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BUSINESS | Page 1

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World Summit AI 2025 opens in Doha

The second edition of the World Summit AI-Qatar 2025 officially commenced yesterday. Organised by Inspired Minds in partnership with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), the Summit is held under the theme “Building the Future of AI Together” and will continue today at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC). The event brings together a distinguished gathering of senior officials, global technology leaders, experts, and entrepreneurs in artificial intelligence and advanced digital innovation. HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai, stated: “Hosting the second edition of the World Summit AI-Qatar in Doha reaffirms Qatar’s strong commitment to advancing a diversified digital economy driven by knowledge, innovation, and cutting-edge technologies. Artificial intelligence is not merely a technological option, it is a strategic necessity shaping the future of our economy, society, and government services.

More stories on Pages 8 & 9



Qatar, Brookfield launch \$20bn AI infrastructure plan

QNA Doha

Brookfield and Qai, Qatar’s AI company and a subsidiary of the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), yesterday announced a strategic partnership to establish a \$20bn joint venture focused on artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in Qatar and select international markets. Under the partnership, Brookfield and Qai will contribute capital and operational expertise to invest in AI infrastructure in Qatar, including the development of fully integrated AI facilities, to support the country’s rapidly expanding digital and AI ecosystem, QIA highlighted in a statement. The partnership will benefit from strategic support from the Government of Qatar to invest in the skills and supply chain necessary to support the backbone of AI infrastructure and to promote the adoption of AI throughout the country. The \$20bn joint venture is expected to play a central role in supporting Qatar’s ambition to become a leading hub for AI services and infrastructure in the Middle East. An Integrated Compute centre will expand regional access to high-performance computing and enable the deployment of trusted AI technologies across key sectors. Beyond Qatar, Brookfield and Qai will explore opportunities to co-develop and construct AI infrastruc-



ture in select international markets. Brookfield and its partners plan to invest in this venture through the recently launched Brookfield Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure Fund (BAIIF). The strategic partnership with Qai will form a cornerstone of Brookfield’s global AI infrastructure programme, which aims to mobilise up to \$100bn of total investment globally. CEO of QIA, Mohammed Saif al-Sowaidi, said: “QIA has been at the forefront of driving advancement through our AI investments. This joint venture is a testament to QIA’s commitment to delivering both local and global impact. Leveraging the long-term partnership we have with Brookfield, this joint venture will advance Qatar’s National Vision 2030 and help build a diversified, innovation-based economy for future generations”. **To Page 8**

Amir approves 2026 budget

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani issued Law No. (26) of 2025 approving the State’s general budget for the fiscal year 2026. The law stipulated its implementation and enforcement as of January 1, 2026, and that it be published in the Official Gazette. **(QNA) Business Page 1**

Amir appoints Undersecretary of Ministry of Municipality

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani yesterday issued Decree No. 110 of 2025, appointing HE Ali bin Mohammed bin Ali al-Ali as Undersecretary of the Ministry of Municipality. The Decree is effective starting from its date of issue and is to be published in the Official Gazette. **(QNA)**



Amiri decision restructures QM Board

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has issued an Amiri decision reshaping the Board of Trustees of Qatar Museums, the body responsible for overseeing the country’s cultural institutions and museum sector. Under Amiri Decision No. 62 of 2025, HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani will continue to serve as chair of the board, with HE Sheikh Thani bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani appointed vice-chair. The newly formed board includes the following members: HE Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, HE Saad bin Ali bin Saad al-Kharji, Mishal bin Mohammed bin Abdullah al-Mahmoud, Mohammed bin Hassan al-Malki, Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Mohammed al-Meer, Reem Mohammed al-Mansoori and Abdullah Ahmed al-Najjar. The decision states that the order comes into effect immediately from the date of issuance and will be published in the official gazette. **(QNA)**

Amir appoints ambassador to Nigeria

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani issued yesterday Amiri Decision No. 63 of 2025, appointing Yousuf Mohammed Ahmed Mohammed al-Hail as ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The decision is effective starting from its date of issue, and is to be published in the official gazette. **(QNA)**

Qatar International Art Festival 2025: A Grand Celebration of Global Artistry continues at Katara

The 7th Edition of the Qatar International Art Festival (QIAF) 2025 opened in spectacular fashion on 7th December with an elegant Red Carpet VIP Opening, inaugurated by Prof. Khalid Bin Ibrahim Al Sulaiti as the esteemed Chief Guest. The festival, hosted at Katara Halls, Building 12, at Katara Cultural Village, continues its vibrant journey until 12th December, promising six captivating days of global artistic brilliance, cultural exchange, and creative celebration. This year’s edition stands out as the largest and most diverse yet, offering a dynamic programme of 15 engaging activities designed to inspire, educate, and connect. The festival schedule features Master classes, Art Workshops, Panel Discussions, Art Conferences, Live Painting Sessions, Artists’ Fashion Shows, Cultural Tours, Networking Dinners, and more, making QIAF 2025 one of the most comprehensive international art gatherings in the region.

A Major Highlight:

QIAF Art Auction with Al Bahie

Among the major attractions of this year’s festival is the much-anticipated QIAF Art Auction, organized in prestigious collaboration with Al Bahie Auction House. The auction will



take place on Wednesday, 10th December 2025 at 7:00 PM at Katara Halls, Building 12. Art collectors, connoisseurs, and enthusiasts are invited to experience an evening of exceptional artistry as selected works from participating global artists go under the hammer.

The auction catalogue is accessible via QR Code, offering a glimpse into the exquisite collection curated for this special event.

Fashion, Creativity & Sustainability Take the Stage

In the upcoming days, QIAF 2025 will present signature runway events, including

- Artistic Fashion Show
- Sustainable Fashion Show
- Master Classes
- Art Auction
- Networking Dinner
- Award & Felicitation ceremony

Fashion Show is scheduled for Thursday, 11th December from 6:30 PM onwards, showcasing a vibrant blend of art, creativity, and sustainability. These shows highlight the festival’s commitment not only to visual arts but also to evolving intersections between art, culture, and conscious design.

A Global Artistic Gathering Under One Roof

With participation from over 500 artists representing more than 70 countries, the festival continues to receive thousands of visitors daily, creating a buzzing, inspirational atmosphere at Katara.



Art lovers, collectors, buyers, and cultural enthusiasts are warmly encouraged to visit and experience this extraordinary celebration, the region’s most vibrant showcases of artistic talent, an unforgettable opportunity to witness the world of art converge in Doha.

Leadership & Partners

The Qatar International Art Festival is organized under the robust leadership of Mrs. Rashmi Agarwal, Founder and CEO of QIAF and MAPS International WLL. Her vision and dedication continue to elevate the festival’s global footprint each year. QIAF 2025 is proudly presented in collaboration with Katara Cultural Village as Cultural Partners and British Council Qatar as Institutional Partners. As QIAF 2025 unfolds, it promises inspiration, discovery, and connection for everyone who steps into its creative world. With its diverse programming, prestigious auction, global participation, and dedication to cultural exchange, the festival continues to stand as one of Qatar’s most prominent cultural landmarks. QIAF 2025 continues until 12th December at Katara Cultural Village, the doors are open for all to experience the beauty and power of art.



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Interior minister, FBI chief visit National Command Center

HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani visited the National Command Center (NCC) yesterday, accompanied by Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the friendly United States of America, Kashyap Patel.

The FBI director was briefed on the command and control systems and advanced technologies used in monitoring, analysis, and decision support, in addition to the centre's role in managing events and crises. The visit also included the Tournament Command Center (TCC) to learn about the operational capabilities and



technologies adopted in managing and securing sporting events, thus enhancing preparedness for responding to major events. (QNA)

Attorney-general meets Swiss counterpart

HE the Attorney-General Dr Issa Saad al-Jafali al-Nuaimi met yesterday with the visiting Attorney-General of the Swiss Confederation Stefan Blattler. During the meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen co-operation, particularly in the areas of training and the exchange of expertise, in addition to exchanging views on several topics of mutual interest. The two sides also toured the Institute of Criminal Studies and the Public Prosecution's pavilion at the World Summit Al - Qatar 2025, where they were briefed on the latest projects developed by the Public Prosecution using AI. (QNA)



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Qatar condemns Israeli raid on UNRWA HQ in East Jerusalem

Qatar has strongly condemned the Israeli occupation's raid on the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) headquarters in occupied East Jerusalem, calling it a blatant violation of international humanitarian law and a direct challenge to international will.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned that Israel's systematic targeting of UNRWA threatens the agency's ability to provide essential services to millions of Palestinians in Gaza,

the West Bank, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. The ministry urged the international community to act firmly to prevent what it described as potentially catastrophic humanitarian consequences. Qatar reaffirmed its full support for UNRWA, highlighting its longstanding commitment to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish an independent state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. (QNA)

Shura Council panel reviews parental role in child upbringing

The Shura Council has continued its review of a general debate request examining the importance of parents' role in raising children, as part of ongoing legislative deliberations on social and educational issues.

The Social Affairs, Labour and Housing Committee met under the chairmanship of HE the Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem to assess the topic, which had been formally referred to the committee by the Council.

As part of the session, the committee hosted HE Sheikhha Dr Hessa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani – chair and founder of the Center for Wellbeing and an assistant professor in educational sciences at Qatar University – along with several academic experts



from the university's College of Arts and Sciences and College of Education.

A number of educators, specialists and stakeholders in the field of child development also took part.

Participants outlined key scientific and educational dimensions related to parental involvement,

discussed current challenges, and presented recommendations on strengthening the family's role in supporting children and fostering their skills and behaviour. The committee resolved to continue its study of the issue at a forthcoming meeting. (QNA)

Shura Councils of Qatar, Saudi hold talks, sign pact to boost parliamentary ties

The Shura Council held an official round of discussions yesterday with the Shura Council in Saudi Arabia, which addressed the path of parliamentary relations between the two sides and ways to enhance them, and the development of joint action mechanisms in various regional and global forums.

The Qatari side was chaired by HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, while the Saudi side was chaired by the Speaker of the Shura Council Sheikh Dr Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Ibrahim al-Sheikh, who is visiting Doha as part of boosting co-operation between the two Councils.

At the beginning of the session, HE al-Ghanem welcomed his Saudi counterpart, emphasising that the enduring ties and clear-eyed directives from both leaderships constitute a solid foundation to support the joint parliamentary action.

Sheikh Dr Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Ibrahim al-Sheikh expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome, hailing the growing relationship and co-ordination between the Qatar and Saudi Arabia, stemming from the commitment of the leaderships of the two sisterly nations to deepening the collaborative and integrated approach.

He stressed that these bonds are rooted in historic ties between the people, founded on shared values, mutual trust, and enduring friendship, emphasising that the relationship is accompanied by



a continued commitment to deepen co-operation across a broad spectrum of sectors, reflecting the breadth and depth of the bilateral relationship and paving the way for expanded institutional collaboration, particularly in parliamentary and developmental arenas.

Both sides addressed the persistent thriving ties between the nations, especially in light of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's official visit to Riyadh on Monday, and his meeting with Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, which culminated in signing a deal on the high-speed electric rail link, alongside an array of memoranda of understanding in the areas of transportation, investment, food security and media.

The two Speakers emphasised that

these outcomes manifest the strength of the bilateral relationship and support the pathways towards economic integration, in addition to expediting the commercial traffic and connection between the brotherly peoples.

Meanwhile, both sides explored a range of topics pertaining to advancing parliamentary co-operation, stressing the importance of co-ordinating positions in the parliamentary, Gulf, Arab, and international fora, thereby enhancing joint action and contributing to achieving the utmost interests of the GCC states, as well as Arab and Islamic nations.

Thereafter, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to beef up institutional co-operation between the two Councils and advance paths of parliamentary co-ordination, in addition to sharing expertise and intensifying parliamentary visits. (QNA)

Adviser to PM and official spokesperson for MoFA meets Azerbaijan's deputy FM and British official



HE the Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Dr Majid bin Mohammed al-Ansari met yesterday with the visiting Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Fariz Rzayev. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen and develop them, in addition to discussing several regional and international issues of common interest. (QNA)



HE Dr al-Ansari also met yesterday with the visiting Joint Head of Iraq and Arabian Peninsula Department at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Thomas Allan. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral co-operation between the countries and ways to support and develop it. (QNA)

QRCS provides drinking water to Gaza residents

Amid extremely deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Gaza, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has completed the distribution of 31,000 litres of potable water to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and residents in the governorates of Gaza, Central Gaza, and Khan Younis.

Implemented in partnership with Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO), this distribution is part of the 'Vegetable Parcels and Water Tankers for Gaza' project, a statement said.

Dr Akram Nassar, head of QRCS' representation office in Gaza, said that their current humanitarian efforts focused on securing water services, given the severe water scarcity due to the war.

The water sector was badly affected by the destruction of main water supply networks and pipelines, lack of access to fuel for the operation of municipal and private water wells, and attacks against municipal technicians while attempting to deliver water to the population, he pointed out.

"In continuous co-ordination with our partners, JHCO and Rawabi Foundation, we completed the water distribution in Gaza in two phases: (1) 13,500 litres in Gaza City and (2) 17,500 litres in Central Gaza and Khan Younis. This helped alleviate the suffering of IDPs at shelter camps and in residential areas," Dr Nassar explained.

Totalling \$2,743,484 (more than QR10mn) in value, the



project is part of QRCS' successive emergency relief interventions, aimed at providing all forms of humanitarian assistance for the Palestinian people in the blockade.

To help protect the Palestinian's right to a safe and decent life, QRCS has called upon all the benevolent donors in Qatar to donate to the 'Life for Gaza' campaign, which would meet the food, water, health, and winterisation needs of the affected Palestinian families, via its website (www.qrcs.qa), mobile app (QRCS), donor service (66666364), home donation collection (33998898), or donation collection points at malls and shopping centres, the statement added.

15th Katara Traditional Dhow Festival attracts participants from 12 nations

The 15th Katara Traditional Dhow Festival has opened on the southern side of Katara Cultural Village, bringing together participants from 12 countries in a celebration of Qatar's shared maritime heritage.

Delegations praised the deep cultural ties linking their nations with Qatar, noting that the festival offers a platform to showcase long-standing seafaring traditions to local and international visitors.

Hamad al-Sayar, head of the maritime heritage committee at the Kuwait Sea Sports Club, told QNA that Kuwait's 12th participation highlights the common Gulf maritime legacy. The Kuwaiti pavilion features a photographic exhibition documenting traditional ship-repair techniques, as well as displays

of historical tools and diving equipment. He said the festival provides an important opportunity for Gulf neighbours to exchange expertise, praising the event's continued development and organisation. Representing the United Arab Emirates, Mohammed al-Johouri al-Hammadi of Sharjah said the UAE pavilion showcases maritime artefacts curated by Sharjah's heritage and marine institutions, and hosts activities for children and students. He stressed the strong maritime links between Qatar, Gulf states and countries across the region.

Sudan is participating for the first time. Its pavilion features images of a Unesco-recognised nature reserve, traditional crafts, Red Sea maritime artefacts and Sudanese cuisine. The festival runs until December 18. (QNA)

Foreign ministry holds roundtable on best practices to end violence against women

The Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in co-operation with the UN Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region, organised a roundtable on exchanging best practices to end violence against women and girls, as part of the activities of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

The roundtable was attended by Acting Director of the Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sarah Abdullah al-Saadi, along with a number of ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions accredited to the state, in addition to representatives of relevant national entities. The roundtable discussed the main challenges related to the persistence of violence against women despite legislative developments, focusing on enhancing international and regional dialogue and exchanging successful experiences among others. (QNA)



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ANNOUNCEMENT

إعلان

Doha Group Trading & Contracting W.L.L., the lawful owner of the trade name and all associated rights, officially registered in the State of Qatar under Commercial Registration No. **67720**, has identified unauthorized use of the company's name by certain individuals and entities. Such actions represent a clear violation of the company's trade identity and intellectual property and have occurred without prior written consent.

This announcement serves as a **final and definitive warning**. All persons or entities currently using the company's trade name must immediately cease such use and remove all related content, advertisements, or activities displaying the company's name **within a maximum of forty-eight (48) hours** from the date of this publication.

The company will thereafter proceed with all necessary **legal measures**, including pursuing compensation and filing lawsuits before the competent courts, without further notice to the violator.

تعلن شركة الدوحة للتجارة والمقاولات ذ.م.م، المالكة للأسم التجاري وكافة الحقوق المرتبطة به، المسجلة رسمياً في دولة قطر تحت السجل التجاري رقم **67720**، أنها قد رصدت قيام بعض الأفراد والجهات باستخدام اسم الشركة بشكل غير قانوني ودون الحصول على موافقة خطية مسبقة، مما يشكل انتهاكاً صريحاً للهوية التجارية والحقوق الفكرية للشركة.

وإذ تُصدر الشركة هذا الإعلان كتحذير نهائي وحاسم، فإنها تلزم **جميع الأفراد والجهات** الذين يستخدمون الاسم التجاري بالتوقف الفوري عن هذا الاستخدام، وإزالة أي محتوى أو إعلانات أو أنشطة تحمل اسم الشركة خلال مدة لا تتجاوز **ثمانين وأربعين (٤٨) ساعة** من تاريخ نشر هذا الإعلان.

وبمنح الشركة الحق في اتخاذ جميع الإجراءات القانونية اللازمة، بما في ذلك المطالبة بالتعويض ورفع الدعاوى أمام الجهات القضائية المختصة، دون توجيه أي إنذار آخر للمخالف.



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Invitation to Tender

Tender / Auction Number	Subject	Tender / Auction Document Fees (Non-refundable)	Tender / Auction Bond	Tender/Auction Offer	Closing Date
AL-AWALIA/TD/2025/38	Call-Off Agreement for Third Party Inspection, Training and Certification for Staffs, Equipment, and Assets for Qatar Primary Materials Company ("Services")	500 QAR	9,000 QAR	Two Bids (Technical & Commercial)	17 December 2025 01:00 PM

In accordance with the following conditions:

- Tender Documents can be collected online by sending email to tender@qpmc.qa along with requested documents in point No.2.
- Tender Documents will be shared only after delivery of Deposit Slip Stamped by Commercial Bank along with Authorization Letter to the delegated person signed by authorized person as per Computer ID, Copy of commercial Registration (CR), Business License and Computer ID.
- Bids are to be submitted in two sealed (in red wax) envelopes (Technical & Commercial) and addressed to Tenders and Auction Committee. Tender reference number and subject are to be clearly written on the envelopes, provided that the last date for submitting bids is one o'clock in the afternoon on the closing day. Any bids submitted after this date and time will not be accepted.
- Tenders shall submit the proposals to our head office located at Lusail, Building No. 108, St. No. 303, Bay Marina Tower, 17th Floor/above the closing date. (To get the map of the new building, please scan the QR code below).
- Tender Fees are non-refundable and can be transferred online to Account of Qatar Primary Material Company - Bank A/C (4050-65111-000) at Commercial Bank of Qatar. **IBAN No. (QA 18 CBQA 0000 0000 4050 65111 000)** Tender reference number and subject are to be written on the deposit slip.
- Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee/ Manager Cheque) must be valid for 120 days after closing date and must be submitted in separate & sealed envelope along with technical bid and a photocopy is to be attached with commercial bid. Bids without tender bond will be rejected.
- Bids must be valid for 90 days after the closing date.
- Any queries relating to the Tender Documents must only be raised in writing, preferably by email, to the address specified in the respective Tender Document. Any response issued by Qatar Primary Material Company will be in the form of a question and answer and will be distributed to all Tenderers without revealing the identity of the originator of the query(ies) in the Form of Tender Bulletins. Queries must be received at the address specified in the respective ITT Documentation at least five (5) calendar days prior to the Tender closing date. Any queries received after such a date will be ignored.
- The amount of the Performance Bond to be provided by the awarded bidder is (10% of the contract value) and its validity period must remain valid under the contract implementation period and the guarantee period according to the terms of the Tender.
- The Technical Bids shall be opened within one week of the closing date.
- Qatar Primary Material Company has the right, during the contract period, to request an increase or decrease in the amounts of the items, works or services by a percentage not exceeding (20%) of the contract value with the same conditions and prices, provided that the increase is of the same type of contracted items, works or services.
- Qatar Primary Material Company's tendering terms and conditions apply.
- For any inquiries about the tender except collecting the documents, please contact tender@qpmc.qa
- Location of the new building



For further Inquiry, please send your queries at email to tender@qpmc.qa or visit Qatar Primary Material Company website @ www.qpmc.qa



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The EMS and ABS setting new benchmarks in immersive education

The English Modern School (EMS), a respected British curriculum school in Qatar with over 30 years of excellence, is deeply committed to innovation and global standards. As part of the Almuftah Group and accredited by CIS and NEASC, EMS is focused on preparing students for a digital world, a mission underscored by its status as one of Qatar's first Google Referenced schools.

EMS's philosophy is clear: technology must be a tool for "active learning and creativity. To support this, the school has invested heavily in digital resources, including Chromebooks for Years 7-12 and advanced laboratories. This commitment recently culminated in the adoption of the latest generation of ClassVR devices, integrating Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) seamlessly across the curriculum. The implementation was expertly managed by Artistic Business Solutions (ABS), the local representative with a commitment to enhancing Qatar's community through Edu-tech.

The impact has been profound, fostering a culture of personalized learning where students are empowered to innovate and take "ownership of the learning." This



Ms. Hiba Bou Ajram, 21st Century Learning Coordinator at EMS Doha, is instrumental in leading this pedagogical shift toward active, student-centered learning. She states that "The new solutions do more than just allow our teachers to create lessons students truly experience and remember; they also empower students to find their voice by enabling them to create their own VR experiences." Furthermore, EMS prioritizes parent engagement, utilizing platforms like Google Classroom to keep the entire community involved, ensuring a supportive ecosystem where everyone works together for student success.

Mr. Christian Partridge of Avantis Education applauds EMS, noting its continued success in showing how investment in immersive learning can "inspire creativity and strengthen understanding." Supported by ABS and Avantis Education, EMS's successful upgrade is now poised to expand this world-leading immersive education to every branch across Qatar, setting new benchmarks aligned with national strategic educational goals.

This commitment recently culminated in the adoption of the latest generation of ClassVR devices, integrating Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) seamlessly across the curriculum. The implementation was expertly managed by Artistic Business Solutions (ABS), the local representative with a commitment to enhancing Qatar's community through Edu-tech.



approach transforms subject delivery. In line with the Cambridge Curriculum's "Digital Literacy" focus, teachers across disciplines use ClassVR. A science lesson, for example, is brought to life as students manipulate 3D organs via AR on a QR cube or take immersive VR tours of the human body. This active engagement turns passive learning into a meaningful and "futuristic" experience.

ABS cultivated a strategic partnership with EMS, leveraging their deep expertise in AI, VR/AR, and XR to provide the optimal solution. The continuous support and training provided by ABS ensures that teachers, even those new to the technology, quickly become proficient, requiring only minimal training due to ClassVR's user-friendly nature.



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QFFD signs pacts worth over QR2.016bn at 23rd Doha Forum

Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) has announced the signing of 18 development and humanitarian agreements, with a total contribution exceeding QR2.016bn, targeting more than 4.7mn beneficiaries worldwide, on the sidelines of the 23rd edition of the Doha Forum 2025, which concluded Monday.

These agreements span a range of priority sectors that contribute to improving the quality of health services, expanding access to education, strengthening infrastructure, enhancing food security, empowering youth and women, supporting communities affected by conflict and natural disasters, and strengthening systems' resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The signing ceremonies were witnessed by QFFD chairperson HE Sheikh Thani bin Hamad al-Thani, vice-chairperson and Minister of State for International Co-operation HE Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, King Hussein Cancer Foundation and the Center's Board of Trustees chairperson Princess Ghida Talal, and Gates Foundation chair and board member Bill Gates, along with high-level representatives of partner organisations.

These partnerships aim to advance innovative financing and expand development impact through strengthened multilateral co-operation with leading international and regional institutions,

the private sector, and governments including Gates Foundation, King Hussein Cancer Foundation, Asian Development Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (WorldFish), the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Religious Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan, Amref Health Africa, the Agence Française de Développement, the Qatar Olympic Committee, Qatar Charity, and Qatar Red Crescent.

QFFD director general Fahad Hamad al-Sulaiti, stated: "These partnerships underscore Qatar's unwavering commitment to confronting global development and humanitarian challenges through innovative, scalable, and forward-looking financing solutions. By harnessing QFFD's diverse instruments, ranging from grants and concessional loans to catalytic capital, guarantees, and more, we are shaping a new model of sustainable, impact-driven co-operation. Our collaboration with international banks and leading global and local institutions further reinforces our strategic vision for the next five years and amplifies our collective ability to deliver meaningful, long-term change."

QFFD further strengthened global dialogue by convening two high-level sessions during the Fo-

rum, bringing together ministers, development banks, multilateral organisations, and private-sector leaders. The first session, titled 'Empowering Africa's Future: Addressing Regional Priorities for Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Growth' focused on economic empowerment in Africa as a key pillar for sustainable and inclusive growth in the region, emphasising the creation of equitable economic opportunities and enhancing prosperity across the continent.

The second session, titled 'Innovative Financing for Development: Scaling Impact and Driving Inclusive, Sustainable Growth' examined the role of innovative financing in accelerating development and achieving Sustainable Development Goals, contributing to a broader global conversation on effective tools and solutions capable of transforming international commitments into meaningful impact that supports the world's most vulnerable communities and strengthens their resilience to humanitarian and development challenges.

Together, these initiatives underscore Qatar's commitment to international solidarity and shared responsibility, aligning with the vision of Doha Forum 2025 under the theme 'Justice in Action: From Promises to Progress,' reflecting a collective aspiration to build a more just, inclusive, and resilient future for all, a statement added.

QCS, Acibadem Healthcare Group in new agreement to boost cancer care

The Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Acibadem Healthcare Group in Istanbul to enhance international collaboration and exchange expertise in cancer awareness, prevention, and patient care.

The agreement was signed by Dr Mohannad Adnan, adviser, QCS and Mustafa Eroglu, member of the Board of Directors of Acibadem Group.

The two-year agreement includes scientific and community programmes that contribute to improving the level of awareness and healthcare provided to patients in both Qatar and Türkiye.

The MoU includes joint awareness campaigns, the launch of support programmes for patients and their families, and the organisation of conferences and workshops for medical professionals to enhance their skills and keep abreast of the latest developments in oncology.

The agreement also outlines opportunities to offer free or subsidised health screening programmes, jointly organised by QCS and Acibadem, which support early detection efforts and improve the overall quality of healthcare services available to patients.

Both entities affirm that this partnership represents a strategic step towards strengthening medical innovation, transferring global expertise, and ensuring the highest standards of qual-



The agreement aims at enhancing international collaboration and exchanging expertise.

ity in healthcare – ultimately contributing to better patient outcomes and expanding health awareness within the community.

The visit of the Qatar Cancer Society delegation to the Acibadem Group included a comprehensive introductory tour of the group's medical facilities, where the delegation was briefed on the latest technologies used in cancer diagnosis and treatment. They also learned about the psychological support systems for patients and the early screening services. The delegation additionally visited the Training and Skills Development Center for healthcare providers at Acibadem University, as well as the Research Centre.

Dr Adnan stated: "The signing of this MoU reaffirms our

mission to raise awareness about cancer, its prevention, and the importance of early detection. It also reflects our ongoing efforts to provide financial, psychological, and community support to patients, survivors, and their families, in addition to contributing to professional development and scientific research in the field of cancer."

Eroglu added: "We are delighted to welcome the Qatar Cancer Society delegation, and we look forward to building a sustainable partnership that contributes to advancing cancer treatment services and providing the latest medical technologies to patients across the region. We remain committed to sharing our global expertise with our partners to strengthen the future of healthcare."

Old Doha Port unveils interactive experience to showcase early days

Old Doha Port invites visitors to step into the heart of Doha's past through a one-of-a-kind cultural experience that brings the spirit of the old Farj neighbourhoods to life.

Designed as a walk-through narrative of community, memory, and tradition, the journey reconnects guests with the places where families once gathered, children played, and generations shaped the social fabric of the city. Spanning the period between the 1930s and 1950s, the experience traces the evolution of Doha's earliest neighbourhoods through detailed models that highlight the architectural styles and building techniques of the time. Visitors see the shift from an era defined by pearl diving and fishing to the early days of oil discovery, which marked the beginning of Doha's urban transformation and the foundations of the modern city.

Located within the scenic backdrop of Old Doha Port, the installation showcases how the city developed over the decades, from the changing landscapes of its markets and residential quarters to the formation of new landmarks, while preserving the authentic character, values, and traditions of its people. It highlights the closeness of traditional homes, the role of mosques as spaces of gathering and learning, and the importance of historic markets as engines of daily life and guardians of Qatar's cultural identity. This immersive experience offers visitors a rich



and engaging way to rediscover Doha's roots, blending education with exploration and presenting the city's early stories through an innovative and interactive format.

The journey concludes by inviting visitors to experience the story of Doha in a way they have never seen before, revived and reimagined at Old Doha Port.

Vodafone Qatar official spotlights AI, cybersecurity at Barzan College

Vodafone Qatar chief technology officer Ramy Bactor has delivered a lecture on the growing impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on cybersecurity and telecommunications network resilience before postgraduate students at Barzan University College. The session formed part of its MA Cyber Security programme. In his lecture, Bactor emphasised the growing complexity of protecting national digital infrastructure as 5G, IoT, and cloud technologies continue to expand. He noted that AI-driven attacks, such as deepfake social engineering, automated malware, and large-scale ransomware, are changing today's threat landscape.

The lecture also delved into ways telecom operators are utilising machine learning, automated incident response, and predictive analytics to enhance threat detection and operational resilience.

Bactor said, "AI is redefining both the scope of cyber risk and the tools we use to protect national networks. Working with academic institutions like Barzan University College is crucial to preparing the next generation of cybersecurity experts for this rapidly changing landscape. Vodafone Qatar is committed to advancing national capabilities through knowledge-



Vodafone Qatar chief technology officer Ramy Bactor.

sharing and hands-on industry engagement. "Vodafone Qatar continues to support initiatives that promote industry-academia collaboration and contribute to a more secure, future-ready Qatar, in line with the country's digital transformation journey and Qatar National Vision 2030. To learn more about Vodafone Qatar's services and solutions, visit <https://www.vodafone.qa/en/business/home>

NHRC marks Human Rights Day with awareness talk

The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC), in co-operation with the General Secretariat of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions and the UN Center for Training and Documentation in Human Rights for South-West Asia and the Arab Region, organised a talk in celebration of Human Rights Day.

The talk aimed to highlight human rights as not merely slogans or rigid legal texts, but as the foundation of daily interaction between individuals and societies. It also reaffirmed that the defence of rights is a collective responsibility that requires integrated efforts between governments, institutions, and civil society, in addition to calling for the transformation of principles into practical policies that ensure a dignified life for every human being.

In this context, HE the Vice-Chairman of the National Human Rights Committee Dr Mohammed bin Saif al-Kuwari said that this occasion marked a pivotal moment in modern human history.

He said that today we witness an advanced level of awareness of the concept of human rights thanks to this universal document, and that the principle of equality has become a fundamental pillar of most international conventions and national constitutions.

He noted that just over seven decades ago, the world viewed large segments of humanity as being of lesser value and dignity than others. He also emphasised that one cannot speak of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights without recalling the Arab contribution to it.

He pointed out that the complex global challenges the world faces



today, whether climate change, environmental degradation, digital transformation, terrorism, and armed conflicts, result in widespread violations of human rights. He stressed that addressing them requires collective international action that ensures that the fruits of scientific progress and development are shared by all humanity

without discrimination.

He reaffirmed that this global occasion has particular significance in Qatar, as it represents an opportunity to reiterate that human rights are not merely theoretical texts but a practical tool enabling individuals and societies to build a better future.

He said that this year's theme

clearly aligns with Qatar's Permanent Constitution, which emphasises the preservation of human dignity in many of its provisions, and that this principle is consistent with Sharia, the main source of legislation.

He also highlighted the State's commitment to implementing the human rights conventions to which it is a party.

He said that the National Human Rights Committee plays a pivotal role in promoting a culture of human rights, drawing on the Islamic civilisational heritage grounded in justice, equality, noble ethics, and respect for human dignity. He noted that the Committee has made continuous efforts to raise awareness and to protect these rights, participated in numerous international forums, and achieved a distinguished global standing.

He affirmed the continued work of the Committee across many areas, including education, health, labour, environment, and the rights of vulnerable groups such as children, women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. He highlighted the Committee's role in ensuring that no individual was deprived of their rights during key events and major activities hosted by Qatar in recent years, such as the Covid-19 pandemic and major sporting events.

Secretary-General of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions Sultan bin Hassan al-Jamali said the High Commissioner's selection of this year's theme was a clear call to rediscover the essence of human rights in the details of our daily lives, as these details form the basis for building the human dignity everyone seeks. (QNA)



Jallow with Malang and the accompanying delegation were received by the Qatar International Court's Lord John and al-Sahouti.

Gambian delegation visits Qatar International Court

The Qatar International Court has welcomed Gambia Attorney-General and Minister of Justice Dawda Jallow, along with the Gambia's ambassador to Qatar Foday Malang, and the accompanying delegation.

The delegation was received by the court president, Lord John Thomas, and chief executive Faisal bin Rashid al-Sahouti.

Jallow received a detailed briefing on the court's judicial jurisdiction, which covers civil and commercial disputes arising within the Qatar Financial Centre and the free zones, as well as the nature of cases filed before

the court and the procedures governing their management, which ensure independence, impartiality, and transparency for all parties.

During a tour of the courtroom, the delegation observed the electronic case management system used by the court, known as the "E-Court", which is considered one of the most advanced systems currently applied in commercial courts.

The system enables litigants to file cases, submit evidence and documents, attend hearings, and subsequently obtain and enforce judgments through secure and modern digital mechanisms.

NCCCR achieves ABHS accreditation

The National Centre for Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR), part of Hamad Medical Corporation, has announced the granting of official accreditation by the Arab Board of Health Specialisations (ABHS) to Qatar, with the NCCCR as a recognised training centre for the Medical Oncology Fellowship Programme.

This accreditation reflects the NCCCR's dedication to excellence in cancer education, clinical training, and professional advancement.

Through this recognition, NCCCR further strengthens its position as a regional leader in oncology training, enabling physicians from Qatar and across the Arab world to pursue specialised medical oncology education that meets international standards.

Doha Debates hosts live episode of 'The Negotiators' podcast

Qatar Foundation (QF)'s Doha Debates spotlighted the practice of high-stakes negotiation with a special live episode of its award-winning podcast with Foreign Policy, The Negotiators, at Doha Forum, following the launch of the podcast series' fifth season on December 1.

Held in collaboration with The Negotiators' special partner for this season, the International Peace Institute (IPI), and Doha Debates' longstanding production partner, Foreign Policy, the episode featured a conversation between International Peace Institute president and chief executive Prince Zeid bin Ra'ad bin Zeid al-Hussein, and Dr Robert Malley, professor and author.

Moderated live, the discussion explored the pursuit of peace between Israel and Palestine, drawing from both speakers' extensive experience in diplomacy and conflict resolution.

The conversation also examined key moments from Malley's book *Tomorrow Is Yesterday: Life, Death, and the Pursuit of Peace in Israel-Palestine*, co-authored with Hussein Agha, alongside reflections on other major negotiations, including the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Al-Hussein opened the session by introducing Dr Malley's work in high-stakes mediation.



Prince Zeid bin Ra'ad bin Zeid al-Hussein and Dr Robert Malley.

"It is my great honour to be interviewing Dr Malley as part of The Negotiators series, produced by Doha Debates and Foreign Policy with the support of the IPI," he said. "Robert is one of America's most experienced diplomats and negotiators."

Sharing key insights from his career, Dr Malley offered an inside view of the challenges negotiators face and the paths toward lasting agreements.

"People have to be more creative, more courageous, and more imaginative," he said.

Adding further perspective, Doha Debates managing director Amjad Atallah highlighted the importance of making negotiation more accessible to global audiences, noting Qatar's unique role in supporting dialogue efforts worldwide.

The latest episodes in season five of the podcast series, *How 193 Countries Agreed on the Crime of Aggression* and *Inside the 'Impossible' Deal That Averted an Environmental Disaster in Yemen*, are available on major podcast platforms.

New episodes will be released weekly until the Doha Forum taping debuts on February 2, 2026.



Abdulrahman al-Marri and Sadiq Mohammed al-Amari at the signing ceremony. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

"Co-operation between national institutions is a national duty aimed at unifying efforts and achieving institutional integration across different sectors in a way that serves the public interest and strengthens the role of media and culture in Qatar," he said.

He emphasised the need to create a shared vision between the Award and the QPC that helps utilise translation to serve the media and journalism fields.

Al-Marri noted that translation is not merely the transfer of language, but a bridge of communication between cultures and nations.

He explained that benefiting from translators' expertise contributes to improving journalistic content and enhancing the quality of media outputs, especially amid rapid developments in artificial intelligence and the challenges it poses to the accuracy and integrity of translation.

Al-Amari meanwhile noted that the Award represents a national and humanistic value in spreading a culture of understanding and dialogue between different peoples.

He lauded the Award's vision

and objectives in improving the image of Arabs and Muslims in other cultures, noting that this noble purpose aligns with the QPC's mission of promoting responsible media and conveying a positive portrayal of Qatari and Arab society.

"This agreement opens a new chapter of cultural and media co-operation that supports the principles of openness and dialogue, strengthens Qatar's stature as a beacon of understanding and communication between nations, and reinforces the country's pioneering role in supporting culture and knowledge as two essential pillars of human development," al-Amari said.

He said the translation and media are complementary wings of one mission: disseminating knowledge and building bridges between nations.

Established in Qatar in 2015, the Sheikh Hamad Award is one of the world's most prominent prizes dedicated to translation as a bridge between cultures and a tool for strengthening human dialogue.

It aims to honour creative translators who contribute to transferring knowledge, literature and human thought between different languages and cultures, and to reinforce the values of mutual understanding and respect among peoples.

Recall orders for Ford, Lexus models

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Almana Motors Company, has announced the recall of Ford Explorer vehicle 2025 model, due to a defective audio title/widget on the home screen responsible for changing audio source (AM, FM, Bluetooth).

The ministry, in co-operation with Al Abdulghani Motors, also announced the recall of Lexus LX600, NX, ES, LS350, UX, UX300h vehicles 2022-2025 models.

The recall is due to a possible defect in the Parking Assist ECU, which may lead the rear-view image to freeze briefly during reverse

or rear-view image does not display during reverse if the ignition is turned on and off within a specific time.

The ministry urged all consumers to report any violations or breaches by contacting the Consumer Protection and Combatting Commercial Fraud Department, which receives complaints, suggestions, and inquiries through the following communication channels: Call Centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, ministry's accounts on social media: @mociqatar, ministry's Mobile App: MOCIQATAR (available on iOS and Android devices).

TEDxQatarUniversity 2025 concludes

Qatar University (QU) has concluded the TEDxQatarUniversity 2025 conference, which saw the participation of distinguished speakers, experts, and students, with wide attendance from the university community and enthusiasts of creative ideas and inspiring stories.

This year's edition, titled "Hidden Threads", explored the unseen forces that shape human decisions, guide emotions, and leave an impact on one's academic and professional journey.

The conference delivered a series of talks by prominent figures in medicine, science, arts, health, psychology, and space, in addition to youth experiences presented by QU students.

It also offered an interactive space through an exhibition showcasing projects and initiatives that reflect a spirit of research and creativity.

"At QU, we believe in the importance of providing a supportive environment that allows our students to express their ideas and showcase their talents," Abdullah al-Mulla, director of the QU's Department of Student Activities, said. "TEDx is one of the key initiatives that empowers young people to share their



inspiring experiences and stories with the community."

Yaser al-Qwasmi, head of the Clubs and Student Organisations Section and the licence holder of TEDxQatarUniversity, emphasised that this year's theme reflects the human depth behind the impactful experiences shared by the speakers.

Abdullah al-Kubaisi, one of the emcees, described the event as a platform that brought together creativity, dialogue, and knowledge in one space, reflecting QU students' passion for excellence and innovation.

The speakers' lineup featured ex-

perts and students, including Dr Giredhara Babu from the QU's College of Medicine, who discussed the equation of "vulnerability + evidence + empathy" as a framework for building inner strength and turning challenges into opportunities.

Huymingrum Listari delivered a talk on the hidden threads of deep time and its relevance in understanding climate change, while Hedaya al-Tamimi presented insights on the subtle connection between body and emotion in the healing journey.

The event included talks delivered by invited guests and QU students.

Doha 'fast becoming destination of choice for business education'

Doha is fast becoming a destination of choice for ambitious professionals seeking world-class business education, according to HEC Paris, Doha.

Since launching the Emerging Leaders Track in October last year, HEC Paris, Doha has welcomed a dynamic and diverse group of executives from across the GCC who are travelling to Qatar to fast-track their leadership journey with an Executive MBA (EMBA).

The Executive MBA Emerging Leaders Track at HEC Paris, Doha is redefining what leadership development looks like in the Gulf.

As the first programme of its kind in the region, it is crafted for professionals with five or more years of experience who are ready to move into senior roles and make their mark.

With the option to specialise in one of eight fields - including entrepreneurship, strategy, finance, and artificial intelligence (AI) - professionals can tailor their EMBA journey to match their ambitions.

It is a flexible, future-focused approach that prepares them to lead with confidence in a fast-changing world.

"We are preparing the next generation of leaders to drive

sustainable growth and societal progress," said dean Martin de Holan. "By fostering leadership capabilities among the region's rising talent, we are contributing directly to national transformation agendas."

For many participants, Doha's role as an emerging education and innovation hub - anchored by Qatar Foundation - is a key part of the programme's appeal.

"I chose Doha to get a unique entry opportunity in the Middle East, which I believe has enormous potential," says Pawel Marciniak, a board adviser and senior associate at a property development and management firm, who travels from Poland for the programme.

"Doha's dynamic business environment and central location made it the ideal hub for my EMBA," said Hussein El Ajouz, the managing director of a Kuwait-based marketing and communications agency.

Ankita B, an Indian national living in the UAE and working as a finance specialist, said: "Each module in Doha is an opportunity to engage with top faculty, exchange ideas with diverse peers, and explore business trends shaping industries worldwide."

THE CHAMPION SPEAKERS OF QATAR 2025

The eagerly awaited Qatar Talks 2025, has once again culminated in a spectacular showcase of talent, yielding a new set of Champion Speakers of Qatar.



CHAMPION Afrin Salmamohamed Jamaldeen, Ideal Indian School receiving her **YOUTH INSPIRATIONAL** Trophy and Cheque from Indian Ambassador Mr. Vipul in the presence of other dignitaries, winners and Excom



CHAMPION Sanjeev Sundararaj, DPS Modern Indian School receiving his **YOUTH TALL TALES** Trophy and Cheque from Indian Ambassador Mr. Vipul in the presence of other dignitaries, winners and Excom



CHAMPION Mr. Mahmoud Reda, receiving his **ADULT INSPIRATIONAL** Trophy and Cheque from Indian Ambassador Mr. Vipul in the presence of other dignitaries, winners and Excom



CHAMPION Mr. Mahmoud Reda, receiving his **ADULT TALL TALES** Trophy and Cheque from Indian Ambassador Mr. Vipul in the presence of other dignitaries, winners and Excom

YOUTH - INSPIRATIONAL		YOUTH - TALL TALES	
Name	Accolade	Name	Accolade
Afrin Salma Mohamed Jamaldeen	Champion	Sanjeev Sundararaj	Champion
Maria Alessandra B. Endaya	2 nd Place Winner	Sophia Rae D. Jamantoc	2 nd Place Winner
Aaron Sudheendran	3 rd place Winner	Mirudula Vijay Anand	3 rd place Winner
Maria Alessandra B. Endaya	Champion-Audience Poll	Sanjeev Sundararaj	Champion-Audience Poll
ADULTS - INSPIRATIONAL		ADULTS - TALL TALES	
Name	Accolade	Name	Accolade
Mahmoud Reda	Champion	Mahmoud Reda	Champion
Tariro Dorcas Matibiri	2 nd Place Winner	Cinderella Williams	2 nd Place Winner
Roshan Sukheja	3 rd place Winner	Sebastian Mascarenhas	3 rd place Winner
Roshan Sukheja	Champion-Audience Poll	Mahmoud Reda	Champion-Audience Poll



Qatar showcases innovations in AI tech

Local and international organisations are showcasing cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI) technologies at the accompanying exhibition of the second World Summit AI Qatar 2025, which got underway in Doha yesterday.

The Qatar Pavilion serves as a national platform presenting a range of AI-powered projects from government entities, alongside startups offering digital solutions across education, healthcare, energy, and public services.

The pavilion also highlights Qatar's GovAI Programme, led by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), which provides a national framework to accelerate the adoption of smart technologies across government agencies.

The programme emphasises international partnerships and practical solutions designed to enhance public services and support the country's digital transformation.

Visitors to the pavilion can explore nearly 20 advanced AI projects from government entities including the General Secretariat of the Cabinet, and the MCIT and ministries of Commerce and Industry, Health, Education, Municipality, Endowments and Islamic Affairs, as well as government agencies such as the Public Works Authority, Hamad Medical Corporation, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar Museums, Qatar News Agency, Al Jazeera Media Network, and Qatar Post.

In addition, more than 24 MCIT-supported startups are presenting their digital solutions to the public and international partners, offering insight into Qatar's growing AI ecosystem and its drive to integrate AI into a wide range of sectors.

The exhibition underscores Qatar's commitment to fostering innovation, promoting collaboration between government and private sectors, and positioning the country as a regional hub for AI development. – QNA



World Summit AI Qatar opens

The World Summit AI Qatar 2025 officially commenced yesterday.

Organised by Inspired Minds in partnership with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), the second edition of the Summit is held under the theme *Building the Future of AI Together*, and takes place over two days at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.

The event, which ends today, brings together a distinguished gathering of senior officials, global technology leaders, experts, and entrepreneurs in artificial intelligence and advanced digital innovation.

"Hosting the second edition of the World Summit AI Qatar in Doha reaffirms Qatar's strong commitment to advancing a diversified digital economy driven by knowledge, innovation, and cutting-edge technologies," said HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai.

"Artificial intelligence (AI) is not merely a technological option, it is a strategic necessity shaping the future of our economy, society, and government services," he said. "Through this Summit, we continue to strengthen global partnerships and accelerate the adoption of AI solutions across government entities, in alignment with the Digital Agenda 2030 and Qatar National Vision 2030."

Head of the Executive Office of HE the Prime Minister and Qai chairman Abdulla

bin Hamad al-Misnad said: "Qatar is undergoing a rapid transformation toward a more diverse and resilient economy, with AI now playing a central role in this evolution."

"The World Summit AI Qatar 2025 reflects the country's progress in building an integrated ecosystem that connects policy, digital infrastructure, national talent development, and private-sector collaboration," he said. "The GovAI Programme stands as a practical model for how advanced technologies can enhance public services and streamline government operations."

"We are delighted to return to Doha for the second edition of the World Summit AI in partnership with the MCIT," said Inspired Minds founder and chief executive Sarah Porter.

"Qatar has rapidly established itself as a regional and global hub for meaningful dialogue on the future of AI, bringing together policymakers, entrepreneurs, and researchers from East and West," she said. "We are proud to deepen this partnership and to showcase pioneering national initiatives and success stories emerging from Qatar."

The opening ceremony witnessed the launch of the updated Fanar 2.0 platform, the Arabic AI Large Language Model developed by the Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation.

The platform was introduced by QCRI executive director Dr Ahmed Elmagarmid,



who underscored its expanded capabilities and its importance in advancing Arabic-language AI research and innovation.

As part of the Summit's activities, several agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed with leading global and local technology companies under the GovAI Programme, aimed at developing innovative AI-powered solutions.

The programme is a national initiative led by the MCIT to accelerate AI adoption across government entities and deliver a step-change in the quality and efficiency of public services in alignment with the Digital Agenda 2030.

The Summit features four major programme tracks:

• The Mainstage Core Themes exploring frontier artificial intelligence, regula-

tion, and next-generation infrastructure

• The Accelerating AI Adoption track, focused on enterprise use cases and the future of energy

• The Deep Dive Tech Talks track, led by researchers and technologists

• The Global AI Edge track, which covers generative and responsible AI and hosts a HealthTech AI Hackathon in partnership with Qatar University.

The second day of the Summit will offer an extensive programme of specialised sessions and interactive workshops.

There will be enhanced opportunities for networking, including one-on-one meetings, investor-startup engagement platforms, and knowledge-exchange sessions between government entities and international partners. – QNA

Ministry highlights GovAI Programme

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) has highlighted the key objectives and future ambitions of its GovAI Programme during the opening of the second World Summit AI Qatar.

The programme, a major national initiative aimed at advancing Qatar's digital transformation, seeks to empower government entities to adopt artificial intelligence (AI) solutions that address real challenges while improving service quality and operational efficiency.

Eman al-Kuwari, the director of Digital Innovation at the ministry, said the programme provides a practical framework for government agencies to identify use cases, assess feasibility, and move through development and implementation phases.

She emphasised that the framework balances innovation with governance and accountability.

What distinguishes the GovAI Programme, al-Kuwari said, is not just the solutions it produces, but the way it brings together government entities, technology partners, and the national innovation ecosystem around a single table.

She noted that Qatar's digital infrastructure, policy development, and skilled national workforce present a real opportunity to develop a new generation of AI-powered public services.

These services are intended to enhance quality of life and strengthen Qatar's competitive-



ness both regionally and globally.

The official stressed that future phases of the programme will see the expansion and integration of multiple projects across government entities, ensuring that every AI solution delivers clear value, addresses genuine challenges, and

leaves a tangible impact on citizens, residents, and visitors alike.

The GovAI Programme aligns with Qatar's National Digital Agenda 2030, which places AI at the heart of the country's economic and social development strategy. – QNA

Qai forges partnership worth \$20bn with Brookfield

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"This partnership with Brookfield marks an important milestone in Qatar's journey to build world-class AI infrastructure and capabilities," said Qai chairman Abdulla al-Misnad.

"By leveraging Brookfield's ex-

pertise in developing and managing critical infrastructure alongside Qai's mission to deliver trusted AI solutions, we are creating a robust platform to drive responsible AI adoption," the official said.

"This collaboration will not only attract investment and top-tier

talent but also strengthen Qatar's position as a trusted hub for advanced digital technologies in the region and beyond," al-Misnad added.

"We are thrilled to support Qatar in establishing this investment in next-generation AI and digital infrastructure alongside Qai," said

Brookfield chief Bruce Flatt.

"As our inaugural AI infrastructure investment in the Middle East, this partnership combines Qatar's strategic vision with Brookfield's global expertise in developing and operating large-scale, mission-critical infrastructure with global partners," he said.

QNA showcases latest AI-powered technologies in media



The Qatar News Agency (QNA) is participating in the second World Summit AI Qatar 2025, which kicked off yesterday.

The two-day event is organised by Inspired Minds in partnership with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), and held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).

Through its booth at the Expo, which is held alongside this summit, the QNA is showcasing the technologies it leverages in the area of artificial intelligence (AI) to communicate its media message, as well as spotlighting the technological tools utilised in news broadcast, media reports, and visual content, including photos and video footage.

The booth also showcases innovative models in broadcasting news, bulletins, and media reports, leveraging modern technologies, including generative AI for news-video production, which represents one of the latest advancements in AI.

The exhibition further highlights the "Audio and Video Clip Analysis System", an AI-powered program that converts recorded video and audio clips into written text,

alongside numerous programs and applications that utilise cutting-edge technology.

QNA director-general Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi affirmed that this participation comes as part of the agency's keenness to showcase the technological potential and state-of-the-art technologies it uses to relay its media message.

The agency, he added, adapts with all kinds of evolution in connection with digital transformation and AI, both on the national and global stages, and to promote the digital future in Qatar in pursuit of realising the aspirations and objectives of the Digital Agenda 2030.

Al-Rumaihi stressed that this participation reflects the QNA's pivoting toward betting on advanced technologies more significantly, adding that the agency is committed to benefiting from AI-powered technologies to advance its functional performance and media services.

The QNA had received the "Innovation in the Use of Artificial Intelligence in News" award during the Google Cloud Summit Doha 2025 deliberations, in appreciation of its leading efforts in integrating AI technologies into its news ecosystem. – QNA

Ministry announces partnerships with local and global companies

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) has announced the signing of a number of strategic partnerships with a group of local and international companies, on the sidelines of the World Summit AI Qatar 2025, which is organised by Inspired Minds in partnership with the ministry.

The partnerships were signed with companies that include Meeza, Accenture, Google Cloud, Microsoft, Oracle, and Scale AI, under the scope of the GovAI Programme led by the MCIT, aimed at accelerating the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) solutions within government entities and developing high-impact digital projects in line with the pillars of the Digital Agenda 2030 and the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030.

These partnerships were signed by the director of the MCIT's Digital Innovation Department, Eman al-Kuwari, together with the representatives of the participating companies:

- Meeza chief executive Khalid Mohammed al-Kubaisi
- Accenture Qatar country managing director Magdi al-Khater
- Google Cloud regional general manager Ghassan Kosta
- Microsoft Qatar general manager Ahmad al-Dandashi
- Vice-president for Cloud in the Middle East and Africa at Oracle Rached Dabboussi
- Head of Europe, Middle East and Africa at Scale AI Julia de Boinville.

Al-Kuwari said during the signing ceremony that the new agreements fall within the ministry's ongoing efforts to expand the use of AI across government entities and enable projects capable of creating tangible improvements in work processes and service quality.

She added that the partnerships represent a practical step toward collaboration with both local and global organisations that possess extensive technological



expertise, providing government entities with wider options to adopt advanced technologies in a systematic and phased manner.

Al-Kuwari noted that the partnerships allow broader implementation of Government AI Programme (GovAI Programme) initiatives by advancing data-driven capabilities, enabling AI-based applications, and deploying operating models that help government entities organise their workflows and strengthen their digital readiness, ultimately enhancing the quality of services delivered to the public.

The GovAI Programme follows a three-phase methodology:

- Development and qualification, where the innovative project idea is identified and submitted through the platform
- Evaluation of feasibility and approval by the specialised committee
- The deployment stage, where the project is launched and its impact measured

Project selection under the programme is based on key criteria such as strategic relevance and expected

impact, availability of data sources, priority level, alignment with operational and strategic priorities of government entities, as well as the development of AI-enabled digital solutions and enhancement of data analytics and operational automation capabilities.

Meeza's al-Kubaisi highlighted the company's contribution to shaping the future of AI in Qatar through the GovAI Programme by combining its experience in government information technology (IT) system integration with the advanced capabilities of leading global innovators to deliver cutting-edge AI solutions.

The partnership with Accenture includes advisory and technical support to develop AI use cases and build digital capabilities in government services.

Accenture Qatar's al-Khater said the company's mission is to support government entities in leveraging AI technologies to strengthen decision-making, automate processes, and utilise data-driven insights.

He noted that this partnership reflects Accenture's commitment to supporting Qatar's efforts to develop a public sector that benefits from AI innovations.

The partnership with Google Cloud covers sup-

port for cloud infrastructure development, enabling advanced analytics, and expanding access to modern data platforms.

Kosta said that this partnership demonstrates Google Cloud's commitment to supporting the government sector through cloud infrastructure capable of meeting the growing demands of AI applications.

With the MCIT's collaboration, Google Cloud enables government entities to leverage advanced data-analytics tools.

The partnership with Microsoft enables the adoption of generative AI solutions across government entities, expanding the use of Copilot, in addition to providing specialised training programmes.

Al-Dandashi said the partnership reflects Microsoft's commitment to supporting Qatar's efforts to expand the adoption of generative AI solutions.

As the use of Copilot expands, Microsoft is not only increasing efficiency levels but also driving a major transformation in the way government entities operate, helping them overcome traditional challenges, improve processes, and deliver high-quality services with unprecedented speed and effectiveness.

The partnership with Oracle focuses on strengthening the management of government data systems, supporting the delivery of comprehensive AI-powered solutions across government platforms, and expanding the company's collaboration with the ministry through advanced data-management systems and AI-driven applications.

Meanwhile, the partnership with Scale AI supports the development of artificial intelligence models, provides high-quality training data, and enables government entities to deploy generative AI technologies.

De Boinville said that the company's partnership with the MCIT aligns with a commitment to developing AI models tailored specifically to the needs of government entities, using high-quality AI-ready data.

— QNA

National AI-powered learning platform

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) and in partnership with Scale AI, announced the launch of the Personalised National Learning Platform.

This pioneering national initiative aims to employ artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to develop the educational system and enhance the learning experience in public schools.

The announcement came during the World Summit AI Qatar 2025, where the project was highlighted as one of the innovative AI initiatives in the education sector, due to its expected role in enhancing the quality of educational outcomes and providing a more flexible and adaptive learning experience tailored to students' needs.

The platform aims to analyse educational data and deliver personalised content that en-

hances students' capabilities and contributes to improving achievement levels.

It provides teachers with smart tools to support assessment, planning, and follow-up processes, thereby increasing the efficiency of the educational process and enabling data-driven educational decisions.

The director of the MCIT's Digital Innovation Department, Iman al-Kuwari, stated that the project represents an important step in the digital transformation journey of the education sector.

She added that the launch of the personalised national learning platform reflects a commitment to achieving the goals of the Digital Agenda 2030 by integrating AI technologies into education to promote innovation and build advanced human capabilities.

Al-Kuwari noted that this step represents a qualitative leap toward a smart educational system that supports digital transformation and provides a more flexible and adaptive

learning experience for students and teachers.

The director of the MoEHE's E-Learning and Digital Solutions Department, Kholoud al-Mannai, highlighted the importance of the platform in developing the educational environment.

It offers an innovative approach to personalised learning that allows each student to receive an educational experience tailored to their abilities and learning style, thereby improving performance and increasing classroom engagement.

She added that this initiative not only aims to develop the educational environment but also aligns with the goals of the Third National Development Strategy and Qatar National Vision 2030, which emphasise building a knowledge-based society, enhancing human capital, and employing modern technologies to improve education quality, thereby preparing a generation capable of participating and competing in the knowledge-based digital economy. — QNA

Qai 'launch a strategic step for AI in Qatar'

Qai chairman Abdullah bin Hamad al-Misnad (*pictured*) has affirmed that the launch of the company represents a strategic step toward empowering the artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem in Qatar.

He told the Qatar News Agency (QNA) during his participation at the World Summit AI Qatar 2025 that the company's role is to build the infrastructure, platforms, and systems necessary to accelerate the adoption of AI technologies inside and outside the country, enabling all segments of society such as individuals, startups, and major companies, to fully benefit from these technologies in alignment with their values and economic goals.

Al-Misnad noted that the company is working in partnership with various entities in the country to explore ways to benefit from national innovations and expand their application within the local economy.

He said that their goal is to take these advanced technologies and provide them with a national platform capable of turning them into scalable solutions ready for widespread use.

Qai, launched on Monday, is a national company specialising in AI technologies and aims to build advanced digital systems that support innovation and contribute to achieving sustainable development.

The company is affiliated with the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), and benefits from the QIA's global investments across multiple sectors, as well as its long-term investment strategy in addition to its close collaboration with academic and research institutions, policymakers, and the innovation ecosystem in Qatar.

Qai is set to develop, manage, and invest in advanced AI infrastructures and systems within Qatar and abroad.

The company will also work on enabling institutions to access high-performance computing capabilities and provide a connected suite of tools and resources that allow for training and deploying scalable, high-impact AI systems in local and global markets. — QNA



Digital co-operation is 'key to bridging international AI gaps'

Multilateral co-operation is essential to promote digital development and ensure all countries benefit from technological and artificial intelligence (AI) advancements, the secretary-general of the Digital Co-operation Organisation (DCO) has said.

Deemah al-Yahya made the remarks during a panel discussion, held as part of the World Summit AI Qatar 2025.

She stressed that traditional models of multilateralism are no longer adequate in an era of deep digital interconnectivity.

"National economies are more interconnected than ever before, requiring broad collaboration to reduce fragmentation in digital policies," al-Yahya said.

She added that strengthening countries' digital competitiveness requires turning investments into shared solutions, improving digital infrastructure, implementing uni-



fied policies, and building human capacity.

The official clarified that digital sovereignty does not conflict with co-operation; rather, collaboration enhances states' ability to protect their national interests.

The DCO – which comprises 16 member states representing 800mn people, 70% of whom are youth – is developing innovative co-operation models such as public-private partnerships and shared intellectual property.

These initiatives enable countries with limited resources to access advanced technologies without large investments.

Al-Yahya also highlighted the importance of involving youth, women, and local communities in digital policy-making.

She pointed to the DCO initiative We-Elevate, which has supported 127 women-led projects in Rwanda over 18 months, creating 800 jobs and contributing around \$40mn to the country's GDP.

On digital security, she said the organisation recently adopted a four-year strategy to enhance member states' resilience, ensuring sustainable economic and social growth despite increasing geopolitical, environmental, and economic risks.

Al-Yahya cited incidents exposing global digital vulnerabilities, including disruptions to submarine cables in the Baltic and Red Seas, widespread power outages in Europe, and airport operations halted due to technical failures, emphasising the urgent need for secure infrastructure and sustainable policies.

She concluded that building an inclusive and thriving digital economy requires moving from data and recommendations to tangible actions and impact measurement, ensuring a fair and efficient digital transformation across nations. — QNA

MCIT, NPC launch national initiative to advance AI-powered decision-making

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), in collaboration with the National Planning Council (NPC), announced the launch of a national initiative aimed at developing an advanced system for data analytics and strategic decision-making, in partnership with Scale AI.

The initiative forms part of a broader effort to harness artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of government operations.

The initiative focuses on building advanced analytical capabilities that enable the NPC and government entities to gain deeper insights into development trends, analyse economic and social in-

dicators, and develop predictive models that support more accurate and effective policymaking.

This effort strengthens the state's ability to undertake medium- and long-term planning in a more informed, data-driven, and forward-looking manner.

The initiative will also improve monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, support the assessment of demographic and economic shifts, and provide smart tools that help working teams understand development dynamics and test multiple scenarios before adopting them at the national policy level.

It allows for the integration of diverse data sources into a unified model that enhances the quality of planning outputs and increases the

reliability of future forecasts.

"Integrating AI into national planning marks a new phase in the evolution of government operations, as we shift from traditional analytical approaches to intelligent tools that support faster and higher-quality decision-making," said Eman Ahmed al-Kuwari, the director of the MCIT's Digital Innovation Department.

"This initiative aligns with the pillars of the Digital Agenda 2030, which emphasise responsible and effective use of AI across vital sectors," she said.

This initiative is part of a broader series of national projects aimed at building a smart data infrastructure and applying global best practices in planning, reinforcing Qatar's position as a leading nation in the use of AI to enhance government efficiency and support sustainable development. — QNA

Dr al-Magarmid added that the new version of Fanar features deep focus on the Arabic language in all its dialects, making it more suitable for the needs of Arab users, while also respecting cultural norms and societal values so that responses remain aligned with local traditions and identity.

It is noteworthy that the first version of the Fanar platform was launched in December last year as a national achievement reflecting Qatar's commitment to strengthening the presence of the Arabic and Islamic language and culture in the age of AI.

The platform is a unique model developed to provide deep and comprehensive understanding of the Arabic language in all its dimensions, including diverse dialects and cultural terminology.

It is built on a massive dataset containing more than 300bn words and over 1tn Arabic phonetic segments, giving it exceptional capability in natural-language processing with high precision.

It is also equipped with an advanced technical architecture containing 7bn parameters, enabling superior flexibility, speed, and performance in storing and processing information. — QNA



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Bridging the AI divide calls for global governance and knowledge sharing

Artificial Intelligence (AI) could contribute up to \$15.7tn to the global economy by 2030. While all regions of the global economy stand to benefit from AI, North America and China will see the largest GDP gains, according to a World Economic Forum (WEF) report in 2023. AI could widen the gaps between developed and developing countries, a UN report said last week, calling for policy measures to limit the impact.

Annually, more than \$300bn is spent globally on technology to enhance computing capacity, but these investments are focused mainly on higher-income nations, creating a disparity in access to infrastructure and skills development that puts developing countries and their homegrown start-ups at a severe disadvantage.

The report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) warns of a possible “great divergence” emerging between nations in terms of economic performance, people’s skill sets and governing systems.

“We think that AI is heralding a new era of rising inequality between countries, following years of convergence in the last 50 years,” says Philip Schellekens, Chief Economist for UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Bureau.

But the UNDP report also notes that trade, technology and development have helped close gaps between states in recent decades, bringing major income, health and education gains.

The AI revolution could widen the gap between high and low-income countries unless co-operative international action is taken, according to an earlier report from the International Labour Organisation and the UN Office of the Secretary General’s Envoy on Technology.

A possible “great divergence” vis-à-vis AI is emerging between nations in terms of economic performance, people’s skill sets and governing systems, warns the latest UNDP report

The workplace is where AI can lead to productivity gains and improved working conditions.

Unequal access to infrastructure, technology, quality education, and training, however, could lead to uneven adoption of AI, which would, in turn, deepen inequalities globally.

The 2023 WEF report on The ‘AI divide’ between the Global North and the Global South found that the economic and social benefits of AI remain geographically concentrated, primarily in the Global North. Without an enabling operating environment, disparities in AI readiness will feed into global inequality.

One of the root causes of this “AI divide” is found in structural limitations, as there are marked gaps between the Global North and Global South.

Successful adoption of AI on a scaled level requires a demanding infrastructure that has elements of technical infrastructure, models and tools, data, and talent and capacity.

On top of that, policies and guidelines are essential to ensuring trustworthiness in regulating new technologies.

In order to successfully implement and scale AI-driven solutions, sound technical infrastructure is necessary.

This includes high capacity computing resources to handle the workloads, large storage capacity to scale as the data grows, a network infrastructure with high bandwidth and low latency to support network communications, and a mature cybersecurity infrastructure to protect sensitive data and prevent abuse.

The cost of implementing such advanced technologies is one of the biggest barriers for resource-constrained countries in the Global South.

There are, however, green shoots of positive changes emerging in bridging the gap. The 2024 Oxford Insights assessment of 188 countries around the world and their preparedness in using AI in public services highlights that AI strategies are on the rise again, with growing momentum across low- and middle-income countries.

As AI advances, global governance and international collaboration and knowledge-sharing are becoming essential for effective and responsible adoption.

Looking forward, these efforts will be critical in addressing the gaps in technology governance, as more countries formalise AI strategies and strengthen their capacity to adopt AI effectively.

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Rome welcome for Zelensky



Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni welcomes Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at Chigi Palace in Rome, Italy, yesterday. (Reuters)

Ukraine stares down barrel of population collapse

By Max Hunder
Hoshcha

While many Ukrainian hospitals are struggling to cope with the endless influx of wounded, a maternity ward in the western town of Hoshcha lies eerily deserted.

The hospital in Hoshcha has recorded just 139 births so far this year, down from 164 in 2024, and a far cry from just over a decade ago when more than 400 babies were born every year, according to local authorities.

“Many young men have died,” gynaecologist Yevhen Hekkel lamented in his office. “Young men who, bluntly speaking, were supposed to replenish Ukraine’s gene pool.”

Ukrainian authorities are facing a stark quandary as the country spirals into a demographic disaster: Once the war ends, who will be left to pick up the pieces?

Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and wounded in almost four years of fighting, while millions more have fled the country and births are drying up. Hoshcha, a small town of about 5,000 people, is hundreds of miles from the nearest front but is nonetheless facing the full force of the population crisis.

In the nearby village of Sadove, a school that once taught more than 200 pupils has been shut down.

“Two years ago, we were forced to close this institution. Why? Because there were only nine children there,” Mykola Panchuk, head of Hoshcha’s town council, told Reuters.

Ukraine’s population — 42mn before the full-scale invasion in February 2022 — has already shrunk to below 36mn, including several million in areas captured by Russia, according to the demography institute at Ukraine’s National Academy of Sciences.

It estimates the figure will drop to 25mn by 2051.

The collapse is gathering pace.

The country has both the highest death rates and lowest birth rates in the world, according to 2024 estimates in the *CIA World Factbook*: for every birth there are around three deaths.

According to government estimates, Ukraine’s average male life expectancy dropped from 65.2 years before the war to 57.3 years in 2024. For women, the figure fell from 74.4 to 70.9.

Ukraine will need millions of people to rebuild its shattered economy, experts and politicians say, and to be able to defend itself in a post-war future should Moscow attack again, as many Ukrainians fear it will.

The Kyiv government sought to address the crisis last year when it outlined a demographic strategy to 2040. The document warned that Ukraine faced a deficit of 4.5mn workers over the next decade. Sectors that would be most in need of labour included construction, technology and administrative services.

The strategy centres on stemming further emigration and luring Ukrainians back from abroad, including by improving housing, infrastructure and education, as well as attracting immigrants from other countries if jobs remain unfilled.

Authorities estimate these measures could push the population back up to 34mn by 2040, but also warn that it could fall to 29mn by then if current dynamics continue.

Portraits of fallen soldiers lined the path to Hoshcha’s town hall during a Reuters visit in October.

An old woman laid flowers at one image, wiping away tears on a cold autumn morning. A steady stream of people passed by on the high street, mostly middle-aged or elderly. Panchuk, from the town council, said 141 people from Hoshcha and its surrounding district — home to about 24,000 people — had been killed in the war since 2022. Another 11 had died fighting

against Russian-backed militants in eastern Ukraine since 2014.

At one of Hoshcha’s two remaining schools, headteacher Marianna Khrypa said the number of first-graders was falling and that about 10% of school leavers were heading abroad, mostly boys.

“Parents take their children out of the country before they reach the age of 18,” she said. Kyiv has barred most men over 18 from leaving the country during the war, although President Volodymyr Zelensky raised the age to 22 in August.

Ukraine, whose population exceeded 48mn in 2001, faced demographic decline well before the conflict, with millions of citizens heading westward from eastern Europe to escape economic strife and rampant corruption at home.

The exodus accelerated when Russia invaded, prompting millions more to flee.

The Centre for Economic Strategy, a Ukrainian think-tank, said in March that about 5.2mn Ukrainians who had left since the invasion remained overseas, in a host of mainly European countries including Russia, Germany and Poland.

The centre predicted that between 1.7 and 2.7mn of those people would remain abroad, and could be joined by hundreds of thousands of adult men — who are currently not allowed to leave Ukraine — when the war ends.

Oleksandr Gladun, deputy head of the National Academy of Sciences’ demography institute, said the population crisis was exacerbated by the fact that younger women are disproportionately represented among refugees since 2022.

Independent predictions are alarming: Ukraine’s population is expected to fall to between 9 and 23mn people by 2100, according to UN forecasts published in 2024.

The maternity ward of Hoshcha’s hospital lost its government funding in 2023 after

failing to reach the target of 170 births in a year: “We had a child who was born 15 minutes too late, so we had 169,” said Panchuk, the head of the council.

The ward is now kept afloat by whatever the town council can spare from its own budget.

The unpredictability of war has been a major deterrent for people deciding whether to start a family.

Inna Antoniuk, the head of the maternity ward, said that about a third of the women coming through had husbands serving in the military, some of whom are dead or missing.

While the front lines in the east and south have moved slowly as Russian forces gradually advance, Moscow has stepped up missile and drone attacks across Ukraine, causing widespread damage to civilian, energy and military infrastructure.

Panchuk said the population of Hoshcha itself was not shrinking noticeably, partly because surrounding villages were emptying out and their residents heading into the town as local schools, clinics and other services shut down.

On the road to the village of Duliby, less than 10km from Hoshcha, several homes lie abandoned.

Local resident Oksana Formanchuk said even in this small village where fewer than 200 residents remained, nine men had been mobilised to fight.

Among them was her husband, who has been missing in action since July, said Formanchuk, adding that she feared her two adult sons would also be drafted.

“What if they are taken away too? What would I do without them?”

Anastasiia Yushchuk, a 21-year-old who was serving coffee from a van on Hoshcha’s high street, said many of her friends were hesitant to have children. She said that although she hoped to start a family some day, she had no intention of doing so in the next couple of years.

“There is no stability, nothing to build upon.”

Existing financial pressures have been exacerbated by the war, such as rising rents and the cost of living, she said.

“It’s very hard for young people to buy a home now. We need to be financially stable, both me and my partner, and the situation in the country is changing all the time, every month or two, so it’s hard to plan.”

Anastasiia Tabekova, Panchuk’s deputy on the town council, has a husband who’s serving in the military.

“After I found out I was pregnant, a few days later my husband was mobilised,” she said. “They gave him leave to attend the birth. He left with tears in his eyes.”

Children can provide hope for the future, she said.

“I know many wives whose husbands are fighting, I know wives whose husbands are unfortunately no longer with us,” she added. “They are holding on, some are in therapy, for some their children are a moment of joy, a reason to not give up.” — Reuters



Anastasiia Tabekova, deputy chair of the Hoshcha town council, holds her two-year-old son Tymofiy in Hoshcha, a rural community that has experienced a declining birthrate. (Reuters)

QM and Dukhan Bank join forces to build new cultural institutions

Qatar Museums (QM) yesterday announced a landmark partnership with the Qatar-based Dukhan Bank to support the development of two vital future cultural institutions: Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar, and the Dukhan Bank Qatar Numismatic Center.

Dukhan Bank's support for Qatar Museums will help Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar realise its mission as a pioneering institution dedicated to holistic childhood development, nurturing curiosity, creativity, and compassion through open-ended play, exploration, and experimentation.

Additionally, an independent future institution that will house QM's world-renowned collection of historic Islamic currency, will be named the Dukhan Bank Qatar Numismatic Center in honour of the firm's generosity.

The official signing ceremony took place yesterday at the National Museum of Qatar (NMQ) in the presence of HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, and Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Jassim al-Thani, Executive Board Member & Managing Director of Dukhan

Bank.

HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa said: "We are immensely proud to welcome Dukhan Bank as a major partner of Qatar Museums, collaborating with us to realise the goals set forth in the Qatar National Vision 2030. In joining with us to build these two new institutions, which will serve children and their families, researchers and scholars and those interested in the history of currency, Dukhan Bank is helping to nurture a thriving cultural ecosystem that advances Qatar's human, social, and economic development. We are grateful for Dukhan Bank's far-sighted investment in the preservation of our history and the future of our children."

Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Jassim al-Thani, Executive Board Member & Managing Director of Dukhan Bank is honoured to formalise this strategic partnership with Qatar Museums in support of two national institutions that will play a vital role in preserving and sharing Qatar's cultural narrative. Our contribution, as a leading financial institution dedicated to empowering communities and supporting sustainable national development, reflects a



commitment to strengthening the country's cultural foundations, fostering public engagement, and ensuring that the stories defining our heritage are preserved for future generations. This partnership underscores Dukhan Bank's keenness to support Qatar Museums' mission to inspire learning, creativity, and cultural pride across the nation and beyond."

HE Dr Mohammed bin Saleh al-Sada, President of the Dadu Advisory Committee, said: "On behalf of the future Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar, I extend my deepest gratitude

to Dukhan Bank for joining us as a member of the institution's Founding Family. This partnership demonstrates how crucial the private sector is to the future success of Qatar and its people and acknowledges Dadu as a truly world-class institution that will inspire generations of children to come."

Ahmed I Hashem, Acting Group CEO of Dukhan Bank, said: "Our collaboration with Qatar Museums marks the beginning of a meaningful new chapter for Dukhan Bank. By extending our support to the dedicated team of this esteemed cultural

organisation, as well as to Dadu and the Dukhan Bank Qatar Numismatic Center, we are proud to contribute to initiatives that broaden access to knowledge, spark curiosity, and deepen appreciation for our shared heritage. This milestone reflects not only our institutional commitment, but also our belief in empowering those who work tirelessly to preserve and advance Qatar's cultural and educational landscape. We look forward to seeing these two institutions grow and enrich the community in the years ahead."

Sheikha Amna bint Abdulaziz al-Thani, Acting Deputy CEO of Museums, Collections and Heritage Protection of Qatar Museums, said: "The future Dukhan Bank Qatar Numismatic Center will be a vital independent home for Qatar Museums' collection of more than 90,000 coins, glass disks, and engraved gems, which are a major resource for scholars interested in the long and distinguished history of Islamic currency. For the public, the centre will serve as a place to discover unique aspects of Islamic global heritage, fulfilling Qatar Museums' goal of sharing international cultures with

audiences in Qatar."

Talal Ahmed al-Khaja, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer of Dukhan Bank, said: "Through this partnership, we are proud to support a project that goes beyond preserving history, it creates a living space for cultural engagement and community connection. Dadu and the Dukhan Bank Qatar Numismatic Center will offer enriching experiences that bring families, students, and visitors closer to Qatar's cultural story in meaningful and engaging ways. Tying up with Qatar Museums reflects our commitment to corporate social responsibility by investing in opportunities that enrich the cultural life of Qatar and make heritage accessible and engaging for everyone".

This year, Qatar Museums celebrates Evolution Nation, an 18-month campaign honouring Qatar's cultural journey over the past 50 years, since the founding of the National Museum of Qatar. Curated by Qatar Creates, the national movement positioning Qatar as a global hub for art, culture, and creativity, Evolution Nation highlights both the nation's cultural milestones and its aspirations for the future. (QNA)

Max Fashion reopens DFC store with new design concept

Max Fashion, the region's leading value fashion brand, has unveiled its newly revamped store at Doha Festival City (DFC), introducing a refreshed retail concept designed to elevate the customer experience. The relaunch marks an important step in Max Fashion's evolution, bringing a contemporary, design-led environment to one of Qatar's most popular lifestyle destinations.

The upgraded store features Max Fashion's latest global concept, defined by clean lines, natural textures, and an open, intuitive layout that allows customers to explore collections with ease. Warm wood accents, modern lighting, and inviting visual displays create a seamless and engaging atmosphere that reflects the brand's shift toward a more modern and fashion-forward identity.

The space offers an enhanced journey through womenswear, menswear, kidswear, beauty, footwear, and accessories, all curated to meet the needs of today's diverse and style-conscious shoppers. Hani Weiss, CEO of Max at Landmark Group, said: "Doha Festival City has always been a strategic location for Max Fashion, and this relaunch represents our

commitment to continuously evolve with our customers. The new concept reflects our ambition to deliver a more elevated yet accessible shopping experience that aligns with Max's growth and our vision for the future of retail in the region."

The revamped store also places strong emphasis on customer comfort and convenience, introducing improved fitting rooms, better product zoning, and upgraded visual storytelling that helps shoppers discover new arrivals and seasonal trends effortlessly. The experience is designed to bring Doha's dynamic and cosmopolitan spirit into the heart of the retail space. Shumalan Naicker, senior vice-president and country head, Landmark Group Qatar, added: "The Doha Festival City store has always been a key touchpoint for our brand in Qatar. With this refreshed concept, we are creating an environment that feels warmer, more intuitive, and more in tune with what customers expect today. It's a space built around inspiration, discovery, and a much more personalised shopping experience."

The relaunch of Max Fashion at DFC reinforces the brand's commitment to offering stylish,



Shumalan Naicker and Michael Moles with the Max team.



high-quality, and affordable fashion, supported by a modern store identity that continues to evolve in line with global trends and regional customer preferences. The newly

refurbished Max Fashion store at DFC is now open to welcome customers and offer an elevated shopping experience for individuals and families across Qatar.

Qatar marks cultural milestone with successful listing of Arab bisht on Unesco's Intangible Cultural Heritage

QNA
Doha

Qatar is taking part in the 20th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), being held in India from Dec 8-13. The Qatar delegation was headed by HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani. The session witnessed the inscription of the Arab bisht on Unesco's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, marking the first joint Arab file led by the State of Qatar with the participation of nine Arab countries.

This cultural milestone reflects the preeminent standing of Gulf and Arab heritage and its enduring ability to articulate collective identity and shared civilisational memory. This milestone is the result of the ministry's efforts to project the local legacy and safeguard traditional crafts, foremost among them the craft of bisht-making in Qatar, which represents one of the most significant crafts tied to social identity and national symbolism. The inscription of the file affirms Qatar's commitment to protecting this time-honoured craft, enhancing its presence in the cultural consciousness, and transmitting it to emerging generations amid rapid economic and social transformations.

Addressing the session, HE the minister affirmed that the file showcases the Arab bisht as a cross-generational cultural element, serving as a symbol tied



to social life, explaining that it was worn by Qatari forebears during celebrations and educational settings and has remained a witness to the history of the region. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani draped Lionel Messi, captain of the Argentina national team and winner of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, in the Qatari bisht. This noble gesture reflected the prestigious status of the bisht in Qatari culture, the minister highlighted.

He asserted that the bisht would not be the last cultural heritage file that Qatar seeks to inscribe on Unesco's Representative List. In essence, the bisht has become a symbol of prestige, social standing, and dignity. For over a century and a half, its craftsmanship has flourished. The inscription of the bisht file on Unesco's Representative List marks a significant milestone in the path toward safeguarding Qatari and Arab heritage.

The step underscores Qatar's commitment to protecting its heritage components and ensuring their transmission to future generations. This listing also reflects the success of the ministry's 2023 initiative to register the Arab bisht as intangible heritage, thereby constituting a global recognition of its cultural and social value.

National Day activities kick off at Darb Al Saai today

The Ministry of Culture has announced the launch of Darb Al Saai activities today in celebration of Qatar National Day (QND). The event features a comprehensive cultural and heritage experience reflecting authentic Qatari identity and the values of loyalty and

belonging. The activities will take place across 150,000sq m at the Darb Al Saai site in Umm Salal. The programme includes a wide range of activities showcasing both land and sea heritage, including the Al Maqtar and Al Azba activities, which simulate Bedouin life and

feature poetry sessions and riddles. There will also be traditional houses such as the Falconry House, the Hunting House, and the Sadu and Spinning House, in addition to children's activities including camel riding lessons and live experiences reflecting the nomadic life of their

ancestors. Darb Al Saai also features a distinctive maritime aspect through the Al Bidda event, which embodies the traditional maritime environment, accompanied by heritage games and competitions, and a museum documenting Qatari maritime heritage. (QNA)

QIAF 2025 presents diverse works and connects artists from various countries



Artists from various countries showcase their works at QIAF 2025.

Katara Cultural Village's Hall 12 has been transformed into a vibrant global space brimming with artistic expression, as the 7th Qatar International Arts Festival (QIAF 2025) continues. The festival brings together a distinguished group of international artists in a creative celebration that reinforces Katara's role as a cultural bridge connecting the world through art and diversity.

Running until Dec 12, the festival features the participation of more than 500 artists from 83 countries, representing various artistic schools and creative styles. The event offers a rich visual panorama that reflects the power of individual experiences and the convergence of cultures. Iraqi visual artist Jaafar Diaa of the Ashnon Arts Foundation said he is presenting two surrealist works titled The

Fate of the Book in the Modern Age and Transcending Time, noting that the festival "is wonderful and features strong works from diverse artistic schools, making it a truly unique experience."

Indian artist Sugandha expressed her delight at participating for the first time, saying: "I am thoroughly enjoying this experience. The festival is large and gives us the opportunity to connect

with artists from different countries. I was happy to meet artists from all over the world."

Ana de Negri from Spain explained that this is her second participation "after the success of last year's edition," noting that the Spanish delegation includes a large group of artists and two dedicated pavilions. She also expressed her pride in representing Spain again.

Iraqi artist Tina Arfali stated

that this is her first participation in Qatar, adding: "The opening was wonderful. My work combines Arabic calligraphy with photography using mixed media techniques to add depth and unique artistic texture."

Meanwhile, Iranian artist and university professor Mansoureh Valikhan said she is delighted to return for a second year, emphasising that her work received significant appreciation.

She explained that the theme of her participation centres on Iranian folklore, using colours and patterns inspired by Iranian heritage. QIAF 2025 continues to host a daily programme of artistic performances, workshops, and public activities, reaffirming its position as one of the most prominent creative platforms in the region and a global event celebrating art in all its forms and expressions.



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