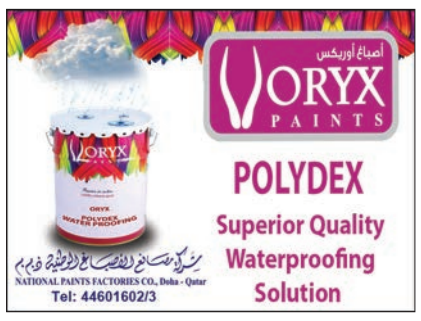
Qatar's best car marketplace
qic·market
QIC
*Non-insurance services are provided by Anoud Tech, a subsidiary of QIC

GULF TIMES
published in QATAR since 1978
THURSDAY Vol. XXXXVI No. 13929
November 19, 2026
Jumada II 9, 1448 AH
www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

Now screen time can feel like an adventure.
Activate today starting from QR 290!
vodafone
Shop with Confidence 16001
For telecom complaints 103 and inquiries




**BUSINESS** | Page 1

QFC welcomes Apex Digital 3.0 to advance fund tokenisation









6THSTREET.COM
IS NOW
AIVI
Authentic Fashion & Lifestyle Destination
Delivering In
90
Minutes
Scan the QR code & download the AIVI app

# Amir, Swiss president eye broader horizons





His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Swiss President Guy Parmelin held a session of official talks at the Bernerhof in the Swiss capital, Bern, yesterday, focusing on strengthening bilateral relations and expanding co-operation between the two countries.

At the outset of the meeting, President Parmelin welcomed HH the Amir and his accompanying delegation, expressing his pleasure at receiving His Highness in Bern and voicing hope that the state visit would further strengthen co-operation between Qatar and Switzerland. He praised the progress achieved in bilateral relations in recent years and expressed his desire to see co-operation broadened across all sectors.

HH the Amir expressed his pleasure at undertaking the state visit to Switzerland and thanked the Swiss president, government and people for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to him and his delegation. His Highness highlighted the strength of Qatari-Swiss relations and their continued development, underpinned by the longstanding friendship between the two countries and their growing co-operation across various fields.

The talks were attended on the Qatari side by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi, HE the Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Faisal bin Thani al-Thani. To Page 7



## Amir attends dinner banquet

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to strengthening its partnership with Switzerland in technology, innovation, energy and healthcare, while underscoring the importance of diplomacy, dialogue and international co-operation in promoting sustainable peace.

His Highness the Amir made the remarks at a dinner banquet hosted in his honour and that of the accompanying delegation by Swiss Confederation President Guy Parmelin at the Bernerhof Palace yesterday.

Addressing the gathering, the Amir said his visit to Switzerland reflected Qatar's appreciation of the friendly relations between the two countries and its commitment to developing them in the interests of both nations and their peoples. To Page 7



## Amir urges stronger ties during parliament visit



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani visited the Federal Assembly of Switzerland (Swiss Parliament) at the Federal Palace in Bern yesterday. Upon arrival, HH the Amir was welcomed by Swiss President Guy Parmelin.

Addressing the Federal Council and the Federal Assembly, HH the Amir emphasised that the partnership between Qatar and Switzerland is founded on mutual trust and respect. He noted that relations between the two countries have steadily strengthened since the establishment of diplomatic ties, driven by political dialogue and co-operation in trade, investment and scientific research. He highlighted their shared commitment to upholding human dignity and human rights, as well as their common belief that peace and prosperity are intrinsically linked.

HH the Amir expressed his desire to expand trade and investment and strengthen ties between institutions and companies in both countries, particularly in the knowledge economy, energy and healthcare sectors. He pointed to the considerable potential for greater co-operation in education, scientific research, technology, innovation and sustainable development. He further affirmed that Qatar National Vision 2030 provides a framework for human development, economic diversification and sustainability, with the partnership with Switzerland contributing to the realisation of these objectives.

Reflecting on the foundations of national prosperity, HH the Amir stressed that prosperous nations do not exist in isolation from their surroundings nor should their prosperity come at the expense of others. To Page 7

## Amir's visit heralds new era in bilaterals

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's state visit to Switzerland marks a significant milestone in the steadily expanding partnership between the two countries, underpinned by shared commitments to diplomacy, international mediation, economic co-operation and sustainable development.

The visit reflects the strength of bilateral relations and the determination of both nations to deepen their partnership across political, economic, investment, scientific and cultural fields, while reinforcing their common approach to resolving regional and international challenges through dialogue. During the visit, HH the Amir is holding discussions with senior Swiss officials on strengthening bilateral relations, expanding co-operation and exchanging views on major regional and international developments, particularly efforts to promote peace and stability. To Page 7

## New traffic law takes effect on December 19

**By Tawfik Lamari**
Staff Reporter

Qatar's new Traffic Law, which introduces penalties for unjustifiably slow driving on highways and allows vehicles to be impounded for up to 90 days for mobile phone use and other distractions while driving, will come into force on December 19, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) announced yesterday. The legislation, issued under Law No 19 of 2026, also paves the way for the introduction of minimum and maximum speed limits on highways as part of wider measures to improve road safety, regulate modern modes of transport and reduce traffic-related fatalities.

Unveiling the key provisions at a press conference, senior MoI officials described the legislation as a major step towards strengthening road safety, protecting lives and property, and ensuring that traffic regulations keep pace with advances in transport infrastructure, technology and enforcement methods.

Brigadier Ahmed Abdullah al-Harmi, Director of the Legal Affairs Department, confirmed that the new law had been published in the Official Gazette and would take effect on December 19, 2026, 30 days after its publication, in accordance with Qatar's legislative procedures. To Page 8

# Doha joins global elite with triple urban excellence certification

**By Ayman Adly**
Staff Reporter

Doha has earned a coveted place among the world's leading cities for quality of life, smart innovation and urban resilience, securing the highest international certification for city performance in a landmark achievement that underscores Qatar's ambition to build a smarter, greener and more sustainable urban future.

The Doha Metropolitan Area has been awarded Platinum certification by the World Council on City Data (WCCD), the highest distinction under the ISO 37120 international standard, alongside certifications for smart cities (ISO 37122) and resilient cities (ISO 37123).

The triple recognition marks a significant milestone in Qatar's urban transformation, placing Doha within an internationally recognised framework for measuring everything from public services and infrastructure




to environmental sustainability, technological innovation and the ability to withstand future challenges.

More than an international accolade, the achievement provides Doha with a powerful tool to measure its progress against global benchmarks, identify opportunities for improvement and reinforce its appeal to international investors and institutions. To Page 8

# Qatar's heritage gleams on Arab map with two new inscriptions

**By Tawfik Lamari**
Staff Reporter



Qatar Museums (QM) has lifted the curtain on two new jewels in the nation's crown. Al Mafjar Heritage Village and Al Rekayat Fort have been inscribed on the Architectural and Urban Heritage Register of Arab Countries, administered by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO). The announcement was made at the 11th Meeting of the Observatory of Architectural and Urban Heritage in Arab Countries, held in Egypt.

With these two additions, Qatar now has six sites on the register, a firmer footing on the Arab heritage map and a clear sign of QM's sustained commitment to documenting, preserving and promoting the nation's cultural and historical legacy, at home and abroad. To Page 8

LuLu لولو

Where the world comes to shop

حيث يأتي العالم للتسوق

امسح الرمز لمعرفة آخر العروض
SCAN THE QR CODE FOR LATEST PROMOTION CATALOGUE
VIEW NOW



*T&C'S APPLY.

FREE HOME DELIVERY

FOR ALL ORDERS ABOVE QAR 89

LuLu in MINUTES
luluhypermarket.com

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play
LuLu Hypermarket
Hypermarket in Minutes
DOWNLOAD NOW

## PRICES VALID FROM 19.11.2026 TO 21.11.2026



QAR 8.75
تفاح رويال غالا إيطالي
١ كيلو
Apple Royal Gala Italy 1kg



Valid only 19 - 20 Nov. 2026
QAR 17.50
كاكي لبناني ١ كيلو
Persimmons (Kaka Fruit) Lebanon 1kg



QAR 14.75
أفوكادو أوغندي ١ كيلو
Avocado Uganda 1kg



Valid only 19 - 20 Nov. 2026
QAR 8.75
ذرة حلوة مقشّرة قطرية
١ باكيت
Sweet Corn Peeled Qatar 1pkt



QAR 21.50
تفاح روكيت نيوزيلندي
١ باكيت / ٥ حبات
Rockit Apple New Zealand (5pcs) 1pkt



QAR 6.25
فطر عضوي قطري باكيت
Organic Mushroom Qatar Pkt



QAR 42.50
سمك قاروص متوسط
تركي ١ كيلو
Sea Bass Medium Turkey 1kg



Valid only 19-20 Nov. 2026
QAR 8.75
سمك صافي
متوسط إماراتي ١ كيلو
Safi Medium UAE 1kg



Valid only 19-20 Nov. 2026
QAR 26.50
سمك دنيس مزرعة عماني
١ كيلو
Farmed Sea Bream Oman 1kg



QAR 54.75
لحم خروف عربي مقطع
١ كيلو
Arabic Lamb Cuts 1kg



QAR 37.50
قطع لحم بقري برازيلي ١ كيلو
Beef Cubes Brazil 1kg



QAR 7.50
جبنة دمياطي دانماركية ٥٠٠ غرام
Danish Domiyathi Cheese 500gm




QAR 36.50
نسكافيه قهوة ذهبية منوعة ١٩٠ غرام / ١ حبة
Nescafe Gold Coffee Asstd 190gm X 1pc




QAR 9.75
هلال دجاج كامل
١.٢ كيلو
Hilal Whole Chicken 1.2kg




QAR 15.00
فيلادلفيا جبنة كريمة
٢٨٠ غرام / حبتان
Philadelphia Cream Cheese 280gm X 2pcs




QAR 34.50
ألفا زيت دوار الشمس
٥ لتر
Alfa Sunflower Oil 5ltr




QAR 17.50
فولغا أرز ياسمين ذهبي ٤,٥٤ كيلو
Volga Golden Jasmine Rice 4.54kg




QAR 25.00
لوريال إلفيف شامبو منوع ٤٠٠ مل / حبتان
Loreal Shampoo Asstd 400ml x 2pcs




QAR 17.50
داوي منعم أقمشة مخفف منوع ٣ لتر / ١ حبة
Downy Fabric Softener Dilute Asstd 3ltr x 1pc




QAR 20.00
تايد مسحوق غسيل ٣ كيلو
Tide Washing Powder Fast Action 3kg

LuLu FASHION STORE

END OF SEASON
SALE
من FROM 25% حتى TO 50% OFF

Selected Readymade Garments, Sarees, Churidars, Footwear, Ladies' Bags, Baby Accessories & Sunglasses
Promotion valid from 18.11.2026 to 05.12.2026

Shop with Confidence 16001 SSC-00129127 | تسوق بثقة SSC-00129328

VALID FROM 19.11.2026 TO 06.12.2026

LuLu SUPER FRIDAY

الجمعة المميزة
منتجات مميزة · صفقات مميزة

SUPER PRODUCTS · SUPER DEALS

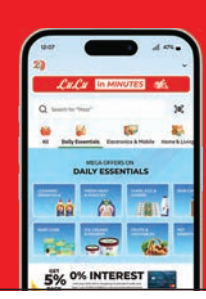
POWERED BY HUAWEI
Savings with

Shop with Confidence 16001 SOCC-00130690 | تسوق بثقة SOCC-00130690

تـوصـيـل مـن الهـايـبرماركت في دقائق
HYPERMARKET DELIVERED

في دقائق
in MINUTES

LuLu Hypermarket
Hypermarket in Minutes
Download on the App Store
GET IT ON Google Play



# Carrefour كارفور

هذه العروض متوفرة فقط في كارفور هايبر ماركتس قطر (سيتي سنتر، فيلاجيو، لاند مارك، قطر مول و إزدان الوكـرة)

19-21 November | **Offers are only available in Carrefour Hypermarkets** (City Center, Villaggio, Landmark, Mall of Qatar & Ezdan Al Wakrah) | 21-19 نوفمبر




1.75 QAR
Per Bunch
Parsley or coriander or mint bunch, Local
باقة من البقدونس أو الكزبرة أو النعناع، محلية

2.00 QAR
Per KG
Lemon, South Africa
ليمون، جنوب أفريقيا

2.50 QAR
Per KG
Sweet potato, Egypt
بطاطا حلوة، مصر

3.50 QAR
Per KG
Tomato, Oman
طماطم، عُمان

4.75 QAR
Per KG
Banana, Ecuador
موز، الإكوادور

8.50 QAR
Per KG
Red grapes, Lebanon
عنب أحمر، لبنان

19.50 QAR
Per KG
Shrimps 40/60, UAE
روبيان ٤٠/٦٠، الإمارات العربية المتحدة

39.75 QAR
Per KG
Buffalo cubes, India
مكعبات لحم الجاموس، الهند

18-21 November | 21-18 نوفمبر

18-24 November | WOW! | 24-18 نوفمبر

5.75 QR
Per KG
Royal gala apple, Turkey
تفاح رويال غالا تركيا

14.75 QR
Per Pack
Avocado ready to eat x 2, Peru
أفوكادو جاهز للأكل × ٢، بيرو

7 Pieces
أواني طهي
Royal dish stainless steel cooking set
~~139.00 QR~~ 89.00 QR

كرسي تخييم متنوعة
Camping chair bob assorted
~~39.00 QR~~ 29.00 QR

Frozen
10.25 QR
دجاج ساديا ١١٠٠ جرام
Sadia chicken griller 1100g

8.75 QR
~~14.00 QR~~
مسحوق الغسيل ٣ كغ
Quick & Easy detergent powder bag 3kg

~~159.00 QR~~ 129.00 QR
Also available
65cm 179.00 QAR ~~219.00 QAR~~ ٦٥ سم
75cm 189.00 QAR ~~239.00 QAR~~ ٧٥ سم
4 WHEEL 55 CM
حقيبة سفر هيرتفورد كارلتون متنوعة
Carlton hertford hard trolley assorted

Also available
Mens sweatshirt
كنزة رجالي 19.00 QAR ~~49.00 QAR~~
~~69.00 QR~~ 24.75 QR
هودي رجالي متنوع
Men hoodie jacket assorted
Per PC

9.50 QR
Shop with Confidence
For Complaints and Suggestions 16001
License number SOCC-00131001
زيت دوار الشمس زين ١.٥ لتر
Zain sunflower oil 1.5L

17.50 QR
أرز الياسمين لوتوس ٥ كجم
Lotus jasmine rice 5kg

Also available
160X180CM 34.75 QAR ~~49.00 QAR~~ ١٦٠ × ١٨٠ سم
180X220CM 29.75 QAR ~~59.00 QAR~~ ١٨٠ × ٢٢٠ سم
~~39.75 QR~~ 19.75 QR
بطانية
Fleece blanket 130X180CM

Hisense NEW 2026 58"
~~1349.00 QR~~ 1149.00 QR
287.25 QAR 4 payments
تلفاز هايسنس
Hisense UHD smart 58A61Q

لا تفوّت الفرصة!
احصل على أفضل العروض على هاتفك
Don't miss out!
Get the best deals on your phone
Scan to subscribe

# QATAR

## Deputy Amir receives credentials of six new ambassadors



His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani received the credentials of 6 new ambassadors to the State of Qatar yesterday morning at his office at the Amiri Diwan. His Highness received the credentials of the ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone Foday M Jaward; the ambassador of Hungary David Ambrus; the ambassador of the Republic of Ireland Fergal Mythen; the ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania Ernestas Mickus; the ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark Soren Jacobsen. he Deputy Amir welcomed the ambassadors and wished them success in their missions and for the bilateral relations between the State of Qatar and their countries further development and growth. For their part, the ambassadors conveyed to His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Deputy Amir the greetings of their countries' leaders and their wishes to the people of Qatar for enduring progress and prosperity. The ambassadors were accorded official reception ceremonies upon their arrival at the Amiri Diwan. (**QNA**)

## Al-Khulaifi meets Belgium deputy PM



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met in Brussels on Wednesday with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Development Co-operation of the Kingdom of Belgium Maxime Prevot.

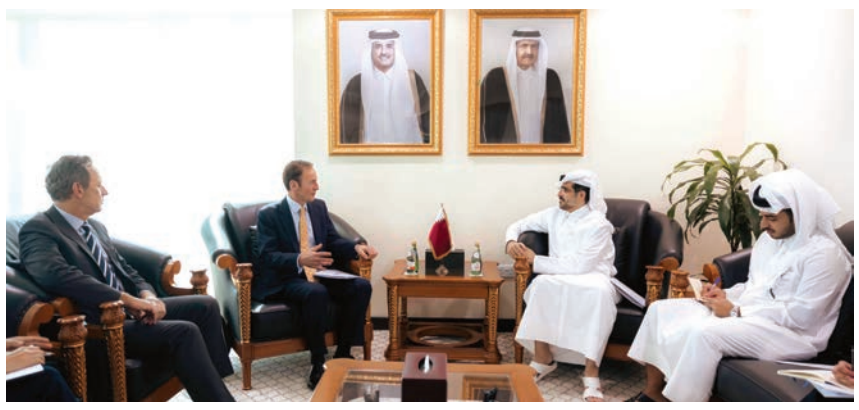
The meeting discussed the co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and strengthen them. It also discussed the latest regional developments, with a particular focus on ongoing diplomatic efforts and joint coordination aimed at de-escalating tensions and enhancing security and stability in the region.

Dr al-Khulaifi affirmed the State of Qatar's support for all diplomatic efforts and initiatives aimed at reaching a solution that ensures freedom of maritime navigation and paves the way for a comprehensive agreement that achieves sustainable peace in the region.

In turn, Maxime Prevot expressed Belgium's appreciation for the State of Qatar's role in mediation and facilitating dialogue, as well as its support for Qatari efforts aimed at resolving conflicts through peaceful means and promoting security and stability, both regionally and internationally.

The ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Kingdom of Belgium Talal bin Almas al-Saleh al-Sulaiti attended the meeting. (**QNA**)

## FM's special envoy meets UK's special envoy to Afghanistan



HE the Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jassim al-Asmakh, met with the United Kingdom's Special Envoy to Afghanistan Richard Lindsay, who is currently visiting Doha. The meeting discussed bilateral co-operation between the State of Qatar and the UK, as well as the latest developments in Afghanistan. (**QNA**)

مؤسسة قطر
Qatar Foundation

**INVITATION TO TENDER**

| Tender Reference | Description | Tender Fee | Tender Bond | Bid Closing Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| HBKU-RFQ-2620 | Veeam Backup License Subscriptions and Support | 500 QAR | 6,000.00 QAR | 21 December 2026 02:00 pm |
| HBKU-RFQ-2621 | Supply All-In-One Windows Desktops with Accessories | 500 QAR | 12,000.00 QAR | 21 December 2026 02:00 pm |
| HBKU-RFQ-2622 | EMC for HBKU Graduation Ceremony Class of 2027 | 1000 QAR | 32,000.00 QAR | 21 December 2026 02:00 pm |

HBKU-University Procurement Service (UPS) is inviting companies to participate in the above-listed public tender. To receive the tender documents, please follow the following steps:

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

**Tender Fee:** Interested bidders can sign in by visiting this link https://Suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online.
All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.

**Tender Fee Payment Dates: Payment of Tender Fee online will be from 19 November 2026 Until 03 December 2026**

1) All bidders who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.
2) Technical and Commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier portal as per the instructions provided in the "Supplier Portal" work instruction.

- The Commercial bid must be valid for **180 Days** from the Bid Closing Date.
- The Commercial bid must be accompanied by a Bank Guarantee (Tender Bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **180 days** from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents)
- The successful tenderer will be required to submit a Performance Bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
- Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

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

## Qatar explores strengthening civil aviation ties with several countries



In Charge of Managing Qatar Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA)'s Mohamed bin Faleh al-Hajri held separate bilateral meetings with senior aviation officials from Canada, Australia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

The meetings took place on the sidelines of the QCAA's participation in the 7th Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/7), organised by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in Montreal, Canada. The meetings addressed ways to enhance co-operation in the field of civil aviation and develop bilateral relations, with the aim of fostering the sector's growth, supporting travel activity, expanding options for passengers, and strengthening the development of the air transport network. (**QNA**)

## Qatar hosts Omani delegation to exchange expertise on environmental sustainability



Qatar's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has hosted an Omani delegation as part of Qatar Sustainability Week 2026, with a focus on strengthening Gulf cooperation and exchanging expertise in environmental sustainability.

The visit included a workshop on sustainability in hosting sporting events and tournaments, highlighting ways to reduce environmental impact through efficient energy and water consumption, renewable energy, smart technologies and sustainable transport.

The workshop also showcased Qatar's experience in hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, particularly in sustainable stadium design, resource management and the long-term use of sports facilities.

The Omani delegation also visited the LifeHub project in Msheireb Downtown Doha, launched by Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, where members explored the use of artificial intelligence and digital simulations to raise awareness of climate change, natural resource conservation, recycling and food waste reduction.

The program further included a lecture on the link between human health and healthy ecosystems, highlighting technology's role in promoting sustainable lifestyles.

Officials said host the visiting delegation forms part of the ministry's efforts to strengthen cooperation with Gulf institutions and exchange expertise in environmental awareness and the use of technology to advance sustainability, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030. (**QNA**)

## Deputy PM holds phone call with Kuwaiti counterpart

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani, held a phone call yesterday with the Kuwaiti Defence Minister, Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah al-Salem al-Sabah. During the call, both sides discussed a host of topics of mutual interest. (**QNA**)

## Qatar Armed Forces conclude 5km cross-country championship

The Qatar Armed Forces' 5-kilometer cross-country championship for the 2026-27 sports season has concluded. Organised by the Military Sports Association, the competition brought together 27 teams representing the various branches, forces and units of the Qatar Armed Forces, as well as a team from the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya).

In the individual officers' category, First Lt Mubarak Meshaal al-Maadeed, representing the Support Force Command team, took first place. Saeed Farhan of the Qatar Amiri Air Force team won first place in the enlisted personnel category.

A number of Qatar Armed Forces officers attended the closing ceremony. (**QNA**)

## PHCC holds 8th PFAG



The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) has held the 8th Partners and Family Advisory Group Meeting 2026 (PFAG) virtually.

This comes as part of the Corporation's efforts to reinforce person-centred care and enhance the participation of patients and their families in developing healthcare services, with a particular focus on digital services and user experience.

The meeting served as an interactive platform to convert the advisory group's experiences and feedback into actionable priorities as to improve the quality of digital services and facilitate access to them.

This supports PHCC's digital transformation agenda and the Corporation's efforts to enhance beneficiary experience.

The meeting saw the advisory group's active participation, leading discussions and facilitating dialogue addressing virtual consultation services and the Nar'aakom App.

The sessions reviewed the digital patient's experience and identified key strengths and challenges facing users when accessing electronic services.

Participants also highlighted several challenges associated with using digital services, including issues relating to ease of access to the app, health information, and test results, receiving technical support, managing appointments, and ensuring a seamless transition to follow-up care services.

Members also put forward a number of practical proposals to develop the Nar'aakom App and enhance virtual consultation services. These included simplifying procedures, making information and services available easier to find, and facilitating access to support when needed, thereby helping increase beneficiary satisfaction.

Participants stressed that involving patients and their family members in setting development priorities is essential to ensuring that services are designed to better respond to beneficiaries' needs and make a tangible difference in their daily lives.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the key outcomes and recommendations put forward by members were summarised and will be submitted to the relevant PHCC departments for consideration and follow-up.

The PFAG reflects the Corporation's commitment to strengthening its partnership with patients and their families and using their feedback to deliver more efficient and accessible digital healthcare services. (**QNA**)

## QRCS' 4th annual Scientific Conference to begin today

Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS)'s fourth Annual Scientific Conference 2026 will begin today, alongside a specialised exhibition for medical and pharmaceutical companies.

The three-day conference, titled "Respiratory, Allergy and Immunology Diseases in Primary Health Care", will bring together experts and consultants from leading Qatari healthcare institutions, both in person and online, to exchange expertise and improve clinical skills in managing these widespread conditions.

The conference is held in strategic partnership with the Ministry of Public Health, Hamad Medical Corporation and the Primary Health Care Corporation. Sponsors of the conference and accompanying exhibition include Hikma Pharmaceuticals, Q Life Pharma, Ali Al Suwaidi Trading, AstraZeneca Gulf and Ibn Sina.

The Ministry of Public Health's Department of Healthcare Professions has accredited the event for 20 Category 1 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours required for medical licence renewal.

The scientific programme includes two specialised workshops held simultaneously before the opening, three days of lectures and sessions, and parallel tracks for specific professionals, including pharmacists and physiotherapists. (**QNA**)

الهلال الأحمر القطري
Qatar Red Crescent

# Herfah amplifies enduring value of traditional crafts

**By A Staff Reporter**
Doha

Artworks that interpret and celebrate the Qatari and Islamic culture in which they are rooted – created by participants in Qatar Foundation's Herfah programme – have been displayed at Education City at a special event attended by HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, Vice-Chairperson of Qatar Foundation.

Held at Al Khater House - a historic Qatari family home preserved and restored by Qatar Foundation (QF) as a space for cultural exchange, heritage and identity – and delivered in collaboration with The King's Foundation School of Traditional Arts, Herfah offers a year-long learning journey through weekly workshops, providing hands-on opportunities to explore traditional crafts and connect timeless artistic practices with contemporary creative expression.

As part of the programme, an exhibition titled Herfah Showcase: Journeys in Craft was held at Al Khater House, showcasing the final projects of participants from the programme's second class and marking the second edition of the year-long initiative. Each project was independently chosen and designed, allowing participants to draw on their imagination, creativity and personal interests.

Inspired by Qatar's cultural and architectural heritage, the artworks bring together traditional Islamic patterns, geometric designs, natural motifs and craftsmanship, celebrating the participants' skills and their exploration of traditional crafts through contemporary artistic expression.

Today, they will be available for the community to explore at Al Khater House from 4pm-8pm (prior registration needed at Education City website). HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani said: "Traditional crafts are not only defined by the tools used to create them, but by what they represent: the passing of knowledge from one generation to the next, so that its meaning, its message, and its value endures.

"The works crafted through the Herfah programme, and the setting in which they are displayed, reflect the commitment of their creators and of Qatar Foundation to both celebrating and perpetuating cornerstones of our Qatari and Islamic cultural heritage and identity. They are the fruits of exploration, imagination, and expression that I hope will inspire those who engage with them to further appreciate how essential it is for us to retain our connection with our roots."

Hisham Nourin, Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives and Programs at QF, said: "The Herfah programme demonstrates the value of nurturing talented individuals who advance Islamic and Qatari vernacular heritage. "Traditionally trained artisans and craftsmen strengthen the economy and enrich our built environment with products that are in harmony with their surroundings. The end-of-year showcase celebrates not only the students but the community's year-long journey and revives the long-standing tradition of apprenticeship, unlocking human potential."



Through its year-long programme and weekly workshops, Herfah offers participants hands-on opportunities to explore traditional crafts and connect timeless artistic practices with contemporary creative expression. The programme is now open for new participants to register for the upcoming short courses, develop their artistic skills, connect with fellow creatives, and deepen their knowledge of decorative painting, wood carving, traditional patchwork and tile making. Its workshops, which began on November 1, 2026, will continue to February 24, 2027.







# Qatar takes centre stage as 49th Kuwait book fair opens

The 49th Kuwait International Book Fair opened yesterday with the State of Qatar participating as this year's Guest of Honor, showcasing the country's heritage, history, arts and cultural identity.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Omar al-Omar, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture of the State of Kuwait and HE the Minister of Culture of the State of Qatar Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani.

The opening ceremony was attended by HE Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture Dr Ghanem al-Ali, ambassador to Kuwait Ali al-Mahmoud, as well as a number of ministers and ambassadors based in Kuwait.

Running until November 28, the fair features Qatar's participation through the Ministry of Culture, which is showcasing the country's intellectual and literary output, promoting its digital library and strengthening cultural and intellectual exchange between the two countries.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Jassim al-Buainain, Director of the Libraries Department at the Ministry of Culture and Director of the Doha International Book Fair, said Qatar had sought to make its participation in this year's edition distinctive by presenting a diverse collection of the ministry's publications.



He said Qatar's selection as Guest of Honor provides an opportunity to highlight the deep-rooted cultural and historical ties between the two countries.

The Qatari pavilion features a wide range of new publications covering various fields of knowledge, including novels, law, social sciences and humanities, as well as notable titles for children and young readers. It also highlights initiatives designed to encourage reading.

Al-Buainain said the pavilion's design draws inspiration from traditional Qatari architecture, reflecting the country's national identity and the connection between its past and present through a blend of authenticity and innovation.

He added that the pavilion offers visitors a comprehensive cultural experience extending beyond books to showcase Qatar's diverse cultural landscape, including literature, intellectual thought, arts, living heritage and traditional crafts.

Qatar's participation also includes several local publishing houses presenting a variety of literary, intellectual and scientific publications that reflect the diversity of the country's cultural scene.

The programme accompanying the Qatari pavilion features intellectual seminars, lectures, poetry evenings and activities for children in the fair's dedicated children's area.

A Qatari folk troupe will also perform the traditional Ardah dance and other heritage arts, highlighting the richness and authenticity of Qatar's cultural traditions.

The Kuwait International Book Fair is one of the region's prominent literary and cultural events. This year's edition brings together more than 592 local, Arab and international publishing houses from over 34 countries, contributing to cultural exchange and highlighting the importance of books and reading. (**QNA**)

## Qatar honoured at book fair



The State of Qatar was honoured as Guest of Honor at the 49th Kuwait International Book Fair during a ceremony at Sheikh Jaber Al Ali Theater.
The event was attended by Kuwait's Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar al-Omar and HE Qatar's Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, in addition to HE Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture Dr Ghanem bin Mubarak al-Ali, the Qatar's ambassador to Kuwait Ali bin Abdullah al-Mahmoud, along with a number of ministers and ambassadors, and a large audience.
Kuwaiti poet Khalifa Al Wugayyan was also honoured as the fair's featured personality. The ceremony featured a Qatari-Kuwaiti musical performance by Qatar's Mansour al-Muhannadi and Kuwait's Salman al-Amari, accompanied by Al Mas Folk Arts Troupe. (**QNA**)

# Amir sends congratulations to king of Morocco

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 King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco 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 Head of Government of the Kingdom of Morocco Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri on the occasion of her country's Independence Day. (**QNA**)

# Amir sends congratulations to president of Latvia

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 Republic of Latvia Edgars Rinkevics on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.
HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim sl-Thani also sent a cable of congratulations to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia Andris Kulbergs on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. (**QNA**)

# Qatar condemns Iranian attacks on Kuwait, Bahrain

Qatar has strongly condemned renewed Iranian attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain, describing them as flagrant violations of the two countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as international law, the UN Charter and the principles of good neighbourliness. In a statement issued yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned that the continued attacks constituted a dangerous escalation that could undermine diplomatic efforts to contain regional tensions and restore security and stability. The ministry stressed the need to uphold international law and respect the principles of good neighbourliness, urging all parties to prioritise dialogue and diplomatic solutions to prevent further escalation and a widening of regional tensions. Qatar reaffirmed its full solidarity with Kuwait and Bahrain and its support for all measures taken by the two countries to safeguard their sovereignty and security. (**QNA**)

# MoCI organises blood donation campaign

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), organised a blood donation campaign at its headquarters in Lusail City to support blood bank reserves, help meet the needs of patients and hospitals, and raise awareness of the importance of voluntary blood donation.
The campaign saw strong participation from ministry employees and representatives of several entities, including Dukhan Bank, the Supreme Judiciary Council, and the Family Consulting Center. Donations were collected through a mobile blood donation unit stationed at the Ministry's headquarters, reflecting participants' commitment to supporting patients and contributing to community solidarity.

# MoC gifts 43,000 books to Djibouti public library

The Ministry of Culture (MoC), in collaboration with Qatar Charity (QC), delivered 43,000 books in both Arabic and English to the public library of the Republic of Djibouti as part of efforts to strengthen cultural cooperation and deepen knowledge bridges with brotherly and friendly nations.

The gifted books span the gamut of cultural, knowledge-related and literary releases covering multiple fields, thereby contributing to enriching the library's collections and supporting educational and cultural activities in the Republic of Djibouti, a move that would promote the presence of books and knowledge in beneficiary communities.

The ministry underlined that this initiative embodies the State of Qatar's commitment to enhancing joint cultural and humanitarian work and cementing partnerships with active institutions to achieve knowledge development goals.

It hailed QC's phenomenal role in supporting development and humanitarian initiatives worldwide.

The initiative is part of a series of programs and projects through which the Ministry intends to effectuate cultural exchange and expand Qatari cultural presence regionally and internationally in pursuit of bolstering the values of knowledge and people-to-people civilisational communication. (**QNA**)

# CMU-Q, AlRayan Bank sign MoU to advance education, research, community development

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q) and AlRayan Bank have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a comprehensive framework for cooperation across education, scientific research, and community development.

The agreement was formally signed by Michael Trick, dean of CMU-Q; and Omar al-Emadi, Acting Group CEO and Group Chief, Operations and Administrations, at AlRayan Bank.

Trick highlighted the value of integrating real-world industry challenges into the academic environment.

"Meaningful partnerships with industry leaders like AlRayan Bank are vital to our educational mission at CMU-Q. When academia and industry work closely together, we create a dynamic ecosystem that provides our students with opportunities to apply their expertise and make a tangible impact within the community," Trick said.

Al-Emadi said: "In today's rapidly evolving financial landscape, the synergy between industry and academia is more critical than ever. By partnering with Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, AlRayan Bank is investing in the future of innovation and talent. This collaboration allows us to benefit from world-class academic research, while providing the next generation of leaders with the practical, hands-on experience they need to drive Qatar's economic growth."




The agreement was formally signed by Michael Trick, dean of CMU-Q, and Omar al-Emadi, Acting Group CEO and Group Chief, Operations and Administrations, at AlRayan Bank.

The MoU establishes a structured framework for joint initiatives in scientific research and strategic studies. Additionally, the agreement expands pathways for CMU-Q students through dedicated internship and employment opportunities at the bank.

In return, CMU-Q will deliver specialised training and executive education to AlRayan Bank. To further drive thought leadership and community impact, the organisations will jointly host specialised conferences, seminars, and workshops, while motivating students to actively engage in voluntary work during AlRayan Bank's community service activities across Qatar.

As organisations dedicated to the advancement of Qatar's knowledge-based economy, CMU-Q and AlRayan Bank share a vision that education has a transformative impact, both locally and globally.

CMU-Q offers top-ranked programmes in artificial intelligence, business administration, computer science and information systems. With a focus on quantitative decision-making and technological innovation, CMU-Q students are well prepared to contribute within the banking and finance sector in Qatar. Banking and finance is one of the top industries where graduates work when they complete their studies.

AlRayan Bank is an award-winning institution known for sustainability and digital innovation in Islamic finance. AlRayan Bank has a strong commitment to supporting Qatar's vision to advance human capital and contribute to building the next generation of banking leaders.

QATAR

# Symposium sets forth rigorous standards for Qur'an translation



**QNA**
Doha

A project to establish a rigorous scientific and methodological framework for translating the meanings of the Holy Qur'an is seeking to meticulously regulate the translation process, address its burgeoning linguistic and semantic challenges, and substantially enhance the quality and reliability of its output.

The project was the focus of a scientific symposium organised by the Sheikh Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Centre in Doha, where participants examined the foremost scientific and methodological standards governing Qur'an translation, alongside the challenges involved in navigating its linguistic, semantic and cultural complexities.

Attending the symposium were HE the Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs Ghanem bin Shaheen al-Ghanem, HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Mohammed bin Ghanem al-Thani, and Dean of the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies at Qatar University Dr Ibrahim bin Abdullah al-Ansari, alongside a lineup of researchers, specialists and those interested in interpreting the meanings of the Holy Qur'an.

Director of the Sheikh Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Centre Dr Saleh bin Ali al-Marri stressed that conveying the guidance of the Holy Qur'an to people in their own languages constitutes a tremendous responsibility, highlighting the immense efforts scholars and translators have made over the centuries to convey the Qur'an's meanings into a plethora of languages.

Dr al-Marri indicated that the multiplicity of translations and their vastly different methodologies, coupled with the scientific, linguistic and cultural challenges arising from certain Qur'anic concepts, make it quite imperative to establish an authoritative scholarly reference and methodological standards that scrupulously regulate this undertaking and help attain the highest possible degrees of accuracy, fidelity and clarity.

He added that the project does not merely seek to produce a new translation; rather, it endeavours to establish a standardised framework that builds on the efforts of earlier generations, bringing together the authenticity of Qur'anic exegesis, the finesse of translation, and an understanding of the target audience's language and culture. The ultimate objective is to produce a scientific guide that institutions, centres, researchers and translators around the world can draw on.

During the symposium, participants discussed a plethora of scientific standards essential to ensuring the quality of translations of the meanings of the Holy Qur'an. Foremost among these were accuracy in conveying meanings, due deference to context and multiple layers of meaning, linguistic fluency and literary finesse, meticulous adherence to the rules of the target language, due consideration of the intended audience, and the judicious use of exegetical and explanatory materials.

The deliberations also addressed the pitfalls that must be avoided, foremost among them excessive reliance on literal translation at the expense of the integrity of meaning and the natural flow of the target language, the perpetuation of misconceptions found in some previous translations without critical scrutiny, and the use of archaic words and expressions that are no longer congenial to contemporary readers.

The symposium also drilled down on the bearing of Qur'anic context on determining the intended meaning, as well as the importance of consulting books of exegesis and gauging semantic nuances before selecting the appropriate linguistic equivalent.

Discussions further delved into the translation of Islamic terminology, the Most Beautiful Names of Allah, and the word Allah itself, alongside the linguistic and semantic challenges invariably associated with rendering them into English.

These topics prompted substantive discussions on whether certain terms should invariably be assigned a fixed equivalent or whether multiple equivalents should be adopted insofar as the context warrants. Participants also weighed the merits of retaining certain Arabic words through transliteration against using English equivalents that convey the intended meaning with greater clarity to the target audience.

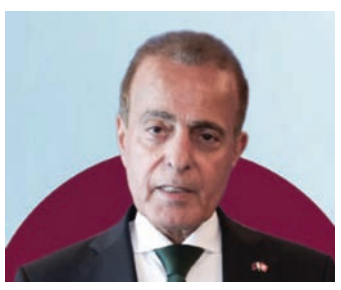
The symposium put forward proposals to compile a specialised English-language glossary of Qur'anic and Islamic legal terminology, alongside a separate glossary of the Most Beautiful Names of Allah. These resources would provide translators with an authoritative scholarly reference, help scrupulously regulate terminological choices, and ensure consistency and accuracy.

The symposium revealed that the project is examining approximately 13 scientific standards, which remain subject to further research and scrutiny. Discussions focused in considerable detail on three key areas concerning the translation of Islamic terminology, the Most Beautiful Names of Allah, and the word Allah, in preparation for completing the remaining standards and incorporating them into a specialised scientific guide.

At the conclusion of the symposium, HE the Minister honoured the participants in recognition of their scholarly contributions to enriching the discussions and supporting efforts to develop standards for translating the meanings of the Holy Qur'an and substantially enhance their accuracy and reliability.

# Amir's historic visit opens new phase of strategic partnership: Qatar's ambassador

**QNA**
Bern



Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Swiss Confederation Mohamed bin Jaham al-Kuwari affirmed that the state visit to Switzerland by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani on Nov 18-19, marks a historic milestone in the trajectory of Qatari-Swiss relations.

He noted that the visit reflects the advanced level of trust, mutual understanding, and co-operation that has been achieved between the two nations across various fields.

Ambassador al-Kuwari told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the significance of the visit extends beyond merely serving as a culmination of diplomatic relations spanning more than five decades. It also encompasses opportunities to strengthen the partnership between the two nations, further develop existing frameworks for co-operation, and launch new avenues for collaboration in the fields of economy, investment, technology, mediation, humanitarian work, and sustainable development.

Al-Kuwari highlighted that the discussions between HH the Amir and President of the Swiss Confederation Guy Parmelin will cover various aspects of co-operation between the two countries, particularly in the political, economic, investment, scientific, and technological spheres, as well as an exchange of views on regional and international developments and challenges related to security, stability, and development.

He noted that Switzerland serves as a global financial and economic hub, distinguished by advanced capabilities in precision industries, technology, scientific research, innovation, and financial services. Meanwhile, the State of Qatar holds a significant international investment standing, possesses sophisticated infrastructure, and continues to diversify its economic base across both production and service sectors.

Al-Kuwari underscored that the establishment of the Qatar-Switzerland Joint Committee on Financial and Economic Affairs represented an important institutional development in bilateral relations, as it provided a regular mechanism for dialogue between the relevant authorities and for following up on opportunities for co-operation in the financial, economic, and investment sectors.

# Swiss ambassador hails Amir's visit as 'historic milestone' in bilateral relations

**QNA**
Doha



Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to the State of Qatar Florence Tinguely Mattli affirmed that the upcoming state visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Switzerland on November 18-19 marks a historic milestone in bilateral relations, representing the first-ever state visit between Doha and Bern.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), ambassador Mattli emphasised that the visit builds upon strong ties rooted in mutual trust and provides an opportunity to elevate bilateral co-operation into new domains.

She noted that President of the Swiss Confederation Guy Parmelin and HH the Amir will hold a joint meeting with prominent figures from the Swiss business community during the visit.

Ambassador Mattli highlighted Switzerland's leadership in scientific research and its status as a top innovation hub, a sector targeted by Qatari investments. She stated that this alignment creates opportunities for knowledge exchange, scientific partnerships, and enhanced co-operation in advanced technologies, adding that both sides will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on tourism during the visit.

Additionally, she stated that the "Swiss-Qatari AI Forum: Powering the Next Intelligence Economy" will take place on November 17 at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich's AI Center), one day ahead of HH the Amir's state visit. She explained that the forum brought together Swiss academic institutions, research centres, and technology companies with Qatari institutions and investors to focus on research, technological co-operation in AI and robotics, and investment opportunities.

Addressing economic and financial co-operation, the ambassador noted that bilateral ties extend well beyond traditional exports, with Swiss expertise active across several sectors in Qatar.

She pointed out that Switzerland and Qatar share a firm commitment to international mediation, dialogue facilitation, and peaceful conflict resolution. She further emphasised that the visit will strengthen bilateral co-ordination in humanitarian response, humanitarian diplomacy, and global development efforts.

In conclusion, ambassador Mattli said her country was looking forward to welcoming HH the Amir and his delegation, reiterating that this historic visit will drive bilateral relations toward further progress and open new horizons for co-operation.

# MoCI hosts Academyati students as part of 'Consumer School 2027'





The Ministry of Commerce and Industry welcomed 31 students from Academyati, a school under Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, as part of the third edition of its "Consumer School 2027" initiative. Organised in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education under the slogan "The Smart Consumer", the initiative is being implemented for the third consecutive year.

The visit was attended by Hassan Sultan al-Ghanim, assistant undersecretary, Consumer Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Abeer al-Khalifa, president of Pre-University Education at Qatar Foundation.

Students took part in a range of awareness and interactive activities focusing on consumer protection and combating commercial fraud. Designed to suit their age group, the programme included competitions, practical exercises, and the distribution of gifts to participants.

At the conclusion of the visit, al-Ghanim honoured Qatar Foundation in recognition of its participation in the initiative and contribution to promoting consumer awareness and encouraging responsible consumption. Al-Khalifa received a commemorative plaque on behalf of the Foundation.

This year's edition brings together 24 boys' and girls' schools across various educational stages. The programme includes student visits to the Ministry's headquarters, as well as visits to participating schools, where a specialised team delivers awareness sessions, interactive presentations, and educational activities on consumer protection and combating commercial fraud.

The initiative aims to educate students about their rights and responsibilities as consumers, promote responsible consumption and resource conservation, and encourage informed purchasing decisions. It also seeks to develop their critical thinking and decision-making skills before making purchases.

Key topics include the roles of consumers and suppliers, goods and services, consumer rights and supplier obligations, and the risks of commercial fraud. Students also receive practical guidance on submitting complaints through smartphone applications, with concepts reinforced through interactive learning methods, games, competitions, and hands-on activities.



# MoT introduces high schoolers to maritime specialisations



The Ministry of Transport ( MoT) concluded an awareness event aimed at raising high school students' knowledge of the maritime industry and its academic and professional specialisations. Held by the MoT, represented by its Maritime Affairs, in co-operation with the University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) and Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the event featured an interactive programme of workshops, presentations, and field visits to UDST's maritime training and simulation facilities.

The interactive workshops highlighted maritime industry's strategic importance and role in supporting Qatar's national economy by connecting it with global markets through exports like LNG and imports that fulfil daily needs and projects execution, plus its role in trade movement and supply chains efficiency.

Explaining MoT's role in regulating the maritime industry in a way that enhances its efficiency and sustainability, with numerous missions and services related to vessel registration, licensing, inspection and control, safety compliance, international agreements and standards, and marine life protection, was also part of the workshops.

MoT's Assistant Undersecretary for Maritime Transport Affairs Abdulaziz Abdullah al-Sulaiti, who attended the event and spoke to students, highlighted the importance of equipping Qatari youth with knowledge and skills needed for the future amid fast-paced technological advancements, particularly in marine engineering and maritime navigation. He also encouraged youth to discover maritime specialisations where they may find passion in fields they may have never thought of.

UDST also made a presentation on marine engineering with the necessary details and information students need if they would pursue these careers on the job market. Students also experienced simulation workshops to learn more about engineering and technical aspects of the industry.

# Mowasalat strengthens organisational resilience with int'l certifications

Mowasalat (Karwa) has achieved ISO 22301 Business Continuity Management certification and ISO 31000 Risk Management certification, marking a significant milestone in the company's commitment to operational excellence, organisational resilience, and good governance.

The achievement reflects Mowasalat's continued efforts to proactively manage risks, prepare for and respond effectively to disruptions, and maintain service reliability. ISO 22301 strengthens its ability to maintain critical services during disruptions, while ISO 31000 provides a structured approach to anticipating and managing risks.

Together, they reinforce stakeholder confidence and provide greater assurance to customers and business partners.

Speaking on the achievement, Jassim al-Khayat, executive director – Risk & Business Continuity Management Department, said: "These certifications are more than a recognition of what Mowasalat has achieved. They represent our commitment to building a resilient organisation, ready for evolving risks and disruptions and guided by responsible risk management and business continuity practices."

The certifications serve as pillars supporting Mowasalat's commitment to continual improvement and sustainable growth. They strengthen its ability to anticipate emerging risks, respond effectively to unforeseen events, and keep delivering dependable services to its customers and stakeholders.







# Amir, Swiss president eye broader horizons

From Page 1

On the Swiss side, the session was attended by Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Ignazio Cassis, Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Finance Karin Keller-Sutter, Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications Albert Rösti.

Federal Council Spokesperson and Vice Chancellor Nicole Lamon, and State Secretary for Economic Affairs and Director of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) Helene Budliger Artieda, along with several other senior Swiss officials were also present.

Earlier, HH the Amir was accorded an official reception at the Swiss Parliament building in Bern, marking the start of his two-day state visit to the Swiss Confederation.

Upon arrival at the parliament building, HH the Amir was welcomed byPresident Guy Parmelin.

The official reception ceremony began with members of the Swiss delegation greeting HH the Amir, while members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness exchanged greetings with the Swiss president.

The national anthems of Qatar and Switzerland were then played, following which HH the Amir inspected the guard of honour.

HH the Amir and the Swiss president subsequently greeted members of the Swiss public who had gathered to welcome them.

Earlier yesterday, HH the Amir arrived at Basel International Airport at the start of his two-day state visit to Switzerland.

The visit is part of a European tour that will also take HH the Amir to Germany on November 20 and 21 for a state visit.

During the tour, HH the Amir is scheduled to hold talks with the leaders and senior officials of both countries on bilateral relations and ways to strengthen and expand partnerships across various fields.

The discussions will also address key regional and international developments and a range of issues of mutual interest, particularly international efforts to promote stability in the region.

## Amir urges stronger ties during parliament visit

From Page 1

He noted that when nations invest in people, exchange knowledge and create opportunities, they can prosper together, turning their individual progress into a source of greater opportunity and stability for all.

HH the Amir further stressed that lasting stability in the region requires dialogue, respect for state sovereignty, adherence to international law and the protection of civilians. He reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to pursuing this approach, in co-operation with partners such as Switzerland, to de-escalate tensions and advance peaceful solutions. He expressed hope that the visit would open new horizons for practical, long-term co-operation, drawing on the respective strengths of both nations and reflecting the aspirations of their peoples. HH the Amir also voiced confidence that Qatar and Switzerland would continue working together to promote greater peace, stability and prosperity.

In his address, the Swiss president welcomed HH the Amir and his accompanying delegation, underscoring the historic significance of the occasion as the first state visit by HH the Amir to Switzerland. He conveyed the Swiss Federal Council's optimism about the future of bilateral relations and praised their evolution into a multifaceted partnership encompassing foreign policy, the economy, the financial sector, education, scientific research and culture.

President Parmelin described the partnership as one founded on mutual trust, reliability, a long-term vision and a shared commitment to creating new opportunities for businesses and individuals in both countries. He also emphasised the importance of expanding economic, financial and scientific co-operation, building on the existing free trade agreement between the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) states and the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries, which provides a strong legal foundation for closer economic relations.

The Swiss president commended Qatar's role in mediation and conflict resolution, highlighting the complementary expertise of the two countries in these fields and the importance of building on the memorandum of understanding signed between them in 2025.

He also welcomed Qatar's accession as a partner state to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), coinciding with Switzerland's chairmanship of the organisation.

President Parmelin expressed Switzerland's solidarity with the leadership and people of Qatar amid ongoing regional conflicts, stressing the importance of de-escalation and respect for international humanitarian law.

HH the Amir was accompanied during the visit by HE Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and members of the official delegation. (**QNA**)

## Visit heralds new era in bilaterals

From Page 1

Qatar and Switzerland share a long-standing commitment to multilateral diplomacy, peaceful conflict resolution, humanitarian engagement and respect for national sovereignty.

Their partnership has increasingly focused on mediation and preventive diplomacy, drawing on the two countries' experience in facilitating negotiations and building international consensus.

Diplomatic relations between Qatar and Switzerland date back to the 1970s, gaining considerable momentum in 2012 with the opening of Qatar's embassy in Bern, followed a few months later by the establishment of Switzerland's embassy in Doha.

High-level exchanges have since strengthened political dialogue and opened new avenues for co-operation.

A major milestone came on September 8, 2025, when the two countries signed a Letter of Intent in Bern to strengthen co-operation in mediation and facilitation. The agreement provides for exchanging expertise and information, developing preventive diplomacy and expanding technical collaboration between relevant institutions to support peaceful conflict resolution.

The partnership gained further prominence in June 2026 when HE Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani led Qatar's delegation to the Lake Lucerne Summit and the inaugural meeting of the High-Level Committee involving the United States and Iran, with Qatar and Pakistan serving as mediators.

The summit formed part of efforts to facilitate US-Iran dialogue and advance a comprehensive, lasting agreement addressing issues covered by their memorandum of understanding.

On the sidelines, the prime minister met Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis at the Burgenstock Resort to discuss bilateral relations and diplomatic efforts to strengthen regional security and stability following the US-Iran memorandum.

Further engagement followed on June 12, when HE Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi met Swiss State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Alexandre Fasel during the MAS ETH Mediation in Peace Processes Policy Forum in Zurich. Their discussions covered bilateral relations, regional de-escalation and continued dialogue between Washington and Tehran.

Parliamentary relations have also expanded. Swiss National Council President Pierre-André Page visited Doha and met HE Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanim, with discussions focusing on parliamentary co-operation, regional tensions, maritime security and freedom of international navigation.

Page praised Qatar's mediation efforts and reaffirmed Switzerland's willingness to contribute its good offices to international peace initiatives.

The two countries have also co-ordinated on African peace efforts. Switzerland joined Qatar and other international and regional partners in meetings held from August 17-21, 2026, to review progress and challenges in implementing the Doha Framework for a Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo government and the Alliance Fleuve Congo/March 23 Movement (AFC/M23).

Institutional dialogue was reinforced through the second round of political consultations between the two foreign ministries in Doha in December 2025, reflecting their commitment to regular diplomatic co-ordination.

Another milestone came in October 2026 when Qatar became the 12th Partner for Co-operation of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), following a consensus decision by its 57 participating states. Swiss Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Ignazio Cassis and OSCE Secretary-General Feridun Sinirlioglu welcomed Qatar's accession. Qatar joined the organisation's five Asian partners — Australia, Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Afghanistan.

Addressing the OSCE Permanent Council, Qatar's Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to international organisations in Vienna, Jassim Yaqoub al-Hammadi, pledged to make the partnership effective and productive.

Economic relations constitute another major pillar of the partnership, supported by agreements covering air transport, investment protection, avoidance of double taxation and the free trade agreement between the Gulf Co-operation Council and the European Free Trade Association, of which Switzerland is a member. Bilateral trade reached approximately CHF1.2bn in 2024, according to Swiss government figures released in September 2025.

Switzerland's principal exports to Qatar include watches, jewellery, chemicals and pharmaceutical products, while Qatari investments in Switzerland are concentrated in finance, hospitality and other sectors.

The third session of the Joint Economic and Financial Committee, held in Bern in September 2025, explored opportunities in digital and sustainable finance, infrastructure, sustainable investment and development projects.

The financial partnership draws on Qatar's international investment expertise and Switzerland's position as a global centre for banking, asset management and insurance.

Cultural co-operation has similarly gained momentum through exhibitions, artistic exchanges and initiatives promoting mutual understanding. Qatar Museums' Years of Culture initiative has selected Switzerland and the Netherlands as Qatar's cultural partners for 2029, while the inaugural Art Basel Qatar in Doha in February 2026 provided another platform for strengthening artistic and cultural connections. (**QNA**)

# Amir attends dinner banquet

From Page 1

His Highness the Amir highlighted the importance of bilateral co-operation over the years, particularly in the fields of economy, investment and scientific research, expressing his aspiration to strengthen the partnership in technology, innovation, energy and healthcare, while drawing on the expertise and capabilities of both countries.

The Amir reaffirmed the two countries' commitment to promoting sustainable peace, supporting diplomacy and building trust, stressing the importance of concerted efforts among international partners to resolve crises through dialogue.

On advancing bilateral ties, the Amir underscored the importance of building on existing co-operation and taking practical steps to strengthen institutional links between the two countries, noting that the true value of partnerships lay in their ability to deliver tangible results.

In this regard, the Amir highlighted the opportunities offered by co-operation with Switzerland to combine Swiss expertise in technology, advanced industries and scientific research with the investment, growth and regional market opportunities available in Qatar.

The Amir also referred to his scheduled meeting today with representatives of the business sectors in both countries, expressing hope that the discussions would generate new trade and investment opportunities and joint projects benefiting both economies.

The Amir underlined that relations between governments grew stronger when supported by partnerships among companies and investors.

The Amir emphasised his keenness to use the visit to broaden engagement between the economic and scientific institutions of the two countries and translate potential areas of co-operation into sustainable, practical initiatives, lending greater depth and continuity to bilateral relations.

The Amir also expressed his conviction that mutual respect and trust between Qatar and Switzerland would remain a solid foundation for further strengthening their relations and advancing the well-being and prosperity of their peoples.

For his part, Swiss President Guy Parmelin renewed his welcome to the Amir, the accompanying delegation and Qatari business leaders, noting that Swiss-Qatari relations were expanding across various fields, reflecting the commitment of both countries' leaderships to strengthening ties for the mutual benefit of their nations and peoples.

The Swiss president reviewed the achievements of bilateral co-operation and highlighted prospects for further collaboration and investment opportunities in Switzerland.

He also thanked Qatar and commended its efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

Concluding his address, the Swiss president wished the Amir continued success and Qatar further progress and prosperity.

The dinner banquet was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir.

Also present were Swiss ministers and advisers, along with business leaders and dignitaries representing various sectors in both countries. (**QNA**)

# Es'hailSat signs pact with SDG Ambassadors Centre to advance youth learning in satellite science

Es'hailSat, the Qatar Satellite Company, has signed a sponsorship agreement with the Sufaraa Ahdaf Al Tanmia Al Mustadama (SDG Ambassadors) Centre for Education and Consultations to support two youth programmes designed to make space science, and satellite engineering engaging, practical and accessible. The collaboration reflects Es'hailSat's Corporate Social Responsibility commitment to education, innovation and community engagement, in support of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Under the agreement, Es'hailSat will sponsor Es'hailSat Workshop Project, comprising two programmes to be delivered during November and December 2026:

Stories from Orbit 2026 — a Space Science and Satellite Engineering Story writing & Design Challenge that will engage 20 young ambassadors working in pairs to create 10 illustrated science storybooks and corresponding simplified educational 3D satellite models.



Orbit Makers 2026 — a Satellite Design & 3D Printing Hackathon for 30-40 young participants, who will work in teams to define satellite missions, develop 3D designs, build educational satellite prototypes and present their concepts at a final showcase.

The programmes will combine workshops, interactive sessions and demonstrations with practical outputs, including illustrated books, educational satellite models and team presentations. Training content will be jointly reviewed to support scientific accuracy and alignment with the programmes' educational objectives. The initiative is principally aligned with SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Noora Mohammed Bohindi, director of Corporate Communications at Es'hailSat said, "This agreement extends our commitment beyond connectivity by helping young people explore how space science, and satellite technology supports communities, industries and sustainable development. Through creative storytelling, engineering design and hands-on learning, we want participants to build confidence, curiosity and a clearer understanding of the opportunities available in the space and satellite sector."

Iman Alobaidi, co-founder and managing director of the SDG Ambassadors Centre said, "Our partnership with Es'hailSat gives young people the opportunity to connect the Sustainable Development Goals with real-world science, technology and creativity. By combining storytelling, satellite design and hands-on prototyping, these programmes will encourage participants to turn ideas into practical solutions, work collaboratively and see themselves as active contributors to Qatar's sustainable future."



## School students introduced to Al Thakhira nature reserve

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Public Relations and Communications Department has organised a field visit to Al Thakhira Nature Reserve, with the participation of 60 students from Abdullah bin Ali Al Misnad Preparatory School for Boys.

The visit aimed to raise environmental awareness among students and introduce them to the importance of coastal ecosystems and their role in preserving biodiversity in Qatar. The visit included an educational tour of the reserve, during which students learned about mangrove trees, their environmental characteristics, and their role in protecting coastlines and providing natural habitats for marine life and birds. They were also introduced to the importance of mangroves in absorbing and storing carbon, thereby helping mitigate the effects of climate change. Accordingly, the students received an explanation of the environmental significance of Al Thakhira Nature Reserve and the guidelines visitors should follow when exploring nature reserves.

QATAR

## Qatar's heritage gleams on Arab map with two new inscriptions

From Page 1

Nestled on the coast, Al Mafjar Heritage Village is a historic settlement that opens a window onto traditional settlement patterns and community life in Qatar. Its surviving buildings and traditional fish traps tell the story of a close bond between local communities and the sea.

In the north-west of the country, Al Rekayat Fort, believed to date back to the 18th century, stands as a study in defensive design, with three rectangular towers and one circular tower. It is thought to have guarded nearby water sources, a quiet reminder of how precious water once was to the communities of Qatar's past.

Director of the International Co-operation and Government Affairs Department at Qatar Museums, Dr Fatema Hassan al-Sulaiti, said: "International co-operation is essential to strengthening recognition of Qatar's cultural heritage across the region and beyond. Through our partnerships with regional and international organisations, we create meaningful opportunities for cultural exchange, share expertise and foster a deeper appreciation of the heritage that connects our nations. The inscription of Al Mafjar Heritage Village and Al Rekayat Fort reflects the value of this collaboration and reaffirms the importance of working together to safeguard our shared Arab heritage for future generations."

The register aims to spotlight the historical and cultural significance of architectural and urban heritage sites across the Arab world, and to raise awareness of preserving them as part of the region's shared cultural legacy.



Director of Cultural Heritage Conservation at Qatar Museums, Adel al-Moslimani, added: "Al Mafjar Heritage Village and Al Rekayat Fort are important landmarks that reflect key aspects of Qatar's history and traditional architecture. Their inscription on the register highlights their significance as tangible reminders of the country's rich heritage. Qatar Museums continues to restore, preserve and document these sites and their original architectural features, safeguarding their historical and architectural value."

The latest inscriptions build on Qatar's earlier success in securing regional recognition for its architectural heritage. The Old Palace and Al Ruwais Mosque were inscribed on the register in 2019, followed by Barzan Towers and al-Murwab Archaeological Site in 2025.

Qatar Museums continues to work with national, regional and international partners to document and safeguard the country's heritage, so that its historical and architectural significance is recognised and preserved for generations to come.

## Cabinet hails Turkiye pact, approves draft laws

**By A Staff Reporter**
Doha

The Cabinet has welcomed the signing of a Mutual Defence Agreement with Turkiye, while renewing its strongest condemnation of Iran's continued attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain.

HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and HE President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed the agreement during the 12th session of the Supreme Strategic Committee, held in Istanbul on November 13. The Cabinet described the meeting as marked by a fraternal atmosphere that reflected the depth of historic relations between the two countries and the joint statement issued at the meeting's close as a milestone.

The Cabinet condemned Iran's attacks as a flagrant violation of Kuwait's and Bahrain's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and a blatant breach of international law and the UN Charter. It warned that the attacks threaten to undermine diplomatic efforts to contain regional tensions, and expressed Qatar's full solidarity with both countries.

The weekly meeting, chaired by HE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani at the Amiri Diwan, also commended HH the Amir's participation in the opening session of COP31 in Antalya on November 11.

The Cabinet approved two draft laws regulating the Central Municipal Council and its elections, and referred them to the Shura Council. The first replaces Law No. 12 of 1998 and sets a comprehensive framework for the Council's formation, powers and work, with a stronger role in public services and local needs. The second replaces Decree No. 17 of 1998 to modernise the electoral process.

It also approved a draft implementing regulation for Law No. 23 of 2025 on Water, prepared by the Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation, setting controls and standards for managing and protecting water resources.

Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi said the Cabinet approved several agreements, including MoUs with the Australian Federal Police on transnational crime and with Germany's Federal Ministry of the Interior on security co-operation. It also approved Qatar Fund for Development agreements with Norway for 2026-2030, Germany for co-financing from 2026, and a framework MoU with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Finally, the Cabinet reviewed the 2025 annual report of the National Explosives Affairs Committee, and reports on the outcomes of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meetings in the United States and the Belt and Road Summit in Hong Kong.

## Doha joins global elite with triple urban excellence certification

From Page 1

The certifications follow an extensive initiative led by the Ministry of Municipality in collaboration with 13 government partners to establish a comprehensive, internationally standardised system of urban data and performance indicators.

The initiative brings together critical information spanning education, healthcare, energy, transport, water, economic development, public safety, communications and urban planning, providing policymakers with a clearer picture of how the city functions and where improvements can make the greatest difference.

At the heart of the achievement is ISO 37120, a globally recognised benchmark covering 104 indicators across 19 sectors that measure the performance of city services and quality of life. To qualify for the prestigious Platinum distinction, a city must report on at least 90 indicators using internationally standardised methodologies.

Complementing this recognition, ISO 37122 evaluates how effectively cities harness digital technologies, innovation and data to improve urban management and public services, while ISO 37123 assesses their capacity to anticipate risks, withstand disruptions, maintain essential services and recover from emergencies.

Together, the three certifications offer a comprehensive assessment of Doha's urban performance, combining the everyday needs of residents with the technological capabilities and institutional preparedness required of cities of the future.

Director of the Planning, Quality and Innovation Department at the Ministry of Municipality, Suleiman Saeed al-Salahi, described the achievement as a national milestone reflecting Qatar's progress in urban development and its commitment to improving quality of life under the guidance and support of the country's leadership.

He said attaining the highest international city certification, alongside recognition for smart urban management and resilience, demonstrated Qatar's growing capabilities in developing reliable urban data systems aligned with leading global standards.

The achievement also reflected the country's ability to keep pace with international advances in sustainable planning, digital transformation and modern city management, he added.

Al-Salahi credited the success to close institutional co-operation between the ministry and its 13 government partners, whose teams worked to collect, review, document and verify the extensive data required to satisfy international certification standards.

# Turning recycled catalogues into public art for record bid

**By Shaima Sheriff**
Staff Reporter

Mathaf is turning discarded exhibition catalogues and reclaimed palm material into a community-made sculpture, inviting 20,000 people across Qatar to help pursue a Guinness World Records title together through art.

The project, titled Qom'a, is bringing schools, students, families, people with different abilities and members of the wider community to Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art to contribute directly to a large-scale bio-based papier-mâché artwork.

Speaking to *Gulf Times* during a Qom'a workshop, Dalal Johar, School Programme Co-ordinator at Mathaf, said the initiative was designed around three closely connected ideas: sustainability, heritage and community participation.

"Qom'a is a sustainability-driven project created by Mathaf," Johar said. "Our main goal is to bring as many people from the community as possible."

Mathaf is aiming to involve 20,000 participants in the making of the sculpture as it works towards a Guinness World Records title.



Johar said the project has already brought together a broad cross-section of the community, including schools, students, people with different abilities and participants from Ihsan. "So far, we're trying to reach our target of 20,000 people to break the Guinness World Record," she said.

At the centre of Qom'a is an effort to give existing materials a new life. Pages from Mathaf's previous exhibition catalogues are being recycled and turned into paper pulp, which participants then use as part of the sculpture-making process.

"One of the main components of this project is Mathaf's old catalogues," Johar explained. "What we do is we take the old paper, we recycle it and create paper pulp."

The process allows participants to do more than watch an artwork being produced. They can touch, shape and experiment with the material themselves before the sculpture is completed.

"With this paper pulp, students and other people are allowed to explore and play with the sculpture before it is finished," she said.

Reclaimed palm material is also being incorporated into the work, strengthening the project's connection to both sustainability and local heritage.

The result is intended to be more than a finished object. Qom'a is being built through the contributions of thousands of individual participants, with each person becoming part of the process behind the final artwork.

For Johar, that collective involvement is central to the initiative.

By bringing together people of different ages and abilities around recycled materials and shared making, Mathaf is using the project to make sustainability something tangible rather than simply discussed.

## Winners of Children's Olympics and the Fitness Award 2026



Qatar Women's Sport Committee has concluded the third edition of the Children's Olympics and the Fitness Award for primary-school girls, with a total of 200 students from 20 schools taking part. The ceremony brought together 100 students representing 10 kindergartens in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and positive competition.

The programme featured a variety of sporting activities and challenges designed to develop physical skills and foster teamwork and co-operation among participants. The award aimed to encourage students to be physically active, develop their fitness, and establish the idea of sport as a healthy lifestyle from an early age.

## Vocal for local: Qatar concludes National Product Week

Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry has concluded its seven-day National Product Week initiative to highlight locally made products and strengthen their presence in the domestic market.

In a statement, the ministry said the initiative witnessed strong consumer engagement at several shopping malls across the country and participating retail outlets.

Participating entities allocated dedicated spaces to showcase Qatari products, using promotional materials and displays to highlight their quality and diversity and encourage consumers to purchase locally made goods.

The initiative also featured three workshops organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's National Product Competitiveness Support Department, the Ministry of Finance's Government Procurement Department and Qatar Development Bank.

In addition, models showcasing prominent Qatari industries were displayed, while screens at several shopping malls and prominent locations across the country highlighted the achievements of the national industrial sector, giving visitors an opportunity to learn more about the diversity of local products and industries.



Separately, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in co-ordination with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, organised field visits to several national factories for more than 400 students from 17 schools.

The visited facilities included Qatar Meat Production Company (Gourmet), Excel Metal Industries, Uni Ceramics and Baladna Food Industries.

Students were given first-hand insight into the manufacturing processes behind Qatari products, factory operations, production technologies and quality standards, helping instill a culture of supporting national products among younger generations.

The National Product Week initiative forms part of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's efforts to raise awareness of the importance of national industries, highlight its work to protect local manufacturing from harmful commercial practices and unfair competition, and encourage consumers to support Qatari products.

These efforts aim to enhance the competitiveness of national products, localise supply chains, and support Qatar's goals of achieving greater self-sufficiency and economic diversification.

# New traffic law takes effect on December 19

From Page 1

Brigadier Jaber Ali al-Kubaisi, Director General of Traffic, announced the implementation of the first phase of a project to regulate highway speeds by introducing both minimum and maximum speed limits.

He explained that the initiative was designed to discourage unjustifiably slow driving, which could obstruct traffic flow, disrupt movement and create potentially dangerous situations for other motorists.

The new law provides for penalties against such behaviour as part of the ministry's broader strategy to enhance road safety and reduce fatalities resulting from traffic accidents.

Addressing the use of mobile phones while driving, Brigadier al-Kubaisi clarified that the legislation prohibits all forms of distraction behind the wheel, including mobile phone use.

He said the law had expanded the measures applicable to such violations, empowering the relevant traffic authority to impound offending vehicles for up to 90 days.

The tougher measures, he explained, were supported by traffic statistics and accident data highlighting the need for stronger deterrents against dangerous driving practices.

Brigadier al-Kubaisi said the legislation reflected the considerable progress made in Qatar's road network and infrastructure, alongside the growing diversity of transport modes.

It establishes a comprehensive regulatory framework defining the responsibilities of road users and the obligations of individuals and companies, while addressing emerging forms of mobility and behaviours that pose risks to traffic safety.

He added that the legislation was aligned with the Ministry of Interior's 2024–2030 strategy and its road safety objectives, as well as Qatar National Vision 2030, which places people at the centre of national development.

Brigadier al-Harmi described the new law as an important milestone in Qatar's legislative development, introducing updated traffic provisions and procedures, strengthening regulatory oversight and promoting greater compliance among road users.

He said the legislation provided a flexible legal framework capable of adapting to future developments in the transport sector and emerging mobility technologies.

The law also supports the Third National Development Strategy (2024–2030), particularly its fifth outcome, "High-Quality Life", which envisages a safe and stable society.

Brigadier al-Harmi urged motorists and other road users to familiarise themselves with the new provisions, regulations and procedures ahead of their implementation.

Meanwhile, Major General Abdullah Khalifa al-Muftah, Director of the Public Relations Department, announced the launch of a comprehensive public awareness campaign to explain the new legislation and its implications for residents.

He said the campaign would provide clear and accurate information to all segments of society through multilingual awareness materials, comparisons between the new and previous legislation, questions and answers, infographics, short videos, media interviews and dedicated programmes.

Maj Gen al-Muftah emphasised that the ministry's official communication channels would serve as the authoritative source for information and updates concerning the new law.

The Public Relations Department, in co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic and the Legal Affairs Department, will monitor public enquiries and discussions across digital platforms, regularly update awareness materials, correct inaccurate information and provide media organisations with the necessary reference materials.

The press conference, attended by media representatives, marked the beginning of the ministry's public information and awareness phase ahead of the law's implementation.

Officials stressed that the legislation seeks not only to strengthen enforcement but also to foster greater responsibility among road users, improve traffic discipline and establish a safer, more efficient transport environment across Qatar.

# Qatar launches third Winter Aswaq Festival to promote local produce

**QNA**
Doha

Qatar's Ministry of Municipality and Hassad Food Company have launched the third edition of the Winter Aswaq Festival at the Umm Salal Central Market, in a move aimed at supporting local production and expanding market opportunities for domestic products.

The festival, organised by Aswaq, a subsidiary of Hassad Food, under the patronage of the Ministry of Municipality, will run until December 31. It aims to provide local farmers and producers with a direct platform to reach consumers, increase the visibility of Qatari products in the domestic market and strengthen the country's food security system.

Assistant Undersecretary for Agriculture and Food Security at the Ministry of Municipality Yousef al-Khulaifi said the third edition reflects the ministry's commitment to support local products.

He said the festival provides direct marketing opportunities for farmers and producers to reach a wider consumer base to encourage national production and improve its competitiveness.

CEO of Hassad Food Ali Hilal al-Kuwari said the festival reflects the company's commitment to promoting national products and strengthening their presence in the local market.





He said Aswaq had worked to develop this year's edition to offer a more comprehensive experience for producers and visitors, while highlighting the quality and diversity of locally made products.

The festival features a wide range of domestic products, including dates, honey, fresh vegetables, seasonal fruits, traditional Qatari food, homemade food products, coffee, nuts, spices and popular local dishes. A dedicated section for nurseries and indoor plants is also part of the event.

For the second consecutive year, the festival has allocated a section to support families of injured people from Gaza residing in Qatar. Interactive activities for children are also being organised as part of the initiative's humanitarian and social dimension.

The Winter Aswaq Festival is open to visitors daily from 8am to 8pm at Umm Salal Central Market, which covers an area of 60,000 square meters and houses a range of facilities.

# Qatar–UK festival puts creativity at the heart of cultural exchange

**By Shaima Sheriff**
Staff Reporter

The Qatar–UK Festival 2026 is returning with a stronger focus on creative skills, as organisers seek to build talent pipelines connecting young people, culture and industries across both countries together.

The 11th edition of the festival was announced at the National Museum of Qatar on Tuesday, with this year's programme placing the cultural and creative industries at the centre of the longstanding Qatar–UK exchange.

Speaking to *Gulf Times* at the launch, British Ambassador to Qatar Neerav Patel said the festival reflects the breadth of connections between the two countries across art, fashion, film, architecture, design, gaming and sport.

"The Qatar–UK Festival is a brilliant collaboration between Qatar Museums, the British Council and the British Government," he said." "It is celebrating all of those links between our two countries, whether it's art, fashion, film, architecture, design, e-gaming and sports."

Patel said the 2026 edition would go beyond showcasing creative work by putting greater emphasis on the skills needed to sustain the sector.

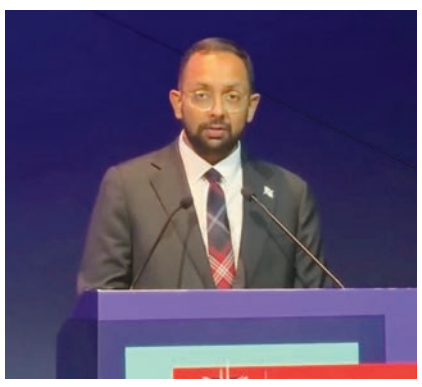
"This year's focus, as well as all of those events and activities that we're celebrating in those sectors, is focused on skills and creativity and creating that talent pipeline that will build the next generation of leaders with global reach," he said.

Dr Waseem Kotoub, country director of the British Council in Qatar, told *Gulf Times* that the festival continues the legacy of the Qatar–UK Year of Culture, while adapting to emerging opportunities within the creative economy.

"This is the 11th edition of the Qatar–UK Festival," he said,"and this festival is a legacy of the Qatar–UK Year of Culture."

"This year is a special edition themed by creative industries, so our focus is on the whole creative industry sectors, from fashion, gaming, e-sport, photography and many others," Dr Kotoub said.



Running from November 25 to December 6, the festival programme includes exhibitions, performances, workshops, competitions and industry-focused events spanning fashion, design, photography, heritage, gaming, esports and performing arts.

Kotoub said training and youth participation would form an important part of the programme.

"The programme also includes different age groups, such as schools and teenagers," he said, highlighting initiatives designed to give young participants practical creative experience.

Among the events are fashion and photography programmes, alongside discussions focused on skills within the creative industries.

# Qatar urges rapid actions to address climate change

**QNA**
Antalya

Qatar emphasised the importance of accelerating the implementation of international commitments to address climate change and fulfilling financial pledges to support developing countries, while taking into account the national circumstances and development priorities of each nation, and achieving a balance between efforts to reduce emissions and adapting to impacts of climate change.

This came in Qatar's statement delivered by HE Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie before the 31st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31), held in Antalya, Turkiye.




Dr al-Subaie indicated that addressing climate change and achieving sustainable development are interconnected goals. He noted that the success of climate action requires enabling developing countries to fulfill their commitments, through the provision of finance, technology transfer, and capacity building, and emphasised the importance of international co-operation based on equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The minister reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, noting that environmental development constitutes one of the key pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030. He further said that the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) include measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by an amount equivalent to 42mn tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2040.

Dr al-Subaie noted that Qatar continues to invest in low-emission technologies, including the operation of a carbon capture and storage facility in Ras Laffan Industrial City, which has a design capacity of approximately 2.2mn tonnes per year, as well as the Al Kharsaah, Mesaieed, and Ras Laffan solar power plants, which have a combined production capacity of about 1.7 gigawatts. Furthermore, efforts are underway to develop additional projects to double this capacity.

Dr al-Subaie added that national efforts include enhancing resource-use efficiency, developing infrastructure capable of withstanding the impacts of climate change, reducing waste, and strengthening food security through sustainable local production and improved water-use efficiency.

Regarding support for developing countries, Dr al-Subaie emphasised the importance of fulfilling financial commitments towards the least developed countries and small island developing states. He noted that those nations which contribute the least to climate change are often the most affected by its repercussions and the least equipped to cope with them.

He said that, during the 2019 Climate Action Summit, Qatar announced a contribution of $100mn to support these nations in addressing climate and environmental challenges. Furthermore, through the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and its international partnerships, Qatar continues to support projects focused on food security, sustainable agriculture, early warning systems, and strengthening resilience against the impacts of climate change.

Dr al-Subaie also highlighted the necessity of directing climate finance in accordance with the actual needs of developing countries, while linking it to technology transfer and capacity building. He noted that Doha hosted the 9th Annual One Planet Sovereign Wealth Fund CEOs (OPSWF) Summit in October, which underscored the vital role that financial institutions and sovereign wealth funds play in steering investments towards low-emission, resilient economies.

Regarding climate policies, he emphasised the need to respect each country's right to choose policies and measures appropriate to its own national circumstances and priorities, given that the Paris Agreement is founded upon nationally determined contributions.

Dr al-Subaie voiced Qatar's rejection of unilateral measures with transboundary effects, measures that could lead to negative economic and trade repercussions, or evolve into disguised restrictions on international trade, particularly for developing countries.

This stance is consistent with the principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including Article 3.5, and the Paris Agreement.

# CRA organises event showcasing technology, innovation, culture on PP-26 sidelines

**QNA**
Doha

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) is organising an event bringing together technology, innovation and Qatari culture at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC) until November 27. The event is held on the sidelines of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP-26), organised by ITU and hosted by the State of Qatar, represented by CRA.

The event offers international delegates attending the conference and the public an opportunity to explore national initiatives and projects in the fields of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), education, and innovation through displays of digital solutions, advanced technologies and robotics. It also features spaces for networking and knowledge exchange, alongside cultural activities highlighting aspects of Qatari heritage.

The event brings together government entities and national institutions, including the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), Mada Center for Assistive Technology, Education Above All Foundation, the Ministry of Justice, the National Planning Council, Qatar University, the University of Doha for Science and Technology, and Qatar Scientific Club, alongside other participating organisations showcasing their projects and initiatives.



During the event, CRA is showcasing a specialised vehicle equipped with advanced systems for monitoring, analysing and tracking satellite signals, alongside the "Al Shaheen" system, which uses a drone to monitor the radio frequency spectrum and locate sources of radio interference. These technologies highlight CRA's technical capabilities in radio spectrum management and monitoring. In this context, Eng Hussain Abdulla Salatt, Public Relations and Communication Manager at CRA, said: "Qatar's hosting of PP-26 provides an opportunity to showcase the country's achievements and projects to international delegations and promote the exchange of expertise.

We value the participation of national entities and their contributions to enriching this event and highlighting the progress Qatar has achieved across various sectors. During the event, CRA is showcasing advanced technologies for monitoring the spectrum of satellite communications, reflecting the development of Qatar's technical and regulatory capabilities and its efforts to support advanced and reliable digital infrastructure, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030."

The event also features cultural activities with the participation of the Ministry of Culture, Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim al-Thani Museum, and Qatar Tourism, alongside a traditional majlis, hospitality areas, and food and beverage options, introducing international delegates and the public to aspects of Qatari culture and heritage.

The event is open to visitors free of charge in Hall 5 at the DECC. from Monday to Friday, between 9:00am and 7:00pm.

# Old Doha Port takes part in Abu Dhabi International Boat Show 2026

**QNA**
Abu Dhabi

Old Doha Port returns to the Abu Dhabi International Boat Show 2026, taking place from November 19 to 22 at Marina Hall, ADNEC Centre Abu Dhabi, bringing together a selection of Qatar's boat and yacht manufacturers under one unified platform.

Hosted by Old Doha Port, the Qatar Pavilion presents the progress Qatar has made in boatbuilding and manufacturing, and the country's growing ability to compete regionally, to buyers, partners and industry audiences from across the region.

The participation forms part of Old Doha Port's efforts to strengthen its position as an integrated maritime tourism destination and a leading hub for yachting and cruise tourism, while reinforcing Qatar's presence on the international maritime events calendar and within the global tourism and maritime industries.

The Qatar Pavilion builds on the success it achieved at the Kuwait Marine Show 2026. It continues to bring Qatari maritime industries to regional and international platforms, supporting national companies as they explore new markets and build commercial partnerships, and contributing to the growth of the maritime sector and Qatar's competitiveness as a regional hub for maritime industries and services.

Commenting on the participation, Eng. Mohammed Abdulla al-Mulla, CEO of Old Doha Port, said: "Our participation in the Abu Dhabi International Boat Show reflects Old Doha Port's commitment to supporting national maritime industries and strengthening their presence in regional and international markets, by opening new avenues for commercial growth and strategic partnerships. Qatari companies and manufacturers bring the technical expertise, manufacturing capability and craftsmanship to compete beyond the local market. Through the Qatar Pavilion, we are providing a unified platform that connects them directly with buyers, distributors and partners from across the Gulf, creating new commercial opportunities and supporting the growth of their businesses. We remain committed to empowering national companies, strengthening the competitiveness of Qatari maritime industries and establishing their place within the regional and global maritime sector."



Now in its eighth edition, the Abu Dhabi International Boat Show attracts boat and yacht owners, distributors, investors and maritime industry specialists, alongside companies in fishing, watersports and marine equipment. This year's edition is expected to welcome broad participation from regional and international companies, giving Qatari exhibitors direct opportunities to introduce their products and explore new areas of co-operation and business.

The Qatar Pavilion brings together Tornado Boat Factory, Halul Boats, Fulk Yachts, Doha Craft and Balhambar Boats Factory. Together, the five companies reflect the range of Qatar's boatbuilding industry, from fiberglass vessels for leisure, fishing, commercial and government use to luxury yachts designed in Qatar and built to exacting standards and individual client specifications.

Beyond showcasing the participating companies, the pavilion gives them a platform to explore sales, distribution, export and partnership opportunities, and a closer view of market trends and demand across the GCC. It also places Qatari companies alongside international manufacturers, suppliers and industry decision-makers, creating space for knowledge exchange and for relationships that support future collaboration and a more connected Gulf maritime sector.

# OPINION

## The EU's new €45bn Ukraine loan plan

The European Commission proposed yesterday a new €45bn loan to Ukraine for 2027, to be repaid through future war reparations by Russia. The loan from the European Union would cover around two-thirds of Ukraine's anticipated funding gap of €70bn for next year, with the remainder to come from Ukraine's other international partners.

The Commission said additional funding was needed because the war with Russia had intensified. Strikes on Ukraine's energy and civilian infrastructure and disruption to Black Sea shipping have hit the economy and reduced government revenue, while military spending needs have increased. EU Defence Commissioner Andrius Kubilius said Russia was expected to double its deployment of drones next year to 20mn units and that Ukraine would need to keep pace. As a result, Ukraine was expected to spend 62% of its military budget on drones.

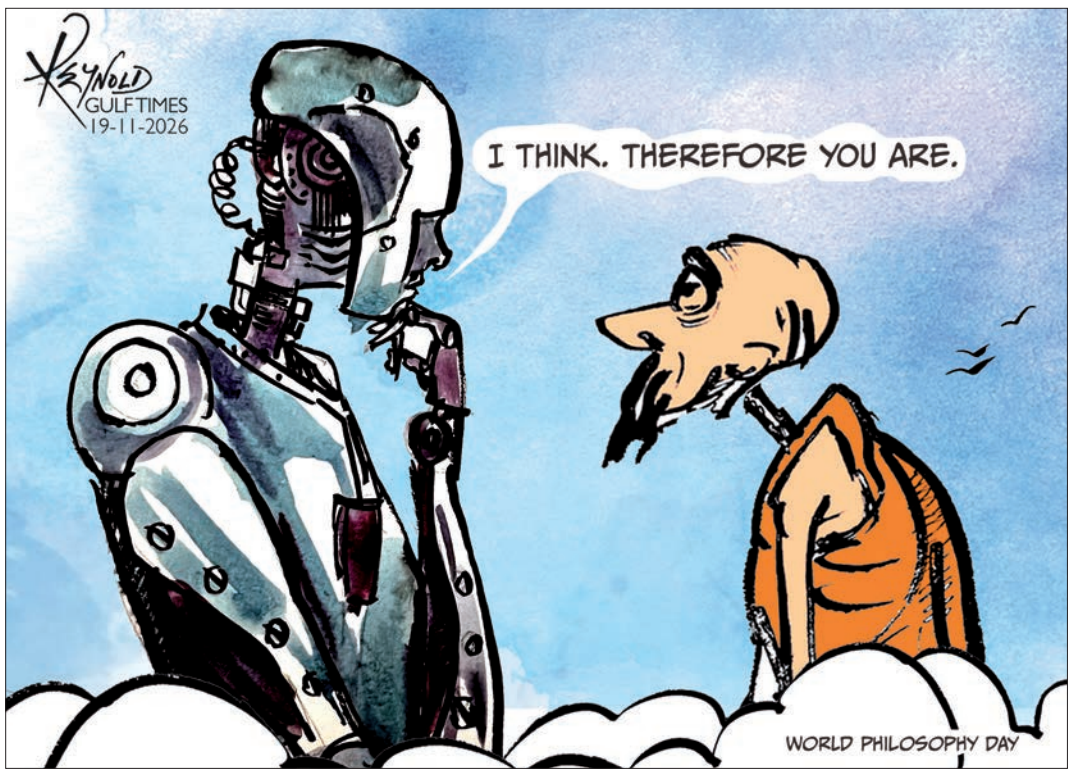
From the new loan, up to €20bn would be for general budget support and up to €25bn for military assistance. Disbursements would be tied to Ukraine continuing reforms, particularly in the rule of law, anti-corruption efforts and public finance management.

EU leaders already agreed a €90bn loan to fund Kyiv in 2026 and 2027, but only after three countries -- the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia -- opted out of financial participation. The legislation underpinning the new loan will come in two parts -- a proposal for the loan itself and a proposal to amend the EU's long-term budget to provide for loan guarantees. Both would require approval from EU governments and the European Parliament, while the budget amendment would need unanimous support from EU member states.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen expressed confidence that all 27 EU members would back the new €45bn loan.

While some governments were primarily interested in civilian assistance, all member states had explicitly said they wanted to support Ukraine, she said. The structure of the loan would allow support for both civilian spending and military needs.

Von der Leyen said the new facility would be incorporated into the next seven-year EU budget for 2028-2034, making it easier to accommodate than the previous €90bn loan, which was more an add-on to the existing EU budget. Negotiations over the next long-term EU budget are continuing. The budget will need sufficient headroom to guarantee the loan and cover associated interest costs. — Reuters




## Middle powers in face of new world disorder

**By Rory Miller**



We live in a time when the rules-based international order is under extreme pressure. There is also unprecedented scepticism over the reliability and intentions of the United States as the main provider of security in the international system. To make matters worse, interstate military conflicts have reached their highest levels since the end of World War II.

In response, the small states and middle powers that make up the vast majority of the world's nations are attempting to navigate an international environment increasingly defined by instability, insecurity and disorder. From Asia to Africa and from the Middle East to Latin America, most of the world's states self-identify as small. These actors are more challenged than ever by the need to overcome the inherent vulnerabilities of their size at the same time as they need to deal with an international environment that is growing more hostile to actors who lack hard power resources.

In consequence, these small states are being challenged like never before to find innovative ways to achieve their objectives and to have other, more powerful, actors take their interests into account before they act. But there is a smaller group of states across the world's regions trying to change this reality. These are local middle powers. They are not superpowers but nonetheless possess some influence and recognition both inside and outside of their home regions.

They have more resources and tend to be more ambitious than their small state neighbours. They are also increasingly disillusioned with the current status quo and more than ever they are searching to find new mechanisms for peace and security. The aspirations of these regional middle powers in the security space raises two key questions that will be central to policy debates in all regions in coming decades.

The first is whether more middle power ownership and agency actually translates into more security and stability for themselves, for their immediate neighbours, and for their region as a whole? The second is whether the pro-active middle power quest to take on responsibility for regional security is sustainable given that it is resource-intensive, risks a loss of credibiliity, and may be contested by a variety of stakeholders both at home and abroad.

Already one can observe multiple obstacles facing middle powers in their quest to become suppliers rather than buyers of security in their regions over the longer term. The first is the difficulty they have in satisfying even their own fundamental security needs in an increasingly hostile environment.

Most middle powers in most regions struggle continuously to become self-sufficient providers of their own security and stability. This undermines the credibility of their claims that they are capable of delivering security for individual partners, never mind the region as a whole.

Due to this struggle among local middle powers to meet their own security needs, other local actors within the same region, both middle powers and small states, are often unwilling to subordinate their own interests to a self-proclaimed regional leader. This is especially the case when such claims to leadership rest more on promises and wishful thinking than on a demonstrated capacity to absorb the financial and material costs of leadership.

It is also very difficult for these actors to muster the political willingness needed to credibly commit to prioritise the security of other local actors over, or even alongside, their own interests. This not only frustrates the leadership goals of ambitious middle powers but creates a reality where no single middle power is sufficiently dominant in terms of their capabilities, legitimacy, or the backing of their peers, to claim effective security leadership on the regional level.

Directly linked to their inability to meet the obligations of a dominant actor is the challenge middle powers have faced in building a consensus among other regional actors on the mechanisms needed for security governance on the regional level. In recent years, middle powers in Africa, Asia and the Middle East have frequently found out that their security preferences for the region are contested by peers with competing visions or even no vision at all.

This incentivizes regional actors to pursue arrangements that reflect their individual interests rather than the interests of the region as a whole. It produces a leadership vacuum that undermines the capacity of local actors to respond collectively to crises or to deter the interventions of outside actors. It also makes it very hard to build the vital institutional frameworks needed to promote consensus-building that can manage, and even resolve, the tensions and conflicts between local actors that undermine regional stability.

This leadership vacuum creates a particular dilemma for smaller states. The absence of a credible regional local security provider at the head of a regional mechanism for peace and security means that they cannot benefit from a framework of norms and institutions tailored for the region that constrains the behaviour of all actors through legitimacy rather than coercion.

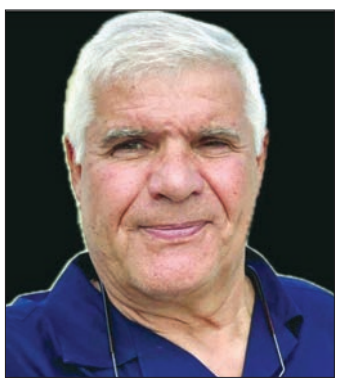
Much-reduced US power and leadership and the absence of a credible and clearly dominant local middle power raises one final overarching question. How do local actors engage with each other and with external actors on matters of security? This question will preoccupy policymakers for years to come. The answer will determine the future security orders of regions across the world.

• *The writer is professor of International Politics and Director of the Small States and Energy Studies Programs at Georgetown University in Qatar @ RoryDavidMiller.*



A US Navy F/A-18E Super Hornet launches from the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. (**Reuters**)

## The time is out of joint, and so is the freezer



**By Jamil K Mroue**

I am flummoxed. It is a fine old word for confused, and this autumn it fits me like a coat. My family is flummoxed. My friends are flummoxed. So are my contacts on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. When people who are always certain run out of certainty, a sensible man checks whether the floor is still there.

The floor, I am told, spins at about 1,670km an hour at the equator, and nobody feels it. That is the strange thing about our time: the big turns are silent, and most of the noise comes from small men.

And the noise never stops. Each morning the phone buzzes like a swarm of gnats: wave one away and three more arrive, from Gaza's flooded tents to Yemen's skies. Most of them, rightly or wrongly, seem to fly out of two wars, in Iran and Ukraine, and out of one man's moods.

Take Europe first. On November 2, supermarket fridges and freezers in nine countries, from Sweden to Portugal, were reprogrammed overnight to warm the food instead of chilling it. That week, some 20 hoax bomb threats sent airliners across Europe into diversions and fighter-jet escorts.

Nobody claimed any of it. Many fingers point at Moscow, which denies everything; some US officials suspect Iran of the same trick on military-base freezers. Something is rotten in the state of Europe, and this time it is the yoghurt. A fridge used to be a white box with a hum. Now it has an internet address, and so it has enemies.

On November 3, American voters gave a sitting president the hardest slap in a generation. Democrats took at least seven Senate seats from his party and are heading for their biggest House majority since 2008. They did not sweep Mr Trump out of the country; he is not so easily swept. Reports of his political death are an exaggeration: he keeps a veto pen and two more years.

Two days later Nvidia, the chipmaker worth more than $5tn only a month before, lost about $450bn of value in one day. Like a balloon, it had risen a long way on hot air about artificial intelligence. This week it met a pin.

Then came Friday the 13th. For more than four hours the United States stopped every departing flight. No storm, no war: just old air-traffic routers that choked during a routine upgrade. More than 14,000 flights were cancelled over two days. The nation that can fly bombers from Missouri to Iran and back could not fly a commuter from Dallas to Denver. A router, a router, my kingdom for a router!

And the war with Iran? Since American and Israeli strikes killed Iran's Supreme Leader on February 28, it has blinked like a faulty traffic light, red one day and green the next, and nobody knows when it is safe to cross: a ceasefire in April, a memorandum in June, declared over in July. On November 5, Trump asked his generals whether to bomb again; on November 9, after meeting Qatar's Prime Minister, he said the war, "militarily, is effectively over". We in the Gulf, next door to Hormuz, read such bulletins the way sailors read clouds.

Professor Syed Mohammad Marandi, once an adviser to Iran's nuclear negotiators, appears on one podcast at breakfast and another by supper, a soft-spoken hypnotist. Gently, he explains that Iran will keep its grip on Hormuz, that it used the ceasefire to prepare for more war, and that the whole world will share the bill.

Trump and his war secretary have promised to bomb Iran back to the Stone Age unless it swallows the poisoned chalice, as Ayatollah Khomeini did when he accepted the ceasefire with Iraq in 1988. Tehran's answer, served like warm tea: if Iran goes back to the Stone Age, it will not travel alone.

What does a wise ruler do after a defeat at the polls? He listens. Trump instead replaced his steady chief of staff, Susie Wiles, with Stephen Miller, the stern architect of his deportation drive, beside whom even Jared Kushner looks cheerful. Plain speech was shown the door; the flatterers kept their keys. Thou shouldst not have been old till thou hadst been wise.

Kushner, now special envoy for peace, and Steve Witkoff, the property developer turned envoy, hope to end the Russia-Ukraine war and redesign Europe's security in one sweep. After talks in Abu Dhabi they set off for Moscow, where Vladimir Putin plays the patient gambler. By Kyiv's count, Russia lost a record 54,400 soldiers killed or badly wounded in October alone, while its gains on the ground have shrunk to almost nothing. Still he bets on winter, throwing hundreds of drones at Ukraine's power grid in a single night. The time is out of joint; O cursed spite, that ever a son-in-law was born to set it right!

Europe, meanwhile, swings left and right like a door in the wind. In eastern Germany, the far right won a record 43.8% in one state, while the hard left leads the polls in Berlin. France stumbles from one weak government to the next; Spain votes again on November 29. Each capital seems to cry a plague on both your houses, and then elects one of them.

What ties a cooked freezer, a choked router, a punctured balloon and a blinking war together? Not one grand plot. We have built a world of marvellous machines and handed the keys to people who love disruption and hate maintenance. Nobody wins an election for patching a fridge controller or replacing an old router. Yet that is where great powers fail: not in the grand design, but in the dull repairs. Rome was not lost in a day; it was lost one leaking aqueduct at a time.

An old fool once gave his king better advice: have more than thou showest, speak less than thou knowest. I remain flummoxed. But I have unplugged my freezer from the internet, and I advise the world to unplug its faith from any man who promises to fix three wars before lunch.

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



GULF TIMES
**CHAIRMAN**
Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah
**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka
**DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR**
Kamran Rehmat

P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
editor@gulf-times.com
4435 0478 (News)
4446 6404 (Sport)
44466636 (Home delivery)
facebook.com/gulftimes
X.com/gulftimes_Qatar
instagram.com/gulftimes
youtube.com/GulftimesVideos

**To Advertise**: gtadv@gulf-times.com
**Display**: 4446 6621 **Classified**: 4446 6609 gtcad@gulf-times.com
**Subscription**: circulation@gulf-times.com

© 2026 Gulf Times. All rights reserved

# 10th edition of Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani Award winners announced

Alfaisal Without Borders Foundation (ALF Foundation) and the College of Education at Qatar University (QU) celebrated the winners of the 10th edition of the Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani Award for Educational Research at the College of Education, QU.

Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, chairman of the Board of Trustees, ALF Foundation said that the Educational Research Award stems from the foundation's deep conviction that education is the true cornerstone for building societies and shaping the future of upcoming generations, and that scientific research is a vital tool for developing the educational system and adapting to the global changes and challenges of our time.

He pointed out that the award was designed not merely as an initiative to honour researchers, but as a scientific platform dedicated to discovering, nurturing, and empowering research talents, while promoting applicable ideas within the educational field. He added that reaching its 10th edition reflects the award's success and growing regional impact, demonstrating the importance of initiatives that bridge knowledge with practical application to foster innovation and excellence.



Winners of the award with Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani and other dignitaries.

Prof Dr Ibrahim Mohamed al-Kaabi, executive vice president for Academic Affairs, QU stated that educational research is an indispensable strategic tool for advancing education and keeping pace with rapid transformations—particularly in the age of artificial intelligence—noting the critical importance of leveraging knowledge and innovation to build more flexible and inclusive educational systems. He commended the role played by the award through the partnership between Qatar University and Alfaisal Without Borders Foundation.

Prof Dr Nasser Fahad al-Dosari, dean of the College of Education, noted that the partnership between the College of Education and Alfaisal Without Borders Foundation represents a distinguished model of collaboration in serving knowledge and elevating education. He affirmed the College of Education's aspiration to continuously support initiatives that contribute to advancing educational research and encouraging innovation and creativity in the educational field.

Abdulatif Ali al-Yafei, general manager, ALF Foundation stated that the 10th edition represents a landmark milestone in the Award's history, reflecting its remarkable evolution since inception.

"The journey began in 2016 with 62 applicants, after which the award witnessed a notable, year-over-year expansion in participation, reflecting deepening trust, expanding impact, and its established standing as one of the preeminent Arab initiatives in educational research, with applicants reaching 613 in 2024 from across the Arab world," he added.

He highlighted the notable geographical diversity among applicants, led by Egypt (17%), Jordan (16%), Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman (13% each), Palestine (9%), and the State of Qatar (7%), alongside participants from several other Arab countries.

Mona El Helbawi, general manager of Al Rayyan Investment in Education, Culture, and Sports stated: "The Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani Award for Educational Research is one of the premier programmes by Alfaisal Without Borders Foundation in partnership with the College of Education at Qatar University, reflecting our leadership's vision to support applied educational studies. Spanning a decade of continuous success, the award has grown from local roots in Qatar to a regional milestone, with global aspirations ahead."



Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani

The 10th edition recognised 13 winners across five main categories: Distinction, Academics, Teachers and Leaders, Postgraduate Students, and Undergraduate Students.

Distinction Category: Suheil Salah — An-Najah National University, Palestine. Academics Category: 1st Place: Dr Abeer Shoja'a al-Harbi — Majmaah University, Saudi Arabia; 2nd Place: Dr Ahmed Mohamed Majriya — Qatar University and 3rd Place: Dr Mohamed Hamood al-Amri — Sultan Qaboos University, Oman.

Teachers and Leaders Category: 1st Place: Mohamed Ahmed Helmy Abdelhafiz — Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School; 2nd Place: Maysa Mahmoud Mohamed al-Qasim — Al-Joulan Basic School for Girls, Palestine and 3rd Place: Nadia Salem Qatnan al-Juaid — Early Childhood Center, Saudi Arabia

Postgraduate Students Category: 1st Place: Sahar Hassan Taher — Mansoura University, Egypt; 2nd Place: Ahmed Hosny Saleh Metwally — Helwan University, Egypt and 3rd Place: Marhoona Hamad al-Maqbali — Sultan Qaboos University, Oman

Undergraduate Students Category: 1st Place: Noha Hassan Mohamed El-Labbad — Islamic University of Gaza, Palestine; 2nd Place: Zehra Rashid Al-Marri — Qatar University and 3rd Place: Ahmed bin Saeed al-Khasibi — University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Oman.

# Msheireb turns downtown into testing ground for innovation

**By Shaima Sheriff**
Staff Correspondent

Msheireb is positioning its downtown district as a testing ground for innovation, bringing entrepreneurs and investors together while preparing winning sustainability ideas for real-world trials across the city next year.

The role of Msheireb Downtown Doha as a meeting point for technology, sustainability and entrepreneurship came into focus at Downtown Tech, held at Barahat Msheireb on Tuesday.

Organised by Msheireb Properties in co-operation with Inc Arabia, the event brought together entrepreneurs and innovators working across the technology and sustainability sectors, with discussions centred on supporting startups and turning new ideas into practical solutions.

Speaking to Gulf Times during the event, Noura Abdulaziz al-Qubaisi, acting senior director of Corporate Communications at Msheireb Properties, said Downtown Tech was designed to bring different parts of the innovation ecosystem into the same space.

The event featured programmes, activities and panel discussions, with the Azal Innovation Programme among its key components. "Such initiatives reaffirm Msheireb's role as an environment that brings together people with ideas and investors," al-Qubaisi said.

She added that the aim was to create opportunities for those ideas to move beyond discussion.

The final proposals shortlisted through Azal, organised by Doha Design District under the umbrella of Msheireb Properties, were presented as part of the programme, with the winning project set to be announced following the event.

The selected proposals are expected to move into a further stage, with plans to test the winning ideas within Msheireb in 2027.




Noura Abdulaziz al-Qubaisi

Al-Qubaisi said that practical element was an important part of the programme.

The initiative, she explained, provides "an opportunity to transform these solutions into practical solutions that contribute to improving quality of life".

For Msheireb Properties, the event also reflects a broader effort to position the district as more than a venue for conferences and discussions. By connecting startups, entrepreneurs, investors and creative thinkers, organisers hope to create a setting where ideas can be developed, challenged and eventually applied within the urban environment.

Al-Qubaisi said Downtown Tech also reinforces Msheireb's wider focus on sustainability and innovation within a contemporary city setting.

The combination of panel discussions, startup engagement and the Azal programme gave participants an opportunity to examine how technology can respond to real urban challenges while giving emerging innovators access to potential partners and investors.

With the winning Azal proposals expected to be tested in Msheireb next year, the programme is also creating a visible pathway from concept to implementation.

# Carnival of cinema: DFF opens with stories galore

**By Joseph Varghese**
Staff Reporter

Heralding Qatar as an international destination for art and culture and affirming Doha as the cultural hub of the region and beyond, Doha Film Festival (DFF) 2026 is set to begin today bringing together filmmakers, actors, industry professionals and cinema enthusiasts from Qatar and around the world for over a week of film screenings and cultural activities.

Organised by the Doha Film Institute (DFI), the festival will run until November 27, showcasing a diverse selection of international, Arab and Gulf cinema, with a focus on original storytelling, cultural exchange and emerging filmmaking talent.

The festival will screen 104 films from 60 countries including 17 World Premieres and 48 Middle East and North Africa Premieres. It also includes 11 DFI supported films and seven by women filmmakers.

The programme will feature several high-profile gala and special screenings, including James Gray's *Paper Tiger*, Rami Kodeih's *Furies*, Jeffrey Walker's *Fing!*, Bruno Dumont's *Red Rocks* and Ginevra Elkann's *The Roses of Marrakech*.



A still from the opening film *The Station* by Sara Ishaq.

The festival will open with *The Station* (Al Mahattah), the award-winning debut feature by Yemeni-Scottish filmmaker Sara Ishaq. Making its Middle East and North Africa premiere, the film is set inside a women-only petrol station in war-torn Yemen, where women find a rare place of safety and solidarity amid the surrounding conflict.

The film explores themes of resilience, sisterhood and human connection, reflecting the festival's commitment to bringing underrepresented stories to international audiences.

Over the festival, audiences can look forward to a dynamic lineup of world premieres, regional debuts, talks and discussions, industry sessions, youth programmes, music performances, Geekdom and other community initiatives across Doha.

With prizes totaling over $300,000, DFF 2026 features four main competition sections; International Feature Film Competition, International Short Film Competition, Made in Qatar Competition, the Ajyal Film Competition for youth aged 16-25 and the newly launched Cinema Alkhaleej programme honouring stories from across the Gulf.

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, CEO of Doha Film Institute and Festival Director of DFF, said: "Cinema carries voices across borders and builds bridges where distance and difference might otherwise keep us apart. Doha Film Festival is a home for filmmakers who defy convention and reveal the full potential of independent cinema. As we begin this new chapter, we remain committed to championing stories of our shared humanity – stories that nurture empathy and deepen understanding. Opening with Sara Ishaq's *The Station* sets the tone for a programme that spans urgent documentaries, homegrown Qatari narratives, cherished classics and inclusive screenings. Together, they create a vibrant space where curiosity, discovery and the power of storytelling bring together audiences of all tastes."

The festival will welcome several special guests this year including filmmakers, artists and activists, whose work has inspired audiences all over the world. They include: Taim Hasan, Nandita Das, Naomi Kawase, Adam Bessa, Dora Bouchouch, Gianfranco Rosi, Kamal Aljafari, Sara Ishaq, Nadia Eliewat, Abeer Mohammed, Randa Mohammed, Fatima Muthanna, Ali Elrabi, Adil Hussain, Neha Dhupia, Jim Carter, James Gray, Daniele Rugo, Farah Nabulsi, William Parry, Hisham Fqih, Haya Alghanim, Muzna al-Musafer, Ahd Kamel among others.

As part of the festival, public screenings, events, and activities will be hosted across several locations, while Katara Cultural Village, Msheireb Downtown Doha, the Museum of Islamic Art and MIA Park will serve as primary venues.

# Qatar Classic Cars exhibit kicks off with focus on introducing youth to car heritage

**QNA**
Doha

The Gulf Qatari Classic Cars Association (GQCCA) officially inaugurated the seventh edition of Qatar Luxury Classic Cars Contest & Exhibition 2026 at The Pearl Island, under the honorary patronage of HE Chairperson of Qatar Museums, Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

Running until Sunday, the event this time occupies its largest exhibition space to date, showcasing an exceptional collection of rare and luxury classic cars. This year's edition features extensive participation from across GCC countries, with the co-operation of the Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens (FIVA).

Chairman of the GQCCA, Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, emphasised that the seventh edition marks another significant milestone in the event's continued development, reinforcing its position as one of Qatar's and the region's leading attractions for tourism and automotive enthusiasts.

"We celebrate classic cars not merely as historical collectibles, but also as remarkable examples of the innovation that shaped these extraordinary vehicles. Our vision for the seventh edition extends beyond a conventional exhibition to deliver a cultural and engineering experience that illustrates more than a century of automotive evolution," al-Thani said.





He added that the association remains committed to strengthening Qatar's presence on the international calendar of specialised automotive events.

Omar Alfardan, Vice Chairman of the GQCCA, stated that organising the seventh edition represents a natural continuation of the association's longstanding efforts to establish Qatar as a leading destination in the classic automotive sector. "We regard this edition as another milestone in the event's development. It is not simply a showcase of rare and exceptional vehicles, but an expression of a broader vision to enhance public awareness of classic automotive history and its artistic and engineering significance. Classic cars are more than collectibles; they are living testaments to defining chapters in the history of global industrial development," he said.

Alfardan explained that the exhibition has evolved into a platform connecting experts, collectors, and the wider public, allowing them to engage directly with this rich mechanical heritage. "Each year, we strive to introduce meaningful enhancements to the event, whether by diversifying the competition categories or enriching the interactive visitor experience. We also believe that encouraging young enthusiasts is fundamental to our mission. Accordingly, we are working to provide educational platforms and workshops that facilitate the transfer of knowledge and expertise to future generations," he added.

Concluding his remarks, Alfardan said: "We are proud of the recognition and impact that the event has achieved. We remain committed to developing an event that reflects Qatar's standing and its community's passion for this remarkable heritage."

Eng Abdullatif Ali al-Yafei, Board Member and Secretary-General of the GQCCA, highlighted the unprecedented scale of participation in the seventh edition.

He revealed that 74 classic cars are participating this year, the largest number since the event's inception.

"We are particularly proud to welcome participants from every GCC country, whose entries account for approximately 50% of the total participating vehicles. This reflects the event's growing prominence and the confidence it has earned among classic car collectors and specialised organisations throughout the region," he said.

Al-Yafei also highlighted the participation of several historically significant vehicles, including a 1928 Ford Model A, the oldest car in this year's competition, approaching its centenary, as well as a BMW dating back to 1929.

He noted that the second and third competition categories feature a larger number of rare vehicles from GCC countries than in previous editions, alongside an impressive selection of convertibles and sports cars.

Al-Yafei also announced a range of activities designed to engage children and young people, promote awareness, and encourage a greater appreciation of classic automotive heritage.

Qatar Auto Museum is organising a dedicated educational programme in conjunction with the contest, introducing students to classic cars as works of art that combine engineering, craftsmanship, and design.

The museum will also produce a series of short educational videos aimed at aspiring collectors, offering practical guidance on acquiring, restoring, preserving, and preparing classic vehicles for exhibitions and judged competitions.

Meanwhile, United Development Company will organise interactive activities for children, including competitions, drawing sessions, and other artistic experiences.

QATAR

# Friends, colleagues pay tribute to orthopaedic pioneer Dr N S Bhat

**By Joseph Varghese**
Staff Reporter


Dr Bhat's wife and other family members at the Remembrance Day.

Friends, colleagues and community members paid rich tributes to veteran physician and orthopaedic surgeon, Dr N S Bhatt who passed away recently.

The Indian Doctors Club (IDC), Qatar held a remembrance Day at Ashoka Hall, Indian Cultural Centre to honour the memory of Dr N S Bhat, remembering him as a pioneer who played a significant role in developing the country's orthopaedic healthcare services and strengthening the Indian medical community.

IDC officials said that Dr Bhat, who served Qatar for more than four decades, was instrumental in establishing the Orthopaedics Department at Rumailah Hospital in 1975 and played a key role in developing the department at Hamad Medical Corporation in its formative years.

The evening was attended by Dr Ali A Hadi Alshawi Almarri, professor of Sociology at Qatar University, Dr Mohan Thomas, patron of the Indian Doctors Club; Dr Sameer Mopan, Advisory Council Member and Past President of IDC among others.

Dr Bhat's wife, Dr Usha Bhat, a paediatric neurologist, and their children and grandchildren also attended the gathering.

Dr Bhat was one of the founding pillars of the Indian Doctors Club, having worked with senior doctors to establish an association that would bring together Indian-origin medical professionals in Qatar for academic activities, professional interaction, friendship and fellowship.

IDC president, Dr Riny Showkath, addressed the gathering and highlighted the rich contributions of Dr Bhat to the community and the country at large. She said: "Dr Bhat was known not only for his exceptional skills as an orthopaedic surgeon, but also for his warm personality, cheerful spirit and ever-smiling face. He was a familiar and deeply respected figure among the nationals, Indian community as well as other expatriate communities."

Speaking about Dr Bhat's contributions, Dr Thomas recalled his pioneering role in building the organisation and his lasting influence on the medical fraternity and wider community.

"Dr Bhatt was not merely a distinguished orthopaedic surgeon; he was a pioneer in his field. He played a significant role in establishing and developing the Department of Orthopaedics at Rumailah Hospital, Hamad Medical Corporation, and made remarkable contributions to the advancement of orthopaedic services in Qatar," said Dr Thomas.

"Dr Bhatt was also a much-loved and respected personality among the Qatari community. His professional excellence, academic contributions and genuine social engagement earned him the affection and admiration of people across the country. He was more than a respected medical professional; he was a compassionate human being who built lasting relationships and touched lives beyond the walls of the hospital," continued, Dr Thomas.

According to Dr Thomas, Dr Bhat's academic achievements were very extraordinary. "Throughout his medical education, he consistently secured top honours and medals across the subjects he studied. That exceptional academic brilliance was reflected in his professional career, where he emerged as an outstanding surgeon, touching countless lives through his skill, dedication and commitment. He helped many patients regain their mobility, stand on their feet and walk again, giving them a renewed sense of hope and independence," added Dr Thomas.

Dr Bhat's medical career spanned more than five decades and was marked by academic excellence and pioneering surgical achievements. A gold medallist and best outgoing student of Stanley Medical College, Chennai, he obtained postgraduate qualifications in both general surgery and orthopaedics before pursuing further specialisation.



Dr Mohan Thomas addressing the gathering with Dr Bhat's picture on the left.


Some of the dignitaries at the event.

# Sidra Medicine research translates genetic variant linked to increased colorectal cancer risk

Sidra Medicine, a member of Qatar Foundation, has contributed to a research study identifying the cancer-promoting effects of a rare genetic variant found in Qatar, marking an important step toward improving genetic risk assessment and early screening for hereditary colorectal cancer.

The study, conducted in collaboration with Hamad Bin Khalifa University using genomic data from the Qatar Precision Health Institute (QPHI), investigated a rare variant in the MLH1 gene, which is associated with Lynch syndrome, the most common inherited form of colorectal cancer. Published in the *International Journal of Cancer*, the findings provide new evidence that could help healthcare professionals better identify individuals at increased risk and inform future decisions about genetic testing and cancer surveillance.

The research focused on the MLH1 p.His112Arg variant, initially identified through an analysis of whole-genome sequencing data from 14,392 QPHI participants in five individuals with insufficient evidence to determine whether it increased an individual's risk of developing cancer.

To investigate its potential impact, researchers at Sidra Medicine used CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing technology to introduce the variant into human colorectal cancer modified cells then transplanted into zebrafish, allowing researchers to observe tumour development in a living organism. The transparency of zebrafish larvae makes them particularly valuable for studying cancer progression, enabling scientists to monitor changes in tumour growth over a relatively short period.


The research team.

Dr Sahar Isa Da'as of Sidra Medicine said: "Genetic databases built mostly from other populations often cannot tell us what a variant found in our own community means. The zebrafish gives us a fast, living system to test these variants directly. In days rather than months, we can see whether a variant behaves like a cancer-promoting change."

The findings have important implications for hereditary cancer prevention and early detection. Individuals carrying pathogenic variants in DNA mismatch repair genes can face a significantly increased lifetime risk of colorectal cancer.

Identifying these variants can help inform decisions about earlier and more frequent colonoscopy surveillance, as well as genetic testing for relatives who may share the same inherited risk.

Dr Amal Elfatih, senior research specialist QPHI, said: "This work shows how population genomics and functional models can be linked. Populations in our region are underrepresented in global genetic databases, so variants seen in research cohorts here are often left classified as uncertain. Resolving them is a shared effort. Each variant we resolve adds to the evidence base, so that screening and genetic testing can one day be directed to the people at genuine risk, and cancers caught earlier."

