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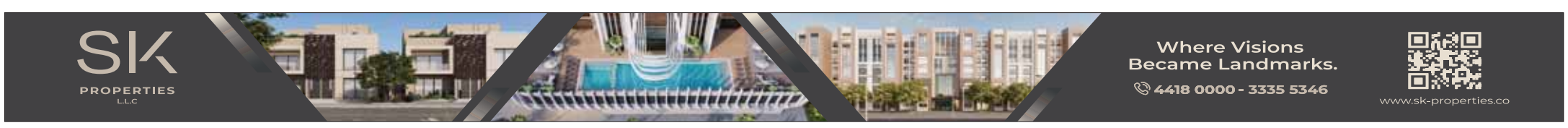
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Cabinet lauds Amir's contributions to peace

The Cabinet yesterday commended the participation of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in the Sharm El-Sheikh Summit for Peace, and his participation in the signing ceremony of the agreement to end the war in Gaza. The Cabinet emphasised that His Highness's participation in the summit was the culmination of Qatar's efforts, along with its partners, to end the war in the Gaza Strip and the suffering of its residents, and in adherence to its firm stances in support of the rights of the fraternal Palestinian people. The Cabinet also extended its congratulations to His Highness the Amir on Qatar's qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup finals. **Page 4**

World Bank to open Qatar office

Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Finance, has signed an agreement with the World Bank Group to establish an office that will serve Qatar and support the wider region. The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, now being held in Washington, DC. **Business Page 1**

Amir hails national team on World Cup qualification



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday at the Lusail Palace with the Qatar national football team players, on the occasion of their qualification to the FIFA World Cup 2026.

His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Personal Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani attended the meeting.

At the outset of the meeting, His Highness the Amir congratulated the national team players and members of the administrative and technical staff on their victory and qualification for the FIFA World Cup 2026, to be held in Canada, Mexico, and the US. His Highness praised the players' outstanding performance and their football achievements, which will enhance the progress of sports and football in Qatar.

His Highness the Amir urged the players to continue their efforts and excellence, ensuring that they represent Qatar in the best possible way alongside the other Arab teams that have qualified for the FIFA World Cup 2026, wishing all teams success in upcoming regional and international tournaments.

Also present at the meeting were HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Mubarak al-Khulaifi, HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani, President of the Qatar Football Association (QFA) Jassim bin Rashid al-Buainain, and a number of senior officials. (**QNA**)

HEC Paris, Doha celebrates 15th anniversary



Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, yesterday attended the 15th anniversary celebration of HEC Paris, Doha, a Qatar Foundation partner university, held at the Museum of Islamic Art.

The celebration was also attended by HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, Vice-Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, in addition to the leadership team of HEC Paris as well as other distinguished guests, alumni, faculty, and partners.

PICTURE: Aisha Al-Musallam

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QAR 11.75
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QAR 16.00
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Pearl Fabric Softener Asstd 3ltr+1ltr



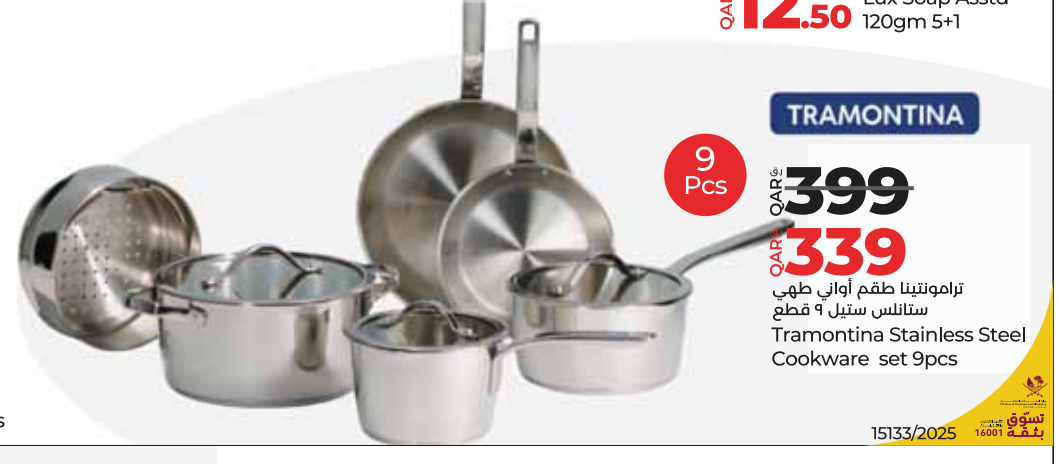
QAR 75.00
QAR 48.00
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Ariel Power Gel Asstd 1.8Ltr x 2pcs



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Lux Soap Asstd 120gm 5+1



QAR 40.00
QAR 24.00
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Gliss Shampoo Asstd 400ml X 2pcs



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QAR 339
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QATAR

Cabinet lauds Amir's pivotal role in Sharm El-Sheikh Summit for Peace

The apex body also congratulated the national team and Qatari people on winning the qualifying match for World Cup 2026 and voiced its sincere condolences to the families of the deceased Amiri Diwan employees who passed away while on duty in Sharm El-Sheikh



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's weekly meeting, held yesterday at the Amiri Diwan.

Following the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi stated the following: At the outset of the meeting, the Cabinet commended the participation of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in the Sharm El-Sheikh Summit for Peace, which was held on Monday.

During the summit, His Highness participated in the signing ceremony of the agreement to end the war in Gaza, along with the presidents of Egypt, Turkiye and the United States.

The Cabinet emphasised that His Highness's participation in the summit was the culmination of Qatar's efforts, along with its partners, to end the war in the Gaza Strip and the suffering of its residents, and in adherence to its firm stances in support of the rights of the fraternal Palestinian people.

The Cabinet voiced hope that the outcomes of the Sharm El-Sheikh summit would contribute to accelerating practical steps toward implementing the two-state solution and establishing an independent Palestinian state on the June 4, 1967, borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Cabinet extended its congratulations to His Highness the Amir on Qatar's qualification for the 2026 World Cup finals.

The Cabinet also congratulated the Qatari people, the national team, and its technical and administrative staff on this historic sporting achievement, which is proudly added to the country's list of achievements in various fields. It wished the team success in the upcoming stages of the tournament.

On the other hand, the Cabinet voiced its sincere condolences to the families of the deceased Amiri Diwan employees who passed away while on duty in Sharm El-Sheikh, praying for mercy for them, to inspire their families and loved ones with patience and solace, and a speedy recovery for the injured.

The Cabinet then considered the topics on its agenda, where it decided to approve a draft law on international treaties and agreements, and refer it to the Shura Council.

The draft law, which was prepared by the Ministry of Justice in light of Article 68 of the Constitution, aims to establish the general framework for regulating the procedures for concluding and joining international agreements and treaties, activating the roles of the competent authorities and clarifying the competencies, enhancing transparency and legal oversight, harmonising national legislation with international obligations, and strengthening the state's position in its international relations. The Cabinet also approved a draft Amiri Decision on procedures for concluding international treaties and agreements and co-operation agreements in administrative and technical fields.

The draft decision, prepared by the Ministry of Justice in co-ordination with the Council of Ministers Secretariat General, aims to establish executive procedures for the draft law on international treaties and agreements, define procedures for signing and joining, assign roles and responsibilities, strengthen mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of concluded agreements, and achieve maximum benefit from them in accordance with the purposes for which they were concluded.

The Cabinet decided to join the agreement concluded under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) for co-operation in the field of diplomatic training between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Diplomatic Institute) and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania (Diplomatic Academy), a draft MoU for co-operation in the health field between the governments of Qatar and Mauritania, a draft agreement between Qatar and Kazakhstan on the transfer of convicts, and a draft MoU in the field of academic co-operation between the University of Doha for Science and Technology and Ankara University. The Cabinet concluded its meeting by reviewing four reports and taking appropriate decisions regarding them. These included: the two annual reports for the years (2023, 2024) of the Permanent Committee for Industrial Area Affairs, the first semi-annual report for 2025 of the Permanent Water Resources Committee (PWRC), the national periodic report of the Ministry of Culture on the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions for the period (2020-2024), and a report on the results of the 11th meeting of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Ministers of Labour Committee (Kuwait — September 2025). **(QNA)**



Qatar partakes in midterm ministerial meeting of Non-Aligned Movement

Qatar participated in the midterm ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held in the Ugandan capital, Kampala. HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi chaired Qatar's delegation to the meeting.

In his speech at the meeting, HE al-Muraikhi said that the world today is facing many challenges that raise doubts about the effectiveness of international systems, laws, and norms, especially with the increase in armed conflicts and economic, environmental, and health crises that fuel the international scene and harm peoples.

He affirmed Qatar's belief that the best way to achieve the interests of states lies in respecting the rule of law at the international and national levels, and promoting and preserving human rights. He noted that joint work within the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement provides an effective platform for dialogue and collective action, as the countries of the Global South represent the largest international bloc. These meetings serve as an opportunity to reaffirm commitment to solidarity, co-operation, and mutual support among member states.

HE al-Muraikhi reiterated Qatar's belief that settling disputes by peaceful means is the optimal policy for maintaining international peace and security. He stated that this is clearly evident in the document presented to the meeting, which commends Qatari mediation efforts in partnership with international partners. One of the most significant efforts, he highlighted, is the mediation to halt the war on Gaza.

The first phase of implementing the agreement has begun, with ongoing efforts to advance negotiations toward a second phase that ensures a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire and helps alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people.

He indicated that, amid escalating tensions and the growing adoption of policies driven by narrow interests, strengthening multilateralism serves the common interest. He emphasised that the NAM can play a key role in promoting an international system where multilateralism has greater influence and in revitalising international organisations, particularly the UN, to make them more transparent, effective, and democratic. **(QNA)**

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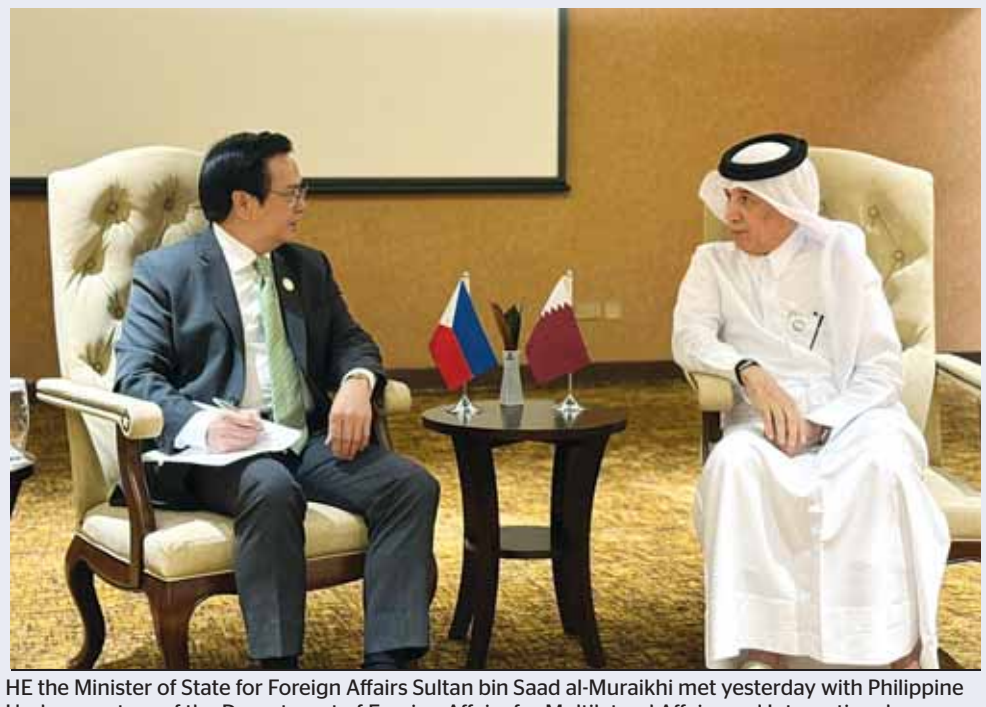
1. Tender Documents can be collected online by sending email to tender.docs@qpmc.qa along with requested documents in point No.2.
2. Tender Documents will be shared only after delivery of Deposit Slip Stamped by Commercial Bank along with Authorization Letter to the delegated person signed by authorized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



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met yesterday with Philippine Undersecretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations Charles C Jose, on the sidelines of the Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held in Kampala, Uganda. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and develop them, in addition to a number of topics of common interest**. (QNA)**



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QATAR

QBG in IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025

The Qur'anic Botanic Garden (QBG), a member of Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, which concluded yesterday in Abu Dhabi, under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, President of the UAE.

World Conservation Congress is one of the most significant environmental events, bringing together world leaders, experts, and decision makers from over 140 countries to discuss nature-related and biodiversity sustainability issues and enhance international co-operation in addressing environmental and climate challenges.

QBG showcased its latest achievements in plant conservation through an advanced interactive exhibition. Visitors used



virtual reality (VR) to explore the processes of seed documentation, processing, preservation, and propagation. The exhibition also highlighted the QBG's role in protecting the plants mentioned in the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah, as well as its efforts to restore natural habitats in Qatar as part of its environmental sustainability programmes.

QBG representatives participated as speakers in three key sessions during the congress. 'Cultural and Ethical Approaches to Conservation the Environment,' showcased QBG's experience in integrating Islamic environmental ethics with hands-on and augmented reality tools for environmental conservation. 'Expanding the Conservation Collective: Innovative Solutions and Ways of Thinking,' saw experts exploring the role of innovation and modern technologies, such as artificial intelligence, drones, and genetic tools, in developing new approaches to conserve endangered plant species.

'Global Upscaling of Holistic (Integrated) Landscape Management and Restoration,' highlighted the critical importance of this practice and its role in bridging conservation, restoration, and regenerative agriculture.

Al-Mannai meets Canada's minister



HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai met yesterday with Canada's Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, Evan Solomon, to discuss ways to enhance bilateral co-operation in Communications and Information Technology and Innovation and Digital transformation. During the meeting, the ministers reaffirmed the strong bilateral relations between Qatar and Canada, which span more than 50 years. They praised the progress achieved in areas of mutual collaboration and discussed opportunities for co-operation in high-performance computing (HPC), the exchange of expertise in digital infrastructure, and artificial intelligence (AI), including the development of national talent and knowledge sharing in this vital field. The ministers also exchanged views on co-operation in digital policy development, supporting tech entrepreneurship, and capacity building in digital innovation. Both sides agreed to move forward with finalising an MoU that will provide a framework for future collaboration, further strengthening the digital partnership between Qatar and Canada, and advancing their shared goals. **(QNA)**

Qatari Diar flags off The Chancery Rosewood Hotel in central London

QNA
London

Qatari Diar marked the official opening of The Chancery Rosewood Hotel in central London with a high-profile event celebrating art, architecture, and elegant hospitality, unveiling a new luxury destination that seamlessly blends cultural heritage with contemporary design. Housed in the former US Embassy in Mayfair, the hotel has been transformed into a striking symbol of modern sophistication and architectural excellence in the heart of London.

The opening ceremony was attended by HE the Minister of Municipality and Chairman of Qatari Diar Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah and Qatar's ambassador to the UK Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Saud al-Thani, CEO of Qatari Diar Eng Ali Mohammed al-Ali, alongside CEO of Rosewood Hotel Group Sonia Cheng, President of Rosewood Hotels Radha Arora, and a number of dignitaries and guests.

The hotel occupies a Grade II listed historic building originally designed by renowned architect Eero Saarinen and revitalised by David Chipperfield Architects. The project reflects Qatari Diar's commitment to restoring historic landmarks and transforming them into vibrant modern destinations that blend luxury with cultural identity. On this occasion, HE al-Attiyah stressed that today is a historic moment with the opening of The Chancery Rosewood Hotel in London, which embodies Qatari Diar's vision of reviving one of the city's most iconic landmarks in a way that merges rich heritage with contemporary design. In partnership with Rosewood Group, they have delivered an exceptional hospitality experience that redefines luxury in London.



He added that Qatari Diar's commitment to the British capital is steadfast, through the revitalisation of historic sites with a modern vision, connecting Mayfair and Grosvenor Square with the local community as part of their broader vision for sustainable development. For his part, the CEO of Qatari Diar Eng al-Ali said that The Chancery Rosewood Hotel represents a new milestone in Qatari Diar's journey toward modern global urban development.



This project reflects their fruitful partnership with Rosewood Group in transforming one of London's most prominent landmarks into a global destination that blends luxury and culture.

In collaboration with Qatari Diar, their partners, and the local community, CEO of Rosewood Hotel Group Sonia Cheng commented, they have revived one of London's most iconic historic sites, transforming it into a vibrant hub of art, culture, and contemporary design. The hotel features 144 luxurious suites, elegantly designed public spaces, and views overlooking Grosvenor Square and Hyde Park. It houses eight upscale restaurants and is crowned by the iconic golden eagle statue, standing 30ft high and 10ft wide. The hotel also includes a grand ballroom accommodating up to 750 guests. In line with Qatari Diar's commitment to sustainability and reducing the environmental impact of its projects, the hotel has received the prestigious BREEAM certification, making it the world's first five-star hotel to earn this distinguished rating.

CRA launches 'Caller Name Presentation' initiative to protect consumers

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) has begun the gradual launch of the first phase of the Caller Name Presentation (CNAP) initiative, in collaboration with the telecom service providers Ooredoo Qatar and Vodafone Qatar, and in co-ordination with the relevant national authorities. The initiative aims to protect consumers, enhance their trust in telecom services, and reduce fraudulent calls.

Under this initiative, the two service providers will implement the CNAP for all fixed and mobile voice calls made by legal entities within the country to local mobile numbers belonging to consumers. This includes calls from ministries and government entities, private companies, non-profit organisations, educational and healthcare institutions, associations, as well as banks and financial institutions.

This service is part of a comprehensive national initiative developed by CRA in co-ordination with Ooredoo Qatar, Vodafone Qatar, and relevant authorities across various local sectors. The initiative aims to enhance trust in phone calls and reduce fraudulent attempts targeting users through the impersonation of legal entities.

The new service enables call recipients to identify the official, verified name of the calling entity before answering, allowing them to distinguish immediately between trusted and suspicious calls.

This initiative was launched to protect users from fraudulent calls, which often involve impersonation

The new service enables call recipients to identify the official, verified name of the calling entity before answering, allowing them to distinguish immediately between trusted and suspicious calls

of legal entities to obtain sensitive personal or financial information. The CNAP service allows users to view the official registered name of the calling entity alongside the phone number in real-time, helping them make an informed decision on whether to accept or reject the call.

In this context, Engineer Ahmad bin Abdulla AlMuslemani, President of CRA, said: "Mandating the telecom Service Providers to implement the CNAP service establishes the foundations for safe and trusted communication in the State of Qatar.

CRA will continue working with relevant stakeholders to develop innovative digital solutions that contribute to building a more secure telecommunications environment." He added: "This initiative is part of the CRA's strategy to enhance trust and protect consumers, reflecting its commitment to a proactive regulatory approach that serves the public interest and strengthens Qatar's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) ecosystem, in support of the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030."

Further commenting on this collaboration, Sheikh Ali bin Jabor bin Mohammad al-Thani, Chief Executive Officer of Ooredoo Qatar, said: "We are pleased to be part of this joint initiative, which enables us to support the national efforts to develop the telecommunications sector in the country.

At Ooredoo Qatar, we adopt the latest technological solutions that place our customers' interests at the forefront of our priorities, and this initiative stands as a core pillar of what we believe in and work to achieve."

Sheikh Hamad Abdulla Jassim al-Thani, Chief Executive Officer at Vodafone Qatar, commented: "In line with the Qatar National Vision 2030, Vodafone Qatar remains committed to supporting the digital transformation of the country. The implementation of CNAP reflects our dedication to customer safety, secure and reliable communication, and compliance with regulatory requirements." The first phase will activate the service for all local fixed lines numbers of legal entities, while the second phase will extend it to all local mobile numbers belonging to these entities. Entities will be automatically enrolled, with an option to opt out, subject to certain conditions, during the second phase for mobile numbers that are not used for public-facing communications.

The service will not be implemented on international calls and calls received by consumers while using international roaming service. It also will not be implemented on outgoing calls from residential landlines and personal mobile numbers. **(QNA)**

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, KURUKKAN MOHAMED RAFI
holder of
India Passport No. V8741335
QID No. 28135616197
hereby change my name
from
KURUKKAN MOHAMED RAFI
to
MOHAMED RAFI KURUKKAN

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, MAKSUDUR RAHMAN AZIM
holder of
BANGLADESH Passport No. EJ0266635
QID No. 29205029535
hereby change my name
from
MAKSUDUR RAHMAN AZIM
to
MD MAKSUDUR RAHMAN AZIM

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, AISHA ARSHAD
holder of
PAKISTAN Passport No. BX1911533
QID No. 28858601029
hereby change my name
from
AISHA ARSHAD
to
AYESHA ARSHAD

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, IZZA LEEN
holder of
India Passport No. U0232508
QID No. 32035602082
hereby change my name
from
IZZA LEEN
to
IZZA LEEN MOHAMMED SALEEM

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





We extend our heartiest greetings to

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar

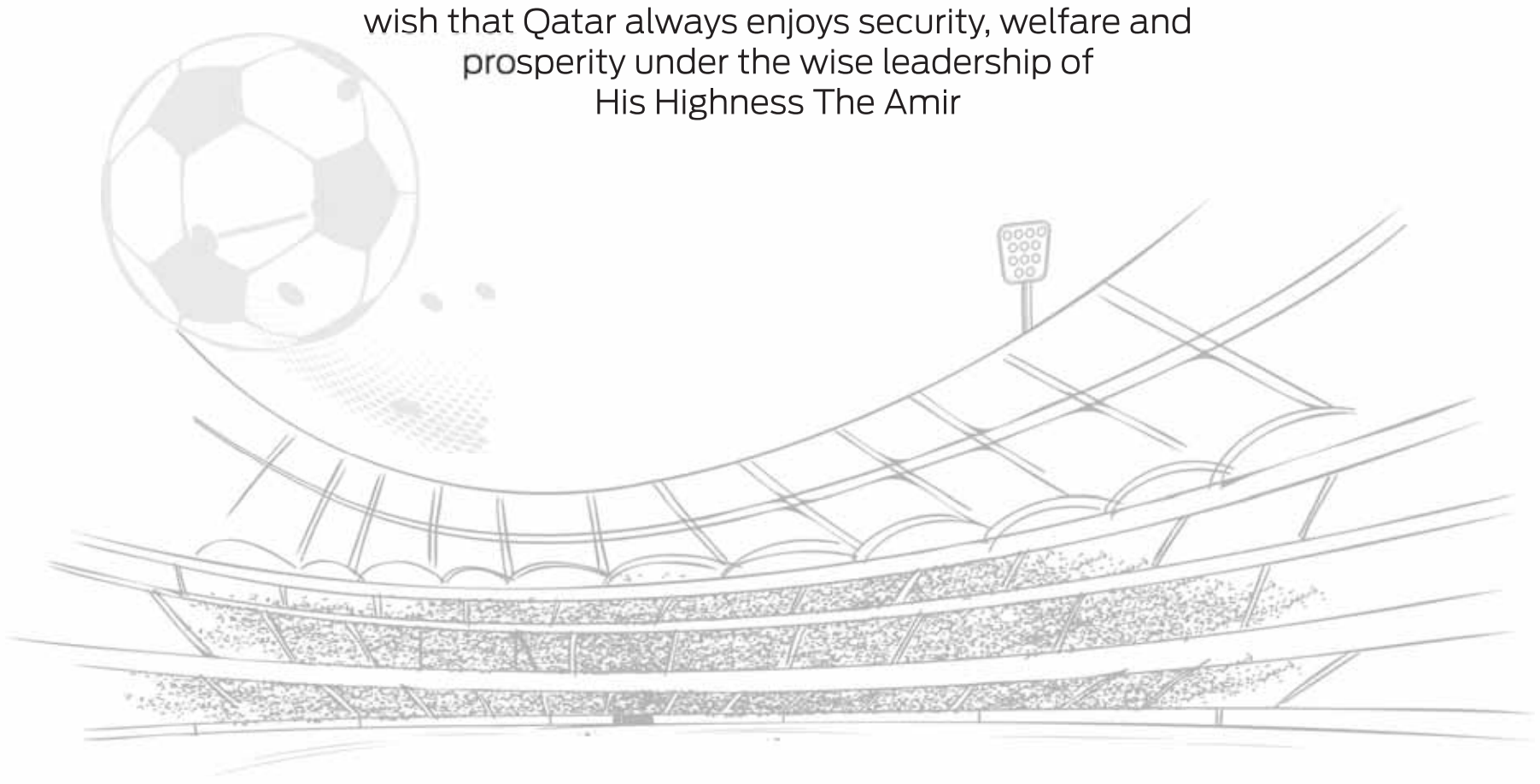
His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

and to all the honorable people of Qatar
on the occasion of

QUALIFYING FOR THE WORLD CUP 2026

We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion and
wish that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare and
prosperity under the wise leadership of
His Highness The Amir



The Chairman, Board of Directors, Group Chief Executive Officer and
all employees of Commercial Bank

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COMMERCIAL
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everything is possible

QATAR

Qatar in polio eradication regional body meeting

Qatar took part in the fourteenth meeting of the Regional Subcommittee for Polio Eradication and Outbreak, held yesterday in Cairo as part of the seventy-second session of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean. The Qatari delegation to the meeting was headed by HE the Minister of Public Health Mansoor bin Ebrahim bin Saad al-Mahmoud. He is also co-chair of the Subcommittee.

In his address, HE al-Mahmoud affirmed Qatar believes that eradicating polio is an urgent global health priority and a shared humanitarian responsibility. "Guided by this principle, Qatar has sought to lead this effort by championing global eradication initiatives, providing political and



financial support to the countries most affected, and facilitating dialogue among partners to accelerate progress."

HE the Minister highlighted Qatar's participation in supporting the 'Polio Eradication Initiative', which aims to build a sustainable healthcare system and strengthen the delivery of essential services, particularly in light of the significant health needs in the countries affected by the disease. He also paid tribute to frontline workers who face difficult conditions and form the foundation upon which this initiative is built.

HE al-Mahmoud further emphasised the importance of the efforts made by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean to integrate the polio programme with the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI), noting that these efforts represent a strategic step that will contribute to strengthening immunisation systems for a healthier and safer future for every child.

HE the Minister called for a renewal of shared commitment and unwavering political will across the Eastern Mediterranean Region to ensure that every child is protected and that the threat of polio is eliminated everywhere.

During the meeting, participants reviewed progress in efforts to eradicate polio in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, with the aim of achieving the complete eradication of the disease and the full interruption of its transmission.

The Regional Subcommittee aims to co-ordinate and support efforts to eradicate polio and respond to its outbreaks in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Established by the World Health Organization, the Subcommittee serves as a forum for Ministers of Health and stakeholders to exchange information, strategies and resources in pursuit of a polio-free world.

6th Islamic labour ministers' conference kicks off in Doha

Under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, the high-level preparatory meeting for the 6th session of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) began in Doha yesterday.

Organised by the Ministry of Labour in collaboration with the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC), the two-day gathering brings together representatives from over 50 Islamic nations alongside leading international organisations, experts, and civil



society representatives. Held under the theme "Local Experiences, Global Achievements: Success Stories Across the Islamic World", the conference was presided over by HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour Sheikha Najwa bint Abdulrahman al-Thani, with the participation of undersecretaries of the labour ministries and senior officials of the OIC member states. In her opening remarks, she emphasised the critical importance of this session at a time that demands enhanced co-operation and integration to secure a prosperous future for the Islamic world.

HE Sheikha Najwa highlighted that the preparatory meeting is more than a routine gathering — it embodies a collective commitment to advancing labour policies, employment, and social protection frameworks that uphold fairness, human dignity, and justice. She underscored the OIC's central role in promoting sustainable development and championing just causes, placing the Palestinian issue at the core of a moral and humanitarian imperative.

She affirmed that human capital constitutes both the foundation and ultimate goal of development, noting that collaborative investment in skills and capacities is the most effective path to shared prosperity and social justice across the Islamic world. **(QNA)**

'Science and Technology' event to raise breast cancer awareness

The 'One Hour and One Hour' programme organised a breast cancer awareness event in Doha, under the slogan "A Window of Hope", bringing together health, educational, cultural, and humanitarian agencies.

The occasion forms part of the Pink October activities and comes in partnership with the Qatar Cancer Society (QCS), and with the support of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), represented by the Department of Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases, the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, and the General Administration of Endowments.

The event was also held in collaboration with the Turkish embassy in Doha, the Turkish Cultural Centre, and the Turkish School, in addition to a group of institutions, local education and health, employing technology to serve health awareness.

The event included an important topic on the challenges resulting from excessive use of technology, and ways to achieve digital balance, especially among children and youth, as they are the group that most uses modern technologies. In a press statement, Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Jabr al-Thani, founder and chairman of the Board of Directors of QCS, said: "We believe that awareness is not an option but rather a responsibility and that technology, when used in this context, becomes a tool capable of saving lives and opening windows of hope in the hearts of patients and their families". One Hour and One Hour programme CEO Tamani al-Yafei said this event seeks to enhance awareness and provide support through the portal of science and technology.

"We believe that technology is not just tools, but rather bridges of light, connecting us to knowledge, and opening for us windows to life, reassurance, and hope. Every awareness saves a life, and every information that may be planted with love may yield hope in a sick heart."

The event witnessed the participation and presence of HE Sheikh Dr Mohammed bin Hamad al-Thani, director of the Non-communicable Diseases Prevention Department at MoPH, along with speakers from QCS, the Women's Police Institute, Qatar Society of Engineers, and Qatar University (QU).

A group of parties took part in the accompanying exhibition, including: Hamad Medical Corporation, in addition to the Turkish embassy, the Cultural Center, the Turkish School, the Red Crescent, Al Khor Model School for Boys, QU, and Al Khansaa Primary School for Girls.

The event also presented the pioneering Qatari experience in the use of technologies, as well as supporting the psychological state of cancer patients and their families, and promoting positive healthy behaviours in children.







Sealine clinic opens today for winter camping season

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) will open its Sealine Medical Clinic for the 2025/2026 winter camping season today, marking its 16th consecutive year of operation. The clinic will remain open throughout the season until April 15, 2026.

The clinic will operate throughout the season, opening each Thursday and Friday from 2pm to 2am, and from 10am to 10pm on Saturdays. This weekly schedule will continue throughout the camping season.

The launch of the Sealine Medical Clinic 16 years ago marked HMC's commitment to providing care during the annual camping season. Since then, HMC has continued to open its clinic in the Sealine area throughout the six-month camping season, reflecting the corporation's dedication to delivering safe, compassionate, and effective healthcare year-round to everyone in Qatar, regardless of their location.

The clinic is conveniently located in its usual spot on the Sealine beachfront, allowing easy access for both patients and visitors. The clinic offers medical and emergency services to all beachgoers and campers in the Sealine and Khor Al Adaid areas during the camping season.

The management of Sealine clinic expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC) for its continued co-operation with HMC on the Sealine clinic project, as well as to those involved in maintaining the Sealine area as a leading tourist and leisure destination by providing amenities such as shops, restaurants, and cafes.

The management of Sealine clinic project urged visitors to the area to follow safety guidelines and take precautions, especially when swimming, barbecuing, or preparing food, to ensure a safe and enjoyable camping experience.

A physician and a nurse are present at the clinic during operating hours under the supervision of the Medical Supervisor. The clinic receives all emergency cases, whether minor or critical from beach visitors or campers during its working hours.

Severe or critical cases are immediately transferred to the hospital by ambulance or air ambulance, depending on the triage assessment. The clinic is fully equipped with the necessary supplies and medications to handle the types of cases it receives, and a helipad for air ambulance support is available nearby The clinic is prepared to handle a variety of cases, from mild to moderate, including colds, gastrointestinal issues, and minor burns and injuries, all of which can be treated on-site. For severe or critical cases, patients are transferred immediately to the hospital via ambulance or air ambulance, depending on the case.

Ambulance coverage in Sealine area is available 24/7. Two regular ambulances are permanently stationed in the area, along with two four-wheel-drive ambulances to transport patients from sand dunes to the Sealine clinic during its operating hours, the standard ambulance site, or the air ambulance landing area, as needed.

The Ambulance Service increases the number of ambulances in the Sealine camping area during weekends, beginning Thursday afternoons and continuing through Saturdays as well as during school holidays and special events, deploying a total of six regular ambulances and five four-wheel-drive ambulances to ensure timely responses across sandy terrain.

The availability of air ambulance services and the deployment of specialised medical teams, including paramedics, critical care paramedics, rapid response paramedics, supervisors, liaison officers and operations managers.

These teams are deployed according to emergency leadership and control systems established by the Emergency Planning and Event Management Section of the Ambulance Service, ensuring comprehensive medical coverage throughout the camping season. **(QNA)**

قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy
LNG

QatarEnergy LNG
Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	SUP/C/IRE/7064/25 Studies related to Gap Analysis, Verification of Snake-Laid Pipeline Sections and EPRS Synergy	14/10/2025 to 23/10/2025	0	0	05/11/2025

Scope of Work:
Tenderer shall carry out studies related to existing Emergency Pipeline Repair System (EPRS) comprising of (i) comprehensive gap analysis; (ii) verifying the feasibility of pipeline connectors for snake-laid pipelines; (iii) gap analysis on EPRS Contracts; and (iv) EPRS manual synergy, for Company's North and South fields.
Mandatory requirements to participate in this Tender are:
1. Tenderer should have experience in non-straight pipelines (e.g. Snake-laid) with understanding of methodology, in particular mechanical connectors.
2. Tenderer should have experience in developing EPRS manuals for large diameter subsea gas pipelines (16" and above).

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

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

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

Visit Qatar concludes 2025 International Representation Offices meeting

Visit Qatar successfully concluded its 2025 International Representation Offices meeting, held in Doha from Oct 13-15.
The three-day event gathered 32 senior representatives from Visit Qatar's 11 international offices, alongside departmental directors, and members of the International Markets Management team, Qatar Tourism said in a statement yesterday.
The meeting served as a platform to review performances, share market insights, and align strategies for 2026, reinforcing Visit Qatar's vision of unified global representation.
It provided an opportunity for open dialogue between Visit Qatar and international offices spanning China, India, Russia, Iran, KSA, Germany, Italy, France, Spain, the UK, and the CIS, with the newly appointed USA office participating for the first time.
The agenda featured departmental presentations, strategy sessions, and panel discussions led by the International Markets team, with contributions from Visit Qatar's Marketing, Festivals and Events, Partnerships, and PR and Communications departments.
The event concluded with an open networking session connecting international representatives with local stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and explore new business opportunities. **(QNA)**

QAPCO
شركة قطر للبتروكيماويات
QATAR PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY

Invites qualified bidders to participate in the following tender:

Sl No.	Tender Reference and Description	(i) Deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding	(ii) Tender fee (non-refundable); Date	(iii) Tender Publication on ARIBA	(iv) Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1	RFP- P10-01-356 SAP S/4 HANA brownfield project - Conversion, Migration, Implementation and 3-year AMS Support Services	22 Oct. 2025	QAR. 1000.00 22 Oct 2025	26 Oct 2025	QAR. 250,000.00	30 Nov 2025, 12:00 Noon

"Only SAP Gold Certified partners or RISE with SAP Validated Advanced partners, as a minimum level of certification are to participate in the tender".

i. Interested bidders to communicate their willingness to bid and contact details to QAPCO Procurement (procurement@qapco.com.qa) indicating company name, address, telephone, official E-mail..etc. latest by the deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding indicated above. Reference Number and Description of the tender must be mentioned in the email.

ii. Non-refundable tender fee as indicated above is payable to QAPCO through **QNB account # 0013-001688-060** only at any QNB branch latest by 22 October 2025. (Tender Number, Subject and bidder name are to be stated in the payment receipt)

iii. Tender link will be sent via email notification from ARIBA system to the confirmed bidders. Tender Document will be accessible only after attaching the evidence of the tender fee payment in ARIBA by the bidder followed by Qapco approval. QAPCO shall reply with the access to "ARIBA eSourcing RFP event" along with necessary instructions and guidelines for the bid submission.
ARIBA Registration: Bidders who are not registered in QAPCO are requested to complete the registration process during the tendering period (Details on ARIBA registration can be accessed via QAPCO website www.qapco.com)

iv. **Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee)**: Original tender bond must be submitted by hand to the following address latest by the Bid closing date & time:
Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) Q.P.J.S.C.
P. O. BOX 756, QAPCO Doha Office, The Gate Mall, Bay Tower 2, 11th Floor
Tel.: +974 4033 8109 / 102
Attention: Procurement Group Manager
Bidder to attach copy of tender bond to the offer in ARIBA. Offer without Tender Bond will not be considered.

Tender Clarifications: Please send your queries with tender reference and description to email procurement@qapco.com.qa

For more information about QAPCO, please visit our website: www.qapco.com

Marli New York brings signature elegance to Doha

Marli New York unveils its latest space at The Villaggio Mall in Doha, a bold new expression of the brand's architectural vision meticulously crafted to immerse visitors in the Marli Universe.
Every detail reflects Marli's philosophy of sophistication and simplicity, offering clients in Doha a direct connection to designs that embody individuality, timeless versatility, and self-expression.
Far beyond a boutique, this setting invites exploration by transforming jewellery into a narrative experience. Inspired by the language of Marli's global flagships, the Doha space merges refinement with immersive elements to deliver an atmosphere tailored to resonate with discerning individuals.
The interior is anchored by the brand's iconic teal, balanced with polished marble accents and strategically placed illuminated showcases. Vertical elements frame each creation, while a geometric-patterned carpet defines the spatial flow, quietly evoking the dynamic energy of New York. This thoughtful approach reflects the brand's ongoing dedication to crafting environments that balance elegance and atmosphere.
Founded in 2014 by Maral Artinian, Marli redefines contemporary jewellery by championing nonconformity. Rooted in over a decade of artisanal mastery, the brand combines precision with forward-thinking aesthetics, empowering wearers to articulate their identity through exceptional craftsmanship. From material choices to spatial layout, every facet of the boutique reflects Marli's commitment to innovation and quality.
Celebrating personal milestones and unforgettable moments has always been at the heart of Marli's DNA. This opening marks the brand's growth in the Middle East and its ongoing commitment to igniting connection within a global community through the shared language of fine jewellery and personal empowerment.



Store hours:
Saturday - Thursday: 9am to 10pm
Friday: 3pm to 10pm





Marli New York's latest space at The Villaggio Mall in Doha.

QM presents two major exhibitions celebrating life and work of I M Pei



I M Pei is one of the most influential architects of the past century.



MIA



Qatar Museums (QM) is set to present two groundbreaking exhibitions devoted to the life and career of the architect behind the Museum of Islamic Art, I M Pei (Ieoh Ming Pei [1917–2019]), one of the most influential architects of the past century.

I M Pei: Life Is Architecture, presented in collaboration with M+ Hong Kong, at Al Riwaq, is the first full-scale retrospective of Pei's seven-decade career.

I M Pei and the Making of the Museum of Islamic Art: From Square to Octagon and Octagon to Circle, jointly organised by the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) and the future Art Mill Museum (AMM), is an in-depth exploration of his design for one of Doha's most celebrated landmarks.

The exhibitions, opening to the public on October 30, will offer an unprecedented dual perspective on the internationally acclaimed architect.

Curated and organised by M+ in 2024, the travelling exhibition I M Pei: Life Is Architecture brings together more than 400 objects, including original drawings, architectural models, photographs, films, and archival documentation from institutional and private holdings that reveal Pei's unparalleled vision. His projects had an extraordinarily global reach, from the National Gallery of Art's East Building in Washington, DC, to the modernisation of the Grand Louvre in Paris, the Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong, and MIA in Doha. Each of these works features prominently in the exhibition. Tracing Pei's life and work against the complex geopolitical realities and cultural legacies of the 20th and 21st centuries, I M Pei: Life Is Architecture offers the fullest presentation of his work ever assembled.

In a press statement, Sheikha Reem al-Thani, acting deputy CEO of Exhibitions, Public Art, and Rubayia Qatar at QM, said: "By presenting Pei's work within our evolving cultural landscape, QM reaffirms its commitment to advancing global dialogue in art and architecture.

"Additionally, we are excited to announce a series of architecture workshops with esteemed architects and universities. These workshops will provide unique educational opportunities, fostering a deeper understanding of architecture's transformative power and its capacity to shape both space and society."

I M Pei and the Making of the Museum of Islamic Art focuses on the architect's journey to define "the essence of Islamic architecture" and his creative process for developing the Museum, commissioned in 1999 by the Father Amir, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. Through original sketches and models, photographs, archival documents, early acquisitions from MIA's collection, and a newly commissioned film, the exhibition traces the conception and realisation of MIA.

MIA director Shaika Nasser al-Nassr said: "The culminating masterpiece that I M Pei created for our museum has been a source of wonder and inspiration for everyone who has stepped into its breathtaking spaces and is now a symbol of Doha recognised around the globe".

The two exhibitions, on view through February 14, 2026, will be accompanied by robust public programming that includes talks by architects and scholars, curator-led tours, workshops, and activities for families and school groups.

I M Pei: Life Is Architecture is organised into six thematic sections, exploring how Pei worked in various social, cultural, and biographical contexts. M+ museum director Suhanya Raffel said: "I M Pei: Life Is Architecture reflects seven years of rigorous research and dedication, culminating in the first full-scale retrospective of Pei's visionary legacy.

I M Pei and the Making of the Museum of Islamic Art takes visitors behind the scenes of one of the 21st century's most celebrated architectural achievements. This exhibition is curated by Aurelien Lemonier, Art Mill Museum curator of Architecture, Design and Gardens and Zahra Khan, Art Mill Museum curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, in collaboration with MIA deputy director of Curatorial Affairs, Dr Mounia Chekhab Abudaya.

The exhibition traces the creative journey Pei took as he sought to distil the "essence of Islamic architecture" into the design of MIA, an institution that signalled Qatar's arrival on the global cultural stage when it opened in 2008.

Aman, Dadu Museum wrap up 'Light Exhibition'

The Protection and Social Rehabilitation Center (Aman), part of the Qatar Foundation for Social Work, wrapped up the Light Exhibition held in partnership with Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar.

The month-long exhibition showcased Aman's awareness workshops, engaging students from kindergartens and both public and private schools.

In this context, Aman Center's Acting Executive Director Fadel Mohammed al-Kaabi said the Light Exhibition aimed to foster public awareness and education on social protection, while strengthening child safety measures and nurturing children's creative and innovative abilities.

He emphasised that the exhibition provided an educational environment and a unique opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills using new tools such as light and shadow.

Al-Kaabi further noted that more than 20 schools were invited, targeting over 300 students from primary levels in both public and private schools, in addition to students from the Shafallah Center for Persons with Disabilities, children from Dreama Center for Orphan Care, and children benefiting from Aman Center's internal care services.



He explained that the exhibition received positive feedback from educational staff, including social workers and teachers accompanying the students, particularly in how Aman's awareness workshops were integrated with the exhibition tools. He affirmed that these tools help unleash children's potential in discovering their identities and creative abilities.

For her part, Head of the Communication and Information Office at Aman Center Hanan al-Ali stressed the centre's commitment to activating community partnerships with various entities and sectors across the country, noting that child protection is a shared responsibility.

She added that the collaboration with Dadu Museum marks the beginning of a series of awareness events aimed at children, highlighting the museum's dedication to delivering information and education through play. **(QNA)**

Unesco Beirut, Doha offices convene regional workshop

In a collective effort to advance sustainable development through education, education leaders and key stakeholders from across the Arab states concluded in Beirut yesterday the ESD-NET Arab Region 2025 Regional Workshop.

The two-day high-level strategic meeting aimed to accelerate the integration of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into national education systems and to strengthen regional collaboration to drive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Hosted by the Unesco Regional Office in Beirut, in partnership with the Unesco Regional Office in Doha, the workshop serves as a key milestone in supporting Arab member states to operationalise the ESD-NET Global Network framework. It focuses on confirming the ESD-NET Terms of Reference, finalising the 2026–2027 Regional Roadmap, and aligning collective efforts to mainstream sustainability within education systems in the region.

"This workshop is a new beginning towards a green and sustainable Arab education. Unesco, through its offices in Beirut, Doha, and its headquarters in Paris, is fully committed to supporting countries in this journey — strengthening education systems, empowering teachers, developing curricula, and building strong partnerships with communities and the private sector," said Maysoun Chehab, officer in charge of the Unesco Regional Office in Beirut. This gathering builds on the momentum generated by the 2025 ESD-Arab NET webinar series, which mobilised governments, civil society, the private sector and academic institutions to strengthen the ESD ecosystem in the Arab region. A key highlight of the workshop was the official launch of the Arabic language versions of the Greening Education Partnership's resources, including the Green Schools Quality Standard and the Greening Curriculum Guidance.

"These important resources will support countries in transforming learning environments and curricula to be more climate-responsive and action-oriented," said Salah Khaled, director of the Unesco Regional Office for the Gulf states and Yemen.



QATAR

Hamad Port breaks Guinness World Records for largest mangrove relocation project

Hamad Port — Qatar's main gateway to world trade — has broken the Guinness World Records title for world's largest mangrove relocation project.

This marks the port's second entry into the Guinness World Records, highlighting its commitment to sustainable environmental practices.

It crowns years of environmental efforts that began during the port's construction phase and continued over the years, aimed at preserving marine biodiversity and protecting coastal ecosystems.

The project involved the relocation and replanting of more than 36,000 mangrove trees from development areas to carefully selected coastal sites. It also included the transfer of thousands of coral reefs and seagrass beds, employing advanced technologies, stringent environmental standards, and continuous scientific supervision to ensure the protection of the marine ecosystem from any negative impact.

Mangrove trees play a vital role in protecting coastlines, providing natural habitats for marine species, and absorbing carbon emissions, making this initiative a strategic step toward enhancing biodiversity and advancing Qatar's green economy.

The project was officially documented according to the highest



global standards recognised by Guinness World Records, earning its distinction as the largest initiative of its kind worldwide.

Mwani Qatar said this global environmental achievement underscores Hamad Port's continuous commitment to sustainability and reflects Qatar's vision to integrate environmental considerations into major development and infrastructure projects.

The company noted that this success serves as a national model for marine environmental protection, demonstrating the ability of national institutions to achieve harmony between economic growth and environmental preservation.

This accomplishment aligns with the Qatar National Vision 2030, which places environmental sustainability at the core of comprehensive development strategies and emphasises the importance of conserving natural resources for future generations.

It also reinforces Hamad Port's standing as a smart and sustainable port that adheres to the highest international environmental standards.

This new record adds to Hamad Port's track record, which already includes a Guinness World Record for constructing the deepest artificial basin on Earth, reaffirming its position among the world's most innovative and sustainable ports.

Web Summit Qatar to focus on empowering women in technology



The Web Summit Permanent Organising Committee held its regular meeting in Doha, chaired by HE the Director of the Government Communications Office (GCO) Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour bin Jabor al-Thani, to follow up on the ongoing preparations for the third edition of Web Summit Qatar, to be held from Feb 1 to 4.

The meeting will feature a distinguished group of key global leaders, decision-makers, and entrepreneurs in the fields of technology and innovation.

The meeting discussed developments in the 'Women in Technology: Pioneers' programme, one of the summit's flagship events, which this year marks its 10th anniversary. The programme is recognised as one of the most prominent international initiatives aimed at empowering women in technology, entrepreneurship, and digital creativity.

The committee announced that tickets allocated for the programme in the upcoming edition of the summit have sold out, reflecting the high demand for participation. This ticket category offers attendees all the benefits of general admission, in addition to exclusive access to meetings, panel discussions, and workshops led by women. It also provides opportunities for professional networking and mentorship by female experts in the business and technology sectors, making it one of the most sought-after ticket categories at the summit.

In a statement on this occasion HE Sheikh Jassim said that the 'Women in Technology: Pioneers' programme is one of the main pillars of the Web Summit, as it represents a global commitment to supporting women and enhancing their presence in the fields of innovation and digital transformation. He expressed his pleasure that Doha will serve as a platform for these efforts and a centre that celebrates the achievements of pioneering women in these fields, affirming Qatar's dedication to enhancing the role of women in the sustainable development process, in line with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030.

Tickets allocated for the programme in the upcoming edition of the summit have sold out, reflecting the high demand for participation. This ticket category offers attendees all the benefits of general admission, in addition to exclusive access to meetings, panel discussions, and workshops led by women

He added that hosting the third edition of the Web Summit complements Doha's success in solidifying its position as a global hub for shaping the digital future, a gateway that brings together expertise, provides opportunities for talent, and celebrates the talents of women who continue to make a difference in the fields of technology and entrepreneurship.

In celebration of the programme's 10th anniversary, the Organising Committee announced a special evening in Doha to honour pioneering women in the fields of technology, investment, media, and scientific research. This event is part of a series of events the Web Summit will hold in several global cities, including London, Vancouver, Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon, and Dublin, celebrating women leaders in the fields of technology and innovation.

The committee confirmed the participation of a group of prominent women in the upcoming edition's activities, including HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums' Board of Trustees; Minister of Planning, Economic Development and International Co-operation of Egypt Dr Rania A al-Mashat; and Minister of Digital Transition and Administration Reform of Morocco Amal El Fallah Seghrouchni, along with several influential women leaders in the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship.

The 'Women in Technology: Pioneers' programme stands as a leading global initiative supporting women's participation in the digital economy. Women accounted for over 40% of summit participants, while nearly 47% of the startups featured in the previous edition of Web Summit Qatar were founded by women, a record figure that reflects the initiative's tangible progress in advancing representation and engagement.

Meanwhile, the Web Summit is one of the world's foremost events in technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship. It gathers innovators, institutions, and entrepreneurs from across the globe to exchange expertise and shape the future of the digital economy, reinforcing Doha's position as a premier destination for major technological and digital forums at both regional and international levels. **(QNA)**

DFF showcases powerful Arab voices to inspire global audiences

Doha Film Institute (DFI) reaffirms its commitment to championing Arab talent with a powerful showcase of stories and bold new voices from the region at the upcoming Doha Film Festival (DFF).

The festival's International Feature Film Competition features *The President's Cake* and *My Father and Qaddafi*, reflecting the diversity and vitality of cinema from the Arab world and its growing global influence. It will also showcase 'Sounds of Saudi', taking audiences on a musical journey with emerging regional talent, offering an authentic glimpse into their cultural richness, creativity and artistry.

In a press statement, festival director and DFI CEO Fatma Hassan Alremaihi said: "The institute is a driving force behind a golden age of Arab cinema, championing voices that are shaping the world's artistic future.

"Our stories carry the weight of history and the promise of the future, and we are excited for audiences at Doha Film Festival to connect with the beauty, complexity and strength of our identity."

Arab stories showcased at DFF this year reflects the evolving identity of the region's cinema, from deeply personal reflections to bold artistic explorations. As a cultural catalyst for meaningful exchange through shared artistic experiences, DFF continues to shape a more inclusive global film landscape where Arab perspectives are seen, heard, and recognised

Arab films in the International Feature Film Competition include: *The President's Cake* (Iraq/US/Qatar) by Hasan Hadi; and *My Father and Qaddafi* (Libya/Lebanon/Qatar) by Jihan K.

The International Feature Film Competition also includes previously announced powerful works from the Arab world, *With Hassan in Gaza*, *Once Upon a Time in Gaza*, *Khartoum* and *Cotton Queen*.

Sounds of Saudi brings together pioneering female rapper Jara; groundbreaking musician Asayel; and artist and producer DJ Mubarak, offering audiences a window into the Saudi music scene through performances that tackle universal themes of identity, resilience, and transformation.



My Father & Qaddafi



The President's Cake

Fashion Trust Arabia and M7 to present FTA: Threads of Impact Exhibition

Fashion Trust Arabia (FTA) and M7 will present 'FTA: Threads of Impact. Celebrating 7 Years of Fashion Trust Arabia' from October 27 to January 3, 2026, featuring the work of more than 80 designers.

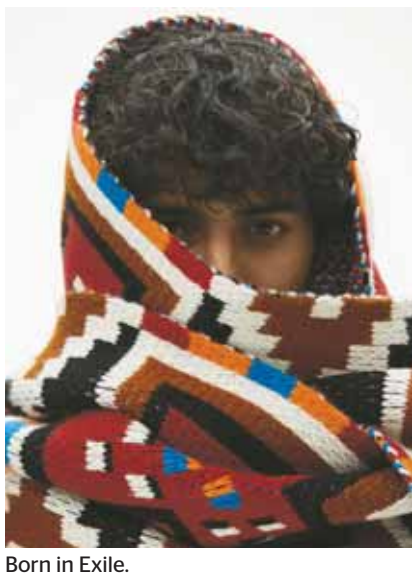
The exhibition, which charts FTA's transformative impact in shaping the careers of emerging designers from across the Mena region, will also present winners and finalists of the FTA Prize and special guest country designers. It brings together designers whose diverse practices are connected through shared ideas, iconographies, and cultural references.

In a press statement, FTA co-founder and co-chair Tania Fares said: "When we started FTA seven years ago, our mission was to create real opportunities for designers from our region and to see their work recognised on a global stage."

M7 director Maha Ghanim al-Sulaiti said: "Presenting the diverse talents FTA has nurtured through this exhibition reflects our joint commitment to empowering creative voices and transforming regional fashion landscape, and positioning Arab talents at the forefront of the global fashion ecosystem."



Andrea Wazen design.



Born in Exile.

Curated by Omoyemi Akerele, the founder and CEO of Lagos Fashion Week, the exhibition is organised around seven thematic "threads" that connect designers from across the Mena region. It highlights how designers contribute to the global fashion conversation while preserving their distinct cultural identities.

Among the sections are "Urban Contemporary," focused on designers whose work blends street style with high fashion; "Conscious Constructs," highlighting artistry that prioritises sustainability; and "Sculpted Forms," looking at artists who utilise bold lines and sculptural forms.

Designers featured in the exhibition include Andrea Wazen (Andrea Wazen, UAE/Lebanon); Noura Abdulaziz al-Saud, Sara Naif al-Saud, Mashael Khalid al-Saud (APOA, Saudi Arabia); Mohamed Benchellal (Benchellal, Netherlands/Morocco); Ibrahim Shebani (Born in Exile, Libya); Yousra ElSadig (Boutique de Nana, Canada/UK); Kazna Asker (Kazna Asker, UK/Yemen); Laura Laurens (Laura Laurens, Colombia); Maya, Meena and Zeenat Mukhi (Mukhi Sisters, Lebanon/India); Sylwia Nazzal (Nazzal Studio, Palestine); Ahmed Sabry and Daki Marouf (Sabry Marouf, Egypt); Salim Azzam (Salim Azzam, Lebanon); and Yasmin Mansour (Yasmin Mansour, Qatar/Egypt) in the evening wear category, among many others.

Also on view at M7 will be Houbara Haven: A Chaumet Tiara, an exhibition debuting the winning design from Qatari artist Aisha Alattiya, and Amazigh Hair Couture, an exhibition celebrating Moroccan Amazigh hair traditions as a living and evolving art form.

NU-Q Views student-led magazine launched on rebrand anniversary

A year after its rebrand, Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q)'s student-led magazine, *NU-Q Views*, marked a milestone with the launch of its inaugural issue, unveiled at a community event celebrating the publication's first anniversary.

The issue, titled *Futures in Progress,* represents the culmination of a year of collaboration among students in the Journalism and Strategic Communication programme, who worked closely with faculty to transform classroom discussions and research into a creative, student-driven academic project.

The magazine offers a bold exploration of the cultural, technological, and social transformations shaping communities across the Global South, a statement said.

Marwan M Kraidy, dean and CEO of NU-Q, described the magazine as a powerful reflection of the University's academic and creative ethos. "With *NU-Q Views,* our students are demonstrating the creative ways Northwestern Qatar engages with the pressing issues of our time," said Kraidy. "Through rigorous research and reporting and innovative storytelling, they are reflecting on the world around them but also shaping pressing conversations while living our core values of excellence and collaboration."

The issue is organised into four sections, each offering a distinct lens on the theme of change and possibility. Adapting (In Motion) examines how students, alumni, and faculty navigate new technologies and cultural shifts, from Arabic large language models to innovations presented at Web Summit Qatar.

Resisting (Faultlines) highlights stories of defiance and resilience against displacement, injustice, and erasure. Creating (New Ground) explores emerging cultural visions, such as digital thrift



spaces, the Rawabet Conference Series reimagining ways of knowing, and Northwestern Qatar's Hollywood initiative.

The final section, From the Feed, captures the immediacy of student voices through snapshots of everyday conversations and digital exchanges.

Ilhem Allagui, professor and director of the Journalism and Strategic Communication Programme, said: "This publication is a powerful reflection of our journalism students' voice, creativity, growth, and commitment. From fresh ideas to thoughtful perspectives, *NU-Q Views* continues to showcase what student led media can be." Faculty guidance helped transform the student's vision into reality. Claudia Kozman, associate professor in residence and faculty advisor to the *NU-Q Views*, supported the team throughout production. "This magazine is a powerful example of what happens when students are empowered to merge classroom learning with creative expression," said Kozman.

"By experimenting with new forms of storytelling and working across disciplines, they are setting a high standard for what student-led publications can achieve. Our goal in the programme is to provide a platform for students to showcase their skills."

For Editor-in-Chief Tayama Rai, the magazine is both a chronicle of the present and a contribution to shaping the future.

"We named the magazine *Futures in Progress* because it captures the spirit of our time, one where new futures are constantly being built, questioned, and reimagined. Throughout the year, *NU-Q Views* has followed stories of students, faculty, and alumni who are adapting to change, resisting injustice, and creating new ways of understanding the world. This magazine brings those stories together, showing that the future is being shaped right now, in motion and in progress," she said.

"A huge thank you to our advisor, Professor Claudia Kozman, for her continuous guidance and encouragement, and to the Journalism and Strategic Communication department at Northwestern University in Qatar for their incredible support in making this magazine possible."

The editorial team behind the publication reflects the collaborative spirit that defines *NU-Q Views*: Maria Budziievska, associate editor, illustrator, and designer of In Motion; Tayama Rai, associate editor and designer of Faultlines; Hyemin Cho, associate editor and designer of New Ground; Khatimat Abilova, managing editor of From the Feed; and Alexander Binay, photographer.

Elegancia Facilities Management to oversee 14 new public schools

Elegancia Facilities Management, a subsidiary of Estithmar Holding, has been appointed to deliver comprehensive facilities management services for 14 newly constructed schools across Qatar, as part of the nation's School Development Programme, implemented under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework led by the Public Works Authority (Ashghal).



The state-of-the-art schools, scheduled to commence operations between 2025 and 2026, are designed to accommodate over 10,000 students. Constructed using cutting-edge technologies such as 3D printing and modular building techniques, these facilities align with the strategic objectives of Qatar's Third National Development Strategy (2024–2030) and Qatar National Vision 2030.

Abd Almunem al-Sakka, Group CEO of Elegancia Services, hailed the project as a testament to the company's growing reputation as a trusted service provider to both public and private sectors. "This project reinforces Elegancia Facilities Management's commitment to delivering world-class maintenance, safety, and sustainability standards," al-Sakka said.

"We are dedicated to creating safe, modern, and inspiring environments for students while further cementing our role as a strategic partner in education and other key sectors, including healthcare, aviation, and hospitality." Currently, Elegancia Facilities Management manages more than 800,000sq m of educational infrastructure throughout Qatar, spanning schools, institutes, and government facilities. The company provides fully integrated facilities management solutions, covering a broad spectrum of hard services such as maintenance, operations, and HVAC systems and soft services including cleaning, security, hospitality, pest control, waste management, and landscaping.

Juan Leon, Holding CEO of Estithmar Holding, emphasised the broader significance of the partnership: "Collaborating with Qatar's public sector supports our long-term vision to deliver sustainable value and meaningful impact to communities both locally and internationally. Projects like this drive national development and bolster our strategic growth, ultimately contributing to increasing value for our stakeholders," he remarked.

Elegancia Facilities Management is part of Elegancia Services Group, one of the region's largest integrated service providers. With operations spanning nine countries and a workforce exceeding 15,000, the group's portfolio includes integrated facilities management, industrial catering solutions, manpower solutions, transport and logistics, and specialised supply and trading services. Globally, Elegancia Services manages over 250 facilities, produces more than 250,000 meals daily, provides catering for 27 VIP airport lounges across Saudi Arabia, and recently expanded its footprint by securing inflight catering and central production unit management at Damascus International Airport, a statement added.

QPC, Syrian Media Club sign partnership agreement



The Qatar Press Center (QPC) and the Syrian Media Club in Qatar signed a strategic partnership agreement to enhance media co-operation and exchange professional expertise, with the aim of developing journalistic and media work inside and outside Qatar, and building the capacities of Syrian media professionals.

The agreement was signed by Sadiq Mohammed al-Ammari, director general of the QPC, and Omar Zaqzouq, president of the Syrian Media Club, in the presence of several members of the Syrian Media Club in Qatar, at the QPC's headquarters.

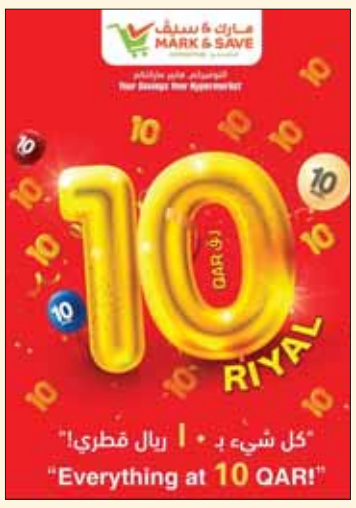
Omar Zaqzouq emphasised that the agreement aims to develop joint media capabilities by organising specialised training courses and seminars, enhancing media co-operation, co-ordinating and exchanging media expertise, and expanding areas of joint work.

Zaqzouq praised the QPC's efforts in hosting and establishing the Syrian Media Professionals Club, noting that the club, which was founded about three months ago, was the result of continuous support from the QPC, through the provision of halls for holding events, as well as logistical and moral support.

The director general of the QPC expressed his deep appreciation for Omar Zaqzouq and his team, emphasising that the QPC benefits from Syrian media professionals working in prominent institutions, such as Al Jazeera, Al Arabiya TV, and others. He also noted that the club's presence within the Center's framework contributes to enriching events and training activities, enhancing the level of media work in Qatar, and providing journalists with the opportunity to exchange experiences and knowledge, thus raising the quality of journalistic work.

The two parties emphasised that these initiatives represent an extension of Qatar's support for Syrian media and aim to build sustainable bridges of media communication between the two countries. They also identified clear areas of co-operation, including organising joint seminars and workshops to discuss media and cultural issues, reciprocal hosting of media events, and implementing training programmes to develop the skills of journalists with support from both parties. They also included co-operation in preparing and publishing joint media reports and materials, as well as other forms of co-operation to be agreed upon later in writing. It was agreed to form a joint working group to determine priorities and develop a phased implementation plan, including short, medium, and long-term programmes. It also sought to organise resources and funding in co-operation with the QPC to ensure the sustainability of initiatives and develop joint media projects aimed at honing the skills of journalists and enhancing their professional expertise. This would consolidate the foundations for sustainable media co-operation and enhance the level of professional performance in both the Syrian and Qatari media landscapes.

Mark & Save launches QR10 promotion today



Mark & Save Hypermarket, D-Ring Road, launches their new promotion campaign 'QR10 Promotion,' today (Thursday).

Running until October 26, the promotion offers a wide range of home appliances, food items, toys, and clothing for QR10.

"The goal of Mark & Save Hypermarket is to make high-quality products available at the lowest price," a statement said. During the promotion, the hypermarket has prepared many programmes and offers to provide customers a better shopping experience.

"A huge collection of products are available at discounted prices from the grocery, non-food, frozen, garments, household, and electronics categories. Special deals are also available on Thursday nights and Friday mornings. All the promotion details will be posted on the official social media pages of Mark & Save," the statement added.

'My China-Qatar Story' contest held in Doha



By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Qatar organised yesterday in Doha, the first edition of a speech competition titled 'My China-Qatar Story' with the participation of some employees of Chinese-funded enterprises in Qatar.

The event provided a considerable number of Chinese and non-Chinese (mostly Arab and Asian) employees an active platform to share their personal and professional experiences about working for some Chinese companies in Qatar and how this has introduced them to new culture of work and human relations in both Qatar and China.

Some spoke in Chinese, others spoke in English and some participants gave their speeches in Arabic.

The event was attended by the Chinese ambassador Cao Xiaolin, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) Doha Branch general manager Wang Weichao, representative of the Chinese business community in Qatar and other Chinese officials and representatives of Chinese companies in Qatar. "All the companies and participants have made thorough preparations, and the stories you shared were wonderful — some deeply moving, others filled with positivity and inspiration," said the envoy.

He added: "Your stories are miniature portraits of the joint efforts made by all employees of Chinese enterprises in Qatar to strengthen the friendship between China and Qatar. It can be said that this competition helps promote mutual understanding and deepen friendship."

The Chinese ambassador noted that "the friendship between the Chinese and Qatari peoples continues to grow stronger.

"Cultural and people-to-people exchanges between our two countries are expanding steadily. The employees of Chinese enterprises present today come from China, Qatar, and other countries, and all of you work diligently in your fields, contributing to the promotion of friendship and the continuation of the bond between China and Qatar."

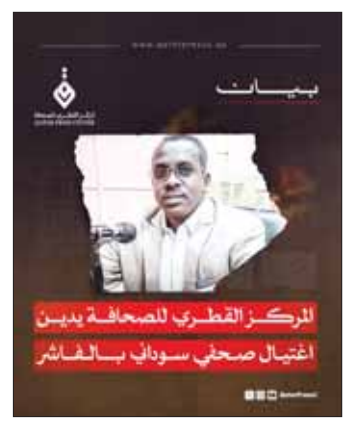
The event concluded with an award ceremony, where the winners were given certificates of recognition and mementos.

QPC condemns assassination of Sudanese journalist

The Qatar Press Center (QPC) condemns in the strongest terms the assassination of Sudanese journalist Al-Nour Suleiman, who succumbed to wounds sustained in a drone strike on his home in the besieged city of El-Fasher.

The QPC denounces the ongoing multiple violations against journalists in Sudan. The Sudanese Journalists Syndicate has recorded 556 violations against media workers, including the killing of 31 journalists "in assassinations and direct bombings" over two years of war, and five journalists this year.

At least 239 journalists have been arrested, and dozens have faced beatings, abuse, harassment, and threats.



The QPC reiterates its call on the international community, UN, human rights, and media organisations to condemn the targeting of journalists in Sudan and to take urgent action to hold those responsible accountable for war crimes against journalists and media professionals, as they are the first line of defence for the truth and the voice of the field.

The QPC notes that the armed conflict in Sudan has forced more than 90% of the country's journalists to leave their jobs. Since the war began on April 15, 2023, the buildings of several media outlets have been attacked and looted, and attacks and violations against journalists have increased dramatically, forcing many of them to flee the country.

Qatar supports Gaza Municipality in removing rubble, reopening streets

QNA
Gaza

Gaza Strip municipalities, in co-operation with Qatar's Gaza Reconstruction Committee, have begun reopening Gaza's main streets, removing rubble and debris, and facilitating the movement of Palestinian citizens.

This follows the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation army and the cessation of hostilities following the signing of a ceasefire agreement between Israel and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) on Friday.

Qatari-provided bulldozers and trucks began removing the rubble and debris from homes and the destruction blocking Gaza City's main streets, preventing Palestinians from moving around, given the continued return of thousands of displaced persons from the southern Gaza Strip to the northern part of the Strip following the cessation of the Israeli aggression.

In this regard, Mayor of Gaza, Eng Yahya al-Sarraj, emphasised that since the ceasefire, the Gaza Municipality and all municipalities in the Strip have launched a major campaign to open roads and streets, allowing the displaced to return to their homes and shelters with ease and freedom of movement, given the massive destruction caused by the Israeli aggression. In his remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Sarraj said that the campaign is continuing and is being launched with renewed vigour, supported by Qatar's Gaza Reconstruction Committee (Qatari aid), with a large number of bulldozers and trucks to continue the work of opening the main roads in Gaza City.



Palestinians gather as Gaza Municipality staff gather before deploying bulldozers to clear building rubble from main axes and streets in Gaza City, amid a ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian factions.

Al-Sarraj voiced his deep appreciation and gratitude to Qatar for its extensive support over many years in all areas, and called for this support to continue for the full reconstruction. He added that this campaign, led by Qatari aid, will continue for a full month and will lead to the opening of many roads and streets, facilitating life for the Palestinian people and enabling them to reach their homes, and beginning the revival of what remains of Gaza City.

He said that this aid is not unusual for Qatar, to which the Gazans extend their thanks and appreciation, its Amir, government, and people, as well as all the Qatari institutions that are working diligently and actively to support the Palestinian people. This Qatari aid is of great importance, especially in light of the destruction of more than 85% of the Gaza Municipality's capabilities, including heavy machinery, trucks, transportation tools, and services, due to the Israeli aggression that has destroyed everything in Gaza over the past two consecutive years.

He pointed out that municipalities now rely heavily on the private sector, which provides them with what little, scarce, and dilapidated resources it has left. This is insufficient to quickly and expeditiously complete the required work to serve citizens.

The Mayor of Gaza told QNA that the next phase of reconstruction, after the opening of streets and roads, should begin with providing shelter tents and temporary housing to protect children and women from the winter and the cold weather that will come in the coming few weeks. It should also focus on rebuilding the economy and factories, bringing life back to normal, and starting to rebuild commercial markets so that they can resume operations to serve citizens.

He highlighted that several international and Arab bodies have contacted the municipalities in the Gaza Strip to provide them with whatever materials and work mechanisms they can, but so far, the occupation has not allowed the entry of the required urgent and emergency supplies. He stressed that the municipalities are in need of spare parts for vehicles, machinery, generators, solar energy of all kinds, batteries, car tyres, and engine oil, as there is a severe shortage in this area.

He underscored the municipalities' urgent need for water and sewage tanks, which are scarce and unavailable, as well as for vehicles for transportation and trucks and heavy machinery to remove rubble that municipalities are unable to remove from streets or buildings.

Al-Sarraj called for opening all crossings and ports in the Gaza Strip to allow the entry of all the shelter, food, and spare parts needed by the municipalities and Palestinians, and for no restrictions at all on the entry of all the necessary equipment for the municipalities, especially trucks and heavy equipment to replace those that were destroyed.

He called for the urgent provision of building materials, particularly cement, to enable municipalities to carry out their work to facilitate Palestinian life. He noted that municipalities urgently need at least 1,000 tonnes of cement to help them re-operate and rehabilitate water wells, sewage treatment plants, and maintain some municipal service areas to serve citizens.

The service and municipal sectors have suffered significant damage during the two-year Israeli aggression. The occupation deliberately destroyed facilities, buildings, and headquarters of the Gaza Strip's municipalities, killing four mayors in direct attacks. Air strikes also destroyed the vehicles and machinery used by municipalities, and caused massive destruction to water and sewage wells, power and electricity networks.

Gaza man reunited with family after being told in Israeli jail they were dead

Reuters
Khan Younis

Shadi Abu Sido's world shattered in Israeli detention when guards told him his wife and two children had been killed.

"I got hysterical," the Gaza Palestinian photographer said.

It wasn't until his release on Monday, part of the US-mediated ceasefire deal between Hamas and Israel that halted two years of war, that he discovered his loved ones were alive.

His wife, Hanaa Bahlul, raced down the hallway of his family's house in Khan Younis and leapt into his arms. He spun her in the air as they clung to each other. Abu Sido kissed his children's cheeks again and again, murmuring "my love" as he held the daughter and son he thought he would never see again. "I heard her voice, I heard the voice of my children, I was astonished, it cannot be explained, they were alive. I saw my wife and children alive. Imagine amid death – life," he said.

Abu Sido, a photojournalist, said he was detained at Shifa hospital in the northern Gaza Strip on March 18, 2024.

He was among 1,700 Palestinians detained by Israeli forces during the devastating war in Gaza and released on Monday, along with 250 prisoners convicted or suspected of involvement in deadly attacks, in exchange for 20 Israeli hostages held by Hamas since its October 2023 cross-border assault.

Bahlul said a lawyer from Addameer, a Palestinian human rights group, had told her Abu Sido was being held under Israel's Unlawful Combatants Law – a form of administrative detention.

Omer Shatz, an Israeli international law expert at Sciences Po university in Paris, said the law allows Israel to limit access to lawyers, incarcerate people without charge or trial, and arbitrarily detain many Palestinians in Gaza.

According to Addameer, 2,673 Gazans are currently detained under this law.

The Israeli military and Ministry of Justice did not respond to Reuters requests for comment.

In March 2024, the Israeli military said it raided Shifa hospital, accusing Hamas of operating from the premises. Hamas has denied Israeli allegations it had command posts underneath Shifa and other Gaza hospitals. Reuters could not independently verify the assertions of either side.

Abu Sido said he was severely beaten, handcuffed, blindfolded and forced to kneel for long periods while in detention. His wrists looked raw during his meeting with Reuters, which he said had been caused by the shackles. Reuters could not independently verify the details of his account.

He was first held at Israel's Sde Teiman military detention camp, then transferred to the Ofer military camp – which is in the Israeli-occupied West Bank – and later to Ketziot prison in Israel, according to his wife.

Bahlul said Abu Sido was arrested only for being "a journalist for a Palestinian institution".

A spokesperson for the Israeli Prison Service said all inmates were held according to legal procedures and their rights upheld. "We are not aware of the claims described, and to the best of our knowledge, no such incidents occurred under IPS responsibility," the spokesperson said. An Israeli military official told Reuters in September that of around 100 criminal investigations related to the Gaza war, most concerned allegations of abuse or death of detainees in military custody. Two cases have led to indictments, and one soldier was sentenced to 17 months in prison.



Freed Palestinian detainee Shadi Abu Sido sits with his wife Hanaa Bahlul and their children at their home in Nuseirat, central Gaza Strip, after he was released from Israeli detention as part of a ceasefire deal between Hamas and Israel.

Reuters previously spoke to released Palestinian prisoners who said they suffered abuses in Israeli detention. Amany Srahneh of the Palestinian Prisoners Society said conditions for Palestinian inmates deteriorated dramatically after Hamas' October 2023 storming of Israel. She said conditions were even worse for Gaza Palestinians held in military detention.

Abu Sido said that prison was "the graveyard of the living. When I returned to Gaza, it was like my soul returned to my body. But when I saw the destruction..., how can I start again?"

POLITICS

Syria's Sharaa tells Putin he will respect past deals with Moscow

Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa told Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday he would honour all past deals struck between his country and Moscow, a pledge suggesting Moscow's two main military bases in Syria are safe, Reuters reported from Moscow. Sharaa, who toppled predecessor Bashar al-Assad, a close Russian ally, late last year, was speaking at the start of Kremlin talks with Putin on his first visit to Russia since coming to power. "There are bilateral relations and shared interests that bind us with Russia, and we respect all agreements made with it. We are working on redefining the nature of relations with Russia," Sharaa, who was speaking in Arabic, told Putin.
Putin told him that Moscow was ready to do all it could to act on what he called "many interesting and useful beginnings" that had already been discussed between the two sides when it came to renewing relations. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak told reporters after the talks that Moscow was willing to work on oil projects in Syria and help it to restore energy, rail and other infrastructure destroyed during years of civil war.

VIOLENCE

Gunmen kill 14 in Nigeria attacks

Gunmen have killed at least 14 people in separate attacks on two villages in central Nigeria's Plateau state, a Red Cross official said yesterday, AFP reported from Lagos. The state and the wider central Nigeria region has for years suffered deadly clashes between farmers and herders over dwindling land, as well as attacks from armed criminals widely described as "bandits". The Red Cross secretary in Plateau, Nurudeen Hassan Magaji, said the attack late Tuesday killed 12 people, including four women, in Rachas Yelwa, a village in the Barkin Ladi district. He added that two other people were killed in a separate attack in the village of Rawuru. Barkin Ladi council chairman Stephen Pwajok called the attacks "unfortunate, unprovoked and deeply regrettable". "The two attacks that killed 14 people are unacceptable," he added. Land-use clashes between nomadic cattle herders, often members of the Fulani ethnic group, and farmers are common in central Nigeria.

Madagascar enters military rule after colonel seizes power

AFP
Antananarivo

Madagascar braced for military rule yesterday after an elite army unit seized power following President Andry Rajoelina's impeachment, promising elections within two years as the international community voiced alarm over the crisis.

The nation was plunged into its worst political upheaval in years after the Capsat military contingent assumed power moments after parliament voted to impeach Rajoelina, who appeared to have fled the country as street protests escalated.

It becomes the latest former French colony to fall under military control since 2020, joining coups in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Gabon, and Guinea.

Capsat commander Colonel Michael Randrianirina, confirmed as president by the top court, said the transition to civilian leadership would take under two years.

Kenyans swarm home of fallen 'hero' Raila Odinga

AFP
Nairobi

"A king", "a hero", "Nelson Mandela" — no superlatives were too much for the crowd that came to mourn the death of Kenyan opposition leader Raila Odinga at his Nairobi home yesterday.

That he failed to win the presidency no less than five times is not the point for the fans of "Baba" (father) — his role as a fighter for democracy and champion of his Luo tribe made him a dominant figure in Kenyan politics for decades.

Yesterday, just hours after his death at 80 at an Indian health retreat, hundreds of his supporters flocked to his residence in the upmarket suburb of Karen.

Many were inconsolable. One man tried to enter on his knees as tearful women screamed "Baba" over and over.

"We need him. He left a void that no one can fill," said Johnson Omongi, 25, after walking three hours to the home.



People react as they mourn the death of former Kenyan prime minister Raila Odinga, along the streets of the Lakeside city of Kisumu, yesterday.

"Raila brought us democracy. He suffered a lot to serve us," he added. None of Odinga's supporters forgets the eight years in prison he spent under the authoritarian president Daniel Arap Moi, from 1982 to 1991.

Nor his support for the 2010 constitution, which transformed Kenya into a more modern democracy.

"He's my hero. This guy has fought for Kenya for as long as I can remember," said Ismael Ondego, 42, carrying two of Odinga's placards bearing the words "One Love".

Odinga lost elections in 1997, 2007, 2013, 2017, and 2022, but became the symbol of democratic opposition for many.

Others accused him of rabble rousing, and denounced his opportunism as he forged alliances with erstwhile rivals, including the current president William Ruto, leaving the country without an effective opposition.

But his fans see it as the work of a man of peace.

TRAGEDY

Bus fire leaves 20 people dead in west India

Twenty people were killed after a bus caught fire while travelling in the western Indian state of Rajasthan, local media reports and officials said. The vehicle, which carried over 50 passengers, was travelling between the cities of Jaisalmer and Jodhpur when the incident occurred. "Nineteen passengers died in the bus and one succumbed to burn injuries on the way to Jodhpur," senior police officer Rajesh Meena said. The Press Trust of India news agency – which also confirmed the toll, citing a local lawmaker – reported that the bus stopped on the highway after smoke emerged from the back of the vehicle.

DECISION

Supreme Court eases firecracker ban in Delhi

India's top court yesterday permitted the use of some firecrackers in New Delhi during the Diwali festival, easing a blanket ban even as the capital battles unhealthy winter air pollution. The Supreme Court said the controlled use of the less-polluting "green firecrackers" – developed by federal research institutes to reduce particulate and gas emission – would be allowed for limited periods between Saturday and Tuesday. During Diwali, a Hindu festival of lights, widespread bursting of firecrackers adds to the already high pollution levels in Delhi. The city routinely ranks among the world's most polluted capitals, with thick smog shrouding the city each winter.

LAW AND ORDER

Lanka arrests most-wanted woman tied to court killing

Sri Lanka's most-wanted woman, who is accused of taking part in the courtroom murder of a suspected top drug dealer, has been arrested in Nepal. Ishara Sewwandi, 25, is accused of having disguised herself as a lawyer in order to smuggle a revolver inside a hollowed-out copy of the Criminal Procedure Code into court in Colombo in February. An accomplice, also dressed as a lawyer, was accused of then shooting dead Ganemulle Sanjeewa, who was on trial for drug-trafficking offences. The accomplice was arrested soon after the shooting. Sewwandi, arrested in Nepal this week, will be extradited to face murder charges at home.

CRIME

UK funeral director pleads guilty to defrauding families

A British funeral director yesterday pleaded guilty to more than 30 charges of fraud after a police investigation into human remains at his business. Robert Bush appeared at Hull Crown Court and admitted 35 charges relating to dishonestly telling the families and friends of the deceased that he would provide proper care for their remains and arrange for their cremation between April 2023 and March 2024. Four of the charges to which he entered guilty pleas related to unborn babies. The 47-year-old also pleaded guilty to a charge of fraudulent trading, and a general fraud charge relating to his business.

Hyundai Motor doubles down on India with $5bn investment

Reuters
New Delhi

Hyundai Motor will invest $5bn to expand its manufacturing and research operations in India, the South Korean automaker said yesterday, putting the world's third-largest car market at the heart of its growth strategy.

The money will help to increase Hyundai India's annual production by about a third to 1.1mn vehicles by 2030, introduce 26 cars including its first hybrid vehicle tailored for India, and launch its luxury car brand Genesis in the country, Hyundai Motor CEO Jose Munoz told reporters.

The group expects the investment to generate $11bn of revenue in India by 2030, making it Hyundai's second-largest market behind the US, Munoz said during the first investor day for its Indian unit.

"India is a strategic priority in Hyundai's global growth vision. India isn't just important to Hyundai's global strategy. India is Hyundai's global strategy," Munoz said during the virtual presentation.

Hyundai India's shares rose nearly 3% after the news.

During nearly three decades in India, Hyundai had invested a total of $5bn in the country.

The new outlay comes as the group is under pressure in its major US market from President Donald Trump's tariffs, while also facing scrutiny over worker deaths and labour practices at its factory in Georgia.

Hyundai, which entered India in 1996, was until recently the country's second-largest carmaker, after Maruti Suzuki with bestsellers such as the Creta and Venue SUVs.

But its market share has slipped in recent months to below 14% from a peak of about 18% as it faces increased competition from Indian rivals such as Mahindra & Mahindra, which has stepped into the second spot so far this fiscal year. By pumping fresh money into the market, Hyundai is targeting more than 15% share of the domestic market.

The Genesis luxury brand will debut in 2027, starting small but scaling "significantly" by 2032, Munoz said. The company expects the brand to enhance profitability and attract premium customers.

India will also become Hyundai's global export hub, with 30% of local output earmarked for overseas markets by 2030.

Hyundai India is planning dividend payouts of 20% to 40% of earnings, comparable to Maruti's 28.16% payout ratio in fiscal 2025 and Mahindra's 22%.

On Tuesday, Hyundai Motor India named insider Tarun Garg as the first Indian chief executive of the company, succeeding Unsoo Kim.

Maoist militants surrender



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis (back centre) poses with Maoist militants upon their surrender, as they hold copies of the Indian constitution during an event at Gadchiroli in Maharashtra. The militants have announced a halt to their decades-long campaign. India is waging an intense campaign against the last remnants of the Naxalite menace.

India scraps tax exemption on imports of missile parts

Reuters
New Delhi

India has reversed a contentious policy of tax-free imports of missile parts that sits at the heart of an investigation faced by billionaire Gautam Adani's group, according to a notification that is being reported for the first time.

In September, the government said it would free up all such parts, whether for long- or short-range missiles, from import taxes, in a boost for defence companies that use such imports to make equipment for the armed forces, including the Adani group.

But in an October 9 "corrigendum" or correction notification, it dropped the word "missiles" from its relaxed policy, without giving any reason, reinstating older rules that exempt only some parts used in long-range missiles.

"The correction made to the notification takes us back to the earlier regime, where parts of small-range missiles were not specifically exempt from import duties," said Krishan Arora, a partner at consultancy Grant Thornton Bharat.

"This is the first time the government was specifically putting a blanket exemption on all such missile parts from customs duty, but that decision appears to have been reversed."

The notice, posted on a government website, came days after it was reported that Adani Defence was under investigation for evading $9mn in taxes on imports of short-range missile parts.

Adani has previously said it had provided clarifications and documents to authorities about its imports.

Adani Group did not respond to queries on the October 9 notice.

India's finance ministry and its indirect tax board did not respond to queries on why the correction notice was issued.

Adani Defence Systems and Technologies, one of the smaller businesses of the coal-to-airports conglomerate, turns out defence equipment such as missiles, drones and small arms.

Since January 2024, it has imported $70mn worth of defence parts from countries such as Canada, Israel and Russia.

UK bankers to get bonuses earlier as BoE loosens rules

Senior bankers in Britain will receive their bonuses earlier than previously thought, the Bank of England (BoE) said, after it halved the length of time needed to qualify as part of efforts to boost UK competitiveness. The changed rules will also exempt bankers earning up to £660,000 from any restriction, and is the latest effort by authorities to dismantle regulations set up after the global financial crisis. In a consultation on how such rules should be changed, the bank had recommended a cut to five years, but said the time bankers must wait for the full amount of their bonus would be reduced to four years from eight. The changes take effect from today, in time for 2025 pay awards and any other awards made but not yet fully paid. Going forward, the deferral rules will only apply to senior bankers with total pay of at least £660,000 or where bonuses constitute at least a third of their pay.

Salman Khan walks the ramp



Bollywood actor Salman Khan presents a creation by designer Vikram Phadnis, in Mumbai, India.

French luxury giant to open first India store

AFP
Mumbai, India

French luxury retailer Galeries Lafayette yesterday said it will open its first store in India, aiming to tap into the country's rapidly expanding market for high-end goods.

The flagship store – a sprawling 90,000-square-foot outlet in Mumbai, India's financial capital – will feature 250 luxury and designer brands and is scheduled to open in early November.

The launch in the world's fifth largest economy follows a partnership with the fashion arm of the Aditya Birla Group, a major Indian conglomerate.

The two companies signed an agreement three years ago to establish the Galeries Lafayette brand in India.

India's luxury market remains relatively small, but is growing swiftly, fuelled by a booming economy that continues to mint tens of thousands of new millionaire households each year. These consumers are increasingly splurging on everything from Lamborghini cars to Louis Vuitton bags. The market for high-end goods is expected to grow from $7.7bn in 2023 to $12bn by 2028 – a rate that will "outpace other major luxury markets around the world", according to consulting firm Kearney.

With its India entry, Galeries Lafayette and Aditya Birla are looking to secure a share of this growth.

Galeries Lafayette executive chairman Nicolas Houze described the store as a "new chapter in our international journey", adding that the partnership with Aditya Birla provides a "strong foundation" for success.

UK must prepare for 2C warming by 2050: climate advisers

AFP
London

UK climate advisers warned the government for the first time yesterday to prepare for 2C of global warming by 2050, stressing current efforts to adapt to extreme weather are falling far short.

Britain is among many countries experiencing record-breaking temperatures this year, with four heatwaves coming alongside below-average rainfall in some areas and prolonged periods of drought.

The time spent under drought conditions could double if the 2C threshold is reached, according to the Climate Change Committee (CCC), an independent body tasked with advising the government.

The committee said in a report earlier this year that the UK was woefully underprepared for the disastrous effects of climate change, highlighting major failings in areas from agriculture to transport.

In a letter published yesterday, the CCC said ministers needed to prepare for "weather extremes that will be experienced if global warming levels reach 2C above pre-industrial levels by 2050".

"We have to advise that the UK should be prepared for climate change beyond the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement," it added. Countries agreed in the 2015 Paris treaty to try to limit global warming to "well below" 2C, and aim for a 1.5C cap, which scientists warn is increasingly unattainable as human-driven climate change accelerates.

Experts have long warned that warming beyond 2C could make large parts of the planet uninhabitable.

The CCC said it was "clear" the UK was not yet adapted to the changes in climate it was currently experiencing "let alone those that are expected over the coming decades".

It warned the chance of a heatwave occurring in a particular year would increase from 40% to 80% if global warming hit the 2C mark, and sea levels could rise by 15-25cm.

The committee said the government needed to prepare for more intense and frequent heatwaves, drought, flooding, storms and wildfire conditions.

It recommended adapting infrastructure, including ensuring that new homes are resilient to higher temperatures.

British homes are generally designed to withstand cooler temperatures and retain heat during the winter and air conditioning is rare in houses, public buildings and transport networks.

Researchers have pointed out that older and vulnerable people living in poorly adapted homes face particular health risks from rising temperatures.

"People in the UK are already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate, and we owe it to them to prepare," Julia King, chair of the CCC's adaptation committee said.

"We need to see government treating adaptation with the same urgency that we have been able to treat cutting emissions."

The CCC urged the government to use 2050 as a "horizon" for making necessary changes, including ambitious projects like reservoir construction, with ministers warning the UK also faces growing water shortages in the next decade.

Analysis of government data by the non-profit research organisation Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit earlier this month showed the UK had its second-worst harvest on record in 2025.

The group warned that supporting farmers to adapt to extreme conditions should be an "urgent priority for the government".

Greenpeace UK's chief scientist Douglas Parr said "alarm bells should be ringing in government" over the latest advisory.

"Doubled chances of heatwaves, droughts and wildfires will make life in the UK look very different, very quickly," Parr said in a statement.

COMMENT

CHAIRMAN
Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka
Deputy Managing Editor
K T Chacko

P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
editor@gulf-times.com
44350478 (News),
44466404 (Sport),
44466636 (Home delivery)
44350474
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GULF TIMES

Investors on guard for risks that could derail AI gravy train

Optimism over the profit potential of artificial intelligence (AI) has helped drive the US stock market to record highs, but investors are looking for weak spots that could emerge in the AI trade and have identified some risks to watch for.

AI has been the dominant theme on Wall Street since the launch of ChatGPT in November 2022, which fuelled enthusiasm about the technology's potential. Citigroup strategists estimate that nearly 50% of the S&P 500's overall roughly $57tn in market capitalisation has "high" or "medium" exposure to AI.

The benchmark index is up about 13% year-to-date, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite has climbed 17%.

"So much of what is holding up the markets is either directly or indirectly related to that trade," said Yung-Yu Ma, chief investment strategist at PNC Financial Services Group. Technology and AI-linked stocks have stumbled several times this year. The emergence of a Chinese low-cost AI model called Deepseek at the start of the year sent shockwaves through tech stocks as it raised questions about massive capital spending. Similar questions also arose in August, briefly hitting tech stocks once again. The AI trade recovered from those setbacks and has thrived.

"There is a huge opportunity here, but it really just comes down to what's priced in and what's not," said Steve Lowe, chief investment strategist at Thrivent Financial. "There is a lot of growth priced in, and that is one of the concerns, because there are still a number of risks that could trip up people's expectations."

While some of the market participants who point to risks remain bullish as the benchmark S&P 500 starts the fourth year of its bull run, investors have identified potential warning signs to watch for as tech and other major US companies begin reporting quarterly results in the days ahead.

Nearly 50% of the S&P 500's overall roughly $57tn in market cap has medium to high AI exposure

Given massive capital expenditures required to build out infrastructure tied to AI applications, investors said they will watch the rate of spending and return on investments, and the potential for outlays to erode profitability.

Capex from major cloud computing and AI platform companies known as "hyperscalers" including Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet, Meta Platforms and Oracle, is expected to roughly double from 2024-2027 to $500bn annually, according to Barclays strategists.

While these companies generate massive amounts of cash, it is important to watch whether they are "spending faster than their growth rates and eating into their free cash flow margins," said Michael Arone, chief investment strategist for State Street Investment Management.

Investors are also wary of any surprise softening in the spending, given the importance of tech outlays to support the AI expansion.

"The bigger risk is not investing too much; it is not investing enough right now," said Garrett Melson, portfolio strategist at Natixis Investment Managers Solutions.

There could be ramifications from potential "circular" deals involving AI companies with overlapping interests, such as Nvidia's recent announcement it will invest up to $100bn in OpenAI.

While the interdependent relationships within the AI ecosystem "do not appear sinister... there is significant systemic risk in such close financial and operational ties," Irene Tunkel, chief US equity strategist at BCA Research, said in a note this week.

Tech companies have large cash resources to support AI spending and deal making. But a switch toward more leverage might raise eyebrows.

"When you see these big announcements, you want to see it funded through cash flow, not debt or equity raises," said Anastacio Teodoro, senior portfolio manager at Federated Hermes.

Barclays strategists are optimistic about the AI theme over the next 12-18 months, but they are also wary of signs the energy infrastructure may not be sufficient to support data centres and the AI-related build-out. — Reuters

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Will stablecoins preserve dollar dominance?

The dollar may be the dominant global currency for the moment, but there are real questions about how long this moment will last. The argument that dollar-pegged stablecoins will extend it rests on a slew of shaky assumptions and leaves key questions unanswered.

By Barry Eichengreen
Chicago

The US dollar is under scrutiny from investors around the world. Banks, firms, and governments that rely on it as an international means of payment and store of value worry about the "America First" policies. They fear further steps to weaponise the currency. They fret that US government debt is on an unsustainable path, and that the Federal Reserve, whose independence hangs in the balance, will feel pressure to inflate away those obligations.

The dollar may be the dominant global currency for the moment, but there are real questions about how long this moment will last.

And now to the rescue come – wait for it – dollar-linked stablecoins, blockchain-based digital tokens pegged one-to-one to the greenback. The GENIUS ("Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for US Stablecoins") Act signed into law by President Donald Trump in July promises to let a thousand stablecoins bloom. The US Treasury and its regulatory partners will spend the next year fleshing out the rules, after which they will start licensing private stablecoin issuers. To all appearances, there will be no shortage of licensees.

The domestic implications have been much discussed. Will stablecoins actually be fully backed by safe, liquid collateral, or will the regulated, who have every incentive to hold higher-yielding assets, stay one step ahead of the regulators? Will they always and everywhere trade one for one with the dollar? If there are runs, will regulators intervene, just as they intervened in 2008 to guarantee the liabilities of the Reserve Primary Fund, the world's third-largest money-market fund? Will the banks' deposit base be insulated by prohibitions on stablecoins paying interest, or will issuers sidestep this ban by channelling interest payments through the exchanges on which their coins are traded, threatening the existence of the banking system?

These are good questions, and the answers are not reassuring.

Still, some will argue that if there are risks, they are risks worth taking, because stablecoins will preserve the dollar's global hegemony. So it was argued by no less an authority than Donald Trump, Jr. at a crypto conference in Singapore earlier this month.

The argument starts with the observation that 99% of stablecoin circulation worldwide is tied to the dollar. If those dollar stablecoins are held and used outside the US, they will provide an entirely new set of international payment rails, separate and in principle faster and cheaper than cross-border banking and the banks' hoary messaging system, SWIFT.

If this enhances the attractiveness of dollar payments, corporate treasurers will be encouraged to maintain inventories of dollars. Central banks, likewise, will be encouraged to hold reserves of dollars, since this will enable them to act as dollar lenders and liquidity providers of last resort. These complementarities will lock in dollar dominance.

This argument is based on a slew of assumptions that need to be unpacked. First, the notion that dollar stablecoins will be attractive for payments assumes that they will in fact be stable (here come those good questions again), and that other governments will allow free use of dollar stablecoins by their residents.

Some governments may hesitate, fearing that currency substitution would undermine the effectiveness of domestic monetary policy. Others will worry about facilitating money laundering, tax avoidance, and evasion of capital controls. European Union authorities will scrutinise the compatibility of dollar stablecoins with the consumer-protection and market-integrity provisions of their Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA) regulation. The EU has already flagged Tether, the leading stablecoin, as noncompliant.

The rebuttal is that governments lack the ability to turn back this digital tide. But anyone who has encountered China's Great Firewall knows that national authorities retain considerable power to limit their citizens' digital transactions. True, Europeans will be able to access dollar stablecoins offshore even if they are banned in Europe itself. But big banks and companies will be reluctant to engage in such regulatory evasion, given that they will pay a heavy price if caught.

A third assumption is that jurisdictions where other currencies circulate will not issue their own stablecoins. But China has just taken a step in this direction, adopting an ordinance authorising the issuance of renminbi-linked stablecoins in Hong Kong.

Finally, it is assumed that private-label stablecoins will not be outcompeted by central bank digital currencies (CBDCs). These are essentially the same instrument, only issued by central banks, which can guarantee their conversion into central bank money. More than 100 central banks are going down the CBDC road. Only the US has shunned it, reflecting the country's historic suspicion of central banking, as well as lobbying by the crypto industry.

History shows that central bank money has profound advantages over private money. This gives good reason for thinking that the US is betting on the wrong horse. – Project Syndicate

• *Barry Eichengreen, Professor of Economics and Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley, is the author, most recently, of the forthcoming* Money Beyond Borders: Global Currencies From Croesus to Crypto *(Princeton University Press, March 2026).*



G7 urged to join plan tapping Russia assets for Ukraine

AFP
Washington

The EU will urge G7 partners to consider tapping immobilised Russian assets in aiding Ukraine, the bloc's economy commissioner said yesterday, as finance ministers of the group convene in Washington.

Also on the Group of Seven ministers' agenda are discussions on China's recently announced curbs on rare earths, commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis said in an interview.

European allies have been working on a plan to provide loans to Ukraine without an outright seizure of Russian assets that have been immobilised after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

"UK and Canada have already indicated willingness to work alongside with the EU's reparation loan model," Dombrovskis said.

"So, we're also awaiting more concrete responses from (the) US and Japan," he added on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank's fall meetings in Washington this week.

He stressed that G7 leaders earlier agreed at the finance ministers level to "work in a coordinated way."

Dombrovskis said he intends to outline the EU's plans when G7 finance leaders gather, while encouraging partners to see what they can do with frozen assets in their territories. The leaders will also discuss work on further sanctions.

Under the European Union's plan, the EU would borrow funds from international deposit organisation Euroclear in Belgium that have matured into cash, and the money would in turn be loaned to Ukraine.

The understanding is that any funds Russia pays towards post-war reparations would be used to reimburse the Europeans.

The Kremlin has said the EU plan amounts to "theft" and has threatened to retaliate.

US blasts China's rare earths curbs, calls on Beijing to back down

Reuters
Washington

Top US officials yesterday blasted China's major expansion of rare earth export controls as a threat to global supply chains, but said Beijing could still change course and avoid steps by Washington to decouple from the world's second-largest economy.

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer told a press conference that China's new export restrictions were a "global supply-chain power grab" and the US and its allies would not accept the restrictions, but he and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent stressed that Washington did not want to escalate the conflict, which has roiled financial markets and sent US-China relations into a tailspin.

As of last night, US President Donald Trump was still expecting to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Korea later this month, Bessent said.

Greer told reporters that China has not yet implemented the revised regulatory system for rare earths and could still back away, just as the US had not implemented a retaliatory 100% increase in tariffs on Chinese imports.

"These are drafted, or in draft, so it's quite real, but our expectation is that they won't implement this and that we'll be able to be back to where we were a week ago where we had the tariff levels we've agreed to and we have the flow of rare earths that we agreed to," Greer said.

The two countries appeared poised to return to an all-out trade war late last week, after China on Thursday announced the rare earth measures. Trump responded on Friday by threatening to raise tariffs on Chinese goods by 100%.

Bessent, Greer and other officials have sought to get US-China ties back on track this week, emphasising their desire to avoid escalation in a series of interviews.

Greer and Bessent, who have met personally with senior Chinese officials four times in four different cities in recent months, expressed deep frustration about China's actions, which threaten to upend global supply chains.

Bessent said US and Chinese officials, in Washington for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, were in close touch to set up the Trump-Xi meeting, adding that it was the level of trust between the two leaders that had prevented a further escalation of the trade conflict.

The US does not want to decouple from China, but would have to take action if Beijing proved to be an unreliable supplier, Bessent said, noting that Chinese officials recently told US auto companies that a slowdown in shipments of rare earth magnets was "probably something" to do with a holiday.

"Not only is China fuelling Russia's war (in Ukraine), but China's actions have once again demonstrated the risk of being dependent on them, on rare earths and for that matter, anything," Bessent said, adding, "If China wants to be an unreliable partner to the world, then the world will have to decouple."

He said Washington had further measures it could deploy, including export controls, if Beijing proceeded, and was also ready to tariff China over its purchases of Russian oil, as long as European partners joined in.

The US has slapped additional tariffs on India over its smaller purchases of Russian oil, but has refrained for now from taking action against China.

Members of the Group of Seven advanced economies are expected to discuss the issue during a meeting on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank meetings.



Smoke rises up from the site of explosions in Kabul yesterday amid heavy border clashes between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Pakistan, Afghanistan agree to temporary truce after fresh fighting

Reuters
Islamabad/Kabul

Pakistan and Afghanistan yesterday agreed to a temporary ceasefire after an air strike and ground fighting ramped up tensions between the neighbours, leaving more than a dozen civilians dead and 100 wounded.

Yesterday's fighting along the volatile, contested frontier shattered a fragile peace after dozens were killed in weekend clashes, the worst between the two countries since the Taliban came to power in Kabul in 2021.

The recent friction between the former allies erupted after Islamabad demanded that the Afghan Taliban administration acts to rein in militants who had stepped up attacks in Pakistan, saying they operated from havens in Afghanistan. The Taliban denies the charge and accuses the Pakistani military of spreading misinformation about Afghanistan, provoking border tensions, and sheltering ISIS-linked militants to undermine the country's stability and sovereignty. Pakistan's military denies the charges.

A Pakistani foreign ministry statement said the two countries would implement a "temporary ceasefire" for 48 hours starting 1300GMT yesterday, adding the truce was requested by Kabul.

Afghan Taliban administration spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said the ceasefire was due to the "insistence of the Pakistani side."

Kabul had directed its forces to observe the ceasefire provided the other side does not commit aggression, he said.

Earlier yesterday, Pakistan carried out an air strike on the Afghan border province of Kandahar and hit the town of Spin Boldak, officials in both countries said.

Pakistani security officials said the air strike had targeted a brigade of Afghan Taliban troops and that dozens were killed, without corroborating the claim.

Enayatullah Khowarazmi, Afghanistan's defence ministry spokesperson, said residential areas of Spin Boldak were hit.

Each side accused the other of launching ground attacks.

The Afghan Taliban said more than a dozen of its civilians were killed and 100 wounded as Pakistani forces launched attacks in Spin Boldak.

US-India expert arrested over secret documents

A leading expert on US-India relations who has advised successive US administrations has been arrested and charged with unlawful retention of national defence information, including over a thousand pages of top secret and secret documents at his home, court documents showed.
Ashley Tellis, 64, who served on the National Security Council of former Republican president George W Bush and is listed in an FBI court affidavit as an unpaid adviser to the state department and a Pentagon contractor, was arrested over the weekend and charged on Monday, the documents showed.
Tellis is also a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington think-tank.
A state department official confirmed that Tellis was arrested on Saturday, but declined to comment further.

Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki erupts



Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki erupted yesterday, shooting volcanic ash 10km into the sky, the country's volcanology agency said, forcing authorities to raise the alert system to its highest level. Located in East Nusa Tenggara province, the volcano erupted yesterday at 1.35am (1835 GMT Tuesday) for around nine minutes, the country's Geological Agency said in a statement. It erupted again yesterday morning at 9.21am (0121 GMT), spewing ash 8km high, the agency said, for about three minutes.

Apple promises to boost China investment

Reuters
Beijing

Apple's Tim Cook pledged to boost the tech giant's investment in China yesterday as it navigates the trade war between Beijing and Washington.

Many US companies have become cautious about relations with China as the world's two biggest economies clash over tariffs and as US President Donald Trump seeks to promote manufacturing in the US rather than elsewhere.

But Cook told China's Industry Minister Li Lecheng the iPhone maker will keep investing in China, according to an official summary of their meeting in Beijing released by the Chinese, although it gave no details of the size of the potential investment. Apple did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The California-based company, which has also made investment pledges to Washington, has so far remained relatively unscathed by the trade war between the US and China. Other companies, such as Nvidia and Qualcomm have found themselves the target of Chinese investigations.

Washington has long placed sanctions on Chinese companies such as Huawei.

A Shanghai-based government affairs consultant, who requested anonymity because he was not authorised to speak with media, said US companies are wary of angering a White House that could hurt them at home in the world's biggest consumer market for appearing too pro-China.

Tesla urges court to restore Musk's $56bn payday

Reuters
Dover, Delaware

Elon Musk's $56bn pay package from Tesla should have been restored by a vote of the company's shareholders last year, a Tesla attorney argued to the Delaware Supreme Court yesterday.

One of the biggest corporate legal battles entered its final stage after a lower court judge rescinded the Tesla CEO's record compensation in January 2024. The company is also appealing a ruling by the lower court that rejected as legally invalid a vote by shareholders to restore the pay package.

"This was the most informed stockholder vote in Delaware history," Jeffrey Wall, an attorney for Tesla, told the justices. "Reaffirming that would resolve this case."

The case's outcome could have substantial consequences for the state of Delaware, its widely used corporate law, and its Court of Chancery, a once-favoured venue for business disputes that has recently been accused of hostility towards powerful entrepreneurs.

The Court of Chancery ruling striking down Musk's pay has become a rallying cry for Delaware critics. Chancellor Kathaleen McCormick ruled that the Tesla board lacked independence from Musk when it approved the pay package in 2018 and that shareholders lacked key information when they voted overwhelmingly in favour of it.

As a result, she applied a demanding legal standard and found the pay unfair to investors.

Musk did not attend the arguments, which were held in a special court to accommodate the 65 people in attendance, mostly lawyers.

The defendants, current and former Tesla directors, denied wrongdoing and said McCormick misinterpreted the facts and the law.

Tesla argued in Dover, Delaware, that the five justices on Delaware's high court had three avenues to reverse the lower court ruling.

They could find that Musk, who owned 21.9% of Tesla stock in 2018, did not control the board pay negotiations and that shareholders were fully informed when they voted to approve it that year. They could determine that rescinding the pay was an improper remedy because it did not undo the work that Musk had done or the gains that shareholders had received. Or they could determine last year's ratification vote demonstrated that shareholders wanted to accept the pay deal, despite the legal flaws.

"Shareholders in 2024 knew exactly what they were voting for," Wall said. Greg Varallo, an attorney for Richard Tornetta, the small investor who brought the case in 2018, said if the court accepted ratification, it would allow a party to change the outcome after a court case had run its course. "Lawsuits would be interminable," he told the justices.

Varallo tried to convince the justices the lower court ruling was a result of careful fact-finding and based on settled law. "There is nothing extraordinary about this trial opinion," he said.

"What makes it truly extraordinary is that it addresses the largest pay package in human history, awarded to the richest man on earth, who is also one of the most powerful men on earth."

Prompted in part by the Musk pay ruling, large companies, including Tesla, Dropbox, and the venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz, switched their legal homes to Texas or Nevada, where courts are friendlier toward directors. Delaware lawmakers responded to the corporate departures, a trend known as "Dexit", by overhauling its corporate law. If Musk loses the appeal, he will still reap tens of billions of dollars in stock from the electric vehicle company, which agreed in August to a replacement deal if his 2018 plan is not restored.

QATAR



QF Chairperson Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Vice-Chairperson HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, and HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi at the event. **PICTURE:** AR al-Baker



The Museum of Islamic Art facade lit up for the HEC Paris, Doha, celebrations. **PICTURE:** AR al-Baker



Sheikha Moza marks HEC Paris, Doha's 15-year milestone in Qatar

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF), yesterday attended the 15th anniversary celebration of HEC Paris, Doha, a QF partner university, at a landmark event at the iconic Museum of Islamic Art.

The celebration was also attended by HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, Vice-Chairperson of QF, alongside Arnaud Pescheux, the French ambassador to Qatar; in addition to the leadership team of HEC Paris as well as other distinguished guests, alumni, faculty, and partners.

Marking the occasion Her Highness said: "Today we celebrate 15 years of a thriving partnership between Qatar Foundation and HEC Paris in Doha – a collaboration established in line with QF's vision to foster an ecosystem of innovation, leadership, and entrepreneurship. That vision is now being realised through the impactful contributions of HEC Paris in Doha alumni, who are driving economic transformation and meaningful societal progress across Qatar and the region."

HE Sheikha Hind, an alumna of HEC Paris, Doha, said: "Over the past 15 years, HEC Paris, Doha has played a transformational role in advancing Qatar's vision for a knowledge-based economy. The presence of this world-renowned business school in Qatar has strengthened the nation's position as a regional hub for executive education and innovation.

"Through its collaborations with local institutions, and its focus on developing entrepreneurial talent, HEC Paris, Doha has been instrumental in supporting national priorities such as human capital development, sustainability, and economic diversification.

"By empowering entrepreneurs and leaders with world-class education, HEC Paris, Doha has contributed immensely to the diversification and growth of Qatar's workforce while making an invaluable contribution to capacity-building and knowledge generation across the region's business landscape. We are proud to celebrate this milestone for a valued and longstanding partner in education, and look forward to continuing to cultivate excellence in education, innovation, and leadership for future generations together."

During the event, HEC Paris, Doha unveiled its new motto, 'Dare the Impossible', reflecting its ambition to inspire leadership, innovation, and transformative impact.

A centrepiece of the evening was the debut of 'Innovation Majlises': six creative showcases highlighting alumni-led ventures that reflected HEC Paris, Doha's entrepreneurial spirit, and the transformative impact of its graduates on Qatar's business landscape.

Since 2010, HEC Paris, Doha has enrolled more than 1,500 professionals, 41% of whom are women and 53% of whom are Qatari, and delivered 181 customised programmes to over 5,000 executives across Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, and Oman.

Beyond academic programmes, HEC Paris, Doha has strengthened Qatar's entrepreneurial ecosystem through initiatives like the Business Research Lab and the creation of case studies on sustainability, digital transformation, and diversity. It has also published a comprehensive entrepreneurship guidebook to empower the next generation of innovators. Today, its alumni hold leadership positions in ministries, boardrooms, and entrepreneurial ventures, advancing Qatar's development.

Professor Éloïc Peyrache, Dean of HEC Paris, reflected on the business school's journey in the region, saying: "When Qatar Foundation invited us to establish a campus in Doha, it opened a new chapter for HEC Paris – one shaped by the Middle East's extraordinary transformation. Since then, our Doha campus has been offering world-class executive education and building bridges between Europe and the Gulf. Today, we are proud of the impact we have achieved together, and excited for what lies ahead."

HEC Paris-QF partnership exceptional, says dean

Dean of HEC Paris, Doha Dr Pablo Martin de Holan confirmed the university's programmes have graduated about 1,500 students since signing the partnership agreement with Qatar Foundation (QF) in 2010.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA) on HEC Paris' 15th anniversary in Doha, Dr de Holan said that this occasion embodies the insightful vision of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, and the dedicated efforts of both teams. He highlighted the commitment of all to providing world-class leadership education in Qatar.

Dr de Holan described the partnership between HEC Paris and QF as exceptional by all standards and praised QF's significant support, which enabled the university to achieve its accomplishments in Qatar. He added that it is clear that HEC Paris would not have achieved what they have without the support and friendship of QF.

He emphasised that this partnership reflects HEC Paris' long-standing commitment to developing national capabilities and advancing higher education in the region, explaining the university's mission is to continue providing world-class business education that empowers the region's leaders to achieve sustainable growth and create lasting impact. **(QNA)**

