

**WANT TO  
SHOWCASE YOUR  
BRAND/SERVICES HERE?**

CALL: 444 666 21



**LONG-STANDING PARTNERSHIP** | Page 4

Vodafone Qatar and Hytera forge strategic alliance to advance mission-critical communication

**Brand Your Business with us**

Contact us on  
gtadv@gulf-times.com  
or 444 666 21

facebook.com/gulftimes  
twitter.com/gulftimes\_Qatar  
instagram.com/gulftimes  
youtube.com/GulftimesVideos

Monday, December 1, 2025  
Jumada II 10, 1447 AH

# GULF TIMES BUSINESS



**RESOURCE OPTIMISATION** | Page 3

Ericsson and Ooredoo Qatar complete Automated Energy Saver proof of concept

**COMMERCIAL BANK** | **Mortgage Loans with a Touch of Luxury**

Obtain a mortgage loan now for a chance to win one of four Rolex watches

This campaign is valid from 12 October 2025 to 31 December 2025.  
Draw date will be 5 January 2026 | Terms and conditions apply.

## QFMA issues new rules on offerings, listings and M&A

By **Santhosh V Perumal**  
Business Reporter

The Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) has come out with a slew of measures, including doing away with multiple advisors for listing and determining the reference price through pre-listing auction in direct listing, as part of simplifying the procedures and attracting foreign investments. HE Sheikh Bandar bin Mohammed bin Saoud al-Thani, Governor of the Qatar Central Bank and Chairman of QFMA has issued QFMA's board decision No 8 of 2025 concerning the offering and listing, and mergers and acquisitions (M&A) rules.

The issuance of the new rules comes as part of the state's drive to stimulate the attraction of foreign investments, and in light of the QFMA's ongoing efforts to continuously review and develop the legislative structure regulat-



**From left:** HE Sheikh Bandar bin Mohammed bin Saoud al-Thani, governor of the Qatar Central Bank and chairman of QFMA, and Dr Tamy bin Ahmad al-Binali, chief executive officer of QFMA.

ing the Qatari capital market in line with the best practices and international standards.



To **Page 3**

## Sheikh Faisal meets Russia's minister of economic development



HE Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal al-Thani, Minister of Commerce and Industry, yesterday met with Maxim Reshetnikov, Minister of Economic Development of Russia, who is currently visiting Qatar. The two sides discussed ways to deepen bilateral co-operation in the trade, investment and industrial sectors, as well as ways to further develop the ties. Qatar highlighted its economic policies supporting the private sector, in addition to the country's pro-investment legislation, incentives and expanding opportunities offered to attract investors and business leaders to the Qatari market.

## Qatar Shell Celebrates Qatari Talent with Special Guest Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa



Under the inspiring theme "My Impact, Our Energy," Qatar Shell proudly hosted its annual Qatarisation Day, reaffirming its commitment to nurturing Qatari talent and advancing national development.

The event was graced by Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who shared words of encouragement with Qatar Shell's leadership and Qatari workforce. Her Excellency captivated the audience with her inspiring words: "Your country sees you, your country needs your support, and your country believes in your potential."

Throughout her speech she highlighted the strong collaboration between Qatar Museums and Qatar Shell, noting that Shell is a founding member of the upcoming Dadu Children's Museum, and together they proudly collaborate on Shell Ecomarathon, which is set to return to Qatar for its second edition in 2026.

The Qatarisation event also featured an engaging panel discussion where Qatari professionals at Shell shared



insights on technical challenges and opportunities in the energy sector, their personal growth journeys, and their aspirations to contribute to Qatar's evolving energy landscape.

Today, Qatar Shell employs over 350 Qatari nationals, many of whom hold senior leadership positions, reflecting the company's steadfast commitment to developing local talent.

The celebration concluded with an awards ceremony honouring individuals who have made outstanding contributions

to Qatarisation in 2025. Qatar Shell's leadership recognised Qatari talent for achievements in areas such as performance, leadership and collaboration.

In his closing remarks, Qatar Shell's Managing Director, Rob Maxwell, addressed the Qatari team with a heartfelt message: "Strive to be the catalyst for change, not merely a contributor. You are the driving force behind genuine energy and meaningful purpose, and your efforts play a vital role in advancing the State of Qatar as we work together to realise the nation's ambitions."

## Commercial Bank, MBG Corporate Services host exclusive VAT advisory workshop

Commercial Bank's Wholesale Banking team hosted an exclusive Advisory Workshop on Value Added Tax (VAT), in collaboration with MBG Corporate Services. The session highlighted the importance of regulatory compliance and meeting obligations within Qatar's evolving economic environment, emphasising the necessity of readiness for VAT implementation. It further explored the practical implications by providing comprehensive insights into VAT principles, addressing sector-specific challenges, and examining key tax considerations. The approach enabled participants to translate broader compliance concepts into concrete, actionable VAT strategies.

Fahad Badar, EGM, Chief Wholesale and International Banking Officer of Commercial Bank, stated: "Building on the success of this workshop and prior initiatives on

trade finance, cash management for schools, and SME digital and financial strategies, we remain committed to delivering expert-led programmes and practical solutions, setting the standard for customer-centric banking. Workshops like this empower participants to approach the business world with confidence and make informed, strategic decisions."

Naresh Manchanda, CEO Qatar, MBG Corporate Services, said: "At MBG Corporate Services, we believe that knowledge-driven engagement is central to building resilient and future-ready organisations. VAT is not merely a tax requirement – it is a critical business discipline. Our collaboration with Commercial Bank reflects a shared vision to support Qatar's corporate sector with practical, actionable guidance on VAT and wider regulatory matters."

## QNB becomes 1st bank in GCC to accept Weixin Pay e-commerce in collaboration with Darwish Holding and NETSTARS

QNB has successfully become the first bank in the GCC to enable Weixin e-commerce acceptance, through a successful collaboration with Darwish Holding and NETSTARS.

The ground-breaking initiative enables QNB's e-commerce merchants to offer Weixin Pay (known internationally as WeChat) as a payment option, catering to the growing number of Chinese tourists and residents. The service is now live on selected Darwish Holding's retail online stores, including Fifty One East, Fnac, iSpace, and Toysaloon in Qatar.

By integrating Weixin's extensive e-commerce ecosystem into the GCC, the collaboration fosters greater financial inclusivity and drives digital innovation. Customers can now enjoy safe, seamless, and secure transactions at local merchants, enhancing their overall shopping experience. As a pioneer in e-commerce and digital payment innovation, QNB continues to play a central role in transforming Qatar's financial and banking landscape.

As a digital banking leader, QNB has played a vital role in enabling the successful implementation of this solution by leveraging its robust acquiring infrastructure and advanced payment gateway systems. The bank worked closely with Darwish Holding and NETSTARS to ensure full compliance with international security standards and seamless integration with local merchants. Darwish Holding's partnership with QNB and NETSTARS to introduce Weixin Pay to the e-commerce landscape in Qatar reflects its commitment to anticipating global consumer expectations and delivering a best-in-class retail experience.



**The ground-breaking initiative enables QNB's e-commerce merchants to offer Weixin Pay (known internationally as WeChat) as a payment option, catering to the growing number of Chinese tourists and residents**

In support of the country's ongoing efforts to attract tourists, especially from China, it is only natural that it adapts and offers familiar, seamless solutions tailored to the customers' needs. Darwish Holding and its subsidiaries have long championed retail innovation, and this collaboration further reinforces Qatar's position as a modern, welcoming destination. As for NETSTARS Co, Ltd, the introduction of Weixin Pay in Qatar's e-commerce landscape aligns with its mission to expand seamless, secure payment experiences globally. This step comes to support the advancement of cashless solutions in Qatar and to help enhance everyday services for both residents and visitors. QNB is committed to driving digital payment innovation and providing seamless payment solutions that enhance customer convenience.



## QCB governor meets officials from Goldman Sachs, Volkswagen and Audi



HE the Qatar Central Bank Governor, Sheikh Bandar bin Mohammed bin Saud al-Thani, met separately yesterday with Senior Advisor at Goldman Sachs Group, Rishi Sunak; and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Volkswagen Group, Hans Dieter Potsch. The meetings discussed the latest global financial and investment developments. HE Sheikh Bandar also met with Gernot Dollner, Chairman of Audi AG. The discussion focused on international financial trends and investment opportunities, reflecting Qatar's ongoing engagement with leading global companies to stay abreast of market dynamics.

## Ericsson, Ooredoo Qatar complete Automated Energy Saver PoC

Ericsson and Ooredoo Qatar have completed a proof of concept (PoC) for the Automated Energy Saver energy-performance feature, showcasing Ericsson's software solutions for Ericsson 5G Advanced Energy Efficiency and Management.

The Automated Energy Saver functionality dynamically optimises resources and energy consumption based on real-time data related to traffic demand and network conditions. This functionality activates or deactivates radio resources based on user throughput, ensuring energy is saved during both low-traffic periods and times of high demand. It exemplifies intent-driven operations that achieve a balance between energy efficiency and user experience. In a span of one week, the PoC achieved a notable reduction of approximately 15% in radio power consumption while maintaining a con-

sistent and high-quality user experience. The success of the PoC is a significant step towards the deployment of Ericsson 5G Advanced on Ooredoo Qatar's network, reinforcing the progress towards the Qatar National Vision 2030 and supporting goals for more sustainable and intelligent connectivity. Hicham Sibli, Chief Technology and Infrastructure Officer at Ooredoo Qatar, said: "The proof of concept of Ericsson's Automated Energy Saver represents Ooredoo Qatar's journey towards a more advanced, intelligent and automated network. By enabling real-time intent-driven automation for more sustainable operations, Ooredoo will benefit from strengthened network intelligence while better serving our customers." Petra Schirren, President Gulf at Ericsson Europe, Middle East and Africa, said: "Our proof

of concept with Ooredoo Qatar shows the capabilities of Ericsson 5G Advanced and intent-based automation to drive energy-efficiency and deliver enhanced network performance. "Ericsson's Automated Energy Saver functionality applies automation to optimise energy consumption based on real-time data while ensuring a seamless user experience. This progress helps build networks ready for rising capacity needs and long-term sustainability." Ericsson and Ooredoo Qatar have an established history of joint projects, including nationwide 5G deployment and microwave backhaul and the earlier roll-out of the Ericsson Smart Connected Site aimed at reducing carbon emissions. The collaboration reflects strong alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030, contributing to national digitalisation and environmental goals.



Engineer Ali al-Kuwari, Msheireb Properties CEO.

## Msheireb Properties CEO named 'Sustainability Leader of the Year' at Big 5 Global Impact Awards 2025

Msheireb Properties has reinforced its position as a leader in green construction and urban innovation as its chief executive officer, Engineer Ali al-Kuwari, was named 'Sustainability Leader of the Year' at the Big 5 Global Impact Awards 2025. The Big 5 Global Impact Awards inspire the global built environment to pursue higher industry standards. Aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the awards recognise outstanding achievements in sustainability, digitalisation and innovation through rigorous evaluation by an independent international panel. The award recognises al-Kuwari's instrumental role in guiding Msheireb Properties' strategic vision and its execution in creating Msheireb Downtown Doha, the world's first sustainable downtown regeneration project. Al-Kuwari said: "Sustainability goes beyond a target; it is a guiding principle that informs every aspect of our work. From urban design and mobility solutions to heritage conservation and community engagement, our goal is to create environments that are resilient, inclusive and future-ready. This

award highlights a fundamental principle at Msheireb Properties: true sustainability is a holistic endeavour. It is not a standalone feature but the very foundation upon which our projects were conceived. It lives in the shade of our architecture, the efficiency of our smart grid, the stories within our heritage museums and the vitality of our community spaces." The accolade for the CEO follows a historic double win for Msheireb Properties at the 2024 awards, where Msheireb Downtown Doha secured the 'Liveable City Initiative of the Year' award and Msheireb Museums won 'Conservation and Heritage Initiative of the Year'. The continued success reinforces Msheireb Properties' status as a leading reference for quality and innovation regionally and internationally. The 'Sustainability Leader of the Year' award acknowledges al-Kuwari's leadership in overseeing a portfolio of groundbreaking initiatives. Under his guidance, Msheireb Properties launched Qatar's first large-scale portfolio decarbonisation strategy for Msheireb Downtown Doha this year, a bold initiative covering over 100 buildings.



From left: Hicham Sibli, Chief Technology and Infrastructure Officer at Ooredoo Qatar, and Petra Schirren, President Gulf at Ericsson Europe, Middle East and Africa.



## QFMA issues new rules on offerings, listings and M&A to attract more foreign investments

From Page 1

The QFMA merged all rules and regulations related to the offering and listing process, such as (rights issues, sukuk and bonds, funds units, book building and share buyback) into unified rules, while added a separate chapter for M&As. On offerings and subscriptions, the QFMA developed the book-building mechanism and required a single offering and listing advisor instead of the previous multiple roles (offering advisor, listing advisor); while in the case of listing, it added a mechanism to determine the reference price

through a pre-listing auction in the case of direct listing. On sukuk and bonds, the QFMA made it mandatory for the company to appoint a trustee to protect the rights of investors in such instruments. The QFMA stipulated the requirement of two years before requesting the transfer to the main market from the junior bourse. About disclosure and transparency; the QFMA made it mandatory to disclose in both Arabic and English. It set additional controls and procedures in case of postponing disclosure to align with international practices and obliging companies to keep lists of

insiders and prevent their trading during the ban period. In the case of restrictions of founders and major shareholders, the QFMA said in the direct listing on the second market, the sale of up to 30% was allowed during the first year. On M&A, it said the acquisition articles shall apply in the case of the acquisition of shares of a listed company (not in the case of the acquisition of a private company) and regulating the reverse acquisition mechanism. It made it mandatory of the compulsory offer when 90% is reached (minority consent is not required).

As per the new rules, the REITs (real estate investment trusts) have been allowed to borrow up to 50% of gross asset value. The key objectives are simplifying the procedures for listing and offering companies on Qatari financial markets and facilitating them for the issuers, enhancing the growth and diversity of the national economy and contributing to the advancement of our capital markets to developed markets, and promoting dealers' confidence, developing regulations and procedures, and providing a safe and sustainable investment environment. "Such new rules will contribute to

addressing any challenges that may face the Qatari capital sector, and will contribute to enhancing the growth and diversity of the national economy, as well as contribute to enhancing the advancing of our capital markets to the rank of developed markets, especially in light of the development of the Qatari capital market and the qualitative leaps it has achieved over the past few years," Sheikh Bandar said. Dr Tamy bin Ahmad al-Binali, chief executive officer of QFMA, said it had presented the rules for public consultation in April last year, inviting all participants dealing in the

Qatari financial markets to review the proposed new draft rules, express opinions on its contents, and provide their comments and suggestions. The desired objectives of any proposed legislative draft to develop the legislative structure of the Qatari capital market will only be achieved through fruitful co-operation and continuous support and assistance from all entities subject to the QFMA's jurisdiction, professionals dealing in the financial markets and companies listed therein, as well as investors dealing in the capital markets, according to him.

## AT YOUR SERVICE

**AUTO - TYRES / BATTERIES / LUBE - CHANGING**

**METRO CITY TRADING W.L.L.** | Cars, 4x4, Pickups, Buses, Trucks, Forklifts  
Street No. 28, Wakalath Street, Ind. Area, M: 33243356, T: 44366833, www.metrocityqatar.com

**BUS RENTAL / HIRE**

**Q MASTER W.L.L.** 15/26/30/65 Seater Buses with / W-out Driver  
Contact # 55853618, 55861541 (24 Hours) F: 44425610 Em: qataroffice@yahoo.com  
**THOUSANDS TRANSPORT** 60/67 Seated A/C non AC Buses w/ w-out driver  
T: 4418 0042..F: 4418 0042..M: 5587 5266..Em: sales@thousandstransport.com  
**TRAVELLER TRANSPORT** - 13/22/26/36 Seater Bus With & Without Driver.  
Tel: 44513283 Mob: 30777432 / 55899097. Email: info@travellertransport.com  
**HIPOWER TRANSPORT:** 13/22/26/66 Seater Buses & Pickups with & without driver.  
Tel: 4468 1056,..... Mob: 7049 5406,..... Em: hipower@safarigroup.net

**CAR HIRE**

**AL SAAD RENT A CAR** Head Office-Bldg: 242, C-Ring Road T: 4444 9300  
Branch-Barwa village, Bldg #17, shop #19.....T: 4415 4414, ...M: 3301 3547  
**AVIS RENT A CAR** Al Nasr Holding Co. Building, Bldg. 84, St. 820, Zone 40  
T: 4466 7744 F: 4465 7626 Airport T: 4010 8887 Em:avis@qatar.net.qa, www.avisqatar.com  
**THOUSANDS RENT A CAR**  
Bldg No 3, Al Andalus Compound, D-ring Rd..T. 44423560, 44423562 M: 5551 4510 F: 44423561  
**BUDGET RENT A CAR** Competitive rates for car rental & leasing  
Main Office T: 4432 5500...M: 6697 1703. Toll Free: 800 4627, Em: info@budgetqatar.com

**CLEANING**

**CAPITAL CLEANING CO. W.L.L.** All type of Cleaning Services-Reasonable Rates  
T: 44582257, 44582546 F: 44582529 M: 33189899 Em: capitalcleaningwll@gmail.com

**COMPUTER SERVICE & SUPPORT**

**SAFE PATH TECHNOLOGIES** - Computer Sales & Services, IT Security / CRM/Networking & CCTV. M: 71665252, 31677366, E: info@safepathtechnologies.com

**ISO / HACCP CONSULTANTS**

**QATAR DESIGN CONSORTIUM** - ISO 9001, 14001, 45001, 39001, 27001, 22301, 41001, etc.  
T: 4419 1777 F: 4443 3873 M: 5540 6516 .....Em: jenson@qdcqatar.net

**LIFT & ELEVATORS**

**SILVER FUJI ELEVATORS:** All Type of Brand New Elevators & Maintenance Service, European standard certified products. ....www.fujilift.qa, M:70454130

**PEST CONTROL & CLEANING**

**QATAR PEST CONTROL COMPANY**  
T: 44222888 M: 55517254, 66590617 F: 44368727, Em:qatarpest@qatar.net.qa

**AT YOUR SERVICE**  
DAILY FOR THREE MONTHS

Updated on 1<sup>st</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> of Every Month

QR. 1200/-



# A more stable future for digital money

**Digital financial transactions have become mainstream, and the technological change has further to run. What are the realities, and the risks?**

By Fahad Badar

This year has proved to be a pivotal year for digital finance, with stablecoins edging into mainstream use, regulations approved that govern stablecoin, and customers increasingly expecting instant settlement for payments. Mobile digital payments are now routine for millions of people.

The total value of all digital payments is projected to reach more than \$20tn in 2025, according to Fintech Magazine. Mobile payments comprise 79% of digital transactions.

There have been many discussions, and feasibility studies, into the establishment of central bank digital currencies, but with few initiatives. The pattern emerging is that governments are preferring to regulate private providers of stablecoins. The increasing use of stablecoins

was a major talking point at October's annual IMF summit in October. Stablecoins are tokens on a blockchain used as digital cash. They differ from a cryptocurrency in that they are pegged one-to-one with a hard currency, usually the dollar. Examples include Ethereum and Tether. Their use has surged in the past two-three years. Stablecoin usage accounts for around \$30bn transactions daily. This is under 1% of all transactions, but it is double the amount of 18 months ago. At current rates, stablecoin use could overtake legacy systems within a decade.

Some of the wariness about a digital currency - that it is intangible and only has value if both parties trust it - has also been true of the major fiat currencies since they came off the gold standard in the early 1970s. People in advanced economies with hard currencies and a mature, well-capitalised banking system, may place more faith in established institutions, but in emerging markets many people are unbanked, and have had experience of the local currency collapsing in value due to high inflation. A major potential obstacle was

that each stablecoin was proprietary to the firm that set it up, limiting their range and potential. But this limitation has been overcome through technical 'bridges', which enable tokens to be transferred across different blockchains.

For many uses, a blockchain-based currency has advantages over the conventional banking system. Transactions, including cross-border transactions, are in real time, 24/7, typically settled in a second or two. Conversion to local currency has been made easier. There have been technical advances by fintechs, for example making digital wallets and payments by mobile phone user-friendly.

For commercial transactions, the stablecoin can be embedded in a smart contract, such that settlement is instant as soon as a delivery is made. This ease of settlement can reduce costs and delays in supply chains. Stablecoin transfers are cheaper than conventional international transfers, with the fintech charging a few cents, rather than a few dollars. International money transfers through banks still go

through a clearing system, which may take some days.

A report by the consultancy McKinsey identified that the three main uses of stablecoins are settling cryptocurrency trading, cross-border payments especially by migrant workers and small businesses, and emerging market governments as a hedge against inflation and for peer-to-peer payments. PricewaterhouseCoopers also noted significant use by institutional investors and high net-worth individuals. The number of active wallets using stablecoins increased by 53% between February 2024 and February 2025, numbering over 30mn.

Regulations governing the use of stablecoins have encouraged their adoption. The GENIUS Act, passed by the US in June this year, sets out provisions for oversight, reserves and stability of stablecoins.

Regulation will help but there are risks. Stablecoins are not legal tender, and holders of stablecoins do not have a legal entitlement to the underlying asset. Stablecoins require an off-ramp - conversion to local currency - although in the future more

people may choose to hold funds in stablecoins. No national government will compensate deposit holders in the case of losses due to a run on a stablecoin, as is the case with many mainstream banks where regulations safeguard citizens' deposits, though they may be capped in some instances.

There is a run risk with stablecoins: while they are primarily for transactional, not speculative, purposes, it is possible that a large number of investors could redeem their holdings simultaneously. This is not a theoretical risk: The stablecoin Terra collapsed in May 2022 following a sudden collapse in confidence by holders. Although a stablecoin is set up with a peg to an established currency, there have been instances of de-pegging, linked to concerns over reserves.

Security is a risk with all financial holdings and transactions. Established stablecoin operators do have checks to prevent fraud, such as 'know your customer' (KYC), and anti-money laundering (AML) measures.

In other ways, the digital revolution is changing payments systems.



Even within the banking industry - for example, banks now partner with fintechs to send money internationally more quickly than through the clearing system of banks.

Established financial firms may purchase or partner with fintechs to expand their coverage in digital finance. US giant JP Morgan has set up a JPM Coin, a stablecoin. From the opposite direction, some Web 3.0 fintechs may seek a banking licence. The broader picture is one of global money becoming digital, mobile, international, with instant settlements and lower fees.

■ The author is a Qatari banker, with many years of experience in the banking sector in senior positions.

# Vodafone Qatar, Hytera forge strategic alliance to advance mission-critical communications in Qatar

Vodafone Qatar has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Hytera International Technology Co, Ltd (HITCL), reinforcing their longstanding partnership and advancing their collaboration in mission-critical communications services.

The MoU was formally signed by Mohammed Mohsin Alyafei, Enterprise Business Unit director at Vodafone Qatar, and Tony Wang, Business Development director at Hytera, during Mobile World Congress (MWC) Doha 2025.

The partnership aims to empower key industries across Qatar, where reliable, secure communications are essential, such as public safety, utilities, transportation, and other mission-critical fields, including healthcare and construction.

Through this collaboration, both organisations will contribute to the safety, resilience, and prosperity of communities nationwide.

By combining Vodafone Qatar's robust network and service capabilities with Hytera's global expertise in mission-critical technologies, the companies



will expand their market presence, enhance service offerings, and drive sustainable business growth.

Hytera's mission-critical communications system is built in full compliance with 3GPP standards and currently meets the Release 18 (R18) specification, reflecting its deep expertise in high-reliability communication platforms.

The partnership sets a new benchmark for mission-critical

performance, enabling AI-driven operations and strengthening Vodafone Qatar's readiness for next-generation network capabilities.

These solutions will provide highly reliable connectivity for sensitive applications, including remote medical support and autonomous emergency response functions.

Alyafei said: "This partnership is a pivotal step in our mission to

deliver world-class communications solutions that empower Qatar's most vital sectors. The MoU reflects a shared vision for a safer, more connected, and more resilient nation, aligned with Qatar's ambitions for digital leadership and sustainable growth.

By partnering with Hytera, we are combining our strengths to set new benchmarks for reliability, innovation, and service excellence."

Stanley Song, vice-president at Hytera, said: "This MoU builds on the solid partnership that Hytera and Vodafone Qatar have developed since 2018, reflecting our shared commitment to advancing mission-critical broadband communications in the region. By combining Hytera's MCX innovation with Vodafone Qatar's strong market presence and service leadership, we aim to create greater long-term value for customers and catalyse technology-driven modernisation across key industries in the Middle East."

The collaboration underscores the companies' shared commitment to innovation and reliability, supporting Qatar's digital transformation in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

## QNB Group named Qatar's Best Cash Management Bank 2025 by Euromoney

QNB Group has been recognised as Qatar's Best Cash Management Bank 2025 by Euromoney during the Transaction Banking Awards ceremony held recently in London.

The prestigious recognition reflects the group's continued commitment to providing advanced cash management solutions that empower corporate and institutional clients to manage liquidity efficiently, optimise working capital, and enhance operational performance.

Judged by Euromoney's expert editorial team, the Transaction Banking Awards recognise institutions that demonstrate excellence and innovation across cash management, payments, trade finance, and digital transformation.

The award also highlights the bank's leadership in adopting in-



The prestigious recognition reflects the QNB Group's continued commitment to providing advanced cash management solutions

novative digital solutions to meet the evolving needs of clients, reinforcing its role as a trusted partner in driving the future of transaction banking.

As part of its strategy, QNB continues to invest in cutting-edge technologies and digital platforms to deliver seamless, secure, and efficient banking experiences for its customers across its international network.

## QSE indices revision to become effective from today; Baladna to replace Barwa in main index

By Santhosh V Perumal  
Business Reporter

The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE)'s revision to its indices will become effective from today as Baladna replaces Barwa Real Estate Company in the main 20-stock QSE index.

The other constituents of the main barometer will remain QNB, Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB), Industries Qatar (IQ), Nakilat, Commercial Bank, AlRayan Bank, Ooredoo, QIB, Dukhan Bank, Milaha, Woqod, Qatar Electricity and Water (QEWC), Doha Bank, Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding (MPHC), Vodafone Qatar, Gulf International Services, Qamco, Estithmar Holding and Ezzan.

Under the new index practices, a review is carried out twice a year to ensure that the selection and weighting of the constituents continues to reflect the purpose of the index.

Aamal Company and Meeza QSTP will join the Al Rayan Islamic Index, whose other constituents are IQ, QIB, AlRayan Bank, Ooredoo, Dukhan Bank, Woqod, United Development Company, MPHC, Barwa, Vodafone Qatar, Milaha, QEWC, QIB, Qamco, Estithmar Holding, Medicare Group, Al Meera, Ezzan, Baladna, Qatar

National Cement and Qatar Islamic Insurance. Al Mahhar Holding will join QE All Share Index and Consumer Goods and Services Index.

All listed companies are ranked by giving free float market capitalisation with a 50% weight and average daily value traded also 50% weight.

Companies with velocity less than 5% are excluded from the review, as are entities whereby a single shareholder can only own less than 1% of outstanding shares. Any qualifying component exceeding 15% weight in the index as of market close March 28, 2023 will have its weight capped at the 15% level and excess weight allocated to remaining stocks proportionately.

The index free-float for a stock is total outstanding shares minus shares directly owned by government and its affiliates, those held by founders and board members and shareholdings above 10% or greater of the total outstanding (except those held by those held by pension funds in the country). The bourse has seven sectors - banks and financial services (with 13 constituents), insurance (seven), industrials (10), real estate (four), telecom (two), transportation (three) and consumer goods and services (14) in the 'All Share Index'.

## MCIT launches 'AI for Startups - Training Workshop Series' to enhance entrepreneurs' capabilities

QNA  
Doha

As part of efforts to enhance the readiness of startups to keep pace with digital transformation and foster a culture of innovation in Qatar, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), through its Digital Incubation Center (DIC) and in partnership with Scale AI, launched the "AI for Startups - Training Workshop Series".

The programme kicked off last week with the first session as part of a comprehensive training track comprising six applied workshops aimed at helping startups develop practical solutions powered by artificial intelligence (AI).

The workshops aim to equip entrepreneurs with advanced hands-on skills through sessions covering AI prototyping, creative coding, the development of intelligent AI agents, responsible AI, trust, and cybersecurity. The programme also featured a final demo session, in which participating startups presented their prototypes and received direct expert feedback.

On this occasion, Eman al-Kuwari, Director of Digital In-



Participants at the training programme.

novation at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, stated: "This training series comes as part of the ministry's ongoing partnership with Scale AI and provides a practical foundation that helps startups integrate AI technologies into their

business models from the early stages.

Through hands-on tools and applications, startups are able to explore modern technologies, test them, and transform them into viable prototypes.

This initiative also contributes

to bringing advanced expertise into Qatar's digital innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, enabling startups to build high-value, data-driven products and strengthening the overall readiness and scalability of the startup landscape."

## QFCRA achieves ISO/SEC 27001:2022 certification

The Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority (QFCRA)'s information technology department has achieved ISO/IEC 27001:2022 certification, the world's leading standard for Information Security Management Systems (ISMS). The rigorous external audit was completed with zero non-conformity, reflecting the robustness of QFCRA's security processes and alignment with international best practices. "Achieving ISO/IEC 27001:2022 certification is a significant milestone that reflects QFCRA's commitment to operational excellence, data protection

and upholding the highest standards of cybersecurity and risk management," said Fatma Abdulrahman al-Meer, chief financial officer and chief operating officer of the QFCRA. Highlighting that this accomplishment by the IT department demonstrates its proactive approach to strong governance, ensuring compliance with global best practices; she said "with this achievement, we remain committed to building secure, reliable and future-ready systems that support our strategic priorities and reinforce the trust of our stakeholders."