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AVIATION SPECIAL | Page 4

Persistent global growth: Air passenger and cargo segments see renewed momentum



Thursday, October 2, 2025
Rabia II 10, 1447 AH

GULF TIMES
BUSINESS



KEY MILESTONE : Page 2

AlRayan Bank gets NIA certification by National Cyber Security Agency





The licence approval for ezbank is an important step in QNB Group's ongoing efforts to transform the banking sector in the markets in which it operates, across 28 countries in three continents

QNB Group receives Saudi Central Bank licence approval for new digital bank

QNB Group, the largest financial institution in the Middle East and Africa, has announced licence approval has been received for a digital-first banking entity - ezbank, from the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) in co-operation with Ajlan & Bros Holding, with a capital of SR2.5bn.

This milestone, in co-operation with Ajlan & Bros Holding, reflects a commitment to supporting QNB Group's vision for financial inclusion and digital transformation, as well as the broader economic development strategy.

With ezbank, the goal is to introduce a new model of customer-centric banking built around innovation, efficiency, and accessibility.

The licence approval for ezbank is an important step in QNB Group's ongoing efforts to transform the banking sector in the markets in which it operates, across 28 countries in three continents.

The entity aims to offer a digital-first banking experience that is simple, inclusive, and secure, and to provide innovative solutions for the youth and entrepreneurs.

The bank will use mobile-first platforms, AI-driven tools, and smart risk management to make transactions easier, increase access, and support digital economy.

Ooredoo Fintech to join PayPal World, unlocking seamless global commerce for its consumers and merchants

Ooredoo Fintech announced yesterday its intention to form a strategic collaboration with PayPal.
Ooredoo Fintech will join leading global payments systems and digital wallets in enabling nearly 2bn users globally to seamlessly send money, shop online, in-store, and with AI agents across borders.
Benefits will include access to shop at millions more businesses, online, in-store, and with AI agents; pay international businesses using their domestic payment system or wallet of choice and local currency; and seamless money transfers to users across borders.
For consumers, PayPal World can enable Ooredoo wallet users access to millions of merchants globally and the ability to send funds abroad with unprecedented ease, reducing the usual friction and roadblocks associated with international payments.
PayPal World will connect millions of businesses to nearly 2bn consumers worldwide. Businesses will benefit from expanded reach into new markets and nearly 2bn users; increased payment options and sales – online, in-store, and with AI agents; and businesses automatically accept new digital payment options at checkout when more partners join the platform, with no additional development work required.
Ooredoo Fintech CEO Mirko Giacco said: "We have empowered the masses with digital finance in Qatar and taken this successful model to Oman and the Maldives. With additional markets over time to widen access to modern, cost-effective financial solutions, this partnership with PayPal fits perfectly with our mission to empower consumers and merchants with global financial access through their local wallet."
PayPal president and CEO Alex Chriss said: "PayPal World is a first-of-its-kind payments ecosystem that will bring together many of the world's largest payment systems and digital wallets on a single platform. It is a testament to the passion our partners share for an inclusive, global digital economy and has the potential to revolutionise cross-border commerce.
"The challenge of moving money across borders is incredibly complex, and yet this platform will make it so simple for nearly two billion consumers and businesses. We believe PayPal World has the potential to be a real game changer over time."
The partnership provides individuals and small businesses with a more reliable, affordable way to access global commerce. It also reinforces Ooredoo Fintech's leadership as one of the region's leading providers of digital financial services, expanding wallet use cases beyond what any other provider currently offers.
By combining Ooredoo Fintech's market leadership in digital services with PayPal's global network and trusted infrastructure, the collaboration lays the foundation for a more connected and inclusive digital financial ecosystem in Qatar and other countries in which it operates, one that enables fast, more flexible, and more practical digital payments for everyone.



Ooredoo Fintech CEO Mirko Giacco and PayPal president and CEO Alex Chriss during the signing ceremony.

Ministry of Labour and GWC hold awareness seminar 'on safe storage and handling' of hazardous materials

The Ministry of Labour, in collaboration with Gulf Warehousing Company (GWC) held an awareness seminar on safe storage and handling of hazardous materials here recently.
The seminar was held with the participation of the Prevention Department at the General Directorate of Civil Defence, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's Chemicals and Hazardous Waste Department, and academic advisers from the University of Doha for Science and Technology.
The seminar aimed to raise awareness of occupational safety standards and equip participants with preventive measures to minimise risks in storage and transportation operations.
Nasser al-Hajri, Chief People Officer at GWC, expressed his sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Labour for its efforts in raising awareness of occupational safety standards, emphasising that the company places the health and safety of its workforce as its top priority, ensuring comprehensive training on occupational safety and health procedures, proper use of personal protective equipment, regular emergency drills, a healthy work environment, active prevention of hazards, and a culture of awareness and best practices; all supported by strict adherence to preventive measures.



Nasser al-Hajri, Chief People Officer at GWC.

"At GWC, we follow stringent international safety protocols to ensure the safe storage of hazardous materials. This involves regular employee training on safe handling practices, emergency preparedness, gas monitoring alarms, fire alarms, secondary containment systems, routine maintenance, risk assessments, and continually reinforcing awareness of occupational health and safety."
GWC implements a Safety Observation Reporting (SOR) System — a streamlined process that encourages all employees to report workplace observations they encounter on a day-to-day basis to help identify and mitigate occupational hazards and/or unsafe conditions in the workplace.
Al-Hajri noted that GWC continuously enhances its occupational safety and health standards by integrating them into its daily operations, while actively promoting awareness of safety, health, and environmental management systems, safe operational practices, and enhancing the quality of risk assessments, work procedure controls, and ongoing monitoring of health, safety, environment, and security performance indicators.
This encompasses occupational health, workplace injuries, illnesses, and security incidents, all aligned with the latest international standards and best practices.

QIB receives 'Domestic Retail Bank of Year' and 'Financial Inclusion Initiative of Year' awards

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) has received two notable accolades at the *Asian Banking & Finance* Retail Banking Awards 2025.
QIB was named 'Domestic Retail Bank of the Year in Qatar' and also awarded 'Financial Inclusion Initiative of the Year in Qatar', recognising its continuous leadership in digital innovation and its customer-centric approach.
The recognition reaffirms QIB's commitment to delivering advanced retail banking experiences and widening access to Shariah-compliant financial services. It also reflects the bank's strategic focus on innovation, operational efficiency, and accessibility.
The 'Domestic Retail Bank of the Year in Qatar' award recognises QIB's market leadership, strong financial performance, and continued investment in digital innovation. Digital banking remains the core of its strategy, anchored by the QIB Mobile App, which now offers more than 320 features, and over 99% of retail transactions are conducted through the bank's digital channels.
Key innovations, such as Qatar's first digital Auto Marketplace, digital onboarding, instant finance and credit card issuance, and enhanced international remittance services, underscore its commitment to convenience, inclusion, and security.
Complemented by sustainability initiatives, financial accessibility programmes, and award-winning customer experience, QIB continues to set new benchmarks for retail banking experience in Qatar and beyond.
The 'Financial Inclusion Initiative of the Year in Qatar' award reflects the bank's comprehensive efforts to extend access to banking services across underserved communities.
Through innovations such as the QIB Lite App for low-income workers, real-time international remittances, and a fully digital onboarding journey for domestic workers, the bank has delivered secure, accessible, and Shariah-compliant financial solutions to underserved segments.
Aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030, QIB customises specific products and services for those facing financial vulnerability, prioritises financial education, and promotes inclusion as part of its corporate social responsibility and customer-centric approach.



The awards reaffirm QIB's commitment to delivering advanced retail banking experiences and widening access to Shariah-compliant financial services.

D Anand, QIB general manager, Personal Banking Group, said: "We are pleased to receive these two awards, which reflect the strength of our digital strategy and our ongoing efforts to deliver accessible, customer-focused banking solutions. As we continue to enhance our offerings, our priority remains to serve the diverse needs of our customers through secure, inclusive, and innovative digital experiences."
The *Asian Banking & Finance* Awards celebrate the region's most outstanding financial institutions, recognising leadership in innovation, customer experience, and inclusive growth.

BUSINESS



Achieved to a high standard within a short timeframe, the milestone reflects the bank's sustained focus on strengthening information protection and cyber resilience in the face of rising global threats

AlRayan Bank gets NIA certification by National Cyber Security Agency

AlRayan Bank announced that it has been awarded the National Information Assurance (NIA) certification by Qatar's National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA).

Achieved to a high standard within a short timeframe, this milestone reflects the bank's sustained focus on strengthening information protection and cyber resilience in the face of rising global threats.

The certification ceremony took place at The Ritz-Carlton recently.

Unlike traditional security standards that sit mainly within IT, NIA is a strategic, Qatar-tailored assurance framework that integrates cybersecurity across the entire enterprise, governance, processes, and frontline business functions.

For AlRayan Bank, the certification represents a major step forward in safeguarding information assets, elevating security practices across every department, and contributing to the state's national information security strategy in line with international best practice.

It also signals independent assurance of the bank's cybersecurity maturity, deeper protection for customers, staff, assets, and shareholders, greater confidence among partners, strengthened resilience against evolving cyber risks, support for compliance with national and global standards, and the continued cultivation of a pervasive, organisation-wide security culture.

Commenting on the achievement, Omar al-Emadi, Acting Group Chief Executive Officer at AlRayan Bank, said: "We are proud to receive the NIA Certification, a clear reflection of AlRayan Bank's relentless focus on information protection and cyber resilience. This is a pivotal step in our journey to safeguard information assets and embed robust security practices across the bank. It also affirms our active contribution to Qatar's national information security strategy, in line with global best practice. Above all, it embodies our steadfast commitment to protecting our customers' and partners' data, strengthening our ability to anticipate and counter cyber risks, and ensuring greater resilience and secure business continuity."

He added that the bank extends its appreciation to the National Cyber Security Agency for its leadership and guidance in enabling AlRayan Bank to meet the certification requirements. Building on this foundation, the bank will continue to deepen trust with customers and shareholders through credible, stable, and secure digital banking services, making AlRayan Bank their first choice.

Qatar sees a trend towards increased consumption of healthier food, says Alpen Capital

By Santhosh V Perumal
Business Reporter

Qatar, whose QR1.6bn strategic food security facilities at the Hamad Port is nearing operation, has seen a trend towards increased consumption of healthier food, boosting the demand for fruits and other organic food items in the country, according to Alpen Capital.

Qatar, one of the Gulf Co-operation Council's most resilient economies, has accounted for 1.8% and 4.3% of the region's total food production and consumption, respectively, Alpen Capital said in a report.

Qatar's food consumption declined significantly at 3.3% annually (compounded) over the five-year period to approximately 1.9mn metric tonnes (MT) in 2023. Among the food categories, consumption of vegetables was the highest in the country, accounting for 24.9% of the total, followed by cereals (20.3%), fruits (17.8%), milk/dairy products (14%), and meat (8.4%).

Consumption of fruits in Qatar increased at the highest 3.9%, followed by eggs (2.9%) between 2018 and 2023. Consumption of cereals declined significantly at 8.4%, followed by meat (-7.8%), and milk/dairy (-4.8%). A higher level of net food consumption over domestic production created a production gap of 1.6mn MT in 2023. Between 2018 and 2023, this shortfall declined at 3.1%.

"Qatar has witnessed a trend toward increased consumption of healthier food amid growing concerns of NCDs," it said.

Quoting a report published by the Ministry of Public Health, which found over 70% of the population was affected by obesity; Alpen Capital said this has boosted the demand for fruits and other organic food items in the country.

On the strategic food security facilities at the Hamad Port, it said designed to store rice, sugar, and edible oils for up to 3mn people for two years, the project supports the National Food Security Strategy 2030 by strengthening reserve capabilities and strategic stock systems.

The report said in 2025, Qatari investors partnered with Sierra Leone to explore opportunities in the agricultural sector, focusing on large-scale farming, agro-processing, and agricultural technology due to its abundant arable land and diverse crop potential, aiming to modernise farming practices and contribute to economic growth in both nations.

Highlighting that in 2024, Qatar and the European Union had strengthened their partnership to promote innovation in agritech and sustainable farming practices; it said this collaboration aims to enhance food security through shared expertise and investment in environmentally sustainable agriculture.

Finding that Qatar welcomed nearly 4mn visitors in the first 10 months of 2024, a 25% rise from 2023, driven by simplified visa procedures, including visa-free entry for nationals of 102 countries; the report said the upcoming international events, including FIFA tournaments this year, are expected to further boost the food sector.

Total food production in Qatar declined at 4.6% (annually) between 2018 and 2023 to 310,301MT.

Among individual food categories, milk/dairy products (63.7% share), fruits (12.0% share), and meat (10.8% share) remained the most produced items as of 2023.

Vegetable production declined significantly at 47.1%, followed by milk/dairy and meat production with 2.7% and 1.4%, respectively.

Egg production grew at the highest pace, recording an annualised growth rate of 11% over the five-year period, followed by fish (5.4%), and fruits (5%).

Qatar's total imports declined by 2.9% between 2018 and 2023 to 1.6mn MT, which is majorly attributed to the decline of meat (-8.9%) and cereal (-8.4%) imports during the five-year period.

The Business Year, Msheireb Properties to launch 'AI for Good Qatar Challenge'

The Business Year (*TBY*), in collaboration with Msheireb Properties, will launch the AI for Good Qatar Challenge in partnership with AI for Good YAILs Qatar.

The challenge will be a startup competition taking place as part of the 'Qatar Investment and Innovation Conference: Driving GCC Entrepreneurial Growth', scheduled for November 3, at Barahat Msheireb, Doha.

The competition will bring together the most promising GCC-based pre-seed and seed-stage startups that are leveraging artificial intelligence to address global challenges aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By spotlighting AI-native solutions with tangible societal impact, the AI for Good Qatar Challenge underscores Qatar's commitment to innovation-driven growth, entrepreneurship, and its role in advancing regional leadership in the digital economy.

Dr Hafiz Ali Abdulla, senior director of Corporate Communication at Msheireb Properties, said: "Msheireb Downtown Doha has long been committed to fostering innovation and providing a platform where ideas transform into impactful solutions. The AI for Good Qatar Challenge aligns perfectly with our vision of creating spaces that inspire progress and collaboration. By hosting this competition at Barahat Msheireb, we are proud to support the next generation of entrepreneurs who are using technology to build a more sustainable and prosperous future for the region."

Vanessa Rameix, regional director at *TBY*, stated: "The AI for Good Qatar Challenge represents a critical step in connecting Qatar's entrepreneurial ecosystem with global innovation networks. This competition will not only showcase the region's most promising AI-driven solutions but also provide startups with access to the mentorship, capital, and partnerships they need to scale their impact across the GCC and beyond."

Participating startups will compete live in Doha before a panel of expert judges, with evaluation criteria focused on team and founder quality, product and technology, business model, impact, and communication. The competition format will feature 3-minute pitches from shortlisted startups, culminating in the announcement of the winner during the closing session of the conference.

Lusail

TENDER ADVERTISEMENT

Tender No.: 55018088

Tender Title:
CP08-A4: Rectification of Granite Degradation at Qetaifan Islands South

Brief Description of Works:
The scope of works shall include such as:
1. Removal of existing granite / sandstone laid on sand / granular road base materials
2. Procurement of new granite
3. Replacement of the degraded granite with new granite laid on a concrete base
4. Replacement of the degraded sandstone with interlock concrete pavers

Eligibility of Tenderers:
Tenderers/Joint Ventures shall strictly fulfill the following criteria:
General contractors experienced in landscape work with the following qualifications and experience:
1. Total value of landscape project by main Contractor / Joint Venture parties (total of all parties) carried out within the last 5 years with a minimum value of QAR 50 million
2. Achieve a minimum Annual Turnover of the Main Contractor / Joint Venture (total of all parties of JV) of at least QAR 25 million for the Last Five (5) Years
3. Similar experience of one project carried out within the last 10 years with a minimum value of QAR 50 Million
4. In case of a Joint Venture, there must be a lead member who is jointly and severally responsible to LREDC for all technical and contractual obligations
5. Company Registration in Qatar.

Tender Bond Value:
QAR 1,400,000.00 (One Million Four Hundred Thousand Qatari Riyal)
(Valid for 150 days from Tender Closing Date)

Bid Closing Date:
30 October 2025, not later than 12:00 noon local Doha time

Tender Document Collection:
Tender Documents shall be collected from Document Control - Procurement, Lusail Building.
Email: procurementlocal@qataridiar.com

Tender Document Collection Date & Time:
From 30 September 2025, between 09:30 AM to 01:30 PM (Except Friday & Saturday)

Tender Fee:
A payment of non-refundable tender fee in the amount of Five Thousand Qatari Riyals (QAR 5,000) should be deposited/telegraphic transferred to Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company Bank Account No. 0013-002643-046 (IBAN - QA55 QNBA 0000 0000 0013 0026 4304 6) with Qatar National Bank. Include your company's name when making deposit or online bank transfer so it appears in the bank document. Please immediately email a copy of the deposit slip or Bank transfer advice to arqd@qataridiar.com attention of Finance along with your Company's full name, Company's CR and state the tender number as a subject. After confirmation of payment, an electronic receipt will be emailed back to you and a copy to QD's Document Control - Procurement department to process the release of tender document.

Required documents in order to collect the Tender Documents are as follows:
- Copy of the Company Incorporation/Commercial Registration
- Company Authorization letter and ID of the person who will collect the Tender Document
- Presentation of the receipt for the tender fee submitted to the Finance Department of Qatari Diar in Lusail Site Office
- Completed Confidentiality Undertaking which shall be collected from the above-mentioned office or requested by Email: procurementlocal@qataridiar.com.

For further queries please communicate in writing to procurementlocal@qataridiar.com

Qatar-Czech Republic trade stands at QR577mn in 2024: Chamber executive

Qatar Chamber board member Ibtihaj al-Ahmadani has affirmed that Qatari-Czech relations are gaining momentum across various fields, noting that the volume of trade between the two countries reached QR577mn in 2024, with several Czech companies actively operating in the Qatari market.

She announced this yesterday during a meeting with a Czech business delegation headed by Otto Hrdlicka, deputy director of the Brno Regional Chamber of Commerce, held in the presence of several businessmen and Qatari companies in Doha.

The meeting reviewed economic and trade relations between Qatar and the Czech Republic, the business and investment climate in both countries, as well as opportunities for co-operation in the biomedical sector.



The meeting reviewed economic and trade relations between Qatar and the Czech Republic, the business and investment climate in both countries, as well as opportunities for co-operation in the biomedical sector.

Al-Ahmadani emphasised that this sector is among the most vital and significant globally, stressing that Qatar attaches great importance to it within its national strategy for economic diversification and the Qatar National Vision 2030.

She underlined that co-operation between Qatar and the Czech Republic, particularly with leading institutions and companies in Brno, could open broad horizons for fruitful partnerships in areas such as research and development, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and advanced medical technologies.

Al-Ahmadani also called on Czech companies to maximise Qatar's attractive investment climate and the vast opportunities available across various sectors, highlighting the country's world-class infrastructure and advanced economic legislation.

For his part, Hrdlicka said the delegation includes a group of leading Czech companies in the field of biomedicine, expressing his hope to strengthen co-operation with Qatari companies in this sector.

He also delivered a presentation highlighting the key features of the Czech economy, the investment climate, available opportunities, and the main incentives and facilities offered to foreign investors, as well as an overview of the regional chamber in Brno Province.

He noted that the Czech Republic is distinguished by its strong manufacturing, engineering, automotive, mining, glass and beverage, technology, and life sciences industries.

He further pointed out that Brno, located in Central Europe, is the second-largest city in the Czech Republic, hosting over 300,000 companies and economic activities, and is considered a hub for industry, innovation, and trade within the country.

KKR invests in Adnoc gas pipeline infrastructure in Middle East push

Global investment firm KKR has acquired a minority stake in the entity that leases Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc)'s gas pipeline assets, it said yesterday, without disclosing financial details, reports Reuters.

KKR is acquiring the minority stake in Adnoc Gas Pipeline Assets through its managed accounts, matching the type and tenure of the investment with long-duration capital, according to a company statement.

The transaction follows KKR's 2019 investment in Adnoc's oil pipeline network, a first for a foreign asset manager in Gulf energy infrastructure.

Together with BlackRock, KKR divested the holding last year, transferring it to Abu Dhabi-based Lunate.

Adnoc retains ownership and operational management of the pipelines.

The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have sought such partnerships to tap new pools of foreign institutional capital, while maintaining operational control over critical infrastructure.

Saudi Aramco in August signed an $11bn lease and leaseback agreement involving its Jafurah gas processing facilities with a consortium led by Global Infrastructure Partners, part of BlackRock. Last month, Kuwait's national oil company said it was seeking to revive a project to lease out and then lease back its crude oil pipelines.

KKR, which manages over $90bn in infrastructure assets globally, appointed General David Petraeus as its Middle East chairman earlier this year as part of efforts to grow its regional business and team.

The company acquired a stake earlier this year in Dubai-based Gulf Data Hub, one of the biggest data centre companies in the region, with KKR and the company committing to support over $5bn of total investment to build out data centre capacity.

BUSINESS

QSE snaps bullish run as its key index sheds 98 points

By Santhosh V Perumal
Business Reporter

Reflecting the global concerns on the US shutdown, the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) yesterday snapped three days of bullish run with its key index losing as much as 98 points and capitalisation eroding in excess of QR6bn. The foreign institutions were increasingly net sellers as the 20-stock Qatar Index shed 0.88% to 10,955.26 points, although it touched an intraday high of 11,065 points.

The telecom, consumer goods, banks, real estate and transport counters witnessed higher than average selling pressure in the main market, whose year-to-date gains truncated to 3.63%.

More than 90% of the traded constituents were in the red in the main bourse, whose capitalisation eroded QR6.64bn or 1% to QR656.73bn; mainly on large and midcap segments.

The Gulf institutions were seen increasingly bearish in the main market, which saw as many as 0.1mn exchange traded funds (sponsored by AlRayan Bank and Doha Bank) valued at QR0.25mn trade across 40 deals.

The local retail investors' weakened net buying had its influence on the main bourse, whose trade turnover and volumes were on the decline.

The Islamic index was seen easing slower than the other indices of the main market, which saw no trading of treasury bills. However, the domestic funds were seen increasingly net buyers in the main bourse, which saw no trading of sovereign bonds.

The Total Return Index shed 0.88%, the All Share Index by 0.9% and the All Islamic Index 0.74% in the main market. The telecom sector index tanked 1.88%, consumer goods and services (1.19%), banks and financial services (1.12%), realty (0.96%), transport (0.91%) and insurance (0.35%), while industrials were up 0.04%.

As many as 47 stocks declined, while only three gained and two were unchanged.

Major shakers in the main market included Ezdan, Ooredoo, Meeza, Baladna, Doha Bank, QNB, Commercial Bank, Dukhan Bank, Qatar German Medical Devices, Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding, Mazaya Qatar, Gulf Warehousing and Milaha. In the junior bourse, Techno Q saw its shares depreciate in value. Nevertheless, Industries Qatar, Al Mahhar Holding and Qatar Electricity and Water were the gainers in the main market.

The foreign funds' net selling strengthened significantly to QR39.42mn compared to QR25.66mn on September 30. The Gulf institutions' net profit booking expanded marginally to QR10.82mn against QR10.04mn the previous day. The local retail investors' net buying decreased noticeably to QR19.88mn compared to QR23.02mn on Tuesday.

However, the domestic institutions' net buying increased perceptibly to QR15.09mn against QR10.75mn on September 30. The foreign individual investors' net buying strengthened notably to QR5.87mn compared to QR2.38mn the previous day. The Arab retail investors turned net buyers to the tune of QR5.47mn against net sellers of QR1.3mn on Tuesday.

The Gulf individuals' net buying increased markedly to QR3.94mn compared to QR0.85mn on September 30. The Arab institutions had no major net exposure for the fourth consecutive session. The main market saw 21% contraction in trade volumes to 115.71mn shares, 33% in value to QR329.84mn and 16% in deals to 23,223.

In the venture market, a total of 0.04mn equities valued at QR0.11mn changed hands across 21 transactions.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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5.	**CODE: SUCT- MEP SUPERVISOR** Experience in swimming pool mep system
6.	**CODE: TECT SALES ASSOCIATE** Experience in tele sales of building Materials

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GULF TIMES
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Corrections or amendments of text, change of size or cancellation of an ad once booked should be done, before 12:00 Noon.

TENDER

MEDGULF CONSTRUCTION COMPANY WLL
Announces the sale of used light & Heavy vehicles, Equipment & Machines by Auction as following:

Auction No. MGC/178/2025-PACKAGES Nos. from 1 to 24

Light & heavy vehicles No. 67:- Saloon car-11Nos., Station Wagon-3Nos., Double cabin pick-up-31Nos., long chassis pick-up -4Nos., Bus-5Nos., Prime mover-5Nos., Green tanker trailer-1Nos., Low bed trailer-1Nos., self loader-2Nos., Transit Mixer-3Nos., Bitumen Tanker-1Nos.,

Equipments No.111:- Skid steer loader-5Nos., Mobile crane-11Nos., Tower Crane -1Nos, Welding Rectifier-8Nos., Power Generator-4Nos., Welding machine-45Nos., air compressor-1Nos., De-watering pump-6Nos., Sand Blasting Pot-4Nos., Pneumatic painting machine-1Nos., Pneumatic Internal clamp- 18Nos., Tower Light-4Nos., Material Hoist-3Nos.,

- Auction documents can be collected free of charge from Plant office Street 12 gate 15 zone 57 Industrial area, from **04-Oct-2025 to 16-Oct-2025** , from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon and from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, except for Friday.
- Companies interested in participating in the auction can collect the auction documents by submitting an authorization letter for the person who will collect the documents, along with a copy of his QID, Company CR, Tax Card, Commercial Licence and Establishment Card.
- Individuals interested to participate in the auction and collect the documents should submit copy of a valid QID along with their contact details (address, telephone & email).
- The auction items will be sold on as is, where is basis, and subject to the Auction Conditions.
- Inspection/viewing of all packages will be open effective from 04-Oct-2025 to 30-Oct-2025, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, except for Fridays Closing date (bid submission) shall be on 30-Oct-2025 before 2:00 pm.
- Any bids submitted after the specified date and time will be disregarded.
- Inspection Location :- 25°04'03.2"N 51°08'41.3"E

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Aviation surges towards 9.8bn passengers in 2025

By Alex Macheras

Global air travel will reach 9.8bn passengers in 2025, according to Airports Council International's World Airport Traffic Report. The figure, drawn from more than 2,800 airports in 185 countries, represents a 3.7% increase on 2024. International traffic is expected to rise by 5.3%, while domestic markets will grow just 2.4%. By mid-year, the split was already clear: International traffic was up 4.9% compared with the same point in 2024, while domestic volumes had contracted by 0.7%.

The implication is straightforward. Demand for cross-border travel is outpacing domestic markets. People are travelling more, but they are travelling further. Aviation's expansion is being driven by international flows, and that has important consequences for the industry, for economies, and for the global map of connectivity.

The raw numbers matter because aviation is more than an industry of aircraft and terminals. It is an economic driver. Air travel supports jobs directly — from airline staff to airport workers to aerospace engineers — but its wider impact is in the sectors it enables. Tourism, trade, inward investment, and business travel are all shaped by connectivity. For governments, airport growth is not a matter of prestige but of economic strategy. When an airport expands, it anchors employment, creates supply chain opportunities, and strengthens a city's international relevance.

With traffic set to approach 10bn journeys next year, the scale of that economic footprint is considerable. Yet the growth is not evenly distributed. Some regions are accelerating sharply, while others are stagnating.



The unevenness of aviation's trajectory is perhaps the most important takeaway from ACI's forecast.

Africa: Promise with limits

Africa is projected to handle 273mn passengers in 2025, up 9.4% year-on-year. It is the fastest-growing region in percentage terms, but from a small base. Africa accounts for nearly 18% of the world's population, but only around 3% of global passenger traffic. Northern Africa is driving much of the growth, fuelled by tourism from Europe and the Gulf as well as demand from a growing middle class.

The challenge is structural. Airfares in Africa remain high, infrastructure investment is uneven, and regulatory fragmentation makes cross-border flying complex and expensive. The Single African Air Transport Market initiative was designed to liberalise access, but implementation has been slow. The demand is there, but until policy and infrastructure catch up, Africa will remain an under-served aviation continent.

Asia-Pacific: The global centre of demand

Asia-Pacific will handle 3.6bn passengers in 2025, by far the largest share of any region. Growth is forecast at 5.6%. Southern and Southeast Asia are the main engines. India is experiencing surging demand, with airlines expanding rapidly and new airports being built at pace. Vietnam and Indonesia are seeing similar momentum. These markets have the demographics, with young populations and rising incomes, and the infrastructure investment to support expansion.

East Asia tells a different story. China's aviation recovery has been slower than anticipated, with demand patchy and policy uncertainty holding back growth. Japan and South Korea, facing demographic headwinds, show only modest increases. Asia-Pacific overall is strong, but the divergence within the region is sharp.

Europe: Scale without flexibility

Europe is projected to handle 2.5bn passengers in 2025, an increase of 3.6%. International traffic is leading that growth, while domestic demand is flat. In France, Germany, and Spain, high-speed rail is absorbing short-haul markets. At the same time, Europe's major hubs are constrained. Heathrow, Frankfurt, and Charles de Gaulle are operating at or near capacity, limited by slot caps, noise restrictions, and political hesitancy around expansion.

This has created an opening for others. Istanbul has rapidly expanded its role as an east-west hub, while Middle Eastern airports like Doha and Dubai have consolidated their position as global connectors. Europe still handles enormous traffic, but its ability to grow is constrained by policy as much as by demand.

Latin America and the Caribbean: Low-cost expansion

Latin America and the Caribbean are forecast to reach 789mn passengers in 2025, an increase of 4.1%. The region's growth is driven by strong leisure demand and the rapid rise of low-cost carriers. Airlines such as Volaris in Mexico, Azul in Brazil, and Viva Aerobus are opening up access to markets that once had limited connectivity. Tourism is a constant driver, but affordability has become the bigger story. Millions of passengers who previously travelled by bus or not at all are now flying. The region is not without challenges. Infrastructure lags in several markets, and political volatility creates uncertainty for airlines and investors. Still, the low-cost model has firmly taken root, and it is reshaping Latin America's aviation map.

North America: Mature and congested

North America is forecast to handle 2.1bn passengers in 2025. The market is mature, and growth is steady rather than spectacular. The US remains the world's largest domestic aviation market, but demand there is essentially flat. Congestion at major airports, air traffic control delays, and ageing infrastructure are limiting expansion. International travel is stronger, particularly across the Atlantic, where demand has surpassed pre-pandemic levels. Canada and Mexico add resilience, but the overall story is of a mature market where growth is incremental.

The Middle East: The connector

The Middle East is projected to handle 466mn passengers in 2025, up 5.9%. The region has entrenched its role as the connector between continents. Dubai remains the busiest international airport in the world by volume. Doha has the highest proportion of connecting traffic anywhere, with 74% of passengers in transit. Abu Dhabi has repositioned with a new terminal, while Riyadh is building a new mega-airport and launching Riyadh Air to compete.

The risks are well-known — geopolitical instability and reliance on transfer traffic — but the model works. The Gulf hubs, along with Istanbul, are capturing traffic that once moved through Europe. They are also setting the standards for how to run high-efficiency transfer airports at scale.

New patterns of connectivity

A key trend in 2025 is that global aviation is becoming less concentrated in a handful of traditional gateways. Alongside the established hubs, other airports are steadily joining the map of long-haul relevance. In Asia, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Ho Chi Minh City are securing more intercontinental services, reflecting airline strategy and strong local demand. In Europe, Lisbon and Warsaw have grown into credible long-haul gateways. In North America, Boston, Seattle, and Dallas have become important international points of entry.

This is partly a result of new aircraft technology. Long-range narrowbodies such as the A321XLR will allow thinner city pairs to be served directly. It is also the result of airline partnerships and alliances, which are funnelling traffic into new gateways. The outcome is a more distributed global network. Mega-hubs remain dominant, but the map of connectivity is broadening.

■ *The author is an aviation analyst. X handle: @AlexInAir.*

Persistent global growth: Air passenger and cargo segments see renewed economic momentum

By Pratap John

Despite economic uncertainties and geopolitical tensions, the global growth trend in air transport has shown no signs of abating.

For instance, the October air passenger schedules indicate that airlines are planning 3.4% more capacity, globally.

Air cargo volumes also continue to grow even as global trade patterns change. Air cargo has benefitted from a shift from sea for some high value goods as shippers try to minimise the risk of tariff changes, data released by International Air Transport Association (IATA) has shown.

Total air passenger transport demand (in August), measured in revenue passenger kilometres (RPK), was up 4.6% compared to August 2024.

Total capacity, measured in available seat kilometres (ASK), was up 4.5% year-on-year. The August load factor was 86% (+0.1 ppt compared to August 2024), a record high for the month.

International demand rose 6.6% compared to August 2024. Capacity was up 6.5% year-on-year, and the load factor was 85.8% (+0.1 ppt compared to August 2024).

Domestic demand increased 1.5% compared to August 2024. Capacity was up 1.3% year-on-year. The load factor was 86.3% (+0.1 ppt compared to August 2024).

IATA's Director General Willie Walsh noted: "August year-on-year demand growth of 4.6% confirms that the 2025 peak northern summer travel season reached a new record high. Moreover, planes were operating with more seats filled than ever with a record load factor of 86%.



Passengers in the departures hall at Paris-Orly Airport. Despite economic uncertainties and geopolitical tensions, the global growth trend in air transport has shown no signs of abating.

Beyond the Tarmac

"Despite economic uncertainties and geopolitical tensions, the global growth trend shows no signs of abating, as October schedules are showing airlines planning 3.4% more capacity. Airlines are doing their best to meet travel demand by maximising efficiency, making it even more critical for the aerospace manufacturing sector to sort out its supply chain challenges."

Unpacking details vis-à-vis the air cargo segment, IATA said several factors in the operating environment should be noted, First, the global goods trade grew by 4% year-on-year in July.

Second, jet fuel prices in August were 6.4% lower year-on-year, marking the fourteenth consecutive month of year-on-year declines.

Also, global manufacturing in August showed rising optimism in manufacturing PMI, with a rebound to 51.75, the strongest reading since June 2024.

Sentiment on new export orders, however, remains below 50 at 48.73, reflecting persistent caution amid tariff uncertainty.

Trade lane growth indicate air freight volumes in August 2025 increased significantly across most major trade corridors.

Europe–Asia and within Asia posted robust double-digit growth, while Middle East–Asia, North America-Europe, and Africa-Asia also saw notable gains.

In contrast, Asia–North America, Middle East–Europe, and Within Europe recorded declines.

Walsh added: "Air cargo demand grew 4.1% in August, marking the sixth consecutive month of year-on-year growth. Volumes continue to grow even as global trade patterns change. Air cargo has benefitted from a shift from sea for some high value goods as shippers try to minimise the risk of tariff changes.

"And growth patterns indicate some being diverted away from North America, fuelling stronger growth for the Europe–Asia, Within Asia, Africa–Asia, and Middle East–Asia trade lanes. This adaptability is vital as shippers navigate the evolving landscape of US tariff policy,"

Industry analysts say rising cargo volumes typically reflect growth in international trade, manufacturing, and supply chain demand.

Passenger growth points to higher consumer confidence, business travel recovery, and robust tourism.

Airlines are likely experiencing higher load factors (better capacity utilisation) and revenue gains, which could strengthen financial performance and stability.

Increased passenger and cargo activity reflects restored international mobility, expansion of route networks, and better global connectivity between markets.

Sustained improvements in both segments signal that stakeholders (governments, investors, airports, and logistics firms) see the industry on a stable growth trajectory, supporting investment and fleet expansion.

As IATA data reveal, the improvement in both the air passenger and cargo segments suggests renewed economic momentum, stronger global trade, and growing travel demand — signs of resilience and confidence in the global air transport sector.

■ *Pratap John is Business Editor at Gulf Times. X handle: @PratapJohn.*

Boeing plans new airplane to succeed 737 Max

Bloomberg
New York

Boeing Co has started working on a next-generation single-aisle aircraft that could eventually replace the 737 Max, the *Wall Street Journal* reported. The new narrowbody aircraft is in early-stage development, which includes internal design efforts and exploratory talks with engine makers, according to the report, which cited people familiar with the matter.

Chief Executive Officer Kelly Ortberg met with executives from Rolls-Royce in the UK earlier this year to discuss a new engine for the aircraft, two of the people said. The company has also appointed a new senior product leader within its commercial aircraft division, whose previous role was developing a new type of aircraft.

The report comes as concerns grow among investors and the travelling public about the safety of 737 Max, after a panel flew off an Alaska Airlines jet mid-air last year. That incident became the biggest crisis for Boeing since its entire fleet of Max jets was grounded worldwide in 2019 following two fatal crashes.

Ortberg hasn't publicly announced any plans for a 737 successor, the Journal said. Boeing said in a statement that it remains focused on its recovery plan, the outlet reported.



A Boeing 737 Max in Seattle. Boeing has started working on a next-generation single-aisle aircraft that could eventually replace the 737 Max, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Airbus' budget customers feel buyer's remorse over new XLR jet

Bloomberg
Paris

Airbus SE marketed its A321XLR as offering widebody-jet capabilities at narrowbody economics, an attractive proposition to low-cost airlines seeking to expand their radius. Now some customers are showing buyer's remorse as they struggle to unlock those advantages.

The A321XLR was supposed to open long-haul routes for Wizz Air Holdings, Frontier Airlines and JetBlue Airways Corp, with the trio ordering a combined 78 XLRs. But the airlines may end up taking just 23 units, some saying the plane's real range is shorter than advertised when it's full of people and luggage.

The extra fuel tank, touted by Airbus as a game changer, meanwhile limits space for potentially lucrative cargo. "It appears that the market for the XLR is not as deep as Airbus had initially expected," said Dudley Shanley, an analyst at Goodbody.

The A320 model is by far Airbus's most successful aircraft, prompting the European manufacturer to extend its specs over the years with larger variants like the A321, which is the family's top seller.

With the XLR, which stands for "extra-long range," Airbus may have hit the boundaries of what an airframe originally conceived in the 1980s can achieve, given its limitations on cabin and cargo-hold space when compared with true widebody aircraft such as the Airbus A330 and A350.

The manufacturer says the XLR can fly 4,700 nautical miles, or about 11 hours, with a maximum 244 passengers. That's about 18% farther than the A321neo. The XLR also burns 30% less fuel, Airbus says.

On paper, those statistics should be attractive. Yet the spate of cancellations raises questions about whether Airbus misjudged the market — and possibly produced one A320 derivative too many. "The XLR offers more range but is relatively niche," said Richard Evans, a senior consultant at aviation analytics company Cirium. "Ancillary revenue is very important to low-cost carriers, and flying longer-range missions goes against this in some ways."



An Airbus A321 XLR. Airbus marketed its A321 XLR as offering widebody-jet capabilities at narrowbody economics, an attractive proposition to low-cost airlines seeking to expand their radius. Now some customers are showing buyer's remorse as they struggle to unlock those advantages.

Some airlines also had more ambitious strategies when they signed deals six years ago — before the pandemic, wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, the energy crisis and the global tariff frenzy.

The dissatisfaction also may be a warning to Boeing Co, which scrapped plans for a midrange jetliner called the NMA in 2022. Its closest competitor is the discontinued 757. Airbus, however, paints a rosier picture. The XLR is "doing very well in service," and there's a "very high degree of satisfaction" among customers, CEO Guillaume Faury said last month at a Washington conference.

An XLR costs about $72mn, or $9mn more than the A321 neo, according to Cirium data. That means low-cost carriers have to justify paying more for a craft that may not generate as much return as expected, Evans said.

Wizz's two XLRs, configured with almost the maximum number of seats, fly seven-hour trips from the UK to Saudi Arabia's Jeddah and Medina. However, the model is "underperforming versus expectations" on range and weight capabilities, Chief Executive Officer Jozsef Varadi said in an August interview. The Budapest-based company now only wants to take about a quarter of its initial order.

"The weight, of course, is an issue because the more weight the aircraft carries, the more expensive it becomes to operate," Varadi said.

Denver-based Frontier dropped its order for 18 XLRs last summer, citing performance and range issues, *Aviation Week* reported.