," he told journalist Rachel Blevins, "we have from the beginning been a co-belligerent in the war with Iran that Israel has started."

Craig Murray, the former British ambassador, has pressed the same argument further, rejecting the comforting narrative that Trump stumbled into this war. "Trump always planned the attack on Iran," he wrote on his Substack. "He was not 'bounced into it' by Israel." Whichever account is closer to the truth, both describe a president without a clean exit, having tied his political fortunes to a war he does not fully control.

Jeremy Corbyn framed the opening strikes in the starkest terms available to a Western politician, calling them a violation of international law on the day they began. "The attacks on Iran by Israel and the United States are illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable," he wrote. "Peace and diplomacy were possible. Instead, Israel and the United States chose war. This is the behaviour of rogue states."

Norman Finkelstein has made a related but distinct argument, pushing back on the popular theory that Israel dragged a reluctant Trump into the war; he has argued for years that American foreign policy follows its own domestic logic, with or without Israeli pressure, which, if true, makes the war's costs even harder for Trump to disown as someone else's mistake.

Those costs are no longer abstract. The national average price of gasoline stood at $2.98 a gallon the week before the war began. It is now above $4.27, up more than 43%, with diesel up 68% to $6.33.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, estimated this month that the war has cost the average American household nearly $2,000, including $1,100 in higher energy costs alone, with the bill growing by $50 a week. Inflation, which was cooling before the war, has climbed back with it. None of this has bought Washington a victory worth the price.

Iran still controls meaningful leverage over the Strait of Hormuz. Its missile stockpile, degraded but not eliminated, still reaches Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states and Israel itself when it chooses to use it.

Trump's own standing has moved in lockstep with the war's failure to resolve. His approval rating sits between 31 and 33% across the major polls taken this month, Reuters/Ipsos, Washington Post/ABC/Ipsos, CNN, all converging on numbers lower than at any point in either of his terms, with a majority of his own party now disapproving of his handling of the economy. He has told aides he expects to resume major strikes after the November 3 midterms if Tehran has not yielded by then, a plan that treats the election, not any battlefield or negotiating reality, as the natural pause point for a war. That sequencing answers the political question of why he has not escalated further before voters go to the polls. It does not answer the strategic one.

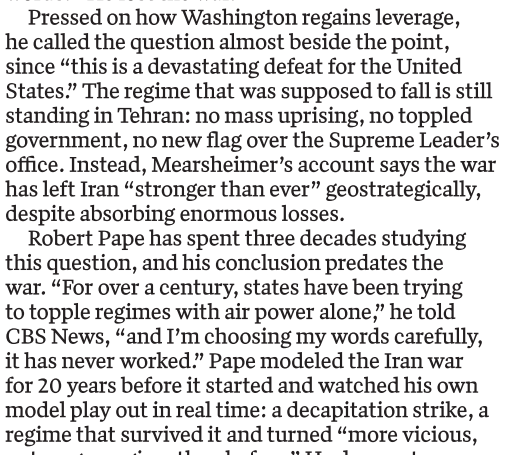
A further problem Trump's own planning does not seem to have solved is Iran's incentive to wait him out. A regime that has already survived the worst strikes of the war, that has watched gasoline prices become a bigger liability for the American president than for the Iranian one, has little reason to negotiate on Washington's terms before an election that could weaken Trump further.

Pape's escalation-trap framework describes exactly this dynamic: each round of bombing that fails to produce collapse tends to harden the target regime's leadership and narrow Washington's remaining options to more bombing, not less, because retreat now has to be justified against everything already spent.

Tehran has watched this play out for eight months. There is little reason to think its patience will run out before Washington's does. Because nothing in the record of the past eight months suggests a second campaign would produce a different result than the first. The regime that survived a decapitation strike and a direct assault on its nuclear and missile infrastructure is not obviously more fragile today than it was in February.

Netanyahu's renewed involvement, if it comes, adds firepower without adding a theory for how this time ends differently. Pape's century of case studies offers no exception to point to. Mearsheimer's assessment offers no path back to leverage. From different vantage points, both describe a president who started a war he could not finish, is now waiting out an election before deciding what to do about it, and whose own polling suggests the public has already reached its verdict on the war well ahead of him.

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



People arrive at a polling location during early voting in the midterm election, in Atlanta, Georgia. — **AFP**

The question of regional security in the face of changing geopolitics



By Kristian Coates Ulrichsen

Two significant developments during the Global Security Forum, which took place in Doha between October 19 and 21, 2026, highlighted the ongoing state of flux in regional security arrangements. Thomas Barrack, the US ambassador to Turkey and Special Envoy to Iraq and Syria, indicated that the United States was moving away from its (self-perceived) role as a regional security guarantor, while Qatar joined with Indonesia, Pakistan, and Turkey to sign the 'Badr Memorandum of Understanding,' an agreement on defence co-operation.

While each is important in its own right, taken together with all the upheaval of the past 18 months they suggest a deeper reassessment of the concept of regional order is under way.

Even by the standards of the volatility that has marked so much of the Middle East in the three years since October 7, 2023 and the Israeli devastation of Gaza which followed, the period since June 2025 has been especially disruptive.

For the first time since the formation of the state of Israel and the first of the Arab-Israeli wars in 1948, the conflict expanded and engulfed the entire region. After years of rising tension and threats on both sides, Israel launched a full-scale attack on Iran on June 13, 2025. While that war only lasted 12 days, a threshold was crossed, both in terms of the direct clash between Israel and Iran and in terms of the US decision to bomb Iranian nuclear sites.

The 12-Day War in 2025 ended in a US-brokered ceasefire and in President Donald Trump's memorable admonishment that Israel and Iran "have been fighting so long and so hard that they don't know what the @#$* they are doing."

On two visits to the Gulf late last year, in October and December, I was struck by how many people I spoke with took the view that the ceasefire was, at best, a temporary pause in the fighting, and that a fresh Israeli or American attack on Iran was only a matter of time. There was also a widespread concern that the Iranian leadership would abandon any form of restraint in its response to any new fighting, especially if it perceived its survival to be at risk, and this view proved to be the case.

Iran's decision to target all six Gulf States, which are not parties to the war, with thousands of missile and drone attacks, and to hit civilian targets and critical infrastructure across the region, including as far away as Jordan and Egypt, will not easily be forgotten. And yet, the fact that the kinetic opening phase of US and Israeli operations ended on April 8, in another ceasefire, and was followed in mid-June by the signing of a US-Iran memorandum of understanding, generated hopes that a return to some form of normality would be in order. Instead, the rapid and acrimonious breakdown of the US-Iran deal, with each side blaming the other, and the reignition of Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, has re-set expectations toward a long and grinding period of on-off conflict and elevated risk that could last for years.

It is against this backdrop that recent months have seen the creation of new entities that seek to respond to the rapidly-evolving security and defence landscape. Early August saw the formation of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement that brought together Saudi Arabia,

Turkiye, and Pakistan, while Saudi officials also joined with counterparts from 13 other countries to establish the Multinational Maritime Defence Alliance to protect freedom of navigation and trade in the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab.

Turkiye is a member of both initiatives and also is part of the newly-formed Badr alignment which launched in Doha, which illustrates how the groups are designed to complement and, to an extent, overlap with each other, rather than divide the region into competing blocks or spheres of influence.

To the extent that blocks may begin to emerge in any 'post-American' Middle East, should that come to pass, it may take the form of the closer UAE-Israel alignment, on the one hand, and the variety of multi-country alignments of Muslim states, on the other. However, the fact that Saudi-Emirati tensions have not resulted in a political rupture, and that Riyadh and Abu Dhabi seem to be coming closer again on Yemen, means that eventuality may not happen.

A post-American Middle East is nevertheless something that analysts have spoken about on and off, for years, as various US decisions, spanning the presidencies of George W Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump, Joe Biden, and Trump again, have raised questions about the reliability of the US presence as an actor in regional security and political affairs.

Such concerns long predated the Iran War that began in February and go back to the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the geopolitical consequences of its mismanaged occupation.

In his comments to the Global Security Forum, Ambassador Barrack referred to the repeated failure of US interventions in "every place we've tried to control," in language that was similar to Donald Trump's assertion, in Riyadh in May 2025, American "interventionalists were intervening in complex societies that they did not even understand themselves."

Trump's remarks in Riyadh, on the first leg of his first major overseas visit in his second term which also took him to Doha and Abu Dhabi, were among the most honest statements ever made by a US president about the Middle East.

His blunt acknowledgment of the failings of US policies in the region, which were repeated by Barrack in Qatar last week, made the subsequent launching of Operation Epic Fury against Iran all the more puzzling to observers. With this in mind, and with every indication that tensions could flare up at any point, perhaps in the period between the midterm elections on November 3 and the seating of the new Congress on January 3, it is unsurprising that regional states are putting in place new plans to ensure their own stability as best they can.

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



Vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, as seen from Musandam, Oman. — **Reuters**

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QM exhibitions unveiled at Fahad Bin Ali Palace



Qatar Museums (QM) opened "Wooden Doors of Qatar: From Storage to Stories" and "Atharna 2026: Life and Death in Pre-Islamic Qatar" at Fahad Bin Ali Palace in Msheireb yesterday.

QM Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, along with other QM officials and dignitaries, attended the opening of the two exhibitions.

On view until May 29, 2027, the exhibitions offer two distinct encounters with Qatar's heritage through historic architectural objects, archaeological discoveries and immersive displays.

"Wooden Doors of Qatar: From Storage to Stories" brings together 52 doors, doorframes and windows from the National Collection of Historic Doors, held by the National Museum of Qatar.

An additional door is presented on loan from the Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum.

The experience begins in the palace courtyard with *What Once Was*, an installation inspired by a traditional Qatari home.

Historic doors and windows are placed within the outlines of domestic spaces, accompanied by a soundscape evoking gathering, celebration and privacy.

In the surrounding galleries, a conservation display shows how conservators documented, cleaned, stabilised, and mounted the objects, while their painted surfaces and traces of wear offer glimpses into changing tastes and generations of use.

Visitors can also contribute to the exhibition's ongoing research.

QR codes accompanying the objects link to a digital platform where communities across Qatar can share photographs, memories, and stories that may help identify the homes, neighbourhoods, and craftspeople associated with the collection.

The exhibition is curated by the QM's Museography and Heritage Museums Development Department in collaboration with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

The project forms part of the Heritage Clinic, Qatar Museums' developing platform for research, conservation and adaptive reuse of built heritage.

Opening alongside it, "Atharna 2026: Life and Death in Pre-Islamic Qatar" takes visitors through a reconstructed burial mound and an archaeologist's tent before leading into an atmospheric, flashlight-lit display.



HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani at the opening of two QM exhibitions yesterday. **PICTURES:** Qatar Museums

Jewellery, weapons, and other objects excavated from pre-Islamic graves show how archaeology, bioarchaeology, and material analysis are expanding knowledge of life and death in ancient Qatar.

The exhibitions also mark the reopening of Fahad Bin Ali Palace to the public for the first time in 20 years.

Developed between 1952 and 1963, the compound includes early examples of modern construction in Qatar and colourful decorative details characteristic of the style known as Doha Deco.

"Wooden Doors of Qatar" and "Atharna 2026" are presented alongside "Beyti Beytak • My Home is Your Home", organised by the future Art Mill Museum.

Together, the exhibitions offer visitors new perspectives on architecture, archaeology, memory, place and identity.



Qatar Museums Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani is seen in the picture on the left, during the opening of 'Beyti Beytak • My Home is Your Home', at Fahad bin Ali Palace. **PICTURES:** Qatar Museums

'Beyti Beytak • My Home is Your Home' opens

Qatar Museums (QM) opened yesterday the "Beyti Beytak • My Home is Your Home" exhibition, with QM Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani in attendance.

Organised by the future Art Mill Museum and on view until May 29, 2027, the exhibition is presented at the historic Fahad bin Ali Palace, marking the first time the 1953 landmark next to the Amiri Diwan has opened to the public.

First presented at the 19th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia in 2025, "Beyti Beytak" has been expanded for its Doha presentation, including a new commission by Iraqi architect Ola Znad and archival research tracing Doha's urban development.

The exhibition explores ideas of home, hospitality, and belonging through architecture, art, and design.

Bringing together more than 40 architects, designers, and practitioners from the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia (Menasa) region and beyond, the exhibition examines architecture as a social and cultural practice rooted in home, hospitality, collective care, and shared responsibility.

Across seven sections, visitors encounter architectural models, drawings, archival material, films, and site-specific installations that explore communal places, from desert oases and sacred spaces to private residences and contemporary museums.

Set within a palace that blends Art Deco and vernacular Qatari architecture, the exhibition puts contemporary practice in conversation with Doha's built heritage.

At the centre of the Doha presentation is *Souq Al Liqa*, a new work by Znad, who specialises in traditional, sustainable reed construction.

Inspired by the communal role of women in the Ahwar, the marshes of southern Iraq, the installation honours the Marsh Arab women who have carried knowledge of weaving, dyeing, storytelling and hospitality across generations.

Conceived as a living marketplace and cultural ecosystem, it will host public activities throughout the exhibition's run.

"Beyti Beytak" brings together pioneering modernists, including Raj Rewal (India), Nayyar Ali Dada (Pakistan), Abeer Seikaly (Jordan) and Minnette de Silva (Sri Lanka), alongside contemporary architects and practices such as Marina Tabassum and Nabil Haque (Bangladesh), AAU Anastas (Palestine/France), Sameep Padora [sP + A] and Balkrishna Doshi, Vastu-Shilpa Foundation (India), DAAZ Studio (Iran), Ahmed Hossam Saafan (Egypt), Sumaya Dabbagh (Saudi Arabia), Diller Scofidio + Renfro (US), and Meriem Chabani with New South (France).

The exhibition also reflects on the legacy of Egyptian architect and urbanist Hassan Fathy and his commitment to vernacular forms, techniques and materials.

"'Beyti Beytak' is a clear expression of what the Art Mill Museum will be: an institution that places the creativity of the Menasa region at the heart of a global conversation," said Art Mill Museum concept director Catherine Grenier.

"Architecture, design and gardens are integral to our vision, and opening the doors of the Fahad bin Ali Palace for the first time allows the public to experience these ideas in one of Doha's architectural treasures," she said. "Through its public programme and publication, the exhibition will continue to evolve throughout its run."

Aurélien Lemonier, senior curator of Architecture, Design, and Gardens at the Art Mill Museum and curator of the exhibition, said: "After Venice, it is a privilege to bring Beyti Beytak home to Doha, where the idea of hospitality is lived every day."

The exhibition also marks the launch of "Beyti Beytak: Architectures of MENASA", a new publication by the Art Mill Museum, edited by Sean Anderson and Virgile Alexandre.

Bringing together critical essays, new research, and project documentation, the book extends the exhibition's exploration of architecture across the region, offers a lasting record of the projects on view, and contributes to wider debates on contemporary practice, regional histories, and the relationship between architecture and culture.

The exhibition is accompanied by an extensive public programme for schools, universities and families, running until May 2027.

Over the coming months, school groups can join guided tours and hands-on workshops on home, hospitality, and materials, while university students can attend talks and studio sessions with exhibiting architects and the curatorial team.

"Beyti Beytak" is co-curated by Lemonier and Anderson, assisted by independent curator Alexandre and Art Mill Museum assistant curator Farah al-Sidiky, with a scientific committee comprising Grenier, Ibrahim M Jaidah, Yasmeen Lari, Hafid Rakem and Raj Rewal.

The exhibition is designed by Cookies, with visual identity by Gaggero Works.

At the Fahad bin Ali Palace, it is presented alongside "Wooden Doors of Qatar: From Storage to Story", organised with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, and "Atharna 2026", the QM's annual archaeology exhibition, as part of QM's Fall/Winter 2026 season.

The exhibition is open Saturday to Thursday from 11am to 9pm, except Mondays when it is closed, and on Fridays from 3.30pm to 9pm.

Doha Design District presents landmark fashion exhibition 'Designed to Last'



Doha Design District (DDD), powered by Msheireb Properties, will present "Designed to Last", an exhibition exploring longevity in fashion – shaped not only by how a piece is made, but by the meaning it carries.

The exhibition opens to the public on October 28 in the Doha Design District's main atrium at Msheireb Downtown Doha, and runs until November 5.

The exhibition brings to Doha the work of Moroccan designer Artsi Ifrah.

The exhibition is complemented by a visitor-engaging live activation and a public programme of talks, running from October 28 to November 3.

"'Designed to Last' invites our visitors to slow down and consider what makes something worth keeping," said Doha Design District director Dana Kazic.

"Artsi Ifrah's work demonstrates how fashion can carry memory, heritage and craftsmanship," she said. "We are proud to offer Doha's creative community, and everyone who appreciates design, the opportunity to experience his work, hear from the people behind it and take part in the creative process."

In an age of fast fashion and ever-changing trends, the exhibition asks why we value certain pieces and what makes them worth keeping.

Ifrah responds through thirteen one-of-a-kind Maison ARTC looks, created and styled by him, alongside a series of his photographic works.

Drawing on cultural heritage, craftsmanship and personal experience, his work brings cultural references and memories into the present, allowing them to acquire new meaning.

His guiding principle is that culture is not static: "We Move Culture. We Are Culture."

Ifrah is the founder, chief executive and creative director of Maison ARTC, a Marrakech-based culture house that creates one-of-a-kind fashion pieces and photography that bridge Moroccan heritage with a modern artistic vision.

His work was recognised with the Fashion Trust Arabia Award in 2022 and has been exhibited internationally, including at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and 10 Corso Como in Milan.

The programme begins tomorrow evening with an invitation-only opening, during which Ifrah will give an artist talk at 8pm.

He will present his artistic approach, creative process and the philosophy behind his work.

Drawing on Maison ARTC's artistic practice, The Cutting Studio will bring its expertise to the exhibition through a live atelier featuring cultural embroidery and draping demonstrations, allowing participants to explore garment construction and professional fashion techniques.

Enrolment will be available upon registration.

During the exhibition, from October 28-29, 3pm to 8pm, the embroidery activation invites visitors to contribute a word or symbol in response to the question "What does culture mean to you?", which will be embroidered into a collaborative artwork.

This participatory process explores embroidery as a medium for expressing identity, preserving meaning and connecting individual stories.

On October 28 at 4pm, Sada will host "The Stories We Wear", a panel exploring how garments become carriers of memory, identity and personal narratives.

Ifrah will be joined by Dr Tara Desjardins, senior curator at Qatar Museums, and Innas Soufan, the founder of Arias The Label, to explore the topic.

On November 3 at 4pm, also at Sada, "Designed to Last: A Designer's Perspective" will bring together three Qatari designers: Abdulrahman al-Hamad, founder and creative director of The Project; Saadia Khabab, fashion designer and costume designer; and Samah Sulyman, fashion designer and founder of DENIM.



They will reflect on what "designed to last" means within their own practices.

The public is invited to register and attend. Visitors can also take home postcards featuring Ifrah's photography.

The exhibition will be open from October 28 to November 5 in the DDD main atrium at Msheireb Downtown Doha.

The live draping sessions are free, but registration is required.

EAA, QF launch 'Skills 4 Good'



The Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, a global foundation working to expand access to quality education and economic opportunities, in collaboration with the Qatar Foundation (QF) Alumni Office, has launched "Skills 4 Good", a volunteer-led initiative connecting students at EAA's Assalam Schools with QF alumni and professionals who share practical skills, career experience and insights from the world of work.

Through one-hour sessions, QF alumni and staff, EAA staff, EAA's Scholars and Youth Advocates will engage students through practical Career Deep Dives, Skills Workshops, and Leadership talks.

The initiative provides volunteers with an opportunity to give back to the community by sharing their professional expertise, experiences and knowledge with the next generation.

Topics include communication, problem-solving, financial literacy, digital skills, leadership and employability, helping students build confidence and gain greater exposure to future education and career pathways.

"Skills 4 Good brings practical experience directly into the classroom," said Sara Keshaish, senior officer (Enterprise Development) at EAA Foundation. "By connecting students with professionals from different fields, we want to give young people opportunities to develop useful skills, ask questions, explore different careers and build the confidence to make informed choices about their future."

The initiative is being delivered across Assalam Schools, reaching students from elementary through high school.

Its model is simple: volunteers give one hour to share a skill, their professional journey, or experience from their field, with sessions adapted to the age and needs of participating students.

"Our alumni have so much to offer, and we want to create meaningful opportunities for them to use their knowledge and experience to make a difference," said QF manager (Alumni Engagement) Asmaa al-Kuwari.

"Skills 4 Good brings that to life by connecting our alumni with young people, allowing them to share what they have learned, inspire ambition and help the next generation see what is possible," she said.

"Through our collaboration with Education Above All Foundation, we are not only creating opportunities to volunteer, but building a stronger culture of giving back and using our collective experience to create lasting impact."

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