



Qatar Insurance

Financial Results (Q1 2026)

Gross Written Premiums (GWP)

13% ▲

QAR 3.2B

Net Profit

6% ▲

QAR 217M

Investment Income:

10% ▲

QAR 238M

Insurance Service Results:

70% ▲

QAR 130M

qic-group.com


GULF TIMES

THURSDAY Vol. XXXXVI No. 13733

May 7, 2026
Dhul-Qi'dah 20, 1447 AH

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

Built for Qatar. Built for you.
A network as strong as the community we connect



What connects us, unites us

ORIX POLYDEX

دurable waterproofing-performance for roof protection

44601602/3

THE PERFECT GIFT?

THE ONE THEY CHOOSE

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

Free Delivery for Order Above QR150

Download The App Now!

Ready to GUAC AND ROLL?

Only on talabat

6THSTREET.COM

1200+
Top Fashion Brands

DELIVERY IN
90
MINUTES



SCAN TO SHOP

Qatar, UAE reinforce ties at joint session

- PM slams renewed Iran aggression
- Pacts on investment, food security

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan yesterday co-chaired the seventh session of the Qatari-Emirati Joint Supreme Committee in Abu Dhabi, presiding over the signing of a clutch of agreements aimed at deepening economic integration between the two Gulf neighbours.

Announcing the proceedings on X, the prime minister tweeted: "Our two countries and peoples are bound by strong ties that reflect the aspirations of our leadership and peoples in enhancing

shared interests, and developing co-operation and integration across various fields. Thanks to our brothers for their generous hospitality."

In his opening address, HE Sheikh Mohammed described the session as an extension of previous engagements to consolidate ties between the two countries, framing the talks against the backdrop of acute regional turbulence. He drew attention to what he termed the unprecedented security and geopolitical challenges imposed by the Strait of Hormuz crisis and Iran's military aggressions against Gulf states, warning that these were casting shadows on regional stability and freedom of navigation.



"The precision and sensitivity of this stage require us today, more than ever before, to enhance consultation and unify visions, intensify joint diplomatic efforts to avert risks, which necessitates achieving greater integration between the two countries in various sectors," he said.

He affirmed that bilateral co-operation enjoyed the full support

and guidance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed said the convening of the seventh session reflected the depth of fraternal ties binding the two countries. He underlined the UAE's aspiration to enhance strategic connec-

tivity and economic integration with Qatar, particularly in oil, gas and energy, with a view to consolidating common interests, reinforcing supply-chain resilience and opening new horizons for investment.

Discussions during the session covered co-operation in trade, investment, energy, education, culture, environment, health, sports, Islamic affairs and endowments, industry and transportation.

At the close of proceedings, the two sides signed the minutes of the session and witnessed the inking of three accords. An agreement on the promotion and protection of investments was signed for Qatar by HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal al-Thani, and for the UAE by Minister of State for Financial Affairs Mohammed bin Hadi al-Husseini. **To Page 11**

Sheikha Moza attends QF convocation

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, yesterday attended Qatar Foundation's Convocation 2026 ceremony at Qatar National Convention Centre, where 1,100 graduates from its eight higher education institutions were honoured.

HE Vice-Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, also attended the ceremony, under the theme of 'Celebration', alongside ministers and dignitaries, university deans and faculty, and the families of Qatar Foundation (QF)'s Class of 2026.

Congratulating the graduates, Francisco Marmolejo, President of Higher Education and Education Advisor, QF, said: "Qatar Foundation Convocation 2026 is an inspiring community celebration of academic achievement and resilience of our graduates who have shown unwavering perseverance even in times of uncertainty. It is also an opportunity to honour the families of graduates, since their unwavering support has been vital to this milestone."

During the ceremony, members of QF's Class of 2026 - which comprises 444 Qatari graduates, and 660 non-Qatari graduates from 78 countries, with 60%



PICTURE: Asma Alabdulla

of graduates being female and 40% being male - took part in the symbolic tradition of stepping through the 'Door to the Future', a meaningful moment marking their transition into the next chapter of their lives

and celebrating the successful completion of their academic programmes.

"Our graduates do more than just complete a degree; they emerge as students of change," Marmolejo said. **To Page 11**

Qatar foresees US-Iran diplomatic solution

Any agreement must factor in interest of regional states: PM

GT Report
Doha

Despite the deep divisions separating Washington and Tehran, a diplomatic resolution to the region's mounting tensions remains within reach, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani has said.

The premier's comments come as Washington waits for Tehran's reply to a proposed framework aimed at bringing the conflict in the Middle East to a close.

Citing US officials and well-placed sources, Axios reported the existence of a one-page memorandum setting out 14 points for a possible accord. The document is designed to halt hostilities and lay the groundwork for more detailed nuclear negotiations, with

Iran's response expected within 48 hours.

Speaking in an interview with Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, HE the Prime Minister stressed that any agreement reached between Washington and Tehran must factor in the interests of the region's countries as well as those of the wider international community.

He reiterated that Qatar's sovereignty is a "red line", making clear that the country will not tolerate any infringement under any circumstances. He also rejected the use of the Strait of Hormuz as a pressure tool in political disputes, and called for a framework of coexistence anchored in mutual respect for sovereignty, good neighbourly relations, and a commitment not to undermine the security of any state in the region.

He further stressed that civilian facilities must never be targeted, describing them as essential sources of livelihood, pillars of national economies, and critical components of global energy security. **To Page 11**

Qatar takes its place of pride at Venice Biennale

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Qatar marked a major cultural milestone on Tuesday as Qatar Museums Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani opened the country's national pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia, unveiling an immersive exhibition that brings together contemporary art, music, film, and cuisine in the heart of Venice.

Dubbed untitled 2026 (a gathering of remarkable people) by artists and curators Rirkrit Tiravanija, Sophia al-

HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani welcomed dignitaries and guests for the unveiling of untitled 2026 (a gathering of remarkable people), Qatar's official presentation in the Giardini della Biennale

Maria, Tarek Atoui, Alia Farid, and Fadi Kattan, Qatar's official contribution to the 61st International Art Exhibition

of La Biennale di Venezia was unveiled at the future site of Qatar's permanent pavilion in the Giardini della Biennale. The exhibition is organised by Qatar Museums (QM) and presented by Rubaiya Qatar, a nationwide multidisciplinary contemporary art quadrennial set to debut this November.

"Our participation in La Biennale di Venezia started with the vision of our leadership, the Amir, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, to encourage dialogue and share the talent of Qatar and the region with the world," said HE Sheikha Al Mayassa, also the Commissioner of the National Pavilion of Qatar. **To Page 11**



HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani at the opening of the country's national pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia.

Today's **GULF TIMES** includes an 8-page supplement on

HIGHER EDUCATION

Scan here To Read ONLINE





QMC chairman meets Pakistan envoy



HE the Chairman of the Qatar Media Corporation (QMC), Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani, met yesterday with Pakistani ambassador to Qatar, Muhammad Aamer. The meeting discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations in the media sector. (QNA)

Qatar condemns attack on military base in Chad

The State of Qatar has expressed its condemnation and denunciation of the attack that targeted a military base in western Chad, which resulted in deaths and injuries. In a statement issued yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's firm stance rejecting violence, terrorism, and criminal acts, regardless of motives or reasons. The ministry also extended Qatar's condolences to the families of the victims and to the government and people of Chad, wishing a speedy recovery for the injured. (QNA)

Police Academy announces registration details for 'Tomorrow's Police' programme

Represented by the Police College, the Police Academy announced that registration for the 7th edition of "Tomorrow's Police" Summer 2026 programme will commence on Sunday via the Metrash app.

During a press conference yesterday, Head of the Tomorrow's Police Program Committee, Major Mohammed Nasser al-Sayed explored the programme's journey since its launch in 2018 and its growing popularity and strong participation.

He highlighted its role in strengthening national identity and developing leadership skills among the youth, in addition to winning 3rd place in the Prince Naif Award for Arab Security in 2023.

Targeting Qatari students born between 2014 and 2017, the program's registration will open on Sunday, May 10, at 9:00am, and will continue for a week or until



capacity is reached, Major al-Sayed noted.

In turn, Assistant Head of the Program Committee, Captain Jaber Rashid al-Shahwani outlined the programme's implementation, which will take place in three phases during June and July, and will include military and sports activities as well as field visits.

Lieutenant Mohammed Jaber

al-Sharqi of the Systems Development Department at the General Directorate of Communications and Information Systems said that registration will be conducted using the Metrash app, noting that the "Tomorrow's Police" icon will appear in the citizens' window starting Sunday, with simple steps allowing users to complete their applications easily and quickly. (QNA)

'Strengthening parental care is a shared national responsibility'

The Chairman of the Social, Labour and Housing Affairs Committee at the Shura Council Dr Sultan bin Hassan al-Dhabit al-Dosari affirmed that the focus on parenting and the role of parents in fulfilling this responsibility stems from firmly rooted constitutional and national principles that place the family at the core of society and the foundation of its stability.

In an exclusive interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), Dr al-Dosari said that this approach aligns with Qatar National Vision 2030, which places the building of a cohesive family at the heart of development priorities. He pointed out that the responsibility of upbringing and strengthening parental care is a shared national responsibility.

He added that the Shura Council's interest in this issue is based on the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, particularly His Highness' remarks in the opening speech of the current session, where he emphasised the importance of strengthening family cohesion and the role of parents in raising their children.

Dr al-Dosari explained that the issue is directly linked to protecting national identity and reinforcing societal values, thereby enhancing social stability and sustainable development. He noted that the Council submitted a proposal to the government in its recent session on May 4 titled "Enhancing Parental Care and Supporting Family Cohesion" following extensive study and 12 sittings with various relevant authorities in the country.

He explained that the proposal included several key areas, such as establishing a national body on parental care and family cohesion, developing labour systems, and updating worker recruitment policies, as well as addressing nurseries, education policies, religious guidance, and media roles.

On the challenges posed by globalisation and technological openness, Dr al-Dosari said that upbringing is a shared responsibility that begins with the family as the primary environment and extends to schools and state institutions, stressing the importance of integrated roles to ensure balanced awareness among children in facing these challenges.



He further noted that strengthening the parental role in upbringing requires active involvement from both father and mother, through instilling values and fostering positive family communication, which contributes to building children's self-confidence and strengthening family stability.

Regarding children's use of technology and smart devices, he said that unregulated use represents one of the most significant contemporary challenges due to its behavioural and cognitive impacts, calling for stronger supervision and supportive workplace privileges.

In this context, he emphasised the need to monitor and follow content published on social media platforms and applications that negatively affect family cohesion and youth, or contradict religion, national identity, and traditions.

He added that the proposal also called for conducting research and studies related to family care, identifying challenges, monitoring social phenomena affecting families, and providing solutions.

On reliance on domestic workers, Dr al-Dosari warned that excessive dependence on them in raising children affects the parental role, stressing the need to restore balance so that the primary role remains with parents, while regulating the role of domestic workers through clear guidelines.

He also highlighted the role of institutions concerned with family affairs, noting that the multiplicity of such entities can be a strength if their efforts are coordinated. He also stressed the importance of developing an integrated national system for parental care based on co-ordination among relevant bodies and enhanced awareness programs.

On responsibility of upbringing, Dr al-Dosari emphasised that raising children is a national, moral, and religious duty that requires shared awareness between parents and relevant institutions, underscoring the importance of leading by example in instilling values.

He explained that a stable family environment positively reflects on children's psychological and mental health and contributes to improved their academic performance and social behaviour.

The chairman of the committee told QNA that rapid global changes necessitate the development of policies and legislation that support families, enabling them to raise a conscious and cohesive generation aligned with the aspirations of the State and the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030.

The Shura Council reviewed, in its fourth session on Nov 10, 2025, a request for general discussion submitted by a number of members of the Council regarding enhancing the role of parents in fulfilling their educational responsibilities, and referred it to the Social Affairs, Labour and Housing Committee to study it and submit its report on it to the Council.

The committee held 12 meetings, starting with preparatory sessions to study the topic and define its framework, followed by extended meetings with parents, officials, educators, and community stakeholders from various sectors.

The committee concluded its comprehensive study by submitting a proposal aimed at empowering parents to effectively fulfil their educational role by addressing challenges that hinder their ability to care for their children and supporting family cohesion, in line with constitutional principles protecting the family and childhood.

In this context, the Council reviewed the committee's report in its 28th session on May 4, and after extensive discussions, decided to submit the proposal to the government.

The proposal includes six main pillars: establishing a permanent national committee for parental care and family cohesion, developing labour systems and job benefits, domestic worker recruitment policies, nurseries, education and higher education policies, as well as religious guidance and media. (QNA)

Promotion valid from 07.05.2026 to 09.05.2026. Bulk Purchase not allowed. These Promotions are available only at our major Hypermarkets.

<p>1 DAY ONLY</p> <p>7.25</p> <p>4.50</p> <p>موز الإكوادور 1 كيلو Banana Ecuador 1kg</p>	<p>11.50</p> <p>7.50</p> <p>فاكهة لونجان فيتنام (الجمرة) Longan Fruit Vietnam 1pkt.</p>	<p>6.50</p> <p>4.50</p> <p>بوسفي مصري 1 كيلو Mandarin Egypt 1kg</p>	<p>2 DAYS ONLY</p> <p>32.50</p> <p>27.50</p> <p>توت أزرق إماراتي - عبوة (الفرصة 0-5 غرام) Blueberry UAE 500gm Bucket</p>	<p>5.75</p> <p>3.25</p> <p>فارم فريش خيار Farm Fresh Cucumber Qatar 1kg</p>
<p>2 DAYS ONLY</p> <p>32.75</p> <p>22.75</p> <p>روبيان مزارعة متوسط سعودي 1 كيلو Farmed Prawns Medium Saudi Arabia 1kg</p>	<p>2 DAYS ONLY</p> <p>44.75</p> <p>33.50</p> <p>سمك دنيس متوسط لوتوسي 1 كجم Sea Bream Medium 1Kg Tunisia</p>	<p>59.75</p> <p>54.75</p> <p>قطع لحم خروف عربي 1 كيلو Arabic Lamb Cuts 1kg</p>	<p>49.75</p> <p>39.75</p> <p>مكعبات لحم بقري نيوزيلندي 1 كيلو (بخنة/مرق) New Zealand Beef Cubes Stew 1kg</p>	<p>34.00</p> <p>25.75</p> <p>جبنة رومي مصرية خشيفة 1 كجم Egyptian Mild Rousy Cheese 1kg</p>
<p>15.00</p> <p>9.00</p> <p>بلدنا جبنة عريش فطرية 1 كجم Baladna Qatar Areesh Cheese 1kg</p>	<p>39.50</p> <p>33.00</p> <p>صدر ديك رومي مدخن أردني 1 كجم Jordan Smoked Turkey Breast 1kg</p>	<p>21.00</p> <p>17.75</p> <p>سما البستان بيض حوري/بي/أبيض ٣٠ حبة 1/ طيق Sama AlBustan Syrian Brown/White Egg 30's 1pc</p>	<p>2 DAYS ONLY</p> <p>37.50</p> <p>24.75</p> <p>مشروب تانج سريع التحضير بنكهة البرتقال/المانجو ٢ كجم ١٠ قطع Tang Instant Drink Orange/Mango 2kg X 1pc</p>	<p>51.00</p> <p>29.00</p> <p>تايد مسحوق غسل ملووع ٢.٥ كيلو / جتان Tide Washing Powder 2.5kg x 2pcs</p>
<p>37.00</p> <p>13.00</p> <p>نودلز ساميونغ ٥ قطع نودلز رامن عادي - ١٢ غرام / نودلز دجاج حار بولداك - ١٦ غرام Samyang Ramen Noodles 120gm /Buldak Hot Chicken 140gm X 5pcs</p>	<p>29.50</p> <p>22.50</p> <p>كاجو مشوي بالمشتر ٥-٠ جم Grilled Cashew with Skin 500gm</p>	<p>5.00</p> <p>3.50</p> <p>أكوا غلف مياه شرب 1.٥ لتر / ٦ عبوات Aqua Gulf Drinking Water 1.5ltr X 6 pcs</p>		

LULU HYPER MARKET .COM

SHOP ONLINE

Lulu Online

GET 5% BACK

with your Doha Bank Shopping Co-branded Credit card Type "Lulu" & SMS to 92610 or visit any Doha Bank Branch

0% INTEREST

Buy now, pay over 6 months

Where the world comes to shop

حيث يأتي العالم للتسوق

Carrefour كارفور

هذه العروض متوفرة فقط في كارفور هايبر ماركتس قطر (سيتي سنتر، فيلاجيو، لاند مارك، قطر مول و إزدان الوكرة)
Offers are only available in Carrefour Hypermarkets (City Center, Villaggio, Landmark, Mall of Qatar & Ezdan Al Wakrah)

24/7
Hours
DELIVERY

توصيل مجاني غير محدود
لجميع الطلبات فوق 99 ريال
UNLIMITED FREE DELIVERY
On All Orders Above QAR 99



لا تفوت الفرصة!
احصل على أفضل العروض على هاتفك

Don't miss out!
Get the best deals on your phone

Scan to
subscribe



QMC chief meets Egypt's ambassador

HE the CEO of the Qatar Media Corporation (QMC), Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz bin Jassim al-Thani, met yesterday with Egyptian ambassador to Qatar Walid al-Faqi. The meeting discussed ways to enhance media co-operation between the two sides, in order to support bilateral relations between the two countries. (QNA)



Minister meets UN personal envoy for Sudan

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met with UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Sudan Pekka Haavisto, who is visiting the country. The meeting discussed developments in Sudan, Qatar's humanitarian support for those affected by the war and for the health sector, along with regional and international efforts aimed at supporting the path to a comprehensive political solution in Sudan. HE Dr al-Misnad reiterated Qatar's full support for the unity, sovereignty, and stability of Sudan, and its solidarity with the fraternal Sudanese people. (QNA)



Al-Ansari urges stronger global co-operation for security

QNA
Milan

HE the Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Dr Majed bin Mohammed al-Ansari participated in a session titled "Which Security Tomorrow" as part of the NEXT Milan Forum, organised by the Italian Institute for International Political Studies.

In his remarks, Dr al-Ansari stressed the need to strengthen international collective action and support institutional frameworks capable of managing dialogue, contributing to building a more stable and secure future. He said the current international landscape is marked by increasing complexity, amid declining trust among global actors, which directly impacts prospects for tangible progress in

addressing ongoing issues and conflicts.

He noted that divisions within societies, compounded by the growing influence of media and political narratives, further complicate the situation and hinder pathways to resolution. He underscored the importance of sustaining the role of mediation, diplomacy, and international institutions at this stage, describing them as essential tools for fostering an environment conducive to constructive dialogue and bringing relevant parties to the table, thereby advancing efforts toward viable solutions.

The MoFA spokesperson also highlighted the rise of global pessimism, particularly among youth, driven by the escalation and persistence of conflicts without clear prospects for resolution, noting that several of these conflicts have extended over long periods without definitive solutions.



Ministry issues health guide for Haj pilgrims

THE Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in partnership with the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs launched a booklet entitled *Pilgrimage: A Psychological and Behavioural School*.

In a statement by the ministry, this awareness booklet focuses on promoting mental and behavioural health for pilgrims and was introduced as part of preparations for the Haj season and in dedication to enhancing the health and safety of pilgrims.

It aims to raise pilgrims' awareness of the importance of mental health whilst performing the rituals and to cultivate the values of patience, humility, and self-restraint. This, in turn, reflects positively on the pilgrim's psychological state and enhances their feelings of contentment and happiness.

Furthermore, the booklet addresses the importance of prior psychological preparation before undertaking the obligatory Haj pilgrimage, outlining a set of practical guidelines to help reduce stress both before and during the rituals, most notably

by planning in advance, organising basic needs, and preparing a list of essential supplies. The ministry noted that the booklet advises on remaining calm when handling emergency situations, managing and utilising time appropriately whilst performing the rituals, and ensuring pilgrims stay in suitable locations during periods of overcrowding or high temperatures.

The publication emphasises the importance of fostering positive behaviour during Haj, such as offering assistance to others, particularly senior citizens, because this has a significant impact on boosting feelings of gratification and happiness.

Additionally, it highlights how Haj enhances pilgrims' mental health by fostering peace of mind, tranquillity, and psychological comfort, alleviating anxiety and stress, and developing patience and the ability to adapt to challenges.

Finally, the booklet highlights the importance of behavioural health in fostering discipline and a sense of individual responsibility. (QNA)

Qatar participates in 4th Arab Region Food Systems Transformation Meeting

THE State of Qatar participated in the 4th Arab Region Food Systems Transformation Meeting, which kicked off yesterday at the headquarters of the Arab League's General Secretariat in Cairo, in co-operation and partnership with the UN Food Systems Co-ordination Hub, FAO, and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

The State of Qatar was represented by a delegation from its Permanent Mission to the Arab League, headed by Dr Issa Salem al-Kuwari. The two-day meeting aims to support the exchange of expertise, strengthen co-operation frameworks and partnerships with regional and international organisations, stimulate investments, and link national priorities with available funding opportunities, with the participation of regional offices of a number of UN agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organisation, the World Food Programme, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, along with other partners. The meeting is held in light of the food security challenges facing the Arab region, as well as in the context of ongoing international efforts since the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, which aim to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through an integrated approach to food systems.

In this context, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Arab League's Economic Affairs Sector, ambassador Dr Ali bin Ibrahim al-Malki, said that



this is the first time that the Arab League has hosted and organised this meeting, especially in light of the regional conditions that the region is going through and the impact on global supply chains, particularly since the Arab Gulf States are among the largest producers of fertilisers in the world, which greatly affects global food security.

Al-Malki noted that the meeting is expected to result in the issuance of a regional document for the transformation of food systems in Arab countries, in line with international trends, in addition to launching joint partnerships and initiatives in the areas of finance, innovation and related policies. (QNA)

Qatar joins 4th IHL consultations in Geneva

THE State of Qatar participated in the fourth round of states' consultations under the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law (IHL), organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva.

Qatar was represented by Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office in Geneva Abdulaziz Mohammed al-Mansouri, who chaired the session on Workstream Three: "International Humanitarian Law and Peace".

Al-Mansouri said armed conflicts leave deep and long-lasting impacts on societies, and that violations of international humanitarian law exacerbate grievances, undermine trust, and hinder prospects for sustainable peace.

He stressed that the core message of the third Workstream is that every war should be conducted with a clear vision for a return to peace, with all actions during conflict directed toward enabling parties to live together peacefully in the post-conflict phase.

He added that the final document of the Workstream aims to translate states' practices and proposals into practical future recommendations structured across the conflict cycle: before, during, and after hostilities.

He noted that the first part focuses on strengthening preventive systems in peacetime, including measures to protect specific groups such as the missing, detainees, and the dead, and sustaining disarmament efforts to ensure respect for international humanitarian law during conflict and lay



foundations for long-term recovery and peace.

He added that the second part focuses on integrating international humanitarian law into mediation and ceasefires during armed conflicts, while the third part addresses the post-conflict phase, providing a model checklist of measures to ensure continued respect for international humanitarian law.

Qatar's participation comes in its capacity as a co-chair of the third Workstream of the initiative on international humanitarian law and peace, alongside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Colombia, and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross. (QNA)

QATAR FUEL ADDITIVES COMPANY LIMITED QAFAC

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tender Committee of QAFAC invites qualified local suppliers to participate in the following Tenders in accordance with QAFAC tendering procedures:

No.	Tender No.	Description	Collection Fee Qrs.	Tender Bond Qrs.	Bid Closing Date
1	QTC/038/26	Fabrication and Supply of MTBE Reactor R-2202/3 Inlet Elbows at QAFAC Plant Site, Mesaieed	300/-	75,000/-	1 st June 2026
2	QTC/039/26	Supply of 10T Forklift at QAFAC Plant Site, Mesaieed	300/-	22,000/-	1 st June 2026
3	QTC/041/26	Supply of Anti-Surge Valves at QAFAC Plant Site, Mesaieed	300/-	75,000/-	1 st June 2026
4	QTC/042/26	Supply of Gas Chromatograph along with commissioning and training at QAFAC Plant Site, Mesaieed	300/-	25,000/-	1 st June 2026
5	QTC/043/26	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Electro Chlorination System at QAFAC Plant Site, Mesaieed	300/-	300,000/-	1 st June 2026

Interested companies are invited to collect the above tender documents as follows:

- Collection Date :** From Thursday, 7th May 2026 (QAFAC working days from Sunday to Thursday only)
- Collection Time :** 08:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m
- Location :** The Gate, Bay Tower 2, 13th Floor, West Bay, QAFAC
- Tender Fees :** As shown above, (*Non-refundable*) can be paid at QAFAC Doha Office
- Validity :** Offers must be valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Bid Bond :** Offers must include a Bid bond issued from a local bank and valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Authorization :** Tenders will be issued to authorized company personnel with the following:
 - Official authorization on Company Letter Head.
 - Proper Identification.
 - Copy of valid Company's Commercial Registration.
 - Focal Point of Contact (Name, Telephone, Mobile & Email)

FREE VEHICLE RECALL

وزارة التجارة والصناعة
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
مجلس التعاون الخليجي
State of Qatar



Audi E-tron + Q8 E-tron

Year of Production: 2020 - 2024

DEFECT Possibility of loose connection in the mechanism of Brake pedal and Brake Servo.

PROCESS Contact the dealer for the free required repair.

CONTACT Q-Auto
Telephone: 44452333
Audisc@q-auto.com





حفل تكريم دفعة 20
26 CONVOCATION

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026



vcuarts
QATAR

Weill Cornell
Medicine-Qatar

ATM
TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY OF QATAR

Carnegie
Mellon
University
Qatar

GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY
QATAR

Northwestern
QATAR

HEC
PARIS
الجامعة
الدولية

جامعة
حمد بن خليفة
HAMAD BIN KHALIFA
UNIVERSITY



Qatar partakes in regional meeting of Customs Directors General

The State of Qatar participated in the 63rd Regional Meeting of Customs Directors General for the North Africa, Near East, and Middle East Region. HE the Chairman of the General Authority of Customs, Ahmed bin Abdullah al-Jamal, represented the State of Qatar at the virtual meeting. Participants discussed



a number of topics related to ways of developing joint co-operation among customs authorities and departments in various customs fields, including the proposal for committee membership in the World Customs Organisation (WCO), and the proposal to establish a Regional Private Sector Advisory Committee, among other items on the meeting's agenda. This participation is part of the periodic meetings in which the General Authority of Customs takes part to enhance mutual cooperation and coordination among the customs administrations of the region, in line with the standards of the World Customs Organisation. (QNA)

SJC's auction generates over QR241.3mn

The Evictions and Judicial Auctions Department at the Supreme Judiciary Council (SJC) conducted a number of auctions on May 3, generating proceeds of QR241,314,982, which were allocated to benefit 1,707 related cases. The online auctions received a total of 2,162 bids throughout the online bidding processes. The real estate auction offered 37 units, of which only 8 were sold, for a total of QR239,538,382, used to settle 8 related cases. The vehicles auction offered 43 vehicles, with 40 of these sold out at a total price of QR 999,400, used for the benefit of 886 related cases, and the equipment auction offered 39 pieces, with 32 only sold out at a total price of QR777,200, used for the benefit of 813 related cases.

QCS lights path of hope through 'Patient Visits'

Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) organised humanitarian visits for cancer patients, including children at Sidra Medicine and adults at the National Centre for Cancer Care and Research, as part of its sustainable "Patient Visits" programme. The initiative aims to provide psychosocial support to patients across all age groups.

These visits included in-hospital psychosocial support sessions targeting both patients and their families, as part of the Society's ongoing efforts to offer comprehensive support and enhance patients' quality of life throughout their treatment journey.

The visits were marked by a warm and hopeful atmosphere, where symbolic gifts were presented to children, generously provided by Kiddy Zone. This gesture reflects the Society's commitment to fostering community solidarity and uplifting patients' spirits—especially children, who are among the most vulnerable groups in need of emotional and psychological care.

Dana Mansour, head of Psychosocial Support at the QCS, stated: "This initiative is not merely a visit; it is a message of love and hope to patients and their families, reassuring them that they are not alone in this journey. Psychosocial support plays a vital role in enhancing treatment response and accelerating recovery."

She added: "The 'Patient Visits' programme is one of the QCS's sustainable initiatives, reflecting our belief in the importance of holistic care that goes beyond medical treatment to encompass psychological, social, and humanitarian aspects, through direct engagement and emotional support for patients and their families."

She further noted that such initiatives contribute to creating a more positive and engaging healing environment, emphasising that: "The true value of these visits lies in the simple moments that bring smiles to patients' faces and instil hope and confidence in their ability to recover."



Mansour also highlighted the importance of community partnerships in supporting such programs, stressing that collaboration between civil society organisations and the private sector enhances the humanitarian mission's impact and creates a tangible difference in patients' lives. She concluded by expressing her sincere appreciation to all partners and supporters of these humanitarian initiatives.

'Mod watches' open gateway to horology

By Peter Alagos
Business Editor

Mod (or modified) watches are carving out a niche in horology, offering enthusiasts the chance to build their own timepieces from scratch rather than buying them ready-made.

"Mod watches are essentially DIY builds. Rather than buying a finished piece off the shelf, you assemble one yourself, picking the movement, the case, the dial, the bezel, the hands, the crown, and the strap," Doha-based watch connoisseur Dr Eddy Borges-Rey told Gulf Times in an exclusive interview.

Borges-Rey, an associate professor in residence at the Department of Journalism and Strategic Communication at Northwestern University in Qatar, likens the practice to "Lego for watch geeks," where every component is sourced separately and assembled to personal taste.

The phenomenon first drew his attention while exploring restoration videos online, according to Borges-Rey. "Once I started getting curious about how a watch actually works, I ended up watching a lot of restoration videos, and from there the mod scene found me," he explained.

For many, "modding" is more than a hobby, Borges-Rey further explained. It is a teaching environment where col-

lectors learn how a movement seats in a case, how hands are fitted without damage, and what a properly regulated balance feels like, he pointed out.

This educational aspect is one of three main drivers of mod culture, he emphasised. The second, Borges-Rey noted, stems from the state of the watch market itself. "Over the past few years, the industry has pushed a number of overhyped references that are genuinely difficult to find at retail.

"To get one, you often have to pay a considerable premium on the grey market. So, some enthusiasts turn to mods as a way to emulate those watches using affordable components."

The third driver is individuality, said Borges-Rey, adding that modding allows collectors to create a watch that nobody else owns in quite the same configuration. "A sort of piece unique assembled to your particular preference, without having to sell a kidney to get there," he said.

However, not everyone is convinced, as some collectors dismiss mods as imitations of established designs. "I don't think it's fair to dismiss mod culture. Of course, many collectors won't feel the appeal of modding, and that's perfectly fine; it isn't for everyone. But I genuinely believe there is value in having a space where you can engage with a watch beyond the aesthetic or the



Collector and academic Dr Eddy Borges-Rey working on a movement during the 2025 edition of the Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition.

status," Borges-Rey pointed out.

DIY kits, which package components and basic tools together, are particularly popular. "At the end of it, you don't just end up with a fairly unique watch on your wrist, you've also had the experience of putting it together yourself. That changes your relationship with the object. You understand why it ticks, quite literally, and that understanding is something no boutique purchase can give you," he emphasised.

Ashghal continues package 2 of roads, infrastructure works in Mebaireek

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) announced the continuation of package 2 of the Remaining Roads and Infrastructure Works in Mebaireek, aimed at developing the road network and infrastructure services in the area.

Project engineer in Ashghal's Drainage Networks Projects Department, Engineer Mohammed al-Rumaihi stated that the project aims to serve 250 residential plots in Mebaireek by providing integrated infrastructure services, developing road networks, and enhancing traffic safety, thereby improving traffic flow and the quality of life in the area.

Al-Rumaihi stated that the second package of the Mebaireek project includes the construction of 12km of roads, the installation of approximately 397 lighting poles, the provision of 2,239 parking spaces, the construction of 65 pedestrian crossings, and the planting of more than 460 trees.

The scope of work also includes the development of 7km of sewage network, approximately 13km of stormwater drainage networks, and an 11.5km treated water network. Regarding the ongoing works, al-Rumaihi explained that excavation work is currently underway for the sewage, stormwater drainage, and treated water networks. Additionally, the installation of kerbstones and interlocking is being carried out, along with the preparation of planting spaces the roadsides, all of which contribute to improving the overall appearance of the area.

It is worth noting that the project relies on local materials and manufacturers, with the local component accounting for 85 percent of the total materials used. These materials include elements such as gabbaro, lighting poles and fixtures, directional signs, sewage and stormwater drainage pipes, asphalt, precast manholes, concrete, and reinforcing steel. (QNA)





KUWAIT OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)
ADVERTISEMENT FOR
PRE-QUALIFICATION EXERCISE
(RE-ISSUANCE OF WORK CATEGORY KS 01.94)

Kuwait Oil Company (K.S.C.), the "Company", is a State-owned entity engaged in exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas resources from Kuwait's oilfields and exporting them through its marine terminals.

The Company is inviting contractors interested in providing the following services to participate in this Pre-Qualification exercise:

RFI_17632
PQ#26/05: Re-Issuance of Work Category- KS 01.94
Drilling Tool Services for Drilling & Workover Operations

Interested applicants who wish to be considered for inclusion in KOC's approved list of contractors for the above subject category are advised to download the Pre-Qualification documents from **KPC & Subsidiaries K-Tendering Portal** using the following sequence:
HTTPS://KTENDERING.COM.KW> SUPPLIER ACCESS-My RFIs > RFI_17632

Applicants are advised to submit the applications at the earliest, no later than **08th June 2026**.

Application Fees	Available Online for Download/Apply from	Eligible to Apply	How to Apply
150/-KD (for Local) & 1000/- USD (for International) (Non- Refundable)	26th April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Local (Kuwaiti) Contractors Independent International Contractors A Local (Kuwaiti) Applicant with Technical Services Agreement Partner 	Online on K-Tendering Portal Only (Hardcopy submissions shall Not be considered)

Detailed instructions to the applicants are mentioned in the General Instruction for Pre-Qualification. (<https://ktendering.com.kw> > Useful links > KOC > Helpful Documents & Guidelines > Registration & Prequalification Guidelines). Kindly follow the instructions for online submission.

Note:

- Contractors included in the previously approved list shall also apply for this reissuance exercise. Only applicants successful in this exercise will be retained or included in the approved list.
- All the submittal and its supporting documents must be in pdf file format only (except Financial Statement in excel format) and shall be properly segregated/numbered as per section and clauses.

For any further information/clarification, please write at email address: srm@kockw.com



KUWAIT OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)
ADVERTISEMENT FOR
PRE-QUALIFICATION EXERCISE
(RE-ISSUANCE OF WORK CATEGORY KS 01.21)

Kuwait Oil Company (K.S.C.), the "Company", is a State-owned entity engaged in exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas resources from Kuwait's oilfields and exporting them through its marine terminals.

The Company is inviting contractors interested in providing the following services to participate in this Pre-Qualification exercise:

RFI_17633
PQ#26/01: Re-Issuance of Work Category- KS 01.21 - Offshore Drilling Rigs

Interested applicants who wish to be considered for inclusion in KOC's approved list of contractors for the above subject category are advised to download the Pre-Qualification documents from **KPC & Subsidiaries K-Tendering Portal** using the following sequence:
HTTPS://KTENDERING.COM.KW> SUPPLIER ACCESS-My RFIs > RFI_17633

Applicants are advised to submit the applications at the earliest, no later than **08th June 2026**.

Application Fees	Available Online for Download/Apply from	Eligible to Apply	How to Apply
150/-KD (for Local) & 1000/- USD (for International) (Non- Refundable)	26th April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Local Contractors Independent International Contractors 	Online on K-Tendering Portal Only (Hardcopy submissions shall Not be considered)

Detailed instructions to the applicants are mentioned in the General Instruction for Pre-Qualification. (<https://ktendering.com.kw> > Useful links > KOC > Helpful Documents & Guidelines > Registration & Prequalification Guidelines). Kindly follow the instructions for online submission.

Note:

- Contractors included in the previously approved list shall also apply for this reissuance exercise. Only applicants successful in this exercise will be retained or included in the approved list.
- All the submittal and its supporting documents must be in pdf file format only (except Financial Statement in excel format) and shall be properly segregated/numbered as per section and clauses.

For any further information/clarification, please write at email address: srm@kockw.com



KUWAIT OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)
ADVERTISEMENT FOR
PRE-QUALIFICATION EXERCISE
(RE-ISSUANCE OF WORK CATEGORY KS 01.53)

Kuwait Oil Company (K.S.C.), the "Company", is a State-owned entity engaged in exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas resources from Kuwait's oilfields and exporting them through its marine terminals.

The Company is inviting contractors interested in providing the following services to participate in this Pre-Qualification exercise:

RFI_17631
PQ#26/07: Re-Issuance of Work Category- KS 01.53
Fishing Services for Drilling & Workover Operations

Interested applicants who wish to be considered for inclusion in KOC's approved list of contractors for the above subject category are advised to download the Pre-Qualification documents from **KPC & Subsidiaries K-Tendering Portal** using the following sequence:
HTTPS://KTENDERING.COM.KW> SUPPLIER ACCESS-My RFIs > RFI_17631

Applicants are advised to submit the applications at the earliest, no later than **08th June 2026**.

Application Fees	Available Online for Download/Apply from	Eligible to Apply	How to Apply
150/-KD (for Local) & 1000/- USD (for International) (Non- Refundable)	26th April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Local (Kuwaiti) Contractors Independent International Contractors 	Online on K-Tendering Portal Only (Hardcopy submissions shall Not be considered)

Detailed instructions to the applicants are mentioned in the General Instruction for Pre-Qualification. (<https://ktendering.com.kw> > Useful links > KOC > Helpful Documents & Guidelines > Registration & Prequalification Guidelines). Kindly follow the instructions for online submission.

Note:

- Contractors included in the previously approved list shall also apply for this reissuance exercise. Only applicants successful in this exercise will be retained or included in the approved list.
- All the submittal and its supporting documents must be in pdf file format only (except Financial Statement in excel format) and shall be properly segregated/numbered as per section and clauses.

For any further information/clarification, please write at email address: srm@kockw.com

Qatar Theatre Company actresses join intensive workshop

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Twelve trainees in the Qatar Theatre Company are continuing their daily training in an intensive workshop entitled "Actor Preparation," supervised by Nasser Abdul-Redha and presented by actress and director Rawan Halawi.

Halawi emphasised that the workshop represents an intensive training space, more akin to a "performance lab," where exercises are built gradually to develop the actress's awareness of her body, voice, and expressive tools, in addition to cultivating psychological flexibility and the ability to improvise and interact spontaneously on stage.

She explained that the training programme focuses on several key areas, including relaxation and concentration techniques, sensory memory exercises, working on the character's internal motivations, as well as analysing theatrical texts and understanding dramatic structure, enabling the actress to build a complete and vibrant character.

Halawi added: "We are keen to instil in each participant the con-



Participating actresses during a rehearsal.

viction that acting is a profession built on the accumulation of knowledge and continuous experimentation, and that developing one's skills doesn't stop at a certain stage, but is rather an ongoing process that keeps pace with the evolution of artistic experience."

She pointed out that dedicating this workshop to actresses is within the context of an artistic project the troupe is working on, which involves producing a theatrical performance featuring all-female characters. This gives the participants a real opportunity to apply what they have learned within a comprehensive professional experience that reflects their

level of development during the training period. She also explained that the workshop is not limited to theatrical performance alone, but also qualifies participants to work in various acting fields, including television drama and film, based on the premise that theatre is the fundamental basis on which acting performance is built across media.

The workshop concludes with a final theatrical performance presented to the public, embodying the outcomes of the training programme. The performance is expected to reflect the participants' level of artistic development and their ability to utilise the techniques acquired during the course.

Ehsan launches Scientific Research and Innovation Competition

The Center for Empowerment and Elderly Care (Ehsan), affiliated with the Qatar Social Work Foundation, has launched the ninth edition of its Scientific Research and Innovation Competition.

The initiative is organised in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Council, with sponsorship from Al Rayan Bank.

This year's edition introduces an expanded scope, adding categories for senior citizens as well as researchers and academics, alongside students from preparatory and secondary levels in both public and private schools.

The move reflects a strategic effort to broaden participation and foster integration across generations and expertise.

Director of Planning and Development at Ehsan Anoud Mohammed al-Marr said the competition underscores the centre's commitment to empowering the elderly and reinforcing their role as active contributors to development and



innovation. She highlighted that selecting artificial intelligence as the central theme aims to promote advanced technological solutions that enhance seniors' quality of life while opening new avenues for their engagement and knowledge production.


For his part, Ghanem Saad al-Humaidi, representing the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Acting Head of the Research, Talent and Innovation Section, emphasised that the ministry's participation reflects its commitment to strengthening the research ecosystem and advancing students' innovation skills in line with modern demands.

He noted that focusing on AI encourages practical solutions to

societal challenges while fostering students' sense of responsibility and creativity.

The competition witnessed strong participation across all targeted groups, reflecting growing societal awareness of the importance of scientific research and innovation in addressing issues related to the elderly and improving their quality of life, in line with Qatar's vision for a knowledge-based economy.

Submissions were evaluated by a panel of distinguished academics and experts, with entries demonstrating a high level of innovation and diverse research-driven solutions aimed at supporting and enhancing the well-being of senior citizens. (QNA)



AL-AHLI HOSPITAL
A Division of
MediCare Group P.S.C.

ANNOUNCES THE ISSUE OF THE FOLLOWING TENDER:

Tender No.	Subject	Tender Bond (Q.R.S.)	Closing Date
AAH/TC/02/2026	Coffee Shop Space for Three Years Lease at Al Ahli Hospital – Block C Building (4th Floor).	25,000/-	24th May 2026

- Full document for the above mentioned tender can be obtained by email against the receipt of non-refundable fee of QRs.1,000.00. This is to be paid at the Cashier's Desk at the Finance Department
- A mandatory site visit will be held on 17 May 2026 at 10:00 AM (Contact: Security Department).
- The auction bid should be accompanied by an irrevocable and unconditional tender bond issued by a Qatar-accredited bank and acceptable to Al-Ahli Hospital. The bond should be valid for 120 days from the tender submission date.
- The successful tenderer should submit an irrevocable and unconditional performance bond equivalent to 10% of the contract value, valid for the entire contract period.
- The auction bid should submit in two (2) sealed envelopes: one (1) envelope for Technical & Commercial Offer, and one (1) envelope for Tender Bond.
- Tenders must be addressed to the Chairman of the Tender Committee, clearly indicating the Tender Number and Subject.
- The Last date to purchase the tender documents will be on 17th May 2026
- The closing time for the submission of bid Tenders should be no later than

For further information please contact: **Purchasing Department**
Phone: +974 4489 8766 – Fax: +974 4489 8768
Email : henryr@ahlihospital.com

Aman wraps up awareness campaign

The Protection and Social Rehabilitation Center (Aman), part of the Qatar Social Work Foundation, has concluded a series of awareness activities held in collaboration with Hamad Medical Corp (HMC) and the Primary Health Care Corp, targeting women, children, and victims of domestic violence. The campaign, hosted across several health centres, introduced the public to Aman's services, focusing on social protection and raising awareness of psychological health issues linked to abuse and family disintegration. Aman's Acting Executive Director Fadhel bin Mohammed al-Kaabi stressed the importance of partnership with the healthcare sector in safeguarding vulnerable groups and promoting mental health awareness, noting that exposure to violence has lasting behavioural and psychological impacts. Officials reported that more than 1,700 visitors engaged with the initiative over two days. Representatives from HMC highlighted the initiative as a model of integration between healthcare and social support services, aimed at strengthening prevention, awareness, and access to care. Aman reaffirmed its commitment to fostering safe, inclusive environments and expanding community partnerships to deliver protection, rehabilitation, and psychosocial support services. (QNA)

Recall of Audi models

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in co-operation with Q-Auto, Qatar's Audi dealership, has announced the recall of Audi E-tron + Q8 E-tron 2020-2024 models. The recall is due to a potential loose connection in the brake pedal and brake servo mechanism. 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.

Recall of Harley-Davidson models

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in co-operation with NBK Powered Sports WLL, Qatar's Harley-Davidson dealership, has announced the recall of Harley-Davidson Softail 2025-2026 models. The recall is due to potential contact between the rear brake line and the BCM caddy, which may lead to corrosion or puncture of the rear brake line over time, potentially resulting in brake fluid leakage. The Ministry said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that motorcycle 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 urges 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).



KUWAIT OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)
ADVERTISMENT FOR
PRE-QUALIFICATION EXERCISE
(RE-ISSUANCE OF WORK CATEGORY KS 01.43)

Kuwait Oil Company (K.S.C.), the "Company", is a State-owned entity engaged in exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas resources from Kuwait's oilfields and exporting them through its marine terminals.

The Company is inviting contractors interested in providing the following services to participate in this Pre-Qualification exercise:

RFI_17636
PQ#26/04: Re-Issuance of Work Category- KS 01.43
Land Drilling Rigs (Deep Depth)

Interested applicants who wish to be considered for inclusion in KOC's approved list of contractors for the above subject category are advised to download the Pre-Qualification documents from **KPC & Subsidiaries K-Tendering Portal** using the following sequence:
HTTPS://KTENDERING.COM.KW> SUPPLIER ACCESS-My RFIs > RFI_17636
Applicants are advised to submit the applications at the earliest, no later than **02nd June 2026**.

Application Fees	Available Online for Download/ Apply from	Eligible to Apply	How to Apply
150/-KD (for Local) & 1000/- USD (for International) (Non- Refundable)	26th April 2026	Independent Local Contractors & Independent International Contractors	Online on K-Tendering Portal Only (Hardcopy submissions shall Not be considered)

Detailed instructions to the applicants are mentioned in the General Instruction for Pre-Qualification. (<https://ktendering.com.kw> > Useful links > KOC > Helpful Documents & Guidelines > Registration & Prequalification Guidelines). Kindly follow the instructions for online submission.

Note:
1.Contractors included in the previously approved list shall also apply for this reissuance exercise. Only applicants successful in this exercise will be retained or included in the approved list.
2.All the submittal and its supporting documents must be in **pdf file format only** (except Financial Statement in excel format) and shall be properly segregated/numbered as per section and clauses.

For any further information/clarification, please write at email address: srm@kockw.com



KUWAIT OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)
ADVERTISMENT FOR
PRE-QUALIFICATION EXERCISE
(RE-ISSUANCE OF WORK CATEGORY KS 01.23)

Kuwait Oil Company (K.S.C.), the "Company", is a State-owned entity engaged in exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas resources from Kuwait's oilfields and exporting them through its marine terminals.

The Company is inviting contractors interested in providing the following services to participate in this Pre-Qualification exercise:

RFI_17634
PQ#26/02: Re-Issuance of Work Category- KS 01.23
(Land Drilling and Workover Rigs (Shallow Depth))

Interested applicants who wish to be considered for inclusion in KOC's approved list of contractors for the above subject category are advised to download the Pre-Qualification documents from **KPC & Subsidiaries K-Tendering Portal** using the following sequence:
HTTPS://KTENDERING.COM.KW> SUPPLIER ACCESS-My RFIs > RFI_17634
Applicants are advised to submit the applications at the earliest, no later than **08th June 2026**.

Application Fees	Available Online for Download/ Apply from	Eligible to Apply	How to Apply
150/-KD (for Local) & 1000/- USD (for International) (Non- Refundable)	26th April 2026	Independent Local Contractors & Independent International Contractors	Online on K-Tendering Portal Only (Hardcopy submissions shall Not be considered)

Detailed instructions to the applicants are mentioned in the General Instruction for Pre-Qualification. (<https://ktendering.com.kw> > Useful links > KOC > Helpful Documents & Guidelines > Registration & Prequalification Guidelines). Kindly follow the instructions for online submission.

Note:
1.Contractors included in the previously approved list shall also apply for this reissuance exercise. Only applicants successful in this exercise will be retained or included in the approved list.
2.All the submittal and its supporting documents must be in **pdf file format only** (except Financial Statement in excel format) and shall be properly segregated/numbered as per section and clauses.

For any further information/clarification, please write at email address: srm@kockw.com



KUWAIT OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)
ADVERTISMENT FOR
PRE-QUALIFICATION EXERCISE
(RE-ISSUANCE OF WORK CATEGORY KS 01.27)

Kuwait Oil Company (K.S.C.), the "Company", is a State-owned entity engaged in exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas resources from Kuwait's oilfields and exporting them through its marine terminals.

The Company is inviting contractors interested in providing the following services to participate in this Pre-Qualification exercise:

RFI_17635
PQ#26/03: Re-Issuance of Work Category- KS 01.27
Land Drilling Rigs (Medium Depth)

Interested applicants who wish to be considered for inclusion in KOC's approved list of contractors for the above subject category are advised to download the Pre-Qualification documents from **KPC & Subsidiaries K-Tendering Portal** using the following sequence:
HTTPS://KTENDERING.COM.KW> SUPPLIER ACCESS-My RFIs > RFI_17635
Applicants are advised to submit the applications at the earliest, no later than **02nd June 2026**.

Application Fees	Available Online for Download/ Apply from	Eligible to Apply	How to Apply
150/-KD (for Local) & 1000/- USD (for International) (Non- Refundable)	26th April 2026	Independent Local Contractors & Independent International Contractors	Online on K-Tendering Portal Only (Hardcopy submissions shall Not be considered)

Detailed instructions to the applicants are mentioned in the General Instruction for Pre-Qualification. (<https://ktendering.com.kw> > Useful links > KOC > Helpful Documents & Guidelines > Registration & Prequalification Guidelines). Kindly follow the instructions for online submission.

Note:
1.Contractors included in the previously approved list shall also apply for this reissuance exercise. Only applicants successful in this exercise will be retained or included in the approved list.
2.All the submittal and its supporting documents must be in **pdf file format only** (except Financial Statement in excel format) and shall be properly segregated/numbered as per section and clauses.

For any further information/clarification, please write at email address: srm@kockw.com

Shura Council participates in PAM summit in Montenegro

QNA
Podgorica

With a delegation led by HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, the Shura Council is participating in the inaugural summit of the of the Speakers and Presidents of Parliaments from the member and partner countries of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) and PAM 20th Plenary Session, which will be hosted by Budva, Montenegro, on May 6-7.

Alongside the General Assembly meetings, the summit will discuss a number of key topics, particularly parliamentary diplomacy and its role in strengthening institutional resilience, in addition to issues of

political and security co-operation, dialogue between civilisations and human rights, economic and environmental challenges, as well as issues of migration and children in armed conflicts, within the framework of strengthening parliamentary co-ordination and exchanging experiences between member and partner states.

This summit is an important milestone in PAM's work, as it brings together the speakers and presidents of parliaments to discuss regional and international issues and to promote joint parliamentary action.

In a related context, the General Secretariat of the Shura Council participated in the 5th Meeting of Secretaries General of PAM Member and Partner Parliaments, which was held on the sidelines of

the 20th session of PAM General Assembly, hosted by the Republic of Montenegro.

Within this framework, HE the Shura Council Secretary-General, Nayef bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud emphasised that the true value of knowledge is no longer limited to possessing it, but lies in the ability to activate and employ it collectively and effectively to serve institutional goals. He pointed out that the rapid development in artificial intelligence technologies has provided institutions, including parliaments, with unprecedented opportunities to reformulate knowledge management systems and transform them into analytical tools that support decision-making and enhance collaborative work.

He indicated that parliaments face increasing challenges in deal-

ing with the large amount of legislative and oversight data and information, which calls for the development of practical models to transform institutional knowledge into shared intelligence supported by artificial intelligence, which contributes to improving the quality of legislation, the effectiveness of oversight and policy analysis, and enhancing transparency and the efficiency of parliamentary performance.

He also addressed the efforts of the Shura Council General Secretariat in this field, through the launch of its institutional strategy for the period 2025-2030, which aims to develop the legislative and oversight support system, raise the efficiency of administrative and organisational work, and promote digital transformation and insti-



tutional innovation. He noted the implementation of a number of projects and initiatives that focus on digitising processes and building electronic knowledge platforms that support a smart work environment based on the speed of information flow and the accuracy of documentation.

He concluded his remarks by emphasising that the visions and ideas presented during the meeting would contribute to enhancing the use of AI in developing parliamentary work, and achieving a qualitative leap in manag-

ing institutional knowledge and transforming it into shared parliamentary intelligence that supports decision-making and enhances transparency.

In addition, Vice-President of PAM and member of the Bureau Abdullah bin Nasser bin Turki al-Subaie participated in the 58th meeting of PAM Bureau, which was held yesterday as part of the meetings accompanying the General Assembly.

The meeting discussed a number of organisational issues related to PAM functioning and activities.

Get set for the Amir Cup final

The grand finale on Saturday is primed for a full fan experience with transport, safety and festival atmosphere in place

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

The Amir Cup final between Al Sadd and Al Gharafa at the Khalifa International Stadium is set to deliver a complete matchday experience, with organisers focusing on transport, safety, and fan engagement to ensure a smooth and memorable event for spectators. Officials outlined detailed preparations during a press conference, highlighting that the event will extend beyond the match itself, transforming into a full-scale fan experience that combines sport and entertainment.

Eng Abdulaziz Fakhro, director of Transport and Mobility, Local Organising Committee, confirmed that the final will take place on Saturday, with kick-off scheduled for 5.30pm, while stadium gates will open from 2.30pm to allow early access for fans. "In regards to transportation, we always advise spectators to use the metro, specifically the Gold Line Sports City Station," he said, emphasising



Officials outlined detailed preparations of the Amir Cup final.

public transport as the most efficient option for attendees.

Fakhro added that multiple parking arrangements have been put in place for those travelling by car, alongside designated areas for Karwa taxis, ensuring accessibility for all spectators. "We have two large parking areas for those coming by their own cars, plus a dedicated area for Karwa," he noted.

Organisers have also taken steps to enhance fan comfort, particu-

larly given the afternoon conditions. "We are trying as much as we can to reduce all the walking distance from the parking to the spectator gates," Fakhro said, adding that water will be distributed to fans to help manage the heat.

He urged spectators to co-operate with event staff to ensure smooth operations. "We advise all people to be patient with security personnel, just to guide them in the correct way," he added.

The event is designed to offer a vibrant atmosphere for fans.

Ali al-Salat, Media and Communications director of the Qatar Football Association, highlighted that the fan zone will open at 2.30pm, featuring a range of entertainment activities. "There will be lots of activities, sponsors will be engaged, along with DJs, music and food. It's kind of like a small festival," he said, describing the fan zone as a central part of the matchday experience.

Al-Salat added that the on-field action will match the excitement off the pitch. "We will have two giants playing for the final, Al Sadd and Al Gharafa, it's going to be one of the most exciting games," he said.

To further enhance fan engagement, organisers have introduced an extensive prize programme. "We will have 73 prizes and trophies for the fans, including two cars, iPhones, tickets and travel tickets," he revealed, describing the event as a "carnival" designed to reward attendees. "This is an invitation for you guys, don't miss it," al-Salat added.

Difaf on Alaraby 2 covers RIBF



Presenter Nour Hariri.

Difaf, the daily cultural programme on Alaraby 2, recently aired a special episode dedicated to the Rabat International Book Fair (RIBF) in Morocco as part of its ongoing coverage of cultural events across the Arab world.

The episode forms part of the channel's role as an official media partner of the major cultural event and reflects its broader strategy to strengthen its position as a leading Arab cultural platform closely engaged with the region's most significant creative gatherings.

Broadcast from the main events of the exhibition, presenter Nour Hariri delivered a dynamic blend of live reporting and in-depth cultural conversations. The programme captured the atmosphere of panel discussions and book signings while bringing viewers the voices and experiences of visitors across the fair's pavilions, offering a wide-angle portrait of the Moroccan and Arab cultural scene

and its engagement with contemporary questions, from literature's relationship with technological change to debates around identity, language, and poetic memory in times of crisis.

The episode also spotlighted the fair's rich cultural programme. This year's edition celebrates writing as an "act of travel," framing the journey as a pathway to knowledge and drawing inspiration from the enduring legacy of the celebrated traveller Ibn Battuta.

Programme producer Ahmad Bah said: "This episode reinforces Difaf's role as a daily platform dedicated to documenting and analysing the Arab cultural and artistic landscape with depth and context." He added: "Our on-the-ground presence in Rabat allows us to present content that balances timely coverage with thoughtful cultural insight."

Difaf airs daily on Alaraby 2, with all episodes available on demand via the Alaraby Plus app.

QSTP and TotalEnergies mark start of WaterTech Accelerator

Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), a member of Qatar Foundation, in partnership with TotalEnergies, marked the start of the QSTP x TotalEnergies WaterTech Accelerator. The programme brings together a global community of founders working on innovative solutions across the water sector.

The programme officially commenced with its opening session held virtually on April 27, welcoming more than 200 startups and scale-ups from across the applicant pool. The session introduced participants to the programme journey and set the context for engagement with partners, industry stakeholders, and the wider ecosystem in the months ahead.

An expert panel featuring Sead Bajrovic, founding partner at Water Impact Partners; Sonia Weymuller, co-founder and general partner at VentureSouq; Alina Truhina, founding and managing partner at Utopia Capital; Iheb Triki, CEO and co-founder of Kumulus Water; and Sami Khoreibi, co-founder and executive chairman of Wisewell, brought together perspectives from investment and entrepreneurship in the water and climate space.

A second session featured contributions from Jim Williams of Mshereb Properties, Mohieddin Sheikh of Qatar Cool, and Ronald Richa, a representative from Veolia, bringing operational perspectives from across the water and utilities sector.

Following these sessions, participants took part in a dedicated discussion focused on understanding Qatar's innovation ecosystem. Delivered by representatives from QSTP, Qatar Development Bank, and the Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Council, the session provided founders with practical guidance on company setup, funding pathways, and opportunities for collaboration with-



Moza al-Naemi

in the country.

The accelerator has attracted 226 applications from 79 countries, reflecting strong global interest in water innovation. Regionally, the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region accounted for 32% of applications, followed by Europe at 25%, with further participation from North America, South Asia, and Africa. The programme also received 19 applications from within Qatar, underscoring its international reach and local engagement.

Applications span a wide range of sectors, with key areas including industrial water and wastewater, municipal water and utilities, agriculture and irrigation, smart cities and infrastructure, and public health and drinking water. This diversity reflects both the complexity of water challenges and the breadth of opportunities for innovation across different markets.

Up to 40 founders will progress through the programme's initial phase, which focuses on developing their solutions through expert-led sessions, technical validation, and market engagement. A subset of participants will then advance to the next stage, where they will work closely with partners to pilot and refine their technologies in real operating environments.

Moza al-Naemi, programme

lead, WaterTech Accelerator, added: "Our focus is on enabling founders to engage directly with industry stakeholders, understand operational realities, and build solutions that are not only innovative, but deployable and scalable within the ecosystems they aim to serve."

Yousef al-Jaber, vice-president of Innovation at TotalEnergies, added: "At TotalEnergies, sustainability and environmental protection are central to how we operate, both within our facilities and in the communities around them. One of the region's most pressing challenges is water management, and through this programme, we gain access to founders from 79 countries who are developing new solutions to address a long-standing and growing challenge. Innovation is the path toward a better and more sustainable tomorrow."

As one of QSTP's multi-country accelerator programmes, the WaterTech initiative reinforces its role in connecting global founders with regional partners, while supporting the development of innovative, high-impact technologies that address critical sustainability challenges.

QSTP continues to welcome engagement from startups and founders through its programmes, with more information available at <https://qstp.qa/joinus/>

Ministry launches mobile library to promote reading

As part of the promotional campaign for the 35th Doha International Book Fair, the Ministry of Culture launched the mobile library to tour various regions of the country, coinciding with the intensive preparations for the launch of this cultural event. This step comes as a strategic initiative aimed at bringing the atmosphere of the exhibition to the heart of the community, and bringing the book to the public in their places, with a special focus on children and young people to enhance their connection with reading and knowledge. Marking the occasion, Director of the Libraries Department at the Ministry of Culture and Director of the Doha International Book Fair Jassim Ahmed al-Buainain said that the mobile library represents a cultural ambassador that travels around the regions to spread knowledge and bring books closer to the rising generations. He indicated that the aim of this campaign is to create a positive atmosphere for the 35th Doha Book Fair

and to encourage families and schools to actively participate, noting that the campaign will continue throughout the days of the fair. The mobile library offers a unique educational experience via buses equipped with the latest technology, where its shelves house rich and diverse collections of children's stories and educational books aimed at building a generation of readers. The library's role is not limited to providing books only, but its promotional campaign includes a comprehensive package of interactive activities, as it has launched extensive field tours that include visiting 12 schools and 16 public parks, in addition to its continuous tours in the vital streets to reach all segments of society. During these visits, gifts and books are given to the children to encourage them to read, and invitations are distributed to parents along with informational booklets highlighting the cultural and educational value of attending such international events. (QNA)

'Memory of Melody' – A musical experience reviving echoes of memory

The Music Affairs Centre, affiliated with the Ministry of Culture, is set to present the concert "Memory of Melody" on May 10 at the Dukhan Theatre, Ministry of Culture building.

The musical experience seeks to revive elements of Qatari and Gulf artistic memory through a contemporary spirit, blending collective performance with traditional melodies.

The concert will feature the "Awatir Al Watan" choir, which continues to present national and heritage works in a modern collective style that preserves the identity of the melody while giving it new dimensions in arrangement and performance.

The group will perform alongside the "Little Nahham" team, accompanied by Nahham Ali al-Haddad, recreating the sounds of the sea and pearl-diving songs on stage with the spirit of a new generation.

The event will also include a special participation by the children's choir "Al Sidra" in several closing segments, as part of a vision aimed at connecting generations to the local musical scene and giving promising young voices an opportunity to participate in works carrying a national and heritage character.

The concert will be led by Maestro Kamel al-Balushi, accompanied by the centre's orchestra, through a programme that moves between diverse musical colours where patriotic songs intersect with maritime rhythms and the arts of collective performance, in an attempt to reintroduce well-



known works in a different form without losing their original spirit.

"Memory of Melody" reflects the Music Affairs Centre's direction toward reviving the local auditory memory, not as an archive of the past, but as a living space open to rediscovery and presentation before audiences in a contemporary form that preserves the essence of Qatari musical identity.

Israeli strikes on Lebanon kill four

AFP
Beirut

An Israeli strike in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa valley killed four people yesterday, while the Israeli army said it struck Hezbollah targets in the south, after warning residents of a dozen towns to evacuate.

Israel and Hezbollah have been trading accusations of violating the ceasefire agreement in force since April 17. Hezbollah has claimed responsibility for several operations targeting Israeli forces in southern Lebanon, as well as attacks on northern Israel.

An Israeli airstrike on the town of Zella, in the West Bekaa region, left at least four people dead, including two women and an elderly man, the Lebanese health ministry said.

Lebanese state media said the attack struck the house of the town's mayor, killing him and three members of his family.

The town was hit shortly before the Israeli army issued an evacuation warning that included Zella, along with 11 towns and villages in southern Lebanon, most of them north of the Litani River and outside the area occupied by Israeli soldiers.

The Israeli army later announced in a brief statement that it had "begun striking Hezbollah terror infrastructure sites in several areas in Lebanon" and renewed its evacuation warning.

Israel carried out airstrikes and artillery bombardment on a number of towns, including several whose residents had been warned to evacuate.

One of the strikes hit the town of Yohmor al-Shaqeef in the Nabatieh district.

AFP photos showed a cloud of smoke rising behind the town's historic Beaufort Castle, which



Site of an Israeli strike in Saksakiyeh. (Reuters)



Smoke rising from the site of an Israeli airstrike. (AFP)

Israeli forces used as a base during their two-decade occupation of southern Lebanon ending in 2000.

State media reported a series of targeted strikes on a car and "significant damage" to homes and infrastructure.

Hezbollah, for its part, announced in a series of statements that it had targeted Israeli forces and vehicles in a number of border towns in southern Lebanon.

It said the attacks were in response to "the Israeli enemy's violation of the ceasefire".

Israeli strikes in Lebanon have killed more than 2,700 people since March 2, including dozens since the April 17 ceasefire brokered by Washington between Israeli and Lebanese representatives.

The Israeli military says it has also lost 17 soldiers and a civilian contractor in the fighting.

Israeli court rejects flotilla activists' appeal challenging detention

An Israeli court rejected yesterday an appeal filed by two foreign activists contesting their detention by authorities, their lawyer told journalists yesterday.

Spanish national of Palestinian origin Saif Abu Keshek and Brazilian Thiago Avila were among dozens of activists aboard a flotilla intercepted in international waters off the coast of Greece on Thursday.

The two were seized by Israeli forces and brought to Israel for questioning, while the others were taken to the Greek island of Crete and released.

On Tuesday, an Israeli court extended the detention of Abu Keshek and Avila until Sunday to allow police more time to interrogate them, according to their lawyers.

The pair's legal team then filed an appeal at the Beersheva district court against the detention.

But their appeal was rejected. "Today, the district court of Beersheva denied our appeal and basically accepted all of the arguments that the state or the police have represented before the court and kept the previous decision," Hadeel Abu Salih said, referring to the earlier court's ruling. The two activists had appeared in the district court, their feet shackled, an AFP journalist reported.

Abu Keshek looked exhausted and sat with his hands clasped in his lap, while Avila seemed calm, said the journalist.

Israeli rights group Adalah, which is representing the pair, has called their detention illegal.

"As we said from the first day, we're talking about an illegal arrest that took place in international waters where the activists were kidnapped by the Israeli navy without any authority," Abu Salih said after the hearing yesterday.

"It's so concerning that also the legal system is giving a free hand for the Israeli forces to continue with this illegal arrest in a way that would give it also legitimacy to do it again and again and kidnap international nationals."

Adalah has also accused the authorities of subjecting the men to continuous abuse in detention. "Saif basically told us that he stopped drinking water in addition to the hunger strike he started on Thursday morning," Abu Salih said.

"They are also telling us that they keep interrogating them for most of the time, most of the day, and the questions keep going around the same context, which is the humanitarian mission context."

Adalah had earlier said that the two men were being held in "total isolation, subjected to 24/7 high-intensity lighting in their cells and kept blindfolded whenever they were moved, including during medical examinations". Israeli authorities have rejected the allegations but have filed no charges against the men.

Adalah said authorities have accused the pair of several offences, including "assisting the enemy during wartime" and "membership in and providing services to a terrorist organisation".

Israel's foreign ministry says both men were affiliated with the Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad (PCPA), a group accused by Washington of "clandestinely acting on behalf of" Palestinian group Hamas.

Spain, Brazil and the United Nations have called for their swift release. "It is not a crime to show solidarity and attempt to bring humanitarian aid to the Palestinian population in Gaza, who are in dire need of it," UN rights office spokesman Thameen Al-Kheetan said in a statement (AFP)

Macron discusses Hormuz Strait with Iran's president

French President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday that he had held further talks with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, during which Macron had reaffirmed the importance of freeing up shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. Macron added he had encouraged Iran's president to look at the plans by France and Britain to set up an international mission to lay the groundwork for safe transit through the Strait of Hormuz. (Reuters)

Ship trying to break Iran port blockade disabled: US military

A US Navy warplane fired on and disabled the rudder of an oil tanker that tried to break Washington's blockade of Iranian ports, the US military said yesterday. US forces warned the Iranian-flagged ship that it was in violation of the blockade but its crew "failed to comply," so a US F/A-18 Super Hornet "disabled the tanker's rudder by firing several rounds from (its) 20mm cannon gun," Central Command said in a post on X. (AFP)

US aiming to force 'surrender': Iran's top negotiator

Iran's Speaker of the Parliament Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said yesterday that Washington was seeking Tehran's surrender through various means, including a naval blockade. "The enemy, in its new design, is seeking, through a naval blockade, economic pressure and media manipulation, to destroy the country's cohesion in order to force us to surrender," Ghalibaf posted in a voice message on his official Telegram channel.

Foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said yesterday that Tehran would convey its position to key mediator Pakistan after "finalising its views". (AFP)

Turmoil in Mali after attacks

Malian opposition figures and military personnel have been detained or abducted following large-scale attacks by militants and separatists on junta positions, security, legal and family sources told AFP yesterday.

At least 23 people were killed in the fighting, according to a hospital source. Opposition figures Moutaga Tall, Youssouf Daba Diawara and Moussa Djire are among those "abducted", security sources and their allies told AFP.

Tall, a lawyer, was taken on May 2 in Bamako by hooded men, his family said. He is accused of plotting with opposition figures in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, to overthrow the military government, a security source said. Meanwhile, security sources said that Diawara and Djire were suspected of links with, respectively, the influential imam Mahmoud Dicko and Oumar Mariko, two opposition figures in exile. (AFP)

Trump signs counterterrorism strategy focusing on 'hemispheric' threats

Reuters
Washington

President Donald Trump has signed a new national counterterrorism strategy that focuses in part on the "neutralisation" of hemispheric threats and incapacitating cartel operations, top White House adviser Sebastian Gorka said yesterday.

Gorka, the White House counterterrorism director, told reporters Trump signed the document on Tuesday "driven by the principle that America is our homeland and must be protected."

The US has destroyed dozens of boats as part of what Washington has called a counternarcotics campaign linked to an operation that included the ouster of Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro this year.

"Our new counterterrorism strategy first prioritises the neutralisation of hemispheric terror threats by incapacitating cartel operations until these groups are



Sebastian Gorka (Reuters/File Photo)

incapable of bringing their drugs, their members and their trafficked victims into the US," Gorka said.

Within the US, Gorka said the strategy will also focus on identifying and neutralizing what he called "violent, secular political groups whose ideology is anti-American, radically pro gender or anarchist, such as Antifa."

"We will use all the tools con-

stitutionally available to us to map them at home, identify their membership, map their ties to international organizations like Antifa, and use law enforcement tools to cripple them operationally before they can maim or kill the innocent," he said.

Gorka said US counterterrorism officials will meet with international partners on Friday to ask how allies can increase efforts to combat terrorist threats, especially from Iran and in the Strait of Hormuz.

After the assassination in September of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, White House aides called for a coordinated effort against unnamed left-wing groups accused of promoting violence.

Gorka said the strategy would also focus on right-wing groups that foment violence.

He said the strategy also focuses on maintaining pressure on what he called the global movement, including the "targeting and destruction" of groups like Al Qaeda.

UAE denies involvement in Sudan airport attack

The United Arab Emirates denied allegations by Sudan that an Emirati drone had been used in an attack on Khartoum airport on Monday launched from Ethiopia, according to a statement by a UAE official late on Tuesday.

Sudan has long accused the UAE of backing the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which have been fighting the Sudanese army in a three-year-old civil war that has devastated the country. The Gulf state has denied this and said it seeks an end to the conflict, one of the world's deadliest. Late on Monday, Sudan's army spokesman alleged an escalation in UAE support, broadcasting images and flight paths he said showed Emirati-owned drones that had taken off from Ethiopia's Bahir Dar airport and struck several locations in Sudan in March and May.

Sudanese officials also said they were prepared to respond to the alleged violation.

Asked for comment by Reuters, the UAE official said: "These fabrications are part of a calculated pattern of deflection — shifting blame to others to evade responsibility for their own actions — and are intended to prolong the war and obstruct a genuine peace process."

Ethiopia in a statement had also denied the allegations. In statements on Tuesday, Egypt and Saudi Arabia condemned the attack on Khartoum airport, which had recently re-opened to flights. Both countries warned against interference by Sudan's neighbours. Massad Boulos, the US administration's senior adviser for Arab and African affairs, also said external support to either side of the conflict must end.

Sudan's war erupted after the RSF and the Sudanese army fell out over plans to integrate their forces and transition to democracy. The RSF quickly took over Khartoum but was pushed out last year. (Reuters)

Gulf's fragile trade lifeline hangs on two eastern UAE ports

Reuters
Fujairah

At the UAE port of Fujairah, conveyor belts offloaded grain from bulk carriers yesterday, while crude oil flowed through pipes and onto tankers berthed along its quay. Dozens of loaded trucks lined up near the port and others parked outside waiting their turn, while offshore, vessels labelled Cosco, Gardenia and other shipping lines lay at anchor, service boats weaving between them.

Fujairah and Khor Fakkan, another eastern port with open access to the Indian Ocean, have become the UAE's economic lifeline since the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz. They are now handling the bulk of the UAE's seaborne trade in place of the major terminals on the western coast inside the Gulf, where ships have been stranded. Since the start of the Iran war, crude exports through Fujairah have risen 38%, pushing towards the upper limit of the pipeline that feeds the port. At Khor Fakkan, terminal opera-

tor GulfTainer said the number of containers it handles has jumped roughly 25-fold.

Iran reminded the Gulf region on Monday, however, just how exposed the ports are when its drones hit the Fujairah Oil Industry Zone, sparking a fire at one of the UAE's most critical energy facilities and injuring three workers.

Hours earlier, Iran's Revolutionary Guards Navy had published a map appearing to extend its zone of control along the UAE's eastern coastline, encompassing both ports. Shipping sources said on Tuesday that neither port had yet been affected, but the message from Tehran was clear.

Top UAE officials have repeatedly stressed that freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz is a critical priority and have said they reserve the right to respond to attacks against the UAE. "No country has the right to disrupt international trade flows or threaten supply routes," Energy Minister Suhail Al Mazrouei told a logistics forum in St. Petersburg last month.

Fujairah sits at the end of the Abu Dhabi Crude Oil Pipeline, which can carry between 1.5 mn and 1.8



A view of the Port of Fujairah, UAE. (Reuters/File Photo)

mn barrels per day (bpd) from inland fields to the Gulf of Oman, bypassing the Strait and allowing the UAE's ADNOC to continue exporting oil to global markets.

Crude exports from Fujairah rose to an average of 1.62 mn bpd by late March from 1.17 mn bpd in February, Kpler analyst Johannes Rauball has said. Since the war began, Fujairah has begun to regu-

larly accept container vessels for the first time, figures from Kpler, which collects commodity data, show. Khor Fakkan's transformation has been even more dramatic.

GulfTainer, which operates the port's container terminal, says the number of import and export containers it handles every week has jumped to 50,000 from a previous 2,000. Kpler data shows container

vessel port calls per day to Khor Fakkan have nearly quadrupled since the war started.

"It has been acting as a critical national gateway," chief executive Farid Belbouab told Reuters on Tuesday, describing a port that was historically developed as a transshipment platform but has now become a key hub for imports of everything from groceries to medical supplies. Truck movements tell a similar story. "We were moving 100 trucks a day before the war. So now actually we move about 7,000 trucks a day," Belbouab said, adding that the Sharjah-based company hired 900 people in two weeks at the start of the war.

Shipping data confirms the picture. Rebecca Gerdes, a data analyst tracking vessel movements, said on Tuesday that traffic at both ports remained robust despite Monday's attacks. Six container ships were berthed at Khor Fakkan with 10 more waiting, while Fujairah had two vessels at berth with another waiting — reflecting its smaller berthing capacity.

Logistics firms say operations remain uninterrupted for now.

Eric Martin-Neuville, executive

vice president Asia-Pacific and Middle East at GEODIS, said on Tuesday that his company was not experiencing any significant disruption at either port, apart from congestion.

"These are currently the only direct UAE port options for cargo destined to the UAE to avoid long road transits and border crossings via Saudi Arabia or Oman," he said.

The UAE is not alone in scrambling for alternatives. Saudi Arabia has the same dual-coastline advantage, and its East-West Pipeline has kept exports flowing at roughly 7 mn barrels per day throughout the conflict, bypassing Hormuz entirely via the Red Sea port of Yanbu.

But earlier this spring, Iran struck both the pipeline and the port, a reminder that it is not immune. For Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain, geography is far less forgiving as their marine links all lie behind Hormuz, leaving them reliant on Khor Fakkan for seaborne imports or on overland shipments through Saudi Arabia, a costly and congested option that underscores why the UAE's eastern ports have taken on a significance that extends well beyond the UAE.



CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

Kamran Rehmat

- 📍 P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
- ✉ editor@gulf-times.com
- ☎ 44350478 (News),
- ☎ 44466404 (Sport),
- ☎ 44466636 (Home delivery)
- ☎ 44350474
- 📘 facebook.com/gulftimes
- 🐦 twitter.com/gulftimes_Qatar
- 📷 instagram.com/gulftimes
- 📺 youtube.com/GulftimesVideos



What is the hantavirus that killed three cruise ship passengers?

Three people have died in an outbreak of hantavirus aboard a luxury cruise ship, with another five confirmed or suspected cases reported, but the World Health Organisation (WHO) has said the wider threat to public health remains low.

There have been eight known and suspected hantavirus cases linked to the cruise ship, the MV Hondius, the WHO said yesterday, including the three deaths. Three people were evacuated from the ship on Wednesday, two of them seriously ill, said the vessel's operator Oceanwide Expeditions. Another patient remains in intensive care in South Africa, and a man who returned to Switzerland after being a passenger on the ship is being treated in Zurich.

There are nearly 150 people still on board the ship, which has been marooned off Cape Verde since Sunday and was expected to set off for Spain's Canary Islands. Passengers who are not showing symptoms – currently all of those still on the ship – will be allowed to disembark when they reach the Canary Islands. Spain said the 14 Spanish passengers would be quarantined in a military hospital, while all other passengers will be repatriated and quarantined in line with their own countries' guidance.

Hantaviruses are rodent-borne viruses that can infect people and cause illness. The WHO estimates there are 10,000 to 100,000 human cases globally each year, with severity varying by strain. The strain identified on the ship is the Andes hantavirus, which typically circulates in Argentina and Chile. The Hondius set off from Argentina on April 1.

Hantaviruses are rodent-borne viruses that can infect people and cause illness

Hantavirus spreads primarily through rodents, infecting people via contact with rats or mice, or their urine, droppings, or saliva – often when the virus becomes airborne during cleaning of infested areas. Less commonly, it spreads through contaminated surfaces. The Andes virus is the only known hantavirus that can spread through close, prolonged human-to-human contact.

The WHO said on Wednesday it had not been informed of any changes in the virus that could have made it more transmissible in this way, but it believes there has been some human-to-human spread on board the Hondius.

Studies have shown that the virus tends to transmit in the early stages of a patient's sickness, when they have symptoms. Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO Director of Epidemic and Pandemic Management, told Reuters in an interview that close contact meant something like sharing a cabin or bunk room on board the ship. She said experts were working to establish which passengers were high-risk or low-risk, based on their contacts with passengers who were unwell.

Hantaviruses common in different parts of the world cause different symptoms or diseases – and some cause none at all. Symptoms typically begin one to eight weeks after exposure and may include fever, muscle aches and gastrointestinal issues, according to the WHO, although a typical incubation period would be closer to around two to three weeks, said Andrew Pollard, a professor at Oxford University's Pandemic Sciences Institute.

The Andes hantavirus and other hantaviruses in the Americas can cause hantavirus cardiopulmonary syndrome, which progresses quickly and leads to fluid buildup in the lungs along with heart complications. Fatality rates from hantavirus cardiopulmonary syndrome are up to 50%, the WHO says, compared to 1-15% from the infections common in Asia and Europe.

There is no specific treatment for infection from hantavirus, so current therapy focuses on supportive care, including rest and fluids. Patients may need breathing support such as a ventilator. Prevention focuses on limiting contact with rodents through measures like keeping areas and surfaces clean.

During outbreaks, contact tracing can give others potentially exposed to the virus earlier access to hospital care, improving outcomes and preventing further spread. The cruise ship outbreak is unusual, although disease outbreaks of illnesses such as influenza are more common on ships due to proximity of people on board, experts said.

The current outbreak is being investigated by experts from the WHO and various countries but the risk to the public remains low, the UN health agency says. – Reuters

To Advertise

✉ gtadv@gulf-times.com

Display

☎ 44466621 ☎ 44418811

Classified

☎ 44466609 ☎ 44418811

✉ gtcad@gulf-times.com

Subscription

✉ circulation@gulf-times.com

Royal cause



Britain's Catherine, Princess of Wales, speaks with Mikhail, three, as she learns about pioneering state-of-the-art wearables and brain recording techniques during the launch of 'Foundations for Life: A Guide to Social and Emotional Development', a new resource she's launching with The Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood, at the University of East London, in London, Britain. (Reuters)

Understanding Qatar's resilience beyond the IMF assessment



By Neil Wilson
Doha

The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) recent description of Qatar as a "model of resilience" reflects something that is increasingly visible on the ground, but not always fully understood. The label itself is not new. What is changing is what sits behind it. The resilience Qatar is demonstrating today is fundamentally different from what defined it ten or even five years ago.

For a long time, resilience here was essentially shorthand for hydrocarbon strength. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) insulated the economy, underpinned fiscal stability, and provided a reliable buffer against external shocks. That remains true. But it is no longer the full story, and it is certainly not the defining one.

What is emerging now is a different kind of resilience, built less on resources and more on structure.

Spend time with businesses operating in Qatar and a clear pattern emerges. The conversation is no longer about entering the market, but about how deeply companies are embedded within it. That is borne out in day-to-day conversations with business owners, leaders and investors, where the focus has shifted towards licence stability, compliance frameworks, workforce continuity, and internal governance. At Sovereign PPG, roughly a third of all our corporate activity now sits in these operational and regulatory

areas rather than expansion.

That tells you something important. That companies are not testing the market, they are committed to building around it. And in a more uncertain global environment, that behaviour says more about economic durability than headline growth ever will.

This is where the IMF's assessment starts to carry real weight. It reflects an economy that is being shaped from within, not just measured from above.

That shift is often described as diversification, but the term is used too loosely. The focus tends to be on sectors such as finance, tourism, and logistics – and yes, those are expanding. The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) is playing a growing role in attracting international firms. Tourism has moved beyond the one-off surge of the World Cup into something more sustained. And logistics infrastructure – from Hamad Port to Hamad International Airport – is steadily reinforcing Qatar's position as a regional connector.

But diversification is not really about what grows. It is about how it is built. This is where Qatar is beginning to stand out. In a Gulf context often associated with speed – rapid scaling, fast capital, quick wins – it is taking a different path, prioritising structure over speed.

That may sound less exciting, but it is far more durable. And increasingly, it is becoming a key competitive advantage.

The regulatory environment is central to that. Clearer licensing pathways, foreign ownership frameworks, and internationally aligned platforms like the QFC have reduced the friction that typically comes with entering emerging markets. More importantly, they make companies easier for global investors to understand and trust.

That reduces many of the structural concerns that tend to shape "emerging market" perceptions in the first place. For investors, predictability matters as much as opportunity – and Qatar is offering both.

The result is a business environment that is easier to assess, easier to understand, and ultimately easier to invest in. Companies are structured to be globally legible from the outset, rather than treated as exceptions.

This has practical consequences. Capital moves with greater confidence, due diligence becomes more straightforward, and businesses can scale without repeatedly reworking their foundations. Over time, that shifts the balance of the economy towards a more capable and confident private sector that plays a greater role in driving growth.

This is where infrastructure comes back into the picture, though not in the way it is often discussed.

Much of Qatar's pre-World Cup investment cycle was once criticised as excessive or overly ambitious. But that framing misses what is becoming clear on the ground – that their legacy is not sitting idle, it is actively shaping how the economy functions.

Take the Doha Metro. It is not just a visible marker of development, it is changing day-to-day business conditions in ways that are easy to overlook but hard to ignore once you are in the market. Commutes are shorter, cross-city access is easier, and the day-to-day challenges of doing business across the city has been reduced.

For companies operating here, those are not abstract efficiencies. They show up in staffing decisions, logistics planning, and how quickly teams can scale across locations. And over time, they compound.

That is why Qatar's resilience looks different today. It is no longer simply about absorbing shocks. It is about whether the underlying system allows businesses to keep operating smoothly when conditions shift. Seen from that perspective, the shift is less about protection and more about preparedness.

None of this diminishes the role of hydrocarbons. LNG will remain central to Qatar's economy for years to come. But its role is changing. It is no longer the only pillar holding the system up, it is one of several.

As the private sector deepens and the economy becomes more structurally mature, dependence on hydrocarbons becomes less defining of the whole system.

There are still gaps to close. Diversification needs greater scale. Regional competition is intensifying. And building the human capital required for a more complex economy will take time. But Qatar's trajectory is deliberate, and more coherent than it is often given credit for.

The IMF has recognised Qatar's resilience. But the more useful lens is not the label itself, but what sits behind it. This is no longer an economy defined primarily by what it produces, but by how it is organised.

And what is increasingly evident on the ground is that Qatar is not redefining its foundations. It is reinforcing the structure built around them.

• Neil Wilson is the MD of Sovereign PPG Qatar, part of the Sovereign Group, a leading corporate service provider across the GCC.

A Shift from Protection to Preparedness

Resilience has transitioned from hydrocarbon-funded buffers to a system built for operational continuity.



Prioritising Structure over Speed

Qatar differentiates itself by focusing on durable foundations rather than rapid, short-term scaling.



Global Legibility: Clearer licensing and ownership frameworks make the market easier for global investors to trust.

Traditional Resilience (Old Model)
Hydrocarbon/LNG insulation
Resource-based buffers
Headline growth focus

Traditional Resilience (Old Model)
Hydrocarbon/LNG insulation
Resource-based buffers
Headline growth focus

Structural Resilience (New Model)
Regulatory and compliance frameworks
Infrastructure-led operational efficiency
Durability and global legibility

The Operational Maturation of the Market

One-third of corporate activity now targets compliance and governance rather than simple expansion.

33%
33% Focus on Operational Stability

Focus on compliance and governance rather than simple expansion.

Infrastructure as a Business Driver

The Doha Metro and logistics hubs have transitioned from legacy projects to day-to-day efficiencies

Deeply Embedded Corporate Commitment
Businesses are no longer testing the market but are building permanent foundations within it.



PICTURE: Aisha Al-Musallam

Sheikha Moza attends QF convocation

From Page 1

"While their education is undeniably top tier, it is their dedication to service that truly sets them apart. The universities housed at Qatar Foundation have nurtured them to be ethical leaders who are not only outstanding in their fields, but also deeply invested in engaging and supporting the integral development of their communities. I am confident that the standards of integrity and excellence mastered at Qatar Foundation will continue to serve as a guiding compass as our graduates step forward to make their mark on the world. Though the future may be unpredictable, the members of the Qatar Foundation Class of 2026 have already proven that they possess the flexibility and passion needed to lead it. The world is waiting for their impact." The keynote speaker at Convocation was Obadah Diab, an alumnus of QF international partner university Georgetown University in Qatar who, having graduated in 2019, is now Chief of Staff to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of his home country, Syria. He told the Class of 2026 how, as a student, "in my



PICTURE: Asma Alabdulla

heart lived a heavy question about purpose, and in my hand was a small lantern, modest in its flame". "Years ago, I sat exactly where you are sitting now, carrying vast hopes mixed with the uncertainty of beginnings," he said. "Qatar Foundation believed in unlocking human potential and focused on building the whole person. I experienced that personally when I had the opportunity to take courses across different universities in Education City, drawing from their diversity and intellectual integration in ways that broadened my understanding and shaped my character. This exceptional embrace gave us the

resilience to keep returning to our greatest dreams - nourishing them with knowledge and protecting them from fading." And in his message to QF's latest graduates, he said: "I realised then that true education is that lantern which keeps a dream alive until its time arrives. It prepares a person not only for their present circumstances, but for the circumstance that today appears impossible. And this light never diminishes. It multiplies and grows stronger in its effect when it is passed sincerely from one hand to another." This year at Convocation, 16 graduates received the Qatar

Foundation Excellence Award, which recognizes exceptional academic success, leadership, innovation, and community impact. Their projects ranged from AI and technology to sustainability and healthcare, and from social impact to community engagement. More than 120 applications were submitted, with a special committee of representatives from QF universities selecting the winners. Since its establishment in 1995, Qatar Foundation has been dedicated to graduating a generation of inspiring minds and enabling students to achieve their full potential. Its higher education



PICTURE: AR Al-Baker



PICTURE: AR Al-Baker

ecosystem encompasses its homegrown Hamad Bin Khalifa University and seven international partner universities - Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar; Georgetown University in Qatar; HEC Paris, Doha; Northwestern University in Qatar; Texas A&M University at Qatar; Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar; and Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar. Through this ecosystem, QF has provided a world-class learning environment to thousands of students from around the world, nurturing diverse ambitions and global perspectives. Its growing alumni community, now totaling

more than 12,000 graduates, continues to contribute to expertise across local, regional, and international contexts. "The QF model is a unique multidisciplinary ecosystem that empowers students to curate their education across more than 65 academic programs and multiple world-class institutions," said Marmolejo. "This integration extends beyond the classroom; students gain vital, real-world experience through QF's 50-plus entities and a vast global network of industry partners. This unparalleled level of flexibility serves as a living laboratory for the future." (QNA)

Trump eyes Iran deal, vows to get uranium

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that the United States would obtain enriched uranium from Iran, as the two countries struggle to finalise an agreement to end the Gulf war. "We're going to get it," Trump told a reporter as he left a White House event. A central objective of Trump's military strikes against Iran was to ensure Tehran does not develop a nuclear weapon. Iran has yet to hand over more than 900 pounds (408 kg) of highly enriched uranium. Trump told reporters Washington had held "very good talks" with Tehran in the past 24 hours and said a deal was "very possible". Iran said it was reviewing a new US proposal, after sources said both sides were closing in on a one-page memorandum to end the war while leaving thorny issues such as Iran's nuclear programme for later. An Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson, cited by ISNA news agency, said Tehran would convey its response soon via Pakistan, which hosted the war's only peace talks and has since served as the main conduit between the sides. "We're dealing with people that want to make a deal very much, and we'll see whether or not they can make a deal that's satisfactory to us," Trump said. A Pakistani source and another briefed on the mediation confirmed an Axios report on a proposed 14-point memorandum that would formally end the war. It would be followed by talks to unblock shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, lift US sanctions and agree curbs on Iran's nuclear programme. "We will close this very soon. We are getting close," the Pakistani source said. Trump said there was "a very good chance" of sealing a peace deal but threatened to resume bombardment if negotiations collapsed. Positive signs grew after he halted a short-lived operation to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, citing hopes for a deal. On social media, Trump said that if "Iran agrees to give what has been agreed to", the war would end, but otherwise bombing would resume "at a much higher level and intensity". He later told PBS: "I think it's got a very good chance of ending, and if it doesn't end, we have to go back to bombing the hell out of them." Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said the "US plan and proposal are still under review". Parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, leading negotiations with Washington, accused the US of seeking to force Iran's "surrender" through naval blockade and economic pressure. Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, a key figure in the initial Islamabad talks last month, said on X: "We are very hopeful that the current momentum will lead to a lasting agreement." Iran's top diplomat Abbas Araghchi met Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing, who urged both sides to reopen the Strait of Hormuz "as soon as possible". Investors welcomed Secretary of State Marco Rubio's remarks that US offensive operations had ended, with Brent and WTI tumbling below \$100 a barrel as stocks rallied. — Reuters, AFP

Qatar takes its place of pride at Venice Biennale

From Page 1

"We are meeting in a difficult hour, when displacement, destruction, and destabilisation are daily words across our region and beyond. Culture connects what conflict tries to break apart and honours the humanity in each of us. "That is why, for this first contribution by Qatar to Venice's Art Biennale, we invited Rirkrit Tiravanija — a master of communal, interactive experiences — to imagine this exhibition. Under its tent, our community of artists will form, in the oldest and most generous meaning of the word, a tribe: a circle bound by hospitality, by craft, and by the simple conviction that to share a meal, a song, or a story is already to begin to understand one another," she said. Sheikha Al Mayassa wel-



comed dignitaries including Luigi Brugnaro, Mayor of the City of Venice and Khalid bin Yousef al-Sada, Qatar's ambassador to Italy; as well as renowned Qatari and international guests such as Mohammed Saad al-Rumaihi, QM CEO; Sheikha Reem al-Thani, deputy CEO of Alriwaq, Public Art and Rubaiya Qatar; Wael Shawky, acclaimed artist and director of The Fire Station; Klaus Biesenbach, director of National Neugebäude; Maurizio Cattelan, artist; Christophe Cherix, director of the Museum of Modern Art; Nicholas Cullinan, director of British Museum; Frida Escobedo, architect; Lina Ghotmeh, architect; Maja Hoffman, president of Luma Foundation; Glenn Lowry, director Emeritus of the

Museum of Modern Art; India Mahdavi, head of Jury for Design Doha Prize 2026; and Wim Pijbes, director of Droom en Daad Foundation. The Qatar Pavilion is designed by Rirkrit Tiravanija as a place for cultural exchange that supports different forms of participation and artistic intervention. Modelled after Qatari gathering spaces, Tiravanija's maroon-coloured temporary structure features a "scrambled" mashrabiya pattern, a traditional Islamic architectural element. "A gathering of remarkable people" features an experimental narrative film, Damar TV (2026), by Qatari-American artist Sophia al-Maria, alongside Jerrican (2022–2026), a large-scale sculpture by Kuwaiti-



Puerto Rican artist Alia Farid. The exhibition also includes live musical performances curated by Lebanese artist Tarek Atoui and a Middle Eastern culinary programme designed by Palestinian chef Fadi Kattan. The opening programme featured music inspired by the takht and wasla traditions, performed by musicians and singers from seven countries. Culinary offerings were prepared by Kattan in collaboration with chefs and authors Noof Al-Marri of the Desert Rose Café at the National Museum of Qatar, Noor Murad of Bahrain, and Majed Ali Almatrooshi of the UAE, as well as mixologists Anna Patrowicz and Vesta Kontrimaviciene of Akub London. The exhibition is co-curated

by Tom Eccles and Ruba Katrib. Presented at the future site of Qatar's permanent pavilion in the Giardini della Biennale, the project marks Qatar's debut national pavilion at the 2026 edition of La Biennale di Venezia. Widely regarded as the world's leading platform for contemporary art and cultural dialogue, the Biennale brings together nations, institutions, curators, collectors, and international media in Venice, a historic crossroads between Europe, the Mediterranean, and the East. Qatar's pavilion in Giardini places the country among the Biennale's most established cultural presences, highlighting its growing role in global artistic and cultural exchange.

Cabinet's nod for key draft laws on e-invoicing, drone regulation

From Page 1

The draft law seeks to enhance social responsibility, promote a culture of volunteering, and regulate voluntary work on clear institutional foundations, ensuring it is practised freely while safeguarding the rights and duties of volunteers and host entities. It further aims to achieve sustainable societal impact in line with the social pillar of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the objectives of the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030, which

seek to strengthen social cohesion and raise volunteerism rates. The Cabinet then approved the draft law on e-invoicing and its executive regulations. Prepared by the Ministry of Finance in coordination with the General Tax Authority (GTA), the draft law establishes the legal framework governing the issuance of e-invoices and notices, enhances transparency, keeps pace with digital transformation, and provides reliable databases for regulatory and oversight purposes.

The Cabinet further approved a draft decision of the Minister of State for Energy Affairs to extend the deadline for compliance stipulated in Law No 23 of 2025 on water. It concluded the meeting by reviewing a report on the outcomes of Qatar's participation in the High-Level Arab Conference on the Implementation of the Doha Summit Declaration 2025 for Social Development, and the 45th session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, held in Jordan in December 2025, and took the appropriate decision thereon.

Qatar foresees US-Iran diplomatic solution

From Page 1

Turning to the economic fallout from recent attacks on key facilities in Qatar, the prime minister said the country's economy has repeatedly proven its capacity to absorb shocks and respond accordingly. He noted that the state has clear plans, flexible strategies, and substantial financial reserves capable of sustaining the country over extended periods. The coming phase, however, will involve measures to improve public spending efficiency and rationalise expenditures. At the same time, the prime minister

stressed that recent developments have reaffirmed that GCC security is an integral unit that cannot be divided, and that confronting shared threats demands genuine GCC integration commensurate with the scale of the challenges at hand. On Qatar's relations with the United States, he characterised the ties between the two countries as strategic, built on a comprehensive partnership, shared interests, and long-standing understandings. Throughout the current crisis, Qatar has maintained a remarkably consistent stand, one rooted in dialogue, restraint, and an unwavering belief that diplomacy remains

the only durable route out of regional confrontation. Even in the wake of Iran's provocative strikes on Qatari soil, Doha has refused to slam the door shut, choosing instead to keep communication channels open with Tehran while continuing to engage closely with Washington and its Gulf partners. This same conviction has shaped Qatar's strong backing of Pakistan's mediation efforts between the United States and Iran, which Doha views as a constructive complement to its own quiet outreach. The approach reflects a long-held Qatari principle: that no regional dispute is beyond the reach of patient, principled negotiation.

Qatar, UAE reinforce ties at joint session

From Page 1

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on agriculture and food security was signed by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi for Qatar, and by the Minister of Climate Change and Environment Dr Amna al-Dahak al-Shamsi for the UAE. A further MoU on joint co-operation between the municipalities and transport departments was also concluded. In a separate bilateral meeting on the sidelines, HE Sheikh Mohammed conveyed Qatar's condemnation of the renewed Iranian aggressions that targeted civilian sites and facilities in the UAE using missiles and drones, expressing Doha's full solidarity and support for all measures Abu Dhabi takes to safeguard its sovereignty and the safety of its territories. The UAE Deputy Prime Minister thanked Qatar for its solidarity in the aftermath of the attacks. (QNA)



Juyoung Kim



Nour Fareed Alosef with her parents.

How QF's latest female graduates aspire to shape a positive future ...

From Brazil to China, Mauritania, and beyond, the graduates who represent Qatar Foundation's (QF) Class of 2026 are entering the next stage of their lives with a more defined sense of purpose - with their journeys at Education City having shaped not only how they see the world, but also how they choose to contribute to it.

QF Convocation 2026, held yesterday (May 6), brought together graduates from all eight universities in QF, marking a collective milestone celebrating the culmination of years of academic achievement, personal growth, and cross-cultural exchange within QF's unique educational ecosystem.

For Juyoung Kim, a Journalism and Strategic Communication graduate from QF international partner university Northwestern University in Qatar, the experience has been deeply personal. Originally from South Korea and raised across different cultures, she learned early how to adapt - but it was in Qatar where she truly learned what it means to belong.

"Through working with peers from different backgrounds, I began to see connection not as something given, but something built," she says. "My journey extended far beyond the classroom, from volunteering in Qatar to service experiences in Laos and Nepal, where every place became a classroom."

Jordanian graduate Nour Fareed Alosef, an Information Systems graduate of QF international partner university Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, describes her journey as being shaped not by titles, but "by moments of courage - by the moments when I almost didn't take the risk, and chose to anyway, carrying with me



Wei Quan

the values my parents raised me with". From pitching ideas to investors to representing her class on stage, Alosef learned that confidence is not something you begin with, but something you build by showing up repeatedly.

The journey of Mariana Pereira de Souza, a Brazilian graduate in Culture and Politics from QF international partner university Georgetown University in Qatar, has been one of redefining purpose. Education, she says, became more than knowledge; it became a responsibility toward both the com-

munities she came from and the ones she now belongs to at QF and in Qatar.

"Working across cultures pushed me to listen more deeply, and to think beyond my own perspective," she says. "Over time, what began as a new environment transformed into a space where I felt seen and connected. Qatar became more than a place of study; it became a place I hope to give back to someday."

For Wei Quan, who is from China and is graduating from QF international partner university HEC Paris, Doha, with an Execu-

tive MBA, her experience has been shaped by a commitment to building connections across regions. Her journey at QF helped her understand how ideas travel - and how they can create real impact.

"Launching my 'China Corridor' newsletter became my first bridge: a way to connect China and the Middle East through shared knowledge," she says. "Working on initiatives such as the Teen Art Award, which reached platforms like Art Basel, showed me how culture can shape global conversations and create space for new voices."

She describes Education City as a living ecosystem where learning extends beyond the classroom - from visiting Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, to engaging in sustainability initiatives at Torba Market. These experiences, she says, made knowledge tangible and closely connected to real life.

And for Aicha Vall from Mauritania, a Translation Studies graduate from QF's Hamad Bin Khalifa University, the journey that has led her to this point began with a passion for language and grew into a deeper sense of responsibility.

"Moving from teaching English to studying translation made me realise that language is not just about words, it's about meaning, context, and whose voice gets heard," she says.

She sees translation as being a powerful tool for change and now hopes to contribute to more inclusive media and educational spaces, where language empowers rather than limits, saying: "For me, translation is a way to build bridges, especially in places where access to knowledge and understanding can change lives."



Aicha Vall



Mariana Pereira de Souza

WEEKEND PRICE

٧-٥-٢٠٢٦ في جميع منافذ سفاري
07-05-2026 at All Safari outlets



SHOP & DRIVE WIN 30

SPEND QR.50 & GET AN E-RAFFLE COUPON TO WIN BESTUNE CARS

WIN 4 CARS IN EVERY LUCKY DRAW

Promotion Valid Till: 12-09-2026

4th Lucky Draw on: 10-05-2026 at Safari Hypermarket, Industrial Area (4 Winners)