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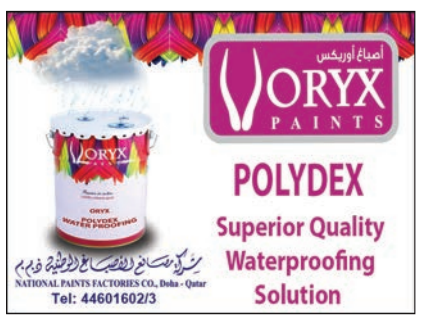
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Amir, Ramaphosa discuss key developments in call

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received yesterday a phone call from South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa. Both sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and strengthen them across various fields. They also exchanged views on key regional and international developments, as well as a host of issues of common concern. During the call, the South Africa president commended Qatar's efforts and initiatives aimed at finding a solution to the crisis in the region, primarily regarding the assurance of maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz and the smooth flow of global supply chains. (**QNA**)

Jordan's king, PM hold talks in Amman

King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein of Jordan welcomed HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani in Amman yesterday. At the beginning of the meeting, HE Sheikh Mohammed conveyed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's greetings to King Abdullah, along with His Highness's wishes for his good health and happiness and for continued prosperity for the Jordanian people. King Abdullah, in turn, asked HE Sheikh Mohammed to convey his greetings to HH the Amir, wishing His Highness good health and happiness and the Qatari people further prosperity and development. The meeting discussed bilateral ties and ways to expand co-operation between the two nations, as well as issues of shared concern. (**QNA**)

PM meets Jordan's deputy PM



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, met yesterday in Amman with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Jordan, Ayman Safadi. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways of further supporting them, as well as the latest regional developments, primarily the exerted diplomatic de-escalation efforts and joint co-ordination to strengthen security and stability in the region. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs emphasised, during the meeting, Qatar's full support for diplomatic efforts and endeavours made to reach a solution that ensures freedom of navigation and opens the door to arrive at a comprehensive agreement that brings about sustainable peace in the region. (**QNA**)

Qatar a regional model of stability

Qatar has retained first place regionally in the Political Stability and Rule of Law dimensions of the World Bank's 2026 update of the Worldwide Governance Indicators. The result strengthens Qatar's position as a regional model of stability, rule of law and security.

In a press statement, the National Planning Council (NPC) said Qatar also maintained a strong regional standing, ranking among the top three in Government Effectiveness, Control of Corruption, and Regulatory Quality. This reflects government efficiency and the State's efforts to strengthen transparency and integrity.

Compared with the previous edition, Qatar improved in four of the six dimensions: Political Stability 83.86%; Government Effectiveness 72.73%; Regulatory Quality 72.67%; and Control of Corruption 65.81%. The largest improvement was in Control of Corruption, which rose by 2.74 points.

These results reflect Qatar's continued efforts to improve institutional performance and strengthen government efficiency, supporting the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030. They also highlight the importance of sustaining these efforts and using international indicator results to set development and improvement priorities.

Published annually by the World Bank, the Worldwide Governance Indicators measure governance quality in more than 200 economies across six key dimensions: Voice and Accountability, Political Stability, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law, and Control of Corruption.

Amir, Putin discuss ways to expand partnership



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani highlighted his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) Summit in Moscow, where they discussed ways to strengthen co-operation and friendship between the two countries and exchanged views on key regional and international developments.

HH the Amir added that Qatar and Russia seek to further expand their bilateral partnership and strengthen co-ordination in pursuit of their shared interests and to promote security and stability. In a post on his official X account, HH the Amir expressed pleasure at meeting President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on the sidelines of the GECF Summit. HH the Amir said he and President Putin had discussed ways to strengthen co-operation and friendship between the two countries and exchanged views on key regional and international developments.

His Highness added that both countries look forward to continuing their joint efforts to broaden their bilateral partnership and enhance co-ordination in ways that serve their mutual interests and contribute to consolidating security and stability.

HH the Amir departed Moscow yesterday following his participation in the Eighth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Member Countries of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF). He was accompanied during the visit by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and an official delegation. (**QNA**)

QLC organises third edition of Leadership Innovation Forum

QNA
Doha



Qatar Leadership Centre (QLC) convened the third edition of the Leadership Innovation Forum 2026 yesterday under the patronage of HE the Chairperson of the QLC Board of Directors, Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. Held under the theme 'Strategy Before Execution: Building Institutions That Endure Beyond Their Leaders', the forum brought together more than 1,000 guests, including leaders, officials, experts, alumni, and representatives from various sectors.

The event featured interactive discussions and robust debates on strategies for building institutions capable of sustaining success across successive generations of leadership. It also generated significant engagement across social media and mainstream media platforms, broadening the reach of its core message and key discussion points.

Panel sessions explored the roles of strategic planning, governance, knowledge transfer, and the preparation of future leaders in embedding institutional sustainability, empowering organisations to navigate challenges and keep pace with rapid transformations.

In his opening remarks, General Manager of Qatar Leadership Centre, Abdullah Mohammed Khalifa al-Binali, emphasised that the forum reflects the centre's commitment to advancing leadership thought and fostering the exchange of expertise across diverse sectors.

Al-Binali stated that successful leadership is not measured solely by achievements realised during a tenure in office, but extends to building institutions capable of sustaining success long after leadership transitions. He noted that the forum seeks to institutionalise strategic thinking and the sharing of experiences to support organisational sustainability and capability development. **To Page 11**

CNN's Global Perspectives forum opens in Doha today









By A Staff Reporter
Doha

CNN's flagship events series Global Perspectives will take place in Doha today, convening dignitaries, political and business leaders, and visionaries for important conversations on geopolitics, technology, media, and culture.

Global Perspectives: In Doha marks the first time that CNN will hold its flagship events series in the Middle East and Gulf region.

The event will take place at the Rosewood Doha, with Media City Qatar as Host Partner, building on an established relationship following CNN's decision to launch a new operation in Qatar last year as part of the network's broader global and regional content strategy. The new date for Global Perspectives: In Doha was agreed following a meeting between CNN Worldwide Chairman & CEO Sir Mark Thompson and HE Sheikh Dr Abdulla bin Ali al-Thani, Chairman of Media City Qatar.

CNN journalists including Christiane Amanpour, Richard Quest, Becky Anderson, and Eleni Giokos will lead conversations with leaders from the region and beyond, examining how regions such as the Gulf are shaping the world's next chapter of economic power, technological innovation, and cultural influence. **To Page 11**

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عماني ١ كيلو
QAR 31.50
Farmed Sea Bream Oman 1kg

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QAR 86.75
Salmon Fillet Norway 1kg

أمانة فيليه صدر دجاج ٤٥٠ غرام
QAR 19.75
Amanah Chicken Breast Fillet 450gm

لحم بقري مكعبات / مفروم
جنوب افريقي ١ كيلو
QAR 36.50
South African Beef Cubes/Mince 1kg

فورتشن زيت دوار الشمس ١.٨ ليتر
QAR 12.75
Fortune Sunflower Oil 1.8Ltr

QAR 55.75
لحم خروف عربي مقطع
١ كيلو
Arabic Lamb Cuts 1kg

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QAR 15.75
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٥٠٠ غرام
Baladna Fresh Akkawi Cheese 500gm

QAR 22.50
أفو فريش معجون أفوكادو
منوع ١٦٠ غرام / ١ حبة
Avo Fresh Avocado Paste Asstd 160gm x 1pc

QAR 22.50
نسكافيه قهوة
إكسترا فورتي أصلية ٢٠٠ غرام
Nescafe Original Extra Forte Coffee 200gm



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٥ كيلو
QAR 12.75
Al Osra Fine Sugar 5kg



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كامل ٩٠٠ غرام / ١٠ قطع
QAR 94.00
Frangosul Whole Chicken 900gm



أومو مسحوق غسيل
منوع ٢.٢٥ كيلو
QAR 14.00
Omo Washing Powder Asstd 2.25kg

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MoI wins Arab award

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has won first place in the award for best joint field intelligence co-operation in combating drugs at the 40th Arab Conference of the Heads of Anti-Narcotics Agencies, hosted by the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) in Tunis.

MoI is participating in the conference with a delegation led by Director General of Drug Enforcement Brigadier Staff Rashid Saree al-Kaabi.

The conference brings together Arab and international participants to discuss drug control issues and review member states' experiences and plans in this field. The award recognises the ministry's efforts to strengthen co-ordination, co-operation, and the exchange of information and expertise with counterpart agencies, supporting joint Arab security efforts to combat drugs and psychotropic substances and protect society from their dangers. (**QNA**)



Al-Hammadi meets director of Uzbek Islamic Civilisation Centre



HE Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and Chairman of the Qatari Committee for the Alliance of Civilisations, Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi, met yesterday with the Director of the Islamic Civilisation Centre in the Republic of Uzbekistan, Dr Firdavs Abdukhalikov, who is visiting the country.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed prospects for bilateral co-operation in the cultural sphere, alongside their respective efforts to promote awareness of Islamic civilisation. They also discussed joint programmes and projects, including the organisation of conferences and seminars, and the exchange of visits, all of which contribute to strengthening Qatari-Uzbek relations. (**QNA**)



Shura Council's Economic and Financial Affairs Committee discusses draft state budget

The Economic and Financial Affairs Committee of the Shura Council held a meeting yesterday, chaired by Mohamed bin Yousef Almana, the committee's chairperson.

During the meeting, the committee discussed the draft state budget for the 2027 fiscal year and the draft law approving it, and decided to continue its review at its next meeting. (**QNA**)

QNA chief visits German press agency in Berlin

HE the Director-General of Qatar News Agency (QNA), Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi visited the headquarters of the German Press Agency (DPA) in Berlin, met with its CEO, Peter Kropsch, to discuss ways to strengthen the partnership; expand co-operation; and exchange expertise between the two agencies.

During the visit, HE al-Rumaihi toured the German agency's newsroom and studios and received a presentation on the agency and its work models as well as general management mechanisms for news agencies and their operational strategies.

Furthermore, al-Rumaihi participated in a session on artificial intelligence, its challenges and opportunities for news agencies; a lecture on DPA's approach to photojournalism; and another on its role in combating fake news in newsrooms.



He also received briefings on the "Feedback Hub" platform for collecting feedback and comments; the "Rubix" content management system for newsrooms of the future; and the activities of "news aktuell", DPA's public relations subsidiary.

At the end of the visit, al-Rumaihi discussed with DPA officials ways to strengthen their partnership; exchange professional expertise and experiences; and explore opportunities for job shadowing and training to support media development and enhance professional performance. (**QNA**)

Amir sends congratulations to Czech Republic president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to the President of the Czech Republic Petr Pavel on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a cable of congratulations to the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Andrej Babis on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. (**QNA**)

Amir condoles with king of Spain

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of condolences to King Felipe VI of Spain following a crash involving two high-speed trains near Toledo, central Spain.

The Amir and the Deputy Amir expressed their sympathies over the victims and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a cable of condolences to the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Spain Dr Pedro Sanchez following a crash involving two high-speed trains near Toledo, central Spain. He expressed his sympathies over the victims and wished the injured a speedy recovery. (**QNA**)

PM sends condolences to Japan counterpart

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani has sent a cable of condolences to the Prime Minister of Japan Sanae Takaichi following the death of the country's former prime minister Yasuo Fukuda. (**QNA**)

Dubai Press Club media delegation visits QNA

A media delegation from the Dubai Press Club visited the Qatar News Agency (QNA) headquarters yesterday to strengthen co-operation and exchange expertise between the two sides.

The delegation, led by Director of the Dubai Press Club, Maryam al-Muhairi, met with several QNA officials and learned about the operations and working procedures of the agency's various departments, sections, and units.

The delegation also visited the QNA Training Center, where it learned about the centre's specialised training programmes and its role in training journalism and media graduates in Qatar who wish to join QNA or other entities in the country. (**QNA**)



AL MAHHAR HOLDING
المحار القابضة

Al Mahhar Holding announces financial results for the nine-month period ended 30 September 2026: net profit to equity holders increases 19.1% year on year to QAR 42.4 million

- **Revenue: QAR 693.4 million, as compared to QAR 716.3 million in Q3 2025**
- **Net profit: QAR 44.5 million, up 21.7% from QAR 36.6 million in Q3 2025**
- **Net profit margin: 6.4%, up from 5.1% in Q3 2025**
- **Net profit to equity holders: QAR 42.4 million, up 19.1% from QAR 35.6 million in Q3 2025**
- **Earnings per share: QAR 0.20, as compared to QAR 0.17 in Q3 2025**

Al Mahhar's Chairman, Mr. Fahad Al Fardan, commented:

"Our performance during the first nine months of 2026 reflects the resilience of our core operations and the progress achieved in executing our strategic priorities. Despite a challenging operating environment, we delivered resilient revenue performance alongside improved profitability, supported by the performance of our key subsidiaries and increased contributions from our associates and joint ventures. Our growing exposure to Qatar's energy sector remains central to our long-term strategy, positioning us to capitalize on opportunities arising from the country's ongoing energy and infrastructure developments. As we approach the end of the year, we remain focused on strengthening our market position, deepening our strategic partnerships and pursuing opportunities that support sustainable growth and long-term value creation for our shareholders."

Al Mahhar Holding Company Q.P.S.C. ("Al Mahhar" or the "Company"), one of the leading services and specialized products providers to the energy and infrastructure sectors in the State of Qatar, announced its financial results for the nine-month period ended 30 September 2026 (Q3 2026).

Al Mahhar reported revenue of QAR 693.4 million in Q3 2026, a slight decrease of 3.2% compared to the prior-year period, while continuing to be supported by the performance of its key operating subsidiaries. Petrotec remained the Group's primary revenue contributor, supported by its subsidiaries, including Q-Cal, PSR, GAS and Petrotec Kuwait, alongside strong contributions from Q-FAB. The energy segment accounted for 91.3% of total revenue, compared to 84.1% in Q3 2025, reflecting the Company's strategic focus on energy-linked infrastructure projects while gradually reducing its exposure to other civil construction activities. Equipment and spare parts sales accounted for 82.3% of total revenue, followed by service income at 12.3% and equipment rental at 5.4%.

Gross profit remained broadly stable at QAR 121.3 million, while gross margin improved to 17.5% from 17.2% in the prior-year period. The margin improvement was primarily driven by a reversal of provisions for obsolete and slow-moving inventories, alongside a favorable shift in revenue mix toward the higher-margin rental division and reduced depreciation expenses recognized within cost of sales.

Net profit increased by 21.7% to QAR 44.5 million, with net profit margin improving to 6.4%, supported by continued operational efficiencies, disciplined cost management, reduced finance costs, and increased contributions from associates and joint ventures. Earnings per share further increased to QAR 0.20 from QAR 0.17 in the prior-year period, reflecting the Company's improved profitability.

The Company maintains a strong financial position, with total assets increasing to QAR 739.1 million as of 30 September 2026, compared to QAR 651.9 million as of 31 December 2025. Total equity grew to QAR 389.5 million from QAR 371.9 million as of 31 December 2025, reflecting the Company's continued financial strength. Cash and cash equivalents increased to QAR 143.5 million, up from QAR 103.1 million as of 31 December 2025, further strengthening the Company's liquidity position and providing greater financial flexibility to support its strategic priorities.

The Company continues to advance its internal efficiency initiatives, with a sustained focus on cost control, process optimization and disciplined resource management. In parallel, the Company is enhancing its IT infrastructure and advancing its digital transformation initiatives, including the rollout of SAP, to strengthen data security, improve operational efficiency and support future scalability. Together, these initiatives reinforce the Company's commitment to operational excellence, sustainable profitability and long-term value creation.

Al Mahhar's Chairman, Mr. Fahad Al Fardan, commented: "Our performance during the first nine months of 2026 reflects the resilience of our core operations and the progress achieved in executing our strategic priorities. Despite a challenging operating environment, we delivered resilient revenue performance alongside improved profitability, supported by the performance of our key subsidiaries and increased contributions from our associates and joint ventures. Our growing exposure to Qatar's energy sector remains central to our long-term strategy, positioning us to capitalize on opportunities arising from the country's ongoing energy and infrastructure developments. As we approach the end of the year, we remain focused on strengthening our market position, deepening our strategic partnerships and pursuing opportunities that support sustainable growth and long-term value creation for our shareholders."

For further information and respective details on Al Mahhar, please visit https://almahharholding.com/ or contact investor relations at investorrelations@almahharholding.com.

QATAR

Ooredoo honoured at Qatar Private Sector Nationalisation Award



Ooredoo received the Qatar Private Sector Nationalisation Award in the Information Technology and Digital Services category at a ceremony on October 27, in recognition of its contributions to empowering Qatari talent, developing national leaders, and supporting the nationalisation of jobs.

Following the announcement of the award winners on September 27, the Ministry of Labour held the ceremony at Qatar National Convention Centre under the Himmah initiative. It brought together representatives of the winning organisations and national talent from across the award categories.

HE Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, presented the award to Sheikh Ali bin Jabor bin Mohammad al-Thani, CEO of Ooredoo Qatar.

Sheikh Ali bin Jabor said: "This honour reflects our leadership's commitment to strengthening the contribution of national talent to the country's development. At Ooredoo, we believe that empowering our Qatari employees to take on leadership and specialist roles strengthens our ability to innovate and contribute to Qatar's digital transformation. We will continue to invest in our national talent, supporting the development of a knowledge-based economy and the achievement of Qatar National Vision 2030."

Maryam Hassan al-Hajri, Chief Human Resources Officer at Ooredoo Qatar, added: "We are committed to providing learning and development opportunities that help our Qatari employees keep pace with developments in the telecommunications and information technology sector. We also work to create a supportive environment that enables them to progress in their careers and fulfil their aspirations at Ooredoo."



BYH Exhibition wraps up 7th edition with record attendance

The seventh edition of the Build Your House Exhibition concluded after three days, attracting a record number of more than 16,000 visits.

Organised by Nextfairs, the exhibition featured more than 250 exhibitors across 15,000 square meters of exhibition space.

Nextfairs said the record turnout underscored the exhibition's growing role as a leading platform connecting Qatari homeowners with specialised companies, providing access to expert advice and business opportunities.

HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah toured the exhibition on its final day, reviewing residential construction solutions and innovations presented by local and international companies.

The accompanying Build Your House 2026 Conference, held in partnership with the Qatar Society of Engineers, brought together engineers and industry experts to exchange knowledge and experience.

Discussions covered the Qatar Architecture Award, while specialised sessions offered homeowners practical guidance on residential construction, renovation, interior decoration, design, and the legal and administrative requirements for building homes.

The sessions aimed to help homeowners make informed decisions and develop residential projects that combine quality, sustainability, and architectural identity.

Launched in 2020, Build Your House has evolved into a comprehensive platform connecting Qatar's residential construction and design sector with citizens looking to build, renovate, or upgrade their homes.

The exhibition brings together products, services, professional expertise, and information covering every stage of residential construction. (**QNA**)

MoC showcases publications at Algiers book fair

Ministry of Culture (MoC) is participating in the 29th Algiers International Book Fair, which opened yesterday and runs through November 7, as part of its efforts to promote Qatari intellectual and literary works and expand their presence at international exhibitions and cultural events. Director of the Libraries Department at the Ministry of Culture and Director of the Doha International Book Fair Jassim Ahmed al-Buainain said the participation reflects the ministry's commitment to promoting Qatari culture and publications, reaching wider audiences, and expanding engagement with cultural institutions and participating publishers.
He said showcasing the ministry's publications offers an opportunity to highlight the diversity of Qatar's cultural output and introduce works documenting aspects of local knowledge, literature, and culture. Al-Buainain emphasised the importance of participating in international book fairs, which provide opportunities to exchange expertise, build partnerships with cultural institutions, and expand the reach of Qatari publications in overseas markets and cultural events. The ministry's pavilion draws inspiration from traditional Qatari architecture, reflecting the country's national identity and architectural heritage while highlighting the connection between Qatari cultural traditions and contemporary cultural life. (**QNA**)

CRA strengthens national technical expertise in IPv6, Internet routing security through specialised training

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), in collaboration with the RIPE NCC, is delivering a six-week training programme to strengthen national technical capabilities in Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) deployment and Internet routing security. The programme brings together around 45 members of the Qatar IPv6 Taskforce, supporting CRA's efforts to develop specialised skills and strengthen the security and resilience of Qatar's Internet infrastructure.

The program is designed for representatives of stakeholders in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector. Delivered through the RIPE NCC Remote Learning Experience, it combines live online training sessions with self-paced learning through the RIPE NCC Academy. Participants have the opportunity to take a professional certification exam and receive a certificate upon successfully passing it.

Commenting on the initiative, Ali al-Suwaidi, Technical Affairs Department Director at CRA, said: "We are committed to developing national technical capabilities and ensuring that Qatar's Internet infrastructure remains secure, reliable and ready to meet evolving demands. This program supports our efforts to strengthen expertise in IPv6 and Internet routing security, in line with the objectives of the Digital Agenda 2030 and Qatar National Vision 2030.

"By investing in specialised training and knowledge development, we aim to equip professionals with the skills needed to support the continued development and security of Qatar's digital infrastructure.

"We value our collaboration with the RIPE NCC in delivering this program and its contribution to knowledge sharing and the development of specialised technical expertise in the ICT sector."

Dr Chafic Chaya, Regional Manager for Public Policy and Government Affairs, Middle East at the RIPE NCC, said: "The strong participation in this program reflects Qatar's commitment to developing the skills needed for Internet infrastructure that is secure, resilient and capable of

supporting growth. IPv6 deployment and routing security are important areas of technical expertise that help support the stability, security and continued development of the Internet."

The RIPE NCC is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that coordinates and manages Internet number resources across Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia. It also provides training and technical services to develop specialist expertise and support the stability and security of Internet infrastructure. (**QNA**)

QFCRA receives Best Financial Literacy Qatar 2026 award

The Financial Supervisor Programme is delivered by the QFCRA in collaboration with the Orphan Care Centre 'Dreama'

The Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority (QFCRA) has received the Best Financial Literacy (Dreama Financial Supervisor Programme) Qatar 2026 award from the Global Banking & Finance Awards 2026, recognising the programme's design, measurable outcomes and positive impact.

The Financial Supervisor Programme is delivered by the QFCRA in collaboration with the Orphan Care Centre "Dreama" under the QFCRA's corporate social responsibility initiative, "Mubadarah". Through tailored, practical activities, the programme introduces participating children to essential financial concepts, including saving, spending, budgeting, and financial responsibility, while supporting confidence, communication, and workplace skills.

The award followed a comprehensive assessment of the programme's structure, clarity of purpose and results. The judging panel also highlighted the meaningful personal stories and experiences shared through the programme, which demonstrated the value of combining financial education with an inclusive and engaging learning experience.

"We are proud that the Financial Supervisor Programme has been recognised with the Best Financial Literacy Programme Award. This achievement reflects the programme's positive impact and highlights the importance of institutional partnerships in supporting and empowering our children. The programme has helped strengthen their financial knowledge and skills, while enhancing their ability to plan ahead and make informed financial decisions, equipping them for a more independent and stable future.

"We greatly value our partnership with the QFCRA, which has delivered a unique experience that combines learning with practical application. We look forward to further developing partnerships and initiatives that help build our children's capabilities and create greater opportunities for their future," said Sheikha Najla bint Ahmed al-Thani, executive director of the Orphan Care Centre "Dreama".

"Financial literacy is an essential life skill that empowers individuals to make informed decisions and participate confidently in the economy. The Financial Supervisor Programme reflects the QFCRA's commitment to practical, inclusive financial education. This recognition celebrates our collaboration with Dreama and our shared goal of equipping children with the knowledge, confidence and skills to support them in the future. We are proud of this achievement and grateful to everyone who brought the programme to life," said Fatma Abdulrahman al-Meer, CFO and COO of QFCRA.

Electronic testing procedures for sweetened drinks to begin on Nov 1 via Dhareeba platform

The General Tax Authority has announced that certificates of analysis required to register sweetened drinks will be accepted electronically through the Dhareeba platform from Nov 1, through direct integration with laboratories accredited by the Ministry of Public Health and registered with the Authority, without requiring taxpayers to upload the certificates manually.
Under the new procedures, taxpayers submit a product registration application through the Dhareeba platform, then provide a sample to an accredited laboratory to conduct the necessary tests and determine the types and quantities of sugars and sweeteners. Once the laboratory approves the results, the testing data and certificate of analysis are automatically transmitted to the Dhareeba platform.
The electronic integration enables the Authority's staff to access test results directly, helping accelerate application processing, reduce manual procedures and enhance the accuracy of data received from laboratories.
The completion of this integration coincides with the expansion of the scope of excise tax on sweetened drinks. It forms part of the Authority's efforts to strengthen electronic integration with relevant entities, automate product registration procedures and develop its digital services, saving time and effort and improving the taxpayer experience. (**QNA**)

الأولية
AL-AWALIA

Invitation to Tender

Tender / Auction Number	Subject	Tender / Auction Document Fees (Non-refundable)	Tender / Auction Bond	Tender/Auction Offer	Closing Date
AL-AWALIA/TD/2026/37	Construction of the Weighbridges in Bu GLAILA RCA Operation Site for Qatar Primary Materials Company ("Works")	500 QAR	24,000 QAR	Two Bids (Technical & Commercial)	05 November 2026 02:00 PM
AL-AWALIA/TD/2026/38	Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing, And Integration to Central Control Room (CCR) Scada System of Two (2) Belt Weighing Scale System Units for Bulk Material Handling System Conveyors (BMHS) By OEM/OEM Authorized Service Provider. ("Supplies")	500 QAR	9,000 QAR	Two Bids (Technical & Commercial)	05 November 2026 02:00 PM
AL-AWALIA/TD/2026/39	Preventive & Breakdown Maintenance of VRF, Window, Packaged, FCU and Split Type Units and Supply of Required Spare Parts for All Type of AC Units for Qatar Primary Materials Company ("Services")	500 QAR	19,000 QAR	Two Bids (Technical & Commercial)	05 November 2026 02:00 PM

In accordance with the following conditions:

1. Tender Documents can be collected online by sending email to tender.docs@qpmc.qa along with requested documents in point No.2.
2. Tender Documents will be shared only after delivery of Deposit Slip Stamped by Commercial Bank along with Authorization Letter to the delegated person signed by authorized person as per Computer ID, Copy of commercial Registration (CR), Business License and Computer ID.
3. Bids are to be submitted in two sealed (in red wax) envelops (Technical & Commercial) and addressed to Tenders and Auction Committee. Tender reference number and subject are to be clearly written on the envelops, provided that the last date for submitting bids is one o'clock in the afternoon on the closing day. Any bids submitted after this date and time will not be accepted.
4. Tenderers shall submit the proposals to our head office located at Lusail, Building No. 108, St. No. 303, Burj Marina Tower, 17th Floorbefore the closing date. (To get the map of the new building, please scan the QR code below).
5. Tender Fees are nonrefundable and can be transferred online to Account of Qatar Primary Material Company- Bank A/C (4050-651111-006) at Commercial Bank of Qatar. **IBAN No. (QA 18 CBQA 0000 0000 4050 651111 006)** Tender reference number and subject are to be written on the deposit slip.
6. Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee/ Manager Cheque) must be valid for 120 days after closing date and must be submitted in separate & sealed envelope along with technical bid and a photocopy is to be attached with commercial bid. Bids without tender bond will be rejected.
7. Bids must be valid for 90 days after the closing date.
8. Any queries relating to the Tender Documents must only be raised in writing, preferably by email, to the address specified in the respective Tender Document. Any response issued by Qatar Primary Material Company will be in the form of a question and answer and will be distributed to all Tenderers without revealing the identity of the originator of the query(ies) in the Form of Tender Bulletins. Queries must be received at the address specified in the respective ITT Documentation at least five (5) calendar days prior to the Tender closing date. Any queries received after such a date will be ignored.
9. The amount of the Performance Bond to be provided by the awarded bidder is (10% of the contract value) and its validity period must remain valid under the contract implementation period and the guarantee period according to the terms of the tender.
10. The Technical Bids shall be opened within one week of the closing date.
11. Qatar Primary Material Company has the right, during the contract period, to request an increase or decrease in the amounts of the items, works or services by a percentage not exceeding (20%) of the contract value with the same conditions and prices, provided that the increase is of the same type of contracted items, works or services.
12. Qatar Primary Material Company's tendering terms and conditions apply.
13. For any inquiries about the tender except collecting the documents, please contact tender@qpmc.qa
14. Location of the new building

SCAN ME

For further Inquiry, please send your queries at email to **tender@qpmc.qa** or visit Qatar Primary Material Company website @ **www.qpmc.qa**

شركة قطر للمواد الأولية (ش.م.خ.ق) | مركزها الرئيسي: الدوحة - قطر ، منطقة لوسيل، برج مارينا ، رقم: 108 | سجل تجاري: 33204 | ص.ب: 22095 | هاتف: 9411 4447 974+
Qatar Primary Materials Company (Q.P.S.C) | Head Office: Doha-Qatar, Lusail, Marina Tower No.: 108 | CR No.: 33204 | P.O Box: 22095 | Tel: +974 4447 9411
Capital 200,000,000 QAR | Paid Up Capital 200,000,000 info@qpmc.qa www.qpmc.qa 200,000,000 رأس المال المدفوع | 200,000,000 رأس المال المصرح به



MoPH, WHO organise workshop to strengthen emergency preparedness

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO), organised a capacity-building workshop on using the Strategic Tool for Assessing Risks (STAR) to strengthen health emergency preparedness.

The workshop aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills required to apply the Strategic Tool for Assessing Risks through training sessions and practical simulation exercises. These sessions covered identifying priority health risks and analysing their likelihood and potential impacts, supporting risk-based planning and evidence-informed decision-making, and preparing participants to contribute to the development of the National Health Risk Profile.

Representatives of health authorities, government entities and relevant national partners involved in risk and emergency management participated in the workshop. This strengthened multisectoral participation and co-ordination in assessing national health risks.

The workshop serves as a preparatory phase for the national workshop scheduled for next November to develop the National Health Risk Profile. This phase builds on the outcomes of the national workshops organised by the MoPH in 2022 and 2024, with the participation of relevant entities, to update national health-risk priorities in line with current developments and challenges and strengthen preparedness and response planning for health emergencies and disasters. (**QNA**)

Energy security extends beyond oil, gas: academic

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

Energy security extends beyond oil, gas and electricity, with maritime disruptions potentially affecting essential products used in medicine, education and everyday life, a Qatar University academic said.

Dr Abdulla al-Etaibi, assistant professor of political science and director of strategic innovation, entrepreneurship and economic development at Qatar University, highlighted the wider implications of energy security amid regional and global uncertainty.

Speaking to *Gulf Times* on the sidelines of the Qatar Leadership Centre's (QLC) Leadership Innovation Forum 2026 in Doha yesterday, he said the forum's energy discussion was particularly relevant at a time when maritim e security and the movement of goods have become major concerns.

"It's really important to s hed some light on what is happening in our region and how energy is not only influencing shipments or just energy as electricity, but it's more than that," Dr al-Etaibi said.

He explained that energy is closely connected to petrochemical products that support a wide range of essential sectors, making disruptions potentially significant beyond the immediate energy market.

"It's something that actually goes into our daily life with other associated petrochemical products that are influencing energy, medicine, and also every part of our world, even the education part," he said.

He made the comments during the forum session, The Long Bet: Leadership and Resilience in the Oil and Gas Sector, which examined the importance of long-term decisions in building resilience in a sector central to Qatar's economy.


Dr Abdulla al-Etaibi

Dr al-Etaibi said the discussion offered an opportunity to help audiences better understand the relationship between energy and maritime security, particularly given the challenges facing the region and the wider world.

"I highly recommend engaging in such discussions to get to know more the issue of energy and the issue of maritime security in our region," he said.

The session formed part of the third edition of the Leadership Innovation Forum, organised by QLC under the theme "Strategy Before Execution: Building Institutions That Endure Beyond Their Leaders".

Held at Raffles Doha under the patronage of HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, chairperson of the QLC Board of Directors, the forum brought together leaders, experts and representatives from different sectors to discuss how institutions can sustain success across generations.

Dr al-Etaibi's research focuses on Gulf foreign policy, international relations and the role of national identity in shaping policymaking. His work also examines mediation and the changing narratives influencing Qatar's foreign policy.

His remarks highlighted how energy security intersects with wider questions of regional stability, economic resilience and the reliable movement of goods that modern societies depend on.

'Building enduring infrastructure hinges on vision, skilled workforce'



The President of the Public Works Authority (Ashghal), Engineer Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Meer, has highlighted the importance of a farsighted strategic vision and well-established operations to deliver sustainable infrastructure achievements.

Speaking yesterday during a panel discussion on infrastructure at the Leadership Innovation Forum 2026 in Doha, al-Meer said that building an integrated, enduring national infrastructure system also requires qualified national personnel to substantially improve institutional performance and keep operations resilient regardless leadership transitions or contractor changes.

Al-Meer outlined Ashghal's strategic transformation from delivering projects to meet immediate needs to planning and developing a comprehensive infrastructure system encompassing highways, sewage networks, and public buildings. He underscored the criticality of this shift in keeping pace with Qatar's rapidly evolving urban and economic growth and advancing the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030.

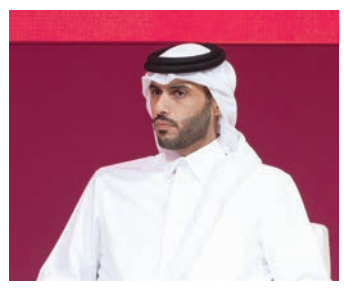
On asset quality and sustainability, al-Meer emphasised that Ashghal's responsibilities extend well beyond project delivery to the long-term management of infrastructure assets. He explained that Ashghal treats each project as an integrated life cycle, spanning implementation and operation through continuous maintenance and development, with each stage contributing to the system's enduring performance.

Accelerating digital transformation and adopting cutting-edge technologies, including artificial intelligence, in the workplace are also imperative, al-Meer stressed. These advances, he explained, would substantially enhance the efficiency of asset management and national projects while improving the quality of services delivered.

The Ashghal president described Qatar's hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 as a watershed moment and a genuine test of Ashghal's institutional capabilities. He explained that delivering the tournament's infrastructure projects required the authority to manage mammoth projects, plan under extraordinary pressure, meet stringent project schedules, and coordinate seamlessly with the country's various government entities.

Al-Meer said the experience demonstrated what matters most in delivering complex infrastructure projects consistently: robust institutional systems, effective coordination, and the ability to perform under extraordinary demanding conditions. (**QNA**)

Qatar has built integrated system for staging major events: SC official



Co-operation and co-ordination among government entities and institutions have enabled Qatar to develop an integrated system for staging major events, strengthen the exchange of experience and expertise, and accelerate planning and preparations, Jassim Abdulaziz al-Jassim, Acting Secretary-General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC) and Chief Executive Officer of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for Football Events, said yesterday.

Speaking during the second session of the third Leadership Innovation Forum 2026, titled "Sustainable Infrastructure: How Qatar's Infrastructure Has Evolved Into a National System," al-Jassim said ongoing communication with relevant entities and discussions of challenges and problems had helped improve operations and build on accumulated experience.

He said the system extended beyond a single organising body to encompass security agencies, regulatory bodies and other entities working together within an integrated, nationwide framework.

Continued co-operation with partners in organising events hosted by Qatar had also improved and accelerated planning processes, he said.

Tasks that once took months, and sometimes years, could now be completed within weeks, thanks to accumulated experience and a better understanding of operational requirements.

Al-Jassim said Qatar had made significant progress in preparing Qatari personnel to take part in organising major events abroad, including in security, civilian and organisational roles.

He said this expertise had been demonstrated during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and through the participation of Qatari personnel in major events held in the United States and Canada, particularly in security and organisational operations. (**QNA**)

JPL Warriors World Cup tournament at QF empowering girls through sport



The JPL Warriors World Cup, organised by the Junior Premier League in collaboration with Qatar Foundation (QF), has brought together 327 young female footballers from across the region.

For Tala al-Sultan, her football journey began by following in her brother's footsteps. Now, 12 years on, the 17-year-old Kuwaiti player has found something in the game that goes far beyond learning to pass, defend, or score. "My favourite thing about playing is the friendships you build," she says.

Football has also taught her the importance of communication, the value of perseverance, and how to see setbacks as opportunities to improve: "When things don't go my way on the pitch, I see it as a challenge to grow. And it makes me want to do better next time."

Football has become an essential part of everyday life for her teammate, 15-year-old Suad al-Tharban, also from Kuwait. After missing out on a school team, she joined a football programme and hasn't gone a day without playing since.

The game gives her space to clear her mind and has taught her that progress takes time. "If you force something, it won't happen – you have to take your time," she says. It is a lesson that extends beyond football: learning to be patient, overcome disappointment, and return stronger. And her advice to other girls starting out is simple: everyone begins somewhere.

For 14-year-old Yashvvii Jain, from India, who began playing football in 2023, the game has been a lesson in much more than competition. Inspired to play by her cousins, brothers, parents, and the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, she has come to see football as an opportunity to learn from others, improve with every match, and develop skills that extend well beyond the pitch.

Communication, teamwork, respect for opponents, and humility are among the values she carries with her. But perhaps most importantly, football has changed how she views failure. "Losing has helped me understand that it is a part of success – and in order to win or be successful, you have to go through the failure phase. This helps you correct your past mistakes in future games," she explained.

This year marked the third edition of the two-day JPL Warriors World Cup, held at the Education City Stadium in partnership with QNB. Bringing together participants across three age groups – Under 12's, Under 14's, and Under 16's – the tournament offered players a platform to showcase their talent, develop their skills, and connect with fellow footballers.

Kholoud M al-Ali, executive director of Community Engagement and Programming at Qatar Foundation, said: "We believe in the power of sport to empower young girls, build confidence, and create opportunities for growth, both on and off the pitch. Education City provides an ideal setting for this event, reflecting our commitment to creating inclusive spaces where girls can connect, learn, and thrive through sport."

talabat launches talabat grow in Qatar in collaboration with Qatar Science & Technology Park











talabat, the leading everyday app in the MENA region, announced the launch of talabat grow in Qatar, in collaboration with Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP). The launch event brought together local media, restaurant partners and local entrepreneurs to introduce the programme and showcase how it will support restaurant growth across Qatar.

Through this invite-only initiative, talabat aims to onboard 180 high-potential, locally owned small businesses. Participants will receive hands-on support in performance optimisation, data-driven decision-making and the effective use of digital tools, alongside commercial support, subsidised commission rates and one-to-one guidance from talabat's partner success teams. Delivered over 12 months, it begins with a two-week intensive session, followed by ongoing tailored support.

QSTP joins the programme as a technology innovation partner, aiming to connect local restaurants with startups in its community. Through this collaboration, QSTP hopes to explore whether innovations developed by these startups could potentially help restaurants address everyday challenges, reduce costs, run smoother and grow. Where relevant, promising innovations may be piloted with talabat grow restaurants.

"Qatar has a dynamic and ambitious restaurant community, with many local businesses looking for the right support to take their next step," said Moaiad Aqel, Managing Director of talabat Qatar.

"Through talabat grow, we want to work more closely with promising restaurant partners, help them better understand their performance and give them practical tools that can support smarter, more sustainable growth. Their success ultimately strengthens the wider food ecosystem in Qatar."

"Local restaurants are a vital part of Qatar's economy, and the right technology can make a real difference to how far they go," said Eng. Ahmed Al-Said, Business Development Director, QSTP. "Through our collaboration with talabat, we hope to bring innovation closer to the F&B sector, helping restaurants find practical ways to work smarter and grow, while giving startups the chance to test their solutions in real businesses. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to strengthening the sector through technology and innovation."

talabat grow reflects talabat's long-term commitment to Qatar's restaurant community, with QSTP bringing the innovation to help it thrive.

QATAR

Twenty finalists announced for Design Doha Prize 2026





Design Doha, Qatar's premier contemporary design platform, has announced the 20 finalists of the Design Doha Prize 2026, recognising outstanding design talent from across the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) and its diasporas.

Selected from more than 500 applications, five finalists have been selected in four categories: Craft, Product Design, Furniture Design and Emerging Talent. The four winners will be announced on Nov 7, 2026 at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA), concluding the Design Doha Biennial's three-day opening programme, taking place from Nov 5-7, 2026. Chaired by HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, the Prize is overseen by a 24-member international jury led by Iranian-French architect and designer India Mahdavi.

The jury also includes renowned architects Frida Escobedo and Lina Ghotmeh, among other leading figures in design and architecture. The full jury list is available on the Design Doha website.

Returning for its second edition, the Prize supports designers at different stages of their careers, with the four winners will each receive QR200,000 (approximately USD50,000), a two-week mentorship at the Vitra Campus in Weil am Rhein, Germany, and one year of studio space at Liwan Design Studios and Labs in Doha.

Additional support includes retail opportunities through Liberty London at Liberty Home Msheireb in Doha and logistical assistance and business mentorship from DHL.

Finalists were selected following an open call and a multi-stage review process and they will showcase their work to the jury at MIA on November 6. Their projects span traditional craftsmanship, furniture and product innovation, with several addressing contemporary challenges such as material waste, water scarcity and sustainable production.

Fahad al-Obaidly, Director of Design Doha, said: "The Design Doha Prize exists to back the designers shaping the future of our region. This year's finalists show what that future looks like: practices rooted in craft and inherited knowledge, yet bold in how they rethink materials, tackle waste and respond to the places they come from. But recognition is only the beginning. Through mentorship, studio space, retail partnerships and industry expertise, the Prize gives designers the tools to grow their practices and take their work to audiences far beyond Doha."

India Mahdavi, Head of the Jury, said: "What makes this Prize particularly exciting is the breadth of creative thinking across the region. The finalists approach design from different cultural and material perspectives yet share a strong understanding of craftsmanship and experimentation. We are looking for work that combines originality with purpose, and for designers whose ideas have the potential to develop further and contribute to the future of design." **(QNA)**



Doha Design District welcomes the public to 'Designed to Last'

Doha Design District, powered by Msheireb Properties, has opened 'Designed to Last', a fashion exhibition by award-winning Moroccan designer Artsi Ifrah, founder and Creative Director of Marrakech-based Maison ARTC. The exhibition opened on October 27 with a gala evening and a special talk by Ifrah, bringing together members of Doha's creative community, designers, fashion enthusiasts and invited guests.

Open to the public until November 5, the exhibition is hosted in the main atrium of Doha Design District at Msheireb Downtown Doha. It invites visitors to look beyond seasonal trends and explore what gives fashion lasting value, from the craftsmanship behind each piece to the cultural references, memories and personal stories it carries.

The exhibition presents thirteen one-of-a-kind looks Ifrah created and styled, alongside his photographic works. Drawing on Moroccan heritage, traditional craftsmanship and personal experience, his artistic practice reinterprets cultural influences through a contemporary lens, reflecting his guiding philosophy: We Move Culture. We Are Culture.

"Designed to Last invites us to consider what makes something worth keeping and how fashion can preserve stories, express identity and connect us to our cultural heritage," said Dana Kazic, director of Doha Design District.

Ifrah's work has earned international recognition, including the Fashion Trust Arabia Award in 2022, and has been exhibited at prominent venues such as the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and 10 Corso Como in Milan.

Designed to Last offers a public programme of talks and live activities that explore fashion as a form of cultural expression and creative practice.

Doha Design District's Designed to Last exhibition continues until November 5, with a programme of talks, workshops and demonstrations exploring fashion, craftsmanship and cultural identity.

"The Stories We Wear" on October 28, from 4pm to 5pm at Sada, brings together Moroccan designer Artsi Ifrah, Lusail Museum senior curator Dr Tara Desjardins and Hazati founder Innas Soufan to discuss how clothing carries memories and expresses identity.

"The Cutting Studio: Cultural Embroidery" runs October 28–29, from 3pm to 8pm in the main atrium. Visitors can contribute words or symbols to a collaborative artwork stitched by two embroiderers, reflecting diverse cultural perspectives.

Fashion designer Nuha Errayes will lead live draping demonstrations on October 31 and November 1, from 5pm to 6pm at Sada, showcasing garment construction techniques. Each session is limited to 10 participants and requires advance registration.

On November 3, "A Designer's Perspective" runs from 4pm to 5pm at Sada and features Qatari designers Abdulrahman al-Hamad, Saadia Khabab, and Samah Sulyman discussing craftsmanship, heritage, and creating designs that endure beyond trends.

The exhibition is open to the public at Doha Design District, Msheireb Downtown Doha. Registration is encouraged for talks.

Katara International Academy to unveil training courses, workshops

Katara International Academy is poised to unveil plenty of training courses and workshops in November, spanning media, corporate communications, leadership, intellectual property, innovative skills and maritime heritage.

The initiative reflects Katara Cultural Village's efforts to broaden its role in education, training and capacity-building while showcasing phenomenal programmes that meet the needs of individuals and enterprises and advance professional aptitudes, career development and knowledge-based skills.

These forthcoming programmes mark a new phase in the academy's development and represent a practical expression of its vision to establish an integrated educational and training environment grounded in quality, diversity and responsiveness to participants' actual needs, said Director General Dr Hassan Abdullah al-Mannai.

Dr al-Mannai added that the courses demonstrate the diverse fields in which the academy operates, combining state-of-the-art professional skills with cultural and heritage knowledge, reflecting the institution's belief that effective training extends well beyond knowledge transfer to encompass capacity-building, augmenting human capabilities and applying internalised skills through practical exercises.

The programmes, Dr al-Mannai continued, are designed to offer an incredibly enriching training experience that draws participants from a broad range of community segments and enables them to benefit from professional expertise across multiple fields. They place particular emphasis on practical application to ensure a substantive and lasting impact while helping consolidate a culture of continuous learning and out-of-the-box thinking, he remarked.

In essence, training programmes will begin Nov 1 with a course on corporate communications and media relations, led by writer Aisha Omar al-Idrissi through Nov 5. The course will focus on advancing corporate communications skills and forging effective relationships with media outlets.

In leadership and professional development, the academy will offer a course on leadership and cross-cultural excellence from Nov 8-11, led by Dr Hassan al-Mannai. The course aims to strengthen leadership skills, deepen participants' understanding of cultural diversity and significantly enhance their ability to communicate and work effectively in multicultural environments.

The programmes will also include a falconry course for young participants, led by Mohammed Saeed al-Kubaisi from Nov 1-4, as well as a course on the Qatari Ardah, led by Waleed Issa al-Mannai from Nov 8-12. The academy will announce additional courses soon.

To enhance the quality of its programmes, the academy largely follows a training approach that identifies the skills to be developed alongside the intended learning outcomes.

The academy invited those interested in participating to review the course schedule and registration procedures on its website, kia.katara.net, and select programmes that align with their professional and educational needs and interests. **(QNA)**



QIB hosts breast cancer awareness workshop

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB), in collaboration with Qatar Cancer Society (QCS), hosted a breast cancer awareness workshop for its women employees at its head office as part of its Pink October initiatives.

The workshop formed part of the bank's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, reflecting its continued commitment to raising health awareness and promoting the well-being of its employees and the wider community.

The workshop focused on early detection and regular screening, providing participants with valuable information on breast cancer awareness and preventive health practices. The session also reinforced the importance of proactive health practices and encouraged employees to prioritise their well-being.

In addition to the workshop, QIB organised a series of awareness activities throughout October to engage employees and reinforce the Pink October message across the Bank. As part of these activities, the Bank also organised a special gathering for its women employees, fostering engagement and solidarity in support of breast cancer awareness.

QIB Towers displayed pink floral arrangements throughout the month, while the Bank distributed pink ribbons, bracelets, and stress balls to employees to encourage awareness and solidarity. QIB also distributed specially designed pink cups carrying a breast cancer awareness message across QIB offices and branches, bringing the message into employees' daily routines.

Extending its awareness efforts beyond the workplace, QIB displayed dedicated awareness visuals, developed in collaboration with Qatar Cancer Society, at selected ATMs in its ladies' branches. The Bank also shared a series of engaging, informative posts across its social media platforms throughout October to reach a wider audience and reinforce the importance of breast cancer awareness and regular screening.

Mashaal Abdulaziz al-Derham, assistant general manager, head of Corporate Communications & Quality Assurance at QIB, said: "At QIB, we believe that raising awareness and encouraging proactive health practices are important steps towards building healthier communities. Our collaboration with Qatar Cancer Society in organising this workshop provided a valuable opportunity to engage directly with our employees and highlight the importance of early detection. Together with our other Pink October activities, these efforts reflect our commitment to promoting health awareness and contributing to the well-being of our employees, customers, and the wider community."

QIB's Pink October initiatives reflect the Bank's broader CSR commitment to supporting health awareness and community well-being. Through ongoing collaborations and employee engagement activities, QIB continues to contribute to national efforts that promote public health and encourage a culture of awareness and prevention.

Qatar participates in IOPC Funds meetings



Represented by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), the State of Qatar participated in the meetings of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) assembly, held in London, the United Kingdom.

The meetings addressed developments regarding oil pollution incidents, the internationally established mechanisms for compensating the resulting damages, and ways to enhance the effectiveness of compensation systems and manage the environmental and economic impacts of such incidents.

On the sidelines of the meetings, representatives from the MoECC held several discussions with relevant international entities, during which they exchanged expertise and experiences regarding environmental emergency response, and explored ways to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination to address oil pollution incidents and mitigate their impacts.

The State of Qatar's participation comes as part of its efforts to strengthen international co-operation and leverage global expertise and practices in managing oil pollution incidents, thereby supporting the development of national capabilities and enhancing the efficiency of responses to environmental emergencies. **(QNA)**

RACA, Tajikistan minister discuss strengthening co-operation



Acting Director General of the Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities (RACA), Saud Mohammed al-Adba, met with the Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan, Abdurahmon Abdurahmonzoda, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed areas of co-operation between the two countries and discussed ways to further strengthen collaboration in fields of mutual interest, particularly in the charitable and humanitarian sectors

The delegation was also briefed on RACA's role in regulating and overseeing the charitable and humanitarian sector in the State of Qatar, as well as its efforts to enhance regulatory and supervisory frameworks and promote the principles of governance and transparency, contributing to the sector's efficiency and long-term sustainability.

The two sides exchanged views on opportunities to benefit from shared expertise and experiences and explored prospects for further developing institutional co-operation in support of common objectives. **(QNA)**

SHATIU delegation concludes Brazil tour ahead of 2027 edition



A delegation from the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding (SHATIU) has concluded its introductory tour of Brazil with a visit to Rio de Janeiro, promoting the award among Portuguese-speaking translators and publishers ahead of its 2027 edition.

The delegation met Laura Di Pietro, founder and editorial director of Brazilian publishing house Tabla, which specialises in Arabic literature, to discuss opportunities for co-operation and encourage translators working with the publisher to enter the award.

It also visited the National Library of Brazil, where discussions with library president Marco Lucchesi focused on translation as a bridge between Arab and Brazilian cultures and the role of libraries in preserving shared cultural heritage.

Two seminars explored the challenges of translating Arabic literature and the role of specialised awards in supporting translators. The delegation also visited the Royal Portuguese Cabinet of Reading, home to an extensive collection of Portuguese literature.

The tour highlighted the historical links between Arabic and Portuguese, including translations of the Qur'an and Ibn Khaldun's Muqaddimah, underscoring the award's efforts to strengthen cultural exchange through translation. **(QNA)**

Qatar participates in CBD COP17 High-Level Segment on biodiversity



Qatar participated in the High-Level Segment of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17), held in Yerevan, Armenia, on October 27-28.

The segment was held as part of the 2026 UN Biodiversity Conference, hosted by Armenia from October 19-30.

Qatar was represented at the meeting by HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie.

In his address, HE Dr al-Subaie said biodiversity conservation and the protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems are key national priorities, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030.

He noted that terrestrial protected areas cover around 27% of Qatar's land area. By 2030, the country aims to protect 30% of its terrestrial and marine areas and restore 30% of natural habitats.

HE the Minister underscored the significance of the current conference, which marks the first global review of collective progress in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Qatar hopes the discussions will yield concrete measures to accelerate the fulfilment of international commitments and deliver measurable national results, he said.

He added that Qatar had aligned its national priorities with the framework's goals and targets, integrated biodiversity objectives into its development plans, and translated its international commitments into specific national programmes subject to monitoring and evaluation.

Qatar had also recently updated its national biodiversity targets and prepared the general framework for its National Biodiversity Strategy, he said. Work is underway to finalise the strategy and its accompanying national action plan, which will define national priorities, establish implementation programmes and set measurable indicators to track progress.

Dr al-Subaie outlined the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's efforts, in co-operation with national entities, research institutions, universities and the private sector, to conserve ecosystems and protect wildlife. These initiatives include monitoring whale sharks, protecting dugongs, and safeguarding and rehabilitating meadows and other natural sites.

He said these efforts covered 76 meadows and natural sites between 2019 and 2026, noting that Qatar aims to protect and rehabilitate 500 sites by 2030.

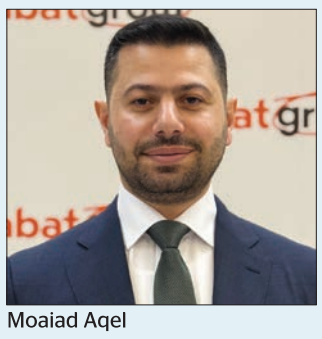
At the international level, the minister called for increased funding for biodiversity conservation, stronger support for capacity-building and the transfer of appropriate technologies, and greater consideration of the specific needs of developing countries, particularly those with arid and hyper-arid climates.

He also called for closer international co-operation in sharing scientific and technical data and expertise, as well as for biodiversity considerations to be integrated into development policies and plans. He stressed that concerted global action is essential to achieving the targets set out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

HE Dr al-Subaie reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to strengthening national biodiversity conservation efforts, supporting international action to accelerate implementation of the global framework, and preserving natural resources for future generations. (**QNA**)

talabat launches 'talabat grow' in collaboration with QSTP

Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter


Moaiad Aqel

talabat aims to onboard more than 180 local restaurants in Qatar over the next 12 months through a new initiative offering subsidised commissions, business training and personalised guidance to help small businesses grow sustainably.

Launched in collaboration with Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), talabat grow seeks to help homegrown restaurants navigate rising costs, competition and operational challenges while expanding their customer base.

Moaiad Aqel, managing director of talabat Qatar, said the initiative was designed to give restaurant partners practical support beyond food delivery, combining immediate financial relief with guidance to strengthen their businesses over the long term.

"We launched talabat grow because we believe supporting local restaurants goes beyond helping them deliver food," Aqel told *Gulf Times*.

"Small businesses are facing growing costs and competition, and we want to help them navigate these challenges. Through talabat grow, we're turning our platform's reach and expertise into practical support that helps homegrown restaurants build for the future," he said.

The initiative will offer participating restaurants subsidised commissions, a two-week training programme and ongoing one-to-one guidance from talabat's team.

According to Aqel, the combination is intended to help businesses improve their financial position while developing the skills needed to manage operations more efficiently and attract new customers.

"We're combining immediate financial relief with long-term business support," he said, explaining that restaurants would benefit from lower commission costs while learning ways to improve their business performance.

The training and individual guidance are expected to help participating restaurants address operational challenges and make better use of the opportunities available through the delivery platform.

For small restaurant owners, managing expenses while maintaining service quality and attracting customers can be challenging. The initiative seeks to address these pressures by pairing financial support with practical business guidance rather than focusing solely on increasing orders.

Aqel said talabat's broader priority in Qatar remained creating greater value for customers and restaurant partners, with continued investment in delivery services and initiatives designed to support businesses.

"Our priority is to keep creating more value for our customers and restaurant partners here in Qatar," he said.

"That means strengthening our delivery services while investing in initiatives like talabat grow and talabat Kitchen," he added.

Onboarding more than 180 local restaurants over the next 12 months is a key milestone for the programme, with the company aiming to help participating businesses expand their reach and develop their operations.

Qatar joins GCC talks to expand media co-operation



The State of Qatar has taken part in the 29th meeting of the GCC Ministers of Information to discuss ways to expand media co-operation among the bloc's member states.

The meeting was held yesterday in the Kingdom of Bahrain and brought together the GCC Ministers of Information and GCC Secretary-General Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi.

HE Qatar Media Corporation Chairman Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani led Qatar's delegation to the gathering.

The meeting focused on initiatives under the Joint GCC Media Co-operation Strategic Plan 2023-2030, covering international media, digital media, news agencies, radio and television. Discussions also included developing unified guidelines and standards for Gulf media content and organising a joint media forum with the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Discussions also considered Qatar Media Corporation's proposal to organise training programmes and media workshops for university students across GCC countries as part of Doha Arab Media Capital 2027.

Participants further approved the 2027 budgets of the Joint Program Production Institution and the Gulf Radio and Television Corporation, while reviewing other proposals aimed at strengthening media co-operation among GCC member states. (**QNA**)

QC lays foundation for rehabilitation, training village in Mauritania



Qatar Charity (QC), in collaboration with Mauritania's Ministry of Social Action, Childhood and Family, held a groundbreaking ceremony for the rehabilitation and training village for children with disabilities in the Dar Naim district of Nouakchott, in a step toward strengthening social protection and upholding the rights of persons with disabilities.

In a statement yesterday, QC said the project aims to provide an integrated educational and rehabilitation environment that ensures care for children with disabilities, develops their abilities, and equips them with the skills required for their active and direct inclusion in community life.

The ceremony was attended by Secretary-General of the Ministry of Social Action, Childhood and Family in Mauritania, Hamoudi Cheikhna Ali; the ambassador of the State of Qatar to Mauritania, Shaheen bin Ali al-Kaabi; Director of Development Operations at QC, Ibrahim Abdulrahman al-Janahi; and Director of the Charity's office in Mauritania, Engineer Omer Abdelaziz.

Al-Janahi said QC believes that investing in people is the most valuable and sustainable form of investment, noting its commitment to implementing initiatives that help improve the quality of life for the most vulnerable groups and support the efforts of governments and national institutions to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development.

The project is an outgrowth of a partnership and co-operation between QC and Mauritania's Ministry of Social Action, Childhood and Family, al-Janahi highlighted, adding that it reflects a shared vision aimed at providing top-flight services for persons with disabilities, strengthening their rights, and empowering them to integrate into society.

Omer Abdelaziz, for his part, said the village represents an integrated development facility that will enable persons with disabilities and their families to benefit from rehabilitation, education, training, and care services in an ideal environment that develops their abilities and strengthens their inclusion and engagement in society.

He hoped that the project would serve as a model for care, rehabilitation, and community inclusion and leave an enduring positive impact on the lives of children with disabilities.

Al-Kaabi said the project underscores the strength of the brotherly relations between the two countries and their commitment to promoting solidarity and supporting people, particularly groups that need greater care, support, and empowerment.(**QNA**)

UDST announces CoEAII board members

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) announced the formation of the Advisory Board of its Center of Excellence - Artificial Intelligence and Innovation (CoEAII), bringing together professionals with expertise across cybersecurity, investment and government section to support the Center's strategic direction and growth.
The formation of the Advisory Board strengthens CoEAII's connection with industry and national sectors, ensuring its initiatives respond to emerging opportunities and align with Qatar National Vision 2030 priorities in AI.
President of UDST, Dr Salem Al-Naemi said: "The formation of the Advisory Board is an important step in advancing the Center's mission and strengthening its connection with Qatar's evolving digital landscape. Our Board members bring valuable expertise and perspectives that will help shape the Center's priorities and create meaningful opportunities for our students, researchers and partners."
The Advisory Board includes Director of Policies Affairs at the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA), Engineer Dana Yousef al-Abdulla, who said: "The establishment of the Center is an important step toward strengthening the integration between academic knowledge and the needs of society and industry.
It highlights the importance of building an environment that supports responsible innovation and links research and development to practical applications, while reinforcing the principles of trust, governance, security and ethics."
The Advisory Board also includes Director of Government Development Affairs Youssef Jaber al-Jaber, representing the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau (CGB), who said, "Our support for this Center stems from our belief in the importance of aligning innovation and artificial intelligence with government development priorities and the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030.
"We hope the centre will help institutions strengthen their readiness to keep pace with technological advancements and explore new opportunities to apply artificial intelligence in ways that enhance government performance and contribute to Qatar's development journey," he added. (**QNA**)

UDC to mark QSW 2026 with six community-focused initiatives across The Pearl and Gewan Islands





United Development Company (UDC) will participate in the 11th edition of Qatar Sustainability Week (QSW) 2026, bringing together six environmental, educational and community-focused initiatives across its destinations from October 31 to November 7.

Organised in support of Qatar Sustainability Week, led by Earthna Centre for a Sustainable Future, the programme reflects UDC's continued commitment to making sustainability part of everyday community life. Across The Pearl and Gewan Islands, the activities will bring residents, employees, families and partners together through practical initiatives that promote environmental awareness, community participation and social responsibility, in line with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Abdullatif Ali al-Yafei, executive director of Public Services at UDC, said: "This year, our programme brings together environmental action, learning and community participation across The Pearl and Gewan Islands, because lasting impact is created when people feel part of it. From mangrove restoration and environmental awareness to community activities and initiatives that engage younger generations, we want to make sustainability practical, accessible and meaningful for the communities we serve."

The programme will begin with the SDG Ambassadors – Sustainable Race on October 31 at Beach Centrale around Duck Lake, bringing together community participants for a sustainability-focused run. The same day will also mark the opening of the SDG Ambassadors Art Exhibition at Qanat Quartier, featuring 50 paintings, recycled artworks and environmental sculptures. The exhibition will showcase children's perspectives on a more sustainable future, while exploring the relationship between people, the environment and Qatar's maritime heritage. It will remain open throughout Qatar Sustainability Week.

Environmental awareness will remain a central theme throughout the week. At Gewan Island, Plot 5, visitors can engage with Mangrove Restoration Project information sessions, supported by educational content, videos, and interactive resources focused on Qatar's mangrove ecosystems. The programme will include "Qatar's Mangroves – A Journey Through Nature's Coastal Guardians", alongside bilingual educational material and games developed in collaboration with Earthna.

UDC will also bring the mangrove restoration message into its workplace through a dedicated activation at its offices on November 5. Employees will have the opportunity to participate in a temporary mangrove nursery featuring 100 plants, including seedling adoption and tagging ahead of their eventual planting at the Al Ruwais receiving site.

The programme will also extend sustainability into community giving and family engagement. A "Feed a Friend" charity book drive will run throughout the week at Gewan Island, Plot 4, encouraging the community to donate pre-loved books in support of children's education, while a Community Garden Activation at Duck Lake on November 7 will bring families together for planting activities, alongside face painting and children's art activities, creating an interactive setting for younger members of the community to connect with nature.

Throughout the week, UDC will also continue its community engagement programme across its social media platforms, extending the initiative's reach and encouraging wider participation in activities across The Pearl and Gewan Islands.

Through this year's programme, UDC aims to build on its ongoing sustainability efforts by creating opportunities for people to learn, participate and take action in ways that are relevant to everyday life. From protecting mangrove ecosystems and encouraging responsible consumption to connecting families and young people with nature and community initiatives, the programme reflects UDC's belief that sustainable ecosystems depend on communities actively engaging with and caring for their surroundings.

The plastic recycling initiative currently underway on The Pearl Island, which aims to collect plastic from residents of both islands, has achieved strong results, collecting 200 kilograms of recyclable plastic so far. This step reinforces the concept of a circular economy within both islands' communities and supports national efforts to reduce plastic pollution.

In line with its commitment to environmental sustainability and the Qatar National Vision 2030, UDC announced a breakthrough new initiative as part of Qatar Sustainability Week 2026. The initiative introduces an innovative Smart Biodigester system on The Pearl Island. The project aims to process and manage food waste using advanced scientific methods, converting it into high-quality organic fertiliser for landscaping, afforestation, and green space projects across the island.

QATAR

Evidence of spina bifida in ancient Qatar under lens

Sidra Medicine and Qatar Museums (QM) are leading a multidisciplinary research project that combines archaeology, advanced medical imaging, and molecular research to study the lives and health of Qatar's prehistoric populations. The project has identified skeletal remains showing evidence of spina bifida, a congenital condition that affects spinal development.

In collaboration with international research institutions, archaeologists excavated Umm Al Maa and Al Kharsaah in Qatar, uncovering skeletal remains that help researchers study the biological characteristics, health conditions, and lifestyles of ancient populations.

The research highlights a connection between Qatar's archaeological heritage and modern medicine. The collaborative effort offers an opportunity to examine spina bifida in bones from thousands of years ago.

As part of the investigation, researchers brought archaeological skeletal remains to Sidra Medicine's Radiology Department for advanced computed tomography (CT) scanning, three-dimensional (3D) reconstruction, and 3D printing.

These technologies allow researchers to examine the internal structures of fragile skeletal specimens in exceptional detail without damaging or altering the original remains. The resulting digital reconstructions provide valuable insights into anatomical characteristics and enable researchers to investigate abnormalities in greater detail.



The sacral bones, located at the base of the spine, are often better preserved in archaeological specimens because they resist degradation over time. The researchers identified evidence of spina bifida through the initial examination of the remains, while advanced CT imaging enabled a more detailed assessment of the condition's anatomical characteristics and helped define the specific variant.

Dr Sara Tomei, principal investigator of the research project at Sidra Medicine, said: "This project demonstrates the remarkable possibilities that emerge when different scientific disciplines come together. By combining archaeology, advanced medical imaging, and molecular research, we have an opportunity to uncover new insights."

Using advanced image processing techniques, Sidra Medicine's Radiology Department transformed the CT scans into detailed 3D models that researchers can rotate, enlarge, and measure digitally. The team also produced 3D-printed replicas that researchers can handle and share for research and education, while the original specimens remain safely preserved.

Sidra Medicine's imaging services also extend to non-human archaeological specimens, supporting the project's broader investigation of biological remains and ancient environments.

The discovery of ancient skeletal remains showing characteristics associated with spina bifida adds another dimension to this research. By studying the condition's historical presence in Qatar, researchers hope to better understand how often it occurs across different populations and time periods.

Dr Santiago Vallasciani, division chief of Urology at Sidra Medicine and a multidisciplinary spina bifida Clinic member, said: "Understanding the history of spina bifida in Qatar adds an important perspective to the work we do with children and families today. Discovering evidence of this condition in ancient populations reinforces the value of studying its biological characteristics, potential risk factors, and occurrence across generations."

According to the research team, the proportion of skeletal remains showing evidence of spina bifida at the examined archaeological sites in Qatar appears higher than in certain European archaeological studies. While these observations highlight the potential significance of the findings, further analysis is required to understand the differences between the populations studied and the factors that may have contributed to them.

Beyond spina bifida, the wider research project seeks to understand the origins, migration patterns, dietary habits, and environmental adaptations of populations that inhabited Qatar in prehistoric times.

Dr Ferhan Sakal, Head of Excavation and Site Management at Qatar Museums, said: "As archaeologists, we are not only studying bones or artefacts, we are trying to understand the lives of real people. The individuals represented by these remains were not simply archaeological specimens, but members of families and communities who lived, travelled, adapted, and faced many of the same challenges we encounter today."

Spreading the word by opening 'window of hope'

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter



Tamani al-Yafai

Breast cancer awareness must extend beyond early detection to include emotional support and community solidarity, Hour and Hour programme CEO Tamani al-Yafai said at the fifth Bridges of Hope event held in Doha this October.

The event, organised in collaboration with the Qatar Cancer Society (QCS), was held under the patronage of Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Jaber al-Thani, chairman of the QCS Board of Directors, as part of Pink October activities. Themed 'A Window of Hope', Bridges of Hope sought to raise awareness of breast cancer while highlighting the emotional and social challenges faced by patients, survivors and their families.

Al-Yafai said about the initiative: "The event aims to raise awareness of the importance of early detection of breast cancer, correct misconceptions about breast cancer, highlight the importance of psychological and social support for patients, survivors and their families, and establish a culture of hope and community solidarity," she said.

Beyond awareness discussions, the programme brought together health, education and culture through activities designed to encourage community participation and cultural exchange.

Specialists led awareness sessions, while artistic, musical, and heritage performances celebrated Qatari and Japanese cultures. Several schools also participated, with students presenting performances that showcased their creativity and promoted communication, tolerance, and intergenerational cultural exchange.

A Qatari-Japanese cultural exhibition further highlighted the connection between the two cultures, featuring visual arts, Arabic and Japanese calligraphy, traditional clothing, handicrafts and interactive workshops.

The combination of public-health awareness and cultural activities gave the event a broader community focus, bringing together different generations and encouraging conversations about a disease that affects patients and their families in different ways.

Al-Yafai said the participation of government and private-sector organisations reflected the importance of coordinated efforts across health, education, culture and the wider community to raise awareness and create a lasting positive impact.

She also thanked Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Jaber al-Thani for his patronage, the Qatar Cancer Society for its collaboration, and Rixos Hotel for hosting the event, along with the participating organisations, partners, and supporters.

The event's message was captured in its theme, 'A Window of Hope', which Al-Yafai described as a meeting point for cultures and generations. "Two cultures meet, generations create, hearts unite, and a message of hope transcends borders," she said.

QCS, AZF partner for Relay for Life '26

Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) and Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF) have signed a co-operation agreement to support and organise the third edition of Relay for Life – Qatar 2026, taking place tomorrow (Friday) at Aspire Olympic Hall.

The agreement builds on the two organisations' longstanding collaboration and underscores their commitment to combining resources and expertise to deliver meaningful humanitarian and community initiatives.

These efforts aim to promote public health and well-being, improve quality of life, and create a supportive environment for people living with cancer and cancer survivors, reflecting the values of compassion and solidarity deeply rooted in Qatari society.

Under the agreement, both parties will collaborate on the event's organisational and logistical aspects, coordinating their efforts to ensure an inclusive, engaging experience for participants from all segments of society while maximising the event's humanitarian and awareness-raising impact.

Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Jabor al-Thani, chairman of Qatar Cancer Society, emphasised that the collaboration with Aspire Zone Foundation represents a strong example of institutional partnerships that translate social responsibility into meaningful humanitarian initiatives with a lasting impact.

"The signing of this agreement reflects our belief in the importance of collaboration among national institutions in serving the community. It also reinforces the understanding that addressing cancer goes beyond medical treatment and healthcare to encompass psychological and community support for people living with cancer and their families, ensuring they never feel alone throughout their journey," Sheikh Dr Khalid said.



He added: "Relay for Life carries a powerful humanitarian message that extends beyond cancer awareness. It embodies the values of hope, solidarity, and the celebration of life. We deeply appreciate Aspire Zone Foundation's collaboration and its valuable contribution to this initiative, which will enable us to reach a wider audience and further strengthen community engagement in supporting people living with cancer and survivors."

Abdulla Nasser al-Naemi, acting chief executive officer of Aspire Zone Foundation, said: "Our partnership with the Qatar Cancer Society reflects Aspire Zone Foundation's commitment to its community role and its continued support for national initiatives that promote health awareness and reinforce the importance of early detection and prevention."

"In line with our social responsibility, we are committed to leveraging the Foundation's facilities and capabilities to support initiatives that create a positive and lasting impact, enhance quality of life, and promote a culture of social responsibility," he added.

The third edition of Relay for Life – Qatar 2026 is expected to bring together approximately 3,000 participants, including people living with cancer, survivors, their families, representatives of companies and institutions, and members of the wider community.

The event will feature a symbolic community walk, interactive activities, and family-friendly entertainment, alongside special moments celebrating stories of hope and recovery and honouring the memory of those who have lost their lives to cancer.

RSV posing greater risk of hospitalisation for children than flu or Covid-19: Study

Researchers at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) and Sidra Medicine, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Hamad Medical Corporation, have found that respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) was associated with substantially more severe illness than influenza or Covid-19 among children in Qatar.

Published in The Lancet Regional Health – Eastern Mediterranean, the study analysed a large, systematically collected dataset of 4,360 respiratory illness episodes among 3,932 children under 18 who attended Sidra Medicine's emergency department between January 2022 and December 2025.

The study is the first from the Eastern Mediterranean Region to directly compare the severity of RSV, influenza, and Covid-19 across the full paediatric age spectrum, from infancy through adolescence.

By examining all three viruses over four years of concurrent circulation within a single national paediatric referral setting, the study addresses important limitations of previous research worldwide, which has often been restricted to comparisons between two viruses, specific age groups, or different periods of viral circulation.

The study found that RSV was associated with substantially more severe illness than either influenza or Covid-19, while the latter two infections showed broadly similar severity.

Influenza accounted for 65% of the illness episodes studied, followed by Covid-19 at 22% and RSV at just 13%. Despite its smaller share of illnesses, hospital admission was approximately four times as common with RSV as with either of the other infections, and intensive care admission was more than three times as common.



Authors of the study, Dr Andres Perez-Lopez of Sidra Medicine and Dr Hiam Chemaitelly of WCM-Q.

Dr Andres Perez-Lopez, chief of the Microbiology Division at Sidra Medicine, who co-led the study and oversaw its microbiological and clinical components, said: "One of the most striking findings was how strongly a child's underlying health influenced the severity of respiratory infections. Children with pre-existing medical conditions had nearly seven times greater chances of hospitalisation and twelve times greater chances of requiring intensive care compared with children without these conditions."

Dr Hiam Chemaitelly, assistant professor of Research in Population Health Sciences at WCM-Q, who designed and co-led the study and oversaw its epidemiological component, said: "It was striking to see how frequently RSV led to hospitalisation and how much could be gained through prevention. Fortunately, effective interventions are now available, including RSV vaccination during pregnancy to protect newborns and long-acting monoclonal antibodies that protect infants during their most vulnerable early months."

Al Wakra Hospital, Heart Hospital receive global recognition for person-centred care

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has achieved two significant milestones, with Al Wakra Hospital receiving Gold Certification and Heart Hospital receiving Silver Certification for Excellence in Person-Centred Care from Planetree International at the Planetree Person-Centred Care (PCC) Global Forum 2026, held in Boston, Massachusetts, from October 11 to 13.

The recognition reflects both hospitals' efforts to implement and embed person-centred care principles into everyday practice, ensuring that patient needs, preferences, and values are respected and that patients and their families are involved in decisions about their care. It also highlights HMC's continued commitment to improving service quality, strengthening staff engagement, and developing practices that respond to the needs of patients and their families.

At the forum, Planetree International also honoured Nasser al-Naimi, chief of Patient Experience at HMC and director of Hamad Healthcare Quality Institute, with the Outstanding Partnership Award. The award recognised his leadership over the past decade in advancing person-centred care and strengthening patient and family engagement in healthcare in Qatar and internationally.

Dr Khalid al-Jalham, chief medical officer at HMC, emphasised that person-centred care is a key pillar in achieving Qatar's vision of delivering world-class healthcare that focuses on patient needs and expectations. He added that the partnership with Planetree International supports a culture of compassionate, person-centred care built on empathy, respect, and effective communication with patients, positively impacting the quality of healthcare and the experience of patients and their families.



Al-Naimi said: "The certification of both hospitals reflects HMC's commitment to strengthening a culture of person-centred care and placing patients, families, and healthcare staff at the heart of the care system. Our longstanding partnership with Planetree International has enabled us to benefit from international best practices and supported our ongoing efforts to improve the patient experience."

Dr Omar al-Qahtani, chief executive officer and medical director of Al Wakra Hospital, said: "Receiving Gold Certification recognises the efforts of our hospital teams to embed person-centred care principles into everyday practice, with a focus on understanding patient needs and preferences, as well as strengthening their involvement throughout their care journey. We remain committed to developing our services to enhance the quality of care and improve the patient experience."

Dr Nidal Assad, chief executive officer and medical director of Heart Hospital, added: "We continue to strengthen communication with patients and involve them in decisions about their care, ensuring that compassion and respect for patient needs remain integral to our specialised cardiac services.

The hospital's Silver Certification reflects the team's commitment to continuously improving the patient experience and embedding person-centred care throughout every stage of service delivery."

US gets more countries to oppose UN resolution condemning its Cuba embargo

Reuters
UN

The UN General Assembly overwhelmingly urged an end to the decades-long US economic embargo on Cuba yesterday, but a US lobbying push led several countries to oppose the resolution or abstain for the first time in years.

The results showed 130 nations in favour of the resolution, 25 abstaining and 17 countries, including the US and Israel, voting against. That compared with a tally of 165-7, with 12 abstentions, last year. Several Western countries, including Germany and Italy, abstained for the first time in many years.

The UN vote carries political weight, but only the US Congress can lift the Cold War-era embargo. The 193-member UN General Assembly has adopted the resolution annually for more than three decades — except for 2020 during the COVID pandemic. "I'm satisfied that so many countries now, including major economies like Korea, like Germany, and others have shifted their position," the US envoy to the UN Mike Waltz told reporters after the vote.

"Diplomacy takes time, but now that we've had a tripling of countries that have shifted, we expect that to only to continue to grow," he said.

The tensions between the two nations at the UN escalated ahead of the vote, including shouting matches between Cuban and American representatives in the corridors of the UN, as well as on the floor of the General Assembly on Tuesday.

"The US government is once again isolated in its attempt to continue strangling the Cuban people and subjecting them to an act of collective punishment and genocide," Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez said in a post on X after the vote.

"Neither its most insane pretexts nor its pressures nor media circus will prevail over the force of facts and truth," he said.

The US has maintained a trade embargo on Cuba for more than 60 years and US President Donald Trump's administration has been stepping up the pressure, after using the military in January to remove Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

The US has voted against the UN resolutions since 1992 but abstained for the first time in 2016 under former President Barack Obama, as Washington and Havana forged a closer relationship.

Cuba has blamed US sanctions for the crisis the country is mired in, the worst economic downturn in decades characterised by shortages of basic goods, collapsing infrastructure and runaway inflation.

Last month, Trump said at the UN that Cuba was a failed state and freedom would be coming to the island nation.

Cuba's electrical grid suffered a total collapse last month, plunging the island into darkness and leaving millions without power.



Smoke rises after a missile targeted Yemen's Aden airport. (**AFP**)

Houthis strike Aden airport after warning

Reuters
Aden/Dubai

Yemen's Houthis attacked Aden airport yesterday, Yemeni government forces said, after the Iran-aligned group warned people to evacuate the facility as fighting escalated in the impoverished country caught in the wider Middle East conflict.

Residents in the southern port city, where the internationally recognised, Saudi-backed government is based, said they heard an explosion near the airport, a humanitarian lifeline and the main gateway to southern Yemen. The Yemeni forces said the attack on the airport caused injuries among civilians and material damage.

Air traffic was halted after the strike, two transport ministry officials told Reuters. An aid source said some UN staff left the airport shortly before the attack and no one was hurt.

A flight with aid workers onboard departed from Aden airport safely yesterday morning to Amman before the incident at the airport, two aid sources told Reuters.

Houthi spokesperson Yahya Saree said in a post on X that the evacuation warning was prompted by what he said was the presence of a Saudi military cargo aircraft delivering weapons.

The Houthis, who control the capital Sanaa and most of northwestern Yemen, have repeatedly targeted Aden airport in the past. Residents said explosions had also been heard elsewhere in the city before the warning was issued.

The attack comes as fighting between the Houthis and the Saudi-led coalition backing Yemen's government has intensified in recent weeks, opening a volatile new front in the wider US-Israeli war on Iran.

Last month, Houthi forces advanced towards the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, one of the world's most strategically important shipping routes, which lies opposite the Strait of Hormuz across the Arabian Peninsula.

Government forces have since pushed to retake territory on the Red Sea coast in a move that could loosen the Houthis' grip on the chokepoint, while the coalition has stepped up strikes against Houthi positions in response to the group's escalating attacks on Saudi Arabia.

India ready for media concerns on disputed privacy law

Reuters
New Delhi

India is open to hearing concerns from media groups about its privacy law and wants to protect press freedom, its IT minister said yesterday, in the first government comments since major media publishers challenged the legislation in the Supreme Court.

A group of 21 news publishers, including billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Network18 and Gautam Adani's NDTV, have challenged the privacy law, arguing it would trample upon investigative work and allow New Delhi to identify journalists' sources.

The Indian government last year announced a privacy law to protect the digital personal data of users, raising compliance requirements for platforms like Meta and Google. As media outlets were not exempt, publishers have said the law was an invasion of press freedom. "Journalistic freedom is guaranteed by the Constitution, and there is no intention to affect that," Vaishnaw said, according to Network18's Moneycontrol website.

"I am inviting all editors. We are happy to take on record all suggestions, and if there is any doubt, the government is open to act accordingly," he added.

The Indian government's privacy law, which would require journalists to seek consent from people they write about, amounted to pre-censorship and could lead to newsrooms shutting down, media groups told the court.

Bolsonaro flees Brazil for US after election

AFP
Opa-locka, US

Brazil's defeated right-wing presidential candidate Flavio Bolsonaro arrived in Florida by private plane yesterday, defying a court order that banned him from leaving his country.

Following swirling speculation over his whereabouts, the 45-year-old was seen disembarking the jet at Opa-Locka Executive Airport outside Miami, AFP witnessed, having flown via Argentina and Ecuador.

Bolsonaro, who lost a runoff election to incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva yesterday, is under investigation in Brazil for alleged corruption and money laundering and, with his election loss, is set to lose parliamentary immunity.

The plane — also carrying his wife and daughters — that landed in Florida had made a brief stop in Guayaquil, Ecuador in the early hours yesterday, AFP journalists saw.

Bolsonaro had seemed likely to be the next president after he came out on top in the first round of elections, but Lula made a surprise surge to retain power.

He had campaigned on a pledge to liberate his father, who is under house arrest for coup-plotting after his own electoral loss to Lula in 2022.

Jair Bolsonaro — a close ally of US President Donald Trump — never conceded defeat and left the country on the eve of his rival's inauguration, only returning to Brazil three months later.

Argentina's opposition lawmakers have since demanded an account of potential assistance provided to Flavio Bolsonaro in his travel to the US.



Brazilian presidential candidate Flavio Bolsonaro (C) arrives at Miami-Opa Locka Executive Airport with his family in Miami, Florida. (**AFP**)

While Argentinian authorities said he was carrying valid travel documents, officials have requested chief of cabinet Diego Santilli to provide details to parliament, according to opposition lawmaker Agustin Rossi yesterday. A concern is that this affects ties with Brazil.

A police source told AFP that Flavio Bolsonaro's Brazilian and diplomatic passports had been cancelled, but the senator has held Italian nationality since 2023, according to Italian documents seen by AFP.

Washington has said it would grant him and his family US visas.

Flavio Bolsonaro said in a video posted on Instagram on Monday that he "never had any intention of leaving the country" and the ban on his exit was a scare tactic.

He said the travel ban was ordered by a Supreme Court justice, and was based on a comment by his US-based brother Eduardo Bolsonaro, who said before the election that "if my brother does not win, I am in favour that he would leave the country."

Lula, who won the election with 51.8% of the vote, called fleeing the country a "shameful" act.

"A person who sneaks out of their country must have something to hide," he said in Brasilia during his 81st birthday celebration on Tuesday.

Following his loss, Bolsonaro said he would seek to annul the result, citing the decision to extend polling hours over transport problems that prevented some citizens from voting.

While congratulations rolled in for Lula from world leaders on both sides of the political divide, Trump said the election "looked terrible to me."

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

"I just thought it was a very bad look, the way it was tabulated — with the extension."

Israel president urges against new vote despite inconclusive result

Israel's president voiced hope yesterday for avoiding a second election after a hard-fought vote produced no clear winner, leaving Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the opposition scrambling for options and making Israeli Arab parties possible kingmakers. With more than 85 % of ballots counted, Netanyahu's right-wing bloc was slightly ahead but still short of a majority after Tuesday's election. Both Netanyahu, and Gadi Eisenkot, a former military chief leading a broad opposition bloc, said they would seek to form the next government. But neither looks set to reach the 61-seat threshold, with Netanyahu's bloc projected to win 53 of the 120 seats in parliament and Eisenkot's opposition set for 48.
Meanwhile, he leader of a key Israeli Arab party said yesterday that he was willing to co-operate with an opposition-led government to unseat Netanyahu, but was not open to joining such a coalition outright. "We do not see the possibility of being part of an Israeli government coalition under the current political circumstances, particularly given the ongoing war in Gaza, the settlements in the West Bank" and other issues, the Joint List's Yousef Jabareen said. "However, with the aim of bringing down this government, it would be possible for us to support an alternative government from outside the coalition." (**AFP**)

US sanctions North Korean network accused of fraud

Reuters
Washington

The United States imposed sanctions yesterday to target what the Treasury Department said were North Korean government-run schemes that use IT workers to defraud US businesses and generate revenue for Pyongyang's weapons programmes.

The Treasury Department said the schemes involve North Korean IT workers fraudulently gaining employment with companies in the United States and elsewhere, and Pyongyang taking most of the workers' wages to fund its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes.

"These networks permeate through the global financial system, necessitating a unified response to match the threat," the department said in a statement, adding that Australia and the European Union also imposed North Korea-related sanctions this month.

North Korea's mission to the United Nations in New York did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The sanctions come as US President Donald Trump has been eager to jump-start talks with North Korea, but Pyongyang has shown little interest in diplomacy aimed at containing its nuclear programme.

'These networks permeate through the global financial system, necessitating a unified response to match the threat,' — US Treasury Department

However, earlier this month Trump downplayed the idea of another high-profile meeting with Kim in China next month.

Trump became the only US president to have met a North Korean leader when he held an unprecedented series of summits with Kim in 2018 and 2019, but the diplomatic efforts broke down over US demands that North Korea give up its nuclear weapons.

Trump has since referred to North Korea repeatedly as a "nuclear power," although his administration has continued to call for the country's denuclearisation and has not formally recognised it as a nuclear-weapons state.

Yesterday's sanctions targets include facilitators and North Korean IT workers based in North Korea and Russia, the Treasury Department said.

The targeted entity is named the First Financial and Technical Development Center, and six of the sanctioned individuals are linked to that firm.

Iraq-Syria ties: PM al-Zaidi talks economic, energy co-operation during his visit

AFP
Damascus

Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi and Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa discussed economic and energy co-operation in Damascus yesterday, official statements said, months after a deal on an Iraqi oil export pipeline.

It is the first visit by an Iraqi premier since al-Sharaa's authorities took power after toppling longtime Syrian ruler Bashar al-Assad in December 2024 following more than 13 years of civil war.

Iraq is seeking to strengthen ties with a neighbour with whom it shares a 600-kilometre border, while Syria is working to become a transit hub for global trade, particularly as countries look for alternatives to the Strait of Hormuz, which remains under blockade.

Baghdad had initially dealt cautiously with the new Syrian authorities, though senior Iraqi political, intelligence and judicial officials have visited Damascus since al-Assad's ouster.

Al-Zaidi and al-Sharaa discussed ways of strengthening co-operation and "developing security, economic and trade co-operation", as well as regional developments, a statement from the Syrian president's office said.

A statement from al-Zaidi's office said they discussed "developing partnerships and joint co-operation in various fields, particularly economic and social, and bolstering security co-operation".

They also discussed "unifying positions around regional and international issues, and working to achieve peace and stability in the region", it added.

The pair addressed issues including "exporting Iraqi oil through the Banias pipeline with an export capacity of up to two million barrels a day" and increasing the volume of trade exchanges, Baghdad said.



Iraq's Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi meets Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa in Damascus. (**Reuters**)

Iraq this year began exporting limited quantities of oil by truck through Syria, after maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz was disrupted following the outbreak of the Middle East war.

In July, Damascus and Baghdad signed a memorandum of understanding to revive the Haditha-Banias pipeline for transporting oil from Iraq to Syria's coast, linking Iraqi production to export markets in the Mediterranean and beyond.

A consortium of three companies including Chevron are set to carry out the project.

Al-Sharareceived al-Zaidi and his delegation at Damascus international airport, Syrian state television reported. A statement from al-Zaidi's office said he also visited the Sayyida Zeinab shrine, Syria's most-visited Shia Muslim pilgrimage site.

The pair had met last month in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

In an interview broadcast on Tuesday by Iraqi television channel Dijlah, al-Sharaa welcomed al-Zaidi's visit and said that "in the past year and a half, something positive has been built in Syrian-Iraqi relations, particularly in economic matters". He said his Sunni-Muslim majority country sees ties with predominantly Shia-Muslim Iraq in terms of their "great historical and economic commonalities" rather than sectarian terms.

In February, the United States transferred over 5,700 Islamic State group detainees from more than 60 countries to Iraq, after they had been held for years at prisons in north and northeast Syria administered by Kurdish forces.

During Tuesday's interview, al-Sharaa said some of the around 3,000 Syrian detainees transferred to Iraq had "no connection" to IS, with talks underway on categorising them and examining their cases. "Syria must bear responsibility for those people and not shift this burden to Iraq," he said.

Last year al-Sharaa, who was imprisoned in Iraq for years after the US-led invasion of 2003 on charges of belonging to Al-Qaeda, missed an Arab League summit hosted by Baghdad after several powerful Iraqi politicians voiced opposition to his visit.

Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani attended instead.

OPINION

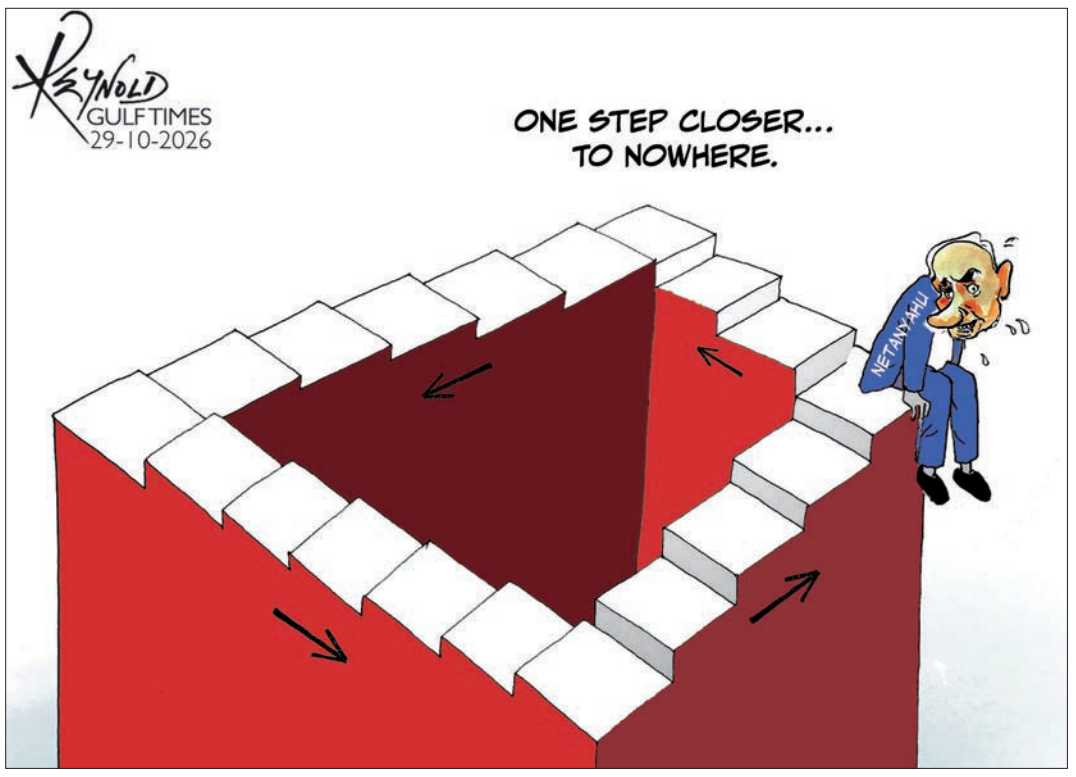
Mbappe's gaffe and backlash

Real Madrid forward Kylian Mbappe's rapid fall from favour in China after remarks about Mao Zedong followed a familiar pattern: online outrage, corporate distancing, platform restrictions and official intervention. Within 24 hours of a podcast clip surfacing in which the France captain referred to Mao as "some guy - I think he's a Chinese dictator", sponsors including Mengniu Dairy, Shanghai Milkground and energy drink-maker Eastroc ended co-operation with the footballer.

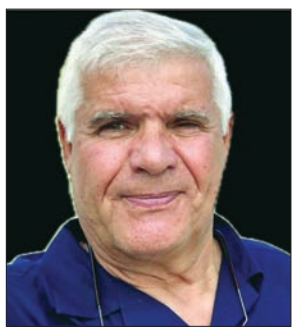
State broadcaster CCTV removed Mbappe-related advertising and Chinese social media platforms restricted access to his accounts. Mbappe apologised on Tuesday, describing his remarks as "ill-judged". The speed of the fallout will be familiar to companies, brands and celebrities with exposure to China. Analysts say the episode is the latest reminder of a business risk that remains difficult to manage despite years of similar controversies.

Foreign brands have repeatedly faced public backlash in China, from Dolce & Gabbana's cancelled Shanghai fashion show in 2018 and apologies by Versace, LVMH-owned Dior and Tapestry's Coach in 2019, to boycotts of H&M, Nike and Adidas over Xinjiang cotton and the NBA's fallout with CCTV after a Houston Rockets executive expressed support for Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement.

The details differ, but the pattern is similar: a remark, image or statement gains traction online, commercial partners come under pressure to respond, and reputational damage quickly outgrows the original offence. "You don't need to think like a Chinese person to succeed in China, but you do need to understand how Chinese audiences will react and the cultural implications of not self-policing," said Michael MacRitchie, founder of MGI Group, which connects global celebrities with Chinese brands. The Mbappe case illustrates how difficult that distinction can be to draw. As the controversy unfolded, the original comments about Mao were largely inaccessible on China's heavily censored internet. Many consumers were therefore exposed less to what Mbappe said than to reports that sponsors had dropped him and official media were condemning him. Zak Dychtwald, founder of BridgeWorks Global, which advises multinational organisations, said that although these controversies remain relatively common, they are preventable. "If you are participating in this market, the expectation is that you respect China's self-narrative and you have a basic understanding of what it is. Red line education should come at the foundation of it," he said. -Reuters



Tehran four and the offer Washington never made



By Jamil K Mroue

Monday's meeting in Tehran between Iran's leadership and the Saudi, Pakistani and Turkish security chiefs was the first of its kind. The immediate triggers were Houthi missile attacks on Saudi Arabia and renewed American and Israeli threats to strike Iran. But these explain little. The deeper cause is more than 70 years of American mistakes.

A chronology of misreading

The record begins in Damascus in 1949, when Washington helped engineer the coup of Husni al-Za'im and taught a generation of Arab officers that power came through the barracks, with a foreign nod. Four years later, in 1953, it overthrew Mohammad Mossadegh, Iran's elected prime minister, to secure oil and a compliant Shah. Iran never forgot it.

Washington never reckoned with that wound. It never apologised, never revisited its assumptions and never learned the country it had humiliated. So when the revolution came in 1979, America was blindsided by a nation it thought it owned, and it has been fighting the consequences ever since.

To be fair, America was also anchoring the dollar to oil and keeping oil flowing, its genuine interest here. Yet its policies kept undermining the very stability that interest needed.

In the 1980s it sided openly with Iraq in the war against Iran. It provided intelligence and logistics, encouraged Gulf money to flow to Baghdad, and looked away while chemical precursors, largely from German firms, became poison gas on the battlefield.

In 1991 the first President Bush won his war against Saddam Hussein, called on the Shia and the Kurds to rise, and then left them to be slaughtered. In 2003, after September 11, came the invasion of Iraq and a "war on terror" whose aims stayed vague and whose mishaps multiplied.

The gravest of the second President Bush's mistakes was born of pure ignorance. In the name of de-Baathification, Washington disbanded the Iraqi army and purged the bureaucracy, emptying the state of the people who ran it. It could not recognise the nodes of power in a society it had never studied, so it destroyed them, and handed the vacuum to militias and insurgents. Since 1979 Washington has played Iran by the Israeli playbook, with diplomacy as a performance between sanctions and strikes.

The general who did not know his enemy

That playbook belongs above all to Benjamin Netanyahu. For 30 years, his career has been built on opposing a Palestinian state and confronting Iran, by force and only by force, doubling down until he described Israel's future as a "super-Sparta". His intelligence services have killed Iranian commanders and nuclear scientists one after another, a professionally remarkable feat. Yet Netanyahu does not know Iran. Closer to home, October 7 revealed that his grasp of his nearest neighbours was poor, misplaced and entirely off the mark.

The warrior who planned a battle, not a war

The device that blew this region apart, and set off the wars, side-wars and assassinations since, was the work of one man. Yahya Sinwar was an intelligent, reckless guerrilla commander. He planned a battle. He did not plan a war. He left the consequences to fall on his own people and on other nations. That one man could do this shows how fragile we are.



What the four must learn

The first lesson is that regional security cannot be outsourced. But a region that will not outsource its security must know itself, and it does not. We like to say these peoples know one another through history, religion and culture. We do not. Syria and Iraq share hundreds of kilometres of border with Turkey, yet Turkish is barely taught in either, and Arabic is barely taught in Turkey.

Even within Iraq and Syria, where Kurds are part of the nation, the pattern repeats: Kurds do not learn Arabic as a shared language of citizenship, and Arabs do not learn Kurdish at all. The same is true between the Arabs and Iran. In 2004, on a television news programme tied to a Baathist conference of Syrian emigrants convened by the Syrian government, I suggested that Arabs, who teach their children English, French and Italian, should also teach them Turkish, Persian, Kurdish, Greek and Hebrew. It would double a child's capacity, and it is the natural thing for neighbours to do. Two Baathists on the panel, Arab nationalists of the jingoistic kind, took me to pieces. "How can you say that? We are Arabs." Chauvinism lives in all our countries.

The gap is wider between states than between peoples. These governments do not know one another's systems of governance, their foreign-policy machinery or their institutions. Pakistan may know Saudi Arabia, having served there militarily. Saudi Arabia knows little of Turkey.

There is one instructive exception. Iran and Turkey have built robust institutional ties, on energy, agriculture, the frontier, culture and security, among others, that work independently of the politics of the day. Those ties have carried the two countries through crises that could have gone much worse. That is the model: more knowledge, more institutions, built on reality rather than ignorance. Otherwise these four will simply repeat what America did, interfering without knowledge, without education and without sensitivity, at the same cost.

The fuse is in Palestine

The test is not the Iran-America frontier. The fuse is in Palestine. The evidence is around 1,200 people killed and some 250 taken hostage on October 7, and the tens of thousands killed in Gaza since, more than 100,000 by some estimates. This week the four met as Israelis went to the polls. That timing is an opportunity. The task is to defuse Israel from the inside.

That means one offer, delivered in three tones that reinforce each other. To the new Knesset, in all its factions: a new policy is on the table. To the incoming government: a new situation awaits it. And to the Israeli people: you have a chance for peace. We in the Arab world know civil hatred. We have lived through civil wars, and we know that this anger serves nothing.

To the Palestinians, the message must be as strict and direct as possible. The corruption of the Abbas era does not work. Join us, truly, in forming a government of serious stature that is able to take responsibility.

The contrast that matters

The 2002 Arab Peace Initiative offered Israel normalisation for a Palestinian state, with Iran outside it and opposed. What is new now is the sender: an offer backed by Riyadh, Ankara, Islamabad and, above all, Tehran, which no Israeli government has ever received.

This is the point of the chronology. From Damascus in 1949 to Baghdad in 2003, Washington never recognised the situation in front of it, and never behaved as a power must behave if it does not want war, colonisation or endless eruptions. The four in Tehran have the chance to do what America never did. If they make the offer and Israel refuses it, the world will know where the fuse lies.

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

How energy resources can shape strategic objectives



By Rory Miller

It is widely believed that only big powers, notably the United States and the Russia, can use their energy resources to achieve their strategic priorities, including their foreign policy goals. On the other hand, the conventional view is that energy-rich small states are unable to do the same because their policy choices will always reflect the demands and pressures of bigger and more powerful actors, rather than their own energy resources and revenues.

Such views can be traced back to the Cold War when small states had a limited capacity to move beyond reactive, involuntary, and short-term policies regardless of whether they had oil, gas, or any other natural resources.

While small states in today's world remain vulnerable to the whims of larger regional and global powers, such thinking ignores the growing reality that many energy-rich small states increasingly view their resource endowments first and foremost as important instruments of national power at a time of instability, insecurity and disorder in the international system.

In part, this is because small states increasingly conceive of their energy resources as ways to add to their non-traditional sources of power, which include flexible manoeuvring, rapid institution building, and smart positioning. This, in turn, helps them to demonstrate value and sell a narrative in order to build resilience, consolidate political independence and distinguish their identity from neighbours and competitors.

An excellent example of this is the way that Qatar overcame the economic and diplomatic isolation it faced during the embargo of 2017-2020 by drawing on its innovative and long-term energy partnerships. The country's long-time commitment to investing in co-operation that fosters interdependence in the international system became a key strategic instrument for Qatar during this time. This allowed the country to both sell a narrative and demonstrate value to two-dozen partners across four continents.

Another example is Norway's Baltic Pipe project, which opened in 2022 with the mandate to transports gas from the Norwegian gas system in the North Sea to Poland and Denmark. Specifically, this was intended to create a new gas supply corridor in the European market as a way to contribute to European independence from Russian energy.

From the time of its launch, in the midst of the Russia-Ukraine war and a day after the Nord Stream pipeline explosion, Norwegian officials did not view this as an economic project but as a "strategic and important symbolic project", as the country's minister of petroleum and energy explained. In other words, the launch of this pipeline was used by Norway as a way to demonstrate value to Europe and to sell a narrative of the country as a key contributor to European security and stability in a time of upheaval and conflict.

Guyana, with oil production approaching a million barrels per day and GDP growth averaging 47% annually since 2022, is the fastest growing economy in the world in 2026. But apart from using its newfound energy resources for domestic economic development, this South American country has used its standing as a major energy player to increase its regional diplomatic influence.

It has also looked to sell a narrative of itself as an important partner in Western energy supply chains in response to the Ukraine war. Notably, in recent years this has resulted in some geopolitical victories for Guyana, including an energy security agreement with the United States and a seat on the UN Security Council as a temporary member.

Uruguay and Costa Rica are negligible oil and gas exporters, but both have used their green status, including their nearly fully decarbonised grids, to demonstrate value and sell a narrative around environmental leadership, clean energy infrastructure and sustainable finance.

Uruguay, for example, is the first recipient of a World Bank commercial green hydrogen loan. It has also consolidated its regional value by establishing itself as an important provider of clean electricity to pivotal regional states Argentina and Brazil. Costa Rica is the first country to secure LEAF Coalition climate financing support. It is also the co-founder of the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for the "30 by 30" biodiversity target and a founder of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA).

In all these cases, as well as many others not mentioned here, energy is used by small states to achieve their strategic objectives and influence other actors to take their interests into account. This allows small states to assert their independence and to resist attempts by bigger actors to impose their preferences on them. This deepens their capacity for resilience in a highly competitive and unstable wider-international system.

Acknowledging this enables us to go beyond the traditional and increasingly outdated view of small state energy producers as only being preoccupied with stable supply and demand, access and affordability, and the safe transit of energy products to consumer markets. It also allows us to stop thinking about the energy revenues of small states only in terms of providing the surplus financial resources required for economic development.

This underscores a key point. In a contemporary world in which actors of all sizes use of energy resources as part of their strategies, it is essential to better understand the interrelationship between energy resources and strategic decision-making in small states.

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



Cars are parked at the Amazonia Mall, in Georgetown, Guyana. The country's fast-growing economy has benefitted from a reshaped global energy market due to the US-Israeli war on Iran. — **Reuters**

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Perlita Gardens: A new definition of posh residential lifestyle at The Pearl Island

United Development Company (UDC) is bringing together its residential portfolio at Cityscape Qatar 2026, highlighting two distinct offerings that reflect the evolving needs of homeowners and investors: Perlita Gardens, a new villa community at The Pearl Island, and Crystal Residence, a completed apartment development on Gewan Island featuring flexible ownership options and a limited-time sales offer.

The Company's presence at Stand H3.A10 brings two distinct residential propositions into one portfolio: Crystal Residence on Gewan Island, offering completed one- to four-bedroom apartments with flexible ownership options, and Perlita Gardens at The Pearl Island, UDC's newly launched villa community offering a different proposition centred on space, privacy and family living.

Together, these offerings demonstrate the breadth of UDC's residential strategy and the different ways buyers can enter its destinations, whether seeking a completed home, an investment opportunity, a flexible ownership structure, or a new property within an established community.

Yasser Salah al-Jaidah, UDC president and CEO, said: "Cityscape provides an important opportunity to understand how the market is evolving and, equally, to demonstrate how UDC continues to evolve its residential offering in response. What we are presenting this year reflects the breadth of our role as a master developer, with different products, ownership structures and destination environments responding to different market requirements."

Hussain Akbar al-Baker, executive director of Commercial and Properties at UDC, said: "Crystal Residence and Perlita Gardens represent different points within that portfolio, but they are connected by a common principle: creating residential opportunities within destinations that have a clear identity, established infrastructure and a long-term development vision. Whether a buyer is considering a completed apartment on Gewan Island or a new villa within The Pearl Island, the decision extends beyond the property to the environment, services and experience that surround it."

Complementing the completed residential offering at Gewan Island is Perlita Gardens, which





UDC officially unveiled at Cityscape Qatar as the next major addition to The Pearl Island's residential portfolio.

The new community will comprise 150 standalone villas across seven distinct typologies, consisting of six master bedrooms and designed around privacy, multigenerational living, hosting, indoor-outdoor living and flexible family spaces.

UDC has opened Expression of Interest registrations and launched the limited release of Phase One sales for Perlita Gardens at Cityscape. Buyers can benefit from UDC's attractive in-house payment plan, paired with bank mortgage financing through Commercial Bank and Dukhan Bank. The launch provides prospective buyers with the opportunity to secure villas at an off-plan pricing advantage, with development of the community expected to be completed over approximately three years.

The project introduces a different proposition from Crystal Residence, reflecting a different stage of the ownership journey. While Crystal Residence provides a completed residential product within a flourishing destination, Perlita Gardens offers buyers the opportunity to participate in a new residential development within one of Qatar's most established integrated communities.

A key part of UDC's Cityscape offering is Crystal Residence, a completed residential development on Gewan Island comprising one- to four-bedroom apartments. The development sits within an increasingly active waterfront environment, with residents benefiting from proximity to Crystal Walkway and its seaside promenade, alongside a growing mix of retail, dining, leisure and hospitality destinations across Gewan Island.

For investors in particular, this provides an opportunity to consider the property in the context of an operating destination, while Gewan Island continues to expand its residential, retail, leisure and hospitality offering.

UDC has introduced two ownership pathways for Crystal Residence, providing greater flexibility for buyers. The first offers a 7.7% down payment with interest-free installments over six years, with the option to rent out the property and generate rental income from the outset. The second is a seven-year Lease-to-Own programme with a 2% buy-in fee, with the option to sublease the property.

For Perlita Gardens in particular, the experience allows visitors to understand the relationship between the individual villas and the broader neighbourhood, including its landscaping, streetscape, shared spaces and architectural identity. For Crystal Residence, visitors can learn more about the completed apartments, available ownership pathways and the benefits of living within Gewan Island's evolving waterfront environment.

The technology, however, serves a broader purpose than simply creating an immersive exhibition experience. Engagement will continue through UDC's residential sales channels following the exhibition, allowing prospective buyers to take the discussions initiated at Cityscape into more detailed property and investment consultations.

QLC organises third edition of Leadership Innovation Forum

From Page 1

The forum's programme opened with a documentary film highlighting the leadership legacy of His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. The film reviewed key milestones and strategic transformations in Qatar throughout his tenure, highlighting his role in establishing robust national institutions that drove comprehensive development and renaissance.
It underscored the importance of long-term vision in building organisations capable of sustaining achievement across generations, reinforcing the forum's central theme: "Strategy Before Execution: Building Institutions That Endure Beyond Their Leaders."
The forum also featured three main panel discussions focusing on the education, infrastructure, and oil and gas sectors, showcasing practices and experiences that translate strategic visions into sustainable operational frameworks.
Additionally, the program included three parallel, certificate-granting workshops tailored for QLC alumni, covering strategic leadership in both Arabic and English, alongside a specialised workshop for young emerging leaders. The workshops focused on developing leadership skills and bridging strategic concepts with practical application.
The forum builds on Qatar Leadership Centre's ongoing mission to prepare and develop national leaders, while strengthening communication and knowledge sharing within its alumni community of more than 1,400 graduates who hold leadership roles across government and private sectors.
Through this platform, the centre continues its efforts to expand the horizons of leadership dialogue, draw inspiration from successful experiences, and explore innovative solutions that enhance performance and foster resilient, sustainable institutions in support of national development and the Qatar National Vision.

CNN's Global Perspectives forum opens in Doha today

From Page 1

Editorial content and news-making interviews from the event will run across CNN platforms.
Following the success of the inaugural Global Perspectives: On Africa summit and an impactful program at the World Economic Forum in Davos, the Global Perspectives series continues to travel the world to explore the big ideas, bold leadership, and dynamic economies at the frontlines of global transformation.
CNN will host two full editions of its flagship event series this fall with Global Perspectives: In Doha as well as Global Perspectives: In Bangkok. Global Perspectives: In Doha had been originally scheduled for 20 April but was postponed due to events in the region.
Global Perspectives: In Doha marks another milestone in the growing collaboration between CNN and Media City Qatar. Since establishing its operation in Doha in 2025, CNN has expanded its presence through initiatives including CNN Creators, ongoing talent development initiatives, and now the region's first edition of Global Perspectives.
HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani is expected to attend the event as a distinguished guest, organisers revealed at a press conference held earlier to announce the event. Ellana Lee, Group Senior Vice-President, GM APAC, and Global head of Productions at CNN, said the forum comes at a critical time for international relations.
Lee said, "When the world can feel increasingly divided, we believe there's real value in bringing different people and their unique perspectives together. 'Global Perspectives' is a place where the ideas that are shaping our world can be voiced and shared. It's a meeting place where CNN's award-winning journalism can partner with thought leaders to create meaningful dialogue."
She added: "This is CNN's first Global Perspectives event here in the Middle East, and it could hardly come at a better time. There's no better place to host it than here in Qatar, in the heart of the region."
The speaker line-up includes Qatar Museums Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. Other speakers joining the forum include Dr Mohamed Farid Saleh, Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Egypt; Wamkele Mene, secretary-general of the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat; and Lei Zhang, founder and chairman of Envision.

Fatal train collision kills 68 near Madrid

AFP
Urda, Spain

A high-speed train collision south of Madrid killed 68 people and injured scores more yesterday, with the toll likely to rise, authorities said, in one of Europe's deadliest such disasters this century.

The second such accident to strike Spain this year will raise fresh questions about the country's rail safety, with the transport minister speaking of an "error" and "inexplicable circumstances" that led to the collision.

AFP reporters on the scene in the central region of Castilla-La Mancha saw one train embedded into another and some carriages lying on their side in tangles of metal debris at the bottom of an embankment.

Dozens of emergency services vehicles were racing to and from the site during a frantic search for survivors, while several black vans arrived from a funeral parlour.

Castilla-La Mancha's leader Emiliano Garcia-Page told reporters at the scene that 68 people had died, raising an earlier toll of 64 and having already warned of more victims being found.

A spokeswoman from the Castilla-La Mancha regional government told AFP that more than 100 people had been injured. Of them, 58 had been taken to hospital, with 15 in a critical condition.

State railway operator Renfe confirmed in a statement that the main high-speed line from Madrid to southern Spain had been suspended after one of its services suffered an accident with a train from private Spanish company Iryo.

Pablo Mejia, 42, with blood staining his grey jumper, told AFP that he had miraculously survived after changing his seat, as he awaited a transfer to the southern city of Seville. He recounted "a very strong hit. It lasted a long time until it stopped, lots of people on the floor, on top of each other, seats ripped out, suitcases."

A visibly shaken Manuel Ortiz who lives in the village of Urda close to the site of the accident, around 130 kilometres south of Madrid, told AFP he had been transporting survivors all morning in his car.

Ortiz, 49, described a "horrific, horrible" scene that "smelled of an accident, of metal".

Transport Minister Oscar Puente told reporters that the collision came after a train was ordered to go in "error" despite a technical failure affecting the automatic control system that halted all services on a 69-kilometre stretch of track.

Cabinet approval for QFMA draft proposal

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting held yesterday at the Amiri Diwan. After the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi stated the following:
At the outset of the meeting, the Cabinet commended the participation of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in the 8th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), held in Moscow. His Highness's participation reflects a commitment to enhancing co-ordination and exchanging perspectives on the challenges facing global gas markets -- challenges that necessitate a concerted, collective effort. It also underscores Qatar's leading role in the liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry, its contribution to strengthening global energy security, and its dedication to fostering partnerships built on trust and mutual interests.
The Cabinet also commended HH the Amir's meetings in Moscow on Tuesday with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian. Furthermore, the Cabinet noted His Highness's meeting in Tashkent with Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, which took place during His Highness's working visit to Uzbekistan on Monday.
The Cabinet commended the United States' Foreign Policy Association's (FPA) decision to honour HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in recognition of his pioneering role in international mediation and diplomacy. During a ceremony held in New York for this occasion, the FPA announced its decision to award its medal for this year to His Highness, citing his significant contributions toward upholding international peace and security, his commitment to the principles of mediation, dialogue, and diplomatic engagement within Qatar's foreign policy, and his efforts to foster multilateral co-operation both regionally and internationally.
The Cabinet congratulated the winning entities and individuals of the first edition of the Qatarisation Award in the Private Sector (2026), across both its sectoral and thematic categories, who were honoured on Tuesday. The Cabinet commended their outstanding role and valuable contributions toward supporting localisation efforts, empowering Qatari talent, and strengthening the private sector's position as a key partner in the development of the national economy.
The Cabinet then reviewed the items on its agenda and approved a draft law amending certain provisions of Law No. 8 of 2012 concerning the Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA), and decided to refer it to the Shura Council.
The draft law, prepared by the QFMA in co-ordination with relevant entities, is part of an effort to develop the legislative framework for capital markets in line with the rapid evolution of financial products and instruments. It expands the QFMA's scope to encompass digital securities and off-market activities, consolidates the regulation of investment funds and collective investment schemes under the authority's supervision, strengthens the QFMA's mechanisms for addressing violations, and restructures the penalties for capital market offenses, all with the aim of enhancing investor protection and upholding the principles of disclosure, transparency, and fair trading.
The Cabinet decided to approve the draft executive program for the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Government of Qatar and the Government of Morocco in the field of endowments and Islamic affairs, as well as the draft executive program for the co-operation agreement between the Government of Qatar and the Government of Egypt in the field of youth and sports, for the years 2026, 2027, and 2028.
The Cabinet concluded its meeting by reviewing the semi-annual report on the activities of the national committee for combating environmental damage and encroachments for the period from Feb 1 to July 31, 2026, the first semi-annual report for 2026 on the progress made in implementing the National Cyber Security Strategy (2024-2030), a report on the outcomes of participation in the 39th meeting of the GCC Ministers of Youth and Sports (Manama, September 2026), and a report on the outcomes of participation in the 12th meeting of the GCC Committee of Ministers of Health and the 89th session of the GCC Council of Ministers of Health (Manama, September 2026), taking appropriate decisions regarding them. (QNA)

Scale AI expands long-term presence in Qatar with a home in UDC Tower at The Pearl Island

Scale AI, which provides the high-quality data that powers the world's leading AI models and helps enterprises and governments build, deploy and oversee AI applications, signed an agreement yesterday with United Development Company (UDC) to establish a long-term home for Scale Qatar at UDC Tower at The Pearl Island in Doha.

The agreement was signed by Yasser Salah al-Jaidah, UDC president and CEO; and Amr Samir, Qatar country lead at Scale AI, at UDC's pavilion in Cityscape Qatar 2026 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.

The new office, nearly 2,000sqm, builds on the five-year partnership Scale announced with Qatar and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) at Web Summit Qatar 2025. It reflects Scale's enduring confidence in Qatar's future and its commitment to supporting the country's AI ambitions through a growing team on the ground.



"Qatar's leadership has set a compelling vision for AI to serve its people and strengthen its institutions, and MCIT is turning that vision into practical capability" said Samir.

"We are honoured by the State of Qatar's and MCIT's trust and partnership. Our confidence in Qatar's long-term vision for an AI-enabled society is stronger than ever. Our home at The Pearl reflects our commitment to contribute for years to come, working alongside our partners and talent in Qatar to build reliable AI."

Through its partnership with Qatar and MCIT, Scale's team in Doha works across healthcare, justice, education and higher education, tourism and broader government. The company brings experience from its work with leading frontier AI labs to help develop, evaluate and deploy reliable AI aligned with Qatar's language, culture and national priorities.

Scale's Doha team has grown to nearly 100 people, with nearly 50% technical engineers. To date, Scale has trained or upskilled nearly 6,000 people in Qatar and connects talent in Qatar to its global network of AI experts.

Developed by UDC, The Pearl Island offers an integrated business and lifestyle environment, bringing together premium office spaces, waterfront residences, hospitality, dining, retail and leisure.

This setting provides Scale AI and other leading companies with a suitable base from which to establish their operations and expand their presence in Qatar, while enabling their teams to benefit from a comprehensive residential offering and enjoy a diverse range of experiences in Doha.

Al-Jaidah said: "Scale Qatar's presence at UDC Tower reflects the growing appeal of The Pearl Island as a destination for leading local and international businesses. We see opportunities to build on this momentum by attracting companies that contribute to Qatar's evolving business landscape and strengthen the island's role as a hub for innovation, technology and knowledge-based industries."

Ceasefire in Russia-occupied Oleshky holds for second day

AFP
Kyiv

A US-brokered local ceasefire in southern Ukraine was holding for a second day, both sides said yesterday, as hopes grew that vital aid would be able to reach stranded residents. Locals in the city of Oleshky, under Russian occupation in Ukraine's southern Kherson region, have faced food, water and medicine shortages for months, caught in the crossfire between both sides.

Some of the estimated 2,000 people still there — out of the pre-war population of 24,000 — had resorted to hunting and eating pigeons, former residents who are still in touch with those in the city told AFP.

The human rights ombudsmen of both Russia and Ukraine said yesterday that the truce — which came into effect early Tuesday morning — was still holding. "30 hours of the ceasefire in Oleshky have passed without a single incident," said Ukraine's Dmytro Lubinets.

"No incidents have been recorded in the 30 hours of the ceasefire in Oleshky," Russia's Yana Lantratova said in a similarly worded statement.

The ceasefire will be guaranteed by "the physical presence of both ombudsmen: Ukrainian and Russian" on the ground, Lubinets's office told journalists.

Route demining was "currently underway", Lubinets said on social media, adding this was a "crucial step toward ensuring the safe delivery of humanitarian aid and enabling civilians who wish to leave the city to do so".

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that since the ceasefire entered into force, there had been "no massive attacks" on the regional capital of Kherson.

QATAR

Qatar's past challenges offer lessons in building resilient institutions: QLC expert

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter


Prof Steven Wright

Qatar's experience with the blockade and Covid-19 has strengthened institutional resilience, and lessons from its development are now shaping leadership discussions and efforts to prepare future generations of leaders, Prof Steven Wright, director of the Leadership Knowledgebase at the Qatar Leadership Centre (QLC), has said.

Speaking to Gulf Times on the sidelines of the third Leadership Innovation Forum 2026 in Doha yesterday, he said the country's experience navigating major challenges has helped build institutions better prepared to face future uncertainties.

Wright said the resilience demonstrated during the blockade and the Covid-19 pandemic offered valuable lessons for the country's institutions.

"When we look back at the period of the blockade, Covid, the resilience and experience that Qatar actually managed to achieve at that time are all lessons in terms of how the institutions in Qatar have proved to be resilient for the future," he said.

Wright added that leadership experience had been carried across different levels of the country, helping Qatar draw on past challenges while preparing for emerging ones.

The forum, held under the theme "Strategy Before Execution: Building Institutions That Endure Beyond Their Leaders", examined how Qatar's development experience could help build organisations that sustain their achievements beyond leadership changes.

Wright said discussions focused on how the country developed key sectors, including higher education, infrastructure, tourism, and oil and gas, and how the lessons learned could support long-term, sustainable development.

The forum examined the higher education sector, including how its development could continue to make a lasting contribution to Qatar. The forum also explored infrastructure development across the country, including projects associated with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, and tourism growth.

Another focus was the energy sector, where Qatar's long-term investment in oil and gas has helped establish its position in the global liquefied natural gas (LNG) and petrochemicals industries.

Wright said bringing these experiences together allowed participants to examine the decisions and strategies behind Qatar's development, particularly at a time when resilience and long-term planning remain important.

He also highlighted the need to ensure leadership knowledge and experience reach younger generations, calling them central to the country's future.

"The whole goal is really to actually create mechanisms and processes and experience which cascade all the way down to the youth, because that's the future generation," he said.

Wright noted that the forum's programme included a youth workshop following the panel discussions, allowing young participants to share their perspectives and experiences.

He said this approach connected the lessons of previous generations with the expectations of those who would lead in the future.

The forum sought to link Qatar's leadership legacy with practical approaches to institutional sustainability, ensuring that experience gained through national development continues to inform future decision-making.

Tasweer exhibition explores memory, identity through three photographers' works

By Joey Aguilar
Doha


Khalifa al-Obaidly (*right*) with Qatar Museums CEO Mohammed Saad al-Rumaihi at the exhibition's opening. **PICTURE:** Qatar Museums


The exhibition features the works of Mohammed Fakhroo, Ghada al-Mawlawi and Raja Aderdor. **PICTURES:** Joey Aguilar

Photographs exploring family traditions, consumer culture and everyday signs of identity are on display at Bayt Al Wakrah as Tasweer presents 'As the Image Unfolds – The Language of Athar,' an exhibition running until December 15.

Featuring new works by Mohammed Fakhroo, Ghada al-Mawlawi and Raja Aderdor, the exhibition marks the culmination of Tasweer's five-month artist residency programme, which gave the participants time and space to research, experiment and develop their photographic practices.

Taking its title from the Arabic word athar, meaning traces or imprints, the exhibition brings together three perspectives on memory, belonging and the environments people inhabit.

In a press statement, Tasweer director Khalifa al-Obaidly said the residency allowed the artists to explore their ideas and refine their approaches.

"A residency gives an artist something very valuable: time. Over these five months, Mohammed Fakhroo, Ghada al-Mawlawi and Raja Aderdor were able to question their ideas, test different approaches and allow their projects to develop gradually," he said.

"What audiences see in The Language of Athar is the result of that process, reflecting three distinct ways of thinking about traces, memory and the places around us."

Established in 2021, Tasweer has played an important role in developing Qatar's photography scene and engaging photographers across the West Asia and North Africa region through its programmes, competitions and activities, al-Obaidly said.

The exhibition is the first outcome of the organisation's artist-in-residence programme, which provided participants with studio space, stipends and mentorship to support their artistic development and the creation of new bodies of work inspired by their perspectives on life in Qatar.

"The aim is to help artists develop their practices and create a body of work that comes from the local context here in Qatar, seen through their eyes," he said.

The three projects explore the exhibition's central themes from different angles.

Al-Mawlawi, a Qatari photographer working across still-life and documentary photography, explores family memory in Portals of Belonging. Drawing on the hospitality rituals of her two grandmothers, the project uses heirloom objects, table settings, and everyday gestures of care to examine how love, memory, and belonging pass down through generations.

In For Sale?, Qatari filmmaker, photographer and writer Fakhroo examines consumer culture through images of


Photographic works examining memory, consumerism and cultural identity are showcased in Tasweer's 'As the Image Unfolds – The Language of Athar' exhibition.

shops, markets, workers, mannequins and staged displays. The project explores the relationship between commercial presentation, labour and desire, prompting viewers to look more closely at familiar retail environments.

Meanwhile, photographer and visual storyteller Aderdor presents Signs_Seen, Yet Unseen, a series of photographs taken across Qatar and Morocco. Featuring handwritten notices, religious phrases, shop signs and other everyday messages, the work explores how public signage reflects identity, faith, humour, labour and belonging.

Hosted at Bayt Al Wakrah, the residency enabled the artists to refine their projects through research, experimentation and dialogue. Al-Obaidly and Ghayyan al-Amine mentored the participants, while Maria Ovsyannikova also mentored and curated the exhibition.

Presented as part of the Qatar Creates 2026–27 season, The Language of Athar contributes to the country's wider cultural programme spanning visual art, design, photography, heritage and other creative disciplines.

The exhibition is open at Bayt Al Wakrah from Saturday-Thursday, 9am-7pm, and on Fridays from 1.30pm-7pm. Admission is free, with booking required through the Tasweer website.

