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BUSINESS | Page 1

QIIB net profit surges 7.2% to QR1.35bn in 2025; recommends 53% cash dividend



PM inaugurates first Doha Legal Forum

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, yesterday inaugurated the first edition of the Doha Legal Forum, held under the theme "Emerging Trends and Forward-Looking Insights". The event, organised by the Ministry of Justice in collaboration with the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre (QICDRC), brings together legal and judicial leaders from around the world to explore innovation in law, governance, and dispute resolution.

The opening ceremony was attended by HE Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs; HE Dr Hassan bin Lahdan al-Hassan al-Mohannadi, President of the Court of Cassation and President of the Supreme Judicial

Council; the ministers of justice participating in the forum; as well as senior judges, policymakers, and legal scholars.

Over the course of two days, the Doha Legal Forum 2026 will host around 40 speakers representing 13 countries, with a series of plenary sessions and three specialised roundtable discussions.

The agenda covers key issues shaping the future of law, including digital transformation, international arbitration, cross-border trade, the energy sector, and public-private partnership contracts.

Speaking at the opening session, HE Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi said Qatar had long recognised that sustainable investment depends on a robust and transparent legal system. He noted that the National Initiative for the Development of Justice Systems, launched in 2016, had modernised Qatar's legal infrastructure through reforms in legislation, judiciary efficiency, and dispute resolution. **Pages 2, 3, 4**

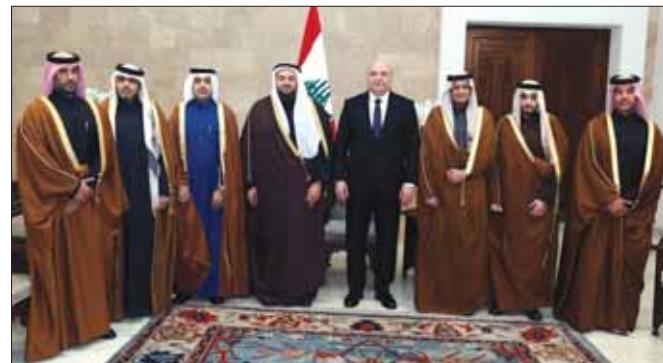
Qatar announces \$434mn development aid for Lebanon

Under the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Qatar yesterday announced a comprehensive package of development and humanitarian support to Lebanon, valued at US\$434,248,000. The initiative, benefiting more than 1.5mn people, will be implemented through the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) in co-ordination with the relevant Lebanese authorities.

In a statement, QFFD said the package includes a contribution of up to US\$400mn to support Lebanon's energy sector, of which 10% will be provided as a grant. The package also extends to several vital sectors, particularly

education – through the provision of scholarships – as well as support for the Lebanese Armed Forces via the supply of military vehicles and equipment. In addition, assistance will be directed towards the sports sector to empower young people and promote community engagement.

QFFD underscored that this support reflects the deep fraternal ties between Qatar and Lebanon. It falls within Qatar's ongoing commitment to strengthening key sectors and enhancing community resilience in the face of Lebanon's economic and social challenges, thereby contributing to stability, recovery, and sustainable development. **(QNA)**



Qatar's pride: Sheikh Joaan elected unopposed as new OCA president

● Asian Olympic unity, innovation to be priority

QNA
Tashkent

His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, President of the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) and newly elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), yesterday reaffirmed the council's full commitment to serving all National Olympic Committees (NOCs) across Asia.

He pledged to enhance athletes' support systems, foster innovation, and promote a distinguished global image of Asian sport.

Speaking at a press conference following his unopposed election as OCA president during the 46th OCA General Assembly here in Uzbekistan, attended by more than 350 sports officials representing 45 Asian Olympic committees, Sheikh Joaan said the OCA would focus in the coming period on creative ways to organise tournaments using the latest technologies. He emphasised providing the ideal environment for Asian athletes to showcase their talents on the international stage.

Sheikh Joaan highlighted the importance of embracing technological advancement in sports, stressing that the OCA would work closely with its partners to invest all resources and expertise in the development of Asian sport. This, he noted, includes staying at the forefront of scientific and administrative innovation.

Expressing pride at his election, Sheikh Joaan pledged to personally serve all 45 National Olympic Committees with transparency, dedication, and partnership. Responding to a question from QNA about governance and transparency, he underscored that these pillars would remain top priorities for the OCA, noting that sound financial governance and efficient resource management would be central to strengthening the Olympic movement in Asia.

To Page 11 Sport Pages 1, 4



President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev decorates HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani with Medal of Honour of National Olympic Committee of Uzbekistan in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Olympic movement and his active role in enhancing the status of Asian sports in Tashkent yesterday.

Uzbek honour for Sheikh Joaan

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev awarded HE the President of the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) and President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani the Order of Honour of the National Olympic Committee of Uzbekistan, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the development of the Olympic Movement and his active role in strengthening the stature of Asian sport.

This followed the 46th General

Assembly of the OCA during which Sheikh Joaan was elected as the new president of the OCA by acclamation, succeeding the Indian Randhir Singh. The General Assembly witnessed broad participation from more than 350 sports officials representing 45 Asian National Olympic Committees, confirming the pivotal position of the OCA and its role in supporting and developing the sport.

Sheikh Joaan has maintained a strong and active presence

within the international Olympic movement through his involvement in several International Olympic Committee commissions and affiliated bodies. Since 2022, he has been a member of the IOC's Olympism 365 Commission, having previously served on the Public Affairs and Social Development through Sport Commission from 2018-2022. He has also been a Board Member of the Olympic Refugee Foundation since 2017. **(QNA)**

Qatar has become energy innovation nerve centre

EnergyX anchors global smart city vision in Doha

By Santhosh V Perumal
Business Reporter

Doha is increasingly being viewed not only as a destination for global innovation but also as a platform to export it, as it offers a rare combination of AI (artificial intelligence)-driven transformation, strong national ambition, and a policy environment greatly shaped by sustainability and long-term resilience.

In this regard, EnergyX, which is building the future of energy-optimised cities from Qatar, saw vast opportunity to scale its operations from Doha, to where the South Korean firm has shifted its global headquarters and command centre, an indication of the growing prominence of Qatar in the world of smart cities and sustainability.

The Qatar Financial Centre-based EnergyX, a company working at the intersection of AI, en-



Sean Park, founder and chief executive officer; and Jean-Jacques Dandrieux, founding member, chief strategy officer of EnergyX.

gineering and energy-generating building systems, is among the firms placing Qatar at the centre of its long-term global strategy.

The move is not symbolic. It is built on a calculation that few markets combine Qatar's pace of development, capital alignment and policy direction at scale, according to the founders of EnergyX, a global leader in AI-driven energy self-sufficiency solutions

for zero-energy buildings (ZEBs).

At the heart of this push are two leaders whose roles converge in Doha: Sean Park, founder and chief executive officer, and Jean-Jacques Dandrieux, founding member, chief strategy officer. Together, they represent a blend of founded conviction and institutional execution – aimed at reshaping how cities consume, generate and manage energy. **To Page 11**

Gold hits record above \$5,100

Gold prices marched to record levels above \$5,100 yesterday, as investors sought a safe haven amid international political tension, and silver and platinum also scaled all-time highs. Spot gold was up 1.9% at \$5,076.43 an ounce by 11:37am ET after hitting a record \$5,110.50. US gold futures for February delivery gained 1.9% to \$5,074.10. "Gold prices continue to be supported by elevated geopolitical and economic uncertainty. Central banks remain strong buyers as they diversify foreign exchange reserves and reduce reliance on the US dollar," said Ryan McIntyre, president at Sprott Inc. "In addition, investor inflows into physically backed exchange-traded funds have resumed, with holdings up approximately 20% year over year," McIntyre added. Adrian Ash, head of research at online marketplace BullionVault said: "A wave of new first-time investing is driving this move in precious metals. It's led by private investors across Asia and Europe, rushing to build their personal holdings of gold and silver." Analysts at Societe Generale anticipate gold will reach \$6,000/oz by year-end, though they caution this may be a conservative estimate with scope for further gains. Meanwhile, Morgan Stanley said the rally could continue, highlighting a bull-case target of \$5,700.

**Amir sends congratulations to Indian president**

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani send yesterday cables of congratulations to President of India Droupadi Murmu on the occasion of her country's Republic Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on the occasion. (QNA)

Deputy Amir greets Australia governor-general

His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to Governor-General of Australia General Sam Mostyn on the occasion of her country's National Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese on the occasion. (QNA)

Justice minister says legal reform key to sustainable investment

Qatar has said that clear legislation, an independent judiciary and efficient justice institutions are central to attracting sustainable investment, as it seeks to strengthen confidence in its legal and economic environment.

Speaking at the opening of the Doha Legal Forum 2026 yesterday, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Ibrahim bin Ali bin Issa al-Hassan al-Mohannadi, said the country recognised early on that long-term investment begins with a robust legal framework.

He said this approach formed the basis of the National Initiative for the Development of Justice Systems, launched in 2016, which aims to modernise Qatar's legal system while protecting rights, ensuring legal certainty and accelerating dispute resolution.

Addressing the two-day forum, held under the theme "Emerging Trends and Forward-Looking Insights", HE al-Mohannadi said Qatar was now reaping the benefits of that strategy through an integrated legal system that safeguards capital, preserves rights and supports sustainable partnerships.

He said reforms had included updated investment and company laws, improved dispute resolution mechanisms and the digital transformation of judicial services, helping to reduce procedures, improve efficiency and enhance legal certainty for both domestic and



HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali bin Issa al-Hassan al-Mohannadi

foreign investors.

Al-Mohannadi said the forum was taking place at a critical moment, as the global economy undergoes deep economic and legislative changes that require countries to reinforce their legal systems not only to ensure justice, but also to provide stable and growth-friendly investment environments. "In today's world, investment seeks trust before opportunity," he said, adding that trust is built by law. Clear legislation, he noted, sends the strongest reassurance to investors, while the rule of law remains the true guarantee of sustainable investment and asset protection.

Al-Mohannadi described law as the "invisible infrastructure" of the economy, warning that economic growth without strong

legal foundations remains fragile and vulnerable. He said investors assess countries by their ability to protect opportunities, resolve disputes and enforce contracts.

He added that the Doha Legal Forum reflects Qatar's commitment to specialised legal dialogue, knowledge exchange and forward-looking discussions on legislation in areas such as the digital economy, cross-border trade, international arbitration and corporate governance.

Modern legislation, he said, cannot be developed in isolation, but through dialogue and partnership, and must be measured by its real-world impact on society, development and investment. Qatar, he added, is legislating not only for the present, but to safeguard future investment and generations. The minister said these efforts align with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030, which place the rule of law, economic diversification and high-quality investment at the heart of sustainable development.

He also highlighted co-operation with the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Center as a national model of institutional integration, expressing confidence that the forum's discussions and recommendations would strengthen legal security, support investment and reinforce the rule of law as a bridge for co-operation, growth and prosperity. (QNA)

Forum stresses legal alignment with global digital, social transformations

The opening dialogue session of the Doha Legal Forum, organised by the Ministry of Justice in collaboration with the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre (QICDRC) under the theme "Emerging Trends and Forward-Looking Insights", debated legislative policy in light of emerging trends and the significance of updating legislation and developing the legal system, in alignment with global digital, economic, and social transformations.

In his opening remarks before the panel, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali bin Issa al-Hassan al-Mohannadi said explicit political will constitutes the foundation to help advance legislative policies and digital transformation in Qatar. He underscored that digital transformation is no longer an administrative option, but rather a strategic imperative to facilitate national transactions, foster judicial service efficiency, and ensure the easy and fast accessibility of individuals and institutions to justice.

The state-of-the-art legislative policies are intended to reinforce justice, ensure rights protection and the rule of law, with a sharp focus on elevating the

quality of legal and judicial services, streamlining procedures before litigants, and fostering the confidence of society and investors in the nation's legal system, the minister highlighted.

HE al-Mohannadi underlined that combined efforts among a variety of government agencies matter most when it comes to effectively enforcing legislative policies, preserving national resources, and ensuring the accomplishment of national development goals.

Legislation must be flexible to keep abreast of global socioeconomic and technological challenges, thereby boosting Qatar's competitiveness and achieving the sustainability of legal development, the minister stressed.

Al-Mohannadi elaborated that the global vicissitudes in the areas of the digital economy, artificial intelligence, and electronic financial services trigger the importance of constantly advancing legislation and aligning it with persistently evolving cutting-edge technologies to ensure rights protection and justice, and to significantly strike a balance between technological innovation and rule of law assurances. (QNA)

since 2008, noting Qatar National Vision 2030 in fostering the gas industry as a prime source of clean energy and supporting the global transition from fossil fuels to the cleanest energy.

Dr Nihad Abdul Karim al-Husban, a judge at the Jordanian Court of Cassation, noted Jordan's transition from monopolising energy to competitive partnership. She highlighted that modern legislations aim to strike a balance between public interest and encouraging competition among domestic and foreign investors, with particular adherence to environmental sustainability goals. (QNA)

They asserted that this matter has become pivotal on the regional and global stages.

Head of Atkin Chambers and former Chairman of the Bar of England and Wales, Chantal-Aimee Doerries, affirmed that the global pivot towards renewable energy is witnessing unprecedented dynamics, noting that innovation in sustainable technology broadens wide apertures but could ignite legal disputes about the non-accomplishment of project objectives.

Prof Khawar Qureshi, a lawyer at McNair International's offices, said Qatar has achieved a dynamic shift in legislations related to energy

as digitisation and technological advancements, are pivotal in all domains, particularly in the legal domain, to ensure the effectiveness of the judiciary and justice.

Since 2007, and through the National Justice Project, Turkey has been leveraging digitisation with cutting-edge technological potential, and is currently working to develop this system further by utilising artificial intelligence applications, Tunc noted, affirming

that these Turkish expertise and experiences have been weighed during the forum.

When it comes to economic and investment matters, alternate means of conflict resolution, such as arbitration and mediation, matter most, the minister underlined, suggesting that since 2010, Turkey has been applying the mediation system, filing almost 8mn cases to mediation and resolving almost 5mn cases

through settlement by mutual consent, thereby easing the burden on the judiciary and helping parties settle their disputes promptly and cost-effectively. Minister Tunc emphasised that arbitration is an important tool for conflict resolution without resorting to courts, noting the establishment of the Istanbul Arbitration Centre (ISTAC), alongside arbitration centres of the commerce chamber, offering investors the room to fairly

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Legal forum explores future of energy sources

A keynote panel discussion within the Doha Legal Forum's deliberations, organised by the Ministry of Justice in collaboration with the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre, debated the future of energy sources in light of global trends, with a particular emphasis on legal, investment, and regulatory challenges.

A contingent of experts weighed in during the panel and laid out an overall vision regarding the legal and regulatory challenges of future energy sources, along with the significance of legislations in supporting innovation, investment, and environmental protection.

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Qatar, Albania sign public prosecution MoU

Qatar and Albania signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the field of public prosecution yesterday. The MoU was signed by HE the Attorney-General Dr Issa Saad al-Jafali al-Nuaimi and visiting



Prosecutor General of Albania Olsian Çela. Following the signing, HE the attorney-general met with the prosecutor general of Albania, where they exchanged views on a number of topics of mutual interest and discussed ways to strengthen co-operation in the field of public prosecution. (QNA)

Experts discuss dispute resolution in Qatari law

A session held as part of the Doha Legal Forum, organised by the Ministry of Justice in co-operation with the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre under the theme "Emerging Trends and Forward-Looking Insights" discussed alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in Qatari law.

The session was titled "Arbitration and Mediation: Toward Swift Justice for an Attractive Investment Environment". The session brought together a number of experts and specialists in arbitration and mediation, who reviewed key legal developments and mechanisms for enhancing trust and transparency in the country's business and investment environment. They also highlighted the growing role of arbitration and mediation in accelerating dispute resolution and supporting legal stability.

Chief Executive Officer of Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre, Faisal Rashid al-Sahouti, emphasised that arbitration is one of the most important factors in attracting investment and reassuring investors. He noted that Qatar issued Law No 2 of 2017 on Arbitration, which is based on the UNCITRAL Model Law and is considered one of the most modern arbitration laws at the regional and global levels.

He explained that the law provides multiple and flexible options for parties, including recourse to



the Court of Appeal or the Qatar International Court. The court is distinguished by conducting its proceedings and issuing its judgments in English and by its reliance on the Anglo-Saxon legal system, in a manner suited to the nature of various disputes, particularly those involving international parties. Al-Sahouti added that the Qatar International Court offers a familiar judicial environment for foreign partners, which enhances confidence and encourages investment. He noted that figures from eight years of applying the Arbitration Law show a growing reliance on the competent court, and he expects further growth in this area.

He further stressed that the success of the arbitration system is not limited to legislation alone, but also depends on Qatar's strategic geographic location, its global transport network, and the institutional and knowledge legacy achieved after hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. These factors, he said, enhance Qatar's international reputation in arbitration and dispute resolution. For his part, Jassim Saleh al-Kuwari, Assistant Undersecretary for State

Lawsuits Affairs at the Ministry of Justice, affirmed that the multilateral and bilateral investment treaties concluded by Qatar provide legal protection for foreign investors, including guarantees of fair compensation, protection against expropriation, and dispute settlement mechanisms through Qatari courts or international arbitration bodies such as ICSID.

Meanwhile, lawyer Jalal El Ahdab, partner in the Dispute Resolution Group at Bird & Bird in Paris, pointed to a decline in construction disputes in Qatar following the hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, noting that this decline reflects the maturity of the Qatari market after the completion of major projects.

Director of the Arbitration and Mediation Center at the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Dr Ignacio de Castro, explained that intellectual property disputes increased by 70% in 2025, particularly in the fields of software, energy, advanced technologies, and artificial intelligence.

He noted that mediation has grown faster than arbitration, helping to resolve approximately 70% of disputes. (QNA)

Shura Council reviews legislative proposals, social policy reports

Shura Council held its regular weekly sitting yesterday in Doha, reviewing proposed legislation and government reports on key social issues, amid praise for growing institutional co-operation between the legislative and executive authorities.

The sitting, held at the Council's headquarters and chaired by HE the Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, opened with the approval of the agenda, read out by HE the Secretary-General Nayer bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud, and the minutes of the previous meeting.

The Council reviewed a draft law proposing amendments to certain provisions of Law No 24 of 2006 on fertilisers and soil conditioners within the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) framework.

The bill, referred by the government, was forwarded to the Committee on Health, General Services and the Environment for further study and reporting.

The Council also examined a government statement responding to a recommendation submitted by the Shura Council on providing services and benefits to senior citizens. The matter was referred to the Committee on Social Affairs, Labour and Housing for review and follow-up. In addition, the members were briefed on two government follow-up reports addressing the Council's earlier recommendations on rising divorce rates in Qatari society and the national framework for promoting values and moral conduct.

The Shura Council commend-ed the government's response, saying the reports demonstrated a systematic and co-ordinated approach that reflected a high level of institutional integration between the two branches of authority. Members said such co-operation contributes to



strengthening social cohesion, supporting family stability and reinforcing the country's value system. Speaking during the session, HE al-Ghanem said the reports reflected an institutional partnership aimed at addressing societal challenges through unified national efforts. He said the approach supports sustainable solutions to family and social stability, while reinforcing ethical and moral foundations within society.

Meanwhile, Shura Council member Khalid bin Abbas Kamal al-Emadi said the government's submission of implementation reports marked an important step in institutional co-operation. He noted that he had previously chaired a temporary committee studying the issue of rising divorce rates, adding that the follow-up reports demonstrated serious engagement with the Council's recommendations and their translation into practical policy measures.

He said the collaboration between the Council and the government reflected a shared commitment to preserving family cohesion, strengthening social stability and supporting sustainable development in Qatar. (QNA)



INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

For the Purchase, Dismantling and Disposal of Dukhan Desalination Plant

Nebras Energy announces its intention to release a Tender inviting qualified companies to participate in the purchase, dismantling, demolition, and safe disposal of the Dukhan Desalination Plant (DDP), including all above-ground and underground civil, structural, and mechanical works, as well as the seawater intake pump house, discharge pipelines, and associated facilities.

The project is located within QatarEnergy's Dukhan, Concession Area approximately 80 kilometers west of Doha, Qatar. Interested and capable contractors with proven expertise in large-scale industrial dismantling and disposal operations are invited to submit their Pre-Qualification Documents.

Scope of Work

- Aboveground structures: Multistage distillers, boilers, buildings, fences, transformers, pumps, piping systems, seawater intake pump house, discharge pipelines and structures, foundations, pipe racks, roads, and all associated equipment.
- Underground structures: Grounding extensions, cables, pipes, trenches, and all relevant subsurface installations related to DDP.

The expected award date is two months from the date of this invitation. Completion and handover of the site are expected before December 2026.

Pre-Qualification Requirements

Company Information

- Full name of the Company and contact person
- Company Profile including Postal address, telephone/fax numbers, and e-mail address
- Ownership structure of the Company including names of major shareholders and percentage shareholding
- Corporate Organization Chart

Legal & Licensing

- Commercial Registration
- Related Licenses and Certificates

Financial Requirements

- Audited Financial Statements for the last three (3) years
- Evidence of financial resources and capability
- Company Insurance details

Experience & Performance

- List of clients for the last five (5) years
- Experience in dismantling, demolition, and safe disposal of similar projects

Health, Safety & Environment

- Details of the Company's Health, Safety & Environmental (HSE) Policy & Management System
- QatarEnergy Health and Safety Qualification Form, duly filled in and signed (If applicable)

Quality Management System

- Quality Manual and Quality Policy documents
- Valid certification of ISO 9000 / 14000.

Submission Details

All required documents must be uploaded to: <https://www.nebrasenergy.qa/tenders-prequalifications/>
Deadline: Before 11:00 AM on 08th February 2026

Contact

For more information, please contact us via email: ddp@nebrasenergy.qa



INVITATION FOR CONTRACTORS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

QatarEnergy invites expression of interest (EOI) and pre-qualification submission from specialized dredging and marine construction companies that can demonstrate experience and expertise to serve as the main contractor for the MIC Dredging Project in Mesaieed.

PQ REFERENCE: EPI025200110 | TITLE: EOI – PREQUALIFICATION FOR MESAIEED PORT DREDGING 2026

BRIEF SCOPE:

Mesaieed Industrial City (MIC) is undergoing significant expansion in alignment with the planned strategic projects. In order to support the navigation of expected higher draft vessels, QatarEnergy is undertaking a major dredging campaign starting Q4 in 2026.

The scope of the project comprises dredging works at Mesaieed Port, including but not limited to the procurement of navigational lights, mobilization of a dredging fleet, dredging of the East Channel and Mesaieed Port Basin, disposal of dredged material to offshore locations, testing, commissioning of the navigational lights system. The scope also includes the development of CEMP (Construction Environment Management Plan), compliance with the conditions of Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC) and liaison with other government authorities, as well as coordinating with various stakeholders.

The East Channel and Mesaieed Port Basin are required to be dredged to a depth of -15 m CD, dredging through both hard and soft strata. The East Channel was dredged to remove high spots to achieve -13.5 m CD in 2019, while the Mesaieed Port Basin depths vary with higher areas up to -11 m CD. The project will require an adequate number of high-capacity cutter suction dredgers, as well as trailing hopper suction dredgers and barges for transportation to meet the project schedule. The estimated dredging volume is 7,000,000 cubic metres of material over an area of 500,000 square metres. All necessary marine infrastructure works, environmental protection measures, and compliance with regulatory requirements are included. The contractor shall be responsible for all associated works such as approval of vessels through the Ministry of Transport, Mesaieed Port approvals, the construction of temporary facilities, utilities, services, and the restoration of affected areas.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS:

- Interested prospective bidders are hereby requested to send their expression of interest (EOI) with the following minimum information:
 - Name and nationality of the prospective bidder, as registered in their base country or in Qatar Commercial Registration,
 - Commercial / Legal Registration (provide an attested English translated copy),
 - Contact name and details, such as email address, telephone, and fax number, of the authorized person to whom the pre-qualification package to be issued,
 - Confirmation that the prospective bidder meets the minimum pre-qualification criteria as specified below.
- The EOI, along with the information, as requested herein, shall be submitted by the prospective bidder to the email address: korisery@qatarenenergy.qa quoting the abovementioned reference number and title.
- The EOI shall be submitted no later than ten (10) calendar days from the date of publication of this advertisement.
- On receipt of the prospective bidder's response, QatarEnergy shall release the pre-qualification package, including the instructions on how to submit the response to the same.

MINIMUM PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA:

In order for QatarEnergy to release the pre-qualification package to prospective bidders, they must confirm their ability to meet the following as part of their EOI:

- Good financial standing in the past three (3) years, with an average annual turnover of a minimum QR.1 billion.
- Company with reputation of having successfully executed several major dredging projects of large volumes in order of 7 million cubic metres in the MENA region or elsewhere in the world.
- Company owning adequate dredging equipment (high-capacity cutter suction dredgers, trailing hopper suction dredgers and barges), skilled personnel, expertise and resources required to execute major dredging scope of works as the main contractor for the dredging of 7 million cum (in a single contract) in 24 months period.
- Experience in all aspects of dredging and marine construction disciplines, including environmental management, and marine infrastructure. Have successfully executed projects of a similar nature and size within the last 10 years in the MENA region.
- ISO-certified and willing to comply with QatarEnergy's HSE and QA/QC requirements.
- Proven track record of working on major projects within challenging timelines.

All documentary evidence supporting bidders' competence shall be requested through the pre-qualification package once it is released by QatarEnergy.



Doha Legal Forum hailed as platform for promoting justice

HE Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice, Saeed bin Abdullah al-Suwaidi, affirmed that the inaugural Doha Legal Forum, which commenced yesterday, represents a leading platform for promoting justice and the rule of law, building bridges of co-operation, and exchanging legal expertise.

This, in turn, enhances sustainable development, strengthens the investment environment, and positions Qatar as a global hub for legal dialogue.



HE Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice, Saeed bin Abdullah al-Suwaidi.

His Excellency stated that the forum brings together an elite of decision-makers, legal professionals, academics and experts to discuss key legal challenges and anticipate the future of legislation, keeping pace with regional and international transformations and contributing to the achievement of the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, particularly in the judicial, economic and social sectors.

In a press statement, he noted that the forum addresses key issues including legislative policy and alternative dispute resolution methods, the legal regulation of the energy and financial services sectors, public-private partnership contracts, artificial intelligence technologies, and the commercial bankruptcy system, all in line with digital transformations and to bolster investor confidence in the legal environment.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice also praised the existing partnership between the Ministry of Justice and the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre, and the sponsorship of the forum by national institutions, stressing that the deliberations during the forum will contribute to strengthening legal thought and consolidating the values of justice and the rule of law. (QNA)



Qatar Red Crescent – Medical Affairs Division

Tenders Announcement: -

| Sr. # | Tender No. | Description | Temporary Tender Bond | Documents Fees (Non-Refundable) | Closing Date |
|-------|-----------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | QRC/EMS/03-2026 | Purchase and supply of Ambulance Type II (Fully Electric – Fully equipped) according to the conditions and specifications | 50,000 Q.R | 500 Q.R | 18-02-2026 |
| 2 | QRC/EMS/04-2026 | Design, Supply, Fabrication and Construction of store at Emergency Medical Service building | 9,000 Q.R | 500 Q.R | 18-02-2026 |

The documents can be collected from Medical Affairs Division, Ain Khalid Area, Sunday to Thursday from 09:00 am to 02:00 pm till the closing date or by sending email along with the requested documents below.

Required Documents:

1. Authorization letter to receive tender documents + ID copy of the person will be receiving the documents.
2. Company's Commercial registration copy.
3. Bank deposit voucher with the value of documents not refunded & account details:
 - Account Name: Qatar Red Crescent.
 - Bank: Al Rayan.
 - Account Number: 0003-100689-200
 - IBAN Number: QA09MAFR00000000003100689200

For more information: please call: (50044554), or Email whc.tenders@qrcs.org.qa



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

| No. | TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION | TENDER ISSUE PERIOD | TENDER FEE (QAR) | TENDER BOND (QAR) | TENDER CLOSING DATE |
|-----|--|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | LTC/C/RTO/7367/25 FOR TREATMENT OF OFF-SPEC WASTEWATER AND NAPHTHENIC CAUSTIC WASTE STREAMS | 26/01/2026 to 17/02/2026 | 0 | 6,706,500 | 26/02/2026 |

Scope of Work:

Contractor shall design a feasible, practical and sustainable treatment plant, construct it at a proposed location in Ras Laffan Industrial City (Qatar), own, operate and maintain the facility to enable it to deliver the service of 'Treatment of Off-Spec Wastewater and Naphthenic Caustic Waste Streams' to Company under QatarEnergy Tawteen initiative. This treatment service contract duration is for a period of five (05) years.

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

Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:

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

Al-Khulaifi meets Lebanese president, PM and parliament Speaker

President of Lebanon General Joseph Aoun met with HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi. At the start of the meeting, HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to the Lebanese president, extending his best wishes for good health and happiness, as well as continued progress and prosperity for the government and people of Lebanon. President Aoun entrusted HE the Minister of State to convey his greetings to His Highness the Amir, wishing His Highness continued success and more prosperity and progress for Qatar. The meeting reviewed bilateral relations between the countries and explored avenues for further supporting and developing them, in addition to addressing several regional and international issues. President Aoun praised Qatar's continued support for Lebanon, particularly its backing of the Lebanese Army. The Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed Qatar's supportive stance towards Lebanon and its unwavering solidarity with the brotherly Lebanese people. (QNA)



Prime Minister of Lebanon Dr Nawaf Salam met yesterday with HE Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi. The meeting dealt with the countries' relations and ways to bolster them. The two sides also touched on the reform projects carried by the Lebanese government, in addition to a host of topics of mutual interest. (QNA)



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi, met in Beirut yesterday with Speaker of the Parliament of Lebanon, Nabih Berri. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and ways to support and strengthen them. They also discussed the latest developments in Lebanon, and a host of matters of common interest. (QNA)

Qatar, Lebanon discuss security co-operation



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi, has met the commander of the Lebanese Armed Forces, General Rodolphe Haykal, in Beirut to discuss bilateral co-operation and regional security developments. The talks focused on ways to strengthen relations between the countries, as well as recent security developments in Lebanon. During the meeting, the Lebanese army commander expressed his appreciation for Qatar's continued support for Lebanon's armed forces, describing it as an important contribution to maintaining security and stability in the country. (QNA)

Ford, Lincoln models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Almana Motors Company, Qatar's Ford and Lincoln dealership, has announced the recall of Ford Expedition F350 and Lincoln MKC Navigator 2015 models.

The recall is due to the possibility that some vehicles may have a blank or distorted rear view camera. The ministry said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs. The ministry said that it will co-ordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out.

The ministry urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquiries and suggestions through the following channels: call centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, ministry's accounts on social media: @mociqatar, ministry's Mobile App: MOCIQATAR (available on iOS and Android devices).



Tender Announcement – General

| Tender No. | Subject | Closing Date |
|------------|---|--------------|
| 2025/6 | Cleaning Services Tender for the Shura Council Buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duration: 3 Gregorian years System: Two-envelope system (Technical – Financial) | 10/02/2026 |

Details

1. The company must inform the Shura Council's Tenders and Auctions Committee of receiving the invitation, as well as inform in case of declining participation in the tender.
2. Tender documents may be obtained from the Shura Council's Tenders and Auctions Committee (White Palace) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of QAR 5,000, deposited into the Shura Council account number 0013-005853-001 at Qatar National Bank. IBAN: QA91QNBA000000000130058530000.
3. A temporary bank guarantee of 5% of the financial offer must accompany the financial bid.
 - It must be valid for 120 days.
 - The successful bidder must submit a final bank guarantee of 10% of the total awarded value, valid for 120 days after completion of the contract execution period.
4. The bid must remain valid for 120 days from the closing date, during which the bid is binding and cannot be withdrawn.
5. Deadline for bid submission: 12:00 PM (noon) on Tuesday, 10 February 2026. The Council reserves the right during the contract period to increase or decrease quantities or works according to contract terms and pricing.
6. Bids must be submitted to the Tenders and Auctions Committee at the Shura Council in sealed envelopes stamped with red wax, addressed to The Chairman of the Tenders and Auctions Committee, and must clearly state the tender number, subject, and closing date without mentioning the company name on the envelopes. Submission must follow registration with the Committee Secretary.
7. To obtain the tender documents, the following must be presented:
 - Payment receipt of the purchase fee mentioned in item (2)
 - A company authorization letter
 - A valid commercial registration copy
 - Personal ID
8. Bidders may submit one or two bids for the required services.

FOR INQUIRIES:

Phone: 44221036 – 44221049, Email: qa.gov.shura@Tender

The Tenders and Auctions Committee of the Shura Council is pleased to invite you to participate in the above-mentioned tender according to the details listed.

Tenders and Auctions Committee Auctions and Tender

Alcatraz Interlocks, DESCO Host Technical Conference on 'Safety by Design'



Alcatraz Interlocks, in collaboration with its authorized local partner Doha Engineering Services Company WLL (DESCO) successfully hosted a Technical Conference in Doha, Qatar, on 21 January 2026.

The event brought together professionals from the oil & gas, petrochemical, power, and industrial process sectors, with a strong focus on enhancing operational safety through engineered interlocking solutions under Alcatraz's core philosophy — Safety by Design.

The conference opened with a welcome address and presentation by Paul Ittoo, CEO of DESCO. The Alcatraz presentations were delivered by Craig Young, Managing Director of Alcatraz Interlocks; Jatin Aghera, APAC & Middle East Manager; and Chirag Nair, Commercial & Service Manager — APAC & Middle East.

The event served as a dedicated platform to exchange technical knowledge, share global best practices, and highlight how proven interlocking technologies can significantly reduce operational risks in complex industrial environments. With Qatar's energy and process industries continuing to prioritize safety, reliability, and regulatory compliance, the conference attracted strong interest from operators, engineers, and safety professionals.

The opening session emphasized the importance of strong local representation in delivering global process safety technologies to the Qatari market. As Alcatraz's representative in Doha, DESCO plays a key role in providing local engineering support, coordination, and customer engagement. This partnership ensures that Alcatraz's safety systems are supported throughout the project lifecycle—from early engineering and specification to installation, commissioning, and after-sales support.

The conference provided an overview



of Alcatraz Interlocks' global footprint and engineering capabilities. Founded in 1993 and headquartered in Rijen, the Netherlands, Alcatraz Interlocks has developed into a specialist provider of mechanical, electromechanical, and digital interlocking solutions. Today, Alcatraz is represented in more than 55 countries worldwide, supporting a wide range of industries including oil & gas, petrochemical, chemical, power, and infrastructure.

Alcatraz Interlocks operates as part of Indutrade AB, a Swedish technical trading and industrial group listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange. Indutrade operates through more than 250 subsidiaries globally and reports annual revenues of approximately SEK 32.5 billion, exceeding €3 billion. This association provides Alcatraz with strong financial backing, a long-term ownership philosophy, and continued investment in engineering excellence and product development.

A central theme of the technical sessions was the role of interlocking systems

as an independent and highly reliable layer of protection. Mechanical and electromechanical interlocks physically enforce correct operating sequences, preventing unsafe actions caused by human error. This is particularly critical during maintenance, start-up, shutdown, and non-linear process operations, where deviations from procedures can lead to serious incidents.

The conference delivered a detailed overview of Alcatraz's valve interlocking solutions for both quarter-turn and multi-turn valves. Key technical features discussed included 316L stainless steel construction, electropolished surface finishes, fire-test certification to API 607, and compliance with international standards such as ISO 14119 for Machine Directive. These features make the systems well suited for harsh and demanding process environments commonly found in oil, gas, and chemical facilities.

In addition, key storage and control solutions were presented, including

operational key cabinets, key exchange boxes, and mechanically programmed sequence control units. These systems are essential for managing complex procedures such as pig launching and receiving, where multiple valves must be operated in strict, predefined sequences. Practical examples demonstrated how engineered interlocking eliminates incorrect sequencing by design, significantly reducing safety risks.

Machine guarding and access control solutions formed another important part of the agenda. Door, hatch, gate, and switchgear interlocks were presented as effective tools to integrate machine safety with process safety, ensuring that access to hazardous areas is only possible when equipment is in a proven safe condition. The flexibility to design bespoke mounting solutions was highlighted, allowing systems to be adapted to site-specific constraints without compromising compliance.

A major highlight of the conference was the presentation of ALCATRAZ PILOT, the company's Process Interlocking

Oversight Technology. PILOT combines traditional mechanical interlocking with digital oversight, offering electronic key management, keyless interlocks, and IIoT-enabled process monitoring. Real-time operator guidance, live process visualization in control rooms, and enhanced oversight of critical operations were presented as key benefits of this future-ready solution.

The conference also showcased Alcatraz's valve drive and remote operation solutions, including shaft drives, helix drives, and pneumatic drive systems. These solutions enable safe operation of valves located in inaccessible or hazardous areas, significantly reducing operator exposure while maintaining full interlocking integrity. Eco-Drive and Eco-Lock solutions were presented as practical tools to reduce manual strain and improve operational consistency.

The event concluded with breakout sessions, live product demonstrations, and open technical discussions, allowing participants to engage directly with the systems and explore applications specific to Qatar's industrial environment. Informal networking over dinner further strengthened collaboration between Alcatraz, DESCO, and local end users.

Overall, the Technical Conference reinforced Alcatraz Interlocks' commitment to advancing process safety in Qatar and the wider Middle East. Through strong local representation by DESCO and direct engagement from Alcatraz's regional and global teams, the event highlighted how engineered safety — by design — plays a vital role in protecting people, assets, and the environment.

Alcatraz Interlocks and DESCO will also be participating in LNG Qatar 2026, taking place in Doha from 2-5 February 2026.

The conference provided an overview



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VCUARTS QATAR'S ARTWEEK 2026 EXPLORES COMMUNITY AS PRACTICE



Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar's (VCUarts Qatar), a QF partner university, is set to host the second edition of ARTWEEK 2026: Community as Practice on its campus from February 1-3, 2026.

The three-day program brings together artists, educators, students, and cultural practitioners to examine how communities are formed through shared practice, learning, and exchange. Programming includes workshops, lecture-performances, panel discussions, and studio-based engagements open to the public.

"As a higher education institution, VCUarts Qatar recognizes the integral role of community as a foundational condition of how learning, making, and knowledge production happen," said Amir Berbic, Dean of VCUarts Qatar. "ARTWEEK 2026 reflects our role as a convener, bringing people together into shared dialogue and supporting the connections that deepen artistic and educational practice."

Organized by the Department of Painting + Printmaking (PAPR), ARTWEEK 2026 invites participants into the studio as both a site of making and a space

of exchange that reflect how artists actually work today.

"ARTWEEK is not about observing from the sidelines," explained Dr. Aissa Deebi, Director of PAPR. "It's an invitation into the studio to engage with artists and educators who are actively shaping the future of art practice and education."



The program opens on Feb. 1 with a keynote by Ong Keng Sen, founder of TheatreWorks Singapore and former artistic director of the Singapore International Festival of Arts, and concludes on Feb. 3 with a keynote by Sara Niroobakhsh, an artist and educator whose practice engages pedagogy as a form of artistic inquiry.

ARTWEEK 2026 brings together many other voices from Doha, including

Richmond, Beirut, Cairo, and Karachi as well. International panelists include Mohammed Sornji, Naiza Khan, Walid Sadek along with VCUarts Qatar and VCU Richmond faculty.

"The program will create opportunities to learn from a spectrum of approaches and perspectives and to explore how institutions and independent initiatives support one another," Dr. Deebi said. "It will showcase how artists balance their intertwined roles of learner, maker, mentor, and community member and how art education can respond to shifting cultural, social, and technological contexts."

This edition builds on ongoing collaborations between VCUarts Qatar and VCUarts Richmond, including the broader dialogue prompted by the jointly authored book *Living to Learn: Art & Education for the Common Good* which is edited by Noah Simblist.

ARTWEEK 2026: Community as Practice will be held at VCUarts Qatar and is open to the public with select workshops available by registration.

For more information, please visit <https://qatar.vcu.edu/event/art-week-2026/>

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Qatar takes part in ministerial roundtable at 3rd Global Labour Market Conference

Qatar took part yesterday in the ministerial roundtable session of the 3rd Global Labour Market Conference (GLMC), currently underway in Riyadh.

The two-day summit has drawn policymakers, business leaders and labour experts from across the world, with participation from over 120 countries.

HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri leads Qatar's delegation at the meeting.

In his address to fellow ministers and senior officials, HE Dr al-Marri underscored the need to move swiftly from broad policy frameworks towards tangible implementation.

Against the backdrop of rapid economic and technological change, he emphasised the importance of transforming theoretical strategies into practical, operational solutions that effectively respond to evolving labour market dynamics.

Drawing on Qatar's experi-

ence, HE Dr al-Marri highlighted the value of aligning institutional reform with targeted capacity-building and partnership-driven approaches.

He noted that careful balancing between robust worker protections and market flexibility has been key to fostering a more resilient and adaptable labour market.

HE Dr al-Marri further argued that employment policy must extend beyond long-term planning.

It now requires, he said, institutional agility – with mechanisms for precise labour market monitoring, rapid policy adjustment and continuous alignment between skills development and actual market demand.

Accelerating the transition from jobseekers to meaningful employment opportunities, HE Dr al-Marri said, hinges on such responsive frameworks.

The minister also reiterated the pivotal role of the private sector, not merely as an employer but as a strategic collaborator in designing and delivering workforce so-



lutions.

At the international level, HE Dr al-Marri stressed that strengthening bilateral and multilateral co-operation is essential for aligning the global supply and demand of labour.

He added that enhanced cooperation in areas such as labour mobility, mutual recognition of skills, and knowledge exchange opens new pathways for work, deepens shared benefits and bolsters the flexibility of global labour markets in the face of world-wide shifts.

The ministerial roundtable addressed a broad spectrum of pressing issues affecting the global workforce.

In addition to the roundtable, HE Dr al-Marri attended the official opening of the 3rd GLMC, taking place on January 26–27.

The conference's agenda spans six strategic tracks, including economic shifts and their effects on job markets, the evolving skills landscape amid rapid transformation, the impacts and prospects of artificial intelligence (AI), workforce resilience in times of crisis, and efforts to harmonise labour market policies with broader human-centred progress. - QNA

Labour minister meets counterparts

HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri held a series of bilateral meetings with ministers attending the 3rd Global Labour Market Conference in Riyadh.

He met Tanzanian Minister of State at the Office of the Prime Minister for Labour, Employment and Labour Relations Deus Clement Sango, Syrian Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Hind Kabawat, and Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection Alfred Nganja Mutua.

The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral co-operation in the labour sector, sharing best practices, and addressing challenges facing labour markets amid rapid economic and technological change.

The meetings also explored institutional reform, capacity building, and partnership mechanisms aimed at enhancing the resilience of global labour markets. - QNA

GAC launches new AI service package

The General Authority of Customs (GAC) launched yesterday a new package of artificial intelligence (AI) services, in line with the authority's Strategic Plan (2024–30), which aims to build a pioneering customs authority that delivers smart and secure services.

HE the Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwaiti inaugurated the new AI services package as part of the GAC's celebration of International Customs Day.

The newly launched AI services include the Smart Harmonised System Classification Tool (HSsify), which transforms documents into intelligent decisions within the customs declaration and provides importers, exporters, and customs brokers with accurate classification from the first data entry of shipment information.

The package also features a Pre-Classification of the Harmonised System Code service, a self-service feature that enables users to request an expert opinion while supporting customs officers with smart suggestions, allowing final decisions to be issued with greater accuracy and in a shorter timeframe.

In addition, the package encompasses an Agentic AI service, which shifts systems from traditional command execution to intelligent, decision-making and autonomous action, as well as a Smart Virtual Assistant that provides instant, data-driven responses based on customs information, making access to information easier and more efficient.



member states' efforts toward achieving the desired customs integration.

The GAC assistant chairman for Customs affairs, Talal Abdulla al-Shaibi, stated that International Customs Day is an occasion to renew pride in the noble mission of customs and its pivotal role in protecting national resources, enhancing economic security, facilitating legitimate trade, and serving the community.

The GAC's celebration of International Customs Day included a number of diverse activities, during which the authority honoured outstanding employees and customs inspectors who achieved notable seizures, in addition to recognising partner and co-operating government and private entities.

The GCA honoured the Qatar Chamber in recognition of its continued support.

HE the Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwaiti presented the certificate of appreciation to the director of Qatar Chamber's International Relations and Chambers Affairs Department, Sheikha Tamader al-Thani. - QNA

ANNOUNCEMENT

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within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

Aid vessel in Sudan as part of joint Qatar-Turkiye efforts

A humanitarian aid vessel carrying 2,428 metric tonnes of assistance provided by Qatar and Turkiye has arrived in Sudan, as part of ongoing co-operation between the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) to address urgent humanitarian needs.

The shipment, which was received by Abdullah Rashid al-Kashash al-Muhammadi, the chargé d'affaires at the Qatar embassy in Sudan, includes essential food supplies, clothing, shelter materials such as tents and blankets, as well as basic household items. - QNA



Qatar's ambassador attends reception hosted by Spanish king

Qatar's ambassador to Spain Salem bin Mubarak al-Shafi took part in a reception for accredited ambassadors hosted by King Felipe VI at the Royal Palace.

During the event, the envoy met the king, Prime Minis-

ter Pedro Sanchez, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Co-operation Jose Manuel Albares, and State Secretary for Foreign and Global Affairs Diego Martinez Belio. - QNA

Minister attends opening of Future Real Estate Forum 2026 in Riyadh

HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah participated in the opening of the 5th Future Real Estate Forum 2026, held under the theme *Expanding Horizons: Real Estate Thriving*, in Riyadh on January 26–28.

HE al-Attiyah also attended a number of panel discussions that addressed real estate ownership opportunities for non-Saudis and its economic impact, the most prominent real estate investment opportunities and global market trends, public-private partnerships in urban development, the future of urban planning and design, and the role of modern real estate technologies in developing cities and building green buildings.



The Future Real Estate Forum is one of the most prominent international platforms specialising in the real estate sector, witnessing broad participation from decision-makers, experts and investors from more than 140 countries, in addition to about 300 speakers from government and executive leaders and experts in the public and private sectors, and a number of influential figures at the local and international levels. - QNA

Municipality minister meets Saudi, Bahraini, Egyptian counterparts

HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah met separately yesterday with Saudi Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing Majid bin Abdullah al-Hogail, Bahraini Minister of Housing and Urban Planning Amna bint Ahmed al-Rumaihi, and Egyptian Minister of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities Engineer Sherif ElSherbini, on the sidelines of the Real Estate Future Forum 2026 in Riyadh.

The meetings discussed bilateral relations in areas of common interest. - QNA



Ahlibank launches '2026 The Winner Savings Account' campaign

Ahlibank has launched its "2026 The Winner Savings Account" campaign, offering customers the opportunity to save while entering draws for exciting prizes throughout the year.

Through the campaign, customers can maintain their savings and benefit from the chance to win valuable rewards.

This year's campaign will award three major cash prizes of QR100,000 each on Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, and Qatar National Day.

In addition to the cash prizes, Ahlibank will award six Land Cruisers and six Nissan Patrol vehicles during monthly draws across the year.

The Winner Savings Account is open to all customers who wish to save while enjoying the added

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benefit of potential rewards.

Participation is simple: customers need to open the Winner Savings account and maintain a minimum amount of QR5,000 to be eligible to enter the draws.

Each QR1,000 gives customers

one chance to enter the various draws.

The Winner Savings Account campaign runs until December 30, 2026. For more information, visit any Ahlibank branch or details at ahlibank.com.qa

QIFF 2026 concludes

The 15th Qatar International Food Festival (QIFF 2026) has concluded, having welcomed 490,493 visitors over 10 days at the 974 Stadium Precinct.

Organised by Visit Qatar, the latest edition of the QIFF marks the most attended edition in the festival's history.

The QIFF 2026 recorded a 36% increase in overall attendance compared to the previous year, reflecting the festival's growing regional and international appeal.

International visitors account for 10% of the total footfall.

Qatari nationals recorded the highest attendance at 22.1%, while 32% of visitors returned for repeat visits, highlighting strong audience loyalty and sustained engagement.

The event featured 200 local

vendors, showcasing the strength and diversity of Qatar's home-grown culinary scene, alongside 46 international vendors representing a 43% increase compared to the previous edition introducing global flavours and concepts to the festival grounds.

The programme was further enriched by the participation of more than 50 local and international chefs, who led live cooking demonstrations, interactive workshops, and exclusive dining experiences.

Introduced for the first time this year, the QIFF 2026 unveiled the QIFF Awards, an initiative celebrating standout participants across the festival.

Hookies Cookies received the award for "Longest Line", Ibis Doha was voted "Favourite Local Vendor", 99 Grill was named "Favourite International Vendor", while Taco King was awarded "Favourite Chef".

An honorary award was presented to Sharqji in recognition of its contribution to the festival and Qatar's culinary scene.



The QIFF 2026 festival was a success, with over 490,000 visitors and a 36% increase in attendance compared to the previous year.

Visit Qatar organised the festival, which featured 200 local and international vendors, live cooking demonstrations, and awards for standout participants.

The festival concluded with a bang, with fireworks over the 974 Stadium Precinct.

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Two private companies honoured for protecting the environment



HE Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, has honoured the Seashore Group and Boom Waste Treatment Company in recognition of their co-operation in carrying out environmental pollution removal works in one of the country's areas. This reflects their commitment to social responsibility and to supporting environmental sustainability. The honouring ceremony, held at the ministry's headquarters, was attended by Engineer Abdulaziz bin Ahmed bin Abdullah al Mahmood, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. Accordingly, the ministry affirmed that such initiatives underscore the importance of co-operation between the public and private sectors in supporting the State's efforts to protect the environment and preserve wildlife, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

Dukhan Bank announces agreement with Rafeeq

Dukhan Bank announced the signing of an exclusive partnership agreement with Rafeeq, Qatar's first all-in-one national champion e-commerce and lifestyle platform, reinforcing the bank's commitment to delivering practical, customer-focused value beyond traditional banking services.

The agreement was formalised during a signing ceremony held at Dukhan Bank's headquarters in Lusail, attended by senior representatives from both organisations, as well as media and key stakeholders from Qatar's digital sectors.

The partnership reflects Dukhan Bank's broader strategy to collaborate with trusted digital platforms that complement customers' everyday needs, extending the role of banking into lifestyle experiences they already engage with, while advancing purposeful innovation rooted in relevance, accessibility, and Shariah-compliant principles.

As part of the newly-signed agreement, eligible Dukhan Bank Visa Infinite, Signature, and Platinum credit cardholders can activate Rafeeq Pro for a monthly fee of QR1, compared to the regular subscription price of QR35, with the offer available until December 31. To benefit from the offer, customers must register their Dukhan Bank Visa credit card in the Rafeeq application, while cardholders currently subscribed to Rafeeq Pro will become eligible once their existing subscription period concludes.

Talal Ahmed al-Khaja, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at Dukhan Bank, said: "Strategic partnerships thrive when they transcend traditional banking. Our collaboration with Rafeeq seamlessly integrates modern lifestyle benefits with our credit card solutions, delivering an intuitive digital experience and unparalleled value to our customers."

Ahmed Abdulla, media consultant and advisor at Rafeeq, said: "This partnership marks an important milestone for Rafeeq. By collaborating with Dukhan



The agreement was formalised during a signing ceremony held at Dukhan Bank's headquarters in Lusail.

Bank, we are able to extend the reach of Rafeeq Pro to a wider audience and deliver real, tangible value through an accessible and innovative offering."

Through Rafeeq Pro, customers gain access to enhanced features and exclusive benefits designed to simplify everyday activities, including dining, essential services, and lifestyle experiences already embedded in their daily routines. By offering the subscription at a symbolic price point, the initiative aims to encourage broader adoption while delivering clear, practical value to Dukhan Bank's credit cardholders.

This partnership marks the beginning of a longer-term collaboration between Dukhan Bank and Rafeeq, focused on customer-centric innovation, digital enablement, and partnerships that meaningfully connect financial services with everyday life. Customers can learn more by visiting www.dukhanbank.com, or contacting the Dukhan Bank Contact Center at 800 8555.

3rd Arab Book Award celebrates knowledge and honours Arab creativity today

By Tawfiq Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Arab Book Award, an annual prize based in Doha, Qatar, will announce the winners of its third edition today during a ceremony at Grand Hyatt Doha, attended by officials and a select group of academics and intellectuals from Qatar and the Arab world.

Concurrently with the awards ceremony, the Arab Book Award will host a specialised academic symposium to discuss issues related to the Arab book and its connection to cultural identity.

This symposium aims to foster intellectual dialogue and reinforce the award's role as an active institution supporting Arab intellectual production. A distinguished group of writers and researchers will participate.

The Arab Book Award stands out as a leading cultural initiative that restores the book's status as a vessel of thought and a fundamental pillar in building human consciousness, amid accelerating intellectual transformations and numerous challenges facing the Arabic language and culture.

By embracing serious creativity and rigorous research, the award affirms that the Arab



the growing confidence in the award and its widespread reach in a short period.

This success is the result of a comprehensive media and institutional plan to promote the award across the Arab world.

The award has evolved into an annual scientific event that brings together approximately 100 scientists and researchers from diverse disciplines. They gather at one location, engage in scientific discussions, and develop joint research and knowledge projects.

The award's scientific committee monitors publications in the Arab world in the fields of knowledge targeted by the award. Each year, the award selects specific branches of knowledge based on these tracks, which primarily focus on linguistic, legal, historical, philosophical, and intellectual works.

Specific branches are selected annually to promote studies in these fields, whether in the individual book or achievement categories.

The scientific committee of the Arab Book Award evaluates nominated works through a rigorous, multi-stage judging process that considers scientific quality, originality of subject matter, contribution to knowledge, and research methodology.

GCC Geographical Society conference ends today

Doha is hosting the 7th Scientific Conference of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Geographical Society (GCCGS) at Katara Cultural Village, bringing together academics and researchers from the Gulf and Arab world to discuss the latest applications of artificial intelligence, climate change, remote sensing, urban planning, geographic education and environmental studies. On the second day, sessions focused on the use of AI in natural and environmental geography, including its role in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Researchers presented studies ranging from AI-based rainfall modelling in Saudi Arabia to spatial analysis of urban heat islands and flood risks in Doha.

Other topics included biodiversity conservation in Oman using AI tools, the use of GIS in geographic education, and monitoring urban air pollution in industrial cities. Participants highlighted the importance of integrating AI and geospatial technologies to support sustainable development and environmental planning in the region. The conference concludes today with a session on modern geographic technologies, final recommendations, and a general assembly of the Gulf Geographical Society. Delegates also visited cultural sites, including the Museum of Islamic Art and Souq Waqif. (QNA)

Arab League hails Qatar's efforts in supporting joint media work, Palestinian cause

QNA
Cairo

The Arab League yesterday commended the effective role of Qatar in strengthening the joint Arab media work system, through following up on the implementation of the resolutions issued by the 55th session of the Council of Arab Information Ministers, which was held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Arab League in Cairo in November, especially with regard to strengthening the Arab media discourse supporting the Palestinian cause in the international media scene.

This took place during a meeting between the Arab League Assistant Secretary-General for Media and Communication, ambassador

Ahmed Rashid Khattabi, and the ambassador of Qatar to Egypt and Qatar's Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Sheikh Jassim bin Abdulrahman bin Mohammed al-Thani, at the headquarters of the Permanent Mission of Qatar in Cairo.

Ambassador Ahmed Rashid Khattabi praised the constructive initiatives of the Qatar Media Corporation and its continued commitment to co-operating with the Media and Communication Sector (the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Information Ministers), through its contributions in providing proposals and initiatives aimed at developing the Arab media strategy and developing media partnerships in accordance with the Arab media action plan abroad, and keeping pace with Arab media in the digital transformation and

uses of artificial intelligence.

The meeting discussed ways to enhance media cooperation and coordination to support joint Arab action and contribute to highlighting Arab issues, while emphasising the importance of developing media communication mechanisms and strengthening the role of Arab media in addressing current regional and international challenges.

The Arab League indicated that the meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the agenda of meetings scheduled for the next phase, starting with the 104th regular session of the Standing Committee for Arab Media and the 22nd regular session of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Information Ministers, scheduled to be held in Kuwait from February 10-11. (QNA)

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GULF TIMES

Drugmakers turn to AI to speed trials, regulatory submissions

Artificial intelligence has yet to deliver on the most challenging aspect of drug development – finding new molecules that lead to major medical advances – but it is already streamlining less glamorous parts of the process.

AI is helping find participants and sites for clinical trials and drafting documents for regulators, shaving weeks off these labour-intensive processes, seven large drugmakers and six smaller biotech companies said at the recent JP Morgan Healthcare Conference.

It can take a decade and \$2bn to bring a new drug to market, pharmaceutical companies say. Many, including Eli Lilly, which has partnered with leading chipmaker Nvidia, are betting AI can also improve the success rate of new drugs.

Drug companies have announced a slew of deals for tools to unleash the promise of AI, seen as the biggest technological upheaval since the internet, much as other industries are doing.

Agentic AI – or AI that is autonomous requiring little human intervention – could increase clinical development productivity by about 35% to 45% over the next five years, consultancy McKinsey predicted last year.

Companies are utilising AI in multiple ways so it can focus on the big picture goal of successfully bringing new drugs to market.

Executives from global pharmaceutical companies AstraZeneca, Roche and Pfizer, as well as smaller biotechs like Spry and Nuvalent, described tracking thousands of pages of documents for regulators, including clinical, safety and manufacturing records.

The documents must be compiled, cross-checked and kept consistent across geographies, often requiring the costly use of outside contractors, AstraZeneca chief financial officer Aradhana Sarin explained.

Jorge Conde, a general partner at venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz, is investing in fixes to what he calls drug development's "messy middle," including putting \$4.3mn into startup Alleviate Health.

He described trial enrolment as a "leaky funnel" in which participants drop out along the way, and sees Alleviate using AI technology to help with patient outreach, education, screening and scheduling.

TD Cowen analyst Brendan Smith said the use of AI, including large language models like Microsoft Copilot, for administrative tasks has become fairly common in the pharmaceutical industry.

But it may take another one to three years before investors can measure how AI has begun speeding up drug development, Smith said, as it depends on how and where the tools are deployed.

Swiss drugmaker Novartis turned to AI in 2023 when it was starting a 10,000-person, late-stage cardiovascular outcomes trial for its cholesterol drug Legvio, chief medical officer Shreeram Aradhya said.

The typical four- to six-week site selection process became a two-hour meeting, as AI helped identify higher-performing sites

he said. Quantifying savings is difficult, Smith said, as it depends on how and where the tools are deployed.

A Novartis spokesperson said the time savings afforded by AI can add up to months over a drug-development programme.

British drugmaker GSK said it's using a mix of digital and AI tools to reduce manual data collection and aggregation and trial enrolment, and aims to speed up all clinical trials by 15% this way.

That helped save about £8mn (\$10.87mn) in costs for late-stage studies of asthma drug Exdensus last year, according to a GSK spokesperson. The drug won US approval last month.

Danish antibody developer Genmab said it plans to deploy Anthropic's Claude chatbot-powered agentic AI to support clinical development priorities.

Hisham Hamadeh, Genmab's head of AI, said the goal is to automate post-trial work, including analysis of data and its transformation into graphs, tables, figures and clinical study reports.

German radiopharmaceuticals firm ITM said it has figured out how to use AI to convert long trial reports into US FDA template formats, potentially saving weeks of effort requiring several staff, but has yet to deploy it.

Amgen research chief Jay Bradner said AI is delivering on multiple fronts in the drug development and regulatory document preparation process.

"What everybody's waiting for is the AI drug. When do I get the AI drug?" he said. "I actually think those molecules are in pipelines right now." – Reuters



The data centre surge has a hidden source of carbon emissions

By Olivia Raimonde

Data centres siphon huge amounts of energy to power artificial intelligence. But their environmental footprint starts to balloon even before the first server switches on due to the immense amount of carbon-intensive concrete needed to build them.

As the US data centre buildout surges, with construction beginning on multibillion-dollar facilities from Texas to Wisconsin, tech companies are becoming buyers of low-carbon concrete.

Through 2030, data centre expansion is expected to require 2mn metric tonnes of cement, the binding agent in concrete, according to environmental nonprofit RMI. If these facilities are constructed with traditional concrete, they could generate 1.9mn metric tonnes of CO₂ emissions, according to Chandler Randal, a senior associate with the group's cement and concrete team. That's the equivalent of annual emissions from 415,000 gas-powered cars.

Concrete – as well as steel – is a significant portion of the emissions associated with building data centres, said Katherine Vaz Gomes, a decarbonisation engineer at Carbon Direct, a climate advisory firm.

"The boom in data centres is providing an opportunity to evaluate, address and move on the carbon impacts of concrete," said Vaz Gomes. "As AI infrastructure explodes, data centre construction is accelerating and bringing concrete demand with it."

Microsoft Corporation announced a deal with low-carbon concrete maker Sublime Systems last year, allowing the tech company to purchase up to 622,500 metric tonnes of cement over a period of six to nine years.

"As demand for AI and cloud services grows, we are advancing how we design, build, and operate our data centres and campuses. Decarbonising the built environment is a crucial element in this process," Melanie Nakagawa, Microsoft's chief sustainability officer, said.

"The boom in data centres is providing an opportunity to evaluate, address and move on the carbon impacts of concrete"

In August, Amazon.com struck a similar deal with startup Brimstone, but didn't disclose how much concrete it would purchase. To help support the industry, Amazon, along with Meta Platforms and Prologis signed a low-carbon concrete pact in September called the Sustainable Concrete Buyers Alliance. The group was brought together by RMI and the Centre for Green Market Activation, a non-profit focused

on decarbonising industries. Its aim is "sending clear demand signals to producers" that they'll find buyers of their low-carbon products, a representative from RMI said.

Amazon has started using low-carbon concrete in data centres under construction in Virginia and Oregon, and the company also invests in startups with the "potential to help accelerate decarbonisation progress," according to Chris Roe, the company's director of worldwide carbon.

In addition to Brimstone, Amazon has also invested in CarbonCure, another startup that produces low-carbon cement. The tech company has also put in place carbon intensity standards for any concrete it uses that factor in production and transportation emissions, according to Roe.

The maturation of the green cement industry is going to require a lot of capital, said Christina Theodoridi, policy director for industry at Natural Resources Defence Council. The technology for low-carbon cement is there, but the industry hasn't yet scaled to meet the enormous demand coming over the next several years. But the partnerships between large tech companies and startups are crucial.

"Having an offtake agreement with a large data centre is a very clear demand signal," Theodoridi says. "That's a really critical mechanism to scale up those technologies."

Funding from big tech companies might not be enough, though. The green concrete industry is set to receive

roughly \$1.6bn in support from the Inflation Reduction Act. But President Donald Trump pulled the funding last year.

"That was going to breathe real momentum into the industry," Theodoridi said. "The data centres present an opportunity for which we would have been much better prepared for had we continued those investments in heavy industry."

The impacts of funding cuts are starting to ripple through the industry. In December, Sublime laid off 10% of its staff, citing a loss of \$87mn in government funding. It also said it was pausing construction on its factory in Holyoke, Massachusetts, which was scheduled to open as early as this year.

Data centre operations will put much more carbon in the atmosphere than their construction. Operational emissions, however, can be lowered over time as data centres become more efficient or rely more heavily on clean energy. But using green building materials is the only way to reduce what's known as the embodied emissions associated with data centres.

And for tech companies to meet their climate goals, those emissions will have to be dealt with. "Quite a few of those large tech companies actually have quite aggressive and meaningful climate targets," said Chris Magwood, a manager on RMI's carbon pre-building team and embodied carbon team.

"Internally, they obviously have identified that data centres and particularly the concrete use in those data centres is a key driver for them." - Bloomberg



The Stargate AI data centre under construction in Abilene, Texas. Photographer: Kyle Grillot/Bloomberg

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'hour and hour' organises the fourth edition of 'Tourist Destinations'

The "hour and hour" programme organised the fourth edition of its tourism event, "Tourist Destinations," at Simaisma Resort, as part of its efforts to strengthen Qatar's position as a leading regional and global tourist destination. The event, held in co-operation with the Youth Commission of Al Sailiya Club, aimed to highlight the richness and diversity of Qatar's tourism experience, including culture, heritage, nature, and authentic hospitality. It also sought to spotlight tourist landmarks and areas, promote domestic tourism, and connect various segments of society with the country's geography and civilisational history through an integrated interactive programme combining knowledge, entertainment, and hands-on experience. The "Tourist Destinations" event included a discussion session featuring several media professionals, influencers, and entrepreneurs, namely: Amina Qatba, a cultural adviser; social media influencer Abdullah al-Anzi; influencer Anas Abu Qamar; and media personality Mona Hawa, who moderated. During the session, participants



discussed ways to support local tourism, the role of media and digital platforms in promoting tourist destinations, and how to enhance the image of Qatar's tourism offerings. Additionally, Qatari chef Hamad al-Hajri presented a segment on traditional cooking. The event also featured a guided tour to introduce the venue, along with interactive artistic workshops including leaf painting, pottery colouring, mosaic art, and a "Drouaza" workshop.

Tamani al-Yafei, CEO of the "hour and hour" programme, emphasised that the "Tourist Destinations" event aligns with the programme's vision of building sustainable tourism awareness. She stated: "At the hour and hour programme, we are committed to providing qualitative initiatives that introduce society, across all segments, to the tourism and cultural wealth that Qatar enjoys. "Through the 'Tourist Destinations' event, we aim to create an authentic interactive experience that links knowledge with practice, fosters a sense of belonging, and opens new horizons for integration between media, entrepreneurs, and influencers to professionally and sustainably support local tourism." The CEO added that the

programme places particular importance on partnerships with the private sector and cultural and tourism institutions, considering them essential elements in developing local tourism content, stimulating the tourism economy, and providing safe and meaningful educational and entertainment experiences. The event concluded with a cultural competition segment presented by Ahmed Bato, followed by a ceremony honouring participants and supporters, and a group photo, reaffirming the community and cultural role that the "Tourist Destinations" initiative seeks to establish within Qatar's tourism landscape.



Kahramaa launches 9th edition of Tarsheed Carnival

QNA
Doha

Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (Kahramaa), through its national programme for conservation and energy efficiency, Tarsheed, has launched the ninth edition of Tarsheed Carnival 2026 at the Kahramaa Awareness Park, under the theme "Consume Efficiently for a Sustainable Future." The event will run until January 30, 2026.

The carnival aims to build a conscious and responsible community that contributes to preserving natural resources for future generations. It underscores a clear message: meaningful change begins with everyday behaviours, and the collective efforts of the community and Kahramaa are essential steps toward a more efficient and sustainable future.

The Head of Community Awareness and Development at the Department of Conservation and Energy Efficiency, Muhammad al-Yafei stated:

"Resource efficiency is no longer a choice - it is a shared responsibility that begins with the individual and extends to families, institutions, and society as a whole. Tarsheed Carnival 2026 serves as an interactive platform bringing together government entities, private sector partners, and civil society organisations. It offers a diverse array of



educational, awareness, and entertainment activities designed to engage all age groups and transform sustainability concepts from slogans into tangible daily practices."

He added: "We firmly believe that community partnership is fundamental to driving change. Through this event, we aspire to inspire visitors, strengthen the culture of responsible resource consumption, and support the nation's vision for a more sustainable future for generations to come."

Several government and private entities are

participating in the Tarsheed Carnival 2026.

The carnival's daily programme features a variety of activities aimed at promoting sustainable practices, including dedicated sections on clean energy, environmental sustainability, and efficient electricity and water use. Visitors can also participate in interactive and educational workshops on best practices and recycling. The carnival further offers stage performances, competitions, and an awareness play highlighting the impact of wasteful behaviours on the environment. (QNA)

Qatar Press Centre hosts caricature exhibition by Qatari artist

Qatar Press Centre has launched the art exhibition "Caricature: Vision, Message, and Art" by caricature artist Saad Abdulwahab al-Muhammadi, which will run until February 1.

The opening of the exhibition, held at Professor Abdullah bin Hussein al-Naama Hall, was attended by a select group of cultural and media figures, including Khalid bin Ahmed al-Obaidan, Member of the Shura Council and vice-chairman of the Board of Al Jasra Cultural and Social Club, besides Youssef al-Qassifi, head of the Lebanese Journalists Syndicate; Majed al-Jubbura, managing editor of *Arrayah* newspaper; Hassan al-Mohamadi, managing editor of *Al-Arab* newspaper; and Abdulaziz al-Kubaisi, deputy director of Qatar Centre for Photography, in addition to several journalists, media professionals, and caricature art enthusiasts. The scene reflected the growing interest in caricature as a shared space that brings together creativity and critical thinking.

This cultural event underscores the status of caricature as a powerful visual medium of expression,



capable of engaging with reality and condensing meaning, and as a bridge linking art with the journalistic message in a creative form that resonates closely with the public.

The artist welcomed the attendees, expressing his appreciation for the centre's initiative in organising the exhibition and providing a platform that opens space for dialogue between the artist and the audience.

He stressed that caricature is not limited to satirical drawings, but rather a comprehensive media language with its own capacity to address public issues and con-

dense meaning through the simplest of lines. He noted that this art form works on ideas as much as on images and employs paradox and brevity as tools of influence.

Al-Muhammadi explained that the exhibition is an extension of the Centre's approach to highlighting Qatari creative experiences within the journalistic field and shedding light on non-traditional tools of expression in the media landscape.

He reviewed the works featured in the exhibition, which represent different stages of his artistic journey and carry multiple symbols and messages. According to

him, caricature relies on "intelligent reduction," enabling the image to serve simultaneously as a tool of critique and awareness, engaging the audience in a direct and impactful way.

He pointed out that the exhibition's main idea is to present a selection of his most prominent caricatures that previously sparked positive debate and wide engagement among supporters and critics alike, due to their bold treatment of social and media issues.

The exhibition features several new works, published and displayed for the first time, offering

visitors an opportunity to follow the evolution of the artist's vision. He has brought together old and new works in a visual dialogue that reflects changes in reality and shifting questions.

Al-Muhammadi said the exhibited drawings capture the pulse of the street and the public's aspirations regarding many local and global events and issues. He stressed that caricature draws its vitality from its closeness to people and its ability to capture everyday details, transforming them into scenes that condense the story and open the door to reflection.

The artist has a career that combines journalistic work with artistic practice. He began his professional career as a daily caricature artist in January 2006 and has participated in several art exhibitions, including a solo exhibition at the Artistic Creativity Centre in September 2005, an exhibition at Qatar University, and other exhibitions inside and outside the country.

He also won third prize from Al Kass Channel for Best Caricature in the Best Media Coverage competition during the Gulf Cup 21 in 2013, and published a caricature work titled "Red Lines."

Qatar's pride: Sheikh Joaan elected unopposed as new OCA president

From Page 1

Sheikh Joaan also stressed the importance of forging long-term relationships with other organisations, particularly as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) operates within well-defined systems and frameworks.

Adhering to these frameworks and implementing them effectively, he said, would ensure that the OCA remains open to collaboration with all stakeholders, institutions, and companies in ways that advance both athletes' interests and the broader Asian Olympic movement.

He emphasised that his leadership aim is to serve the 45 National Olympic Committees and to make supporting youth – both athletes and sports administrators – a top OCA priority. This, he explained, would include nurturing future talents to manage and sustain sports organisations effectively.

Sheikh Joaan further recognised Asian media institutions as essen-

tial partners in promoting the Olympic movement, noting that they play a vital role in sharing the inspiring stories of athletes and amplifying sport's impact across the continent. He reaffirmed his openness to media feedback, saying that constructive dialogue would help improve communication strategies and public engagement.

"The Council exists to serve Asia and its National Olympic Committees, providing excellence that matches the dedication these committees display daily," he stated. "I am not here to shine – the spotlight belongs to the athletes and the National Olympic Committees."

Sheikh Joaan concluded by reflecting on Asia's rich diversity, describing it not as a challenge but as an opportunity for growth, particularly through the region's expanding emerging markets. What matters most, he added, is ensuring unity around a common vision and direction to advance together as one continent.

Qatar has become energy innovation nerve centre

From Page 1

"As Qatar accelerates its national agenda around smart urbanisation, sustainability and next-generation infrastructure, Doha is increasingly being viewed not only as a destination for global innovation – but as a platform to export it," said Park. EnergyX's approach is to unify disciplines that have traditionally operated in silos: AI-powered computational energy intelligence, façade engineering and fabrication, and long-term operational optimisation. The goal is not simply to design efficient buildings, but to deliver performance outcomes from early-stage design through decades of use.

Qatar's emergence as a base for EnergyX's expansion reflects the company's view that the country offers a rare combination: national momentum behind AI-driven transformation, strong national ambition, and a policy environment increasingly shaped by sustainability and long-term resilience.

As Qatar accelerated investment in AI, smart cities, sustainable districts and major infrastructure, Park saw an opportunity to scale EnergyX – with Qatar positioned as a key hub.

Beginning in 2024, EnergyX initiated the relocation of its global leadership and command functions to Qatar. By early 2025, Park and the company's core leadership team had moved to Qatar, anchoring the company's future scaling in the country.

Today, EnergyX describes its Qatar operations not as a regional outpost, but as a global hub – directing projects, research and development, and acquisition activity across Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America.

For Park and Dandrieux, the strategy is not simply to expand a company footprint in the Gulf. It is to advance a wider proposition: that cities can be designed to be energy-optimised by default – and that buildings can become part of the energy solution rather than part of the problem.

"As the country continues to

build at scale, its ambition increasingly extends beyond adopting global innovation. It is positioning itself to shape what comes next – and to export it," said Park.

EnergyX's approach is to unify disciplines that have traditionally operated in silos: AI-powered computational energy intelligence, façade engineering and fabrication, and long-term operational optimisation. The goal is not simply to design efficient buildings, but to deliver performance outcomes from early-stage design through decades of use.

EnergyX claims to have delivered more than 2,000 buildings worldwide, supported by over 300 intellectual property assets, across asset classes ranging from high-rise commercial towers and large residential developments to industrial facilities and hyper-scale data centres.

Among its most prominent demonstrations is the EnergyX DY-Building, which recorded 129.6% energy self-sufficiency over a one-year period, based on 2025 certification and performance data published by the Korea Energy Agency, calculated on a net annual basis that includes grid exports.

The seven-storey DY-building is seen as a functioning showcase of integrated technologies of EnergyX. From design to operations, the building demonstrates a complete application of optimised, data-driven, AI or artificial intelligence-powered, hardware-integrated solutions.

"In Qatar, EnergyX is applying this model in alignment with national objectives, supporting a broader push to link sustainability with productivity, performance and long-term value," he said.

During the Web Summit Qatar 2025, EnergyX had disclosed its plans to establish a major research and development centre in Qatar, committing to invest more than \$100mn in the Gulf Co-operation Council region over the next five years.



HE Mohammed bin Ali bin Mohammed al-Mannai, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Indian ambassador Vipul and HE Ambassador, Ibrahim Yousif Abdullah Fakhr, jointly cut a cake to celebrate India's Republic Day.



A performance by school children.



Indian community celebrates 77th Republic Day with gusto

By Joseph Varghese

Staff Reporter

The 77th Republic Day of India was celebrated yesterday by the community members with great pomp and enthusiasm.

Indian embassy organised a reception to mark the occasion in the evening at Qatar National Convention Centre.

Minister of Communications and Information Technology HE Mohammed bin Ali bin Mohammed al-Mannai was the chief guest on the occasion.

HE Ambassador, Ibrahim Yousif Abdullah Fakhr, director of the Protocol Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ambassadors and diplomats from several missions in Qatar, dignitaries, special guests and community members took part in the reception.

Indian ambassador Vipul hoisted the national flag at Indian Cultural Centre in the morning. Members from the diplomatic core from the Indian embassy, a large number of community members, including the community leaders and the office-bearers of the apex bodies under the Indian embassy were present on the occasion.



A cultural programme on the occasion.

During the morning function, Vipul paid floral tributes to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, and addressed the gathering. He read out the speech delivered on the occasion of the Republic Day by Indian President Droupadi Murmu.

Murmu in her address highlighted that the occasion of Republic Day is an opportunity to reflect on the status and direction of India's past, present, and future stating: "Our constitution is the foundational document of the largest republic in world history. The ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity enshrined

in our constitution define our republic. The framers of the constitution provided a strong bedrock for the spirit of nationalism and the unity of the country through constitutional provisions.

"Despite global uncertainties, India is recording continuous economic growth. We are moving towards achieving our goal of becoming the world's third-largest economy in the near future. By investing in the creation of world-class infrastructure, we are rebuilding our economic strength at a much larger scale," Murmu highlighted in her speech.

"Building Viksit Bharat is the

shared responsibility of all citizens. Society has immense power. Revolutionary changes occur when the efforts made by the government receive active support from society. For example, our people have adopted the digital payment system on a massive scale. Today, more than half of the world's digital transactions take place in India," the Indian president said.

Vipul noted that 2025 was a landmark year in the bilateral relations between Qatar and India. "It marked the second state visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to

Flag hoisting at the Indian Cultural Centre. PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam



Participants during the reception at QNCC.

India. One of the important outcomes of the visit was the elevation of the mutual relations between Qatar and India to a strategic partnership" he said.

"Our relations with Qatar in diverse areas such as trade, investment, energy, culture, among others remain solid and growing. I am confident that we will all strive

hard to further strengthen the relations between India and Qatar," added the ambassador.

Children from Indian schools and other organisations presented various cultural programmes on the occasion and Vipul along with community leaders and children cut a cake to celebrate the occasion.

QF's 'Heart to Heart' series to present 'The Arab Prince of Violin'

As part of its 'Heart to Heart' series, Qatar Foundation (QF) will host a musical evening titled 'The Arab Prince of Violin: 60 Years After Sammi Shawwa' on January 31.

The evening will be hosted by Kuwaiti musician and researcher Dr Ahmed al-Salhi, alongside musician, composer, researcher, and oud player Dr Mustafa Said, founder of the Asil Ensemble, with the participation of Bilal Bitar, a qanun player specialising in the authentic traditions of the Arabic maqam.

Taking place from 7pm-8pm at the Black Box Theatre in Multaqa, the event celebrates one of the most influential figures in Arab music, Sammi Shawwa. A musician whose impact continues to resonate with generations of music lovers, Shawwa mastered the many dialects of the Arabic maqam – from the Atlantic to the Gulf – and extended his mastery to maqam traditions from non-Arab musical cultures.

Free of illuminated screens, amplification, mobile phones, and other technology, to enhance authenticity and audience enjoyment, the evening will also have a workshop organised by QF's Herfah programme, held prior to the performance and titled 'Outdoor Structure Geometry'.

In this workshop, participants will build geometric structures that deepen their understanding of the forms, spaces, and proportions used in Islamic art and architecture.

Following the musical performance, audiences will be invited to attend an interactive discussion session with the musicians, organised by QF's BilAraby initiative.

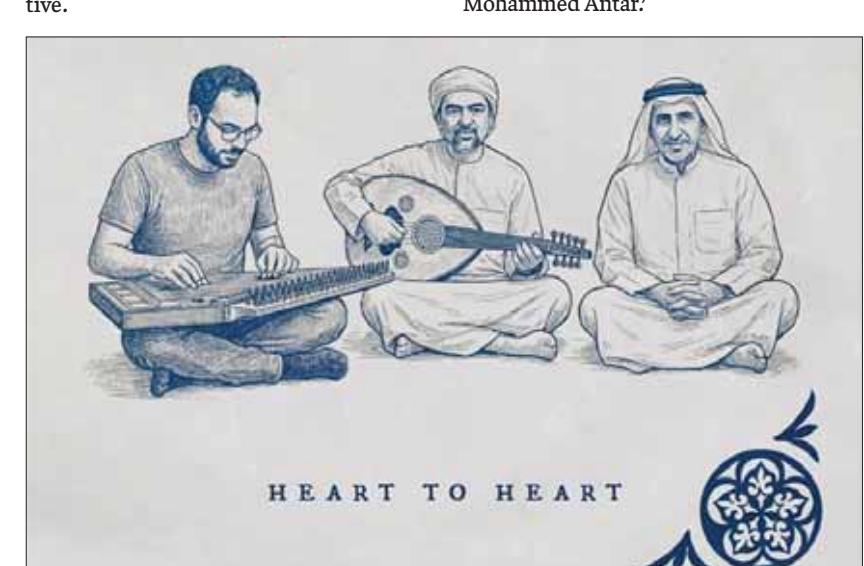
Dr al-Salhi is widely regarded as one of the leading figures in the authentic Arab maqam tradition. He has founded several musical programmes and initiatives, specialises in traditional Arab performance styles, and brings extensive experience in the history of music in the Arabian Gulf, recording history, and the craft of oud making.

Dr Said, from Cairo – winner of the Aga Khan Music Award (2019) and the Sheikh Zayed Book Award (2024) in the Arabic Manuscript Editing category – will bring his distinctive musical voice, shaped by both classical and contemporary Arab music traditions, to the performance.

The evening will also be enriched by Bitar, the Lebanese musician and winner of the Sammi Shawwa Award for Maqam Improvisation (2017). His performance is inspired by the authentic traditions of the Arabic maqam, and he continues to contribute to the preservation and presentation of Arab musical heritage through a style that blends authenticity with creativity.

This latest edition in the 'Heart to Heart' series follows a special performance last November by Iranian musician and composer Negar Bouban, which brought together Persian and Kurdish musical traditions drawn from her cultural roots.

'Heart to Heart' will continue its celebration of authentic musical maqam over the coming months. In March, the series will feature 'Maqamat of the Ottoman Court with Fikret Karakaya,' followed in April by 'A Journey Through Maqam with Mohammed Antar.'



HEART TO HEART



Mowasalat launches Robotaxi public trials at Old Doha Port



Mohammed Abu Khadija at the event.

PICTURES: Thajudheen



integrated transport system in Qatar. Currently, 10 Robotaxis are operating at designated points of interest across West Bay, Central Doha, and Hamad International Airport. Abu Khadija explained that the vehicles are already embedded within Mowasalat's existing taxi and limousine network, allowing users to book them in the same way as conventional taxis, subject to availability. He stressed that safety remains the cornerstone of the project, noting that each Robotaxi is equipped with 11 cameras and four radars that continuously collect data, map roads and respond instantly to surrounding

conditions. "All these systems are live and designed to read every possible scenario on the road," he said. While the vehicles are autonomous, trained safety officers remain seated behind the wheel during this phase. "The driver is not actively driving," Abu Khadija explained. "He is there to ensure the comfort and safety of passengers, especially for those trying a Robotaxi for the first time."

In the event of an emergency, he said the safety officer can immediately disengage the AI system and manually control the vehicle, moving it to a safe location. Abu Khadija noted that since testing began, there have been no recorded incidents. The public trial also served as a platform for engagement, enabling participants to ask questions, build confidence and better understand how autonomous technology works. The Robotaxi trial reflects Mowasalat's broader commitment to safer, smarter and more sustainable mobility, with public feedback playing a central role in shaping future phases of autonomous transport in Qatar.

Mowasalat (Karwa) took a significant step towards autonomous mobility in Qatar with the public launch of its Robotaxi trials at Old Doha Port yesterday, allowing residents and visitors to experience self-driving transport in a real-world setting.

The trial marked the first opportunity for the public to test the Robotaxi service, which is now accessible through the Karwa app in selected locations. Speaking at the launch, Mohammed Abu Khadija, executive director of Commercial Affairs at Mowasalat, described the initiative as a key milestone in Qatar's transport evolution.

"This Robotaxi initiative is one of the projects we are working on under the guidance of the Ministry of Transportation's 2030 vision for sustainable and safe AI-driven technology," Abu Khadija said. "It is about preparing our workforce and integrating innovation into different means of transportation to build a smart,