

**To feature
your brand**

Call: 444 666 21



BILATERAL TIES | Page 4
German-Qatari partnership remains resilient: AHK chief

Brand Your Business with us

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

facebook.com/gulftimes
twitter.com/gulftimes_Qatar
instagram.com/gulftimes
youtube.com/GulftimesVideos

Wednesday, May 13, 2026
Dhul-Qi'dah 26, 1447 AH

GULF TIMES BUSINESS



MONETARY POLICY: Page 2
US, Japan agree excess FX volatility undesirable

For more information, please scan the QR code

The **key** to your new home

Own it with a **3.45%** interest rate

This offer is valid from 5 May 2026 to 30 June 2026. Terms and conditions apply.

Shop with Confidence
License number: 16001
License number: SOC-0099029

البنك التجاري
COMMERCIAL BANK

QatarEnergy signs MoU for oil and gas exploration offshore Syria



QatarEnergy has signed a memorandum of understanding with TotalEnergies, ConocoPhillips, and the Syrian Petroleum Company for co-operation in oil and gas exploration offshore Syria.

QatarEnergy has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with TotalEnergies, ConocoPhillips, and the Syrian Petroleum Company for co-operation in oil and gas exploration offshore Syria.

The agreement covers technical review by the partners to evaluate the potential of Block 3, offshore Syria, and sets the framework for further technical and commercial discussions.

HE Saad Sherida al-Kaabi, the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, the president and chief executive officer of QatarEnergy, witnessed the signing, which took place at QatarEnergy's headquarters with the attendance of a number of senior executives from QatarEnergy, TotalEnergies, ConocoPhillips, and the Syrian Petroleum Company.

"This agreement reflects QatarEnergy's continued international growth strategy and its efforts to explore upstream oil and gas business development opportunities in the region and globally," according to al-Kaabi.

Block 3 lies in the Levantine Basin in the eastern Mediterranean waters offshore the Syrian city of Latakia with water depths ranging from 100m to 1,700m.

"We are pleased to partner with the Syrian Petroleum Company to explore potential opportunities that can support growth and prosperity for the people of Syria.

We look forward to working closely with our international partners, TotalEnergies and ConocoPhillips, as well as other relevant stakeholders to assess this opportunity," al-Kaabi said.



Qatar Chamber first vice-chairman Mohamed bin Towar al-Kuwari in a discussion with DEIK chairperson Abdullah Altunkum.

Qatar Chamber discusses enhancing trade ties with Turkish delegation

Qatar Chamber hosted yesterday a trade delegation headed by Abdullah Altunkum, chairperson of the Türkiye-Qatar Business Council of the Foreign Economic Relations of Türkiye (DEIK). Qatar Chamber first vice-chairman Mohamed

bin Towar al-Kuwari received the delegation and discussed trade and economic relations between Qatar and Türkiye, as well as opportunities for cooperation and partnership between the business communities of both countries. ■ To Page 4



Invitation to the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting of Mosanada Facilities Management Services Q.P.S.C.

The Board of Directors of Mosanada Facilities Management Services P.Q.S.C. (the "Company") is pleased to invite the Company's shareholders to attend the Extraordinary General Assembly ("EGM") meeting of the Company, which will be held virtually on Sunday, 7 June 2026 at 5:00 p.m. (Doha time - State of Qatar) Via Zoom Video Conferencing, to consider and approve the items set out in the agenda below.

In the event a quorum is not achieved, a second meeting will be held on Sunday, 14 June 2026 at the same time and venue.

Agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting

- Amendment of the Company's Articles of Association as the below:
 - To add new business activities in line with the Company's intended future expansion strategy, which will be subject to obtaining the required approvals from the competent regulatory authorities; and
 - To ensure compliance with the Corporate Governance Code for Listed Companies issued pursuant to QFMA Board Resolution No. (5) of 2025, which will be subject to obtaining the required approvals from the competent regulatory authorities.
- Authorising the Chairman of the Board, or any Board member or member of the executive management mandated by the Chairman, to individually:
 - Represent the Company before any competent authority to attend to all formalities required for the amendments to the articles of association of the Company. This includes (but is not limited to) preparing, signing, negotiating, and amending all relevant documentation;
 - To sign the amended articles of association, and perform any amendments that may be requested by the competent regulatory authorities; and
 - To adopt any resolution or take any action as may be necessary or desirable to implement any and all of the above resolutions including, without limitation, to apply to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, submit all required documents and applications to competent authorities or other third parties, to attend before the Ministry of Justice and complete any procedures or sign any documents (including the amended articles of association) or application for the purpose of obtaining the approval of the Commercial Affairs Department of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, or any other department or ministry.

Abdulaziz Al-Mahmoud Al-Shareef
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Notes:

- Only shareholders who are registered in the Qatar Central Securities Depository's shareholder register of the Company, issued upon the close of trading on the day of the Extraordinary General Assembly meeting, are eligible to attend and vote.
- Every shareholder has the right to attend the Extraordinary General Assembly meeting and has a number of votes equal to the number of shares held. Resolutions shall be passed by the absolute majority of the shares represented at the meeting.
- Minors and persons placed under guardianship shall be represented by their legal guardians.
- Attendance and voting by proxy at the Extraordinary General Assembly meeting are permitted, provided that the proxy is a shareholder and that the delegation is specific and in writing. Shareholders may not authorize any member of the Board of Directors to attend the meeting on their behalf. In all cases, the number of shares held by the proxy in that capacity shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the Company's share capital.
- Where the shareholder is a corporate entity, the shareholder may appoint a representative to attend the Extraordinary General Assembly meeting by issuing a written authorization duly signed and stamped, in accordance with the normal practice, by the authorized signatory of the corporate shareholder.
- Neither the distrainer nor the pledger shall have the right to attend or vote on resolutions of the Extraordinary General Assembly meeting.
- In the event of a failure to attain a quorum for the first Extraordinary General Assembly meeting, the proxies issued to attend the first meeting shall be considered valid and effective for any subsequent meeting, unless they are expressly cancelled by the concerned shareholder through a written notice submitted to the Company's Investor Relations team at least one day prior to the date of the meeting.

For more information, please contact us on: +974 71727285 or email: ir@mosanada.qa



Minister of commerce and industry meets with UBS co-president of global wealth



HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal al-Thani met yesterday with Iqbal Khan, Co-President Global Wealth Management and President UBS Asia Pacific Iqbal Khan, who is currently visiting the country, reports QNA. The meeting dealt with co-operation in the investment and commerce fields, and the ways to enhance business and attract investments to support the ministry's economic diversification efforts and incentivise the private sector. The meeting also dealt with several issues of joint interest.

US consumer inflation rises further in April

Reuters
Washington

US consumer inflation increased further in April, with the annual rate posting its largest gain in three years, heightening political risks for President Donald Trump and his Republican party ahead of November's midterm elections.

The back-to-back rises in the Consumer Price Index reported by the Labor Department on Tuesday, reflected strong gains in the costs of energy products amid the US-Israeli war with Iran. Food prices surged last month and inflation also spilled over to the services sector, with higher rental costs and airfares.

Trump won re-election in 2024 in large part because of his promise to reduce inflation, but Americans have soured on his handling of the economy and many blame him for the pain at the pump. Rising inflation outpaced wage gains for the first time in three years, and underscored the financial strain on households.

With no end in sight to the conflict, economists warned prices would continue to push higher and broaden in the months ahead.

Trump on Monday proposed reducing the 18.4-cent federal gasoline tax to lower prices at the pump. "Prices are going up everywhere you look and families everywhere are struggling to keep up," said Janelle Jones, a visiting senior fellow at the Century Foundation.

"Measures like suspending the gas tax will provide short-term relief, but it's robbing Peter to pay Paul. What families really need is an end to this war and leaders that are committed to ending the affordability crisis."

The CPI increased 0.6% last month after surging 0.9% in March, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics said. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the CPI rising 0.6%. Estimates ranged from a 0.4% gain to a 0.9% increase. The moderation after posting the largest increase since June 2022 was mechanical.

Oil prices shot above \$100 a barrel in March following strikes against Iran, be-

fore pulling back to still-high levels after a ceasefire in early April. While the conflict's impact was immediately reflected in more expensive gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, economists said the second-round effects were around the corner, including for goods trucked by road. Shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz are straining supply chains.

A 3.8% increase in energy prices accounted for more than 40% of the rise in the CPI last month. That followed a 10.9% jump in March. Gasoline prices rose 5.4% after a record 21.2% surge in March. Other motor fuels, which include diesel, increased 17.0%.

Consumers also paid higher prices for electricity amid strong demand from data centers to power artificial intelligence. Food prices accelerated 0.5% after being unchanged in March. Grocery store inflation shot up 0.7%, the largest increase since August 2022. Beef prices increased 2.7%, the most since November 2024.

Coffee prices rose 2.0%. Fruits and vegetable prices climbed 1.8% while nonalcoholic beverages cost 1.1% more.

US and Japan agree excess FX volatility undesirable: Bessent

Reuters
Tokyo

The United States and Japan believe that excess volatility in the currency market is undesirable, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Tuesday, comments seen as offering some support to Tokyo's recent round of intervention to prop up the yen.

Speaking after his meeting with Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Bessent also said he was confident Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda will successfully guide monetary policy to avoid being behind the curve in addressing too-high inflation.

"We both believe that excess volatility is undesirable, and we have been in close contact with the Ministry of Finance, and we will stay in close contact with them," Bessent told reporters when asked about Japan's currency intervention.

"I believe the fundamentals of the Japanese economy are strong and resilient, and that will be reflected in the exchange rate," he added. The remarks suggest Washington broadly backs Japan's recent round of yen-buying intervention aimed at propping up its sagging currency, which is inflicting pain on the Japanese economy by pushing up import costs.

The comments came hours after Japanese Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama told reporters that she and Bessent had reaffirmed close efforts in tackling exchange rate moves, including intervention. Following the earlier meeting with Katayama, Bessent said in a post on X that "the level of communication and coordination between our teams in addressing undesirable, excess volatility in currency markets continues to be constant and robust."

Those comments on X fell short of market expectations for stronger US warnings on sharp declines in the yen, and in response the dollar rose to about 157.72 yen. But the yen later jumped suddenly to around 156.75, stoking speculation of a "rate check", which is



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (right) and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent meet at the prime minister's office in Tokyo yesterday. The US and Japan believe that excess volatility in the currency market is undesirable, Bessent said, comments seen as offering some support to Tokyo's recent round of intervention to prop up the yen.

often a precursor to currency intervention. Japan's Ministry of Finance declined to comment.

Japanese policymakers have wagered that an endorsement from Bessent could give their intervention some extra bite and help slow the yen's slide.

Katayama said she confirmed with Bessent that Japan was responding to currency moves in line with a joint statement signed with the US last September that allowed for intervention to combat excessive market volatility.

"Given current circumstances, we strongly confirmed anew the need to continue coordinating closely on market moves," she said when asked whether Bessent had commented on Japan's intervention. "We engaged in discussions on deepening our coordination on various fronts," Katayama added, in response to a query whether "close coordination" meant that Washington could take the initiative in tackling sharp falls in the yen.

Some analysts had speculated that Bessent might renew his calls for speedier BoJ rate hikes as a way to support the yen.

"I've known Governor Ueda for more than 15 years, since he was at the University of Tokyo. And I have great confidence in Governor Ueda to guide the Bank of Ja-

pan to a very successful monetary policy," Bessent said when asked about the risk of the BoJ falling behind the curve in dealing with inflationary risks.

Katayama declined to comment when asked whether the meeting with Bessent had touched on the BoJ's monetary policy.

Ueda returns to Tokyo on Wednesday from a meeting of the Bank for International Settlements in Switzerland. It is uncertain if Ueda will return in time to meet Bessent, who is set to wrap up his three-day visit that day. A summary of opinions from last month's BoJ policy meeting, which was released on Tuesday, showed that some policymakers had argued that rates may need to rise soon, with one flagging the chance of a June move, as rising oil prices intensified inflationary pressures.

Japan has also flagged the possibility of stepping into oil futures markets as it sees speculative surges in energy prices as a major driver of the yen's weakness against the dollar, but Katayama said on Tuesday it had taken no such step yet.

Bessent also met Ryoisei Akazawa, the minister for economy, trade and industry, and agreed to strengthen ties in the fields of energy and critical minerals.

Top Asian LNG markets boost coal use as Iran war limits supply

Reuters
Singapore

Major Asian liquefied natural gas (LNG) importers Japan and South Korea ramped up coal-fired power generation in April and into early May, market data showed, as the Iran war disrupted supplies of the super-chilled fuel and boosted prices.

Japan's gas-fired power supply hit two-year lows in April and South Korea's dropped to six-month lows, according to data from the Japanese Electricity Market Data Hub and Korea Power Exchange (KPX). The switch underscores how the conflict is reshaping power generation patterns after Iranian retaliation to US-Israeli attacks knocked out 17% of LNG export capacity in No 2 global supplier Qatar.

"The longer this war continues, the more switching we will see," Andre Lambine, a power analyst at S&P Global Energy, told a recent industry event.

In April, coal-fired power supply in Japan surged 11.1%, the fastest pace in at least a year, as gas-fired power plunged 12.9%

to 16,447 gigawatt-hours (GWh), statistics from the Japanese Electricity Market Data Hub showed.

Japan and South Korea typically use LNG to offset nuclear maintenance shutdowns before demand starts rising in June.

"Japan's rising coal power output displaced roughly 4 LNG cargoes in April - already about half the annual imports the government expected to avoid by using more coal," said Fei Xu, senior gas analyst at ICIS.

"This has helped maintain end-April LNG inventories near 5-year averages."

South Korea's coal-fired power supply rose 39.7% annually to 10,733 GWh in April - the sharpest rise since August 2019, while gas-fired power fell 6.4%, data from KPX showed.

Nuclear supply fell 2.7% annually in Japan and 14.6% in South Korea in April and continued declining in the first 10 days of May, the data showed. That was offset by an 18.3% annual increase in coal-fired supply in Japan and 14.7% in South Korea in May, as gas-fired power plunged 23.4% and 12.2% respectively. S&P's Lambine said South Korea could use more coal as its coal-fired power plants remained

underutilised, while ICIS' Xu said Japan's ability to switch from gas to coal may be larger and faster than expected.

Elsewhere, a heatwave across Southeast Asia drove a 12.3% surge in Vietnam's coal-fired output to a record 17,864 GWh last month, pushing coal's share in its power mix to the highest since March 2024, government data showed.

The war-induced LNG supply crisis and hot weather also drove a surge in Asian thermal coal shipments in May outside China and India - the top global coal users, with imports by countries set to rise 9.4% annually to 31mm metric tonnes, according to London-based DBX Commodities.

Vietnam's electricity-grade coal imports surged to a record 5.4mm tonnes in April, Kpler data showed.

In May, coal imports by South Korea and Japan are on track for annual rises of more than 50% and 20% respectively, the data showed.

Asian spot LNG prices have surged 62% since the start of the war, dwarfing a 13% rise in the Newcastle coal benchmark. Coal's supply chain to Asian markets is unaffected by the war.

EM stocks retreat from record high

Reuters
Singapore

Emerging market (EM) stocks eased from record highs on Tuesday as investors held off from placing more bets on artificial intelligence-linked euphoria, and currencies slipped amid fading hopes of a US-Iran peace deal.

US President Donald Trump said a ceasefire with Iran was "on life support" as Tehran rejected a US proposal to end the conflict and stuck to a list of demands Trump described as "garbage", sending oil prices up 2%.

All eyes are on Trump's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping later this week, with trade and Iran among the agenda items.

"The recent stalemate would likely play favourably for China... it can be seen as a peacemaker and try to gain some concessions on Taiwan," said Mohit Kumar, an economist at Jefferies.

"The market needs to focus on differentiation between regions, sectors, and companies in the (realistic) scenario that oil is 25-30% higher than pre-war levels."

MSCI's global EM stock index retreated 1.3% from a record high, with no AI-exposed Asian bourses to support the momentum.

South Korea's Kospi fell 2.3% as investors booked profits. Analysts also pointed to comments from a presidential policy advisor, floating the idea of "citizen dividends" - excess AI earnings to be redistributed to all citizens.

Currencies in the Middle East-reliant Asian economies were heavily hit, with Indonesia's rupiah falling below 17,500 a dollar for the first time and India's rupee hitting a record low. The risk-off mood spilled over to other EMs, with stocks in Poland down 1.9% and Hungary shedding 0.4%. Romanian stocks were up 0.8% at record highs, boosted by robust gains in Premier Energy.

Romania's leu has been languishing at record lows since last week when a no-confidence vote toppled the government. A potential political deadlock could put EU funds and Romania's credit ratings at risk.

Hungary's forint weakened 0.6% against the euro, set for its steepest one-day decline in over a month. MSCI's gauge tracking EM currencies dipped 0.5%. A US inflation report could influence bets on a Federal Reserve interest rate cut, and the dollar.

Turkey's lira was little changed, while its stocks fell 0.5%. South Africa's rand depreciated 0.7% while its stocks lost 1.7% as prices of gold - among the country's top exports - fell. President Cyril Ramaphosa faced down calls to resign on Monday over a scandal where cash in foreign currency was stolen from his ranch, but analysts expect him to survive impeachment if it went to a vote in the parliament.

Central banks tap most yuan swap lines with PBoC in two years

Bloomberg
Beijing

Global central banks' use of the People's Bank of China's (PBoC) swap lines reached a two year high in the first quarter, underscoring rising international demand for the Chinese currency. By the end of March, central banks worldwide had drawn a total of 111.6bn yuan (\$16.4bn) from the PBoC's foreign exchange swap lines, the highest level since March 2024, according to the Chinese central bank's quarterly report released late Monday. The 17.4bn yuan increase from the previous three-month period marked the steepest quarter on quarter rise since 2023, Bloomberg calculations show.

China's swap line is a key tool for supplying yuan to the global financial system, allowing local institutions to access liquidity through their own central banks to support trade and investment. The latest increase highlights



Global central banks' use of the People's Bank of China's swap lines reached a two year high in the first quarter, underscoring rising international demand for the Chinese currency

China's drive for yuan internationalization and countries' increasing openness to reduce reliance on the dollar. "The onshore yuan has been doing quite well in recent months and was one of the top performers post-Iran war as well, which may have attracted increased

confidence and interest from foreign countries," Lynn Song, chief Greater China economist at ING Bank NV, said. "More usage of the swap lines suggests positive developments on the renminbi internationalisation, though this remains a long-term work in progress."

The onshore yuan has gained about 2.9% against the dollar this year, even as Iran war tensions boost demand for haven assets, with more international transactions settled in China's currency.

While the dollar retained its dominant role in trade in March, the yuan rose one spot to become the fifth most active currency for global payments by value, accounting for 3.10%, according to data from financial messaging service Swift, or the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication. China's cross-border interbank payment system, known as CIPS, also registered a single-day transaction record of 1.22tn yuan, Shanghai Securities News reported in early April.



AMWAJ Group announces the following Auction:

Auction Ref. No	Description	Bid Bond	Bid Closing Date
023	Disposal of Assorted Scrap Materials	QR. 5,000/-	19 May 2026 @ 12:00 NN

• Auction documents will be available for collection until 18 May 2026.

Location : AMWAJ Procurement Office at 4th Floor, Alaqaria Building, Museum St. Old Salata (next to Ansar Gallery)

Date of releasing Bid Documents : 13 - 18 May 2026

Time : From 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Contact Number : 44912175

• Bid Bond (Bank Guarantee) / Cheque must be enclosed along with the offer. Bids without Bid Bond/Cheque will be rejected.

• Auction documents will be released only to authorized company representatives with the following documentations:

- Copy of company's valid Commercial Registration Document and it should correspond the activities of title of the tender.
- Valid Qatari I.D.

QSE sees strong buying from local retail investors

By **Santhosh V Perumal**
Business Reporter

The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) yesterday saw buying support from local retail investors and domestic funds, even as it fell more than 107 points, wiping off capitalisation in excess of QR6bn. The market was initially on a gaining spree with the 20-stock Qatar Index touching an intraday high of 10,660 points but fading hopes of an early resolution to Iran war had its toll towards the latter half, resulting in an overall 1.01% plunge to 10,523.92 points. An across the board selling -- particularly in the transport,

telecom and industrials -- was visible in the market, whose year-to-date losses mounted to 2.22%. About 72% of the traded constituents were in the red in the main bourse, whose capitalisation eroded QR6.21bn or 0.38% to QR628.77bn, mainly owing to large and midcap segments. The foreign institutions were seen increasingly net sellers in the main market, whose trade turnover and volumes were on the decline. The Gulf individual investors turned net profit takers in the main bourse, which saw as many as 0.01mn exchange traded funds (sponsored by AIRayan Bank and

Doha Bank) valued at QR0.06mn trade across 11 deals. The Gulf institutions' weakened net buying had its influence on the main market, which saw no trading of sovereign bonds. The Islamic index was seen declining slower than the other indices of the main bourse, which saw no trading of sovereign sukus. The Total Return Index shed 1.01%, the All Share Index by 0.93% and the Al Rayan Islamic Index by 0.84% in the main bourse, which saw no trading of treasury bills. The transport sector index tanked 1.73%, telecom (1.67%), industrials (1.15%), banks and

financial services (0.77%), insurance (0.51%), consumer goods and services (0.5%) and real estate (0.21%). As many as 38 declined, while only nine increased and six were unchanged in the main market. Major shakers in the main market included Ooredoo, Nakilat, Estithmar Holding, Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding, Industries Qatar, QNB, Qatar Islamic Bank, Al Faleh Educational Holding, Gulf International Services and Milaha. Nevertheless, Al Khaleej Takaful, Meeza, Lesh Bank, Vodafone Qatar and Aamal Company were among the movers in the junior bourse. In the venture market, Techno Q saw its shares

appreciate in value. The foreign institutions' net selling increased substantially to QR90.59mn against QR22.49mn the previous day. The Gulf individual investors turned net sellers to the tune of QR0.17mn against net buyers of QR1.12mn on May 11. The Gulf institutions' net buying weakened significantly to QR7.22mn compared to QR16.24mn on Monday. However, the local individuals were net buyers to the extent of QR48.47mn against net sellers of QR12.37mn the previous day. The domestic funds' net buying expanded marginally to QR21.87mn compared to QR20.55mn on May 11.

The Arab retail investors turned net buyers to the tune of QR9.79mn against net profit takers of QR0.94mn on Monday. The foreign individuals were net buyers to the extent of QR3.42mn compared with net sellers of QR2.1mn the previous day. The Arab institutions had no major net exposure for the third straight session. The main market saw 8% contraction in trade volumes to 145.08mn shares, 13% in value to QR416.3mn and 14% in deals to 22,581. In the venture market, a total of 0.21mn equities valued at QR0.47mn changed hands across 28 transactions.

German-Qatari partnership remains resilient amid global uncertainty, says AHK chief

By **Peter Alagos**
Business Editor

German businesses continue to view Qatar as a trusted partner, with bilateral trade ties and energy co-operation holding firm despite geopolitical turbulence.

Dr Martin Henkelmann, Regional CEO of the German Chambers of Commerce (AHK) covering Qatar, the UAE, Kuwait, Oman and Pakistan, said the presence of German companies in Qatar remains stable, underpinned by more than two decades of institutional commitment through the German Industry and Commerce Office in Doha.

In an exclusive interview with *Gulf Times*, Dr Henkelmann emphasised that German firms value reliability and trust, qualities that have characterised their long standing relationship with Qatar.

This foundation, he noted, continues to guide investment decisions and reinforces confidence in the country's business environment.

The long term energy partnership between Germany and Qatar, formalised in 2022, remains a cornerstone of bilateral cooperation, said Dr Henkelmann, noting that the agreement reflects a mutual commitment to technical exchange and know how transfer, with dialogue platforms being expanded to strengthen coordination between stakeholders on both sides.

German engineering and construction firms also remain engaged in Qatar's infrastructure pipeline, supported by the country's clear development path under the Qatar National Vision 2030, he emphasised.



Dr Martin Henkelmann, Regional CEO, German Chambers of Commerce (Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan).

sised. Dr Henkelmann said opportunities in technology, healthcare and infrastructure continue to attract German expertise, with companies taking a long term view rather than being swayed by short term geopolitical volatility.

He pointed out that German businesses are increasingly shifting from project based cooperation toward knowledge and innovation driven partnerships. "The next step is therefore not only exporting products, but increasingly contributing through local partnerships, research and development co-operation, training initiatives, and long term technology transfer," Dr Henkelmann explained.

Dr Henkelmann also highlighted the role of the German Chamber, working closely with Team Germany, including the Em-

bassy of Germany in Doha and the German Business Council Qatar, to actively support companies.

"We are facilitating direct exchange between businesses, logistics providers, authorities, and other stakeholders to improve coordination and share reliable market information in real time," he said.

In addition, the chamber provides market intelligence, business partner matching, networking platforms, and close coordination with both German and Qatari partners.

Dr Henkelmann noted that in uncertain times, "trusted networks and direct communication channels become even more valuable for maintaining business continuity."

Sectors such as digital health, smart industry solutions, cybersecurity, vocational training, sustainable urban development and environmental technology were identified as areas where German companies could expand their presence in Qatar.

Dr Henkelmann said these fields represent the next phase of bilateral engagement, moving beyond traditional contracts toward deeper collaboration in innovation and skills development.

German businesses, he said, are highly regarded for quality, reliability, and technical expertise, noting that the challenge now is to translate those strengths into partnerships that deliver long term value for Qatar's diversification agenda while opening new avenues for German firms to contribute to the country's growth.

Dr Henkelmann added: "The German companies' view is long-term and future-oriented and therefore not driven by geopolitical ups and downs."

Qatar Chamber discusses enhancing trade ties with Turkish delegation

■ From Page 1

Al-Kuwari stressed that Qatar and Türkiye enjoy close cooperation across various fields, praising the strong relations between the Qatari and Turkish private sectors and the joint projects and investments in both countries.

He noted the possibility of organising a Qatari business delegation visit to Türkiye to explore available investment opportunities and meet with Turkish counterparts to discuss co-operation in various sectors.

He also affirmed Qatar Chamber's

readiness to support Turkish investors interested in investing in Qatar.

Altunkum said he led the delegation to explore the Qatari market and co-operate with the Qatari side in sectors including energy, renewable energy, gas, transport, logistics, and trade.

He also invited Qatari businessmen to invest in Türkiye and establish partnerships with Turkish investors in Türkiye, Qatar, or other countries, noting the possibility of forming a joint investment group of investors from both sides to explore such opportunities.

Qatar CPI rises 2.98% year-on-year in Q1

QNA
Doha

In the first quarter of 2026, Qatar's Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 110.65 points, reflecting a decline of 0.50% compared with the previous quarter (Q4 2025), while rising by 2.98% year-on-year relative to the same quarter in 2025.

The index, which measures inflation, comprises 12 main groups covering 737 goods and services. It is calculated based on the 2018 base year, using data derived from the 2017-2018 Household Income and Expenditure Survey.

Data released by the National Planning Council (NPC) attributed the quarterly decline when comparing the main components of the Consumer Price Index for Q1 2026 with Q4 2025 to decreases in the "recreation and culture" group by 8.29% and the "restaurants and hotels" group by 0.53%.

In contrast, several categories recorded increases, including "miscellaneous goods and services" by 3.35%, "food and beverages" by 2.06%, "cloth-

ing and footwear" by 1.28%, "transport" by 0.75%, "communications" by 0.42%, "health" by 0.27%, "furniture, household equipment, and routine household maintenance" by 0.19%, "housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels" by 0.11%, and "education" by 0.04%, while the "tobacco" category remained unchanged during the period.

The annual increase-comparing the first quarter of 2026 with the corresponding quarter of 2025-was driven by rises in eight groups.

These include "miscellaneous goods and services" by 17.03%, "recreation and culture" by 5.40%, "food and beverages" by 4.57%, "clothing and footwear" by 4.19%, "furniture, household equipment, and routine household maintenance" by 2.46%, "education" by 2.06%, "communications" by 2.03%, and "housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels" by 1.23%.

In contrast, the index recorded declines in the "restaurants and hotels" group by 1.98%, "health" by 1.38%, and "transport" by 0.68%, while the "tobacco" category showed no change.

QFC-backed platform lets Islamic banks use AI without exposing data

By **Peter Alagos**
Business Editor

A Qatar-based RegTech firm has launched a platform that applies an institution's data disclosure policy before information reaches any external AI or cloud system, inverting the sequence that has long exposed regulated financial institutions to data sovereignty and Shariah compliance risks.

Blade Labs recently launched ZeroH Disclosure, a patent-pending privacy and proof platform developed with the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) through its Digital Assets Lab. The launch also introduced Ask Ali, an AI co-pilot for compliance, product development, and Shariah governance teams inside Islamic financial institutions. Both are available for early access from May 12, 2026. Huzayfa Patel, Digital Assets at the Qa-

tar Financial Centre, said: "The launch of ZeroH Disclosure by Blade Labs is a strong example of what the QFC Digital Assets Lab is designed to do: Provide a robust environment where innovative solutions can be developed, validated, and brought to market with confidence.

"By enabling the advancement of solutions that unlock the potential of AI and cloud adoption while safeguarding data privacy, we're enhancing the efficiency, security, and resilience of financial services in Qatar."

Patel added: "Initiatives like this reinforce the QFC's commitment to building a forward-looking financial ecosystem that aligns with global standards and addresses the evolving needs of regulated institutions."

According to Blade Labs, Qatar is the platform's "launch jurisdiction," and the choice reflects deliberate strategic intent, noting



Blade Labs CEO Sami Mian.

that Qatar National Vision 2030 "places digital financial services at the centre of the country's economic diversification strat-

egy." The problem ZeroH Disclosure seeks to address "has quietly stalled AI adoption across regulated finance," Blade Labs noted. Institutions want what AI and cloud services offer, but face hard constraints, such as "data sovereignty laws, privacy regulations and, in Islamic finance, the requirement that Shariah governance is demonstrably followed, not merely claimed."

Blade Labs explained that the institution's disclosure policy is applied first; and data moves only after enforcement. Each controlled disclosure generates a cryptographic proof record that management, Shariah boards, auditors, and regulators can independently verify.

Built on this architecture, Blade Labs stated that Ask Ali operates entirely within the controls its host institution has already approved.

It knows what data it is and is not permitted to use, and can prove it. Every action

runs against the institution's policy first and produces audit evidence as a byproduct, it also stated.

Blade Labs CEO Sami Mian said, "Islamic digital banks do not need another AI chatbot. They need a system that turns legal and Shariah requirements into day-to-day operating controls, lets teams use AI responsibly, and gives management, Shariah boards, auditors, and regulators something they can verify."

"Our technology starts before the cloud. Data does not leave the institution's control unless the relevant disclosure policy has been applied first, so that institutions can actually use the cloud."

ZeroH Disclosure enters research preview on May 12, 2026, available first through Ask Ali. Islamic digital banks, traditional banks, and regulated institutions can request early access, institutional pilots, and enterprise deployments at zeroh.io/ask-ali.

AT YOUR SERVICE

AUTO - TYRES / BATTERIES / LUBE - CHANGING

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

CAR HIRE

AL SAAD RENT A CAR Head Office-Bldg: 242, C-Ring Road T: 4444 9300
Branch-Barwa village, Bldg #17, shop #19.....T: 4415 4414, ...M: 3301 3547

CLEANING

CAPITAL CLEANING CO. W.L.L. All type of Cleaning Services-Reasonable Rates
T: 44582257, 44582546 F: 44502529 M: 33189899 Em: capitalcleaningwll@gmail.com

PEST CONTROL & CLEANING

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

BUS RENTAL / HIRE

Q MASTER W.L.L. 15/26/30/65 Seater Buses with / W-out Driver
Contact # 55853618, 55861541 (24 Hours) F: 44425610 Em: qataroffice@yahoo.com

THOUSANDS RENT A CAR

Bldg No 3, Al Andalus Compound, D-ring Rd., T: 44423560, 44423562 M: 5551 4510 F: 44423561

ISO / HACCP CONSULTANTS

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

SPA & MASSAGE

BODY MASSAGE / SPA: We provide Full body massage service by Experienced / Professional Therapist.Call M: 33704803 / 50195235 / 66894816

THOUSANDS TRANSPORT 60/67 Seated A/C non AC Buses w/ w-out driver
T: 4418 0042..F: 4418 0042..M: 5587 5266...Em: sales@thousandstransport.com

BUDGET RENT A CAR Competitive rates for car rental & leasing
Main Office T: 4432 5500..M: 6697 1703. Toll Free: 800 4627, Em: info@budgetqatar.com

TRAVELLER TRANSPORT - 13/22/26/36/66 Seater Bus With & Without Driver.
Tel: 44513283 Mob: 30777432 / 55899097, Email: info@travellertransport.com

HIPOWER TRANSPORT: 13/22/26/66 Seater Buses & Pickups with & without driver.
Tel: 4468 1056,..... Mob: 7049 5406,..... Em: hipower@safarigroup.net

AT YOUR SERVICE

DAILY FOR THREE MONTHS

Updated on 1st & 16th of Every Month

QR. 1200/-