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Financial Results (Q3 2025)

Gross Written Premiums (GWP)

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Net Profit

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QAR 645M

Net Profit

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QAR 588M

Earnings Per Share:

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QAR 0.135

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November 6, 2025

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Amir appoints envoy to Georgia

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani issued yesterday Amiri Decision No. 53 of 2025 appointing Ali Yousef Abdulrahman al-Mulla as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Georgia. The decision is effective starting from its date of issue, and is to be published in the official gazette. **(QNA)**

NY elects leftist Mamdani mayor

New Yorkers elected leftist Zohran Mamdani **(pictured)** as their next mayor, while Democrats won two key state governor races sending an early warning signal to Republican President Donald Trump ahead of the 2026 midterms. The clean sweep among several ballots nationwide on Tuesday has boosted morale among Democrats bruised by Trump's return to the White House and has set alarm bells ringing among Republican circles. Mamdani, 34, is the city's first Muslim mayor and the youngest to serve in more than a century.

Judges sceptical of Trump tariff legality

A majority of US Supreme Court justices appeared deeply sceptical of the legality behind a swath of Donald Trump's tariffs, as they heard a landmark case yesterday that could uphold – or upend – the president's economic agenda. Billions of dollars in customs revenue and a key lever in Trump's trade wars are at stake, as the conservative-dominated panel once again grappled with the Republican's attempts to expand presidential powers.

Amir, Pakistani president keen to expand relations

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday at the Amiri Diwan with President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, on the occasion of his visit to the country to participate in the Second World Summit for Social Development.

At the outset of the meeting, His Highness the Amir welcomed the Pakistani president and the accompanying delegation, affirming Qatar's keenness to strengthen the bonds of friendship and bilateral

co-operation and advance mutual interests.

For his part, the Pakistani president expressed his gratitude to His Highness the Amir for the warm reception and voiced his aspiration to deepen bilateral co-operation across all sectors and expand it for the benefit of both nations.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to enhance and develop them in various fields. They also discussed the most prominent re-

gional and international issues and developments of common interest, in addition to exchanging views on key topics on the summit's agenda.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi, and a number of senior officials attended the meeting. On the Pakistani side, it was attended by members of the official delegation accompanying the president. **(QNA)**

King Philippe tours QF with Sheikha Moza

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF), met with King Philippe of the Kingdom of Belgium yesterday at the QF Headquarters in Education City. His visit took place on the sidelines of his participation in the Second World Summit for Social Development, hosted in Doha. Her Highness accompanied the king on his tour that highlighted QF's vision to advance education, research and innovation. They also visited Hamad Bin Khalifa University where they met with students who shared their academic experiences and spotlighted the Education City multiversity model, which connects QF students to a wider academic network of international partner universities and advances the exchange of knowledge and expertise. **(QNA) Page 11**

Cabinet hails Amir's speech at 2nd WSSD

Qatar's Cabinet, chaired by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, held its regular meeting yesterday at the Amiri Diwan, during which ministers praised His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's address at the opening of the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025 in Doha.

The Cabinet commended the Amir's emphasis on Qatar's commitment to social development, human advancement, and the improvement of quality of life through education, healthcare, economic empowerment, and social protection.

The Cabinet noted that His Highness's address had expressed the aspirations of the world's peoples for dignity, social justice, and equality, and conveyed the conscience of humanity in his references to the suffering of Palestinians under brutal Israeli aggression, as well as his condemnation of the atrocities

committed in the Sudanese city of El-Fashir. HH the Amir had called for a political resolution in Sudan that safeguards the country's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The Cabinet described social development as a vital necessity rather than a policy option.

Welcoming world leaders, senior officials, and representatives of international and regional organisations attending the summit, the Cabinet hailed the Doha Political Declaration adopted at the conference. The declaration reaffirmed the three pillars of social development – poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social inclusion – and was described by the ministers as a roadmap for comprehensive and sustainable development.

Qatar's hosting of the summit, the Cabinet added, underscores the country's growing global standing and its constructive and positive role in promoting peace, development, and the defence of human rights. **Page 4**

UN unveils global initiative to support youth mental health

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

The United Nations yesterday launched a new global initiative focused on youth mental health on the margins of the Second World Summit for Social Development held in Doha.

The initiative intends to bolster the cognitive and psychological well-being of young people, enabling them to confront the mounting challenges in a world characterised by uncertainty and rapid development.

Briefing the media about the salient features of the initiative, Felipe Paullier, assistant secretary-general for Youth Affairs at the United Nations Youth Office said the initiative was launched at the summit as it was linked with social development.

"It is just the start of something very big. We believe that when we are talking about mental health, well-being, it is really about social development and it is really about the societies we are shaping. And this summit is really about renew-

Felipe Paullier and Tanatswa Chikaura at the launch of the UN Youth Mental Health Initiative. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

ing hope, rebuilding trust, and that starts by building communities that embed care, connection, and compassion in our social fabric," said Paullier. He was accompanied at the press conference by Tanatswa Chikaura, young leader for the SDGs and mental health advocate and founder of Ndinewe Foundation.

Paullier noted that young people are not only demanding better mental health support and care, they are demanding transforming the systems and inclusion.

"For too long, mental health has been understood primarily

as a medical issue. But for young people, the absence of illness does not mean that they are well. Well-being is about much more than a treatment. It's about dignity, it's about belonging, and it's about living with purpose and connection," he elaborated.

He highlighted that true progress requires to shift from narrow focuses on treating symptoms to building systems that nurture inclusion, creativity, and care in the schools, at the workplaces, in the communities, and in the digital space.

"And this is even more important at this time of history, where young people are navigating a time of profound uncertainty, living within economic instability, within conflict, within raising inequalities, climate anxiety, and a digital culture that often amplifies isolation instead of connection," he continued.

Paullier said that WHO atlas on mental health shows that one in seven young people live with a mental health condition and suicide remains as one of the leading causes of death among young people. **To Page 6**

QMC CEO meets US officials

HE the CEO of the Qatar Media Corporation, Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz bin Jassim al-Thani, met yesterday with Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Edgar "Eddie" Vasquez, and Special Assistant to US President and Assistant Communications Director for Special Projects in the White House, Dylan Johnson. Discussions focused on bilateral co-operation and sharing expertise in the area of media communication and co-ordination between the two countries in the pursuit of supporting and advancing the shared media content. **(QNA)**

US to share draft UN resolution on Gaza truce plan

The United States will share a draft resolution on President Donald Trump's peace plan for Gaza with the 10 elected members of the United Nations Security Council, a US official said. Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas agreed a month ago to the first phase of Trump's 20-point plan for Gaza: a ceasefire in their two-year war and hostage-release deal. The United States has drafted a UN Security Council resolution that would approve a two-year mandate for a Gaza transitional governance body and an international stabilisation force in the Palestinian enclave, according to the text seen by Reuters. A resolution needs at least nine votes in favour and no vetoes by Russia, China, the US, Britain or France to be adopted.

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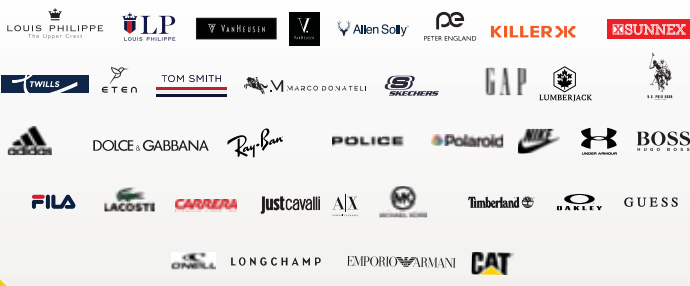
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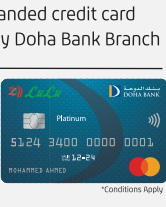
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Cabinet hails Amir's address at WSSD2, Doha Declaration



Qatar's Cabinet, chaired by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, held its weekly meeting yesterday at the Amiri Diwan, during which ministers praised His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's address at the opening of the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) 2025 in Doha.

In a statement following the session, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi said the Cabinet commended the Amir's emphasis on Qatar's commitment to social development, human advancement, and the improvement of quality of life through education, healthcare,

economic empowerment, and social protection.

The Cabinet noted that His Highness's address had expressed the aspirations of the world's peoples for dignity, social justice, and equality, and conveyed the conscience of humanity in his references to the suffering of Palestinians under the brutal Israeli aggression, as well as his condemnation of the atrocities committed in the Sudanese city of El-Fashir. His Highness the Amir had called for a political resolution in Sudan that safeguards the country's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The ministers also highlighted that the Amir's election as Chair of the World Summit for Social Development reflected Qatar's strategic partnership with the UN

and its steadfast commitment to international solidarity and multi-lateral co-operation. The Cabinet described social development as a vital necessity rather than a policy option.

Welcoming world leaders, senior officials, and representatives of international and regional organisations attending the summit, the Cabinet hailed the Doha Political Declaration adopted at the conference.

The declaration reaffirmed the three pillars of social development – poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social inclusion – and was described by the ministers as a roadmap for comprehensive and sustainable development.

Qatar's hosting of the summit,

the Cabinet added, underscores the country's growing global standing and its constructive and positive role in promoting peace, development, and the defence of human rights.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet approved a draft law amending certain provisions of Law No 6 of 2014 regulating real estate development. The amendment, proposed by the Ministry of Municipality, aims to strengthen urban planning and sustainable development.

Under the new framework, executive procedures related to the subdivision of real estate under development projects will be assigned to the Ministry of Municipality, while the Real Estate Regulatory Authority will continue to oversee project approvals.

The Cabinet also endorsed a

draft decision by the Minister of Commerce and Industry adopting the Gulf Technical Regulation for Electric Vehicles as a Qatari technical standard. The measure, prepared in co-ordination with the Qatar General Organisation for Standardisation, supports environmental sustainability, the reduction of carbon emissions, and enhanced safety in the electric vehicle sector.

In addition, the Cabinet approved several MoUs, including a political consultation framework between Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala; a partnership agreement between the Qatar Fund for Development and the Asian Development Bank; and a co-operation and marketing MoU between Qatar Tourism

and the Saudi Tourism Authority. The MoUs also include an agricultural co-operation between Qatar's Ministry of Municipality and Greece's Ministry of Rural Development and Food; and a media co-operation and news exchange between Qatar News Agency (QNA) and Uzbekistan's National News Agency.

The Cabinet also reviewed a report prepared by relevant authorities regarding a proposal from the Shura Council on family upbringing initiatives, and took appropriate decisions on the matter. Yesterday's meeting, which followed the high-profile social development summit, reflected the government's ongoing efforts to link Qatar's domestic legislative reforms with its international diplomacy. **(QNA)**

Doha Declaration: Comprehensive affordable health coverage for all communities

The Doha Political Declaration, issued during the Second World Summit for Social Development held in Doha, affirmed the right of every individual to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

The declaration emphasised the commitment to achieving universal health coverage, ensuring equitable, inclusive, and affordable

access to the highest possible level of physical and mental health and well-being for all.

It called for harnessing safe, accessible, inclusive, equitable, and affordable digital health technologies that enhance public health monitoring and enable personalised care, including through telemedicine, contributing to fair access to healthcare services. The declaration urged the strengthening

of international co-operation in technology transfer under mutually agreed terms, alongside the enhancement of resilient, comprehensive, and sustainable health systems and infrastructure.

It stressed the need to accelerate progress toward universal health coverage, particularly in developing countries, while recognising that digital health interventions are not a substitute for function-

ing health systems and have significant limitations. Furthermore, the declaration highlighted the importance of reinforcing health system resilience and ensuring equitable access to medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, treatments, and other safe, affordable, effective, and quality health products and technologies, thereby guaranteeing healthy lives and promoting well-being for present and future

generations. It also emphasised improving health equity for persons with disabilities and enhancing mental health services. The document called for mobilising innovative and sustainable funding sources at both national and international levels, including public-private partnerships, to secure adequate social spending. This aims to expand access to health services, strengthen integrated and resilient

health systems that are inclusive, affordable, and universally accessible. Finally, the declaration underscored the need to ensure prevention, preparedness, and strong response capacities for future pandemics and health emergencies, including by boosting local, national, and regional production capacities, infrastructure, and logistics for medicines, vaccines, and diagnostics. **(QNA)**



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QNA attends China-Arab states broadcasting co-operation forum

Qatar News Agency (QNA) has taken part in the 7th China-Arab States Broadcasting and Television Co-operation Forum, held in Chongqing, China. Held under the theme 'Dialogue Between Chinese and Arab Civilisations: Mutual Learning in Audio-Visual Media Innovation', the forum will continue until today. Director of Foreign Media Affairs at QNA, Noura al-Hajri, is representing the agency at the forum. Deputy Head of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Head of the National Radio and Television Administration, Cao Shumin, opened the forum. Shumin underscored the importance of reinforcing media collaboration between China and Arab countries and sharing expertise in the areas of innovation and cutting-edge technologies in audio-visual media. In recorded remarks during the opening ceremony, Secretary-General of the Arab League Ahmed Aboul Gheit extended his gratitude for China's efforts in cementing media and cultural ties with Arab nations, commending its growing role in supporting civilisational dialogue between the two sides. The forum broadly aims to explore avenues for co-operation between Arab and Chinese media institutions, in addition to prospects for partnership in the field of joint production and programmatic and technical exchange, contributing to enriching the media landscape and promoting understanding among peoples. **(QNA)**



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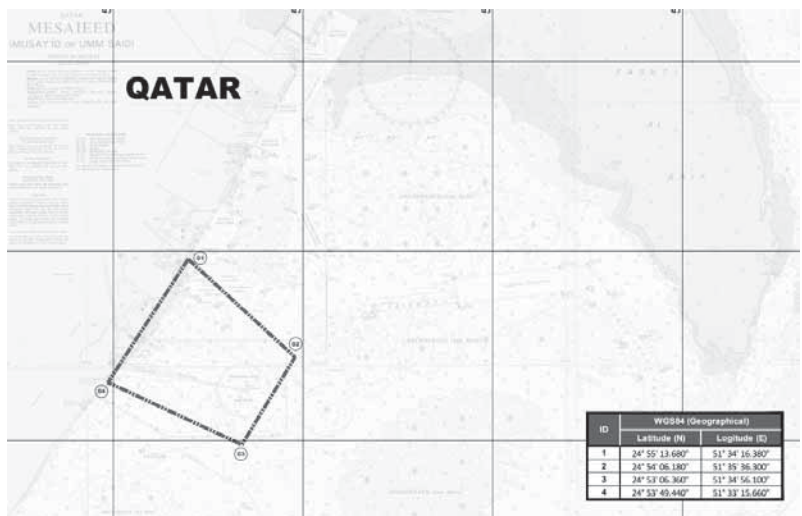
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Foreign ministry organises side event on role of women in peacebuilding

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a side event yesterday on women's role in peacebuilding: voices from the Arab region, on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development, held in Doha. In her remarks, HE Director of International Organisations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sheikha Hanouf bint Abdulrahman al-Thani highlighted the importance that Qatar attaches to strengthening the role of women in mediation and conflict resolution efforts, and its commitment to

the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. She noted that Qatar joined the UN secretary-general's campaign last year, "Common Pledge for Women's Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes".

Participants in the event included UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous; Minister of Social Development of the State of Palestine Dr Samah Hamad; and Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Office of the State of Kuwait and a member of the Arab Network for Women Peace Mediators Jawaher al-Sabah.

The event highlighted the experiences and contributions of Arab women peace



mediators in the field of conflict prevention and resolution in post-conflict contexts, and reflected on the successes and lessons learned from their participation at the local and regional levels.

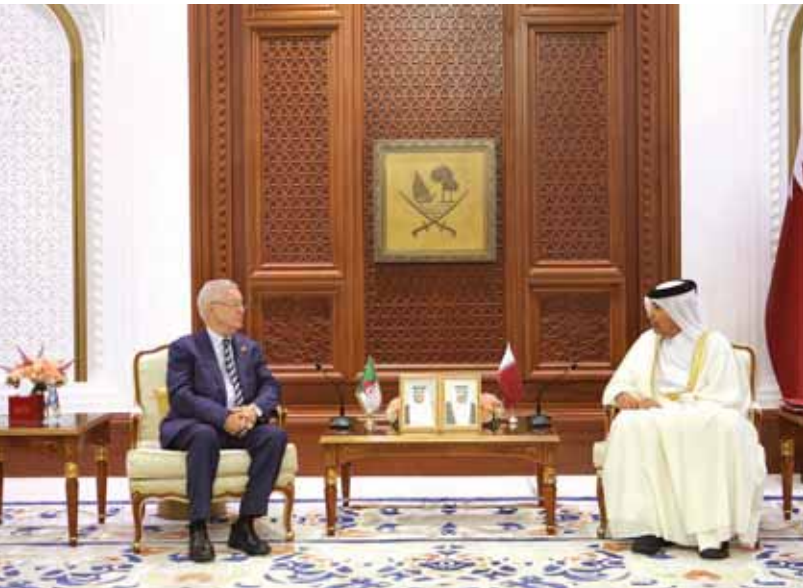
Qatar, Algeria to enhance parliamentary relations

HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem met yesterday with Algeria's Speaker of the Council of the Nation, Azzouz Nasri, who is in Doha to participate in the Second World Summit for Social Development.

At the outset of the meeting, HE al-Ghanem underscored the Shura Council's commitment to boosting parliamentary co-operation and sharing expertise with the Algerian Council of the Nation, contributing to backing the joint Arab action and unifying positions pertaining to regional and global issues of common concern.

For his part, Nasri extended his thanks and gratitude to HE the Shura Council Speaker for the warm reception, emphasising that his country looks forward to further collaboration and co-ordination with Qatar in the parliamentary, economic, and cultural fields. He praised Doha's key role in supporting dialogue and understanding, as well as reinforcing stability and development in the region.

The Algerian Speaker further lauded Qatar's enduring positions in supporting the Palestinian people, along with its humanitarian and diplomatic efforts to halt the aggression and lift the suffering of the civilians. These positions literally embody an initial approach that underpins the Qatari




policy in espousing just causes, he underlined. Both sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them, as well as a raft of subjects of shared interest, foremost among them the developments in the Gaza Strip, along with the profound, dire humanitarian and political developments unfolding there.

The two sides also underlined the importance of concerted regional and global parliamentary efforts in sup-

porting the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights, first and foremost, the establishment of their independent state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

They further stressed the importance of steadily moving forward the parliamentary actions toward strengthening justice and peace, in addition to galvanising global positions that support efforts to end the suffering of civilians and achieve stability in the region. (QNA)



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	SUP/C/AKC/7403/25 SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF CURTAINS & BLINDS FOR AL KHOR COMMUNITY (AKC) HOUSING UNITS & AL KHOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (AKIS) ON CALL- OFF BASIS	05/11/2025 to 20/11/2025	0	0	01/12/2025

Scope of Work:
QatarEnergy LNG, requires services of reputed companies on a call-off basis for supply, installation, service and maintenance of all domestic household curtains, blinds, and associated fixtures and fittings for Al Khor Community (AKC) housing units and Al Khor International School (AKIS) for a duration of three (3) years, with an option to extend for further 2 years.

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.

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Qatar’s development vision lauded

Albanian President Bajram Begaj has commended the comprehensive development vision pursued by Qatar under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, which has made Qatar a trusted partner at both the regional and international levels.

He also praised His Highness’ role and efforts in supporting peace and stability in the world.

President Begaj also expressed his country’s aspiration to expand co-operation with Qatar in the economic, cultural, and parliamentary fields, emphasising that relations between the two countries are based on the principles of friendship, constructive co-operation, and mutual understanding regarding many regional and international issues.

This came during the visit of the Albania president and his accompanying delegation to the Shura Council yesterday, where they met with



HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem. HE al-Ghanem commended the existing relations between the Shura Council and the Albanian Parliament, emphasising the importance of strengthening parliamentary co-operation and exchanging legislative expertise and experiences. This, he stated, contributes to supporting both countries’ efforts to achieve sustainable development and en-

hances understanding between their peoples through parliamentary diplomacy.

At the conclusion of the visit, President Begaj toured the Council building, including the ‘Tamim bin Hamad Hall’, where he was briefed on the conduct of the sessions and the Council’s working mechanisms and received an explanation of its functions and responsibilities. (QNA)

Doha Declaration charts roadmap for just, inclusive and sustainable society

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

The Doha Political Declaration adopted by the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2), being held in Doha, is considered a landmark outcome of the summit that represents a global commitment to building a more just, inclusive and sustainable society, as it is expected to boost development putting people at the centre of this process.

The declaration is considered the outcome of several months of intergovernmental negotiations among stakeholders held in the United Nations in New York to tackle poverty, enhance equality, boost employment, and protect human rights.

The Doha Political Declaration builds on the legacy of the 1995 Copenhagen commitments, while taking into consideration and addressing the current challenges and difficulties that face the progress of social development.

A press briefing was held on the sidelines of the conference yesterday in the presence of Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and Conference Secretary-General; Sophie De Smedt, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations; and Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations.

They stressed that while Doha Political Declaration is key to enhance the work for progress and development, serious practical measures should be taken to secure the necessary finances and funds for development alongside a strong political will for change, especially



Omar Hilale (left), Li Junhua (centre) and Sophie De Smedt at WSSD2 yesterday. PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

in the less developed areas around the world. Li Junhua said that the declaration was adopted in a very critical time as the world is facing social, environmental, economic and political impacts that deepening in quality, in the light of demographic shifts and the rapid technology advancements.

He said that the declaration itself deepen the commitment of the member state to eradicate poverty, and establish a road map for tackling the various involved challenges.

Omar Hilale noted that Doha Political Declaration is more than just a political declaration; it is a strong message of the unity of the world as when the international community is united all obstacles would be easy to overcome, and the UN can succeed to implement its missions.

He explained while the Doha Declaration builds on the legacy of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration, it is wider in terms of action and commitment and inclusion of more related issues as it confirms

what was decided almost thirty years ago. It reflects the need and expectations of the current world. Besides, it sends a strong message of unity that human dignity and solidarity is in the centre of focus of the member state.

De Smedt described the Doha Political Declaration is a bold forward-looking blueprint to the future and response to today’s reality to lift millions out of poverty and include them into the fast development that happened in the world over the past few decade.

She stressed that this summit held in Doha would be highly instrumental to enhance global development and alleviate the difficulties faced by many in various underdeveloped areas.

She noted that declaration reaffirms the need for the eradication of poverty, peace, equality and social justice to be included in the heart of policy making. Besides she stressed that it is a plan to work towards a better future for humanity.

KORA Properties Debuts in UAE, Extending Apparel Group’s Proven Excellence in Pioneering Future of Real Estate

APPCORP, the holding company of Apparel Group, the leading retail conglomerate in the fashion and lifestyle sector, has announced its foray into the real estate industry with the launch of KORA Properties. The new venture marks a key milestone in APPCORP’s diversification and innovation strategy as well as affirms its commitment to enriching lives in the UAE.

KORA Properties, a fully integrated real estate development company, aims to meet the growing demand for high-quality properties as the UAE continues to rank among the world’s most attractive destinations for real estate investment.

KORA Properties is led by Nilesh Ved, Chairman of APPCORP Holding and Apparel Group, who also chairs KORA. With his entrepreneurial expertise and global business experience, Ved aims to drive the company’s growth across Dubai’s dynamic real estate market.

As Dubai’s real estate sector targets a Dh1 trillion valuation under the 2033 strategy, KORA Properties plans to deliver diverse projects spanning residential, commercial, retail, healthcare, and hospitality developments.

Nilesh Ved, said: “Apparel Group’s motto is to always create experiences that elevate lifestyle for the community, whether through its offerings in fashion, lifestyle, or service. With KORA Properties, we are extending our brand’s promise into real estate, promising living spaces that nurture dreams, foster growth, and elevate living.



Today marks a new chapter, as we continue to innovate and diversify while staying true to our core values of commitment, quality, and customer-centricity.”

“KORA Properties is founded on the belief that a home is one of life’s most important milestones, and homes are forever. It is not just about bricks, steel, and mortar; it is about creating spaces that become canvases for life’s most meaningful moments and offer ‘Timeless Living’. We are committed to delivering premium residences, offices, and commercial spaces built on transparency, long-term vision, and an unwavering dedication to customer trust.”

Sixth annual QCPC hosted by CMU-Q

The sixth annual Qatar Collegiate Programming Competition (QCPC), hosted by Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q), with support from the Hamad Bin Jassim Center for Computer Science Education and sponsored by QNB Group, saw the highest participation from high school students in the event’s history.

A record 85 high school teams featured in the competition, which also included 32 teams in the university track. In the highly competitive high school track, a team from Birla Public School secured the first-place prize. In the university track, two teams from Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar advanced to the Africa and Arab Collegiate Programming Championship (ACPC) in Luxor this December. The qualifying students are Minh Pham Cong, Kyrylo Redenskyi and Aditya Vivek on the first-place team,



and George Chkaidze, Yusuf Fares and Dilshodbek Khujaev on the second-place team. “It is incredibly inspiring to see such a tremendous turnout from high school students this year,” said Michael Trick, dean of CMU-Q.

Saeed Mathkar al-Hajri, CEO and member of Board Directors from the Jassim and Hamad Bin Jassim Charitable Foundation, said: “The Qatar Collegiate Programming Competition is challenging, even for university

students, and it is truly rewarding to see so many motivated, creative high school students with a growing passion for computer science.”

“The growth of the high school track has been phenomenal,” said Giselle Reis, area head for computer science at CMU-Q and event organiser. The judges from the ACPC included Mohamed Mahmoud Abdelwahab, Marwan Abouelenin, Fatma Ahmed, Yassin Elsaadany and Ahmed Khalil.



‘Qatar believes true economic progress incomplete without social development’

HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jaber al-Nuaimi has underlined that equitable and inclusive social development is a fundamental pillar in building a sustainable future, stressing that human beings must remain at the heart of development efforts, as both its end and its means.

This came during the second roundtable meeting to assess progress made and address gaps and challenges encountered in implementing the commitments outlined in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action, and to generate the necessary momentum for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha.

HE the minister noted that despite the progress made globally since the adoption of the Copenhagen Declaration in 1995, challenges persist. Climate and economic crises, along with new conflicts, have created forms of inequality that threaten the gains of social development.

She emphasised that building resilient societies requires social systems to be more inclusive, flexible, and responsive to change.

She stated that Qatar’s development journey stemmed from a firm conviction that true economic progress is incomplete without achieving human and social development. She explained that Qatar National Vision 2030 places people at the heart of its priorities by empowering the family as the nucleus of society, supporting women and youth, and strengthening

Qatar has invested heavily in education, healthcare, and social protection, and has developed policy frameworks to ensure that services are inclusive for all segments of society

social protection to ensure that no one is left behind. She added that the State of Qatar has invested heavily in education, healthcare, and social protection, and has developed policy frameworks to ensure that services are inclusive for all segments of society.

HE the minister concluded her remarks by stating that the vision that brought the world’s nations together in Copenhagen thirty years ago remains even more urgent today, calling for a renewed global political commitment and expanded international co-operation to ensure that social development, justice, and human dignity remain at the forefront of the international agenda.

For her part, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN Amina Mohamed affirmed that the world is witnessing increasing challenges related to the widening digital divide and declining trust in institutions, which is clearly reflected in the youth demographic and threatens the social contract between peoples and nations.

In her address during the Doha Conference, the deputy secretary-general of the UN said that the digital divide is generating new forms of exclusion, while trust in institutions is declining to low levels among young people, confirming that the progress achieved is insufficient and that inequality is being passed down from one generation to the next. She stressed the need to change

the current approach and not be satisfied with traditional policies in order to address these complex challenges.

Mohammed added that the Future Charter called on leaders to accelerate the implementation of the Copenhagen Accord and the Sustainable Development Goals, explaining that the aim of the current meetings is not only to reaffirm commitments but also to fulfil them by changing ways of working and placing people at the heart of development policies.

The UN deputy secretary-general said that today’s children will grow up in a technology-driven world, noting that artificial intelligence and digital tools can open up unprecedented opportunities, but could also exacerbate inequality and deprive millions of opportunities if the necessary safeguards are not in place.

For her part, Armida Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), emphasised the importance of adopting the historic Doha Political Declaration within the framework of the World Summit for Social Development. She affirmed that the declaration places people at the forefront of the development agenda and addresses the most prominent challenges facing societies in their pursuit of inclusive and sustainable development. (QNA)

UN unveils global initiative...

From Page 1

“And the trends are not positive. But if we go beyond the numbers, there are lived realities of millions of young people whose potential to thrive is being stifled by systems that fail to support this well-being,” he highlighted.

The official noted that the new initiative is about taking a different approach, and building that at a global level from an advocacy effort.

He highlighted: “It is about taking an ecosystemic approach to mental health and well-being, grounding it in the realities of young people, and proposing a model which is inclusive, holistic, youthful, and youth responsive. The initiative is grounded in three simple but powerful principles. The first one, mental health is a human right. The second one, there is no future without well-being. The third principle is that care, connection, and community are the real building blocks of the future of our societies.” Chikaura hoped that with the UN Youth Office’s flagship initiative on mental health and wellbeing, there could be empathy-led communities that prioritise inclusion, and resilience. “We should not act because people have died by suicide. We should act to prevent people from dying by suicide. I have hope for the future of youth mental health, and I invite everyone to be a part of the solution. Let us make a collective effort to create safe spaces in our communities,” she concluded.

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From left on the Panel: HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri, UN General Assembly president Annalena Baerbock, International Organisation of Employers secretary-general Roberto Suárez Santos, and Tonilyn Lim, chief of programmes at the UN Global Compact, during the opening of the Private Sector Forum held yesterday on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development.

Qatar calls for deeper public-private sector collaboration

By Peter Alagos
Business Reporter

HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri opened the 'Private Sector Forum' of the Second World Summit for Social Development yesterday by reaffirming the country's commitment to inclusive growth and international co-operation.

He described the forum as a vital platform for advancing the role of the private sector in achieving sustainable development, noting that Qatar had long recognised the importance of shared responsibility between government, private enterprise, and civil society.

DR al-Marri attributed this approach to the Qatar National Vision 2030, which promotes economic diversification, workforce empowerment, and protection of labour rights.

He said the Ministry of Labour had implemented legislative and institutional reforms to strengthen social dialogue, expand training, and embed the social dimension into economic and investment planning.

Addressing global challenges, the minister called for innovative and cooperative solutions between the public and private sectors. He stressed the importance of exchanging successful experiences and exploring new partnerships in skills development, employment, digital transformation, and sustainable finance.

He reaffirmed Qatar's support for international initiatives that promote social justice and sustainable growth,



HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri

particularly in line with Sustainable Development Goal 8.

HE Dr al-Marri also thanked the UN and all partners for their contributions, and lauded the private sector's role in shaping a more inclusive future.

In her speech during the Private Sector Forum, UN General Assembly president Annalena Baerbock echoed the call for collaboration, urging governments and businesses to dismantle barriers to capital flow and build trust through international cooperation. She cited the Sevilla Commitment as a blueprint for reform.

Baerbock framed social development as one of the most transformative investments a business can make. She encouraged the private sector to adopt in-

clusive business models, which she said could unlock \$12tn in market opportunities and create 380mn jobs by 2030.

International Organisation of Employers (IOE) secretary-general Roberto Suárez Santos lauded the role of Qatar in fostering dialogue among governments, business leaders, and trade unions. He described Doha as a global crossroads for cooperation, referencing its role in hosting the UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Santos welcomed the adoption of the summit's political declaration, calling it a reaffirmation of global commitment to social justice and a reminder that progress toward the SDGs requires collective action.

He announced a joint communique with the UN Global Compact and outlined five areas of commitment: enabling business environments, shared values and human rights, social dialogue, skills and education, and productivity and formalisation.

Tonilyn Lim, chief of programmes at the UN Global Compact, also announced the launch of a communique calling for deeper collaboration between business and government to address social challenges. She emphasised that neither sector can act alone, and that delivering decent work, strengthening social protection, and closing inequality gaps requires shared accountability.

Lim said the UN Global Compact stands ready to support the implementation of the summit's political declaration, mobilising business to transform sustainability ambition into action.

Qatar's private sector champions inclusive growth and global collaboration

By Peter Alagos
Business Reporter

Qatar's private sector is positioning itself as a regional leader in inclusive employment, creative industries, and talent development, according to a prominent Qatari business leader.

Speaking at the Private Sector Forum during the Second World Summit for Social Development yesterday, Ashraf Abuissa, CEO and chairman of AbuIssa Holding, said Qatar's investment in technology and its hosting of global events, such as the Web Summit and Mobile Congress, were helping to build a thriving ecosystem for startups and innovation.

"Qatar is becoming a regional headquarters for major companies and an incubator for startups," he said, noting that the country's inclusive employment practices extend to remote work opportunities for communities facing political or cultural restrictions.

Abuissa also highlighted Qatar's labour protections and talent development systems, describing how his company nurtures employees through fast-track programmes and continuous training.

He also lauded the government's Wage

Protection System (WPS) and its proactive monitoring of labour rights.

Sonya Janahi, vice-president for Asia at the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), underscored the importance of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in avoiding unethical competition and economic burden.

"Governments should not compete with the private sector. Instead, we must collaborate to create sustainable solutions," she emphasised.

Janahi also pointed to the growing role of corporate social responsibility (CSR): "Employers are giving back — supporting farmers, education, and healthcare systems. This is where social development happens."

Daan Wensing, CEO of IDH, described the private sector as a global catalyst, driving 80% of trade and generating millions of jobs. "We need to make growth more intentional — linking innovation with inclusivity, wages with well-being, and productivity with decent jobs," he said.

Wensing cited examples from the banana and tea sectors, where collective action among retailers, governments, and civil society helped close living wage gaps. "If we do this together, we can challenge the status quo and achieve more than we thought possible," he added.



From right: Ashraf Abuissa, CEO and chairman of AbuIssa Holding; Sonya Janahi, vice-president for Asia at the International Organisation of Employers; and Daan Wensing, CEO of IDH; during a panel discussion held at the Private Sector Forum of the Second World Summit for Social Development yesterday.

Institut Choiseul partners with Licorne Gulf to establish regional hub in Doha



The Institut Choiseul, a leading French independent think tank specializing in international economic governance, business strategy, and investment trends, and serving as a platform for dialogue among decision-makers in politics, economics, and finance, has chosen Qatar as its regional hub.

The decision was made to expand to the GCC and venture with Licorne Gulf, a holding company owned by Alexandre Katrangi and Irina and Mrs Asmaa Skali in order to form Choiseul Arabian Gulf as a regional hub based in Doha.

Based on its international experience and network, Choiseul Arabian Gulf will focus on analyzing international economic and geopolitical issues. It will serve as a strategic platform connecting business leaders, policymakers, and investors to anticipate global trends and promote economic cooperation.

The core activities of the Qatar entity, in coordination with Choiseul in Paris, will include:

- a) Strategic Research & Publications: Produces influential reports and analyses on global investment flows, corporate competitiveness, and economic governance.
- b) Leadership Development: Organizes the "Choiseul 100" and related rankings, identifying and connecting emerging economic leaders across Europe, Africa, and other regions.
- c) International Forums & Networking: Hosts high-level events and dialogues that convene decision-makers from business, finance, and government to strengthen cross-border partnerships.
- d) Global Business & Investment Engagement: Facilitates dialogue on international trade and investment opportunities, positioning France and Europe at the forefront of economic diplomacy.

By combining research, leadership promotion, and international dialogue, the Institut Choiseul and now with the Qatar entity will position as a key driver of thought leadership in global business and investment. It reinforces France's role as an influential actor in shaping international economic strategy and fostering sustainable growth.

An initial Summit will be held within the Doha Forum on December 8, 2025. As a leading partner, the organization will host the Africa-Gulf Cooperation Dialogue Summit, which will bring together 300 leaders from the economic and investment sectors across Africa and the GCC to foster synergies, discuss partnerships, and explore opportunities for future transactions.

QIB Junior at Kids Expo 2025



Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) is taking part in the Kids Expo 2025, which will run until November 8 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC) under the theme 'Our Children are The Greatest Treasure'.

QIB is inviting families to explore QIB Junior, Qatar's first digital banking experience made especially for kids and teens.

Through fun, hands-on activities, and interactive demos, children can discover how saving, spending, and

learning about money can be easy and enjoyable.

Kids Expo brings together education, health, culture, and entertainment for children under one roof across Halls 1 & 2 at DECC, offering parents a one-stop destination and a fun-filled programme throughout the week.

D Anand, general manager - Personal Banking Group at QIB, said: "QIB Junior helps kids and teens learn how to save and spend wisely, while parents can supervise and support their journey.

By helping kids build confidence with money today, we are creating a financially confident and responsible generation for the future."

Across the week, visitors to QIB's booth can explore the app interface with QIB representatives, learn about the Junior prepaid card, and discover how features like savings, tasks, and parental controls work together to build confidence and responsibility.

For more information, visit www.qib.com.qa/en-Junior

City University Qatar inaugurates CUQ Talks

City University Qatar (CUQ) officially inaugurated its new conversation series, CUQ Talks, with a live session titled 'Business Off the Pitch' featuring world-renowned football journalist Fabrizio Romano.

Held at CUQ's recently opened state-of-the-art Lusail campus, the talk brought together students, faculty, media, and football fans to explore the booming business behind the world's most popular game.

The event, moderated by Shaden Wahdan, centred on how football has transformed into a multi-billion-dollar business and covered topics such as covering club ownership, branding, athlete influence, and career opportunities within the sport.

"CUQ Talks is not just a dialogue, it's a platform to ignite ideas, challenge perspectives, and inspire change. We're honoured to launch this series with



Fabrizio Romano, whose credibility and reach have helped redefine football media," said Prof Dr Faris Gorashi

Faris, president of CUQ. During his visit, Fabrizio also attended the match between Al Sadd and Al Rayyan.

Al-Misnad meets Palestinian and Egyptian ministers



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with Minister of Social Development and Acting Minister of State for Relief Affairs of Palestine Dr Samah Hamad, on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025, in Doha. The meeting reviewed the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and explored mechanisms to meet basic needs and to accelerate their delivery. The two sides also discussed several issues of mutual interest. (QNA)



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with Minister of Social Solidarity of Egypt Dr Maya Morsi, on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development, in Doha. Discussion during the meeting focused on co-operation and ways to support and strengthen them, in addition to several issues of mutual interest. (QNA)

Qatar’s key role in family protection in conflict zones stressed



A session on protecting families during wars and conflicts was held yesterday as part of the Second World Summit for Social Development, currently underway in Doha. The session highlighted Qatar’s leading efforts in resolving regional and international conflicts. Speaking at the session, Acting Director of the Human

Rights Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sarah Abdullah al-Saadi, affirmed Qatar’s pioneering role in reuniting separated families in several conflict zones. She highlighted Qatar’s efforts in Russia, Ukraine, Gaza, and Afghanistan, which have contributed to restoring stability and reuniting numerous

families affected by war. Al-Saadi also stressed the importance of safeguarding families during conflicts and warned against the consequences of family fragmentation. She called for enhanced international co-operation and the adoption of sustainable policies to address these challenges. (QNA)

Qatar, Kazakhstan discuss digital and AI co-operation on sidelines of Doha summit

HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai met yesterday with Galymzhan Koishybayev, Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting, held on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development currently

taking place in Doha, addressed ways to enhance bilateral co-operation in key areas such as digital transformation, advanced technologies, and artificial intelligence (AI). The two sides also explored prospects for developing strategic partnerships aimed at fostering innovation and accelerating digital development in both countries. (QNA)

IOE chief hails Doha Declaration as ‘historic commitment to social justice’

Secretary-General of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), Roberto Suarez Santos, has described the Doha Political Declaration – adopted at the Second World Summit for Social Development in Qatar – as a historic affirmation of global commitment to social justice. Addressing the Private Sector Forum on business for social development, Santos called for concrete commitments from the business community to be reflected in a forthcoming joint statement to be issued in collaboration with Global Compass, a platform dedicated to corporate social responsibility. He

emphasised the need for an enabling environment that allows businesses to operate within an inclusive development agenda, underscoring the private sector’s dual role as both a driver of economic growth and a catalyst for social progress. The IOE secretary-general outlined three key principles for advancing social development: a commitment to fundamental rights at work; recognition of the private sector as a main engine of innovation and employment; and strengthening dialogue between employers, workers, and governments to ensure legitimate and effective social outcomes. “The real cure for poverty

is not money – it is knowledge,” Santos said, stressing that quality education represents an essential investment in human capital. He added that the forum aimed to translate these principles into practical, sustainable initiatives aligned with the global social development agenda. Santos also highlighted the strength of the IOE’s global network, which brings together more than 150 independent business organisations. He concluded that the Doha Declaration could provide strong momentum to drive forward efforts linking economic growth, decent work, and social inclusion. (QNA)



QNB supports Qatar Cancer Society initiatives



As part of its continued commitment to corporate social responsibility, QNB has announced its support for the Qatar Cancer Society’s initiatives. These efforts aim to raise awareness, enhance knowledge of cancer risk factors, support patients and their families, and encourage community participation in early detection and treatment. Among these initiatives, QNB organised visits to several schools, where students of different ages were educated through interactive activities

that included cooking demonstrations and awareness sessions on healthy nutrition. QNB also held an awareness workshop for its employees on Breast Cancer, in co-operation with the Qatar Cancer Society, aiming to support patients and their families while enhancing employees’ knowledge. The event included various activities such as free consultations and Spa check-ups for women, in addition to distributing awareness materials and gifts to participants. Moreover, QNB participated as a sponsor of the “Relay

for Life” campaign, organised by Qatar Cancer Society. It is considered one of the largest global initiatives dedicated to supporting cancer patients and survivors, aiming to inspire hope and underline the importance of collective efforts in the fight against cancer. QNB continues to implement its programmes and initiatives under its corporate social responsibility framework, reaffirming its commitment to supporting humanitarian causes and highlighting its role as a key partner in serving public health.

Pakistan president voices support for Doha Political Declaration

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari voiced his country’s full support for the Doha Political Declaration issued at the Second World Summit on Social Development, currently underway in Doha. He said Pakistan’s vision for inclusivity and sustainable development aligns with the spirit of the declaration. In his address to the summit, the Pakistani president reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to social justice, inclusive growth, and global solidarity. He called for intensified efforts to eradicate poverty, up-

hold equality, and protect human rights, urging the international community to unite around principles of justice and social progress. Highlighting Pakistan’s national initiatives, the Pakistani president pointed to youth empowerment programmes such as the National Training Scheme and green housing projects designed to enhance the country’s adaptability to climate change through nature-based solutions. The Pakistan president condemned the genocide and famine in Palestine, calling for a just and lasting peace. (QNA)

Al-Muraikhi meets Cuban deputy FM

HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met yesterday with Deputy Foreign Minister of Cuba Elio Rodriguez Perdomo. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and strengthen them. (QNA)



Local agricultural product yards to resume operations today

The Ministry of Municipality’s Agricultural Affairs Department has announced the start of operations at the yards for selling local agricultural products for the 2025–2026 season, from today (November 6). The yards will operate in Al Khor and Al Thakhira, Al Wakra, Al Shamal, and Al Sheehaniya, while Al Mazrouah Yard will continue operating throughout the year. The launch of the new season is part of the ministry’s efforts to support and promote the marketing of local agricultural products and to provide direct sales channels between farmers and consumers. The yards will be open to visitors every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, from 7am–3pm, with broad participation from more than 100 Qatari farms offering high-quality agricultural products. This initiative, implemented by the Ministry of Municipality, contributes to strengthening and sustaining local agricultural production and expanding the participation base among Qatari farms in line with the State’s vision to achieve sustainable agricultural

and economic development under Qatar National Vision 2030 and the National Food Security Strategy. In addition to the Katara Mahaseel Festival and the AgriteQ exhibition market, the agricultural yards aim to establish direct marketing channels between farmers and consumers without intermediaries, ensuring fair returns for farm owners and enabling consumers to obtain fresh, high-quality local products. The yards offer the public a wide range of fresh local products, including seasonal vegetables, natural honey, dates, and other items that vary according to the agricultural season. The sites have been equipped with all necessary facilities and services to ensure a comfortable and safe shopping experience for citizens and residents, including shaded areas, public amenities, organised parking, and specialised inspection teams to monitor product quality and ensure compliance with approved standards and specifications. Since their inception in the 2012–2013 season, the local agricultural product yards have witnessed rapid growth in both the number of participating farms and sales volume.

Mastercard welcomes Commercial Bank as ‘Official Race Partner’ of McLaren F1 Team

Mastercard, the ‘Official Primary Partner’ of the McLaren Formula 1 Team, has secured an exclusive opportunity for Commercial Bank, a leader in innovative digital banking in Qatar, to become the Official Race Partner of the McLaren Formula 1 Team for the Qatar race for the next three years. As part of the collaboration, Commercial Bank branding will be placed on McLaren livery through visors on drivers’ helmets, steering wheel tops and front-wing flaps. Mastercard and the McLaren Formula 1 Team entered a multi-year global collaboration in 2024 and recently announced that Mastercard will become Official Naming Partner

of the McLaren Formula 1 Team from 2026 onwards. “At Commercial Bank, we have been fulfilling our customers’ needs and fuelling their aspirations for more than 50 years. Our latest collaboration with Mastercard, our trusted partner on our digital transformation journey, aligns with our dedication to continual innovation and going the extra mile for our customers. “We are confident that becoming the Official Race Partner of the McLaren Formula 1 Team at the Qatar GP will go a long way in providing engaging opportunities and benefits for premium customers,” said Stephen Moss,

Group CEO, Commercial Bank. “Qatar stands as a cornerstone market for Mastercard, and Commercial Bank has been a pillar of its banking sector for over half a century. Together, we’ve transformed the payments landscape through market-first solutions, cutting-edge innovations, and a shared commitment to progress and sustainability. Today, we are proud to further elevate this partnership by introducing the global reach of McLaren to delivering even greater value for Commercial Bank’s most discerning clients,” said J K Khalil, EVP & division president, East Arabia, Mastercard. “Motorsports is one of the

region’s most powerful passions, and its global momentum is driving demand for brands that connect fans to what they love. At Mastercard, we are transforming passion into loyalty as we enable moments that truly matter. As the Official Primary Partner of the McLaren Formula 1 Team, we are proud to extend this relationship to our partners at Commercial Bank, delivering money-can’t-buy experiences and benefits that celebrate the most important passions of our cardholders,” added Ahmed Abdel-Karim Hussein, EVP, Integrated Marketing and Communications, EEMEA, Mastercard.



EAA Foundation highlights role of education in combating poverty at WSSD2

On the second day of the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) yesterday, the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation continued to lead the global conversation on education and sustainable development through two pivotal sessions.

Hosted in collaboration with international partners, the discussions focused on unlocking innovative financing for education and advancing integrated approaches to climate resilience, poverty eradication, and inclusion, reaffirming EAA’s mission to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

EAA’s Reach Out To All (Rota) programme, in collaboration with the SLNI, UNDP, Unicef, the POWER Foundation, the Commission on the Status of Women Geneva and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of The Gambia to the United Nations, hosted a high-level session titled “Learning for Climate Resilience: Integrated Pathways for Poverty Eradication, Jobs & Inclusion.”

The discussion underscored the critical role of education in addressing the interconnected challenges of poverty, unemployment, and climate vulnerability.

By showcasing integrated models that combine literacy, vocational training, and environmental awareness, the session demonstrated how education can empower youth and women, particu-

larly in fragile, climate-affected contexts, to lead community-based solutions that promote sustainable development and inclusion.

The panel brought together global and youth leaders committed to advancing the education – climate nexus.

They explored policy and programmatic recommendations for scaling climate-resilient education and green livelihood opportunities, calling for strengthened partnerships that place education at the heart of climate adaptation and social justice.

In addition, EAA Foundation, in partnership with the OECD, convened a high-level session titled “From Silos to Synergy: Unlocking Education Financing Through Philanthropy” as part of the Second World Summit for Social Development.

The event examined how Public-Private-Philanthropy Partnerships can help bridge the \$97bn annual financing gap for education in low- and lower-middle-income countries.

Building on priorities set during the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the session explored how philanthropic actors, governments, and development institutions can collaborate to create catalytic co-funding models that advance Sustainable Development Goal 4.

Mohammed al-Kubaisi, CEO of

EAA Foundation, said: “Our presence at the summit underscores EAA Foundation’s unwavering commitment to making education a driving force for equality, resilience, and opportunity. Through our sessions at the summit on access to quality education, youth employment, green skills, education financing, support for displaced learners, climate resilience, and poverty eradication, we are demonstrating how inclusive and quality education can create pathways to decent work, stability, and sustainable development.

“Together with our partners, we are shaping global solutions that empower learners, equip youth for the future, and strengthen societies for generations to come.”

On the final day of the summit, EAA’s Educate A Child programme, in collaboration with Unicef, will host a high-level session titled “Education is a Key Pillar for Poverty Eradication, Employment, and Social Inclusion.”

The session will reaffirm that education is central to social development - not merely a social service but a transformative investment that will drive progress across all dimensions of sustainable development.

The discussion will underscore education’s power in enabling equitable and resilient societies by lifting individuals out of poverty, expanding access to decent employment, and fostering cohesive, equitable societies.



A panel session by Rota at WSSD2.

Al Abdulghani Motors opens new spare parts centre



Al Abdulghani Motors, the authorised distributor of Toyota and Lexus in Qatar, has opened a new Spare Parts Centre on Wakalat Street No 33 in the Industrial Area, a statement said. Spanning a total area of approximately 6,500sq m, the new facility has seven customer service counters and a comprehensive inventory of genuine Toyota and Lexus spare parts. The body shop is intended exclusively for major accident repairs, and not open for walk-in customers. Abdo Sweidan, chief operating officer of Al Abdulghani Motors, said: “This expansion reflects our best in town philosophy, delivering excellence, innovation, and customer-centricity at every level.” The Spare Parts Centre operates Saturday-Wednesday from 7am-7pm, and Thursday from 7am-6pm, with Friday holiday.

CRA hosts training workshop to enhance operational capacities of Syria Post

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) hosted a specialised training workshop organised by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in co-operation with Qatar Postal Services Company (Qatar Post) to enhance the operational capacities of Syria Post.

The workshop represented an important step toward advancing the development of the regional postal sector and supporting co-operation among countries in this field.

The initiative was implemented within the framework of the Abidjan Postal Strategy and the UPU Regional Development Plan for the Arab Region 2022-2025. It aimed to strengthen the operational performance of Syria Post through the modernisation of postal processes and the effective use of standardised UPU IT tools and systems, in line with global regulatory, operational, and technical standards.

The workshop brought together employees of Syria Post who



participated in intensive, hands-on training sessions designed to develop their technical and operational skills and promote the implementation of international best practices in this sector.

Engineer Ahmad bin Abdulla al-Muslemami, President of the Communications Regulatory Authority, stated: “The hosting of this training workshop by CRA reflects Qatar’s keenness to supporting the development of the postal sector at both

the Arab and regional levels, by promoting the exchange of expertise and building operational capacities that contribute to enhancing the quality and performance of postal services. This initiative also comes as part of the joint efforts with the Universal Postal Union to enhance integration and international co-operation in this vital sector, and to support the development of postal infrastructure and services in the region in line with

international best practices and standards, thereby contributing to advancing the progress of the postal sector worldwide.”

Hassan Jassim al-Sayed, Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Post, stated: “Such initiatives contribute to knowledge exchange and capacity building across the Arab region. Qatar Post is committed to supporting regional efforts aimed at advancing postal sector development in Arab countries and enhancing cooperation with the UPU in achieving sustainable postal growth.”

At the conclusion of the training workshop, Engineer Ahmad bin Abdulla al-Muslemami, President of CRA, received Engineer Mohammed al-Ali, Director of Damascus Countryside Post of the Syrian Arab Republic, and the accompanying delegation at CRA headquarters.

The meeting included discussions on several topics of mutual interest and explored ways to strengthen future cooperation between the two sides.

Sidra Medicine introduces Qatar’s first Autologous Serum Eye Drops

Sidra Medicine, a member of Qatar Foundation, has announced the launch of Qatar’s first Autologous Serum Eye Drops, a prescription-based treatment developed for patients with severe dry eye disease and related ocular surface conditions. The Autologous Serum Eye

Drops are Sidra Medicine’s first commercial biologic product to come out of its Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) facility; the only facility in the country authorised to develop and manufacture individualised biologic therapies with the capacity to develop hospital grade medications.

The treatment is indicated for adults with severe dry eye symptoms associated with conditions such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome, Sjogren’s syndrome, post-LASIK dry eye, neurotrophic keratopathy, and diabetes mellitus. It can also be used as adjunctive therapy

following specialised eye surgeries or to aid in the recovery of ocular surface injuries. Chief Research Officer at Sidra Medicine Prof Khalid Fakhro stated: “The launch of the Autologous Serum Eye Drops marks an important step in expanding access to advanced, personalised

treatments for complex eye conditions in Qatar. This is another example of our precision medicine strategy”. He added: “Our ability to produce these drops locally ensures timely availability while maintaining the highest international standards for quality and safety.”

Director of the GMP facility at Sidra Medicine Dr. Chiara Cugno said: “Sidra Medicine is ready to receive referrals from ophthalmologists across the country. By preparing these drops in Qatar, we are by extension, enabling them to expand precision care to their own patients.” (QNA)

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GULF TIMES

World on track to dangerous warming

National commitments to slash heat-trapping pollution would limit global warming up to 2.5C this century – nowhere near enough to avoid devastating climate impacts despite a sweep of new pledges, the UN has warned.

Scientists are in broad agreement that warming above 1.5C relative to pre-industrial times risks catastrophic consequences, and every effort must be made to stick as close as possible to this safer threshold.

But the world is set to blow past 1.5C in a matter of years and planet-warming emissions keep rising, hitting a new record high in 2024, according to a report by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

The sobering assessment was published just days before world leaders gather in Brazil today and tomorrow ahead of the COP30 climate summit in the rainforest city of Belem.

With an overshoot of 1.5C now inevitable, focus has shifted to how quickly temperatures can be returned to less-risky levels.

“Our mission is simple, but not easy: make any overshoot as small and as short as possible,” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said at the launch of UNEP’s Emissions Gap report.

Big polluters most responsible for the crisis have been urged to pledge faster and deeper emissions cuts to bend the curve back to 1.5C by the end of the century.

Instead, the latest round of carbon-cutting targets announced ahead of the UN climate talks “have barely moved the needle”, concluded UNEP’s latest assessment.

“Ambition and action are nowhere near the levels needed globally or collectively,” Anne Olhoff, the report’s chief scientific editor, told AFP.

The latest assessment projects that the world’s collective commitments to tackle climate change, if enacted in full, would result in 2.3-2.5C of warming by 2100.

Based on just the current policies in place, Earth is expected to be 2.8C hotter in 2100

more – increases not only the intensity of hurricanes, floods and other disasters, but the likelihood of catastrophic climate tipping points.

At 1.4C above pre-industrial times, the Earth is already too warm for most tropical coral reefs to survive, while ice sheets and the Amazon rainforest could suffer severe and lasting changes below 2C, with consequences for the entire planet.

Under the Paris Agreement, each round of climate pledges is supposed to be more ambitious than the last to keep long-term warming “well below” 2C and as close as possible to 1.5C.

Despite being obligated to do so, only around one-third of countries announced a 2035 emissions reduction target by September 30, UNEP said. This year’s warming projections are 0.3C lower than last year, but Olhoff said little of that reduction was thanks to these latest pledges.

Updates to methodology accounted for 0.1C while another 0.1C was attributed to US commitments made under the Biden administration.

These gains are unlikely to materialise as President Donald Trump has vowed to pull the United States out of the Paris accord and ditch the climate policies of his predecessor.

“If we don’t include the US, then the progress is quite limited,” Olhoff said.

The dozens of other climate pledges made by governments in recent months “do not have a large effect on the temperature projections”, she added.

“That is a very bleak picture, you can say”

Global emissions grew 2.3 percent in 2024 compared to the previous year, an increase driven by India followed by China, Russia and Indonesia.

This rise was quite high in the context of recent years “and comparable to the emissions growth in the 2000s”, the report said.

Wealthy and powerful G20 economies accounted for three-quarters of global emissions and of the six largest polluters, the EU was the only one to cut greenhouse gases in 2024. As they come under pressure to set new and ever-more ambitious targets, UNEP said most nations were not even on track to meet their earlier 2030 goals.

Based on just the current policies in place, Earth is expected to be 2.8C hotter in 2100.

COP30 will seek to allay fears that climate action is on the back burner as the United States shuns the process, collective targets are missed and governments prioritise other concerns.

“We still need unprecedented cuts to greenhouse gas emissions, in an ever-compressing timeframe, amid a challenging geopolitical context,” wrote UNEP chief Inger Andersen in the report. — AFP



Scientists in Brazil starve trees of water to test Amazon’s limits



Rainforest faces potential tipping point

By Andre Cabette Fabio Querencia

Under Brazil’s Amazon rainforest canopy, hundreds of transparent plastic panels hang between tree trunks to starve a hectare of land of half the water it normally receives.

Scientists are creating this artificial drought in Querencia municipality close to the southeastern edge of the world’s largest rainforest to better understand the limits of the Amazon’s resistance to extreme dry conditions that are predicted by climate change models.

In the experiment, called Seca Limite, or Limit Drought, water is captured by the platforms, then flows through a network of elevated timber gutters before being dumped elsewhere.

Like hospital patients, the vital signs of 61 of the trees are measured, including sap and carbon dioxide flow, respiration and temperature, with solar-powered equipment.

“It’s like someone was taking measurements of your pulse and breathing every day,” said David Galbraith, a professor of terrestrial ecosystem science at Britain’s Leeds University and one of the lead researchers of Limit Drought, as he walked through the wired forest.

The team is also tracking tree trunk size and soil data from 6 metre deep holes, while nets capture falling leaves. An artificial intelligence-powered drone has made a 3D model of the forest since the project began late last year.

Across the Amazon, climate change, deforestation and degradation are drying forests, and



Experiment cuts rainwater to test resilience

scientists fear parts of the region are being pushed to a tipping point, after which there is no going back – at least not in human timescales.

This corner of the Amazon, considered a transition zone to the nearby Cerrado tropical savannah, is already drier and warmer and sees more intense human activity than other parts.

“The forest here is ... on the frontline of climate change,” said Antonio Carlos Lola da Costa, a geosciences professor at Brazil’s Federal University of Para who is co-leading Limit Drought.

“There’s the advance of large-scale agriculture, and on the other side (is) the Amazon resisting,” he said at a forest station managed by research institute IPAM Amazonia.

Record wildfires

At November’s United Nations COP30 climate summit in Brazil’s Amazon city of Belem, much of the debate is expected to centre on how to keep the vast rainforest, 60% of which lies in Brazil, within a margin of safety.

Scientists fear that this deforestation, arson and biodiversity loss could turn parts of the Amazon into degraded forests or even savannas – grassy areas with fewer trees.

A study published in the journal Nature last year concluded that 10-47% of the forest is at risk of degrading into other ecosystems by 2050. Large numbers of rotting and burning trees would dump massive amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, accelerating climate change further.

Already, there are signs the Amazon’s resilience is breaking.

The rainforest suffered four severe droughts in the 21st century, helping to fuel record wildfires last year.



Old-growth trees already dying with drought

An October report from the World Meteorological Organisation showed 2024 saw the highest spike in carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere since modern measurements began.

That was likely caused by wildfires and the reduced capacity of drought-ridden forests and warmer oceans to function as carbon sinks amid record global temperatures, it said.

Breaking the forest

For the last 3,000 years, Amazon forests rapidly expanded towards the south, until the 1970s, when Brazil’s military regime launched road-building and colonisation programmes, and deforestation rates exploded.

“Anyone could get land in Brazil, as long as they burned the forest down and occupied it,” said Ben Hur Marimon Jr, a Mato Grosso State University researcher who is co-leading Limit Drought.

Ben Hur and his wife and fellow ecology professor Beatriz Marimon have been measuring forest plots in this frontier of deforestation for three decades.

“We started measurements in 1994, and 15 years later, we became scared because so many trees started to die,” said Beatriz, another lead researcher at Limit Drought.

Data gathered by the couple was published in a 2020 paper in Nature and showed the southeastern region had the highest tree mortality rate in the Amazon.

Drier rainforest?

In the Nova Xavantina municipality, the entrance to one of the forest plots the Marimons have measured since the 1990s is marked with a bullet-riddled

plaque warning, “Fishing and hunting are prohibited.”

Inside, Ben Hur points to a tree more than 30 metres high whose trunk is starting to rot.

“That one is over 300 years old, and it won’t last another century. These are the first ones to die,” he said. Nearby, another giant was dead and leafless.

One year of extreme drought can make a tree vulnerable to termites or other maladies, increasing the chances it dies in the next drought, Beatriz said.

The interplay between worsening drought and human-ignited wildfires is also key, including last year when the expanse of burnt Amazon forests was double the previous record in 40 years of data collected by mapping consortium MapBiomass.

But recent research may offer some cause for hope.

Another drying experiment in the north Amazon showed a third of biomass was lost in the first 15 years, but that tree death then stabilised as the forest adapted to the new reality – with less canopy cover and shorter trees – but still a forest.

Limit Drought’s results may differ as the experiment is being held in the hotter, drier southeast in an area fragmented by soybean fields and cattle pastures.

Those activities pose a more immediate threat to the area than global climate change, said Beatriz Marimon.

“People are so focused on a climate tipping point that they forget about the human tipping point: the crawler tractor that tears everything down”, she said.

“Not in 1,000 years will a tractored forest be the same” — Thomson Reuters Foundation



A view of trees amid morning fog near the world’s largest iron ore mine, run by Brazilian mining company Vale in the middle of a vast rainforest preserve, at Carajas National Forest in the Amazonian state of Para, Brazil. (Reuters)

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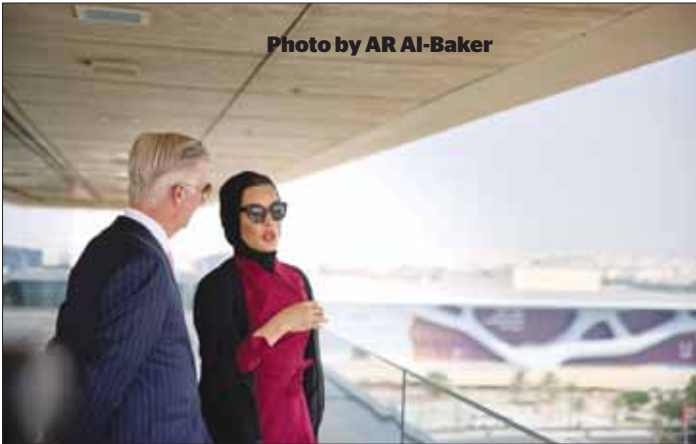


Photo by AR Al-Baker



Photo by Aisha Al-Mussallam



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Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF), with King Philippe of Belgium during his visit to the QF headquarters in Education City. (QNA)

Sheikha Moza meets Pakistani first lady, UN official



Photo by AR Al-Baker

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF) and the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, met yesterday with Pakistan's First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari. The meeting discussed co-operation between the Education Above All Foundation and Pakistan to support education and reduce the number of out-of-school children. It also reviewed areas of collaboration between Qatar Foundation and Pakistan in education, research, and innovation. (QNA)



Photo by AR Al-Baker

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF) and the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, met yesterday with UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development. The meeting discussed the efforts undertaken by the Education Above All Foundation and the UN to protect education in conflict zones, reduce the number of out-of-school children, and empower youth. It also reviewed ongoing collaboration with Qatar Foundation in the field of technology and innovation in education. (QNA)



Photo by AR Al-Baker

Qatar Boat Show 2025 hosts gala dinner

A gala dinner on Tuesday (November 4) at the Rixos Qetaifan Ballroom marked the official opening of the Qatar Boat Show 2025, bringing together government representatives, private-sector leaders, and global maritime experts.

Organisers noted that the evening featured two panel discussions that reflected Qatar's ambition to shape the future of the international yachting industry. The first gala dinner in the event's history reflected the show's growing prestige and its emergence as a catalyst for global collaboration across the yachting and maritime sectors.

The event featured discussions, networking opportunities, and a dialogue on the region's role in shaping the future of the maritime sector.

The first panel, "Anchoring Growth: What It Takes for the Region to Become a Global Yachting Destination", examined how world-class marina infrastructure and attractive investment frameworks can elevate the region's position as a global hub for luxury yachting.

Speakers from Old Doha Port, Ministry of Transport, Qatar Free Zones Authority, and Ronautica Middle East highlighted how public-private partnerships are central to fostering growth through integrated tourism, waterfront development, and premium marine services.

The second session, "Defining the Future of the Global Yachting Industry", focused on innovation, sustainability, and the policies needed to ensure long-term competitiveness. Speakers from Gulf Craft, Benetti, Oceano, and Doha Craft emphasised sustainable marina design, environmental stewardship, smart infrastructure, and talent development as pillars of future-ready maritime economies.

"By bringing together industry leaders under one roof, we continue to position Qatar as a hub of innovation, investment, and sustainable growth in the yachting sector. This gala dinner not only celebrates our collective achievements but also sets the stage for a world-class event that reflects the very essence of Qatar's maritime heritage and modern ambition," Old Doha Port CEO and Qatar Boat Show 2025 Organising Committee chairman, Engineer Mohammed Abdulla al-Mulla, said in a press statement.

He also shared key highlights and future directions for this year's edition, saying the show will host more than 85 exhibitors from 25 countries, featuring more than 65 luxury yachts and global premieres from Amels, Sunreef, Gulf Craft, and Al Shaali Marine.

With Qatari companies representing more than half of the par-



Engineer Mohammed Abdulla al-Mulla addressing the gala dinner. (Supplied picture)



Fireworks light up Old Doha Port yesterday, on Day One of the Qatar Boat Show 2025. PICTURES: Thajudheen

ticipants, the event underscores the nation's growing leadership in marine manufacturing and innovation. Al-Mulla also announced new

cultural and experiential additions, including the Oshar Art Gallery and an expanded Fishing Exhibition and Competition, both designed to cel-



The event featured discussions, networking opportunities and a dialogue on the region's role in shaping the future of the maritime sector. (Supplied picture)



A view of a section of boats displayed at the event.

brate heritage while fostering creativity and community engagement.

The event, running until November 8 at Old Doha Port, is under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani.

DFF 2025 unveils plan for 97 films from 62 countries

Doha Film Institute (DFI) unveiled the full programme of Doha Film Festival (DFF) 2025, featuring 97 films from 62 countries and a wide range of creative community events from November 20-28.

Key partners of DFF include Katara, Media City Qatar I Film Committee and Visit Qatar. The festival will be hosted across several venues, including Katara Cultural Village, Msheireb Downtown Doha, Lusail Boulevard and the Museum of Islamic Art.

With prizes totalling more than \$300,000, DFF features four main competition sections, special screenings, music performances, Geekdom and other community initiatives.

The festival's original theme song is composed by Qatar's celebrated contemporary composer and songwriter Dana Alfaridan, in collaboration with Katara Studios and Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra.

In a press statement, festival director and DFI CEO Fatma Hassan Alremaihi said: "This year's Doha Film Festival reflects Qatar's growing creative ambitions and



Key DFI officials at the announcement yesterday.

our deep belief in the power of cinema to unite and inspire.

The festival will open with *The Voice of Hind Rajab* by Kaouther Ben Hania. A recipient of DFI's grants programme, the film highlights the power of storytelling to illuminate truth and resist oppression.

DFF's International Feature Film Competition has 13 films, with 12 having their Middle East

and North African premieres in Doha including festival favourites, *The Presidents Cake*; *Once Upon a Time in Gaza*; *Khartoum* and *Divine Comedy* among others.

The festival will welcome several special guests this year including filmmakers, artists and activists - whose work has inspired audiences all over the world. They include: Steven Soderbergh, Ramy Youssef, Michaela Coel, Engin Al-

tan Duzyatan, Hazal Kaya, Jassim Al Nabhan; Dorra Zarrouk, Saleh Bakri, Hiam Abbas among others.

The festival's dynamic music programme of live performances and discussions feature today's most exciting regional and global artists, including Saint Levant; Yasiin Bey; Elyanna; Gustavo Santaolalla; Zeyne; Nooriyah; Nemahsis; Aisha al-Zaiani; Dana al-Meer and many more.

Qatar to participate in Lisbon web summit next week

Qatar will participate in the Web Summit Lisbon 2025, which will be held in the Portuguese capital from November 10-13, with the attendance of a number of leading technology and innovation figures from around the world. A high-level delegation, headed by HE the Director of the Government Communications Office and Chairman of the Permanent Web Summit Organising Committee Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour bin Jabor al-Thani, will represent Qatar at the summit. This participation comes as part of Qatar's ongoing preparations to host the third edition of Web Summit Qatar, slated for February 1-4, 2026. It will provide an opportunity to showcase the successes achieved during the previous two editions, highlight the key initiatives that will be included in the upcoming edition of the largest technology event in the Middle East, and demonstrate Qatar's efforts in promoting an environment conducive to investment, technology, and entrepreneurship.

Speaking on the occasion, HE Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour bin Jabor al-Thani said: "Our participation in Web Summit Lisbon for the third consecutive year reaffirms Qatar's commitment to shaping the global future of technology and the digital economy. It also reflects the country's growing prominence as a hub for innovation and digital transformation, and its ongoing engagement with major international technology gatherings."

He added: "This participation also helps promote Web Summit Qatar 2026 and offers an important opportunity to build stronger relations and partnerships with global technology leaders. It highlights Qatar's efforts to enhance the country's appeal as an investment destination in this key sector, which forms a cornerstone of our national economic diversification goals in line with Qatar National Vision 2030."

The Qatari delegation includes representatives from a number of government and semi-government entities, including the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the Qatar Investment Authority, Invest Qatar, Qatar Development Bank, the Qatar Free Zones Authority, Qatar Financial Centre, Media City Qatar, the Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Council, Visit Qatar and Hamad Bin Khalifa University, as well as several Qatari startups. (QNA)



Culture ministry workshop explores community values and sustainability

The Wijdan Cultural Center, operating under the Ministry of Culture, organised a workshop yesterday on how community values contribute to building sustainability. It was convened in collaboration with Earthna Center for a Sustainable Future, a member of Qatar Foundation (QF) and explored core concepts related to community values, the foundations of sustainability, and the components of national identity.

Head of the Institutional Communication and Training Department at Wijdan Cultural

Center, Omar Shamseddine highlighted that the workshop represented the first milestone of the partnership with Earthna, aiming to activate societal values in environmental and sustainability issues as part of Qatar Sustainability Week. The workshop sought to familiarise participants with the notion of values and their direct corollary to sustainable behaviour, he pointed out, emphasising that sustainable thinking must be gestated as a daily conscious practice, rather than merely commemorated on specific occasions, reflecting an

acute awareness of environmental challenges and the outgrowth of national efforts in this domain. Shamseddine further noted that the workshop drew inspiration from Qatar National Vision 2030, a robust model supporting sustainability across all dimensions. He stressed the pivotal role of cultural and societal institutions in contributing to the successful realisation of this vision through the promotion of community awareness and plenty of participatory engagement. (QNA)

Human-centred development in focus at summit session

The Second World Summit for Social Development opened its second day yesterday with a plenary session focused on the main global challenges and opportunities related to social development. During the session, participants emphasised the importance of strengthening international solidarity and placing humans at the centre of social policies to achieve sustainable well-being among communities. They called for enhanced co-operation between countries and international institutions to develop comprehensive social policies, with a focus on investing in youth, women, and vulnerable groups to ensure sustainable social development and promote equality and justice. In this context, Minister of Family and Social Services of Turkiye Mahinur Ozdemir Goktas said that development is not measured solely by economic growth indicators, but also by social cohesion, citizens' quality of life, and human dignity. She added that Turkiye is working to achieve a balance between



work, education, health, and social life, ensuring women's empowerment, protecting children, promoting active and healthy lives for youth and the elderly, and transforming social assistance from temporary support into a sustainable environment that encourages citizens' active participation in social development. Meanwhile, Minister of Social Development of Oman Dr Laila bint Ahmed al-Najjar emphasised that true development begins and ends with humans, and that justice and equality are fundamental pillars for building a modern state. She explained that Oman follows a comprehensive social strategy that includes combating poverty, promoting social integration, and distributing social benefits

fairly, with a focus on supporting families, improving the professional environment for persons with disabilities and the elderly, and using data-driven assessments to enhance social policies. In turn, Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services Sanni Grahn-Laasonen stressed her country's full support for UN reform and its commitment to human rights and gender equality, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and rights. She noted that Finland is a leader in social innovation, and that its investments in parental care, free education, school meals, and public childcare have contributed to improving quality of life and empowering women to participate in the labour market. (QNA)

HBKU awarded Unesco chair on digital tech and human behaviour

Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) has been awarded a Unesco Chair on Digital Technologies and Human Behaviour, with the College of Science and Engineering's (CSE) Dr Raian Ali appointed as Chairholder from June 2025 to June 2029. Unesco's Chairs Programme represents the organisation's most significant intersectoral activity in higher education. The designation is in recognition of HBKU's excellence, building on the existing Unesco Chairs on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development,

a statement said yesterday. The new Chair will explore the intersection between digital technologies and human behaviour, promoting digital well-being, ethical use of technology, and positive societal transformation. It will also encourage healthy human interaction both online and offline, tackling challenges such as Internet addiction, cyberbullying, and misinformation, while fostering active engagement in addressing these issues. Commenting on the announcement and the

significance of the Chair, Dr Mounir Hamdi, Dean, CSE, stated: "Technology is transforming every aspect of how we live, work, and connect. Through this Unesco Chair, HBKU will lead a global effort to ensure that digital transformation empowers people, strengthens communities, amplifies underrepresented voices, and contributes to a healthier relationship between humanity and evolving technologies." As part of its activities, the Chair will address the ethical implications of artificial intelligence (AI) while

embracing its potential benefits, stressing the importance of aligning technology with cultural values and societal norms. By merging a cross-disciplinary approach within Qatar, the region and globally, the programme will promote collaboration among stakeholders, including ministries, policymakers, health professionals, and educators, to maximise social and economic impact. The Chair will also host events that encourage dialogue, knowledge exchange, and innovation across academia, industry, and public

policy. These platforms help co-create solutions that are more likely to be adopted and sustained. Dr Ali said: "I am proud to lead this exceptional opportunity to advance research that ensures technology serves human values responsibly. At HBKU, we aim to generate evidence-based insights that promote digital well-being, impact-driven innovation, and a digital future shaped by ethics." By collaborating with more than 15 partner institutions from over 10 countries and engaging around 40 professionals, the Chair



Dr Raian Ali

reflects HBKU's commitment to shaping a holistic and forward-thinking ecosystem that aligns with Qatar's national priorities and the university's core research strengths, the statement added.

WEEKEND DEALS

WOW
8 QR.50
WAS 14 QR.144

لحم بقري باكستاني بالعظم ٥٠٠ جم
Pakistan Beef With Bone 500 gm

WOW
4 QR.75
WAS 6 QR.144

كبد البقر باكستاني ٢٥٠ جم
Pakistan Beef Liver 250 gm

WOW
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Potato Pakistan 1 kg

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Broccoli Oman 1 kg

WOW
3 QR.75

بطاطا حلوة افريقيا ١ كجم
Sweet Potato Africa 1 kg

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خيار قطر ١ كجم
Cucumber Qatar 1 kg

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موز اخودار ١ كجم
Banana Ecuador 1 kg

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5 QR.75

تفاح احمر ايران ١ كجم
Apple Royal Gala Chile 1 kg

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6 QR.25

كيوي ايران ١ كجم
kiwi fruit iran (Approximate 1 kg) 1 Box

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6 QR.50

دارجون فروت فيتنام ١ كجم
Dragon Fruit Vietnam 1 kg

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6 QR.50

جوافة فيتنام ١ كجم
Guava Vietnam 1 kg

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6 QR.00

ماندرين افريقيا ١ كجم
Mandarin Nadorcott Africa 1 kg

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5 QR.00
WAS 6 QR.144

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Rainbow Rtd Organic Full Cream Milk 1 Ltr x 1 pc

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ارز سلوي طويل الحبة ٤ كجم - ١ حبة
Salwa Long Grain Rice 4 kg x 1 pc

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WAS 13 QR.144

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Hilal Chicken Griller 1200 gm x 1 pc

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