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**BUSINESS | Page 1**

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QATAR  
AIRWAYS

**Combating corruption  
is global responsibility,  
affirms Amir**

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has affirmed that combating corruption is a global responsibility that requires concerted efforts of international organisations and initiatives by individuals of integrity. Posting on his official X account yesterday, His Highness the Amir stated that combating corruption is a global responsibility that requires concerted efforts of international organisations and initiatives of individuals of integrity. His Highness the Amir stressed that these efforts are among the objectives of the Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence (ACE) Award, as its 9th iteration honours its winners in recognition of their outstanding efforts. His Highness congratulated the winners and wished them success. **(QNA)**

**Qatar condemns  
Sydney attack**

Qatar expressed its condemnation and denunciation of the attack that took place on Bondi Beach near Sydney, Australia, which resulted in deaths and injuries. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's firm stance against violence, terrorism, and criminal acts, regardless of the motives or reasons. The ministry expressed Qatar's condolences to the families of the victims and its wishes for a speedy recovery for the injured. **(QNA)**

**Qatar donates over  
\$1.5bn to UN OCHA**

Qatar expressed its pride in being among the five largest donor countries contributing to humanitarian aid to the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for 2025, with a total exceeding \$1.528bn, reflecting the utmost priority Qatar gives to humanitarian response. This came in Qatar's statement delivered by HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani. **Page 5**

**Sydney shooting  
toll rises to 16**

Sixteen people were killed and at least 40 others injured in a shooting at a Jewish festival celebration at Australia's Bondi Beach, police said early yesterday in an update of the casualty toll. "Police can confirm 16 people have died and 40 people remain in hospital following yesterday's shooting at Bondi," police in New South Wales posted on X. The police statement did not specify whether the toll included one of the two shooters, who died in the attack. **Page 11**

**'Israel's killing of senior commander threatens Gaza truce'**



Mourners carry bodies during the funeral of senior commander Raed Saed and his aides, in Gaza City, yesterday.

Israel's assassination of a senior Hamas commander threatens the viability of the Gaza ceasefire, the chief negotiator of the resistance group said yesterday, calling on US President Donald Trump to demand Israel comply with the terms of the truce. Thousands of Hamas supporters rallied in central Gaza City at a funeral for senior commander Raed Saed and three associates killed alongside him on Saturday. The mourners chanted "Martyrs are dear to God" and carried the bodies in coffins draped in green Hamas flags, in one of the group's biggest displays of its presence since a US-backed ceasefire deal came into effect in Gaza in October. In a televised address, Hamas chief negotiator

Khalil al-Hayya, who lives in exile, confirmed the killing of Saed, the highest-profile assassination of a senior Hamas figure since the truce. "The continued Israeli violations of the ceasefire agreement... and latest assassinations that targeted Saed and others threaten the viability of the agreement," Hayya said. "We call on mediators, and especially the main guarantor, the US administration and President Donald Trump, to work on obliging Israel to respect the ceasefire and commit to it." The Hamas armed wing said later yesterday it has chosen a replacement for Saed. Hamas sources have described Saed as the second-in-command of the group's armed wing, after Izzelddeen al-Hadad. **(Reuters)**

**Qatar Fuel offers free 'WOQODe' services**

Qatar Fuel Company (Woqod) has exempted its customers, including companies, institutions, individuals, and other entities, from the purchase cost and installation service fees for the 'WOQODe' tag effective January 1, 2026. In a statement, Woqod noted that the decision was based on the directives of HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, who is also the president and CEO of QatarEnergy, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the mentioned

service, which are published on www.woqod.com Woqod managing director and CEO Saad Rashid al-Muhannadi said this step reflects the company's appreciation for its valued customers and its dedication to facilitating access to the service. For further clarification, Woqod's customers are encouraged to contact the WOQODe Customer Service Department at the Marketing Division via 40217777, the toll-free number 800-3835, or via customerservice@woqod.com.qa

# Amir honours ACE Award winners



**QNA**  
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani attended the award ceremony of the 9th Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence (ACE) Award at Katara Hall in the Fairmont and Raffles Hotels in Doha yesterday.

Also attending were HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani; HE the Speaker of the Shura Council, Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem; President of FIFA, Gianni Infantino; and a number of ministers, heads of diplomatic

missions accredited to Qatar, alongside high-ranking officials and distinguished guests.

During the ceremony, a film was screened documenting the award and its history and evolution in countering corruption, as well as the ongoing efforts by the award winners and their outstanding contributions through presenting exemplary models and demonstrating leadership, innovation, and commitment to combating corruption.

His Highness the Amir honoured Professor Nikos Passas and Dr Marianne Camerer, winners of the Academic Research and Educational Materials Award, as well as Gloria Pallares-Venias, Tatenda Chitagu and Andiswa Matekenka, winners of the Innovation and In-

vestigative Journalism Award.

In addition, His Highness honoured Mar Niang and Motiullah Wesa, winners of the Youth Creativity and Engagement Award, along with Drago Kos and Dr Obiageli Ezekwesili, winners of the Lifetime Achievement and Outstanding Achievement Award.

On this occasion, Acting Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), John Brandolino, delivered remarks, in addition to the remarks of Acting Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism at the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UN-CT), Alexandre Zouev, and HE the Chairman of the Higher Committee for the Award, Dr Ali bin Fetais al-Marri.

Members of the Higher Com-



mittee for the Award and the Award's Advisory Committee, along with members of the Executive Committee and the Global Organisation of Parliamentarians

Against Corruption (GOPAC), as well as several international researchers specialising in the field of the award, attended the ceremony. **Page 12**

## Doha to host The Best FIFA Football Awards 2025 tomorrow

**QNA**  
Doha

FIFA has announced that Doha will host The Best FIFA Football Awards 2025 tomorrow (Tuesday).

The prestigious event will be held on the eve of the final of the FIFA Intercontinental Cup Qatar 2025, which will see Paris Saint-Germain of France face Brazil's Flamengo at the Ahmad Bin Ali World Cup stadium.

During the ceremony, FIFA will unveil the winners of The Best awards for men's and women's players, as well as men's and women's coaches, for the year 2025.

The awards will be presented during the FIFA 2025 gala dinner, to be held at the Katara Hall of the Fairmont Hotel in Doha.

FIFA will also announce the winners of the Best Fan Award, Best Men's and Women's Goalkeepers, and the Best Goals, which will be revealed through digital video content on FIFA platforms and official social media channels, in addition to the announcement of the FIFA Fair Play Award.

The gala dinner will be attended by around 800 high-profile guests, led by FIFA President Gianni Infantino, alongside FIFA Council members, FIFA Legends, representatives of member associations from across the globe, as well as local and regional ambassadors and dig-



nitarities from the global football community.

FIFA further elaborated that fans played a pivotal role in selecting the winners of The Best FIFA Football Awards 2025, casting more than 16mn votes, underscoring the central role of global fan engagement in the awards process.

The identities of the winners were determined through a voting system that assigns equal weight to all voting groups, namely: fans, captains and coaches of men's and women's national teams, and media representatives.

The men's shortlist for The Best FIFA Men's Player 2025 includes: Ousmane Dembele (France), Achraf Hakimi (Morocco), Harry Kane (England), Kylian Mbappe (France), Nuno Mendes (Portugal), Cole Palmer (England), Pedri (Spain), Raphinha (Brazil), Mohamed Salah (Egypt), Vitinha (Portugal), and Lamine Yamal (Spain).

## 11th UN anti-corruption conference to be held in Doha from Dec 15-19



**QNA**  
Doha

Combating corruption represents one of the key challenges facing the international community in the 21st century and has become one of its top priorities in recent years, given the wide-ranging and devastating impacts of corruption.

Stemming from its firm belief in the importance of this vital issue within the agendas of the UN and international organisations, and in line with its longstanding commitment to supporting global efforts to prevent and combat corruption, Qatar has undertaken, as it has consistently done, to host the 11th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Conven-

tion Against Corruption (UNCAC), to be held from December 15-19.

The conference is the largest and most significant global gathering dedicated to combating corruption and promoting integrity and transparency. It brings together all 192 States Parties to the convention, in addition to over 2,500 participants representing governments, regional and international organisations, anti-corruption experts, as well as representatives of the private sector, civil society, and youth.

The UNCAC is the only legally binding global instrument for combating corruption. The convention's far-reaching approach and the mandatory nature of many of its provisions make it a unique instrument for addressing a global challenge. **To Page 9**





## Qatar focuses on providing diverse housing options for citizens: minister

Under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, Qatar launched the 6th Arab Ministerial Forum on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2025, yesterday. HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi opened the event which is being held under the slogan: "Urban sustainability..." for the future of generations..."

HE al-Nuaimi emphasised Qatar's commitment to enhancing urban environments, improving quality of life, and promoting citizen well-being through modernised urban policies, upgraded community services, and sustainable, high-quality infrastructure.

Qatar focuses particularly on enhancing urban resilience, providing diverse housing options that meet citizens' needs, improving service quality, and aligning urban planning with the future of smart cities and digital transformation, the minister said.

Highlighting the broader regional context, HE al-Nuaimi noted the Arab world faces growing urban populations, expanding housing needs, infrastructure challenges, housing costs, climate change, and environmental sustainability issues. She stressed that addressing these challenges requires long-term urban planning that integrates social, economic, and environmental dimensions and relies on cooperation among

governments, the private sector, and civil society.

The minister underscored the importance of investing in city rehabilitation, enhancing service efficiency, updating urban legislation, and creating attractive urban environments that balance growth with sustainable development. She described the forum as a pivotal platform for sharing expertise, showcasing successful initiatives, and fostering partnerships among experts, policymakers, planners, and international organisations.

For his part, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Economic Affairs sector in the Arab League ambassador Dr Ali bin Ibrahim al-Malki, said that the convening of the event is a step that clearly reflects the Qatari leadership's commitment to supporting housing and sustainable urban development issues in the Arab region. It also underscores the strong will of the Council of Arab Ministers of Housing and Construction to ensure the continuity of this forum, the positive interaction of Arab states with this important event, and their full engagement in its activities, in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 11, which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, as well as to implement the executive plan of the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. (QNA)

# Qatar vows urban development for improving quality of life

## Doha hosts 42nd Session of Arab Housing, Construction Ministers Council



**Q**atar hosted yesterday the 42nd session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Housing and Construction, chaired by HE the Minister of Social Development and Family, Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi.

In her remarks, HE al-Nuaimi said it was an honour for Qatar to assume the presidency of the council's 42nd session, expressing pride in the confidence placed in the country.

She affirmed Qatar's commitment to continuing joint work with fellow Arab states to strengthen co-operation, create a supportive environment for developing housing policies, and improve the quality of life in Arab cities.

HE al-Nuaimi explained that Qatar's hosting of the ministerial session and its accompanying technical and dialogue activities comes within the framework of the Sixth Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, which opened yesterday in Doha under the theme, "Urban sustainability... for the future of generations."

She extended her thanks and appreciation to Algeria, which chaired the previous session, for

the effective steps taken during its tenure to support joint Arab action in the fields of housing and construction. She also commended the General Secretariat of the Arab League for its ongoing co-ordination and follow-up efforts.

HE al-Nuaimi noted that Qatar lays emphasis on developing the urban environment and enhancing the quality of life by modernising the housing system, improving the efficiency of basic services, and providing balanced residential communities, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030, which places people at the heart of development.

HE al-Nuaimi said holding the

session alongside the sixth ministerial forum provides an opportunity to deepen Arab dialogue on the future of housing and urban development, exchange expertise, and review experiences and practices that contribute to strengthening joint Arab action in this vital sector.

She expressed hope that the ministers' discussions and meetings would result in practical directions supporting Arab countries' efforts in housing and urban development, while keeping pace with the challenges and changes facing Arab cities.

At the outset of her speech, HE al-Nuaimi welcomed the minis-

ters, participating delegations, and organising and technical committees for their dedicated efforts in preparing the session, wishing the meeting success and constructive outcomes that enhance the future of housing and urban development in the Arab world.

The session discussed a range of issues related to enhancing co-operation, co-ordination, and dialogue among Arab countries in the housing and construction sector, exchanging expertise, and reviewing scientific and practical Arab experiences, among other topics aimed at advancing joint Arab work in this key field. **(QNA)**

## Qatar condemns attack on UN HQ in Kadugli, Sudan

**Q**atar has expressed its strong condemnation of the attack on the headquarters of the UN mission in Kadugli, the capital of South Kordofan State in Sudan, which resulted in the death of six Bangladeshi peacekeepers and injuries to others from the mission. In a statement issued yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's firm stance against violence, terrorism, and criminal acts, regardless of the motives and reasons. It expressed Qatar's condolences to the families of the victims and to the government and people of Bangladesh, and its wishes for a speedy recovery for the injured. (QNA)

Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has signed a contract with the Korean Ministry of Intellectual Property and the Korea Intellectual Property Strategy Agency, as part of the the National Intellectual Property Strategy which aims to develop the intel-

lectual property ecosystem and enhance the innovation environment in the country.

The agreement was signed by Mohammed bin Hassan al-Malki, Undersecretary of the MoCI, and Young-sun Kim, Minister of Intellectual Property, and Byung-soc Yoon, President of the Korea Intellectual Property Strategy Agency, in the presence of a number of officials from both sides.

Both parties emphasised the importance of strengthening co-operation between Qatar and Korea in intellectual property, in a manner that contributes to building national capacities and benefiting from Korea's advanced expertise in developing innovation-supportive strategies, a statement explained.

Under the agreement, the Korea Intellectual Property Strategy



Agency will prepare a comprehensive national intellectual property strategic plan, including an analysis of the current environment, the identification of vision, objectives, strategic priorities, and performance indicators.

The signing of this project represents a strategic step toward developing an integrated national

framework for intellectual property, contributing to enhanced economic competitiveness and supporting the transition toward a knowledge- and innovation-based economy, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the objectives of the Third National Development Strategy, the statement added.

## Shura Council Speaker meets Italian envoy



HE the Shura Council Speaker, Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, met yesterday with Italian ambassador Paolo Toschi. The meeting discussed bilateral relations, particularly parliamentary co-operation and ways to support and develop it. (QNA)

# Vodafone Qatar begins 3G network shutdown

Vodafone Qatar has started the full transition from third-generation (3G) services to fourth- and fifth-generation (4G and 5G) services, in line with a Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) decision to shut down 3G mobile networks across the country as of Dec 31, 2025.

The decision, issued by the CRA, applies to all mobile network operators in Qatar and represents an important step reflecting the efforts made by the state to develop and modernise

the telecommunications infrastructure nationwide, ensuring the provision of faster, more reliable, and future-ready digital services.

In this context, Vodafone Qatar will completely discontinue 3G services while continuing to provide voice and data services through its 4G and 5G networks. The company urges customers who use devices that support only 3G technology to upgrade their phones to devices compatible with 4G or 5G technologies to ensure uninterrupted service.

Vodafone Qatar affirms its commitment to supporting the country's digital transformation journey and enhancing the capabilities of telecommunications networks to meet customer needs, in line with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030. The company emphasises that ensuring a smooth transition for all subscribers to 4G and 5G technologies is a top priority at this stage.

To find out more about Vodafone Qatar, visit [www.vodafone.qa](http://www.vodafone.qa)



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# Afternoon Shift

# ADMISSIONS

# OPEN FOR 2026-27

✓
**Grades 1 to 8 ONLY**

✓
**Shift Timings: 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

- Students having valid Qatar Resident Permit are eligible.
- Last date for submitting the Afternoon Shift enquiry form: 21 December 2025
- Students in the afternoon shift will be moved to the morning shift on priority in one of the DPS Group of Schools in April 2027

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On the occasion of  
**Qatar National Day, 18th of December**  
and in remembrance of the historic day in 1878 when  
Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Bin Thani, founder of the State  
of Qatar, set up the pillars of the Modern State of Qatar,  
we extend our heartiest congratulations and greetings to

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

His Highness  
**Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani**  
Father Amir

His Highness  
**Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani**  
Deputy Amir

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

**The Chairman, the Board of Directors and all the employees  
of the QNB Group.**





# Forum raises mental health awareness



The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) recently organised a mental health forum in collaboration with the Mental Health Friends Association “Weyak”.

The forum is part of the ministry’s efforts to raise public awareness on mental health problems, promote health awareness among community members, familiarise them with the risks of psychological stress and its relationship with other diseases, and strengthen a workplace culture that supports positive communication and acceptance of psychological challenges.

The forum aims to enhance professional awareness of the importance of mental health as a key factor in improving staff efficiency, boosting workplace productivity and developing work-life balance skills, as well as enabling employees to recognise common work-related pressures and manage them effectively to reduce psychological and occupational burnout.

Masouma Fadel Sada, assistant director of the Healthcare Professions Department, said that the forum placed mental health at the forefront of priorities, in the belief that healthcare is not com-

plete without balanced and continuous psychological support provided by competent practitioners.

She explained that the Healthcare Professions Department grants the necessary licences to practitioners to carry out their work after verifying their professional competence, stressing that healthcare practitioners working in mental health are a fundamental pillar in building a leading model of psychological support in the health sector towards a healthier society.

The forum addressed several key topics, most notably: man-

aging stress in the workplace; occupational burnout through managing the psychological crisis resulting from the work environment; medication management in the care of people with diabetes and ways to overcome social and psychological burdens; and narrative therapy as one of the psychotherapeutic approaches to psychological trauma.

The event was attended by representatives from MoPH, the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, Qatar University, the Qatar Diabetes Association, and the Family Counselling Centre.

## QC hails ex-Iraq president Salih’s nomination as new UNHCR chief

Qatar Charity (QC) has congratulated Dr Barham Salih, former president of Iraq, on his nomination as the next UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

While his appointment remains subject to formal approval by the UN General Assembly, QC welcomes this important step and looks forward to supporting Dr Salih’s vision of placing refugees at the centre of global humanitarian action.

QC also conveys its appreciation to Filippo Grandi for his dedicated leadership as UN High Commissioner for Refugees since 2016. His tenure has been marked by unwavering commitment to refugee rights, strengthened global humanitarian co-ordination, and tireless advocacy for displaced communities.

The transition in UNHCR leadership comes at a time when more than 117mn people are forcibly displaced from their homes, both within their own countries and across borders, the highest number ever recorded. This reality underscores the urgency of collective action and the importance of strong partnerships in humanitarian response.

QC is to participate in the Global Refugee Forum



(GRF), taking place on Dec 15-17 in Geneva. It has been engaged in the forum since its inaugural edition in 2019, underscoring its commitment to collective action and responsibility-sharing for displaced people.

QC began its strategic partnership with UNHCR in 2012, a collaboration that has since supported and protected millions of refugees and internally displaced persons around the world.

Through joint initiatives in countries such as Syria, Yemen, Bangladesh, Somalia, Sudan, and Afghanistan, QC and UNHCR have expanded access to shelter, food, healthcare, education, and essential protection services.

Over the years, this partnership has helped strengthen resilience, restore dignity, and deliver life-saving assistance to some of the world’s most vulnerable populations.

Speaking about this partnership and the incoming leadership, QC CEO Yousuf al-Kuwari said: “We warmly welcome Dr Barham Salih’s nomination and support his vision to broaden funding sources and place refugees at the centre of humanitarian action. QC believes it can play a vital role in expanding resources and strengthening protection for displaced communities. We stand ready to work with UNHCR to advance this vision and look forward to making a dedicated pledge at the Global Refugee Forum in support of these efforts”.

As QC engages in this year’s Global Refugee Forum, it reaffirms its commitment to global humanitarian co-operation and to deepening its collaboration with UNHCR under incoming leadership. It remains steadfast in its mission to uphold the rights, safety, and wellbeing of refugees wherever they may be.

## Al-Hammadi meets Portuguese official

HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met yesterday with Portuguese Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation Ana Isabel Xavier, on the sidelines of the 11th Global Forum of UN Alliance of Civilisations being held in Riyadh. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and strengthen them. (QNA)



## BO’S Coffee opens 24/7 at Aspire Park, introduces new ‘Sip & Bite’ experience



BO’S Coffee opens newest outlet at Aspire Park, operates 24 hours.



BO’S Coffee announced the opening of its newest outlet at Aspire Park, now open 24 hours a day, offering coffee lovers a welcoming space at any time.

The new location features free Wi-Fi and a comfortable outdoor seating area, making it the perfect destination to relax, work, or meet with friends while enjoying premium coffee in a scenic park setting.

Alongside the opening, BO’S Coffee will introduce a unique new addition to its menu – Sip & Bite, an innovative way to enjoy coffee.

Sip & Bite features freshly baked waffle cups, crisp on the outside and lightly coated on the inside to keep coffee warm without leaking. With every sip, guests enjoy the rich aroma of coffee, and at the end, a sweet and satisfying bite.

Designed to be fun, sustainable, and memorable, Sip & Bite transforms a simple coffee moment into a complete experience.

With 24/7 service, free Wi-Fi, outdoor seating, and innovative menu offerings, BO’S Coffee at Aspire Park is set to become a new favourite destination for Doha’s coffee enthusiasts.

LIQUIDATION / LICENSE CANCELLATION NOTICE

M/s. Bintwar and Partners Group Consultancy QFZ LLC, (FZA No:407) located at QFZ P. O. Box 545, Qatar,

registered and licensed with the Qatar Free Zones Authority (the “Company”), wishes to announce the decision taken regarding closing down/ winding-up and cancellation of license via board resolution passed at the Shareholders meeting of M/s. Bintwar and Partners Group Consultancy QFZ LLC held on 07/10/ 2025.

Accordingly, any interested party who has a claim against the Company is hereby requested to submit its outstanding claims within 14 days of notice by registered post or contact:

Mr. VIDHEESH KUNNATH M T  
Bintwar and Partners Group Consultancy QFZ LLC  
Address: Doha, Qatar  
Tel No. 70645567, Email: acts@bintwargcp.com

Claims received after expiry of the notice period of 14 days shall not be considered.

QAFCO

شركة قطر للأسمدة

QAFCO FERTILISER COMPANY

QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY

INVITATION TO TENDER

QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER FEE RECEIPT SUBMISSION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFQ-6000004509	Scaffolding, Protective Coating & Thermal Insulation works in QAFCO Plants for five years.	500/- (Non-refundable)	4,440,000/- Four Million Four Hundred and Forty Thousand Only	15.12.2025 16.12.2025 17.12.2025 18.12.2025 21.12.2025 22.12.2025 23.12.2025	Estimated 15.02.2026

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company’s following Account at any QNB branch:

- Account Name : QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY P.S.C. (QAFCO)

- Account Number : 0013-025828-058

- IBAN : QA51QNBAA00000000013025828058

- Bank Name : QATAR NATIONAL BANK

The interested Bidders shall mention their company’s name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.

Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder’s name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender (**Very Important**), during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.

Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to dananda@qafco.com.qa and jhafek@qafco.com.qa on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (nonrefundable).

After submission of the above documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately.

For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the submission Tender Fee receipt at the QAFCO Supply Chain, you may contact at 'jhafek@qafco.com.qa' and dananda@qafco.com.qa or on 44227740, 44225759

Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.

The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.

Bids shall be submitted at QAFCO Tender Office, between 0930 – 1100 hours during the Holy month of Ramadan and 0930 – 1130 hours and 1230 – 1400 hours, of any working day of the Company, on/before the “Tender Closing Date”.

## UDST athletes excel at 10th World InterUniversities Championships

UDST team in Barcelona.

University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) represented Qatar at the 10th World InterUniversities Championships in Barcelona, Spain.

Competing against over 5,000 athletes from top universities worldwide, UDST participated in male football, male badminton, male swimming, male track, and female volleyball, demonstrating the university’s commitment to excellence in both academics and athletics.

UDST concluded the championships with an impressive total of seven medals, including two gold, three silver, and two bronze. This remarkable achievement reflects the dedication, talent, and competitive spirit of the university’s student-athletes, and underscores

UDST’s ability to excel on the international stage across multiple sports.

The athletes delivered remarkable performances; Muhammad Gayuh Wijaya secured the Gold Medal in Men’s Singles Badminton, helping the badminton team achieve third place overall. In track, Jamal Hairane finished fifth in the 800-metre run, reflecting his strong international competitiveness.

The swimming team also excelled, finishing first in the men’s competition and third overall. The relay team, consisting of Abdullah Elghamry, Abdallah Alkhaldi, Ahmed Diab, and Youssef Gamea, won Gold in the 4x50 Medley Relay. Abdallah Alkhaldi earned a Silver Medal in the 50-m butterfly, while Ahmed Diab captured Silver in the 50-m breaststroke. Abdullah Elghamry took

Silver in the 50-m backstroke, Youssef Gamea earned Bronze in the 50-m free-style, and Ahmed Diab added a Bronze Medal in the 200-m medley.

Dr Salem Al-Naemi, president of UDST, said: “We are immensely proud of our student athletes who represented UDST and Qatar at this prestigious international event. Their dedication, discipline, and achievements exemplify the values and standards that UDST upholds. Beyond the medals, their performance reflects the university’s commitment to developing well-rounded individuals who excel not only academically but also in non-academic pursuits locally and on the international stage, embodying resilience, teamwork, and a spirit of excellence that will inspire future generations.”



# Qatar among 5 largest donors to UN Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs for 2025

QNA  
New York

Qatar has expressed its pride in being among the five largest donor countries contributing to humanitarian aid to the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for 2025, with a total exceeding \$1.528bn, reflecting the utmost priority Qatar gives to humanitarian response.

This came in a statement delivered by HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani, before the United Nations General Assembly session on Agenda item 72 (a): Strengthening of the co-ordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the co-ordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, convened at the UN headquarters in New York.

HE Sheikha Alya emphasised that the UNGA convenes to weigh in on this agenda at a time when a variety of world territories are experiencing a profoundly perilous humanitarian situation, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where humanitarian needs are unprecedentedly mounting due to the Israeli aggression in the enclave.

At the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Qatar launched a humanitarian aid land bridge last October in response to the urgent needs to mitigate the anguish of the brotherly Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, Sheikha Alya highlighted.

She pointed out that the bridge was launched through the territories of Jordan and Egypt, noting that this initiative came in the wake of the signing of the document to end the war in the Gaza Strip during the Sharm El-Sheikh Summit, with Qatar emphasising



ing the importance of fully consolidating the ceasefire, putting an end to the suffering of civilians, ensuring unhindered entry of humanitarian aid, and embarking on early recovery and reconstruction efforts.

She said the tragic humanitarian situation in El-Fasher in Sudan, and the tough conditions faced by civilians, including severe food shortages and increasing need for shelter supplies and essential goods due to the armed conflict, compelled Qatar to dispatch humanitarian and relief assistance last November to support the displaced from El-Fasher in Darfur and surrounding areas.

Qatar stresses the need for the Rapid Support Forces to fulfil their duty in protecting civilians, ensuring the secure delivery of humanitarian aid, and adhering to international humanitarian law as stipulated in the Jeddah Declaration, Sheikha Alya continued.

She clarified that from 2013 until October 2025, Qatar provided \$1.9bn in support of the general budget and core contributions to UN agencies, their regional offices, and initiatives, adding that, based on the existing partnership between Qatar and the UN, Qatar provided multi-year support for the core resources of OCHA during the period 2017-2026, totalling \$88mn, to strengthen its capacity

to implement its mandate.

Yesterday, the renewal of Qatar's support for the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for 2026 was declared, bringing its total contributions to CERF since its inception to over \$22mn, Sheikha Alya recalled.

Sheikha Alya elaborated that the worsening humanitarian situation gripping numerous crisis zones triggers intensified diplomatic efforts to have a climate in place that helps ensure urgent and unconditional access to humanitarian aid, with the objective of salvaging millions of civilians from humanitarian suffering.

She stressed that this action requires a regional and global effort in prioritising humanitarian action and protecting workers operating in the humanitarian field, as they are the key drivers of delivering humanitarian aid.

She further noted that last September, Qatar joined the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel, led by Australia, and the Global Initiative launched by the International Committee of the Red Cross to strengthen and ensure respect for international humanitarian law (IHL).

Finally, HE Sheikha Alya underlined the State of Qatar's steadfast efforts to strengthen humanitarian diplomacy, in pursuit of mitigating humanitarian suffering and protecting human dignity. (QNA)

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and in remembrance of the historic day in 1878 when  
Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Bin Thani, founder of the State of Qatar,  
set up the pillars of the Modern State of Qatar,

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

His Highness  
**Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani**  
Father Amir

His Highness  
**Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani**  
Deputy Amir

and to all the honorable people of Qatar

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



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# Education minister inaugurates Bunyan Student Center

HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatir opened yesterday the Bunyan Student Center, which is concerned with the care, empowerment and integrated development of young people based on spiritual, intellectual, physical, social and creative aspects.

The opening ceremony, held at the Granada Preparatory School for Girls, was attended by a number of senior officials from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), along with students, teachers, preachers, media professionals and social media influencers.

Following the opening, Her Excellency toured the centre, where she was briefed on the educational, training, and sports activities it offers. She listened to a detailed explanation of its various programs, praising the students' performance and their enthusiasm and desire to learn, and appreciating their interest in the centre and the message of its programmes.

According to its vision, the Bunyan Student Center aims to build a balanced and conscious generation that thrives on its values and skills and contributes to the advancement of its society, while its mission is to develop a generation that is integrated spiritually, intellectually, culturally and healthily, provide them with life skills, and strengthen their belonging to values, so that they find a safe environment and good company that helps them to grow and contribute to the advancement of their society. She also addressed the centre's work mechanism and programmes, noting the launch of its first programme entitled: "I am seven and I will pray," stressing the importance of prayer as the pillar of religion and the starting point in building a person, by instilling the love of prayer in the hearts of children and strengthening their connection with Allah.

In its first day, the Bunyan Center recorded the participation of more than 500 male and female students, who were introduced to the "I am seven and I will pray" programme during two periods, morning and evening, in both Arabic and English.

The programme targets girls and boys aged 7-8 years, where students went through seven educational and recreational stations, including: "Prayer is a gift", "purity is light". "Al Fatiha is a key", "prayer is a connection", "come to success", "the strong believer", and "my prayer mat". The activities included reciting verses from the Qur'an, explaining how to perform ablution and prayer, introducing students to the call to prayer and the meanings of its words, reciting the supplications after prayer, in addition to performing the prayer in congregation, providing each student with a prayer mat decorated with a picture of the Kaaba and with his name written on it, as well as interactive sports activities. The opening ceremony programme also included student dialogues, and the presentation of an introductory film explaining the centre's vision, mission, goals and areas of work, and concluded with the students performing the prayer together in application of what they had learned. (QNA)

## Toyota, Lexus models, Belkin products recalled

THE Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Al Abdulghani Motors, has announced the recall of Toyota Crown, Highlander, Lexus RX350, RX500h, LS500h, LS500 Vehicles 2023-2025 models, due to a possible defect in the Parking Assist ECU which may cause the rear-view image to freeze briefly during reverse or rear-view image may not display during reverse, if the ignition is turned on and off within a specific time.

The ministry, in co-operation with Modern Home, also announced the recall of BPB002 Belkin Boost Charge USB-C PD Power Bank 20K, manufactured in China, 2021, and MMA008 Auto-Tracking Stand Pro with DockKit for iPhone, manufactured in Vietnam, 2024, due to the possibility that the battery will overheat during use, leading to a fire hazard.

The ministry said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that dealers follow up with defects and withdrawals.

The ministry said it will coordinate with the dealers to follow up on the recall campaign and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary actions are carried out.

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: MOCIQTAR (available on iOS and Android devices).

## talabat and British Council Qatar empower 150+ riders through English and soft skills training

talabat, the leading on-demand delivery platform in the Mena region, has partnered with British Council Qatar to deliver a series of soft skills and foundational English Communication trainings designed to support riders with practical tools that help build confidence, strengthen communication, and enhance their overall work experience.

Hosted at talabat's headquarters, over four engaging sessions equipped 150+ riders with essential language tools and practical communication skills built around real delivery scenarios.

Francisco Miguel de Sousa, managing director at talabat Qatar, said: "At talabat, investing in people's growth is what we do. This partnership with the British Council allows us to support riders with skills that contribute to their confidence, safety, and daily experience on the road. Their commitment to learning and growth inspires us every day, and we look forward to continuing initiatives that empower them personally and professionally."

Dr Waseem Kotoub, country director, British Council Qatar, commented: "This collaboration reflects our unwavering commitment to empowering individuals with essential skills that transform lives. By supporting riders in their literacy journey, we are not only enhancing communication but also opening doors to greater opportunities, personal growth and community engagement. At the British Council, we believe that education is the cornerstone of progress, and partnerships like this bring that vision to life."

The collaboration brought together British Council trainers who tailored the content to real life use cases riders encounter throughout their shifts. The training included confidence building exercises to help riders feel more prepared during peak hours and high-pressure moments.

Each session emphasised practical communication, focusing on vocabulary commonly used in delivery settings, how to navigate conversa-



The training included confidence building exercises to help riders feel more prepared during peak hours and high-pressure moments.

tions with customers and how to respond calmly and clearly to unexpected situations. The sessions were designed to be hands-on, relevant and accessible.

British Council trainers Michelle Wandrag, Aneesha Kooshkaki and Kashmir Singh Sajwan facilitated the sessions and shared: "Collaborating with talabat on rider training allowed us to turn real delivery scenarios into practical language and soft skills tools. The riders' openness and commitment stood out, and we're confident these skills will support safer, clearer, and more positive interactions with customers and vendors."

This initiative forms part of talabat's broader effort to invest in rider development, safety and wellbeing. For the British Council, the programme reinforces its role as a global leader in English language learning, vocational skills development and inclusive education, providing individuals with the abilities they need to thrive in a changing world. Both organisations intend to explore future opportunities to scale this model, ensuring more riders in Qatar benefit from similar development programmes.

## Al Meera launches local farmers market to enhance support for national food security

Al Meera Consumer Goods Company has inaugurated the 'Local Farmers Market Festival' at its Ain Khaled branch.

The event was held in the presence of Hassan bin Sultan al-Ghanim, assistant undersecretary for Consumer Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Jassim Mohammed al-Ansari, CEO of Al Meera, along with members of its senior management.

Running until December 24, 2025, the Local Farmers Market celebrates the vital contributions of Qatari farmers, who play an essential role in strengthening food security, advancing local production, and providing communities with healthy, high-quality produce. The initiative reflects Al Meera's national mandate to empower local producers and make fresh, locally grown products more accessible to customers across Qatar.

Speaking at the inauguration, al-Ansari reaffirmed the company's commitment to supporting Qatar's agricultural sector,



The inauguration of Al Meera's 'Local Farmers Market Festival' at its Ain Khaled branch was held in the presence of Hassan bin Sultan al-Ghanim, Assistant Undersecretary for Consumer Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Jassim Mohammed al-Ansari, CEO of Al Meera, along with members of its senior management.

stating that the market underscores Al Meera's role as a strategic partner in promoting national products and enhancing the country's self-sufficiency efforts. The focus is closely aligned with the Qatar National Vision 2030, which emphasises sustainable development and economic diversification.

The market brings together a

curated selection of local farms, offering customers fresh vegetables, fruits, herbs, and other locally sourced items, reinforcing Al Meera's ongoing efforts to elevate local brands and create new platforms for Qatari producers to grow and thrive. Supporting local products remains a core pillar of the company's mission and vision for long-term growth.

## Visit Qatar reveals return of 25N51E Music Festival

Visit Qatar announced the return of the 25N51E Music Festival, which will take place on January 30, 2026 at Stadium 974, bringing one of Qatar's most exciting electronic-dance music experiences to life with an extraordinary lineup of international artists across two dynamic stages.

The 25E Main Stage will feature global headliners including Calvin Harris, Alesso and Afrojack, each renowned worldwide for their chart-topping hits and dynamic live performances. The 51N Stage will offer a curated experi-

ence for electronic music fans, showcasing NTO and Ben Bohmer, both celebrated for their innovative sounds and ability to craft captivating performances.

Named after Qatar's geographic co-ordinates, 25° North, 51° East, the festival stands as a cultural and musical landmark event, symbolising Qatar's unique position on the map as a growing hub for world-class entertainment.

The lineup will continue to expand with new artist announcements in the weeks ahead, promising an even more vibrant festival experience.



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## Mexico, Qatar mark 50 years of diplomacy through music

By Shaima Sheriff  
Doha

Music took centre stage as a powerful tool of cultural diplomacy when the embassy of Mexico in Qatar, in collaboration with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra and Qatar Museums, hosted a commemorative concert titled 'Notes That Unite: Mexico and Qatar - 50 Years in Melodic Harmony' at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) yesterday.

The concert marked the closing event of the official programme commemorating the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Mexico and Qatar, bringing together diplomats, cultural figures, artists, and guests from several embassies. The evening reflected five decades of friendship, co-operation, and shared cultural dialogue between the two nations.



Mexican ambassador to Qatar Jose Guillermo Ordorica Robles.

um embodies heritage, creativity, and cross-cultural exchange - values that were strongly echoed throughout the concert. Against the backdrop of its iconic architecture and collections, the evening highlighted how art and culture continue to bridge nations.

The programme featured a Qatari Philharmonic Brass performance, which presented a rich musical journey that blended Mexican and Arab traditions. The agenda included 'Son de

Mexico' by Enrique Crespo, 'Lamma Badda' arranged by Roberto Pintos, 'Danzon No 2' by Arturo Marquez, 'Layla' by Dana Alfardan, 'Spirit of Maqam' by Dr Nasser Sahim, 'Suite Mexicana' arranged by Jack Gale, 'Hijaz', and 'La Bikina' by Ruben Fuentes Gasson, arranged by Eric Fregozo.

Renowned Qatari composer Dana Alfardan was part of the evening, with her work featured alongside the orchestra, reinforcing the spirit of collaboration and mutual respect between Qatari and Mexican artistic expressions.

Speaking to *Gulf Times* on the sidelines of the event, Mexican ambassador Jose Guillermo Ordorica Robles emphasised the central role of cultural diplomacy in Mexico's foreign policy. He described it as one of the country's most important tools for building connections with people and promoting understanding through culture.

"Music unites," the ambassador

said, explaining that music creates communication beyond language and fosters deeper understanding. He added that 'Notes That Unite' reflected this belief, using music as a medium to strengthen bilateral relations and encourage dialogue between nations.

Robles also noted the striking similarities between Mexican and Qatari music, expressing his admiration for the shared elements revealed during the concert. He said these similarities point to deeper historical roots and cultural connections between the two countries, reinforcing the strength of their relationship.

As the final performance concluded, 'Notes That Unite' stood as more than a commemorative concert. It served as a cultural statement, celebrating five decades of diplomatic relations between Mexico and Qatar, and reaffirming the role of music as a universal language that continues to unite people and cultures.





# PHCC celebrates Qatar National Day with authentic traditions

The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) employees and affiliates celebrated Qatar National Day at the PHCC headquarters, where the values of belonging, loyalty and love for the nation were embedded.

The celebration reflected an authentic Qatari spirit that conveyed the deep meanings of this cherished day for everyone. It witnessed broad engagement from PHCC employees, who expressed their pride and honour in the national occasion that reminds all of the journey of establishment, development and unity that began during the era of the founder and of the nation's progress and advancement achieved under the wide leadership.

The event included several heritage-themed segments, including a video about Qatar's past, highlighting traditional clothing, crafts and trades practised by the forefathers. These scenes took the attendees back to a time of simplicity and authenticity. Among the most popular stations were the traditional Qatari food booth and the henna corner, both re-



flecting important aspects of Qatari identity.

The highlight of the event was the traditional Qatari clothing exhibition, which showcased a variety of garments for men, women and children, such as the bisht, ghutra, agal, gahfiya, abaya, thobe alnashel, daraa, bukhaq, and the traditional men's thobe, adding a complete aesthetic touch to the celebration, especially with children participating in their traditional outfits.

Attendees also enjoyed the traditional games corner, featuring games such as Dama and Carrom, which form a memorable part of

the community's heritage. There was also a "Traditional Shop" corner displaying old products, sold in the past, stirring nostalgia among everyone, along with a traditional coffee station offering local foods and beverages.

The event concluded in an atmosphere filled with pride and joy, with heartfelt expressions from employees, both citizens and residents, who were keen to wear the traditional attire and everything symbolising this special occasion, reflecting their sense of belonging to this beloved country, and their pride in its past, present and future.



# 'National Day renews pledge to advance Qatar's path of progress'

HE the President of the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA), Engineer Abdulrahman Ali Muhammad al-Farahid al-Malki (pictured), told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the celebrations of the National Day, which annually falls on Dec 18, are an exceptional national occasion for all fellow citizens to renew their pledge to contribute to the path of progress and the nation's development.

This year's celebration comes after tremendous successes and achievements made by the hard-working people of Qatar, who strengthened the nation's standing on the regional and global stages in all sectors, including cybersecurity and the nation's digital transformation, in commensuration with Qatar National Vision 2030, al-Malki said.

A myriad of objectives have been achieved this year, with Qatar's National Incident Management Framework (NIMF), which primarily aims to strengthen the nation's readiness to reduce the direct consequences in case of any cyber incident that might impact at the national level, al-Malki highlighted while addressing the NCSA's achievements in 2025.

He added that the National Cyber Crisis Framework and the National Institutional Cyber Crisis Management Framework have been launched to bolster the security and flexibility of Qatar's cyber system through effectively managing national cyber crises in unison with the competent authorities at the national level.

The NCSA organised the 12th National Cyber Drill, the event behemoth associated with the domain of cybersecurity, which drew over 170 critical entities nationwide, al-Malki pointed out.

He further indicated that the agency organised the 4th Annual Cyber Governance and Assurance Conference under the theme "Navigating the Cyber Horizon:



Resilience through Preparedness and Innovation". On the regional stage, al-Malki highlighted NCSA's pre-eminent participation in all four events, culminating in the achievement of consequential milestones, foremost among them Qatar's hosting of the first joint Arab cyber drill within the nation's initiative at the Arab Cybersecurity Ministers Council under the umbrella of the Arab League. The event drew participation from 21 Arab countries, with NCSA taking part in several important meetings.

Al-Malki further elaborated that the NCSA's presence on the global stage had a significant footprint throughout 2025, through participation in the most important global events and international fora, culminating in receiving numerous awards.

The agency organised a high-level side event at the UN headquarters in New York within the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group (OWG), which succeeded in drawing a record number of participating countries, he recalled.

He asserted that Qatar has an effective presence as a party in formulating the international dialogue on cybersecurity, with the 5G White Paper launched on the margins of MWC Doha 2025, thereby demonstrating the NCSA's leading role in supporting innovation and strengthening the readiness of digital infra-

structure. As part of broadening its institutional presence, the agency received membership in the International Society of Automation (ISA) in support of its efforts to advance standards and elevate its cyber readiness based on the best global practices, al-Malki noted.

Al-Malki further pointed out that NCSA targeted all community segments in terms of awareness, from state functionaries, private enterprises, the elderly, young people, children, women, individuals with disabilities, and even expatriate workers, with well-informed awareness messages about cybersecurity and mitigating cyber threats.

The agency has been committed to marking Cybersecurity Awareness Month, observed every October, by launching an awareness campaign under the theme "Secure Your World, Protect Your Future", which draws a record turnout from the community, he said. Al-Malki further indicated that throughout 2025, NCSA, through the National Cyber Security Academy (NCSA), convened numerous awareness workshops aimed at bolstering individuals' cyber capabilities, along with training workshops for IT professionals and operators, in addition to launching a variety of programmes directed towards the community in pursuit of shoring up digital safety.

The NCSA's primary awareness objective is grounded in building a secure community in terms of cybersecurity, whose members enjoy ample awareness to navigate future challenges concomitantly with the rapid crescendo of the technological revolution and promoting Qatar's standing on the global cyber map, he explained.

Al-Malki also emphasised that the agency operates steadfastly around the clock to secure cyberspace and ensure access to a secure digital environment in Qatar. (QNA)

## PM visits Darb Al Saai



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani visited yesterday the Darb Al Saai events held as part of the Qatar National Day celebrations under the slogan "With You It Rises, From You It Awaits". During the visit, His Excellency toured the pavilions of Darb Al Saai and was briefed on the interactive heritage and cultural events and programmes it offers, which embody the features of the authentic Qatari identity and highlight the richness of the popular heritage and deeply rooted societal values, reflecting the keenness of various entities to preserve the national heritage and transmit it in a vivid and up-to-date manner to present and future generations. He was also briefed on the details of the accompanying activities and organisational efforts for the events, in a manner befitting this national occasion. He was accompanied by HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani and a number of officials. (QNA)



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# Turkish envoy says National Day embodies pride, unity, belonging

Turkish ambassador to Qatar Dr Mustafa Goksu (**pictured**) said that Qatar National Day is a moment of immense pride and unity for Qatar.

This important occasion symbolises the strength, cohesion, and enduring values of the Qatari people, who have built modern, confident and a forward-looking nation.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), he said that this year's National Day slogan: "With you It Rises, From You It Awaits", stated by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, puts human development in the centre of Qatari way of progress and the sustainability of achievements. "This message resonates deeply", he added, noting that it reflects the shared interest in humanity and its contribution to building society.

He said Qatar and Turkiye share deep historical bonds, close friendship, and brotherly ties, noting that Qatar's constructive and forward-looking foreign policy has undoubtedly positioned it as a key actor in regional and international diplomacy. Its unwavering commitment to dialogue, conflict prevention, mediation and humanitarian engagement has earned Qatar a well-deserved reputation as a trusted mediator and a responsible stakeholder in global affairs.

Qatar's diplomatic success stem from its ability to maintain open channels with all parties, its principled approach to respectful conflict resolution, and its readiness to assume an active role in addressing regional challenges, he added.

He stressed that Turkiye appreciates and supports Qatar's efforts to promote dialogue and co-operation,



tion, particularly at a time when such efforts are more needed than ever. He added, Qatar's mediation driven diplomacy aligns closely with our shared vision for a more peaceful, stable, and prosperous region.

He stressed that Turkiye and Qatar remain firmly committed to working together and contributing to conflict-resolution efforts and promoting understanding, and consensus among various parties, as in the cases of Israel-Palestine, Afghanistan-Pakistan etc.

The ambassador said that Qatar's achievements across all sectors and at all levels stand as a testament to its leadership, its people's dedication and its strategic planning. What distinguishes Qatar is its exceptional ability to harmonise its cultural identity and traditions with rapid and comprehensive development.

The generosity and hospitality of the Qatari people are remarkable and reflect the deep-rooted values of appreciation and authenticity. Qatar also demonstrates a strong commitment to preserving its heritage while simultaneously advancing its urban and economic landscape. This

balanced approach where modernity and tradition reinforce one another, creates an uniquely enriching environment for residents, visitors, and in those of us here in Doha, he added.

He noted that Turkiye and Qatar enjoy a strategic partnership built upon deep-rooted friendship, mutual trust, and a shared vision for the future. This exceptional brotherly relationship has developed over many decades and is characterised by mutual respect, common interests, and a principled commitment to standing together in support of what is right.

"Our co-operation spans a wide spectrum - politics, economy, culture, education, defence, and security. We also maintain close co-ordination on regional and international matters that promote peace, stability, and prosperity in our region", he said.

"Through comprehensive agreements, joint initiatives, and expanding partnerships, we continue to strengthen our ties in areas such as mutual investments, cultural exchanges, and programmes that enhance people-to-people connectivity and support bilateral trade", he added.

Concluding his remarks to QNA, Turkiye ambassador to Qatar Dr Mustafa Goksu said that under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Turkiye-Qatar's strategic co-operation will continue to deepen across all fields. Over the past decade, the bilateral relations have gained remarkable momentum, underpinned by more than 120 agreements covering wide range of sectors-from politics and economy to education, culture, and the environment. (**QNA**)

# Syrian envoy praises Qatar's progress, growing bilateral ties

Syria's Charge d'Affaires in Doha, Dr Bilal Turkiya (**pictured**), has praised Qatar's national development journey and its rising regional and international profile, describing Qatar National Day as a moment for reflection on the country's "pioneering" progress.

Speaking to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), Dr Turkiya said the occasion embodies unity, loyalty and appreciation for the state-building foundations laid by Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, Qatar's founder. He further noted that the day highlights what he called Qatar's far-reaching transformation in governance, infrastructure and diplomacy under its wise leadership.

He said the National Day is not only a celebration, but also a reminder of the authentic values that define Qatari society, including solidarity, generosity and commitment to work. Qatar's openness and emphasis on coexistence, he added, have turned the celebration into an inclusive event shared by citizens and expatriates alike.

Dr Turkiya underlined Qatar's achievements in sectors such as the economy, education, sport and humanitarian diplomacy, saying these had made the country a regional model for sustainable development. Qatar's growing diplomatic influence, he said, has been shaped by a balanced foreign policy and an approach rooted in dialogue and peace under the leadership of



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

He further noted that this year's National Day slogan, "With you it rises, and from you it awaits" - a phrase drawn from His Highness the Amir's 2016 speech at Qatar University, reflects the central role of Qatari citizens in shaping the nation's progress.

The envoy also highlighted Qatar's rapid modernisation across key sectors including infrastructure, scientific research, energy, healthcare, culture and the arts. He said these gains stem from long-term strategic planning aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030, and have helped create a stable and competitive environment driven by innovation and openness.

Qatar, he said, has now positioned itself as a regional hub for energy, the economy, education and major global events - a status that he believes provides broader horizons for co-operation between Syria and Qatar, especially in fields related to knowledge and human

development. Dr Turkiya said Doha's role during the Syrian crisis - particularly its humanitarian support - remains deeply valued by Syrians. Qatar, he noted, has consistently advocated for people affected by conflict and contributed to relief, development and political efforts addressing the Syrian situation.

According to the envoy, Syrian-Qatari relations have entered a new phase since what he described as the liberation of Syria and the start of the country's new political chapter. He said that ties have strengthened rapidly, with Qatar reopening its embassy in Damascus in December 2024 and reaffirming support for political and humanitarian initiatives.

This year, he added, the two countries signed a wide range of co-operation agreements spanning energy, trade, finance, tourism, telecommunications and higher education. Qatar also continued delivering humanitarian and development aid, and joined major joint initiatives with Saudi Arabia aimed at improving essential services in Syria. Qatari financial institutions have also expanded their involvement in supporting Syria's banking sector, he said.

Dr Turkiya concluded his remarks by offering congratulations to Qatar's leadership and people on the National Day, wishing the country continued stability and prosperity. (**QNA**)

# National Day an occasion to celebrate Qatar's impressive development: Cyprus envoy

Cyprus ambassador to Qatar Andreas Nikolaides (**pictured**) affirmed that Qatar National Day (QND) represents a valuable opportunity to celebrate the remarkable achievements of Qatar and the impressive progress it has made towards prosperity and development.

He extended, on behalf of his country, sincere congratulations to the leadership and people of Qatar on the national occasion.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), the ambassador commended the outstanding accomplishments realised under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani. He praised Qatar's major strides in diversifying its economy beyond reliance on hydrocarbons through the continued implementation of Qatar National Vision 2030 and its four pillars: human development through education and health, social development and cultural preservation, economic development driven by innovation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and environmental development.

The ambassador also lauded Qatar's active and principled foreign policy focused on promoting peace and stability at both regional and international levels.



He noted the tireless mediation efforts led by His Highness the Amir and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani were instrumental in achieving the recent ceasefire in Gaza and were widely appreciated by the international community.

Furthermore, he highlighted Qatar's leading humanitarian and development role through institutions such as Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), Qatar Charity, Qatar Red Crescent Society, and the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, stressing their pivotal contribution to providing humanitarian assistance, combating poverty, and expanding access to education for underprivileged

communities. The ambassador emphasised that bilateral relations between Cyprus and Qatar are witnessing significant growth and diversification across numerous sectors, including the economy, foreign direct investment, higher education, research, innovation, food security, waste management, shipping and the digital economy. He also underlined the importance of the year-round daily flights operated by Qatar Airways between Hamad International Airport and Larnaca Airport in strengthening people-to-people ties.

As the European Union's geographically closest member state to the Mena and Gulf region, the ambassador said Cyprus places the highest priority on strengthening EU relations with Mena and Gulf partners. He added that enhancing interconnectivity and co-operation between the EU and Gulf states will be a central focus when Cyprus assumes the presidency of the EU Council on Jan 1, 2026.

Concluding his remarks, the ambassador reaffirmed the strength of the ties between Cyprus and Qatar, stressing that both countries share a firm commitment to international law, the rules-based international order, and multilateralism in support of global peace and stability. (**QNA**)



Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Qatar Yun Hyunsoo (**pictured**) emphasised that Qatar National Day (QND) represents a precious occasion that embodies what Qatar has achieved in terms of unity, national progress, and cohesion, offering his congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Qatari people, and all residents on this precious occasion.

In his remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA) on the occasion of QND, which falls on Dec 18, he said QND carries profound connotations that reflect the journey of development and achievement that the country has witnessed, and embodies the national legacy established by the founder, Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, who united the tribes and laid the first foundations for modern Qatar.

He also praised Qatar's prominent role in mediating and re-

**The Korean ambassador has said the QND carries profound connotations that reflect the journey of development and achievement that the country has witnessed, and embodies the national legacy established by the founder, Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani**

solving regional and international conflicts. He noted that Doha has become a pivotal platform for dialogue through wise and strategic diplomacy. He emphasised that the Republic of Korea highly appreciates the efforts of Qatar in issues related to the Gaza Strip, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

He also commended the great progress made by Qatar in its journey towards achieving its National Vision 2030, through the development of renewable energy and artificial intelligence projects, and the expansion of smart agriculture technologies that have enhanced the country's food security and brought it to advanced levels of self-sufficiency despite climate challenges, as well as the industrial growth that Qatar is witnessing in the ethylene, ammonia, urea, helium and advanced manufacturing industries.

He said that the fifty-year relationship between the Republic

of Korea and Qatar has witnessed continuous development and was elevated in 2023 to the level of a comprehensive strategic partnership. He indicated that Qatar is one of the most important suppliers of LNG to Korea, and that Korean companies have implemented more than 130 construction projects in Qatar, reflecting the mutual trust between the two sides.

He also noted that co-operation is expanding in the areas of artificial intelligence, renewable energy and cybersecurity, and that the Republic of Korea is ready to support Qatar's future projects in technology, climate and green transition.

Concluding his remarks to QNA, ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Qatar Yun Hyunsoo voiced his hope to strengthen co-operation between the countries and the commitment to supporting Qatar's vision and aspirations in the path of future development. (**QNA**)

# Qatar's 'comprehensive transformation makes it the regional leader in innovation, development'

Germany's ambassador to Qatar Oliver Owczka (**pictured**) has highlighted the sweeping transformation Qatar has witnessed across various sectors, driving remarkable, transformative growth that has positioned it as a regional leader in innovation and development.

In a statement to the Qatar News Agency (QNA) marking Qatar National Day (QND), the envoy expressed his admiration

for the dynamism, ambition, and forward-looking momentum that Qatar consistently demonstrates as it charts its future.

Owczka noted the significant evolution of bilateral relations between Germany and Qatar over the years, underscoring that they have been strengthened by many shared values.

He added that the strong diplomatic ties between the two countries have enabled close co-operation

in addressing major regional and global challenges.

The envoy affirmed that the outlook for the partnership is promising and already spans a wide array of fields, including trade and investment.

Both countries, he added, remain committed to advancing sustainable development, supporting innovation, and deepening cultural exchange.

Owczka added that as co-op-

eration continues in crucial areas, such as climate diplomacy through the Doha Climate Dialogue, energy transition, and humanitarian efforts, the partnership is set to continue flourishing in ways that yield mutual benefits and reinforce regional stability and prosperity.

The envoy described the QND as a moment for the Qatari people to celebrate their rich history, honour the sacrifices of their

forefathers, and reflect on the country's remarkable progress.

It is, he said, a day of pride, unity, and contemplation of the nation's strength and resilience.

For residents of Qatar, including those from Germany, Owczka said the National Day offers an opportunity to appreciate the country's unique blend of tradition and modernity, as well as its vibrant and welcoming society. It also serves as a reminder, the



envoy added, of the strong and growing relationship between Qatar and Germany, one built on shared values of sustainability, innovation, and co-operation. (**QNA**)



# 11th UN anti-corruption conference to be held in Doha on December 15-19

From Page 1

The convention covers five main areas, namely preventative measures, criminalisation and law enforcement, international co-operation, asset recovery, and technical assistance and information exchange.

It also addresses various forms of corruption, including bribery, trading in influence, abuse of functions, and corruption within the private sector.

According to the latest edition of Transparency International (TI)'s annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) report, published in February 2025, more than two-thirds of the countries assessed scored below 50 out of 100, while the global average remained unchanged at 43.

The CPI ranks 180 countries and territories based on perceived levels of public sector corruption, on a scale ranging from zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

Abuse of power, opaque dealings, and bribery remain among the most prominent manifestations of corruption.

At the international level, TI has warned that global corruption levels remain alarmingly high, with efforts to curb them continuing to falter.

The organisation noted that nearly 6.8bn people, equivalent to 85% of the world's population of 8bn, live in countries scoring below 50 on the CPI.

Regionally, the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states, including Qatar, topped the list of Arab countries in terms of anti-corruption measures.

TI attributed the notable improvement and relatively high scores achieved by GCC countries to their adoption of investments in public-sector technological solutions, known as e-governance.

Qatar's accumulated experience in organising such conferences and its international reputation for successfully hosting global events were the direct reasons for the United Nations' decision to entrust it with hosting the conference meetings for the second time, since 2009.

Qatar was chosen in December 2023 as the venue for the tenth session of the conference, which was held under the theme *20 Years of the UN Convention against Corruption: Towards a United World against Corruption*.

According to the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA)

of Qatar, the sponsor and organiser of the conference, the programme will focus on discussing a range of issues related to combating corruption in member states and the legal procedures adopted by competent authorities.

The conference will feature high-level participation, including heads of state, ministers, leaders of law enforcement agencies, and heads of integrity and anti-corruption bodies.

HE the President of the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority Hamad bin Nasser al-Misnad said, during a press conference held on December 9 to announce the conference's activities, that Qatar's hosting of this conference embodies its deep commitment to strengthening multilateral action and consolidating good governance, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

He noted that it underscores Qatar's active role in supporting the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption since its ratification, including its contribution to the convention's mechanisms, most notably hosting the third session in 2009, which witnessed the adoption of the terms of reference for the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism and the launch of its first review cycle.

He highlighted the organisation of approximately 120 official side events for the conference and 12 draft resolutions currently under negotiation, in addition to events preceding the official proceedings.

These include the 5th Anti-Corruption Academic Forum, which is dedicated this year to showcasing the latest research on the use of artificial intelligence in anti-corruption efforts, with the participation of 150 researchers and academics.

Al-Misnad emphasised that the conference is not merely a platform to review achievements, but a forum for renewing international will, strengthening co-operation, and building capacities, particularly in developing countries.

Experts unanimously agree that the success of global efforts to confront the scourge of corruption and its menaces to undermine development, derail economic reform, and bypass bureaucratic mechanisms will yield positive outcomes in the near- and medium-term perspectives, enabling community engagement in nation-building and decision-making, and halting chaos and instability.

# Darb Al Saai draws large crowds as QND celebrations continue

The activities of Qatar National Day (QND) continued yesterday at Darb Al Saai in Umm Salal, drawing large crowds of citizens and residents in a festive atmosphere celebrating the nation's heritage and identity.

Organised by the Ministry of Culture, the celebrations run from December 10-20 at the permanent Darb Al Saai venue, which spans 150,000sq m and hosts a wide range of cultural, heritage, and artistic activities.

The programme includes equestrian performances by Nomas Centre, highlighting Qatar's horse-riding traditions through heritage shows, poetry recited on horseback, and skill-based displays.

The centre also offers horse-riding experiences for children and a talent-discovery initiative aimed at identifying young riders for specialised training.

The Qatar Photographic Society is participating with photography workshops and exhibitions, alongside the launch of the "Aesthetics of National Day" competition, which offers prizes exceeding QR50,000, encouraging participants to document National Day celebrations in artistic form.

Meanwhile, the Qatari Cultural Centre for the Deaf is taking part through an interactive pavilion promoting awareness of sign language and social inclusion, offering basic sign-language learning ac-

tivities and showcasing original artworks produced by deaf artists.

The celebrations also feature performances of *nahma*, one of Qatar's traditional maritime arts, presented aboard a vessel to reflect the country's seafaring heritage and highlight the role of the *nahham* in organising work and fostering solidarity during pearl-diving voyages.

Darb Al Saai continues to serve as a national gathering space that brings together citizens and residents to celebrate Qatar's history, values, and cultural legacy during National Day.



# ACE 'reinforces the conviction that uprooting corruption is a must'

The "HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award" (ACE) has succeeded in shining a spotlight on inspiring models of leadership and integrity worldwide, bolstering the conviction that corruption can be and must be uprooted, said UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UN-OCT) secretary-general Alexandre Zouev.

Speaking at the ceremony of crowning winners of ACE in Doha, Zouev stressed that Qatar is a global role model in supporting the rule of law and strengthening integrity and combating corruption both on the regional and global stages.

Having participated in this global event on behalf of the UN, Zouev extended his thanks and gratitude to Qatar and the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre (ROLACC) for hosting the event.

He praised His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's efforts in launching this global award roughly ten years ago.

The UNOCT aspires, Zouev said, to boost co-operation with Qatar and ROLACC in Doha, alongside the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as part of the joint efforts between counter-terrorism, enforcing the rule of law, and combating corruption.

The official outlined that corruption still interlocks with organised crime and cross-border illicit activities due to its profound impact on blunting communities' confidence in their institutions, weakening state structures, and violating human rights, with uneven impact on women and young people, particularly in conflict-battered zones.

Zouev noted that the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), even after twenty years since its adoption, remains the sole binding global document dedicated to combating corruption, highlighting that all countries hosting UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions are parties to the Convention, and that a significant number of them have completed the implementation review mechanisms and benefited from targeted technical assistance programmes.

Addressing corruption, the official continued, is a core element in tackling the root causes of conflict and achieving sustainable peace.

Zouev said that the new vision of the UN Secretary-General on the rule of law reaffirms the UN commitment to promoting rule of law assistance and building the es-

sential capacities to prevent and combat corruption.

He cited the recently adopted Charter of the Future as showing the joint determination of the UN and its member states to combat illicit financial flows, corruption, money laundering, and tax evasion, while underscoring the importance of removing safe havens and recovering and returning stolen funds to serve the public interest.

Zouev noted that progress in this field requires strong partnerships with governments, international organisations, civil society, and academic institutions, reaffirming that the ACE Award not only pays tribute to the anti-corruption efforts, but reminds all of their shared responsibilities to build fairer and more accountable communities. - QNA



## Qatar takes part in UNAOC Global Forum

Qatar participated yesterday in the 11th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations (UNAOC), held in the Saudi capital, under the theme *UNAOC: Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity - Advancing a New Era of Mutual Respect and Understanding in a Multipolar World*.

HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Qatari Committee for the Alliance of Civilisations Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi led Qatar's delegation to the forum.

In Qatar's address at the forum, HE Dr al-Hammadi affirmed Qatar's steadfast commitment to supporting the objectives for which the UNAOC was established, namely promoting dialogue among cultures and civilisations, spreading a culture of peace and mutual respect, and combating extremism and hate speech.

He stated that Qatar believes that true peace can only be achieved through mutual respect and recognising cultural and religious diversity, which constitutes the basis for building more inclusive and equitable societies.

The official said that the 11th UNAOC Global Forum represents a renewed opportunity to strengthen partnerships and to reaffirm collective commitment to building a world governed by justice, understanding, and peace.

The 11th UNAOC Global Forum commemorates the 20th anniversary of the UNAOC, which will convene members of the UNAOC Group of Friends, political leaders, international and regional organisations, religious leaders and faith actors, as well as representatives of the private sector, civil society, academia, youth, and the media. - QNA

# UN official praises Qatar's leadership in global anti-corruption efforts

UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) acting executive director John Brandolino has highlighted Qatar's pivotal role in supporting international efforts to combat corruption and promote transparency, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

Speaking on the "HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani International Anti-Corruption Ex-

cellence (ACE) Award", Brandolino expressed his gratitude to His Highness the Amir and the Qatar government for their unwavering support for global anti-corruption initiatives.

The event coincides with Qatar hosting the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (COSP), which begins in Doha today.

"The awards ceremony hon-

ours exceptional individuals who have courageously and creatively confronted corruption," he said, adding that the awards celebrate the human determination to resist wrongdoing and the belief in the possibility of change.

Since its launch in 2016, the ACE Award has partnered with the Doha-based Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre, in alignment with the UN Convention against Corruption, to promote justice,

good governance, and accountability.

Brandolino emphasised that corruption primarily affects ordinary citizens, yet it is often these same citizens who take extraordinary steps to fight it.

"The award recognises individuals from diverse backgrounds - academics, investigative journalists, whistleblowers, students, youth, and civil society activists - united by a shared conviction that every-

one has the right and responsibility to oppose corruption," he said.

Brandolino also announced the launch of an initiative, "the ACE Award Winners' Dialogue Series", designed to connect past award recipients with youth, fostering mentorship, collaboration, and the exchange of experiences to nurture a new generation of integrity leaders.

This initiative will be highlighted during the upcoming conference. - QNA

# Msheireb Museums, Earthna, German embassy host 'Doha Climate Talks'

Msheireb Museums, Earthna, and the German embassy in Doha recently hosted the second session of the Doha Climate Talks at Bin Jelmood House.

Titled "Driving Sustainable Finance:



German ambassador Oliver Owczka.

Collaborative Insights from Qatari and German Experts'; the discussion centred on the increasing importance of financial approaches that support environmental and climate objectives.

Building on the first session held in June, the event encouraged discussion on policy direction, investment priorities, and the use of innovative financial tools that can assist countries in meeting long-term sustainability commitments.

"The Doha Climate Talks provided an opportunity to discuss how financial approaches can support sustainable progress," said Msheireb Museums general manager Abdulla al-Naama. "The session also highlighted how Qatar Foundation entities, including Msheireb Museums and Earthna, together with the German embassy in Doha, are contributing to sustainability initiatives that support the broader objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030."

"Qatar and Germany share a strong interest in advancing financial frameworks that support sustainable development and long-term value creation," said Earthna director Sheikh Dr Soud Khalifa al-Thani. "I

see real progress in our financial systems, rewarding sustainable performance, not only reporting it."

"For Germany, sustainable finance is not just an environmental or climate imperative," said German ambassador Oliver Owczka. "It's a strategic investment in our economic future."

"In this regard, we greatly value Qatar's growing engagement in sustainable finance and its ambition to develop financial frameworks that support the global green transition," he said.

Before the panel discussion, Dr Martin Stuchtey, the founder and chief executive of Germany-based The Landbanking Group, delivered a presentation on the group's pioneering work.

The Landbanking Group leverages artificial intelligence (AI) to measure nature health anywhere on Earth and converts improvements in soil, carbon, water, or biodiversity into tradable financial assets that can be recorded on balance sheets.

In the panel discussion, Climate Action Centre of Excellence (CACE) director Dr Alexandra Soezer and Leo Tong, the



Earthna director Sheikh Dr Soud Khalifa al-Thani.

head of Sustainability at QNB, discussed practical approaches for integrating ESG (environmental, social and governance) considerations into financial planning, the opportunities for sustainable investments in Qatar and Germany, and ways innovative financial instruments can support climate-related projects.

The discussion also addressed how financial systems can enable collaboration between governments, corporations, and local communities to deliver measurable environmental benefits.



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GULF TIMES

How global AI governance could work

Ahead of the AI Impact Summit in India in February, it is clear that most countries still lack a workable model for governing the technology. While the United States leaves matters largely to market forces, the European Union relies on extensive regulatory compliance, and China on concentrated state authority. But none of these is a realistic option if you are among the many countries that must govern AI without large regulatory structures or massive computing capacity. Instead, we need a different framework, one that embeds transparency, consent, and accountability directly into digital infrastructure.

This approach treats governance as a design choice that can be built into the very foundations of digital systems. When safeguards are part of the architecture, responsible behaviour becomes the default. Regulators gain immediate insight into how data and automated systems behave, and users have clear control over their information. It is a far more scalable and inclusive method than one that relies on regulation alone.

But what should this look like in practice? India's experience with digital public infrastructure offers many lessons. The country's platforms for identity documentation (Aadhaar), payments (UPI), travel (DigiYatra), and digital commerce (ONDC) all show how public standards and private innovation can operate together on a national scale. For example, DigiYatra – a public-private initiative that streamlines airline check-ins, queuing, and other elements of travel – demonstrates how real-time identity verification and consent protocols can be managed across large user groups in a secure and predictable way.

These systems demonstrate how digital architecture can expand access, increase trust, and promote thriving markets. They would not single-handedly solve the challenges of AI governance, but they do show that technical standards and public purpose can be aligned even in the largest, most diverse societies.

The world needs a shared governance system that has been built into the very foundations of powerful technology

India's own Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture builds on these lessons and is already being deployed across many sectors. Since it allows individuals to authorise or withdraw permission for the use of their data through clear and auditable channels, transparency is built in, enabling regulators to follow data flows without the need for new supervisory institutions. Again, the underlying design principle is straightforward: Durable protection is most effective when it is embedded in system architecture, rather than being enforced only through compliance processes.

To be globally viable, an architectural approach must prioritise sovereignty over compute. Computing capacity is clearly the strategic bottleneck of the AI age, which is why the US and China are spending hundreds of billions of dollars annually on advanced data centres and AI chips. But since most countries cannot hope to match these investments, we must avoid a scenario where meaningful AI governance itself requires compute – where most countries would have little real authority over the systems shaping their societies.

Maintaining sovereignty over compute does not necessarily mean that every data centre should be built domestically. But it does mean that AI systems operating within a country should remain subject to its laws and accountable to domestic authorities, regardless of where the compute resides. Multinational technology companies would need to maintain clear legal and operational partitions with technical firewalls and auditable controls. Such safeguards are necessary to prevent data from crossing borders without authorisation, and to ensure that domestic data are not incorporated into globally available models without explicit approval. Without enforceable partitions, governments will struggle to maintain oversight of the digital systems that influence domestic finance, healthcare, logistics, and public administration.

This underscores a major strength of the architectural approach: it allows every country to set its preferred balance of risk, innovation, and commerce. Societies differ in their views on privacy, experimentation, market openness, and safety, so no single regulatory model can ever accommodate everyone's preferences. But a shared architectural foundation based on transparent data flows, traceable model behaviour, and the principle of "sovereignty over compute" gives each country the flexibility to calibrate its own parameters. The rails are shared, but the national settings remain sovereign.

Compared with current global approaches, an architectural model provides a more balanced and realistic path forward. The US system encourages rapid experimentation but often recognises harm only after it occurs. The European system provides strong safeguards but demands high compliance capacity. And the Chinese system achieves speed through centralisation, which leaves it ill-suited for distributed governance. By embedding transparency and consent into digital systems from the start, an architectural approach enables innovation to proceed predictably while ensuring public accountability.

The world needs a shared governance system that has been built into the very foundations of this powerful technology. — Project Syndicate

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Winter's passage through Central Park



People walk on a snow-covered ground in Central Park in the Manhattan borough of New York City yesterday. (AFP)

How to build an effective sovereign borrowers' club

By Homi Kharas and Mahmoud Mohieldin  
Washington, DC/Cairo

One of the most promising ideas in the Seville Commitment (Compromiso de Sevilla), which heads of state and government adopted in July, is the creation of a platform for borrower countries, supported by existing institutions and facilitated by a United Nations secretariat. This simple but potentially transformative concept could shift the balance of information and influence, which has long favoured creditors. By allowing borrower countries to discuss technical issues and debt challenges, access capacity-building assistance, and co-ordinate their actions, the platform would amplify their voice in the global financial system.

While creditor co-ordination has long been institutionalised – through the Paris Club, the London Club, and industry-led efforts such as the Institute of International Finance – borrower countries have often been discouraged from sharing information, leading to ad hoc exchanges. Establishing a borrowers' club is therefore a political signal: it recognises that enabling the Global South to speak with one voice can benefit financial stability. Whether such a platform becomes a durable institution will depend on its members' ability to translate rhetoric into practical co-operation.

This is not the first attempt at borrower co-ordination, and lessons should be drawn from past efforts, which began during the Latin American debt crisis of the 1980s. Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and other countries in the region explored forming a "debtors' club," supported at the time by UN Trade and Development and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The result was the Cartagena Group, formed in June 1984 by 11 Latin American countries accounting for 75% of regional debt. The group highlighted the external origins of the crisis – including then-US Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker's interest-rate hikes – and argued for shared debtor-creditor

responsibility and debt workouts that focused more on socioeconomic development than austerity. Their proposals were sent to the 1984 G7 leaders' summit in London, only to be rejected in favour of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank's case-by-case approach based on financial programming.

Subsequent attempts have faced similar barriers: Africa's Committee of Ten initially influenced international institutions' approach after the 2008 global financial crisis, but has since faded in prominence. More recent initiatives, such as the Sustainable Debt Coalition, established during the 2022 UN Climate Change Conference in Egypt, and proposals by the V20 Group (which represents the world's most climate-vulnerable countries), have linked debt to climate breakdown, but remain fragmented.

Meanwhile, many developing countries' debt burden has become more onerous. The proliferation of lenders has made creditor co-ordination more difficult, and simultaneous external shocks – including capital flight, slow global growth, and trade disruptions – have further eroded borrowers' fiscal space.

During Europe's post-2008 sovereign-debt crisis, the inadequacy of existing tools led to the creation of new institutions such as the European Stability Mechanism. No such innovations exist for developing countries.

Of course, the G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) offered temporary relief for low-income countries during the pandemic, but private and multilateral creditors largely did not participate, limiting its impact. And while the G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatments was designed to provide relief to countries in debt distress, only Zambia, Chad, Ghana, and Ethiopia have used the mechanism for debt restructuring, with others citing concerns about timeliness and outcomes.

The IMF-World Bank Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable has identified promising strategies to address liquidity challenges – including a more flexible "three-pillar approach" that combines reform, financing, and restructuring

– but implementation remains slow.

These piecemeal initiatives, which have largely disappointed, should inform the design of a borrowers' club under the Seville Commitment. The governance structure must accommodate diverse debt profiles and complex political realities, and the funding model must guarantee institutional independence and protect decision-making from creditor influence. The secretariat must be capable of generating credible data and countering misperceptions that inflate borrowing costs for developing countries. There must also be co-ordination mechanisms to ensure effective alignment with the newly created Seville Forum on Debt.

Such a club should not be a confrontational bloc, but rather a mechanism for mutual capacity-building in four main areas. First, debt restructuring must emphasise preserving market access. Many countries avoid the Common Framework (like the DSSI before it) and even precautionary IMF programmes because they fear rating downgrades and negative market reactions. Borrowers need stronger communication strategies to present credible macroeconomic programmes and provide consistent, evidence-based messaging to rating agencies and private creditors.

Second, long-run sustainable growth must be integrated into financial programming, as required by the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable's three-pillar approach. Given that current models do not capture climate-transition risks or opportunities, borrowers need shared analytical tools that allow them to articulate credible, comparable, and climate-aligned growth strategies.

Third, capital for restructuring must support high-quality, externally validated investment programme and be paired with mechanisms that ensure timely, predictable disbursement – long-standing weaknesses for many developing countries.

Lastly, debt transparency must be improved. The World Bank advocates "radical transparency," but many countries struggle to operationalise this in debt-management practices. A borrowers' club could help standardise templates, disclosure protocols, and peer-review processes tailored to developing-country contexts.

Some progress has been made toward alleviating the developing world's debt crisis: financial contagion is now less common in these countries; pause clauses provide liquidity after shocks; and official lenders have been extending maturities and lowering surcharges, especially for climate-related investments. But to achieve debt sustainability, borrower countries need a greater say in shaping these instruments, promoting fairer risk-sharing, and ensuring sovereign-finance innovations support development and climate goals.

To seize this opportunity, Global South countries and international financial institutions must build on the momentum of the Seville Commitment, the UN Expert Group on Debt report published in June, and the recent reference to enhancing the voice of borrower countries at the G20 leaders' summit in South Africa. Institutionalising borrower representation is a necessary step toward rebalancing the global financial architecture and improving sovereign-debt resolution. — Project Syndicate

• Homi Kharas is a senior fellow at the Center for Sustainable Development at the Brookings Institution.  
• Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Special Envoy on Financing Sustainable Development and Co-Chair of the UN Secretary-General's Expert Group on Debt, is a former minister of investment of Egypt (2004-10), former senior vice-president of the World Bank Group, former executive director of the International Monetary Fund, and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

THE SEVILLE COMMITMENT (COMPROMISO DE SEVILLA)

One of the most promising ideas in the Seville Commitment, which heads of state and government adopted in July, is the creation of a platform for borrower countries, supported by existing institutions and facilitated by a United Nations secretariat. This simple but potentially transformative concept could shift the balance of information and influence, which has long favoured creditors.





## Hong Kong's last opposition party votes to disband

AFP/Reuters  
Hong Kong

Hong Kong's oldest pro-democracy party has decided to disband, the group announced yesterday, after its members formally voted to dissolve the organisation and enter liquidation.

The Democratic Party was founded in 1994, near the end of British colonial rule, when Hong Kong's leading liberal groups merged.

"Over these thirty years, we have taken part in and borne witness to the development and transformation of Hong Kong society, watching its systems and environment undergo one profound change after another," the party said in a statement. "Yet as the times have shifted, we now, with deep regret, must bring this chapter to a close."

At yesterday's meeting, 117 out of 121 members voted for the group's liquidation, with the remaining four votes being blank ballots, Lo Kin-hei, the party's chair, told a news conference.

He said that it was a "collective decision" made by party members, adding that it is the best way forward for them.

"We are deeply grateful to all the citizens who have walked with the Democratic Party for the past 30 years," Lo said.

Former party leader Emily Lau reacted to the dissolution with dismay when leaving the meeting, telling reporters: "I don't understand why the Democratic Party would end up like this."

"I find it very problematic," she



Former Democratic Party chairperson and legislator Emily Lau leaves the Democratic Party headquarters in Hong Kong. - AFP

said. "I think Beijing needs to provide an explanation."

Lo said the disbandment was due to Hong Kong's "political environment", but declined to provide details of the constraints the party was facing.

Senior party members previously told Reuters that they had been approached by Chinese officials or middlemen and told to disband or face severe consequences, including possible arrest.

There was no immediate response to a request for comment from the Hong Kong Liaison Office, China's main representative body in Hong Kong.

The Democratic Party's top concern was determining how the city would eventually elect its own leader and lawmakers through universal suffrage under China's "One Country, Two Systems" model.

It said in its manifesto that "as part of the Chinese citizenry, we have the rights and obligations to participate in and comment on the affairs of China".

Following Hong Kong's handover to China in 1997, the party became the most influential voice of opposition in the city's legislature and led peaceful street demonstrations.

The disbandment decision indicated the regression of Hong Kong from being a liberal society into an "authoritarian society", said Yeung Sum, a former party leader who has served jail time.

With the demise of Hong Kong's top pro-democracy parties, no candidate put forward a pro-democracy platform in the legislature election held this month - which critics pointed to as another sign of the city's slide

towards authoritarianism.

Yeung added that younger generations would feel frustrated if the political system went "backwards".

"I think this kind of fighting for democracy will carry on, even though we got ourselves disbanded today," the 78-year-old said. "We won't die away. We won't fade away."

Beijing tightened its grip on the Chinese finance hub after massive and sometimes violent pro-democracy protests in 2019.

After the imposition of the national security law, the city's political opposition dwindled, with most democracy campaigners jailed or overseas.

The party holds no elected seats after its lawmakers resigned en masse from the Legislative Council in 2020.

Four party lawmakers were jailed last year for subversion under a Beijing-imposed national security law.

Former party leader Albert Ho is behind bars pending trial for national security charges that could see him jailed for life.

Hong Kong's second-largest opposition group, the Civic Party, closed its doors in 2023.

Another party, the League of Social Democrats, announced its disbandment in June this year, citing "immense political pressure".

"The Hong Kong government should be more open, they should accept more different kinds of opinions, even though there may be some opposition," Lo said yesterday. "But that is how the society works and that is how things progress."



This picture taken last week shows buildings engulfed in dense smog due to severe air pollution in Islamabad. - AFP

green spaces abutting the Himalayan foothills.

However, the expansive layout discourages walking and public transport remains limited, meaning cars - mostly older models - are essential for residents to get around.

"The capital region is choked overwhelmingly by its transport sector," which produces 53 percent of its toxic PM2.5 particles, the Pakistan Air Quality Initiative, a research group, said in a recent report.

"The haze over Islamabad... is not the smoke of industry, but the exhaust of a million private journeys - a self-inflicted crisis," it said.

Announcing the crackdown on December 7, EPA chief Nazia Zaib Ali said over 300 fines were issued at checkpoints in the first week, with 80 vehicles impounded.

"We cannot allow non-compliant vehicles at any cost to poison the city's air and endanger public health," she said in a statement.

The city has also begun setting up stations where drivers can have their emissions inspected, with those passing receiving a green sticker on their windshield.

"We were worried for Lahore, but now it's Islamabad. And that's all because of vehicles emitting pollution," said Iftikhar Sarwar, 51, as he had his car checked near an Islamabad park. "I never needed medicine before but now I get allergies if I don't take a tablet in the morning. The same is happening with my family."

Other residents say they worry the government's measures will not be enough to counter the worsening winter smog.

"This is not the Islamabad I came to 20 years ago," said Sulaman Ijaz, an anthropologist. "I feel uneasy when I think about what I will say if my daughter asks for clean air - that is her basic right."

## Islamabad puts drivers on notice as smog crisis worsens

By Sameer Mandhro and Joseph Schmid  
AFP

Truck driver Muhammad Afzal was not expecting to be stopped by police, let alone fined, as he drove into Islamabad this week because of the thick diesel fumes emanating from his exhaust pipe.

"This is unfair," he said after being told to pay 1,000 rupees (\$3.60), with the threat of having his truck impounded if he did not "fix" the problem.

"I was coming from Lahore after getting my vehicle repaired. They pressed the accelerator to make it release smoke. It's an injustice," he told AFP.

Checkpoints set up this month are part of a crackdown by authorities to combat the city's soaring smog levels, with winter months the worst due to atmospheric inversions that trap pollutants at ground level.

"We have already warned the owners of stern action, and we will stop their entry into the city if they don't comply with the orders," said Dr Zaigham Abbas of Pakistan's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as he surveyed the checkpoint at the southeast edge of the capital.

For Waleed Ahmed, a technician inspecting the vehicles at the site, "just like a human being, a vehicle has a life cycle. Those that cross it release smoke that is dangerous to human health".

While not yet at the extreme winter levels of Lahore or the megacity Karachi, where heavy industry and brick kilns spew tons of pollutants each year, Islamabad is steadily closing the gap.

So far in December it has already registered seven "very unhealthy" days for PM2.5 particulates of more than 150 microgrammes per cubic metre, according to the Swiss-based monitoring firm IQAir.

Intraday PM2.5 levels in Islamabad often exceed those in Karachi and Lahore, and in 2024 the city's average PM2.5 reading for the year was 52.3 microgrammes - surpassing the 46.2 for Lahore.

Those annual readings are far beyond the safe level of five microgrammes recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Built from scratch as Pakistan's capital in the 1960s, the city was envisioned as an urban model for the rapidly growing nation, with wide avenues and ample

## Bangladesh peacekeepers die in attack on Sudan UN base

At least six Bangladeshi peacekeepers were killed and eight wounded in a drone attack on a UN base on Saturday in the disputed Abyei region between Sudan and South Sudan, Bangladesh's armed forces said. "A drone attack was carried out by separatist armed groups on the Kadugali Logistics Base under the UN peacekeeping mission in Abyei, Sudan yesterday (Saturday) from approximately 3.40pm to 3.50pm local time," the armed forces' public relations division said in a statement yesterday. - Reuters

Reuters/AFP  
Providence

More than 400 law enforcement personnel were deployed on Saturday as police sought the suspect in a shooting at Brown University in Rhode Island that left two students dead and another nine people wounded at the Ivy League school, officials said.

The Providence university remained in lockdown hours after a suspect with a firearm entered a building where students were taking exams.

Officials do not believe there is any "specific, ongoing threat" from the suspect, Providence Mayor Brett Smiley said late on Saturday, but with law enforcement agencies canvassing the area and conducting a

manhunt, a shelter-in-place order for the campus and the surrounding neighbourhood will remain for now.

During a press conference early yesterday, Smiley said a "person of interest" had been detained and the shelter-in-place order lifted.

"I want to offer my profound thanks to all the hardworking men and women in law enforcement who worked through the night to be able to get us to this point," Smiley said.

Speaking alongside him, Police Colonel Oscar Perez added authorities were "not at this point" looking for anyone else in relation to the attack.

Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are working with local and state police on the investigation.

Officials released a video of the suspect, a male possibly in his 30s and dressed in black.

Providence Deputy Police Chief Timothy O'Hara said the individual may have worn a mask, but officials are not certain.

Investigators retrieved shell casings from the scene of the shooting, but police are not prepared to release details yet, O'Hara said.

The gunman escaped after shooting students in a classroom in Brown's Barus & Holley engineering building, where outer doors had been unlocked while exams were taking place, officials said.

Detectives are looking into why that location was targeted, police Chief Perez told reporters.

All or nearly all of the victims were students, Brown president Christina Paxson

# Gunmen kill 11 at Bondi Beach event

AFP/Reuters  
Sydney

Two gunmen shot and killed 11 people and wounded many others at Sydney's Bondi Beach yesterday in a "terrorist" attack on a gathering for the religious festival.

Emergency responders rushed to at least 29 people to local hospitals from the beach, one of the biggest tourist draws in Australia's largest city, said New South Wales police.

One of the alleged shooters was killed, and the second was in a critical condition, they added.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese hailed ordinary citizens who tackled and disarmed one of the gunmen as "heroes".

Police declared the shooting a "terrorist incident" and said they had found suspected "improvised explosive devices" in a vehicle near the beach that was linked to the deceased suspect.

"This is a targeted attack on Jewish Australians on the first day of Hanukkah, which should be a day of joy, a celebration of faith - an act of evil, antisemitism, terrorism that has struck the heart of our nation," Albanese said. "An attack on Jewish Australians is an attack on every Australian."

The shooting took place during an annual event at Bondi Beach which police said was attended by over a thousand people.

As gunfire erupted, crowds fled in fear from the beach in eastern Sydney, which draws huge numbers of surfers, swimmers and tourists, especially at weekends.

"We heard the shots. It was shocking, it felt like 10 minutes of just bang, bang, bang. It seemed like a powerful weapon," Camilo Diaz, a 25-year-old student from Chile, told AFP at the scene.

Emergency services first responded to reports of shots being fired at 6.47pm (0747 GMT).

One witness who declined to be named said he saw six dead or wounded people lying on the beach.

The grassy hill overlooking Bondi Beach was strewn with discarded items from people fleeing, including an abandoned children's stroller, an AFP journalist at the scene said.

Paramedics tended to wounded people lying on the grass, images broadcast by public broadcaster ABC showed.

A weapon that appeared to be a pump-action shotgun was lying by a tree by the beach.

A British tourist told AFP he saw "two shooters in black" after the gunfire broke out.

"There was a shooting, two shooters in black with semi-automatic rifles," Timothy Brant-Coles told AFP, saying he saw multiple people who had been shot and wounded.

A string of antisemitic at-

tacks has spread fear among Jewish communities in Australia following the events of October 7, 2023, in Israel and the ensuing war in Gaza.

The head of the Australian Jewish Association said the Bondi Beach shooting was a "tragedy but entirely foreseeable".

"The Albanese government was warned so many times but failed to take adequate actions to protect the Jewish community," Robert Gregory told AFP.

A leading Australian Muslim organisation condemned the shooting as "horrific".

"Our hearts, thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families, and all those who witnessed or were affected by this deeply traumatic attack," the Australian National Imams Council said.

Meanwhile, a bystander captured on video tackling and disarming an armed man during the attack at Bondi Beach has been hailed as a hero whose actions saved lives.

Footage circulating on social media shows a man, named by local media as 43-year-old fruit shop owner Ahmed al-Ahmed, in a car park wearing a white shirt charging at a man in a dark shirt who is holding a rifle.

He then tackles the armed man from behind, wrenching the rifle from him with his hands before pointing the gun back at the man.

The video then shows the man in a dark shirt backing away towards a bridge where another shooter is positioned, while the bystander places the gun down on the ground.

Chris Minns, the premier of New South Wales state, where Sydney is located, hailed the bystander as "a genuine hero" and said the video was "the most unbelievable scene I've ever seen".

"There are many, many people alive tonight as a result of his bravery," Minns added.

Reuters confirmed the video from verified corroborating footage showing the same men.

Reuters also verified that the armed men in the video are the same as the individuals seen surrounded by the police in verified corroborating visuals by their clothing.

The bystander's identity could not immediately be confirmed by Reuters.

Local media outlet Seven News identified him and said he had been hospitalised after sustaining two gunshot wounds.

People have taken to social media to express their admiration.

"Most people run from danger but this man, present at the Bondi Beach massacre that just took place, was not one of those people," one person said on the X platform.

"This Australian man saved countless lives by stripping the gun off one of the terrorists at Bondi beach. HERO," said another.

## Germany foils plot to attack Christmas market

German authorities have arrested five men suspected of being militant Islamists planning an attack on a Christmas market in southern Bavaria, police and prosecutors said in a joint statement. There has been a series of vehicle ramming attacks in Germany since an man rammed a hijacked truck into a Christmas market in central Berlin in 2016. Last December several people were killed by an attack in Magdeburg.

Three Moroccan nationals aged 22, 28 and 30, an Egyptian national aged 56, and a 37-year-old Syrian were detained on Friday at the Suben border crossing between Germany and Austria, according to the joint statement late on Saturday. Investigators believed that the men intended to drive a vehicle into a market in the Dingolfing-Landau area with the aim of killing or injuring as many people as possible. - Reuters

## Shooting at Ivy League university leaves two dead, nine wounded

told reporters. "This is the day one hopes never happens, and it has."

Seven of the nine wounded were listed as critical late on Saturday, according to Brown University Health.

Brown, located on College Hill in Rhode Island's state capital, has hundreds of buildings, including lecture halls, laboratories and dormitories.

Rhode Island Governor Daniel McKee vowed that the shooter would be brought to justice. "We're going to make sure that we catch the individual that brought so much suffering to so many people."

President Donald Trump told reporters at the White House that he had been briefed on the situation, which he called "terrible".

"All we can do right now is pray for the victims and for those that were very badly hurt," he said.





### Amir attends ACE Award ceremony

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani attended the award ceremony of the 9th Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence (ACE) Award at Katara Hall in the Fairmont and Raffles Hotels in Doha yesterday.



# QNL launches ‘Heritage in Art’ exhibition

The Qatar National Library (QNL) has launched a first-of-its-kind exhibition featuring emerging artists, titled “Heritage in Art: Reflections by Qatari Artists”, under the patronage of HE the Minister of State and QNL President Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari.

The exhibition – open to the public until the end of April 2026 – celebrates the intersection of culture, creativity, and heritage, showcasing how Qatar’s artistic community continues to draw inspiration from the nation’s history.

Through the lens of contemporary creativity, the exhibition highlights how treasures from the QNL’s Heritage Library, its rare maps, illustrations, photographs, and manuscripts, can inspire new artistic expressions that connect history with modern perspectives.

The participating artists explore themes of place, identity, and continuity, transforming historical references into innovative works that invite audiences to experience Qatar’s heritage in fresh and engaging ways.

“This exhibition reflects the QNL’s commitment to making heritage a living part of contemporary dialogue,” said QNL executive director Tan Huism. “By bringing together historical sources and modern creativity, ‘Heritage in Art’ showcases how Qatari artists can engage with the past to inspire new conversations within society.”

“By opening our collections for artists to explore, we are enabling new forms of creativity grounded in authentic historical items,” said Aysha Hassan al-Ansari, the head of Heritage Collections at QNL.

“This exhibition demonstrates how



The artists with HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari.

meaningful access to original materials can enrich artistic expression” she said. “When artists engage directly with these resources, they uncover details, stories, and visual elements that spark new perspectives.”

“‘Heritage in Art: Reflections by Qatari Artists’ is a reminder that our cultural heritage is a living memory, one that continues to inspire dialogue and cultural connection,” al-Ansari added.

Participating artists are Abdullah al-Mutawah, Muna al-Bader, Muneera al-Obaidli, Sharefa al-Mannai, Jaber Henzab, Mubarak Nasser al-Thani, and Zainab al-Shibani, each presenting a distinctive interpretation that connects the Library’s collections with today’s creative landscape.

“Heritage in Art: Reflections by Qatari Artists” marks the beginning of an annual exhibition series that will continue to celebrate the creative dialogue between Qatar’s heritage and its artistic community.

Qatari artists interested in participating in future editions will be able to apply through an open call announced on the QNL’s website.

Submissions will be reviewed by a selection committee comprising experts in art, culture, and heritage.



‘World Wide Walls: Doha’ features a number of works by local and international artists at Aziziyah area. **PICTURE:** Joey Aguilar

## Murals ‘could inspire new generation of Qatari creatives’

By Joey Aguilar  
Doha

Public murals across Doha may help ignite a new generation of young Qatari artists by putting creativity into the everyday lives of residents, according to international artists taking part in Qatar Museums (QM)’s “World Wide Walls: Doha” festival.

American muralist Roxy Ortiz, one of the Hawaii-based duo Wooden Wave, said the initiative has shown how public art can spark cultural exchange and open new pathways for local creatives.

Ortiz, who paints alongside her husband Matt, said they hope to return to Qatar to deepen collaborations with emerging artists.

“We would love to return and work with the QM again,” she said.

“It’s been a life-changing trip,” Ortiz explained. “We’d love to spend more time with local Qatari artists and have that cultural exchange.

Meeting local and international artists (in Doha) has created such a beautiful exchange of creativity, art and culture.”

She lauded the QM for bringing murals in the neighbourhoods at Al Aziziyah area in particular in this year’s festival, making art accessible to people who might never step into a gallery.

“That’s one of the things that we love about street art,” Ortiz said. “It’s really for the everyday people who are driving by. I think sometimes people feel maybe a little intimidated to go into galleries...”

“But they can always drive by these beautiful murals that are being created,” she added. “I think it’s very amazing what the QM is doing for the community, for people who are local, for people who are tourists and visiting, for the very diverse population of Qatar.”

She noted differences and similarities between the art scenes in Hawaii and Qatar, especially in their connections to nature.

While Hawaii’s murals often feature ocean waves, mountains and local wildlife, she said Qatar’s artists draw heavily on calligraphy, pattern work and emblematic animals such as falcons and horses.

“One thing that we’ve seen is we really love the pattern work and the beautiful calligraphy,” the artist remarked. “Like, the writing here is gorgeous. So that’s something that we really find to be unique here. In Hawaii, a lot of the artwork is landscapes.”

Ortiz described Qatar’s architecture as modern and creative. “It’s been an inspiring place for us as artists.”

Australian muralist Kitt Bennett, another participant in the festival, said the scale of murals makes them uniquely powerful compared to other art forms.

“Murals are like a really big drawing, you need a plan, and they’re physically demanding, but the scale creates such an impact,” the artist said. “People look up and wonder

how you got it up there.”

Bennett believes initiatives like “World Wide Walls: Doha” can be important for young people who may never have considered art as a path.

Growing up without exposure to public art, the Aussie said that he only discovered his passion in his late 20s.

“I think it’s really important to put new stuff in old areas that haven’t seen it before because it can inspire young people and hopefully produce the next generation of artists,” Bennett said. “(Like what the QM is doing) in Doha, to put something like this on, look after the artists, so you make that sort of stuff happen.”

World Wide Walls, founded by curator and artist Jasper Wong in Hong Kong, has since expanded to 25 cities worldwide, including Doha, each edition rooted in the same mission: to beautify cities and bring communities closer through accessible public art.

## Katara paints cultural scene alongside Arab Cup events

Katara Cultural Village continues to stage a rich and diverse array of activities that go beyond artistic performances and heritage showcases, reiterating its role as a comprehensive platform for culture, knowledge, and dialogue.

The presentations, which form part of Katara’s cultural programme accompanying the Arab Cup 2025, includes a series of lectures and seminars held across various venues within the Cultural Village.

Media personality Amal Hikmat delivered a lecture on the mechanisms of creating content that supports Arab identity, stressing the importance of digital media in reinforcing authentic cultural values.

She highlighted the growing role of content creators in presenting a positive, contemporary image of Arab identity that resonates with the aspirations of younger generations.

As part of the 15th Katara Traditional Dhow Festival, a symposium titled “Knights of History and



Humanity” will be held tomorrow (December 16) at 7pm at Katara’s southern beach.

The symposium will explore historical and human dimensions, shedding light on the noble values associated with heroism and courage throughout human heritage.

Katara also dedicated a special space for children through the “Stories for Children” event, presented by 10-year-old storyteller Saeed Abdullah Tanaf.

He will take children on an engaging storytelling journey featuring captivating tales, including a segment during which he will distribute his stories to young attendees, creating a warm, family-friendly atmosphere that encourages reading and nurtures creativity.

Music features prominently in the cultural scene, as enthusiasts of the Oud and authentic Arabic music enjoyed refined musical evenings.

Singer Bilal al-Waseem’s performance drew a strong audience response and created an atmosphere that harmoniously blended tradition with the festive spirit of the Arab Cup.

In celebration of the Arabic language, Katara continues to host the Al-Dhad Festival, offering a varied cultural and linguistic programme that includes poetry evenings, language workshops, and intellectual discussions.

The Katara Outdoor Theatre also hosted a distinctive Algerian musical evening, featuring traditional songs inspired by the Malouf and Aissaoua styles.

The performances reflected the richness of Algerian musical heritage and were presented in co-operation with the embassy of Algeria in Doha as part of ongoing efforts to promote Arab cultural exchange and display the diversity of musical arts across the Arab world.

## Doha International Music and Marching Festival beginning tomorrow at Katara

The Doha International Music and Marching Festival (Doha Tattoo) is set to begin tomorrow (December 16) at Katara Cultural Village, bringing together leading international and Qatari musical ensembles for four evenings of large-scale marching and musical showcases.

The programme, running until December 20, will feature bands from seven countries: the UK, the US, Türkiye, Jordan, Oman, Kazakhstan, and Qatar.

Shows will be accompanied by fireworks and drone displays, illuminating the sky each night.

Participants include the Irish Guards and the Royal Air Force Music Services from the UK, the US Air Force Honour Guard, the Ottoman Mehter Band from Türkiye, the Jordanian Armed Forces Band, the Royal Guard of Oman Band, and the Central Military Band of the Kazakh Ministry of Defence.

The festival will feature notable Qatari participation from musical units representing the Ministries of Defence and Interior, the Amiri Guard, the Ministry



of Culture and the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra.

The programme includes The Village, positioned adjacent to the festival venue.

The Village offers a family-friendly space featuring Qatar Calendar, food and beverage providers, alongside dedicated kiosks for the Police Academy, Lekhwiya, Civil Defence, merchandise, Vodafone, and ticketing.

There will be a Ministry of Culture tent and shaded seating with tables and umbrellas.

Visitors can also enjoy a varied

entertainment line-up, including neon still walkers, jugglers, local musicians, caricature artists, calligraphers, live sketch artists, face painting, glitter tattoos for children, and balloon twisting, creating an engaging atmosphere for families and guests throughout the festival period.

Tickets are available to the public through <https://tickets.virginmegastore.me/qa/dohatattoo>, offered at accessible rates to encourage wide participation.

Tickets are available in three categories: QR15, QR30, and QR100.