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Qatar will continue to strengthen global energy security: Amir

QNA
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani stressed that Qatar, given its leading role in the liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry, will continue to contribute to strengthening global energy security and to fostering partnerships built on trust and mutual interests.

In a post on his official X account, HH the Amir said he was pleased to participate in the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) summit in Moscow, which provided an opportunity to strengthen co-ordination and exchange views on the challenges facing global gas markets and the need for concerted efforts to address them.

His Highness added that, building on its leading role in the liquefied natural gas industry, Qatar will continue to contribute to global energy security and strengthen partnerships based on trust and mutual interests.



Earlier, HH the Amir participated in the Eighth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Member Countries of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), held at the World Trade Center in Moscow, the capital of the Russian Federation. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani attended the summit along with members of the official delegation accompanying HH the Amir, and other members of the accompanying official delegations.

Amir meets Iranian president



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met with Iranian President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian yesterday at His Highness's residence, ahead of the eighth summit of heads of state and government of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) at the World Trade Center in Moscow, Russia. The meeting covered regional developments, particularly the latest developments in negotiations, the Strait of Hormuz and energy supplies, as well as topics on the summit's agenda. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi, along with several members of HH the Amir's official delegation, attended the meeting. From the Iranian side, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, Head of the President's Office Mohsen Haji-Mirzaei, and several senior officials attended the meeting. (**QNA**)



QATAR

UDC unveils Perlita Gardens

UDC announces limited-time Crystal Residence sales offer at Cityscape Qatar's opening day

United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl Island and Gewan Island, has unveiled the masterplan for Perlita Gardens at Cityscape Qatar 2026, marking the launch of a new residential community and opening registration of interest for one of The Pearl Island's upcoming major residential developments.

UDC also announced a limited-time promotional offer on available apartments at Crystal Residence on Gewan Island, reinforcing its residential offering with an additional opportunity for prospective buyers.

"Perlita Gardens represents an important next step in the evolution of The Pearl Island and reflects how we continue to adapt our residential offering to changing market and lifestyle needs," said UDC president and chief executive Yasser Salah al-Jaidah. "As an established destination matures, the role of the master developer is to understand how expectations are evolving and introduce products that add genuine value to the community."

"At the same time, the Crystal Residence offer on Gewan Island provides prospective buyers with a timely opportunity to benefit from added value on available apartments," he said.

"Together, these announcements reflect UDC's approach to maintaining a diverse residential portfolio across its destinations, combining new development opportunities with attractive offers on existing residential inventory while building on the infrastructure, services and lifestyle advantages that support long-term value," al-Jaidah added.

Perlita Gardens introduces a distinctive addition to The Pearl Island's residential offering: a low-density community comprising 150 standalone villas, thoughtfully planned to provide families with greater space, privacy and flexibility, while retaining seamless access to the island's established lifestyle, amenities and services.

The development will comprise six-bedroom villas across seven distinct typologies and six façade colour options.

The villa collections have been conceived around core family and ownership priorities, including prestige, greater hosting spaces, multigenerational living, privacy retreat spots, and balanced indoor-outdoor living.

Expansive layouts and private pools are integral to the residential proposition, with selected configurations incorporating formal and family majlis areas, guest and staff accommodation, a dedicated gym area, terraces and private retreats.

Architecturally, Perlita Gardens adopts a contemporary interpretation of Mediterranean design, with arched openings, layered façades, balconies and terraces complemented by natural materials and a warm, understated palette. Interiors follow the same design language through natural finishes, integrated lighting, generous glazing and connections between indoor living spaces, private courts and pools.

The launch of Perlita Gardens follows UDC's acquisition of the project site for QR625mn and the completion of demolition and site preparation works, paving the way for the next phase of development, which is expected to span approximately three years from the commencement of construction.

At Cityscape Qatar, visitors can explore the masterplan, architectural vision, villa collections and residential offering, while engaging directly with UDC's sales team on registration of interest and the off-plan ownership process.

Alongside the introduction of Perlita Gardens, UDC is presenting a limited-time promotional offer on available apartments at Crystal Residence, providing prospective buyers with an additional opportunity to purchase within its established residential portfolio on Gewan Island.

Hussain Akbar al-Baker, executive director of Commercial and Properties at UDC, said: "From a commercial perspective, these two announcements address different residential needs within UDC's portfolio."

"Perlita Gardens introduces a standalone villa proposition for buyers seeking greater space and privacy within The Pearl Island, while the Crystal Residence promotion provides an additional incentive for those considering available apartments on Gewan Island," he said.

"By presenting both at Cityscape, we can engage prospective buyers across a wider range of residential preferences while highlighting the choice available within our destinations," al-Baker added.

UDC is opening Expression of Interest registrations and launching Phase One sales for Perlita Gardens during Cityscape, with in-house financing from UDC paired with bank mortgage financing through Commercial Bank and Dukhan Bank.

The project has been conceived to respond to demand for standalone villa properties for sale within The Pearl Island, bringing this offering to the market through an off-plan proposition.

Perlita Gardens further strengthens the diversity of UDC's residential portfolio, complementing the range of living options already available across The Pearl Island.

For Crystal Residence, the limited-time offer applies to available apartments and remains valid until December 31, 2026.

Visitors can explore both residential offerings at UDC's Stand H3.A10 throughout Cityscape Qatar, where the sales team will provide further information on Perlita Gardens registration of interest, the off-plan ownership process and the Crystal Residence promotional offer.

Registration of interest for Perlita Gardens is now open through UDC Residential Sales at sales@udcqatar.com and +974 4409 5155.

Prospective buyers can also visit UDC's stand throughout the exhibition for further details on the available offerings.


Hussain Akbar al-Baker


Yasser Salah al-Jaidah









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A development by UDC

Qatar Real Estate Forum kicks off in Doha



Minister inaugurates forum at Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre

Under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah inaugurated the 4th Qatar Real Estate Forum 2026 yesterday.
Held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), the forum is organised in partnership between the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Aqarat) and Informa Tharawat.
The opening ceremony was attended by HE the Shura Council Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanim, HE the Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad bin Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali bin Issa al-Hassan al-Mohannadi, and Egypt's Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade Dr Mohamed Farid Saleh. **– QNA**





The fourth edition of the Qatar Real Estate Forum 2026 kicked off yesterday at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), in partnership with Cityscape Qatar.

The forum, which runs until October 29, is organised by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Aqarat), in partnership with Informa Tharawat.

The event brings together officials, investors, developers, financial institutions, and experts in the real estate and technology sectors.

This year's forum is held under the theme "Stability as an Asset Class", as part of a programme discussing a wide range of issues related to the future of the real estate sector in Qatar and the region, from investment, development and financing to technology and sustainability, and extending to quality of life, urban planning and the future of cities.

The event features more than 70 speakers and 60 exhibitors.

Mohammed bin Hassan al-Malki, president of Aqarat, said the forum comes at an important stage in the development of Qatar's real estate sector, noting that work is continuing to enhance a real estate environment based on confidence and transparency.

He said this offers investors and developers sustainable opportunities within a market underpinned by strong regulatory and economic foundations.

Al-Malki said the forum represents a platform bringing together government entities, investors, developers, experts and industry leaders to discuss the changes shaping the future of real estate, showcase investment opportunities, exchange expertise and build partnerships that support the sector's growth and development.

He emphasised that holding the forum, alongside Cityscape Qatar, helps broaden participation and strengthen communication among the various stakeholders across the real estate ecosystem at both the local and international levels.

Commenting on the Qatar Real Estate Forum, Mohammed Makki, director of Real Estate Investment at Aqarat, said: "This year's forum programme is designed to address the key questions investors ask before making investment decisions."

"The first day will focus on market stability and regulatory frameworks, while the second will explore investment and financing instruments, ranging from real estate investment trusts (REITs) to real estate tokenisation," he said. "The third day will examine quality of life and the future of cities. Our aim is to ensure that Qatar's real estate market provides investors with a stable environment and clear regulatory frameworks they can rely on."

The forum will address key topics including investment portfolio diversification; investment opportunities in residential, commercial and mixed-use real estate; real estate financing and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs); digital asset tokenisation; and property valuation and market data.

It will also examine the role of private capital in supporting economic diversification, ways to strengthen investor confidence, sustainability and governance standards, and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in urban development.

The programme will also highlight quality of life, infrastructure and long-term urban planning, as well as the role of real estate development in enhancing Qatar's appeal as a destination to live, work and invest.

The first day's programme will feature a session on "Reading the Regional Landscape: The Future of Real Estate Investment", followed by a fireside chat on "Stability Is a Strategy, Not a Coincidence", which examined the foundations of stability in the real estate market and the role of regulatory and economic frameworks in supporting investment.

The programme will also include a regional regulatory dialogue on "Building the Future of the GCC Real Estate Sector", exploring the transformations taking place across the real estate sector in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries and the future opportunities available to investors and developers.

As part of the session on "Private Capital and National Vision: How Developers and Investors in Qatar Contribute to Economic Diversification", the forum will examine the role of private capital, real estate development and investment in supporting economic diversification.

The session on "Developers Behind the Nation's Skyline: A Dialogue on Investor Confidence" will explore the relationship between real estate development and investor confidence, as well as the factors that enhance market appeal and support project sustainability.

Under the sustainability and governance theme, the session on "The Green Premium: ESG Standards and the Investment Case for Real Estate in Qatar" will examine how environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards contribute to project development and enhance investment value.

It will also address trends in green buildings, resource efficiency and the impact of sustainable practices on the future of the sector.

The first day also featured a keynote address titled "Cities That Hold Their Value: Quality of Life as an Investment Strategy", examining the relationship between quality of life and the investment value of cities and real estate projects.

The first day's Main Stage programme concluded with the session on "Qatar as a Lifestyle Destination: Redefining Retail and Hospitality", which explored changing lifestyles and consumption patterns, as well as the role of the retail and hospitality sectors in enhancing Qatar's appeal as a destination for living and investment.

The second day's programme will open with a fireside chat and presentation titled "Property Valuation and Market Data: What Investors Need to Know?", examining the importance of property data and valuations in supporting investment decisions and interpreting market trends.

The programme will also feature the session "Diversifying Investment Portfolios: Residential, Commercial and Mixed-Use Real Estate Strategies", highlighting options for allocating investments across different real estate asset classes.

This will be followed by "Investing at Scale: Opportunities and Challenges for Institutional Investors and High-Net-Worth Individuals", which will examine investment strategies, challenges and opportunities for those managing large investment portfolios.

The forum will also explore the role of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) in broadening access to Qatar's real estate market through a dedicated session.

The session on "Digital Asset Tokenisation: The New Frontier of Real Estate Investment" will examine the potential of digital technologies to develop new investment models and expand participation in the market.

A separate fireside chat will explore exit mechanisms and strategies for realising returns from real estate investments.

Meanwhile, the session on "First Steps: Opportunities and Challenges for New and Small-Scale Investors" will examine the opportunities available to these groups and the challenges they face when entering the market, highlighting practical considerations for those starting out in real estate investment.

The third and final day will feature a fireside chat and presentation titled "Healthy Real Estate: The Investment Case for Health-Centred Development", examining the importance of integrating health and quality-of-life concepts into real estate projects and their impact on investment value.

The programme will also include the session on "The Livable City, Reimagined: The Everyday Impact of AI in Qatar", which will explore how artificial intelligence and smart technologies can support urban development and improve services and residents' everyday experiences.

The third day will also feature a fireside chat entitled "Live, Work, Play and Thrive: Why Should Qatar Be Your Next Destination?", highlighting Qatar's strengths as a destination for living, working and investment.

Under the infrastructure and services theme, the session on "Infrastructure Essentials: Healthcare, Education and Connectivity" will examine the role of essential services and infrastructure in supporting urban growth and enhancing the appeal of residential communities.

The session "Family, Safety and Community: The Social Foundations of Qatar's Neighbourhoods" will explore the importance of designing neighbourhoods and communities to meet families' needs while promoting safety, social cohesion and quality of life.

The forum will also address urban planning and future growth in the session "Planning for Growth: Qatar's Long-Term Urban Development Strategy", examining long-term planning priorities, future growth prospects and the role of long-term strategies in guiding real estate development and urban expansion.

A dedicated discussion on Qatar's new Owners' Associations Law will be held as part of the third day's programme under the title "Qatar's New Owners' Associations Law: What Owners and Developers Need to Know?"

The session will examine the new law and related issues of interest to owners and developers, focusing on the key aspects stakeholders need to understand in managing properties and jointly owned buildings.

It forms part of the forum's focus on the legislative and regulatory issues shaping the development of the real estate market, and the importance of clear legal frameworks in improving property management efficiency and strengthening trust among stakeholders.

Alongside the Main Stage programme, the forum will feature the Innovation Stage, bringing together leading developers, investors, architects, real estate brokers, financial experts, technology leaders and other industry professionals to explore the ideas, investments and innovations shaping the future of Qatar's real estate market.

The stage will provide a platform for practical market insights, project discussions and emerging opportunities through panel discussions, case studies, specialised sessions and live demonstrations, fostering the exchange of knowledge and experience across the real estate ecosystem.

The forum will also host interactive workshops covering practical topics across different areas of the real estate sector.

These workshops will take place separately from the Innovation Stage on the first floor of the DECC.

The workshops will provide an interactive setting for participants to exchange knowledge and practical experience and discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the real estate sector.

They are designed to encourage the practical application of the forum's themes and strengthen connections among industry professionals and specialists.

Participants will be able to register for the workshops in advance and will receive a certificate of participation, giving them the opportunity to prepare ahead and make the most of the workshops' practical content and themes.

The workshops form part of the forum's wider programme, which combines strategic discussions, specialised sessions and practical applications.

This will enable participants to keep abreast of developments, exchange expertise and discuss the opportunities and challenges facing Qatar's real estate market and the wider region.

Alfardan Properties reaffirms long-term commitment to Qatar







Alfardan Properties has reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to investing in Qatar, reflecting its continued confidence in the strength of the national economy and its long-term growth prospects.

Through strategic developments and sustained investments, the company continues to contribute to the advancement of Qatar's real estate sector in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030.

The commitment was highlighted during the participation of Mohamed Sleiman, chief executive of Alfardan Properties and Alfardan Hospitality, at the 4th Qatar Real Estate Forum, held yesterday in partnership with Cityscape at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).

Speaking during the panel discussion on "Private Capital, National Vision: How Qatar's Developers and Investors Are Diversifying the Economy", Sleiman highlighted the pivotal role of the private sector in advancing economic diversification and the importance of sustained investment across residential, commercial, and hospitality developments to further strengthen Qatar's position as a leading destination for investment, business, and long-term residency.

Emphasising the company's confidence in Qatar's economic outlook, he stated: "Under its wise leadership, Qatar has consistently demonstrated the strength and resilience of its economy in navigating challenges."

"We continued investing throughout the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and amid recent regional developments, guided by our belief that challenges create new opportunities for growth and our unwavering confidence in the country's future and economic potential," Sleiman said.

Alfardan Properties continues to advance its expansion strategy, with investments totalling approximately QR1bn, including the development of Alfardan Business District in Lusail City, which is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2027.

The development includes Burj Alfardan Tower B, currently under development alongside the existing Burj Alfardan Tower A, responding to the growing demand for premium office and commercial spaces while supporting Qatar's evolving business landscape and attracting further corporate investment.

Within the residential sector, the company continues to introduce innovative ownership solutions designed to broaden access to real estate investment in Qatar.

Among its latest initiatives is the 17-year lease-to-own programme at The Residences at The St Regis Marsa Arabia Island, The Pearl Qatar, offering flexible payment options that enable residents to transition from renting to ownership, particularly in light of limited financing options.

The development also reflects the international appeal of Qatar's luxury real estate market, with an established community of global property owners, including Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan.

In this context, Sleiman highlighted the growing aspirations of families residing in Qatar to own their homes rather than remain long-term tenants.

He emphasised that the lease-to-own programme provides a practical solution to traditional ownership barriers, creating opportunities for residents to invest in their future and establish a lasting presence in the country.

This approach also extends to Kempinski Residences & Suites, Doha, where existing tenants are being offered the opportunity to purchase the residences they currently occupy, reflecting the company's commitment to introducing real estate solutions that respond to evolving market needs and customer aspirations.

In parallel, Alfardan Properties continues to invest in the renovation and modernisation of two of its landmark assets, Kempinski Residences & Suites, Doha and Marsa Malaz Kempinski, The Pearl – Doha, further elevating their facilities, services, and long-term value within its residential and hospitality portfolio.

Sleiman further emphasised that Alfardan's vision extends beyond conventional real estate development, focusing on being a luxury lifestyle provider that brings together luxury real estate, hospitality, and refined lifestyle offerings.

The synergy across the group's diverse business sectors strengthens the appeal of its developments to local and international investors, while contributing to broader economic activity and generating direct and indirect employment opportunities across multiple industries.

Concluding his remarks, he highlighted Qatar's competitive advantages as a destination for sustainable investment and long-term growth: "Qatar's appeal extends far beyond the investment opportunities offered by its real estate sector."

"The country provides a comprehensive ecosystem that makes it an exceptional destination to live, work, and invest, from world-class educational institutions and major international events to an outstanding quality of life and attractive property ownership and residency incentives for foreign investors," Sleiman pointed out. "Qatar offers a stable and promising environment for sustainable growth, and we remain committed to investing in and contributing to its future."

QATAR



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali al-Thani and other officials at the event.

Private-sector leaders honoured at inaugural Qatarisation awards



The Ministry of Labour held the inaugural Qatarisation Award in the Private Sector ceremony yesterday, under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani.

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali al-Thani honoured the winning enterprises and individuals across the award's sector-specific and cross-cutting categories.

HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Samikh al-Marri, chair of the Award's Board of Trustees, attended the ceremony, which recognised the winners' achievements and contributions to advancing Qatarisation efforts and empowering national talent.

Also in attendance were HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour and vice-chairperson of the Award's Board of Trustees Sheikha Najwa bint Abdulrahman al-Thani, Assistant Undersecretary for National Manpower Affairs in the Private Sector and chief executive of the Award Khames Mohammed al-Nuaimi, and several chief executives and officials representing relevant entities.

This edition recorded a significant level of engagement, attracting 426 applications from establishments and individuals across nine sectors, HE Dr al-Marri said, highlighting that individuals accounted for 59% of submissions, while establishments made up the remaining 41%.

The Minister stressed that QatariSation should not come at the expense of private-sector efficiency or establishments' ability to grow and compete.

The ministry's responsibility, he explained, is to develop policies and support mechanisms that align QatariSation with establishments' needs and growth paths while helping them secure, develop and retain suitable national talent.

HE Dr Al-Marri noted that competition in the award's inaugural edition was intense, explaining that the evaluation process involved 56 field visits to shortlisted establishments and 59 personal interviews with shortlisted individuals, culminating in the recognition of 14 establishments and eight individuals.

He commended Qatar National Bank Group (QNB) for its incredible performance, having won four awards in the establishments category and one in the individuals category, emphasiSing that the results demonstrated what an institution can achieve when investment in national talent becomes integral to its practices and future plans.

The minister said the decision to withhold two awards in the establishments category, covering the healthcare services and manufacturing sectors, because the submissions did not meet the approved criteria, underscored the commitment to preserving the award's credibility and ensuring that recognition reflects clear standards of excellence and merit.

He expressed hope that the next edition would attract broader participation and stronger competition from establishments in both sectors.

The list of honorees at the inaugural Award in the Private Sector comprised 14 enterprises and eight individuals, in recognition of their distinction in supporting Qatarisation efforts and empowering national talent in the private sector.

In the sectoral individual awards category, Ali Turki al-Subaie of the Education Above All Foundation (EAA), received the leadership excellence award; Dana Hussein al-Ishaq of Sidra Medicine received the outstanding national talent award – Group 1 (5-10 years of experience); Haya Rashid al-Khater of Qatar Foundation received the outstanding national talent award – Group 2 (11-15 years of experience); Khalid Ahmed al Sada of QNB received the outstanding national talent award – Group 3 (16 years or more of experience); and Kholoud Mohammed al-Dosari of Qatar Rail received the future national talent award.

The Core Individual Awards also recognised Nouf Ali al-Jassem of Ahlibank with the outstanding scholarship recipient award; Jaber Rashid al-Marri of Doha Bank with the professional initiative and innovation award; and Shatha Qahtan al-Shammari of Qatar Airways Group with the leading Qatari woman award.

In the sectoral enterprise awards category, Ooredoo received the leading enterprise in Qatarisation in information technology and digital services award; Katara Hospitality received the leading enterprise in Qatarisation in tourism award; the Education Above All Foundation (EAA) received the leading enterprise in Qatarisation in education award; Hassad Food received the leading enterprise in Qatarisation in food and agriculture award; United Development Company received the leading enterprise in Qatarisation in construction and building award; QNB received the leading enterprise in Qatarisation in financial services award; and the Economic Zones Company received the leading enterprise in Qatarisation in logistics services award.

The leading enterprise in Qatarisation award was withheld in both the healthcare services and manufacturing sectors because the submissions did not meet the approved criteria.

In the core enterprise awards category, QNB received the excellence in attracting and hiring national talent award; Microsoft Doha received the excellence in flexible work arrangements award; QNB also received the best new employee programme for university graduates award and the best new employee programme for high school graduates award; Commercial Bank received the excellence in leadership skills development award; Visit Qatar received the excellence in empowering Qatari women employees award; and the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) received the excellence in preparing future talent award.

The Qatarisation Award in the Private Sector, established under Amiri Decision No. 27 of 2025, is one of the initiatives supporting the Ministry of Labour's efforts to foster positive competition, develop Qatarisation practices, and cement successful partnerships with the private sector. – **QNA**

Qatar's resilient property market continues to attract investors

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

Qatar's infrastructure, investor-protection regulations and strong banking sector continue to support its real estate market, with Barwa Real Estate unveiling a new two-tower residential development in Lusail.

Dr Eng. Abdullah Nasser al-Kaabi, Construction and Project Control director at Barwa Real Estate, said the country's resilience through successive economic shocks over the past 15 years had strengthened its appeal to domestic and international investors.

"Qatar, mashallah, is a resilient country," he said in an interview with *Gulf Times* on the sidelines of the opening of the fourth Real Estate Forum Qatar 2026. "For the past 15 years, we've been through different shocks and we have already recovered."

Al-Kaabi identified infrastructure, regulations and the banking sector as three key considerations for foreign investors evaluating opportunities in the country.

Al-Kaabi also highlighted the importance of laws and regulations designed to protect investors, alongside the banking sector's financing capabilities and credibility.

Against this backdrop, Barwa has introduced Barwa Bay, a residential project showcased at Cityscape 2026, comprising two towers of 23 and 27 floors, with a total of 639 apartments.

The development will offer one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, with units providing sea views, partial sea views or limited sea views. Both towers will be fully furnished, with most apartments featuring balconies.

Designed to combine residential living with leisure and recreational facilities, the project will include a ground-floor podium housing coffee shops, restaurants and a children's club.

Swimming pools are planned on top of each tower, alongside a shared pool in the central area.

Residents will also have access to a badminton court and an Olympic track on the podium.

"The tenants that buy an apartment here, they don't need to go outside to go to the gym or to play badminton or whatever," al-Kaabi said. "Everything is in Barwa Bay."

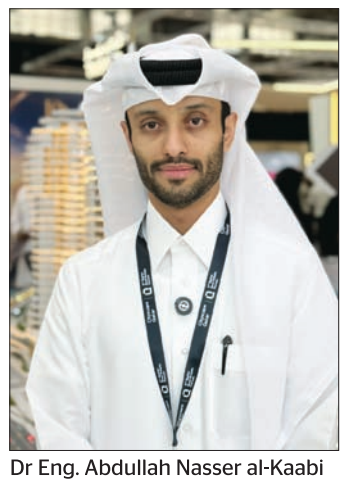
The development's location is another selling point, with proximity to Lusail landmarks, including Place Vendôme mall, as well as Lusail Tram and metro connections.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2027, with completion targeted for 2030.

Barwa has also outlined a seven-year payment plan, according to al-Kaabi.

The project will feature two distinct design concepts: an earthy-themed tower and a modern-themed tower.

Barwa Bay adds to the range of residential offerings emerging in Lusail, where homebuyers and investors prioritise transport connectivity, integrated amenities, and access to commercial destinations.


Dr Eng. Abdullah Nasser al-Kaabi


Sheikh Suhaim bin Khalid bin Hamad al-Thani


Sheikh Jassim bin Jabr Abdulaziz al-Thani

Ariane Projects showcases its growing portfolio







Ariane Projects is showcasing its expanding real estate portfolio and development plans at Cityscape Qatar 2026, which will run until October 29 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).

The company's participation comes as it continues to deliver existing projects while developing new residential offerings, reflecting its focus on quality, strategic locations and sustainable growth in Qatar's property market.

Sheikh Suhaim bin Khalid bin Hamad al-Thani, chairman of Ariane Projects, said the company aims to sustain its growth in Qatar, building on its experience since its establishment in 2013.

He said the company's current strategy focuses on measured expansion, enhancing property quality and balancing investment ambitions with execution capabilities to strengthen customer confidence and support long-term growth.

Ariane Projects chief executive Sheikh Jassim bin Jabr Abdulaziz al-Thani said Cityscape provides an opportunity to showcase the company's developments, engage with customers and investors, and gain insight into changing market needs.

Among the key projects on display is The 28 Residences in Lusail Marina, comprising two waterfront towers with more than 650 residential units and retail space, connected by a distinctive architectural bridge.

The company is also presenting Twin Gardens Residences in Al Erkyah, which comprises 377 apartments across 10 floors, in addition to a ground floor and rooftop.

The development offers one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments, with selected units featuring maid's rooms, alongside amenities including swimming pools, padel courts, a gym, jogging tracks, children's play areas and landscaped spaces.

Other developments in the company's portfolio include Terra Gardens, comprising 56 villas near Hamad Medical City, as well as Scala North, Scala South, duplex units at Milos and plots of land for sale in Umm Salal Ali.

Ariane Projects has completed handovers at La Verde, while handover procedures for Urjuan are expected to be completed in November 2026.

The company is also working towards delivering Al Erkyah Avenue, Rivan, and Scala in 2027.

The developer manages 23 projects across 13 strategic locations in Qatar, with a total built-up area exceeding 1mn square metres.

Its portfolio includes apartments, villas, duplexes and land, catering to a range of homebuyers and investors.

Sheikh Jassim said the diversity of the company's offerings enables it to respond to different customer needs, from those seeking homes for personal use to investors looking for assets with long-term growth potential.

Commenting on Qatar's real estate market, he said that the sector had maintained activity in 2026, with continued interest in residential developments offering strong locations and clear investment fundamentals.

He noted that buyers are increasingly considering a combination of factors, including design, construction quality, the developer's track record, delivery commitments, and surrounding amenities, rather than focusing solely on price or location.

Sheikh Jassim cited Lusail as an example of an integrated urban destination combining residential, business, leisure and service facilities, supporting its appeal to residents and investors.

He noted that practical layouts, quality materials, shared facilities and the overall living experience play an increasingly important role in purchasing decisions.

While homeowners prioritise comfort, privacy and everyday convenience, investors tend to focus on asset value, rental potential and resale prospects.

Sheikh Jassim stressed that meeting construction and handover schedules is essential to building trust, adding that the customer relationship extends beyond signing a sales agreement or handing over a unit to include product quality, transparency and fulfilment of commitments.

He said that the expansion of the company's portfolio requires closer co-ordination between planning and execution, more efficient operations and stronger project management to maintain quality and meet delivery schedules.

He added that Ariane Projects would continue to prioritise project handovers, improve the customer experience and develop properties that combine quality design and construction with long-term investment value, strengthening the company's position in Qatar's real estate market.

Justice ministry to launch 'Tathmeen' program, developed with Google

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has announced that it will soon launch the artificial intelligence (AI)-powered real estate valuation program "Tathmeen", developed in partnership with Google, ahead of its official rollout in the coming period.

The announcement was made during the ministry's participation in the fourth Qatar Real Estate Forum, held in conjunction with Cityscape at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).

The program aims to use the latest smart technologies to provide more advanced and reliable indicative estimates of property values.

It is expected to mark a major advance in real estate valuation services, deliver added value to property owners and investors, and support decision-making through more accurate and comprehensive data.

The program will also make real estate information more accessible to individuals, businesses and investors, improving the efficiency of digital services supporting the property sector.

At its booth in the government pavilion, the ministry is showcasing its real estate registration services and key digital initiatives supporting the sector.

These include demonstrations of real estate registration procedures, particularly newly automated and digital transactions; property sales and ownership transfers; and the issuance of real estate residency permits in co-operation with the Ministry of Interior, a service processed immediately.

The MoJ's booth also offers legal services and consultations related to transactions supporting the real estate sector.

During the forum, the Real Estate Brokerage Department is holding information sessions on real estate brokerage procedures, raising awareness of the provisions of the Real Estate Brokerage Law and explaining how to verify that companies are licensed to practice the profession in accordance with approved regulations.

The ministry is participating in the government pavilion alongside the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Aqarat) and the Investment Promotion Agency Qatar (Invest Qatar). – **QNA**



Shura participates in Arab Parliament's new session

Shura Council has participated in the opening plenary of the Arab Parliament's third session of its fourth legislative term, held at the headquarters of the Arab League General Secretariat in Cairo.

The Shura Council was represented at the session by Amina bint Youssef al-Jaidah, Nasser bin Mohammed al-Nuaimi, Mubarak bin Mohammed al-Matar al-Kuwari and Ali bin Ahmed al-Kaabi, all members of the Shura Council and the Arab Parliament.

Chaired by Arab Parliament President Saad al-Otaibi, the session reviewed reports from the Parliament's standing committees and approved a number of draft laws, resolutions and recommendations on key Arab issues.

The agenda focused on the Palestinian cause and developments in the occupied Palestinian territories amid continued Israeli military operations and accelerating settlement expansion. Members also addressed Houthi attacks on the Kingdom fo Saudi Arabia, Iranian attacks on several Arab countries, and the rejection of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Arab states.

The session also heard statements on developments in Syria, Sudan, Yemen, Libya, Somalia and Lebanon. It condemned an attack on a church in Jordan, reaffirming its unequivocal rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism, particularly attacks on places of worship.

Ahead of the plenary, the Shura Council's delegation participated in meetings of the Arab Parliament's standing committees to discuss items on their respective agendas.

The Foreign, Political and National Security Affairs Committee, chaired by Mubarak bin Mohammed al-Matar al-Kuwari, discussed the latest political and security developments across the Arab world. It also reviewed a report on the first meeting of a subcommittee tasked with developing a parliamentary vision on the impact of foreign interventions in domestic conflicts and ways to address them, as well as a report on its official visit to the Pan-African Parliament in July. Members also considered the Committee's proposed work plan for the new session.

Amina bint Youssef al-Jaidah attended a meeting of the Social, Educational, Cultural, Women and Youth Affairs Committee, while Nasser bin Mohammed al-Nuaimi and Ali bin Ahmed al-Kaabi attended meetings of the Economic and Financial Affairs Committee and the Legislative, Legal and Human Rights Affairs Committee, respectively. T

The Shura Council's delegation participated in the Arab Parliament's procedural session during which the parliament's president, vice-presidents, and the chairs and deputy chairs of its standing committees were elected.

Mubarak bin Mohammed al-Matar al-Kuwari, a member of Qatar's Shura Council, was elected by acclamation as chair of the Arab Parliament's Foreign, Political and National Security Affairs Committee. (**QNA**)

QCAA head meets civil aviation chiefs from eight countries



In Charge of Managing Qatar Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA) Mohammed bin Faleh al-Hajri held separate bilateral meetings with heads of civil aviation authorities from the Republic of Yemen, the Sultanate of Oman, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Lebanon, the State of Libya, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of the Sudan, and the Federal Republic of Somalia.

The meetings took place on the margins of the 8th Meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation in the Middle East (DGCA-MID/8), hosted in Doha by QCAA in collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Middle East Regional Office. The talks focused on deepening bilateral ties and substantially expanding cooperation across the civil aviation sector, particularly in air navigation, aviation safety and security, and air transport. They also addressed the interchange of expertise and experience to bolster joint efforts and strengthen cooperation between Qatar and its brotherly nations. (**QNA**)

Qatar underscores youth investment to tackle unemployment

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Qatar has underscored the importance of investing in young people, expanding employment opportunities and strengthening public-private partnerships to unlock youth potential and drive inclusive economic growth.

Addressing the World Investment Forum (WIF) 2026, HE Yasir bin Abdulla al-Jamal, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Sports and Youth, highlighted the scale of the global youth employment challenge.

" Today, 257mn young people worldwide are outside work, education and training. Youth unemployment in the Arab region stands at 26.2%. The Middle East and North Africa is home to over 140mn people aged under 30," said al-Jamal.

He noted that young people have significant potential for economic development if they are given the right opportunities.

"These numbers are not due to a shortage of talent, but a shortage of opportunities. There is a need to invest in skills development, entrepreneurship and pathways into the labour market," explained the official.

Al-Jamal said that the Ministry of Sports and Youth has introduced a range of programmes, youth centres and partnerships to prepare young people for employment and business creation.

"The initiatives focus on developing teamwork, responsibility and resilience, while equipping participants with practical experience and professional networks to help them enter the workforce or establish their own businesses," he stated.

According to the official, several programmes support high school graduates as they transition to university life and help young people choose suitable academic majors. Another programme provides work-placement opportunities through partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

"More than 1,500 young people benefited from these programmes over the past year, helping strengthen the transition between education and industry," he highlighted.

For aspiring entrepreneurs, the newly established Youth Small Business Centre provides access to investors, universities, business support services, and public- and private-sector partners.

"For young people wanting to get into business, our newly established Youth Small Business Centre provides access to an ecosystem of investors, business supports, universities, as well as the public and private sector. It has benefited more than 13,000 participants in the last two years, through over 200 training sessions and workshops," he pointed out.

The official stressed that progress in youth empowerment depends on collaboration among government institutions, businesses, educational organisations and international partners.

He elaborated: "The most effective partnerships involve young people and industry stakeholders as co-designers of initiatives, ensuring that programmes respond both to youth aspirations and to the actual needs of employers and the wider economy. More than 150 entities are part of the country's small and medium-sized enterprise ecosystem, providing a broad network of support for young people seeking to establish businesses."

Al-Jamal highlighted international cooperation as another important avenue for expanding opportunities. He noted: "Qatar's leading strategic partnerships also include, for example, Qatar initiative, Silatech's partnership with Unicef Generation Unlimited Programme. Silatech has helped deliver 5mn employment opportunities for Arab youth. Other international reference points include UNICTAR programme, which has trained more than 550 individuals in over 40 countries."



HE Yasir bin Abdulla al-Jamal, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Sports and Youth speaking at World Investment Forum. **PICTURE**: Shaji Kayamkulam.

Concluding the address, al-Jamal called for a shift in how young people are viewed, arguing that they should be recognised not only as future employees but also as active contributors to economic and social development.

"Providing young people with the necessary skills, confidence, networks and resources can help them secure jobs, establish businesses, create employment for others and contribute to their communities," he underlined.

"Aligning education, industry and enterprise support around these shared goals is essential to transforming youth potential into sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Talent is everywhere, but ability is not. Partnerships are crucial to distributing opportunities more fairly and ensuring that young people can play a meaningful role in shaping the future," added al-Jamal.

MoT sponsors 4th Supply Chain Management Conference

MoT Undersecretary Mohammed Abdullah al-Maadeed inaugurates conference

Ministry of Transport (MoT) Undersecretary HE Mohammed Abdullah al-Maadeed inaugurated the 4th Qatar Supply Chain Management Conference (SCMC), highlighting the need for resilient logistics networks to protect the country against future disruptions.

Organised by Dar Al Sharq Media Group and sponsored by MoT, the conference offers an ideal platform to exchange expertise and discuss key supply chain challenges. It also explores modern solutions and technologies to improve logistics efficiency, enhance supply chain resilience, and ensure the continued flow of goods and services amid current economic and geopolitical shifts.

The MoT's sponsorship reflects Qatar's commitment to developing transportation infrastructure—including ports and airports—and fostering cross-industry integration, in line with the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, which aim to strengthen economic security and achieve sustainable development.

Addressing the conference, al-Maadeed said supply chains are no longer merely an economic and commercial system; they are now a cornerstone of national security and a state's capacity to withstand crises.

He suggested that the classical view of supply chains had always focused on maximising operational efficiency; however, a succession of geopolitical, economic, and health-related crises has reshaped priorities, revealing that efficiency alone is insufficient, and today the critical benchmark is supply chain resilience—that is, the capacity to withstand, adapt to, and recover from disruptions.

Therefore, building resilience, he explained, is no longer an option to defer; it has become a national imperative that requires a comprehensive vision and clear, actionable resolve.

The robustness of supply chains, he said, cannot be achieved through isolated measures or temporary responses; rather, it requires an integrated national framework that unites the efforts of both public and private sectors, and such a framework ensures the continuity of the economy and essential services, while strengthening their capacity to adapt and endure—regardless of how circumstances may shift or how intense crises may become.



Al-Maadeed also warned that successive crises have shown that relying on a single route, source, or gateway is not just an operational risk, but a strategic vulnerability that can threaten supply security at the first sign of disruption.

He also said supply chain resilience is a shared responsibility and that the private sector is not merely a supporting partner but a fundamental pillar of the national economic security ecosystem.

Former secretary general of the GCC, Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Attiyah and first vice-chairman of Qatar Chamber, Mohammed bin Twar al-Kuwari, also addressed the conference.

The event featured three sessions attended by representatives from the MOT and from various government entities and academia, including Mwani Qatar, the Ministry of Municipality, the Qatar Red Crescent, QU, UDST, and CCQ.

QFFD advances global development finance agenda at WIF



Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) concluded its participation in the ninth edition of the World Investment Forum (WIF 2026), held in Doha from 25-27 October under the theme "Investing in the Future", contributing to advancing the global development finance agenda, mobilising investment and strengthening international cooperation to accelerate sustainable development.

As part of the forum, QFFD co-hosted a high-level ministerial roundtable titled "Partnerships, Investment and Trade: Advancing Sustainable Development and Prosperity in LDCs", alongside the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar in Geneva, the WTO's Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), and UNCTAD.

The roundtable brought together government representatives and development partners to explore how investment, trade and development finance can be better aligned to advance economic transformation in Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Discussions focused on mobilising capital, expanding access to development finance, strengthening productive capacities and fostering partnerships that support sustainable economic growth.

The dialogue also underscored the importance of accelerating the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs ahead of its Midterm Review, scheduled to take place in Doha from 25-27 March 2027.

Beyond the roundtable, QFFD engaged in discussions across the forum's programme on development finance, investment and international co-operation.

QFFD's participation in WIF 2026 reflects the State of Qatar's continued commitment to international development co-operation and to advancing innovative financing approaches and strategic partnerships that mobilise resources, strengthen economic resilience and deliver sustainable development outcomes. (**QNA**)

CRA launches public consultation on final two phases of MDDD review

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) has launched a public consultation on the final two phases of its Market Definition and Dominance Designation (MDDD) review, within the current 2024-2026 cycle of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Competition Framework review and update project, providing stakeholders with an opportunity to share their views and comments on the proposed regulatory approach.

The consultation covers Phase 4, which focuses on assessing market dominance and identifying Dominant Service Providers (DSPs) in the relevant markets, and Phase 5, which addresses the proposed regulatory remedies. It seeks stakeholder feedback and inputs on the assessment findings and proposed approach, which will support CRA in making its final decision.

This consultation builds on the previous phases of the comprehensive review process and forms part of CRA's continued efforts to develop the ICT regulatory framework, promote effective competition, enhance proportionate regulatory impact, clarity and transparency, support investment and innovation, and improve outcome for consumers and businesses. These efforts are aligned with the objectives of the Digital Agenda 2030, the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030, and Qatar National Vision 2030. (**QNA**)

QU's live tech demonstrations at MWC Doha

Qatar University (QU), the Official Education Partner of MWC Doha 2026, will welcome visitors from November 8-10 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre with a three-day programme of live technology demonstrations, startup pitches, expert talks, student presentations, and industry dialogue.

The booth brings together QU researchers, entrepreneurs, students, and partners in one place, giving visitors a chance to try new technologies, meet the people behind them, and explore opportunities to work together.

At Booth B60, visitors can interact with an AI-controlled robotic arm, remotely operate a rescue robot, see their own muscle activity displayed on screen, and track a satellite in orbit. These live demonstrations will be accompanied by a showcase of technologies developed across QU's research community, with potential applications in healthcare, cybersecurity, intelligent systems and other priority sectors.

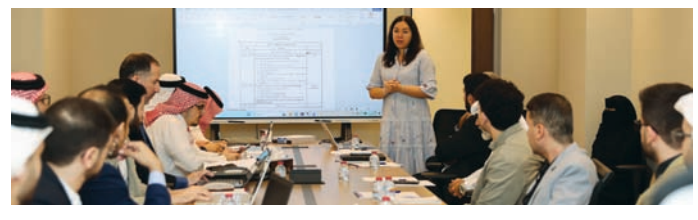
QU researchers and leaders will also contribute to the wider MWC Doha conference program, participating in discussions on AI, digital sovereignty and the future of innovation. The university will also announce new partnerships and licensing agreements during the event.

"As Qatar's national university, our role is to prepare people with the skills and knowledge to shape the country's future, and advance research that responds to its needs," said Prof Aiman Erbad, vice president for Research and Innovation at QU. "As the Official Education Partner of MWC Doha, we are creating opportunities for our researchers and students to share their work and engage with the wider technology community. We want that exchange to lead to collaborations that support learning, address practical challenges and open new opportunities for research application."

Entrepreneurship takes centre stage through the Next Generation Entrepreneurs Challenge 2026, where around 20 startups from QU's entrepreneurship programs will pitch for QR30,000 in prizes, with winners announced on the final day. Visitors can also learn about the support QU offers founders, from intellectual property guidance to pathways for bringing new ideas to market.

The booth stage will host expert talks, mini panels and student presentations across all three days.

MoECC's course on industrial radiography licensing



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC)'s Radiation Protection Department has organised a specialised training course on licensing and inspecting industrial radiography practices in co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The training course falls under Qatar's technical co-operation projects with the IAEA for the 2026–2029 period, specifically the project titled "Strengthening the Regulatory Infrastructure for Nuclear and Radiation Safety and Security." The initiative aims to improve regulatory and inspection procedures and enhance the efficiency of professionals responsible for licensing and inspection in line with internationally recognised standards.

The course is designed to develop participants' skills in assessing licence applications and verifying compliance with radiation safety requirements. It also seeks to strengthen their ability to conduct inspections effectively and efficiently, while familiarising them with best practices in radiation protection and procedures for preparedness and response to potential radiological incidents.

In addition, the programme gives participants an opportunity to exchange technical knowledge and expertise with IAEA specialists. This collaboration is expected to help harmonise regulatory approaches, improve administrative and technical procedures, and strengthen the implementation of radiation safety standards at facilities that use industrial radiography technologies.

QATAR

QMC chief meets Chinese envoy



HE Chief Executive Officer of the Qatar Media Corp (QMC), Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz bin Jassim al-Thani, met with the ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the State of Qatar, Cao Xiaolin. The meeting discussed ways to strengthen media co-operation between the two sides, as well as exchanging views on a number of issues of mutual interest. (**QNA**)

'Strategic plans to establish Qatar as global hub for media industry'

CEO of Media City Qatar Hamad Omar al-Mannai affirmed that Media City Qatar continues its efforts to elevate the media sector

The CEO of Media City Qatar Hamad Omar al-Mannai affirmed that Media City Qatar continues its efforts, which are guided by advanced strategic plans, to elevate the media sector. These initiatives aim to establish the State of Qatar as a pivotal global hub for the media and innovation industry, while also supporting and localising media and artistic production, and solidifying the country's position as a premier destination that brings together key players and influential figures within the industry.

In an exclusive interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Mannai explained that Qatar's hosting of the 'Global Perspectives: In Doha,' event, organised by CNN for the first time in the Middle East and the Gulf region, in partnership with Media City Qatar, represents a significant qualitative step and a crucial strategic milestone, further strengthening Qatar's regional and international presence within the global media landscape.

The State of Qatar possesses a recognised notable media advantage through its global institutions and channels, such as the Al Jazeera, Qatar TV, and beIN, al-Mannai pointed out. He noted that what the state currently possesses represents the 'final product' stage, whereas the pivotal role of Media City Qatar lies in transforming this existing excellence into a comprehensive ecosystem for 'building and establishing the media industry' from the ground up. This involves attracting global companies and talent, with the aim of positioning Qatar as a primary hub and headquarters for content production and media innovation.

Great progress has been made in Media City Qatar's 'Innovation Lab', al-Mannai explained, which brings together prominent media organisations to examine challenges in the media sector and develop technological solutions for them by leveraging artificial intelligence. He noted that the workshops resulted between 110-120 innovative ideas, 27 of which were agreed upon.

The actual implementation of two major projects has already begun; one of these involves a system for reviewing scripts, based on established standards, and analysing scenes to provide intelligent recommendations for the best available filming locations within Qatar, thereby supporting film and television production, al-Mannai added.

Al-Mannai emphasised that the strategy of Media City Qatar is derived directly from the Third National Development Strategy and contributes to the realisation of Qatar National Vision 2030. It focuses on three main pillars to enhance the media sector's contribution to the national economy, noting that transforming Qatar into a global media hub creates a dynamic and encouraging market environment that prompts startups to establish their headquarters and expand their operations in the country.

The CEO of Media City Qatar explained that the partnership with CNN extends to include sustainable training and development initiatives through the CNN Academy, which offers workshops and courses tailored for national talent and university students. It also provides opportunities for hands-on training within Media City Qatar, aimed at localising international knowledge and expertise across various media sectors.

Regarding the services offered by Media City Qatar, al-Mannai noted that while facilities, incentive packages, and talent development are standard expectations, the true competitive advantage lies in the provision of a superior, integrated infrastructure. This enables Qatar to serve as a comprehensive media hub and Media City Qatar is connected to local telecommunications networks and maintains a strategic partnership with the Qatar Satellite Company (Es'hailSat), ensuring the delivery of end-to-end solutions for broadcasting and production organisations.

Concluding his interview with QNA, the CEO of Media City Qatar reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to supporting local productions and content. Al-Mannai emphasised that this effort goes hand in hand with initiatives to bring such content to a global audience through sophisticated strategic distribution plans, international partnerships, and an active presence at major media forums and exhibitions. (**QNA**)

Almuftah Elevators & Escalators showcases integrated mobility, access, power, cooling solutions at Build Your House Exhibition





Almuftah Elevators & Escalators, part of Almuftah Group, is participating in Build Your House Exhibition 2026, taking place from October 26-28 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), Hall 8, Booth G26.

The company is showcasing innovative solutions spanning vertical transportation, access control, parking management, power generation, and cooling and air-conditioning systems.

Addressing the diverse needs of residential and commercial developments, from private villas to large-scale projects, Almuftah brings together specialised technologies and integrated solutions, complemented by an immersive virtual reality experience that allows customers to visualise and review their projects during the design phase.

Bringing Project Designs to Life Through Virtual Reality

A key highlight of this year's participation is Almuftah's virtual reality (VR) solution, which enables customers to explore a virtual representation of their projects using a VR headset during the design and planning stages.

The experience allows customers to visualise proposed spaces, review design concepts, and explore how selected solutions can be incorporated before implementation, supporting more informed decisions and bridging the gap between architectural concepts and real-world applications.

This initiative reflects Almuftah's commitment to digital innovation and enhancing the customer journey through interactive, technology-driven experiences.

Comprehensive Mobility, Access and Parking Solutions

Almuftah showcases a range of elevator and escalator systems for residential and commercial applications, alongside access gates and parking barriers designed to support controlled entry and efficient vehicle access.

The portfolio also features 360-degree rotating car platforms, which facilitate vehicle manoeuvring and directional changes in confined spaces. These platforms can also be used for vehicle displays in showrooms and other designated spaces, combining practical functionality with presentation value.

Together, these solutions address evolving requirements for mobility, accessibility, vehicle management, and space optimisation across different project types.

Power Generation Solutions for Projects of Every Scale



Almuftah also presents its dedicated power generation division, offering generators in a variety of sizes and capacities to meet diverse project requirements. From private villas and residential developments to commercial facilities and larger-scale projects, the portfolio provides options tailored to different operational needs.

YORK Cooling and Air-Conditioning Solutions

Further expanding its offering, Almuftah showcases YORK cooling and air-conditioning systems suited to different project types, sizes, and cooling requirements. From residential properties and private villas to commercial buildings and larger developments, the range helps customers identify systems that match their project specifications.

By bringing together mobility, access, parking, power generation, and cooling solutions, Almuftah offers a comprehensive portfolio to support the requirements of modern buildings and developments.

Supporting Qatar's Construction and Real Estate Sectors

Almuftah's participation in Build Your House Exhibition 2026 reinforces its commitment to supporting Qatar's construction and real estate sectors through innovative technologies, reliable solutions, and a customer-focused approach. By combining specialised systems with digital visualisation technology, the company helps homeowners, developers, consultants, and construction professionals explore solutions with greater clarity and confidence.

Your Vision. Our Innovation. Experience the Difference.

Discover Almuftah's latest technologies, experience immersive VR project visualisation, and explore integrated solutions designed to bring your vision to life.

MoPH, WHO partner to strengthen occupational health training



The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) recently organised the fifth training workshop on occupational health fundamentals for doctors, attended by approximately 40 doctors from various healthcare facilities. This brings the total number of doctors who have completed basic occupational health training to approximately 200, representing various governmental, semi-governmental and private healthcare facilities.

The workshop aimed to strengthen doctors' capacity to identify, manage, and prevent occupational and environmental hazards; develop their skills in delivering basic occupational health services; and integrate occupational health principles into their daily clinical practice, thereby improving the quality of healthcare services provided to workers.

The workshop introduced the basic principles of occupational medicine, including preventing occupational injuries and diseases, assessing and controlling risks, assessing fitness for work, and promoting workers' health.

Dr Mohammed al-Hajjaj, Head of the Occupational Health Section at MoPH, stressed the importance of co-operation and coordination among all relevant entities in achieving occupational health objectives.

He noted that occupational hazards, work-related injuries, and diseases require ongoing preventive efforts, particularly in high-risk work environments.

He emphasised that training doctors is a key pillar for advancing occupational health services.

He explained that the ministry had developed an advanced occupational and environmental health training programme in co-operation with the World Health Organisation (WHO). Implementation is scheduled to begin next November, to develop the capacities of doctors who have received basic occupational health training.

This initiative forms part of MoPH's efforts to strengthen occupational and environmental health services and build healthcare workforce capacity. It helps promote workers' health and safety in the public and private sectors, foster healthy and safe working environments, and reduce work-related diseases, injuries, and deaths. (**QNA**)

QT reveals judges for 4th Qatar Tourism Awards

Qatar Tourism (QT) has revealed a distinguished ten-member jury panel of local and international experts for the fourth edition of the Qatar Tourism Awards, developed in collaboration with the World Tourism Organisation (UN Tourism). These awards honour organisations and individuals known for consistently delivering exceptional tourism experiences in Qatar.

In a statement, Qatar Tourism said that the panel is tasked with carefully evaluating tourism businesses that demonstrate excellence across seven primary categories: Service Excellence, Gastronomic Experiences, Iconic Attractions and Activities, World-Class Events, Digital Footprint, Smart and Sustainable Tourism, and Community Leadership.

This evaluation commences on 30th of October. These categories, along with 38 sub-categories, reflect key dimensions of both the visitor and resident experience.

The winners of the fourth edition of the Qatar Tourism Awards will be revealed during a formal ceremony taking place on Nov 23, 2026. Winners will receive extensive promotion locally, regionally and internationally to enhance their visibility.

The Qatar Tourism Awards are open to all businesses and individuals in the tourism sector. The Awards are a benchmark for excellence, highlighting the nation's top tourism offerings, services, innovations and outstanding achievers. It is a chance to help set the standard for the tourism industry and recognise those who elevate Qatar's tourism reputation on the global stage. Winning the prestigious Qatar Tourism Awards is a demonstration of excellence that strengthens brand equity, shapes businesses and careers, and brings national and international recognition. (**QNA**)

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, MHD FERAS BALTAJI

holder of

CANADA Passport No. AT737460
QID No. 28312400356

hereby change my name

from

MHD FERAS BALTAJI

to

FERAS AL DEMACHQE

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

QC distributes food baskets to Sudan's conflict-affected families

With the generous and sustained support of benefactors in Qatar, Qatar Charity (QC)'s field teams have completed the distribution of food baskets to thousands of people from the most severely affected families in Khartoum, Sudan's capital.

In a statement yesterday, Qatar Charity said that over a three-month period, 8,718 food baskets were distributed to approximately 52,308 beneficiaries across Umbada, East Nile, Al-Jereif, Al-Kalakla and Jabra.

The assistance aimed to ease the humanitarian crisis and strengthen the resilience of affected families.

Mona Abdullah al-Faki, Director of the General Department of Social Development in Khartoum Locality, said Qatar Charity's provision of food supplies had a profound impact, bringing joy to residents.





Humanitarian authorities in Khartoum State, along with vulnerable families and other highly at-risk groups, have expressed their appreciation for the support provided by benefactors through essential food supplies.

They noted that the assistance had helped alleviate the economic hardship facing affected families.

Rasha Mohammed al-Hassan, a representative of Jebel Aulia Locality in Khartoum State, said Qatar Charity had carried out extensive humanitarian work in Jebel Aulia and other localities, including the delivery of 1,100 food baskets to the locality.

She thanked benefactors in Qatar for supporting people in need in Khartoum, which has seen a significant voluntary return of residents who had been displaced by the war.

Since the outbreak of the war in Sudan, Qatar Charity's field teams have continued to deliver a range of humanitarian interventions in the health and food-security sectors for affected families and displaced people across several Sudanese states, with the generous support of benefactors in Qatar. (**QNA**)

'They were innocent': Syrian family mourns victims of Jordan's strike

AFP
Al-Sanamayn, Syria

In an ambulance carrying the bodies of relatives killed in a Jordanian strike on southern Syria, a young man sat in shock, having lost much of his family in an instant.

"We were asleep when the missile hit us. My mother, my older brother and his three children — two boys and a girl — were killed," Nassouh al-Salim said, staring at a grey body bag.

Jordan launched the Monday strikes in response to an attack on a church last week that killed nine people.

Damascus says the raids killed seven people, including three children, but Jordan said they had killed more than 20 Islamic State group fighters, while expressing regret over civilian casualties.

In the remote village of Al-Taf in Daraa province, which borders Jordan, a missile tore through the living room of the Salim family home, leaving a huge crater and reducing much of the modest building to rubble.

Schoolbooks and children's clothes lay scattered among chunks of concrete and twisted furniture.

"They were in the flower of their youth, innocent, blameless," said Yassine al-Salim, 78, another relative.

"How can a government strike homes with no justification?"

In another ambulance, two men sat beside a wounded child who appeared unconscious.

Funerals for the dead were being held yesterday.

Jordan said it had struck "terrorist organisations" including a "large" IS group weapons depot, adding the military had sought to avoid locations where civilians were believed to be present.



An aerial view of the damage at a site targeted by Jordanian airstrikes, on the village of Al-Taf in the Al-Lajat region. (**AFP**)

Hours before the strikes, Amman announced the arrest of three Jordanians — two brothers and another relative — accused of carrying out the deadly attack on the Greek Orthodox church in Karak governorate. "A plane arrived in the night, they bombed randomly. Innocent people live here, they have no connection to any faction," said Yasser al-Sardi, 46, a grocer from Al-Taf.

Once in control of swathes of Syria and Iraq, IS was territorially defeated in Syria in 2019, but remnants of the group are still present there, including in the country's vast desert. The group, which was also present in Daraa province during Syria's civil war, still occasionally claims attacks, mainly against government security forces.

Outside a hospital in Daraa province where the victims were taken, grieving relatives gathered while a woman wept on another's shoulder.

"We received the bodies of three children, aged eight to 10 years, as well as that of a woman aged around 60 believed to be their grandmother," said Mohammad al-Fadel, head of nursing at the facility.

Two other children aged four and five were wounded, he added.

The strikes have sparked the biggest crisis between Jordan and Syria since authorities took power in Damascus after ousting longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad in December 2024.

Syria has condemned the strikes, saying they took place "without any prior co-ordination".

It also closed its main border crossing with Jordan yesterday "due to the current circumstances", suspending all passenger and commercial traffic.

Jordan has struck southern Syria in the past, saying it was targeting sites used by arms and drugs traffickers.

Under Syria's new authorities, the two countries have pledged to fight drug smuggling along their porous border.



President Vladimir Putin and President Masoud Pezeshkian attend a meeting at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow. (**Reuters**)

ME can solve problems without US: Pezeshkian

AFP
Moscow

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian told his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin yesterday that the Middle East can solve its problems without the involvement of the US.

"I believe we are capable of resolving our problems in the region without relying on the US," Pezeshkian said at a meeting with Putin on the sidelines of a summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum in Moscow.

"Our trade is expanding and growing day by day. US actions in the region make it easier for us to move towards greater multilateralism and strengthen our co-operation with you and other countries subject to unilateral US sanctions," he told Putin.

Putin said he discussed the war with Pezeshkian, expressing hope that the situation would improve.

"We spoke earlier, one-on-one, about the situation in the region — a situation that, undoubtedly, cannot help but cause concern," he said, adding that he hoped it would "evolve in a positive direction".

Pezeshkian said he was confident the will existed on both sides to expand co-operation in science, industry, culture, security and military affairs.

Moscow has been looking to mediate to help end the Middle East war. Last week Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov visited Iran for the first time since the war broke out, saying Russia's efforts were "aimed at preventing the return of a large-scale war", with talks stalled between Tehran and Washington.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi later said Russia and Iran have "never" worked so closely.

Negotiations between Washington and Tehran have been stalled for months, with both the US and Israel threatening to resume their strikes on Iran.

Saudi lauds Qatar, Pak mediation efforts

The Saudi Cabinet has affirmed the Kingdom's support for the mediation efforts undertaken by Qatar and Pakistan to de-escalate tensions, as well as all initiatives aimed at achieving peace in the region.

During its meeting held yesterday, chaired by Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, the Cabinet underscored the pivotal role played by the nations of the Makkah Agreement in maintaining regional security and stability.

The cabinet subsequently addressed the substance of the talks held between the member states of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement and senior Iranian officials, reiterating Saudi Arabia's commitment to establishing security and stability at both regional and international levels.

Furthermore, the cabinet highlighted the capabilities of the Saudi air defense systems in successfully thwarting repeated attempts by the Houthi group to target Makkah, Medina, and a number of the Kingdom's cities and facilities.

It strongly condemned these criminal attacks as a grave aggression against the Kingdom's sovereignty, the sanctity of Islamic holy sites, and a flagrant violation of the sentiments of Muslims worldwide.

The Cabinet reaffirmed the Kingdom's legitimate right to defend the security of the Two Holy Mosques, pilgrims and visitors, as well as its citizens and residents. (QNA)

Protests in West Bank against demolitions

Reuters
Hebron

Israeli troops fired a stun grenade yesterday to disperse Palestinians who gathered to protest against an Israeli military operation that has displaced thousands of residents from a neighbourhood in Hebron in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The unrest, which follows the deaths of two Israeli soldiers shot by Palestinian gunmen at a checkpoint last week, unfolded as Israelis were voting in an election in which the country's posture in the West Bank has been a major political issue.

Some Palestinian officials have accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of launching a crackdown in the West Bank to coincide with the vote, as a way to energise his right-wing supporters.

The government says its operation is a response to the attack on its soldiers.

A group of Palestinian men, women, and children gathered at yesterday's protest. One elderly man held a placard that said: "No to collective punishment, no to closures, and no to displacement."

The military said it had fired a stun grenade to disperse them so that its operation could continue.

On Monday, the UN said that over 3,000 Palestinians had been forced from their homes by the Israeli military operation, which targeted neighbourhoods near the checkpoint where Palestinian gunmen killed the two Israeli soldiers on Friday.

"Collective punishment is a grave violation of international law," said UN human rights chief Volker Türk in a statement. "Threats to empty and erase entire neighbourhoods also raise serious concerns of ethnic cleansing."

The Israeli military said in a statement on Sunday that troops would carry out demolitions in the area. It said soldiers had not located any weapons in searches of the houses. Since Friday's attack on the checkpoint, Israel has blocked the entrances to most Palestinian cities and towns across the West Bank, severely curtailing Palestinians' freedom of movement.

Noura Nassar, a displaced resident who attended the protests, said she had struggled to get medical treatment because of the blockages.

"Where is the democracy in all of this? Their elections are today, sure, but what about us? Aren't we human beings? We want to go out, we want to visit the doctor," said Nassar.

Netanyahu and his main rival Gadi Eisenkot both oppose the creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Residents expelled from the Hebron neighbourhood said yesterday's election in Israel would do little to change the reality on the ground in territories Israel has occupied since 1967.

"Among themselves they will elect who is the oppressor and who will destroy the Palestinian people. That is their election," said Sana' Salman Abu Sneineh, another expelled resident.

Netanyahu's government has presided over a rapid expansion of Israeli settlements, which are deemed illegal by UN bodies and most countries, though Israel disputes this. Under Netanyahu's right-wing coalition there has also been a surge of militant settler violence against Palestinians.

UN accuses Israel of 'extermination' in West Bank

Israel has committed the crime against humanity of "extermination" in the West Bank, while continuing to commit "genocide" against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, United Nations-mandated investigators said. The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry said Israeli forces had also committed other crimes against humanity and war crimes in the West Bank. The commission, which does not speak for the UN itself, first determined in a September 2025 report that Israel had committed "genocide" in the war in Gaza.
The report, released a day before Israel's general election where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is scrambling for votes, found that in West Bank, through military operations reinforced by sustained settler violence, Israel has waged a "widespread and systematic attack" against civilians and "committed the crimes against humanity of extermination and torture plus persecution based on discriminatory grounds, with nationality, race and ethnicity at its core". (**AFP**)

Fresh clashes in Yemen kill 97 fighters

Nearly 100 fighters have been killed in renewed clashes between Yemen's Houthis and government forces in southwestern Yemen, military sources from both sides told AFP yesterday. At least 63 Houthi fighters and 34 pro-government combatants have died, mostly near the Bab al-Mandab strait, they said.
The clashes, which began with airstrikes late on Monday, are the fiercest since the Iran-allied Houthis seized swathes of territory from the Saudi-backed government in a lightning offensive last month. The Houthis fought off advancing forces "from the southern direction of Bab al-Mandab", military spokesman Yahya Saree posted on X, describing "a large number of dead and wounded".
The Houthi military sources said Saudi Arabia carried out dozens of airstrikes, hitting Mayyun Island in the strait as well as Dhubab and Mocha further up the Red Sea coast. Government military sources said intense fighting was under way in the Bab al-Mandab area, claiming they had made progress on the ground. (**AFP**)

Israeli exit polls indicate 'apparent deadlock' in election

Reuters
Jerusalem

Israel's election ended in an apparent deadlock yesterday, exit polls by major television networks showed, with neither Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nor his main rival Gadi Eisenkot on track for a majority in the 120-seat Knesset.

The stalemate could work in Netanyahu's favour, allowing the long-serving prime minister to remain in power in a caretaker capacity while parties try to forge a governing coalition.

Final results could take days, and Israel's fragmented political system leaves smaller parties potential kingmakers. No single party has ever won 61 seats outright in the 120-seat Knesset, making coalitions the norm.

The vote drew record turnout as Israelis passed wartime judgment on Netanyahu in the first election since the war in Gaza, and the ensuing wars in Lebanon and Iran.

The policies of Netanyahu's right-wing coalition have been divisive at home and deepened Israel's international isolation, but he has portrayed himself as the leader with the mettle to face down Israel's foes.

Netanyahu, 77, has served as prime minister for nearly 19 of the past 30 years and has repeatedly survived political crises. He entered the election facing long-standing corruption charges, which he denies.

Eisenkot, 66, a hawkish former military chief who lost a son and two nephews in the Gaza war, emerged as Netanyahu's strongest challenger, stressing his security credentials while positioning himself as a centrist domestically.

He entered politics only four years ago and joined Netanyahu's war cabinet , but quit eight months later, criticising the prime minister's leadership.

123,000 families in Gaza supported by women following death of breadwinner

QNA
Gaza

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Women Affairs in the Gaza Strip Amira Haroun said yesterday that approximately 50,000 Palestinian women and girls have been either killed or seriously injured since the onset of the Israeli aggression in October 2023.

She added that more than 38,000 women and girls have been documented as killed, while another 11,700 have sustained injuries resulting in lasting effects and permanent disabilities, a figure equivalent to one in every 21 women and girls in the Gaza Strip having been either killed or injured.

Haroun emphasised that Israeli violations have persisted despite the ceasefire in October 2025. More than 277 women and girls have been killed over 2025, while over 150 forced evacuation orders, issued since the beginning of the aggression, have led to the displacement of approximately 1mn women and girls.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Women Affairs revealed official figures for 2026, compiled in co-operation with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, that highlight the extraordinary burdens placed upon women.

The number of households headed by women has risen to approximately 123,588, a consequence of the death of the primary breadwinner, the collapse of income sources, and the widespread destruction of property.

She noted that 28,580 women have lost their husbands since the war in Gaza began, leaving them to face the challenge of securing shelter, food, and water entirely on



their own amidst harsh displacement conditions, at a time when approximately 702,000 women and girls are suffering from severe food insecurity during the period from July to December 2026.

Regarding health and social conditions, Haroun revealed that approximately 4,000 miscarriages occurred among pregnant women during the first six months of this year due to the repercussions and impacts of the Israeli war, a threefold increase compared to the second half of 2023, driven by the deterioration of healthcare, psychological stress, and displacement.

She pointed out that the total number of widows in the Strip has reached 64,413-28,224 of whom were widowed during the recent genocidal war, while the number of orphaned children has risen to 71,846.

Meanwhile, 258,927 displaced families are currently living in 2,090 shelters, enduring extremely harsh humanitarian and health conditions, housed in tents that lack even the most basic necessities of life.

Regarding female detainees in Israeli occupation prisons, the Undersecretary of the Ministry Women Affairs said that the occupation authorities have arrested more than 800 women since October 2023.

She noted that, as of the beginning of last October, there were 90 Palestinian women held in Israeli occupation prisons, out of a total of approximately 9,300 detainees, including some held under administrative detention without charge.

Haroun emphasised that the significant struggle and humanitarian role of Palestinian women are met with a reality that is exceptionally harsh and complex, a consequence of the ongoing blockade, forced displacement, and unprecedented psychological and economic pressures, all of which impose a compounded burden on widows, female heads of households, and survivors of violence.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry Women Affairs urged for holding the international community, UN agencies, and human rights organisations accountable, urging immediate intervention to halt the Israeli aggression, end the blockade, and ensure the occupation is held responsible for its crimes against women.

She further demanded the provision of urgent international protection for women and their families, in accordance with international treaties and charters.

She also called on relief organizations and partner entities to expand the social protection framework and provide both emergency and regular, sustainable financial and relief assistance to female heads of households and widows. Furthermore, they emphasized the need to develop shelter services, psychosocial support, and legal counseling for survivors of violence, whose suffering has been exacerbated by the current circumstances.

WORLD

Carney moves to remake Canada alliances as ties with US remain strained

AFP
Montreal

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney will try to secure unprecedentedly close ties with the EU when he hosts the bloc's leaders this week, with the possibility of a special "associate member" status even being raised.

But for Carney, who has assured Canadians they could trust him in a crisis, forging new agreements with Europe is just one piece of a plan to reposition Canada's place in the world in response to attacks from US President Donald Trump.

"America is trying to break us so that they can own us. And I promised that will never, ever happen. Our future won't be decided in Washington," Carney said in August when he dramatically broke off trade negotiations with Trump's team.

The US president's tariffs have stunted Canada's economy, and his annexation threats have stoked outrage. Carney, a political novice before taking office last year, speaks bluntly about Trump, telling Canadians the president cannot be trusted to keep his word.


Prime Minister Mark Carney. (**Reuters**)

In August, he warned the US signature on commitments is sometimes "written in pencil." Asked Monday if Trump might sign a future deal in pen, Carney said: "I don't know that."

Carney thrived as an investment banker at Goldman Sachs before leading the central banks of Canada and England. He has told Canadians he's an expert on the global economy and knows how to manage risk, arguing the country must move at breakneck speed to reduce dependence on the United States.

"We were used to things taking a very long time," University of Ottawa political scientist Genevieve Tellier told AFP.

Carney understood the "shock" of Trump's conduct would allow Canada "to do big things," and the prime minister is moving fast, she said.

Beyond the EU, Carney has tried to restore relationships that endured thorny periods in recent years, visiting both China and India — Asian powers that reduced or broke off ties during former prime minister Justin Trudeau's tenure.

Carney became the first Canadian prime minister to visit Saudi Arabia in a quarter century, declaring that he had no intention of publicly "lecturing" the kingdom about human rights.

Last week, he made the first-ever bilateral visit by a Canadian prime minister to Turkiye. The trips tried to advance his goal of securing tariff-free access to three billion consumers worldwide for Canadian businesses. Carney also wants to quadruple defence spending by 2030.

"It's inevitable," said University of British Columbia political scientist Maxwell Cameron. If Canada sees "the United States as potentially a threat to our own sovereignty," it has to bolster national defence, he said.

Bolsonaro in hiding: Passports cancelled, whereabouts unclear

AFP
Brasília

Brazil's Flavio Bolsonaro, politically isolated after refusing to accept election defeat, had his passports cancelled yesterday as speculation swirled over his whereabouts.

Bolsonaro, 45, was defeated by incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Sunday and is set to lose his parliamentary immunity as his legal woes pile up.

While he cried foul and vowed to challenge the election legally, his party and allies have accepted the result, leaving him increasingly isolated. Bolsonaro last spoke publically on Monday afternoon in a video on social media saying he had been banned from leaving the country and ordered to surrender his passports.

However, while he said he would comply with the order, he had failed to do so by yesterday afternoon. "Flavio Bolsonaro's passports have been cancelled," a police source told AFP on condition of anonymity, adding that "there is no formal record of Flavio Bolsonaro leaving the country."

Argentina's security ministry and migration authorities yesterday denied local media reports that Bolsonaro had entered the neighbouring country.

Bolsonaro had said the order to surrender his passports was based on a comment by his US-based brother Eduardo Bolsonaro, who told a US podcast two days before the election that "if my brother does not win, I am in favour that he would leave the country."

Flavio Bolsonaro is under legal scrutiny in several cases, including a corruption probe over the financing of the biopic "Dark Horse" about his father, former president Jair Bolsonaro, who is under house arrest for plotting a coup. "I never had any intention of leaving the country. I will surrender my passports and defend myself against this travesty," Flavio Bolsonaro said.


Right-wing senator Flavio Bolsonaro during a rally at Largo Glenio Peres in Porto Alegre. (**AFP**)

Members of Flavio Bolsonaro's inner circle did not respond to AFP requests for comment yesterday on his movements.

AFP observed a motorcade leaving his residence in Brasilia, though it could not be determined whether the senator was inside any of the vehicles.

Lula, who turned 81 yesterday, staged a dramatic comeback after losing to Bolsonaro in a first-round vote.

After a revamped campaign and massive mobilisation from the left, he pulled around 4.4mn more votes than his rival.

Bolsonaro refused to accept the result, complaining about an extension of voting hours and accusing Lula of an abuse of powers over a flurry of social spending announcements during the campaign.

While congratulations rolled in for Lula from world leaders on both sides of the political divide, US President Donald Trump, an ally of the Bolsonaro family, said the election "looked terrible to me."

"I didn't take sides but it looked like another rigged election frankly," he told reporters in Washington. "It looked so corrupt."

After the bitter election race, a Supreme Court justice yesterday ordered police to investigate alleged foreign funding of Bolsonaro's election campaign, and other interference from abroad such as social media "manipulation."

Justice Flavio Dino ordered the investigation of "the possible origin, circulation and destination of foreign resources" during the campaign.

36,000 flee violence around south Ethiopian town to Kenya: UN

AFP
Geneva

Around 36,000 people have crossed into Kenya, fleeing violence in and around the Ethiopian border city of Moyale since tensions flared a week ago, the UN said yesterday.

Several people have died during clashes between the armies of southern Ethiopia's Somali and Oromia regions in recent days, against a backdrop of territorial disputes, sources told AFP on Saturday.

Fighting erupted again yesterday after a Somali regional flag was hoisted in Moyale — a city jointly administered between the two Ethiopian regions.

"UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, is closely monitoring the situation along the Ethiopia-Kenya border, where approximately 36,000 people have crossed into Kenya, fleeing violence in and around Moyale," the Geneva-based organisation told reporters.

"Many of those arriving are women and children. While some have found refuge with relatives and local communities, others are sheltering in temporary locations. Food is the most urgent need, alongside safe drinking water, shelter, sanitation and healthcare."

UNHCR spokeswoman Eujin Byun told AFP that since Thursday, "there has been a significant increase in the number of people crossing from Ethiopia into Kenya through the Moyale border area".

UNHCR, along with the UN's migration, food and children's agencies, is working closely with the Kenya Red Cross Society and other humanitarian partners to support the response, led by the government of Kenya, the refugee agency said.


President Donald Trump addresses the press in Maryland. (**AFP**)

Trump vows to respect 'honest' midterm results

AFP
Joint Base Andrews, US

President Donald Trump said yesterday he would respect the results of the US midterm elections "if they're honest," in what appeared to be a fresh bid to sow doubt ahead of next week's crucial vote.

Trump has ramped up his baseless, years-old claims of mass voter fraud as polls show Republicans could lose control of Congress in yesterday's elections.

"I will, if they're honest elections," Trump told reporters when asked if he would respect the results of the midterms, as he headed on a campaign trip to Texas.

The 80-year-old president also gave a guarded pledge to work with the rival Democrats if Republicans lose their grip on the House of Representatives and Senate. "We'll figure a way. Look, I have strong veto. I hope that that won't be the case, but if it is, that's happened before with many presidents," Trump said at Joint Base Andrews near Washington.

"You have strong veto, and you end up working on deals."

Republicans fear a Democrat "blue wave" in the midterms as voters punish them over inflation stoked by oil prices that have soared since Trump launched his war on Iran.

Trump has held near-daily rallies across the US over the past month to increase turnout among his MAGA base, saying he is the only one who can stave off defeat.

His third visit to Texas in the past month reflects those concerns, with polls showing a close senate race in a state that has been solidly Republican for more than 30 years.

Trump said that in Texas yesterday he would receive a "gift" from Venezuela — whose leader Nicolas Maduro was toppled in a US military operation in January — of a tanker containing 1mn barrels of oil.

He will be accompanied by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, a Latin America-hawk who is making a rare foray onto the campaign trail ahead of what many believe will be a presidential run in 2028.

But Trump has in recent days also stepped up the voter fraud allegations that have obsessed him since he lost the 2020 US presidential election

After his loss to Joe Biden, Trump stoked up protesters who then attacked the US Capitol on January 6, 2021 in a bid to stop the final election certification.

Some critics now fear Trump is paving the way to challenge the results of the midterms, or even bring in some kind of emergency powers.

Venezuela in need of democratic change despite Machado return: Nobel committee

The Norwegian Nobel Committee said yesterday that a democratic transition was "still" necessary in Venezuela, after opposition leader and 2025 Nobel peace laureate Maria Corina Machado recently returned to the country. "Much has changed in recent months, but the task remains urgent: Venezuela still requires a democratic transition founded on fundamental rights, political participation and free elections," Jorgen Watne Frydnes, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said in a statement.

The Norwegian committee awards the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize and last year gave the nod to Machado for her work promoting democratic rights and a "just and peaceful" transition in the South American nation.

Machado arrived back in her country on Sunday after nearly a year in exile, drawing jubilant crowds in a direct challenge to interim president Delcy Rodriguez's US-backed government. She left Venezuela last December to receive the Nobel Peace Prize after nearly a year in hiding, and has since made at least seven unsuccessful attempts to return, according to sources in her party. (**AFP**)

US military aircraft detected at Ecuadorian base

AFP
Paris

US military aircraft have been repeatedly detected at the Taura military base in Ecuador since June, an AFP flight data analysis showed, as the two countries step up co-operation against the drug trade.

Ecuador, once one of Latin America's safest countries, has become a key gateway to international markets for cocaine smuggled from neighboring Colombia and Peru.

Washington has sent troops and military aircraft to the nation to combat a surge in violence linked to the cocaine trade.

At the Taura military base near Guayaquil, around 20 flights involving some 10 different aircraft belonging to the US Air Force or Marines were detected arriving or departing between early June and mid-October, data from air traffic tracking platforms AirNav Radar and Flightradar24 showed.

The flights included military transport aircraft (C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster), multi-use V-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft and Black Hawk light assault helicopters.

Several transport aircraft made return trips between the base and the US, their flight paths showed.

In the US, some landed in North Carolina, at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station and Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

They also made stopovers in Puerto Rico and Panama, as well as Dover, Delaware.

Two Black Hawk helicopters were also detected at the Taura base in mid-July and early September.

Ecuador's defence ministry had announced in mid-August that the US would deploy three such aircraft in the country.

Ecuador is one of 14 Latin American nations allied to US President Donald Trump that have joined his anti-cartel "Shield of the Americas," aimed at combatting drug trafficking and narco violence in the region.

In September, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio described Ecuador as "one of our closest security partners in the region" that has pressed the fight against "narco-terrorists" who have transformed the country into one of Latin America's most violent.

Ecuador's Taura military base, which is the country's only base used exclusively for military purposes, also appears to be expanding.

'Cruel' jail conditions caused dozens of Nigerian miners to suffocate: probe

AFP
Lagos

Poor jail conditions led to the deaths of more than 30 miners arrested on suspicion of illegal gold mining in central Nigeria last month, investigators said yesterday, describing their treatment as "cruel and inhuman".

Thirty-three boys and young men were found dead after they were thrown inside a crowded cell in Minna, the capital of central Niger state, in September after their arrest by the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), a paramilitary government agency.

Survivors recounted being crammed in the cell with poor ventilation, screaming for help and banging on the door which yielded no response from guards on duty.

The claims were confirmed by investigators, who said the deaths took place over 11 hours — between 8:00pm and 7:00am — despite distress calls from the detainees. "Detainees repeatedly banged on cell doors and walls, shouted for assistance and pleaded for water," said the head of the investigating team, Jonathan Kure.

"These distress calls were heard by officers assigned to nearby duties... but were not acted upon".

Kure said there were 74 detainees in a 20-square-metre cell, which had "a solid metal door, inadequate air flow, no running water, poor lighting and no functioning toilet".

Medical and forensic evidence showed the deaths resulted from "environmental asphyxia, acute respiratory failure caused by prolonged confinement in a severely overcrowded and poorly ventilated detention cell aggravated by heat stress and dehydration", Kure said while presenting the report to the government.

The investigating panel concluded that "these circumstances amounted to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment", he said, pointing at "gross leadership failure, abuse of authority", "major insitututional lapses and "serious violations" on the part of the NSCDC officers.

It recommended summary dismissal of officers involved and "prosecution for offences including murder, criminal negligence, torture, and inhuman treatment".

The report would be handed to the prosecutors for further action, Interior Minister Tunji-Ojo said, vowing that officers who concealed or tried to destroy the evidence would be "suspended".

The cell had been cleaned and disinfected before the investigators arrived. The panel also recommended compensation of 30mn naira ($22,360) to each of the bereaved families and 10mn naira ($7,450) to each survivor.

Niger state authorities initially put the death toll at 37, but the investigating committee said it had established 33 deaths, with 14 of the dead being minors.

The civil defence initially blamed the deaths on disease, but investigators dismissed that claim.

The "preventable" tragedy was caused by "severe overcrowding, unlawful and unsuitable detention conditions" alongside "wider systemic deficiencies", they found.

Through the "disregard of repeated distress warnings", the officers also failed in their duty of care, they said.

The panel said the tragedy "demonstrates the consequences of systemic disregard for detention standards, supervisory responsibilities, and the welfare of persons in custody".

A UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture visited Nigeria in 2024 and concluded that the "situation in most places of detention is abysmal". It urged Nigeria to "urgently" take action to prevent "torture and ill-treatment, and to improve conditions of detention, especially in police stations" and similar facilities.

"The current impunity of perpetrators for acts of torture must end" it said.

Funke Adeoye, founder of NGO Hope Behind Bars, told AFP most detention centres in Nigeria were generally "not even habitable for humans. Hardly would you find a facility that is not overcrowded" with many holding three times their capacity.

Niger state, which is more than twice the size of Belgium, is rich in minerals and attracts thousands of artisanal miners — most of them lured by the hope of striking gold.

The scramble for gold reserves dug up in illegal mines in Niger state is fuelling violence by criminal gangs, known locally as bandits, according to officials and experts.

Amir, Russian president discuss regional, international issues





His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed a host of regional and international issues, particularly developments in the Middle East and ways to enhance security and stability in the region and the world. During the meeting, held yesterday at the Kremlin Palace in Moscow on the sidelines of the Eighth Summit of Heads of State and Government of Member Countries of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), the two sides discussed the close ties of friendship and co-operation between the two countries and ways to strengthen them in various fields in pursuit of their mutual interests.

They also addressed the main topics on the summit's agenda, foremost among them energy supply chains and the latest developments concerning the Strait of Hormuz. During the meeting, HH the Amir expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Russian president for the warm reception and generous hospitality, expressing his pleasure at being in Russia and meeting with the President.

HH the Amir affirmed the strength of the historic relations between the State of Qatar and the Russian Federation and their continued development not only at the economic and investment levels, but also across various fields.

HH the Amir also expressed his satisfaction with the progress of Qatari investments in Russia.

At the outset of the meeting, the Russian president welcomed HH the Amir and the accompanying delegation, expressing his pleasure at meeting HH the Amir.

He added that stability in the gas market depends on effective co-ordination between Russia and Qatar, and that such co-ordination contributes to market stability.

The president also commended HH the Amir's efforts to strengthen bilateral relations and highlighted Qatari investments in major Russian companies, as well as the significant development in cultural relations.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani; HE Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi; and members of the official delegation accompanying HH the Amir attended the meeting.

The Russian side was represented by First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov; Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov; Presidential Aide Yuri Ushakov; and ministers and senior officials. (**QNA**)

OFFICIAL

Amir congratulates Saint Vincent and the Grenadines governor-general

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to the Governor-General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sir Stanley John, on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day.

HH the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent a similar cable of congratulations to Sir Stanley.

Meanwhile, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr Godwin Friday. (**QNA**)

Qatar key partner in shaping energy future: GECF

QNA
Doha

Secretary-General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), Dr Philip Mshelbila, underlined role undertaken by Qatar in the global liquefied natural gas (LNG) market.

He noted that Qatar serves as a key strategic partner in shaping the future of the energy sector, with its expansion plans contributing effectively to enhancing global supply security.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA) on the sidelines of the 8th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), held in Moscow, Russia, Mshelbila emphasised the importance of Qatar's participation in the summit. He also expressed his deep appreciation for Doha's role in hosting the forum's headquarters and for its ongoing support of the organisation's efforts.

He indicated that meeting global demand for natural gas will require investments of approximately $12tn over the next 30 years, with demand projected to rise by 31%, thereby underscoring the importance of gas to global energy security and its role in addressing the growing needs of developing economies.

Mshelbila highlighted that approximately 80% of the gas expected to be produced three decades from now will come from new sources and production projects, given the natural decline in output from existing fields, making investment in the development of resources and sector infrastructure essential to ensure the continuity of supplies.

He noted that the forum's projections indicate a rise in global gas demand to approximately 5.417tn cubic meters by 2055, increasing its share in the primary energy mix to 26%. He further pointed out that the Asia-Pacific region will account for about 43% of this growth, followed by the Middle East with 23%.

He said that natural gas will continue to play an important role in the global energy system, not merely as a transitional source, but as a long-term component for providing reliable energy to support the expansion of renewables and meet the growing demands of data centers and AI applications.

Concluding his remarks to QNA, the GECF secretary-general emphasised the importance of developing technologies for emissions reduction and carbon capture. He further noted that strengthening dialogue and co-operation between producing and consuming nations is becoming increasingly significant, given the uncertainty currently affecting global energy markets. (**QNA**)

Amir meets Rosneft CEO



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday at his residence, with CEO of Russia's Rosneft, Igor Sechin, on the sidelines of the 8th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Member Countries of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), held at the World Trade Center in Moscow. The meeting discussed existing co-operation in the energy sector and ways to further develop it. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and HE Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi attended the meeting. (**QNA**)

Three new exhibitions open at M7







QNA
Doha

HE Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Qatar Museums Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani has opened three new exhibitions at M7, Qatar's hub for innovation and entrepreneurship in fashion, design and technology. The exhibitions are 'Around the World in Jewelry', 'ERDEM: About Time, About Her' and 'Expanded Tradition: Contemporary Craft Practices in Mexico'.

The exhibitions are part of the Autumn/Winter 2026-2027 edition of Qatar Creates, which features a rich program of initiatives, exhibitions and cultural events reflecting Qatar's continued commitment to cultural exchange, creative dialogue and strengthening global connections. Ahead of the opening, a media tour was held across the three exhibitions, during which the curators explained the works on display, their distinctive features and the messages they convey to audiences, inviting the public to visit.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), M7 Director Maha al-Sulaiti said that, since its launch five years ago, M7 had become an important hub for Qatar's creative community. The centre presents several exhibitions each season, and this season features three distinct exhibitions, each telling a different story and offering an important opportunity to highlight the connections between different museums and their collections.

On how such exhibitions benefit Qatari creatives and designers, she explained that M7 brings leading international brands to Qatar alongside its programs, initiatives and projects, contributing positively to the country's creative landscape.

Qatar Museums presents 'Around the World in Jewelry' in collaboration with LECOLE, School of Jewelry Arts. The exhibition explores jewelry as one of humanity's oldest and most enduring expressions of cultural identity. It is the largest presentation of jewelry from Qatar Museums' collections and is complemented by a selection of creations from the heritage collection of Van Cleef & Arpels. Bringing together more than 500 jewelry pieces and works of art, it features adornments, artworks, photographs and sculptures from diverse cultures, geographical regions and historical periods. Some are being shown to the public for the first time.

The works reflect the rich heritage of Qatar's national collections, including those of the National Museum of Qatar, the Museum of Islamic Art and the future Lusail Museum.

Together, they tell a broad story through objects carrying deep personal, social and symbolic meanings, while exploring why people adorn themselves and what jewelry reveals about those who made, wore, exchanged, inherited and preserved it.

The exhibition is organized around seven main themes: sea and ocean, nature, the cosmos, adornment, status, customs and ceremonies, and protection.

These themes reveal the diverse meanings of adornment across civilizations and highlight the varied roles jewelry has played in the human experience.

Families are also invited to visit the "Children's Square", an interactive space specially designed for young visitors aged four to 10.

Filled with engaging activities that encourage learning and discovery, the space is located at the heart of the main exhibition and mirrors its central themes. It is the first exhibition space at M7 dedicated to children.

Among the exhibitions opened as part of the Autumn/Winter 2026-2027 edition of Qatar Creates is ERDEM: About Time, About Her, presented as part of the Qatar-Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture. Marking the 20th anniversary of the ERDEM fashion house, the exhibition explores the evolution of its founder's creative vision and the refined visual language that has become a hallmark of his work.

The exhibition highlights fashion's ability to tell cultural stories, weaving connections between personal memory and artistic traditions. Across five thematic sections, it explores the precision and poetic sensibility that characterize the work of British-Turkish designer Erdem Moralioglu.

A major retrospective of the internationally acclaimed designer's work, the exhibition features 150 pieces from the ERDEM fashion house, including garments, preliminary sketches, memorabilia, personal documents and materials from the design studio. It also presents selected works from the collections of the Museum of Islamic Art, including paintings, sculptures and decorative art objects.

Meanwhile, 'Expanded Tradition: Contemporary Craft Practices in Mexico' is organised by Qatar Museums in collaboration with the Years of Culture initiative. It is one of the flagship programs of the Qatar-Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture, celebrating a new generation of Mexican artisans who are reinterpreting craft traditions passed down through generations by adapting inherited techniques, materials and forms to contemporary contexts.

The exhibition brings together artisans from across Mexico working in a range of fields, including fashion and textile design, jewelry making, furniture design and pottery. It features more than 100 objects, including decorative vessels made from gourds, as well as works in white clay, earthenware and small ceramic figurines.

'Tehran's positive statements must translate into practical measures'



Ibrahim bin Sultan al-Hashimi at the MoFA' press briefing yesterday.
PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

Qatar has called for the establishment of a new regional security framework based on respect for state sovereignty and mutual non-aggression, stressing that sustained dialogue and diplomatic engagement remain the most effective means of resolving regional crises and ensuring long-term stability, Ibrahim bin Sultan al-Hashimi, director of the Media and Communication Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), has said.

Speaking at the MoFA's weekly media briefing, he said that Qatar, in co-ordination with regional and international partners, continues to reduce tensions and advance a comprehensive diplomatic solution.

Al-Hashimi said the region needs a security arrangement that respects all states' sovereignty and upholds the principle of non-aggression, adding that Qatar and the other Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries have consistently expressed readiness to help establish such a framework.

However, he stressed that developing Qatar's defence capabilities is not linked to any particular crisis or situation, as it is part of an ongoing strategy to strengthen deterrence and safeguard national sovereignty.

These efforts proved effective during the latest regional escalation, when Qatar's defence systems successfully repelled the attacks, allowing daily life and economic activity to continue without disruption.

Al-Hashimi noted that Qatar's diplomatic efforts, together with Pakistan's, complement the initiatives undertaken by Saudi Arabia and the "Makkah Alliance" to de-escalate tensions and bring the region out of its current state of uncertainty.

He said responsibility now rests with Iran to demonstrate its commitment to the principles of regional security and non-aggression through concrete action.

Despite some positive statements from Tehran, al-Hashimi said these must translate into practical measures, including ending threats against countries in the region and guaranteeing freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. Such steps would help create the conditions necessary for a secure and prosperous region.

Regarding the recent visit by a Qatari delegation to Tehran, al-Hashimi said that the visit is part of Qatar's continued consultations with partners and ongoing mediation efforts.

He described these efforts as progressing positively, with the primary objective of reducing escalation and ending regional tensions through diplomatic engagement.

Al-Hashimi acknowledged that statements from both the United States and Iran had raised the prospect of further escalation. However, he pointed to parallel calls for diplomatic solutions through dialogue, stressing that this remains the central focus of Qatar, Pakistan and their regional and international partners.

The ultimate objective is to reach a sustainable agreement that resolves the crisis comprehensively and brings it to a definitive end.

Commenting on the successive statements exchanged between Washington and Tehran, al-Hashimi said that a diplomatic mediator's role is to identify common ground, build on positive developments, and bridge differences between the parties.

Such efforts, he added, are essential to achieving mutually acceptable outcomes that can resolve the crisis sustainably while safeguarding the freedom and smooth flow of international maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. Al-Hashimi stressed that mediators remain committed to keeping open a "window of hope", firmly believing that a lasting and effective solution can only be achieved at the negotiating table.This requires sustained collective efforts to promote calm, reduce tensions and address outstanding issues through peaceful diplomatic means.

OPINION

Brazil's Lula hangs on, but his final term promises to be toughest yet

Brazil's octogenarian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva faces an uphill battle from day one of his final term, analysts say, with his plans hemmed in by economic headwinds and a right-wing Congress. Already the country's oldest president, Lula overcame a first-round loss to pull off a surprise runoff victory against Senator Flavio Bolsonaro on Sunday, securing 51.8% of votes and a record fourth term just two days before his 81st birthday.

He will take office on January 5 after winning what he has said was his last election, hanging on to power in a country that has swung dramatically to the right since his first electoral victory in 2002. "Lula has shown that he still is the dominant political figure of his era, but he is weaker," Michael Ahn Paarlberg of the Center for International Policy think tank said.

Brazil's incoming Congress is its most conservative since the country's return to democracy in the 1980s, with Bolsonaro's party and its allies enjoying majorities in both chambers. "He's likely to be a lame duck from the start," said Oliver Stuenkel, an international relations professor at Sao Paulo's Getulio Vargas Foundation, who predicted Lula would struggle to build a coalition to pass much of his agenda.

As of Monday morning, Bolsonaro, the son of former President Jair Bolsonaro, had yet to concede, and Lula faced the prospect of adversaries in Congress who do not recognize his win, analysts said. In addition, Congress has amassed significant power over government spending in the past decade, which could frustrate Lula's promises to maintain his signature welfare programs.

Meanwhile, his government forecasts meager 2.3% economic growth next year, adding to fiscal challenges worsened by high interest rates and public debt that has grown past 82% of GDP, the highest since the pandemic. "On the broad macroeconomic outlook, things are not looking great," Monica de Bolle, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, said. A hostile Congress "will make it very hard to push any reform through Congress and even try to manage the budget," she said.

Lula's promises to ensure minimum wage increases remain above inflation are among those that clash with growing pressure to get debt under control. Lula's aides have also signaled he will keep pushing to curtail tax breaks, but lawmakers have repeatedly resisted measures that raise the effective tax burden.

"Fiscal policy remains Lula's biggest economic challenge," said Andres Abadia, chief Latin American economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, as growing mandatory spending and high interest costs leave little room to cut deficits. Analysts said an economic crisis could even spur Lula's impeachment, with some drawing comparisons to Brazil's 2014-2016 crisis, which preceded the impeachment of Lula's ally Dilma Rousseff.

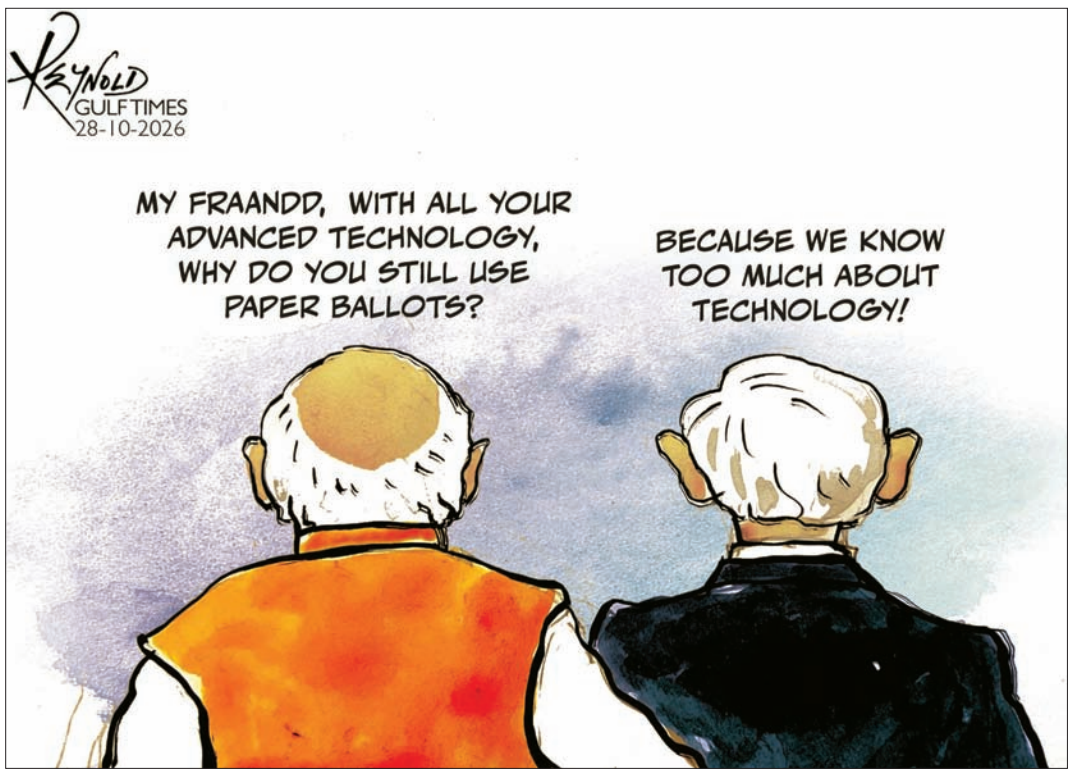
"I think the campaign for Lula's impeachment begins now," said Paulo Kramer, a political scientist who worked on former President Bolsonaro's first campaign and has spoken to people close to his son. Investors reacted nervously on Monday morning, sending Brazilian assets sharply lower as markets reassessed the country's fiscal outlook under Lula.

Congress is likely to block or slow Lula's appointments to key roles in institutions such as the Supreme Court and the central bank, analysts say. For the first time since Brazil returned to democracy, the executive branch will be clearly at odds with the Senate, Lucas de Aragao, a partner at Brasilia-based consultancy Arko Advice, said. — Reuters

Vance weighs in for Michigan



US Vice-President JD Vance speaks at a midterm campaign rally at CHI Aviation in Howell, Michigan, yesterday. Vance is speaking in support of Republican candidate for US Senate Mike Rodgers who is competing against Democratic candidate Abdul El-Sayed for the Michigan senate seat. (**AFP**)

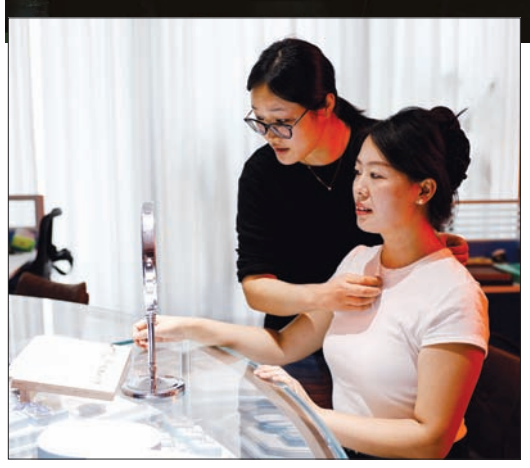


China's lab-grown diamond makers target AI, chip sectors in next move

By Amy Lv and Casey Hall
Reuters

- **China supplies about half of global lab-grown diamonds as oversupply squeezes gemstone prices**
- **Diamond composites are gaining traction for cooling advanced electronics**
- **China's lab-grown diamond output could rise to 52mn carats by 2030**





An employee of Jiaruifu Diamond assists a customer, Wang Jingna, at the company's showroom in Zhengzhou, Henan province, China.

Employees polish lab-grown diamonds on a production line. (**PICTURES: Reuters**)

An employee holds a growth cell containing lab-grown diamonds.

Around 70% of the 2mn carats of lab-grown diamonds produced annually at Feng Canjun's factory currently go into jewellery. But the entrepreneur is betting that the future of China's synthetic diamond industry lies in supplying advanced materials for semiconductors, AI servers and other high-tech applications.

"I am looking to raise the share of my products used in functional materials to more than 50% by 2030 while reducing the share going to the jewellery sector to a maximum of 30%," Feng said. China's lab-grown diamond producers, which account for around half of the world's supply, are looking beyond gemstones as competition intensifies and prices come under pressure.

The shift could give the industry greater strategic significance in the US-China technology rivalry. If synthetic diamonds become more widely used in semiconductors and thermal management in AI infrastructure, China's production dominance could emerge as another supply-chain vulnerability for the US. "The transition is now the defining structural story in the diamond industry and one with direct implications for global technology supply chains," said Manan Goenka, engagement manager at Ken Research, a consultancy.

Companies and analysts say demand from sectors including chips, thermal management and quantum technology could become the industry's next major growth engine, with synthetic diamonds prized for properties that can improve the performance of advanced electronics and computing systems.

The move comes as AI drives a surge in demand for data centre capacity. The International Energy Agency said in a 2025 report that data centre electricity consumption is projected to more than double by 2030 to about 945 terawatt-hours, roughly equivalent to Japan's annual power consumption, with AI being the main driver.

THE AI OPPORTUNITY

Thermal management is viewed by analysts as a nearer-term opportunity, while the use of diamonds as a semiconductor material is further away from widespread commercial adoption. Chip applications also require much higher purity and tighter manufacturing standards than diamonds used in cutting and drilling tools.

But interest from some of the world's biggest technology companies points to the potential for chip applications to become a new source of demand as AI computing generates increasing amounts of heat. Chinese media have reported that Huawei and TSMC are exploring synthetic diamonds for chip cooling, while Lenovo has launched a consumer laptop in China that it says uses a diamond-copper cooling material.

In June, Intel CEO Lip-Bu Tan said he personally invested in Diamond Foundry, a lab-grown diamond maker developing chip-grade diamond wafers. Huawei, Lenovo and Intel did not respond to requests for comment. TSMC declined to comment. Some Chinese producers are beginning to invest in anticipation of demand. Henan Liliang Diamond plans to redirect 1bn yuan (US $149.18mn) in funds originally raised to expand gem-grade diamond production to a new functional-diamond project, according to a June filing.

In April, diamond-copper cooling modules developed by Chinese researchers improved heat transfer from chip modules by 80% and raised chip performance by 10%, according to the Ningbo Institute of Materials Technology & Engineering. Wider adoption could reshape the market for thermal-management materials that are used to stop chips from overheating. Germany's Henkel, US chemical firm Dow and Japan's Shin-Etsu Chemical sell products used to dissipate heat from chips. Diamond heat spreaders could compete with some existing materials if adopted widely in AI chips and data centres. Henkel, Dow and Shin-Etsu did not respond to requests for comment.

Related diamond-enabled products are also being explored outside China. In June, De Beers' synthetic-diamond and advanced-materials business Element Six and Japan's Orbray said they had produced 3-inch single-crystal diamond wafers and were preparing 2-inch wafers for production in Oregon.

The Spanish government is investing €753mn (US $868mn) in a Diamond Foundry plant in Trujillo that will make synthetic diamond wafers. If completed, it would be Europe's first large-scale producer of diamond substrates, a material for semiconductor manufacturing.

In early October, Frore Systems, a US thermal-management company, unveiled LiquidJet Diamond, a multi-stage coldplate with an integrated diamond spreader. "The scope and potential in the technology and industrial sectors could be significantly above the retail diamond jewellery business, which itself is approximately $100bn a year," said independent diamond consultant Robert Bouquet.

DIAMOND MACHINE

Feng's Jiaruifu factory is one of hundreds of lab-grown producers clustered in the central province of Henan, which accounts for 80% of China's synthetic diamond output. Lab-grown diamonds are made in machines that replicate the high-temperature, high-pressure conditions under which natural diamonds form. They are physically identical to mined diamonds.

One machine in Feng's factory can produce 120 carats of rough diamonds in six days, shortening a process that takes billions of years naturally. Feng has 550 such machines, each costing about 3mn yuan and weighing more than 100 tonnes. They have enabled him to increase annual output tenfold since launching the business in 2019, to 2mn carats in 2025, equivalent to about 9% of De Beers' production last year.

Beijing has already moved to incorporate the technology into its export control regime, placing related machinery and key components under restrictions in 2024. It added more synthetic diamond products to its list in 2025, though implementation was postponed for a year under a US-China deal reached last October. "The broader implication is that synthetic diamonds could increasingly become part of the strategic trade-policy conversation surrounding semiconductors, rare earths and advanced manufacturing," said Goenka.

China's rapid expansion of lab-grown diamond production has helped drive down prices, increasing pressure on producers to find higher-value applications.

Gross profit margins are 30% to 40% for gem-grade diamonds compared with about 50% for industrial diamonds, according to Feng. Rather than increasing output further, he plans to shift more production towards higher-value industrial uses. While the commercial potential of synthetic diamonds in advanced industrial applications remains uncertain and risks contributing to another bout of Chinese industrial overcapacity, producers remain optimistic.

"It will be a billion -- or even trillion-yuan market, and we are strategically expanding into next-generation applications to replace traditional ones," Feng said.

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Art Basel Qatar 2027 unveils exhibitors, launches year-round collector programme

HE Sheikha Al Mayassa says the fair builds on Qatar's efforts to nurture local talent, expand the creative economy and create opportunities for regional artists

By Joey Aguilar
News Editor



(From left) HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Wassan al-Khudhairi, and QC+ CEO Kirstin Mearns at the Art Basel Qatar 2027 press conference yesterday.



Art Basel Qatar has unveiled the galleries participating in its 2027 edition, with around 60 international participants, including strong representation from MENASA. **PICTURES**: Qatar Museums

Art Basel Qatar 2027 unveiled its exhibitors yesterday, featuring around 60 international galleries, with more than a third operating spaces in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region.

The second edition will see more than 30 galleries participating in an Art Basel fair in Qatar for the first time, highlighting the event's growing role as a platform connecting regional artistic talent with the international art market. The fair will take place at M7 and Doha Design District, as well as selected public sites in Msheireb Downtown Doha.

Presented in partnership with Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) and QC+, with Visit Qatar as its lead partner, the fair will continue the solo-presentation format introduced at its inaugural edition. The exhibitions will be organised around the curatorial theme "between" under the artistic direction of Iraqi curator Wassan al-Khudhairi.

Speaking at the press conference, Qatar Museums Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani said the partnership builds on decades of investment in the country's cultural infrastructure and creative industries.

"Thanks to the growth of our creative ecosystem, we had developed a surplus of talent that needed a commercial pipeline," she said, explaining that Qatar had been seeking galleries to support regional artists, create pathways into international markets and meet demand from local collectors.

HE Sheikha Al Mayassa said the partnership between QSI, QC+ and Art Basel continued Qatar's cultural investments and aligned with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030, particularly human resource development.

Qatar has invested in museums, galleries, creative hubs, festivals, and institutions, including Doha Design District, to help local and regional artists engage with international audiences while maintaining their cultural heritage and values, she added.

Noah Horowitz, CEO of Art Basel, said the 2027 edition marks an important step towards establishing the fair as an enduring platform for the region.

"Our ambition extends well beyond the fair week: through our new year-round programme, we aim to deepen collector engagement between editions and contribute to the sustained growth of the regional art market," he said.

The new initiative, Collectors Majlis, was launched this October ahead of the 2027 fair. The invitation-only pilot programme will bring together around 30 to 40 new, emerging and art-adjacent collectors for masterclasses, workshops, cultural experiences, collection visits and networking opportunities.

Participants will attend sessions before the fair, engage with galleries and institutions during the event, and take part in a post-fair salon. The programme will cover how the art market operates, how artworks are bought and sold, and how collections are built, while helping participants engage more confidently with galleries and artworks.

Sessions will feature Art Basel executives, collectors, and cultural figures from Qatar and the wider region, including HE Sheikha Al Mayassa; Horowitz; Vincenzo de Bellis, Art Basel's chief artistic officer and global director of fairs; and al-Khudhairi. The initiative will also organise international collector encounters in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, India, Greece and other key locations.

De Bellis said the programme was intended to strengthen the regional market while creating new opportunities for collectors, galleries and institutions to connect.

"Our ambition for Art Basel Qatar is to build a fair that is rooted in its region and resonates around the world," he said.

Around half of the artists participating in the 2027 edition hail from the MENASA region, according to the organisers. They include Mohammed Alfaraj, Monira al-Qadiri, Dana Awartani, Ibrahim El-Salahi, Hassan Hajjaj, Yazan Khalili, Waqas Khan, Seher Shah, Shahzia Sikander and Vian Sora.

Regional galleries include Athr Gallery and Hafez Gallery from Saudi Arabia; Green Art Gallery, Lawrie Shabibi and The Third Line from Dubai; al markhiya gallery from Doha; Sfeir-Semler Gallery, which operates in Beirut and Hamburg; and Chemould Prescott Road from Mumbai.

First-time participants from the region include Efie Gallery in Dubai, Iyad Qanazea in Abu Dhabi, Le LAB Gallery in Egypt, Alhosh Gallery in Doha, Contemporary Art Platform in Kuwait and Dastan Gallery, which operates in Tehran and Toronto.

They will exhibit alongside established international galleries such as Gagosian, David Zwirner, Acquavella Galleries, Matthew Marks Gallery, Lisson Gallery, White Cube, Spruth Magers and Mendes Wood DM.

Al-Khudhairi said the theme "between" represents a space where different perspectives, histories and ideas meet, creating new ways of seeing.

The exhibition will explore how global influences have shaped the MENASA region and how its artistic practices, ideas and cultural histories have, in turn, influenced the wider world.

"We hope to foreground the MENASA region not simply as a place in dialogue with the world, but as an active force in shaping global artistic discourse," she said.

Art Basel Qatar said it would announce further details on gallery presentations and special projects in the coming weeks. The full exhibitor list is available at artbasel.com/qatar/galleries



Grendizer Xperienz brings generations together in Doha

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

A beloved anime hero that captivated generations across the Arab world is set to return to the spotlight in Doha, bringing nostalgia, immersive experiences and the history of traditional animation to fans young and old.

The Grendizer Xperienz exhibition will open on December 10 at W Doha in West Bay, giving visitors a chance to rediscover the iconic Japanese series while introducing its legacy to a new generation.

Jaidah Group executive director Mohamed Jaidah, who is helping bring the experience to Qatar, said the event aims to connect parents who grew up watching the series with children discovering it for the first time.

"We're very happy to bring it to make it discoverable," Jaidah said, highlighting the opportunity for younger visitors to understand how animation was produced before computer-generated techniques became widespread.

He said the exhibition would also offer a glimpse into the hand-drawn animation methods used during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, when artists created animated characters and scenes by hand.

"It will also allow a younger generation to discover how animated shows and animated movies were done back in the days," he said.

Rather than presenting the series solely as a television phenomenon, the exhibition will allow visitors to immerse themselves in different worlds inspired by Grendizer, with distinctive items sourced from across the Arab world, France, Japan and Italy.

Jaidah said the collection would provide a broader view of the franchise, bringing together elements that reflect its international reach and enduring appeal. A shop offering themed merchandise will also form part of the experience.

For Jeremy Cerrone, president and founder of French company Prime Prod, the project represents an opportunity to celebrate a franchise that has become more than just an anime series.

Cerrone said he began working on the concept in 2019, when he travelled to Japan to discuss the project with the intellectual property owners. The first event was held in France before the experience toured elsewhere.

The idea of bringing it to Qatar emerged after Cerrone met Jaidah while working on an event in Riyadh in 2023 for the release of the series' reboot.

"By discussing with him, I discovered how Qatar people were huge fans also of Grendizer," Cerrone said.

He said he was pleased to share the franchise with audiences in Qatar, where its popularity has spanned generations.

He added that local partners' enthusiasm was another motivating factor, noting they shared a common appreciation for the character and its cultural significance.

"All the partners working with us on this event have the same passion for Grendizer," Cerrone said.

He stressed that the exhibition would explore the franchise's place in popular culture, rather than focusing exclusively on its identity as an anime.

Qatar Museums, Doha Film Institute, Geekdom, Al Jaidah Group, PRIME PROD, and other partners are involved in the event.

Geekdom founder Abdulla al-Mosallam also acknowledged the organisations supporting the project, describing their involvement as an opportunity for Geekdom to expand its vision and bring the experience to Doha.

Since its debut in 1975, Grendizer has built a following across the Arab world, becoming a familiar part of popular culture for many viewers who grew up watching the adventures of the giant robot hero.

Qatar remains committed to cultural diplomacy amid regional tensions: Sheikha Al Mayassa

By Joey Aguilar
News Editor



HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani at the Art Basel Qatar press conference, held at Doha Design District, Msheireb, yesterday. **PICTURE**: Qatar Museums

Qatar will continue hosting international cultural events despite regional conflict and uncertainty, with Qatar Museums Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani saying cultural institutions are more important than ever in fostering dialogue, coexistence and mutual understanding.

Speaking at a press conference announcing the details of Art Basel Qatar 2027, HE Sheikha Al Mayassa defended the decision to press ahead with cultural events, saying Qatar remained committed to bringing people together despite the security challenges facing the region.

"Qatar did not create this conflict. Qatar believes in dialogue, in peace, in coexistence," she said.

HE Sheikha Al Mayassa said her team kept working amid missile threats, highlighting the challenges of maintaining cultural activities during a period of regional instability.

She expressed gratitude for the support of Qatar's leadership for allowing cultural events to proceed despite the uncertainty, adding that the experience reinforced her belief in the importance of cultural engagement.

"Every crisis offers opportunities. You have to use your intuition and your vision to know that every war is a true war and every war will end. Meanwhile, we need to do the best with what we have," the QM chairperson said.

In her opening remarks, HE Sheikha Al Mayassa said Qatar's investment in culture extends beyond building museums and developing collections to nurturing local talent and building institutions that can engage international audiences.

The country has invested in museums, cultural collections, creative hubs, and festivals to support artists and introduce their work to a wider audience, she said.

The QM chairperson stressed that Qatar's cultural diplomacy reflected its broader foreign policy commitment to peace and coexistence, including maintaining relations with neighbouring countries despite regional tensions.

"Iran is our neighbour; it belongs to our region. We have always lived side by side, and that will not change," she said.

Under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Qatar had chosen "peace over war, dialogue over threat, trust over doubt", she added.

HE Sheikha Al Mayassa said cultural initiatives could provide opportunities for people from different communities to exchange ideas and reflect on shared experiences, even when geopolitical developments create uncertainty.

"Our foreign policy is reflected in the mission of our culture diplomacy programme, where we believe fully in the power of culture to build the world together and to bring people from different communities together," she said.

"While current geopolitical situations invite uncertainty, our work creates space for people to reflect, explore new ideas, and unite for the sake of humanity."

She added: "I strongly believe the answer to political polarisation is cultural prioritisation."

She said the continued hosting of international cultural events also gives artists and creative professionals in the region opportunities to gain recognition and access international markets.

HE Sheikha Al Mayassa said she was particularly encouraged by the opportunities the art fair offers regional artists, adding that Qatar would continue building on the momentum of its inaugural edition.

Art Basel Qatar's second edition, scheduled for 2027, will bring together regional and international galleries and artists, reinforcing Doha's position as a meeting point for cultural exchange.

The fair will continue the solo-presentation format introduced in its inaugural edition, with participating galleries presenting individual artists' work under the curatorial theme "between", led by Iraqi curator Wassan al-Khudhairi.

HE Sheikha Al Mayassa said the fair formed part of Qatar's wider efforts to connect its growing creative ecosystem with international audiences and the global art market.

Despite the region's challenges, she said cultural events would remain an important means of sustaining dialogue and supporting creative communities.

"At times like these, fear is not an option. In fact, it never is," she said.

HE Sheikha Al Mayassa also expressed optimism about the future of Qatar's cultural programme, saying the current season would conclude with the art fair before activities resume in April.

Her remarks underscored Qatar's intention to maintain its cultural engagement amid regional uncertainty, positioning the arts as a platform for dialogue, coexistence, and international understanding.

QPO, GU-Q to present 'Brahms Reimagined'



Wilson Ng



Esther Yoo

The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO), in collaboration with Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), presents Brahms Reimagined on October 31 at 7.30pm at the Katara Opera House, offering audiences a new perspective on some of Johannes Brahms' most celebrated music.

Conducted by Wilson Ng, the newly appointed Fellow Conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the concert will feature internationally acclaimed violinist Esther Yoo, the youngest prizewinner in the history of the prestigious Queen Elisabeth Competition, performing Brahms' beloved Violin Concerto in D Major. The second half of the evening brings a bold reimagining of Brahms' music: Arnold Schoenberg's orchestral transformation of Brahms' Piano Quartet in G Minor, showcasing the Romantic master's work through a striking, innovative orchestral lens.

The collaboration reflects QPO's and GU-Q Qatar's shared commitment to cultural diplomacy and international dialogue. While the orchestra advances cross-cultural understanding through music, Georgetown University in Qatar prepares current and future leaders to navigate an increasingly interconnected world through education, research, and public engagement.

Established in Washington, D C in 1789, Georgetown University is one of the world's leading academic and research institutions. GU-Q, founded in 2005 in partnership with Qatar Foundation, extends that mission in the region through academic excellence, community engagement, and initiatives that foster intellectual and cultural exchange.

This commitment is also reflected in GU-Q's Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service degree, with offerings in Arts, Heritage, and Cultural Diplomacy, as well as its Artist-in-Residence programme.

"Brahms Reimagined exemplifies how the arts can create meaningful connections across cultures and disciplines," said Kurt Meister, executive director of QPO. "Through this collaboration, we celebrate both artistic excellence and the role of cultural institutions in fostering dialogue, understanding, and global citizenship."

The concert also highlights the longstanding relationship between QPO and GU-Q to encourage collaboration in areas of mutual interest. Featuring American violinist Esther Yoo alongside an internationally distinguished artistic team, the programme reflects the shared values of artistic exchange, education, and cultural engagement championed by both institutions.

From the lyrical beauty of the Violin Concerto to Schoenberg's daring orchestral interpretation of Brahms, Brahms Reimagined invites audiences to experience familiar masterpieces in unexpected ways.

QATAR

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