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SPECIAL PUBLICATION - DECEMBER 31, 2024

























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MBA Group Accelerates Growth with Strong Support from Qatar's Dynamic Market

Founded in 2019, MBA Group has emerged as a rapidly growing conglomerate in Qatar, with a diversified portfolio that spans real estate, construction, vehicle rentals, trading, general services, cleaning and hospitality. With the remarkable support and conductive business environment in Qatar, MBA Group has been able to rapidly expand its operations and capitalize on the country's ongoing development.

Real Estate Growth and Expansion

MBA Group has experience impressive growth in the real estate sector, driven by Qatar's expanding infrastructure and increasing demand for both residential and commercial spaces. The Group has acquired a significant number of properties across the country, and its portfolio is growing steadily. As the Qatari economy continues to thrive, MBA Group has been able to seize opportunities in high0-demand areas, cementing its position as a key player in the market.

"Our growth in the real estate sector has been made possible by Qatar's continuous efforts to expand and modernize its infrastructure," said Mr. Haitham Abdelghany, CEO of MBA Group. "Qatar's dynamic real estate market has provided us with numerous opportunities, allowing us to strategically acquire properties that cater to both residential and commercial needs. The government vision and policies have created an environment where businesses like ours can thrive and contribute to the development of this prosperous nation."

Construction and Infrastructure Projects

The construction sector has also seen remarkable growth as MBA Group taps into Qatar's massive infrastructure projects. With a vision to build high-quality residential units, villas, roads, and bridges, the Group has been at the forefront of contributing to the country's rapidly evolving urban landscape. MBA Group's ability to execute large-scale projects successfully has been enabled by Qatar's growing need for infrastructure and urbanization.

CEO Mr. Haitham Abdelghany expressed, "Qatar's ongoing expansion has given us the opportunity to actively participate in it vision for the future. The government's investments in infrastructure and urban development have paved the way for companies like ours to step in and help build world-class villas, roads, and other critical structures. We are proud to contribute to Qatar's evolving skyline, but it's government's commitment to progress that has empowered us to deliver these projects.

Vehicle Rentals and Trading

In the vehicle rental and trading sector, MBA Group has capitalized on the expanding market demand. The growing economy, alongside the country's increased international connectivity and tourism, has created a booming demand for both short-term rentals and long-term vehicle leasing. MBA Holding Group has not only acquired a diverse fleet of vehicles but has also benefited from Qatar's thriving transportation and logistics sector.

"Our car rental and trading business has seen substantial growth, and Qatar's rising tourism, business travel, and infrastructure projects have been key drivers of this success," said Mr. Haitham Abdelghany. " With the government's focus on modernizing transport networks and improving the tourism industry, we've been able to offer a wide variety of high-quality vehicles to meet the growing demand."

General Services: Cleaning and Hospitality

MBA Group's general services division, which includes cleaning, hospitality, and other essential services, continues to grow as Qatar's residential and commercial sectors flourishing real estate market and its booming hospitality industry, both of which require high-quality services to maintain and enhance their operations.

CEO Mr. Haitham Abdelghany reflected on the company's success in this are: "As Qatar continues to grow and develop, so too does the demand for cleaning, hospitality, and general services. We are grateful for the opportunities Qatar has provided us to serve its thriving communities and businesses. The country's ongoing development ensures that we continue to have a strong presence in this sector, delivering the highest quality of service to meet the needs of our customers."



Mr. Haitham Abdelghany
CEO of MBA Group

Chairman's Message

"As the Chairman of MBA Group, I want to express our sincere gratitude for the continued support and opportunities we've received from the state of Qatar," said Mr. Mohammed Ali Al-Nuaimi, Chairman of MBA Group. "Qatar's commitment to economic growth, infrastructure development, and business diversification as allowed us to flourish in a market that is rapidly evolving. We have been able to take full advantage of the nation's progress, and this is reflected in our consistent growth across all sectors.

The government's proactive approach to fostering a business-friendly environment has been critical in helping companies like MBA Group succeed. We look forward to continuing to build on this success and contributing to the nation's growth for years to come."

Looking to the Future

MBA Group's rapid growth has been made possible by Qatar's supportive business environment, robust economic policies, and focus on modernization. As the company continues to expand across real estate, construction, vehicle rentals, and general services, it remains committed to capitalizing on the continued growth and opportunities that Qatar's evolving market provides.

About MBA Group

Founded in 2019, MBA Group is a dynamic and diversified conglomerate with operations in real estate, construction, vehicle rentals, trading and general services. With a focus on quality, innovation, and customer satisfaction, MBA Group is rapidly expanding its presence in Qatar, benefiting from the country's thriving economic environment and playing an active role in its growth.

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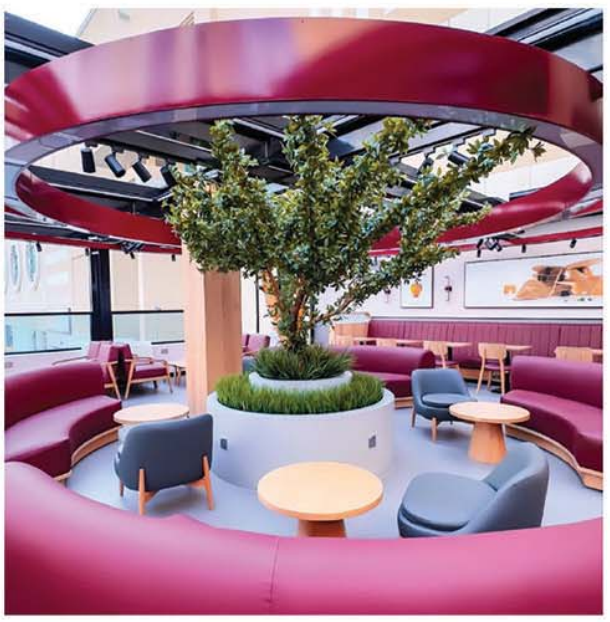
This December, Pret A Manger proudly celebrated its first anniversary in Doha, marking a year of serving freshly prepared goodness. To honor the occasion, Pret A Manger launched our Loyalty App, offering customers free coffees and exclusive deals. Additionally, Pret A Manger celebrated Qatar National Day and introduced our first-ever dinner options: the Butter Chicken Rice Bowl and Thai Green Curry, freshly prepared in our shop kitchens. Here's to many more milestones with our valued customers!















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Al Abdalla DAILY 24H: ALABDALLA ANDALUS

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The Peninsula

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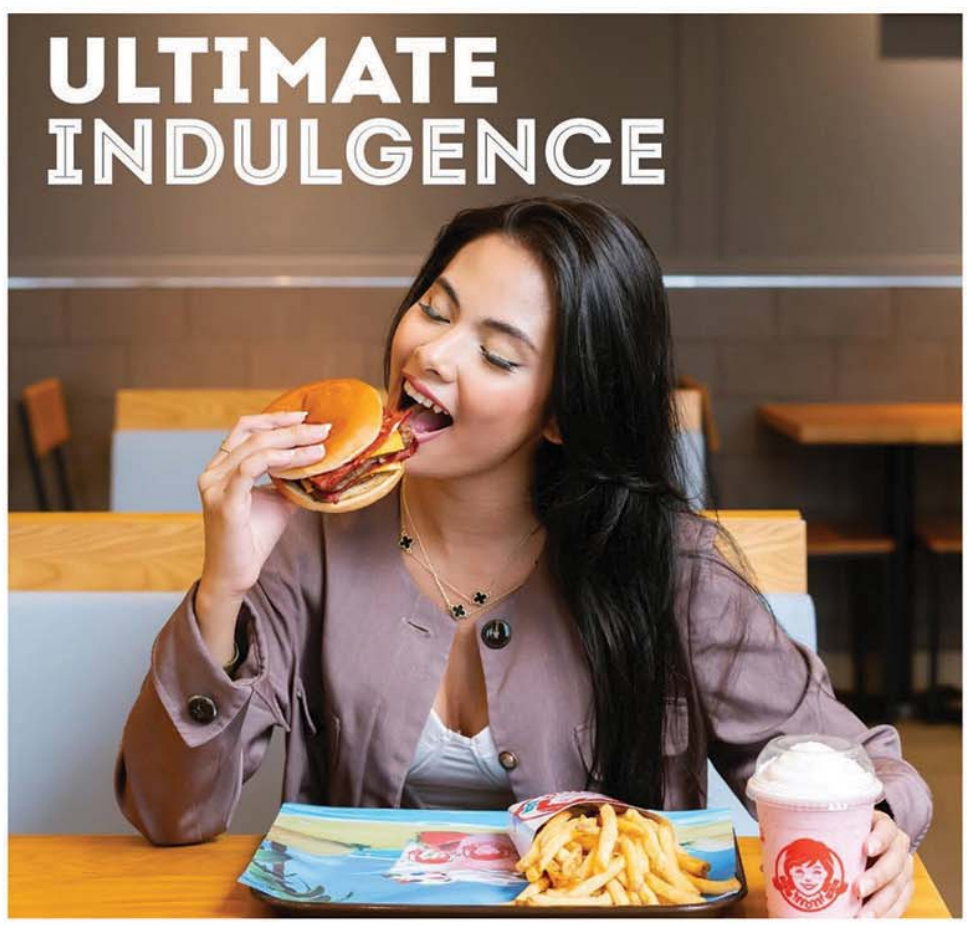


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Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani addresses the opening session of 79th United Nations General Assembly.

Qatar attains new heights of global stature with vibrant diplomacy, constructive mediation

Qatar under the leadership of Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani continued hectic diplomatic engagements to end the war imposed on Gaza and H H the Amir raised his voice against Israeli aggression at all global platforms including in his speech at the UN General Assembly.

Like the previous years. Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani led the country and nation towards achieving new heights of stature in the region and world community. Under the wise leadership of H H the Amir, many new development projects and other socio-economic initiatives were launched in Qatar in 2024 while numerous old projects were completed.

At the political and diplomatic front, H H the Amir paid numerous state and official visits to different countries of the world and was honoured with the highest civilian awards by the friendly countries. Qatar under the

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Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani attending the reception for the 33rd Summer Olympic Games, Paris 2024, hosted by President of the friendly French Republic, H E Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

leadership of Amir continued hectic diplomatic engagements to end the war imposed on Gaza and H H the Amir raised his voice against Israeli aggression at all global platforms including in his speech at the UN General Assembly in September.

H H the Amir received many heads of states and governments in Doha and Qatar expanded its existing ties with different countries by signing new agreements with many states. H H the Amir also participated in regional and global forums including as a special guest at G20 Summit.

On January 12, Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani inaugurated the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023, in a magnificent opening ceremony under the slogan "Come on Asia".

The iconic venue that staged the memorable FIFA World Cup 2022 final once again took the centre stage as around 82,490 spectators turned out to watch another show of brilliance by the hosts, experiencing a unique opening ceremony supplemented by dazzling fireworks.

Also in January, H H the Amir

H H the Amir received many heads of states and governments in Doha and Qatar expanded its existing ties with different countries by signing new agreements with many states.

inaugurated the National Archives of Qatar, affiliated with the Amiri Diwan, in Msheireb. H H the Amir held on January 17, an official discussion session at the Amiri Diwan with President of the Czech Republic H E Petr Pavel.

H H the Amir patronized the graduation ceremony of the sixth batch of candidate students of the Police College, affiliated with the Police Academy while on January 22, H H the Amir and President of Tajikistan hold official talks session in Doha.

On January 23, Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani inaugurated the strategic fighter jet wing No. 5 Ababil (F15 QA) of the Qatar Amiri Air Force at Al Udeid Air Base.

H H the Amir received at his office in Lusail Palace, US Secretary of State H E Antony Blinken, in the first week of February. On February 12, H H the Amir met with President of the sisterly State of Palestine H E Mahmoud Abbas.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani participated on February 13 in the activities of the National Sport Day. Also the same day, H H the Amir led well-wishers to welcome President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H E Kassym-Jomart Tokayev upon his arrival and the accompanying delegation at the Amiri Terminal of Hamad International Airport.

On February 15, H H the Amir and Prime Minister of the Republic of India H E Narendra Modi held an official discussion at the Amiri Diwan while Amir laid the foundation stone of the Ras Laffan Petrochemical Complex project in Ras Laffan Industrial City on February 19. The project will contribute

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to doubling the production capacity of ethylene and its derivatives and will increase the State of Qatar's total petrochemical production to approximately 14 million tons annually.

On February 20, H H the Amir led well-wishers to welcome his brother Amir of the State of Kuwait H H Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah upon his arrival and the accompanying delegation in Doha. The Amir presented the Sword of the Founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani to Amir of the State of Kuwait in appreciation of the high status of H H Amir of Kuwait and to further solidify the bonds of brotherhood and close relations between the two brotherly peoples.

The Amir received Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic H E Kyriakos Mitsotakis in his office at Lusail Palace on February 24 while the Amir visited the Web Summit Qatar 2024 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center on February 26.

H H the Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani held an official talks session with the President of the French Republic H E Emmanuel Macron, at the Elysee Palace in the capital Paris on February 27.

The Amir arrived in Algiers, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, to participate in the 7th Summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum on March 2 while he patronized the 17th Education Excellence Day Award ceremony on March 4.

On March 16, H H the Amir met with Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium H E Alexander De Croo while he met in Qatar with Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Spain H E Dr. Pedro Sanchez on April 3.

In April, H H the Amir paid visit to Philippines and on April 22, he met with H E President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. where both the leaders also witnessed the ceremony of exchanging a number of agreements and memorandums of understanding and cooperation between the governments of the two countries.

On April 23, H H the Amir visited Bangladesh where he had a meeting with Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. As an expression of warmth and appreciation for the visit of the Amir



Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani presenting Sword of the Founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani to H H the Amir of Kuwait.

H H the Amir presented the Sword of the Founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani to Amir of the State of Kuwait in appreciation of the high status of H H Amir of Kuwait and to further solidify the bonds of brotherhood and close relations between the two brotherly peoples.

H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to Bangladesh, the authorities of Bangladesh named a road and a park in the capital, Dhaka, after H H the Amir.

After Bangladesh visit, Amir arrived in Nepal and held a meeting with the President of Nepal H E Ram Chandra Poudel at the Sheetal Niwas Presidential Palace in Kathmandu.

On May 8, the Amir patronized the graduation ceremony of the 47th batch (Class of 2024) of Qatar University students, held at QU Sports and Events Complex. H H the Amir held a session of official talks with the Prime Minister of Malaysia, H E Dr. Anwar Ibrahim, at the Amiri Diwan on May 13.

Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani opened the fourth edition of the Qatar Economic Forum, powered by Bloomberg, on May 14 which was held under the slogan "A Changing World – Traversing the Unknown", at Katara Towers, Fairmont and Raffles Hotels in Doha.

The Amir also visited the 33rd edition of the Doha International Book Fair, which is held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center under the theme 'Knowledge builds civilizations'.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani participated with his brothers, Their Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses, leaders, and heads of delegations of the sisterly Arab countries, in the opening session of the 33rd regular session of the Arab League Council at the summit level on May 16, which was held in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

On May 20, the Amir honoured the winners of the sixth edition of the State Incentive and Appreciation Awards in science, arts and literature at the Amiri Diwan while on May 22, H H the Amir visited Iran to offer condolences to the Acting President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H E Dr. Mohammad Mokhber on the death of H E President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi and several other officials.

The Amir attended the final football match for the '2024 Amir Cup' between the Al Sadd and Qatar SC on May 24 while he held a luncheon banquet at the Lusail Palace, in honour of the players and the technical and administrative staff of the Al Sadd Sports Club team, champion of the 2024 Amir Cup on May 25.

H H the Amir and H E Dr. Nikos Christodoulides, President of the friendly Republic of Cyprus, held an official session of talks at the Presidential Palace in the capital, Nicosia, on May 28 and the Amir held a meeting with Her Excellency Katerina Sakellaropoulou, President of the Hellenic Republic, at the Presidential Palace in the capital, Athens, on may 29.

On June 2, H H the Amir arrived in

Abu Dhabi on a fraternal visit to the United Arab Emirates. H H the Amir and the accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at the Presidential Flight by his brother the President of the United Arab Emirates H H Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. H H the Amir and President of the UAE H H Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, discussed the fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries and ways to support and strengthen them in various fields, especially in enhancing the bonds of brotherly cooperation for the good and interest of the two brotherly peoples.

H H the Amir met on June 5 at his office in Lusail Palace with the President of Ukraine HE Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his accompanying delegation. On June 24, H H the Amir and the Prime Minister of the friendly Kingdom of the Netherlands H E Mark Rutte, held official talks at the Prime Minister's Office, Binnenhof, in The Hague.

H H the Amir and President of the UAE H H Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, discussed the fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries and ways to support and strengthen them in various fields, especially in enhancing the bonds of brotherly cooperation for the good and interest of the two brotherly peoples.



Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and President of Turkiye H E Recep Tayyip Erdogan are witnessing signing of agreements and memoranda of understanding.

In the first week of July Amir visited Kazakhstan to participate in Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit where the Amir had meetings with various world leaders including Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation.

H H the Amir and President of the Republic of Poland H E Andrzej Duda held an official session of talks at the Presidential Palace, in Warsaw, on July 5. The Amir, member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), participated in the 142nd session of the IOC on July 23.

On July 26, H H the Amir attended the opening ceremony of the 33rd Summer Olympic Games "Paris 2024", which was held at Trocadero Square in the French capital, Paris.

H H the Amir and President of the Republic of Turkiye, H E Recep Tayyip Erdogan, held a bilateral meeting on August 8 at the Presidential Complex in the capital, Ankara. Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani

H H the Amir and President of the Republic of Turkiye, H E Recep Tayyip Erdogan, held a bilateral meeting on August 8 at the Presidential Complex in the capital, Ankara.

honored, at the Amiri Diwan on July 27 the State's top outstanding male students in high school.

On September 3, H H the Amir and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Sweden H E Ulf Kristersson held a session of official talks at the seat of the Government "Rosenbad" in Stockholm. H H the Amir also attended the luncheon banquet hosted by His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of the Kingdom of Sweden and Her Majesty Queen Silvia, in honor of His Highness and the accompanying delegation at the Royal Palace in Stockholm.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway H E Jonas Gahr Store held on July 4 a session of official talks at the Government Guest House in Oslo. H H the Amir also attended the luncheon banquet hosted by His Majesty King Harald V of Norway and Her Majesty Queen Sonja at the Royal Palace in Oslo. On September 4, H H the Amir and President of the Republic of Finland Alexander Stubb held an official talks session at the Presidential Palace in the Finnish capital, Helsinki.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met on September 18



Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani being welcomed by President of the United Arab Emirates H H Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on arrival in Abu Dhabi.



Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani inaugurating the strategic fighter jet wing No. 5 Ababil (F15 QA) of the Qatar Amiri Air Force at Al Udeid Air Base.

with Prime Minister of friendly Canada H E Justin Trudeau, at the House of Commons headquarters in the capital, Ottawa.

On September 24, Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani participated in the opening session of the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in New York. The session was attended by Their Majesties, Highnesses and Excellencies heads of state and government and heads of delegations and governmental and non-governmental organizations.

In the beginning of October, H H the Amir met at the Amiri Diwan with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi of the UAE, H H Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the accompanying delegation while on October 2, H H the Amir held an official talks session with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran H E Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian, at Lusail Palace.

On October 3, Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani inaugurated the third summit of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) in Doha.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on October 15 patronised the inauguration of the fourth ordinary session of the first legislative term, corresponding to the 53rd annual session of the Shura Council. The inauguration was attended by the Father Amir H H Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Personal Representative of H H the Amir H H Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani, H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Thani, and H E Sheikh Jassim bin Khalifa Al Thani.

H H the Amir chaired the delegation of the State of Qatar in the opening session of the first summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union, which was held on October 16 at the Europa Building, the headquarters of the Union in Brussels, in the Kingdom of Belgium.

In October, H H the Amir in his official visit to Italy, had meetings with with President of the Italian Republic H E Sergio Mattarella, and Prime Minister of the Italian Republic H E Giorgia Meloni. Amir was accorded the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, the highest medal in Italy, in appreciation of His Highness's efforts in strengthening friendly relations between the two countries.

On October 22, Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and H E Olaf Scholz Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany held an official session of talks at Meseberg Palace in the state of Brandenburg.

H H the Amir held an official session of talks at the Amiri Diwan on October 31 with H E Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Amir H H His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani participated in the general referendum on the draft constitutional amendments to the State of Qatar's constitution on November 5. Father Amir HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani also participated in the general referendum on the draft constitutional amendments to the Permanent Constitution of the State of Qatar.

H H the Amir participated, along with Their Majesties, Highnesses and Excellencies, leaders of states and heads of delegations, in the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit, which was held today at the King Abdulaziz International Conference Center in Riyadh on November 11.

On November 14, H H the Amir and President of the Republic of Turkiye H E Recep Tayyip Erdogan co-chaired the 10th session of the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee at the Presidential Complex in Ankara.

H H the Amir participated on November 18 in the G20 Summit 2024, which was held under the slogan "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet," at the Museum of



Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani casting his vote at the 15th Referendum Committee headquarters in Barahat Msheireb.

Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro, Federative Republic of Brazil.

In November also, H H the Amir attended the ceremony honouring the winners of the eighth edition of the Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award, organized in cooperation with the United Nations, at the National Conference and Convention Center in San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica.

H H the Amir and President of the friendly Republic of Colombia H E Gustavo Petro held an official session of talks at the Casa de Narino Presidential Palace in the capital Bogota on November 21.

Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, along with Their Highnesses the leaders and heads of delegations of the sisterly Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, participated in the meetings of the 45th session of the Council, which was held on December 1 at the Liberation Hall in Bayan Palace in the Kuwaiti capital.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Al Thani, and Consort of H H the Amir H H Sheikha Jawaher bint Hamad bin Suhaim Al Thani arrived at the Royal Horse Guards Parade in London, during their state visit to the friendly United Kingdom, at the invitation of H M King Charles III on December 3.

Upon their arrival at the Royal Court, Their Highnesses were welcomed by H M King Charles III, Prime Minister H E Keir Starmer, and a number of Their Excellencies Ministers, Lords, Military Generals, and senior officials. H M King Charles III presented H H the Amir with the Knight Grand Cross, the highest British Order, in appreciation of the distinguished relations between the two countries. In turn, H H the Amir presented H M King Charles III with the Sword of the Founder, Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, the highest decoration in the country. During his state visit to the UK, H H the Amir also visited the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and held an official talks session with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom H E Sir Keir Starmer in Downing Street.

On December 7, H H the Amir inaugurated the 22nd edition of the Doha Forum 2024 under the theme



Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and H H Consort of H H the Amir Sheikha Jowaher bint Hamad bin Suhaim Al Thani during a dinner banquet hosted by H M King Charles III of the United Kingdom and H M Queen Camilla at Buckingham Palace in honour of Their Highnesses.

H M King Charles III presented H H the Amir with the Knight Grand Cross, the highest British Order, in appreciation of the distinguished relations between the two countries.

"The Innovation Imperative" at the Sheraton Doha Hotel. The opening ceremony was attended by President of the Republic of Senegal H E Bassirou Diomaye Faye, President of the Dominican Republic H E Luis Rodolfo Abinader, President of the Republic of Namibia H E Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Chairwoman of Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency H E Zeljka Cvijanovic, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H E Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Rwanda H E Paul Kagame and President of the Central African Republic H E Faustin-Archange Touadera.

Also on December 7, H H the Amir and H H the Father Amir attended the wedding ceremony of Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) H E Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani at Al Wajbah Palace.

H H the Amir awarded the Hamad bin Khalifa Sash to H E Dr. Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah, in appreciation of his efforts in serving the country in December.

Under the patronage of the Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani opened the eighth edition of the Doha International Maritime Defense Exhibition and Conference (DIMDEX 2024) at the Qatar National Convention Center on March 4.

Meanwhile, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani, Deputy Amir and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Qatar University, inaugurated a number of new university buildings on the Qatar University campus, during a ceremony on May 6.

On November 26, under the patronage of the Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Deputy Amir His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani laid the foundation stone for the Blue Ammonia Plant Project in Mesaieed Industrial City.

On March 5, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani took part in the 6th Qatar-US Strategic Dialogue held in the US capital Washington.

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani chaired the joint ministerial meeting of Their Highnesses and Excellencies the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the GCC States and Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Mauro Vieira, which was held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Riyadh, on September 9.

Qatar's healthcare breakthroughs in 2024

THE PENINSULA

2024 was a pivotal year for Qatar's healthcare sector, marked by significant advancements in both local care and international cooperation.

The health sector experienced several developments, including the launch of new strategies, the provision of care for Palestinian patients from the Gaza Strip, and the establishment of an institute dedicated to promoting precision health.

The National Health Strategy 2024-2030, titled 'Health for All,' envisions a health-focused society supported by an integrated health system centered on clinical excellence. Building on the progress made by the National Health Strategy 2018-2022, it incorporates necessary strategic pivots to address current and future challenges, ultimately aiming to deliver optimal health outcomes for the people of Qatar.

Aligned with this strategy, the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) introduced strategies and projects to ensure the delivery of advanced primary and secondary care to the people of Qatar.

One notable initiative in 2024 was the continuation of the effort to bring 1,500 wounded Palestinians from Gaza to Qatar for treatment. These patients were cared for at various hospitals, including Hamad General Hospital, Sidra Medicine, and several private hospitals.

The health sector experienced several developments, including the launch of new strategies, the provision of care for Palestinian patients from the Gaza Strip, and the establishment of an institute dedicated to promoting precision health.

In response to the rising prevalence of lifestyle diseases, Qatar also launched several initiatives in 2024 aimed at preventing, managing, and addressing these health challenges. During the Qatar Foundation's World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH 2024), the Ministry of Public Health introduced two major initiatives targeting the prevention and control of lifestyle diseases, particularly obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular conditions. These initiatives aim to reduce the high prevalence of these conditions in the country.

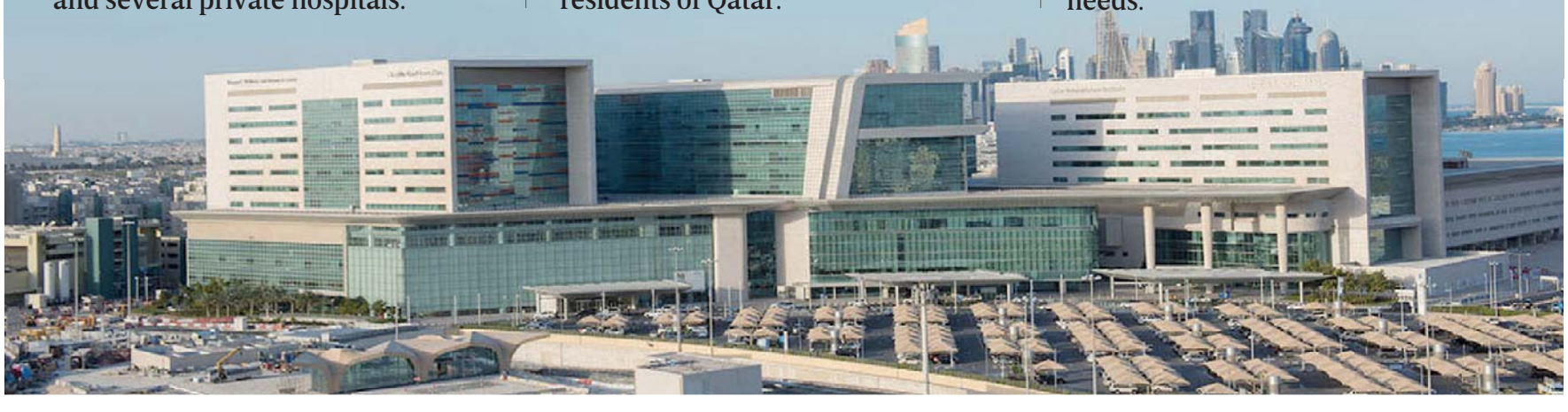
Additionally, the Qatar Diabetes Research Center at HMC launched the Qatar Diabetes Prevention Program, the region's largest research-based program dedicated to preventing diabetes. This public sector partnership is designed to prevent or delay the onset of Type 2 Diabetes among citizens and residents of Qatar.

HMC also inaugurated the Doha International Center for Strategy and Leadership in Transplantation, which will support the global development of transplant programs by sharing Qatar's knowledge and expertise with other countries. Moreover, HMC announced a major modernization program for Hamad General Hospital. The three-year renovation will upgrade systems and facilities, significantly enhancing the patient experience.

The public healthcare sector launched the "Where For Your Care?" campaign to educate the community about the various options available for urgent, trauma, and emergency care needs. The campaign emphasises the importance of making the right choices to ensure the best possible patient experience.

In a significant development, the Qatar Precision Health Institute was inaugurated under Qatar Foundation. This new initiative brings together the existing strengths of health sciences and genomics, drawing on the Qatar Biobank and Qatar Genome Programme to accelerate the country's adoption of personalized healthcare.

Sidra Medicine, a member of Qatar Foundation, made history in 2024 by becoming the first hospital in Qatar—and the fifth in the world—to administer Elevidys, a revolutionary gene therapy for treating Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). Additionally, Sidra Medicine launched the country's first local cord blood banking service, offering families the opportunity to preserve their newborns' stem cells in Qatar for potential future medical needs.



QPHI launched innovation drive in genomics, personalised healthcare

THE PENINSULA

One of the major strides made in 2024 in Qatar's journey toward precision health was the establishment of the Qatar Precision Health Institute (QPHI), a national center for research and implementation under Qatar Foundation.

The main objective of QPHI is to improve the quality and value of precision healthcare by conducting in-depth research in genomics and multi-omics. It was conceived to build on over a decade of valuable data collection, research, and ecosystem development achieved by Qatar Biobank and Qatar Genome. The aim is to take a leadership role in preventing and treating health conditions through personalized strategies, thereby empowering and promoting precision health practices that contribute to healthier and more vibrant communities.

The QPHI will assist Qatar in advancing precision health by translating research discoveries from laboratories to clinical settings, a process referred to as "benchside to bedside," ensuring direct benefits for patients. This will be achieved by identifying key clinical focus areas aligned with Qatar's needs, expanding the application of precision medicine in clinical practice, and creating a policy framework to offer guidance and clarity in precision medicine and regulatory affairs.

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QPHI has set several key milestones to achieve in the near future. These include reaching 100,000 unique genetic maps from the local population, conducting genetic mapping for specific disease cohorts such as COVID-19, autism, diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease, and establishing diagnostic protocols to identify patients in these disease areas. Additionally, the institute aims to complete pharmacogenetic treatment protocols in selected disease areas and optimise the commercial potential of the QPHI.

Until now, QPHI has 47,493 participants; among them 30,570 are Qatari; and 40,000 whole genomes are collected.

In a major achievement, QPHI has announced the release of original genomic data of 25000 Qatari nationals which will enable researchers in Qatar to work on various aspects of Qatari population's health and come up with new discoveries which will be helpful for patient care and the implementation of precision medicine in Qatar.



Initiatives help improve education quality in 2024

The State of Qatar represented by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) made remarkable achievements to provide quality education across all levels, particularly in early childhood by implementing a number of initiatives in 2024.

The country's investment in child-centred educational programmes aims at developing essential skills such as communication, creativity, innovation, and problem-solving.

On September 2, MoEHE launched its 2024-2030 strategy under the slogan "Igniting the Spark of Learning."

The strategy was introduced as a foundation and roadmap for achieving the objectives of the Human Development pillar outlined in QNV 2030. It focuses on enhancing the attractiveness and quality of higher education for Qataris, building a better-educated and highly motivated talent pool by emphasising the teacher's role, developing the teaching profession, improving the academic supervision models in public and private schools, and updating curricula.

MoEHE supports and oversees education in Qatar. A robust, diversified, and ever-expanding K-12 system provides a broad set of schooling opportunities to meet the individual needs of students and their families.

The number of schools and kindergartens operating in Qatar has reached 629 including 278 government schools and KGs and 351 private schools and KGs, according to the figures shared by the Ministry on its website. As many as 137,048 students are enrolled in government schools and 228,448 students in private schools.

Qatar has a well-established system of higher education that continues to grow. The colleges and universities in Qatar serve not only its own citizens and residents, but are a regional hub. Qatar attracts students from all over the world, particularly the Gulf.

The 2024 witnessed the launch of MoEHE's 2024-2030 strategy which aims to advance Qatar's education sector by providing high-quality education, ensuring equal opportunities, continuously developing teachers' skills, and fostering an educational environment aligned with the latest pedagogical practices.

It also seeks to realise the Ministry's vision of preparing empowered learners who contribute to sustainable development.

On November 13, the MoEHE announced the completion of the development and activation of the "Educational Institutions Licensing" platform, which is now available to provide comprehensive services to various educational entities in Qatar. This platform is part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to enhance the digital infrastructure of the private education sector and streamline administrative procedures for all relevant parties.

The "Educational Institutions Licensing" platform aims to improve administrative efficiency and provide users with a smooth and secure digital experience. Educational institutions can now obtain the required licences and follow up on procedures quickly and effectively, enhancing the quality of educational services.

On October 27, Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys achieved a significant milestone by obtaining STEM program accreditation from the highly esteemed US-based STEM.org for the 2024-2025 academic year. The school's program has been recognised as among the top 5% of accredited institutions worldwide, earning it the title of "Best in STEM" from the same organization. This recognition by STEM.org, a leading institution in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, is a testament to the school's dedication and excellence.

On October 7, the MoEHE announced that Qatar team won medals at the tenth edition of the Gulf Science Olympiad (Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics) 2024. The Arab Bureau of Education organised the Olympiad for the Gulf States in collaboration with the Ministry of Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

On September 10, MoEHE, represented by the School Evaluation Department of the Evaluation Affairs Sector, held an introductory meeting to launch the National School Accreditation System for public schools. The system aims to enhance school performance, encourage continuous improvement, and ensure quality education and educational outcomes in Qatar.

On September 11, as part of its efforts to enhance teaching staff, the MoEHE announced the launch of the "Tamkeen" training pathway under the "Tamheen" program. The program targets administrative employees working in public schools and the ministry, aiming to qualify and enable them to join the teaching profession.



QF's visionary growth, impact in 2024

THE PENINSULA

In 2024, Qatar Foundation's ecosystem continued to evolve and expand, making a significant impact both within Qatar and beyond. By offering world-class education, breakthroughs in research and innovation, and opportunities for lifelong learning, QF has fostered an environment in Education City that is diverse, open, and welcoming to all. This atmosphere enables individuals to become active citizens and engaged members of the global community.

QF's ongoing commitment to progress spans several key areas, including education at both the pre-university and higher education levels, as well as advancements in precision health, artificial intelligence, and sustainability. Through these efforts, QF plays a pivotal role in establishing Qatar as a leading hub for knowledge and innovation. Additionally, QF's initiatives continue to drive meaningful cultural and human development impacts, furthering the nation's vision for a prosperous future.

A notable achievement in 2024 was the establishment of the Qatar Precision Health Institute, a national center

QF advances education, innovation, and community development in 2024.

dedicated to research and implementation. The institute focuses on enhancing healthcare quality and value by conducting comprehensive studies in genomics and multi-omics, marking a significant step toward precision healthcare in Qatar and the rgion.

Also in 2024, QF launched the Al Mujadilah Center and Mosque for Women, offering a space for religious, developmental, and social programming. This initiative provides Muslim women of all ages and backgrounds with the opportunity to study, engage in dialogue, and worship together, fostering a sense of community and empowerment.

In the realm of global health, the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), an initiative of QF, hosted its seventh edition in 2024. The summit brought together over 3,000 policymakers, innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, and practitioners, all focused on finding innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing health challenges.

Throughout the year, influential figures including Dr. Jill Biden, First Lady of the United States, visited QF to learn about its vision and mission, and to explore its unique ecosystem that integrates education, science, research, and community development. These visits underscore the global recognition of QF's contributions to society.

In 2024, approximately 900 university students and over 700 pre-university students graduated, marking a significant milestone in the educational journey of countless individuals. This achievement reflects the foundation's dedication to providing quality education and empowering the next generation of leaders and innovators.

Additionally, QF celebrated the inaugural edition of Al Ghorrah for Literature and Arts, an event that honoured the beauty of collective memory through performances in theater, music, poetry, and parades. This celebration of culture highlights QF's commitment to fostering artistic expression and preserving traditions.

QF also forged a new partnership with the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) and the FIVB Volleyball Foundation, aiming to promote and grow the sport of volleyball in Qatar. Through this collaboration, QF supports athletes, encourages leadership in sports, and fosters the development of volleyball at all levels within the country.

Furthermore, QF's Doha International Family Institute organised the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family Conference on Family and Contemporary Megatrends. This conference brought together global experts, policymakers, and thought leaders to explore four major megatrends—technological change, demographic shifts, migration and urbanization, and climate change—and their impact on families in Qatar, the region, and the world.

Looking ahead, Qatar Foundation is set to mark its 30th anniversary in 2025, celebrating three decades of impactful contributions to education, research, and community development.

EAA Foundation expands global impact in 2024

THE PENINSULA

In the face of crisis, Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, a global initiative continued to keep education alive in 2024 ensuring that education remains a priority for children and youth even in the most challenging circumstances.

EAA Foundation together with partners across the world empowered youth through education and innovation. They raised funds for education programmes through collective efforts and reached children in most vulnerable environments enabling them to dream of a brighter tomorrow.

In an event held by EAA Foundation in Doha to mark the fifth International Day to Protect Education from Attack (IDPEA) - global leaders, UN dignitaries, and youth advocates gathered to call for the protection of schools and the assurance that every child has access to a safe learning environment. This event brought worldwide attention to the increasing number of attacks on educational institutions, which have risen by 20% in the past year.

H H Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of EAA Foundation said, "Education in classrooms crowded with innocent children who dream alongside their parents of a bright future. Education is the vessel that will carry those children to the bright future. Education is the dedicated teachers who guide the vassal and prepare the children to lead the way."

Reflecting this, EAA Foundation supported more than 2 million children enrol in quality primary education. In the face of emergency EAA Foundation ensured that education continued, through tailored TV series and play based lessons ensuring nearly 150,000 children and young people developed the social and emotional skills necessary for times of crisis. More than 1000 scholarships awarded celebrated graduation of almost 1200 young leaders.

In response to the severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza, EAA Foundation has intensified its efforts to provide relief and educational support to the affected communities. One of its key initiatives is an ongoing fundraising campaign aimed at rebuilding hope and empowering lives in Gaza. EAA and its partners are also providing mental health and psychological support, lifesaving emergency education, and 100 scholarships for Palestinian children and youth in Qatar. Furthermore, the foundation is offering dignity kits to displaced women and girls and has launched youth-led community initiatives.

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EAA Foundation has also signed a landmark agreement with the United States Agency for International Development's Mission to Afghanistan (USAID/Afghanistan) to enhance access to primary and higher education for Afghanistan's children and youth. Through this partnership, and with the support of Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), EAA will mobilise $50m in combined funding to enrol over 100,000 out-of-school children and provide nearly 2,000 post-secondary scholarships.

In another significant collaboration, EAA Foundation and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed an agreement to co-finance ADB's education projects, addressing urgent issues within the sector. This partnership will mobilize a total of nearly $250 million, including $100m in grants from EAA Foundation and QFFD, and $150m in loans from ADB.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and EAA Foundation have also strengthened their partnership with a new five-year agreement aimed at tackling the global challenge of out-of-school children (OOSC), including refugees, internally displaced persons, and host community children. This partnership builds on the success of enrolling more than 1.6 m OOSC in 14 countries since 2012.

In 2024, a new project approved by EAA Foundation, in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank and Global Partnership for Education, aims to improve educational outcomes in Haiti. This partnership will focus on transforming the lives of 150,000 children, addressing educational disparities amidst ongoing crises.



UDST set educational milestones

THE PENINSULA

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) witnessed many achievements and milestones in 2024.

A dedicated team of 13 students and four faculty members from the College of Engineering and Technology spent six months designing and building a solar-powered car. Their rigorous testing and development efforts were aimed at maximising the car's solar photovoltaic efficiency and ensuring it could navigate 2,800km. They are gearing up to participate in international competitions throughout the academic year.

At the Qatar Innovation Hackathon 2024, UDST students excelled with innovative projects. Trash-e won top awards for their smart waste management solution, while another team, BeMySense, focused on bridging communication gaps for the deaf and hearing-impaired community. These achievements underscore the UDST's role as a nurturing ground for future leaders.

During summer, the UDST students had the opportunity to engage in enriching programmes at prestigious global institutions. At the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada, students participated in the Okanagan Global Summer Programme, exploring topics like autonomous vehicles and global health leadership.

Their rigorous academic courses, paired with hands-on lab sessions, culminated in a project showcase, earning them the UBC micro-credentials to enhance their career prospects. In Singapore, the UDST students joined the Young Fellowship Programme at the National University of Singapore (NUS), delving into AI ethics and sustainability in technological innovations. The programme's interdisciplinary approach allowed students to connect AI with fields like healthcare and business, preparing them to excel in both local and global contexts.

The university students prove their ability to create, collaborate, and lead through local and global competitions, reinforcing its role in supporting creativity, and contributing to Qatar's sustainable future.

Further broadening the UDST's global footprint, a graduate of the Bachelor of Business Administration in Human Resource Management programme represented the University at the 12th University Scholars Leadership Symposium in Bangkok. Held at the United Nations Conference Centre, the event focused on social impact and leadership. The participant engaged in sessions on compassionate leadership, networked with global peers, and participated in outreach efforts at a refugee camp, showcasing UDST's commitment to social responsibility.

UHUB, UDST's Entrepreneurship and Innovation Centre, plays a pivotal role in nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit among students. By providing access to cutting-edge resources, expert mentorship, and a collaborative environment, the UHUB empowers students to transform their innovative ideas into viable business ventures, whether through incubation programmes, workshops, or industry partnerships.



Qatar's banking sector embracing digitalisation, innovative technology

Qatar's banks have withstood global and regional uncertainties, leaving them in a strong position for further growth. The sector's banks stand to benefit from the country's strategic vision – the Third National Development Strategy (NDS-3) for 2024-30, which prioritises financial services in Qatar's future development and diversification.

The sector is embracing digitalisation, financial technology (fintech) adoption, and a host of new banking methods and services.

Since unveiling in 2008 Qatar has been following the Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV) long-term development plan, which outlines the objective of economic diversification, with financial services – including banking – playing a pivotal role in this endeavour. Consistent with this vision, the Qatar Central Bank (QCB) itself has published a series of long-term strategies with the release of the Third Financial Sector Strategic Plan. This plan for the sector aligns with and complements the broader goals of the (NDS-3).

The Third Financial Sector Strategic Plan prioritises banking as one of its four strategic pillars, alongside insurance, capital markets and the digital ecosystem. Three growth areas have been selected for banks: tailored finance, specialised advisory services, and digital banking and payment services. At the same time, the plan sets foundational targets of enhanced regulatory measures and efficiency, developing talent and capabilities for the sector.

Furthermore, specific numerical targets have been established. By 2030 the aim is for the financial services sector to contribute some QR84bn ($23bn) to GDP, with the sector achieving a compound annual growth rate of 4.7%. In terms of commercial credit, by 2030 the plan aims for 77% of this going to private companies with 7% of the total going to SMEs.

Upward trajectory was registered in the point of sale transactions in Qatar as POS transactions were valued at QR7.90bn in November 2024 compared to QR7.21bn in November 2023 and QR6.84bn in November 2022 showing a surge of 10 percent and 16 percent respectively.

The banking industry in Qatar is also at the forefront of embracing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. Qatari banks are key players in driving sustainable development and social responsibility.

By issuing green bonds and loans, they are not only prioritising financial gains but also focusing on benefiting the environment. With a sharp focus on sustainability, financial institutions are launching green bonds, eco-friendly loans, and social responsibility initiatives, reflecting their dedication to sustainable investment and environmental conservation.

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The official data also showed the total count of active cards in Qatar in November. The number of active debit cards stood at 2,422,131. While the credit cards and prepaid cards totalled 754,839 and 759,962 respectively in November 2024.

QCB's innovative instant payment service Fawran aims to develop a digital payment ecosystem in the country. The service significantly benefits customers across the country and enables the beneficiaries to receive funds within seconds. This service is considered one of the leading digital payment solutions implemented by QCB to provide within its strategic plans and objectives aimed at developing financial banking services in Qatar.

This comes in line with the third strategy for the financial sector and the financial technology strategy towards offering banking services based on the highest technical and global standards.





Partnerships with international entities bolster energy industry

Qatar's energy sector is poised for tremendous growth in the years ahead, as the market performed exceptionally well in 2024. Numerous agreements were made to expand its businesses locally and internationally, especially with QatarEnergy.

In December, QatarEnergy entered into an agreement with Harmattan Energy Limited (HEL), an indirect subsidiary of Chevron Corporation, to acquire a working interest in the Petroleum Exploration License and Petroleum Agreement for Block 2813B (PEL0090), offshore Namibia.

Various experts attended the Qatar Energy Industry Seminar in Doha the same month and outlined some of the significant challenges the energy sector will face in the years ahead and discussed the mitigation measures that will be necessary to ensure the industry's continued sustainability, profitability, and development.

In November, QatarEnergy laid the foundation stone for the blue ammonia plant project, which represents a major landmark in the organisation's strategy to expand into the clean energy sector as the plant is the largest of its kind in the world. It consists of a production unit with a capacity of 1.2 million tonnes of ammonia per year and a unit for carbon dioxide injection and storage, with a capacity of 1.5 million tonnes per year.

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In September, QatarEnergy announced that it would build a new solar power mega project that will more than double the State of Qatar's solar energy production, significantly contributing to lower carbon emissions in the framework of a realistic energy transition. The new project will boost Qatar's PV solar power production capacity to about 4,000 megawatts by building one of the world's largest solar power plants in the Dukhan area, with a production capacity of 2,000 megawatts.

The same month also witnessed the agreement signed by QatarEnergy with China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) for the construction of six additional state-of-the-art QC-Max vessels, bringing the total number of LNG vessels on order under its fleet expansion program to 128, including 24 QC-Max mega vessels. The QC-Max vessels, which will be built at China's Hudong-Zhonghua Shipyard, a wholly-owned CSSC subsidiary, are the largest LNG vessels ever built with a capacity of 271,000 cubic meters each. The new advanced carriers are scheduled to be delivered between 2028 and 2031.

It also inaugurated the first conventional-size LNG vessel under its historic shipbuilding program. The 'Rex Tillerson' was named after the former Chairman and CEO of ExxonMobil as a tribute to his lifelong accomplishments in the energy sector.

In August 2024, QatarEnergy issued a statement confirming that it has entered into a 15-year LNG Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) for the supply of up to 3 million tons per annum (MTPA) of LNG to the State of Kuwait.

In mid-June, QatarEnergy announced plans to build a salt production plant in the Um Al Houl area in Qatar through a joint venture by Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding Company (MPHC), Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Co. (QIMC), and other strategic partners. Endorsed as part of QatarEnergy's TAWTEEN localization program, the new plant will be built at an estimated cost of about QR1bn.

In April, QatarEnergy signed an agreement with China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) for the construction of 18 ultra-modern QC-Max size LNG vessels, marking a significant addition to its historic LNG fleet expansion program.



Qatar made great strides in building digital economy

THE PENINSULA

The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector witnessed great progress in 2024 towards building a digital economy based on diversity and knowledge in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

Qatar launched the Digital Agenda 2030 on February 27 and it was a significant stride in Qatar's comprehensive digital transformation journey. It not only assures substantial growth and development across various sectors, but also sets the stage for a future equipped with skilled human capital and a nurturing environment for innovation.

With an implementation plan comprising 23 strategic programmes, the Digital Agenda 2030 is ready to make a tangible impact across all sectors of the national economy. It is expected that the implementation of these programme will lead to a compound annual growth rate of the actual GDP of 7.8% and significantly boost the contribution of the ICT sector to the gross domestic product, potentially reaching a rate of up to 3.5% in non-oil GDP.

On December 10, 2024, Qatar launched The Arab Artificial Intelligence Project (Fanar) during the opening of the World Summit AI Qatar 2024. Fanar represents a significant milestone, underscoring Qatar's dedication to elevating the Arabic language and culture in the AI era. The project is the result of a fruitful collaboration between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

Qatar launched the Digital Agenda 2030 on February 27, a significant stride in the country's digital transformation journey. With an implementation plan comprising 23 strategic programmes, the Agenda is ready to make a tangible impact across all sectors of the national economy.

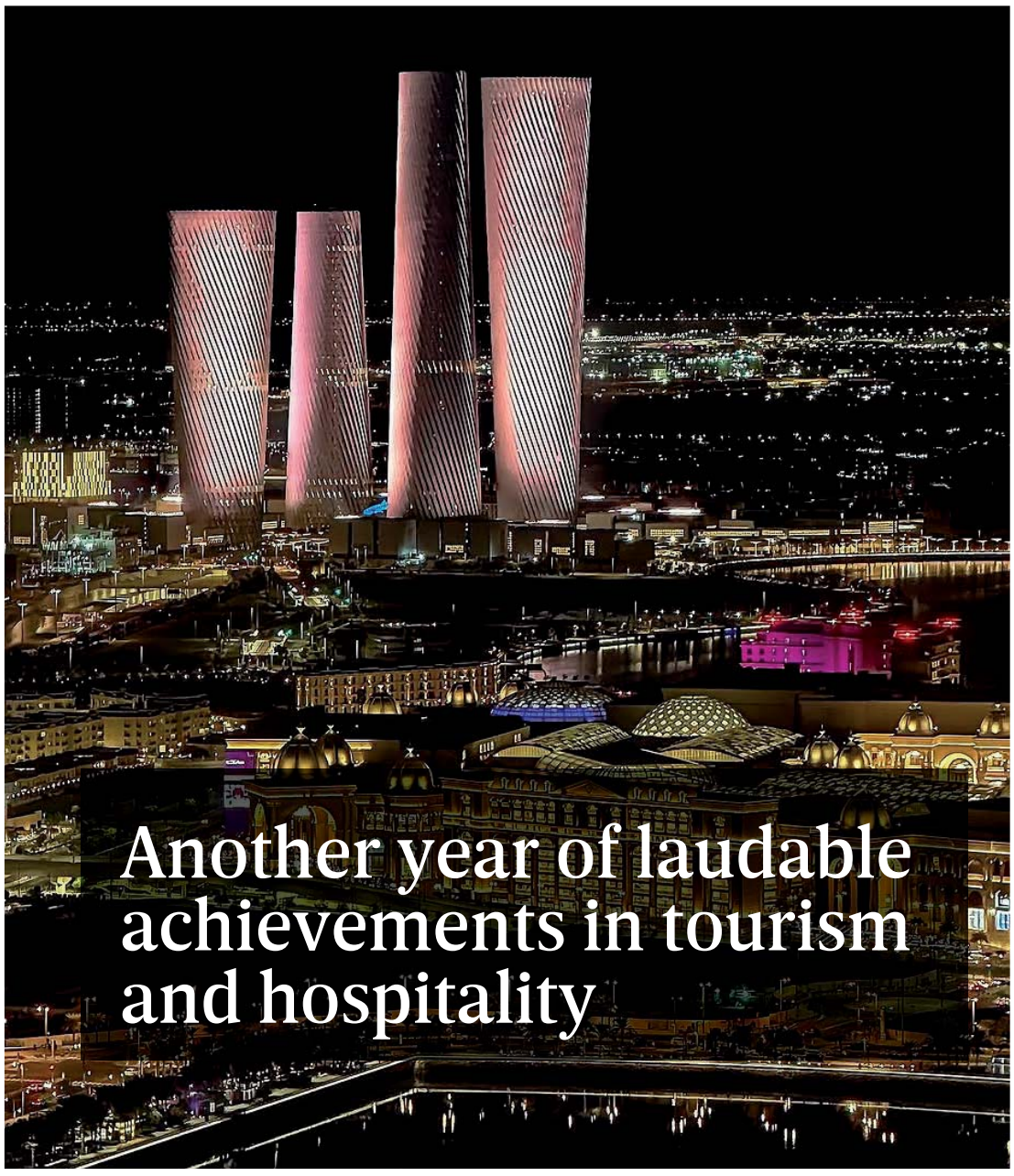
The Fanar project exemplifies Qatar's commitment to supporting research projects and transforming them into strategic governmental initiatives that position Qatar as a leader in artificial intelligence and modern technologies. It is not merely a digital project, but a comprehensive vision aimed at creating a global impact.

Qatar and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the sidelines of Doha Forum on December 8, 2024 aimed at advancing digital innovation to drive sustainable development.

The country joined the Global Digital Safety Alliance in November 2024. It is an initiative of the World Economic Forum, and aims to strengthen international collaboration in digital safety. Its objectives include combating harmful content, curbing the spread of misinformation, and protecting users' rights online. The coalition brings together governments, major corporations, and NGOs to create policies and frameworks for a safe and inclusive digital environment.

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) in September 2024 published new Guidelines for Network Neutrality to foster a fair and competitive digital environment. The new guidelines aim to protect digital media companies, ensure consumers have equal access to Internet content without discrimination, attract investment to the ICT sector and support development of the digital economy in Qatar.

Network neutrality is the principle that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) must treat all internet traffic equally, without discrimination or preferential treatment based on content, application, or user. The guidelines mandate that ISPs adhere to this principle, which is crucial for promoting healthy competition and encouraging investment in Qatar's digital economy.



Another year of laudable achievements in tourism and hospitality

THE PENINSULA

Qatar has established itself as a leading travel destination in 2024, reaching significant achievements in the realms of tourism and hospitality. Through a blend of exceptional infrastructure, targeted marketing strategies, and genuine cultural experiences, the nation has witnessed extraordinary increases in visitor arrivals, investments in hospitality, and international acclaim.

Record visitor numbers

In 2024, Qatar achieved unprecedented levels of international arrivals, setting new records in the tourism sector. Industry analysts project that the total number of visitors will reach approximately 4.5 million, representing a notable rise from prior years. This increase can be attributed to improved connectivity provided by Qatar Airways, more efficient visa regulations, and Qatar's growing reputation as an attractive destination for both leisure and business travelers.

Major events and attractions

In 2024, Qatar served as the host for a variety of prestigious events across multiple sectors, including sports, culture, exhibitions, health, and education, among others. Key highlights comprised the AFC Asian Cup, the Formula 1 Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix, the Doha Forum, the Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition, Milipol Qatar, WISH, and the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival. These events exemplified Qatar's capability to blend tradition with contemporary elements, drawing a wide range of international audiences. Furthermore, new attractions such as the Al Maha Island Entertainment District and the newly enhanced exhibitions at the Museum of Islamic Art captivated visitors through their innovative approaches and compelling narratives.

Through a blend of exceptional infrastructure, targeted marketing strategies, and genuine cultural experiences, the nation has witnessed extraordinary increases in visitor arrivals, investments in hospitality, and international acclaim.

Growth in the hospitality sector

Qatar's hospitality industry experienced significant growth with the launch of more than 10 new luxury hotels, raising the total number of properties to nearly 200. These new establishments addressed the increasing demand for high-end experiences, ranging from beachfront resorts to urban accommodations in Doha's bustling business district. Occupancy rates consistently surpassed 75%, indicating the sector's strong performance.

A notable highlight of the year was the unveiling of the Simaisma project, the latest initiative by the Ministry of Municipality, managed by Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company, with an investment of QR20 billion over an area of 8 million square meters. Once completed, this project is set to become a new cultural landmark, enhancing the country's array of distinctive sites and unique tourist attractions. It will also feature a 7-kilometer-long waterfront extension in the Simaisma area, renowned for its breathtaking views of Qatar's eastern coast, offering both residents and visitors a remarkable tourism and entertainment experience.

Enhanced global marketing

Qatar Tourism's international initiatives, including the campaign "What a Difference a Day Makes" stopover campaign, have successfully engaged global audiences. Collaborations with influencers, travel agencies, and media organizations have enhanced the country's appeal.

HIA cements position as global aviation hub

THE PENINSULA

2024 saw the Hamad International Airport (HIA) reach the milestone of first 10 years of its operations, a period marked by continuous excellence and its rising stature in global aviation.

The airport welcomed a total of 325.1 million passengers to its growing facility between May 2014 and May 2024. It saw 2.1 million aircraft movements, carried 20.5 million tonnes of cargo and processed 258 million bags in 10 years.

It has also undergone expansion in the past decade, with its capacity growing to 58 million passengers per year. Phase B of the expansion project will further increase the capacity of the airport to well over 70 million passengers and construct two new concourses within the existing terminal.

It currently serves over 250 destinations, including passenger, cargo, and chartered flight destinations. From April 2022 until March 2023, HIA served 38.9 million passengers, indicating a 75.8% increase compared to the previous fiscal year, according to Qatar Airways Group annual report.

The airport is set to deliver an even stronger performance in 2024, as it welcomed 25.9 million passengers in the first half of 2024, a 25% increase compared to the first half of 2023. This includes a 22.1% increase in point-to-point passengers compared to the same period last year. Point-to-point refers to the passengers flying directly into and out of Doha, reflecting significant growth in the number of airline partners operating from the airport, and the flourishing tourism sector in Qatar. Similarly, aircraft movements in the January-June 2024 period totalled 138,471, while it also handled 20,928,027 bags and 1,249,295 tonnes of cargo in the same period. Aircraft movements grew by 19%, total number of bags handled was up by 19% and cargo operations increased by 12%, in comparison to the first half of 2023.

It reported serving 13.7 million passengers in the third quarter (Q3) of 2024, reflecting a robust 7.9% growth compared to the same period of previous year. Point-to-point traffic also experienced growth by 11.7%, contributing to the airport's overall performance.

In May 2024, the airport reached a significant milestone of having served over 50 million passengers in a rolling 12-month period for the first time in its history. This remarkable achievement came in the airport's 10th year of operations, reflecting its growth and strategic positioning as a vital global aviation hub. It also announced that July 2024 was the busiest month in its operational history, serving a remarkable 4.73 million passengers.

HIA was named the best airport in the world in the 2024 Skytrax Awards. It has ranked consistently high in the Skytrax Awards since its opening in 2014, winning best airport three times.



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Qatar Airways continued to expand network in 2024



THE PENINSULA

Qatar Airways continued to deliver strong performance throughout 2024, expanding its network with the launch of new destinations and increased frequency to aviation hubs across the globe.

The Qatari flag carrier flew more than 40 million passengers and operated over 194,000 flights to over 170 destinations worldwide during the 2023/24 financial year ending on March 31. The national carrier has also been consistently ranked among the most on-time airlines globally. Last year it delivered an annual on-time performance result of 86.4 per cent for arrivals and 85.7 per cent for departures, according to its annual report.

The airline is poised to deliver an even stronger performance in 2024 as its network continues to grow.

In December 2024, Qatar Airways launched a new service to Toronto

Pearson International Airport (YYZ), with three weekly non-stop flights from Doha. Toronto is the airline's 14th gateway to the Americas, and its second destination in Canada, joining Montréal which has served more than 1.6 million passengers across seven daily flights to and from Montréal-Trudeau International Airport (YUL) since its launch.

Qatar Airways is also increasing its flights to Saudi Arabia with the resumption of services to Abha, effective January 2, 2025. The Qatari flag carrier has also announced to increase its flights to NEOM from two to four weekly flights during the winter season.

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Abha marks Qatar Airways' 11th destination in Saudi Arabia. Other Saudi destinations are AlUla, Dammam, Jeddah, Medina, NEOM, Qassim, Riyadh, Tabuk, Taif, and Yanbu. It operates more more than 140 weekly flights to the kingdom.

Qatar Airways has also increased its operations in Amsterdam from 10 weekly flights to 14 with the launch of four additional weekly flights from Amsterdam starting November 12, 2024 until March 29, 2025.

In August, Qatar Airways launched additional flights to key global destinations of London, Male, Miami, and Tokyo for the 2024-2025 season. This takes the airline's service to 56 weekly flights to London, 28 weekly flights to Male, 12

weekly flights to Miami. Starting February 14, 2025, Qatar Airways flights to Tokyo (NRT) will increase from seven to 11 weekly flights.

In June, the airline marked the resumption of services to Venice with non-stop daily flights, bolstering the airline's existing Milan and Rome services.

The national carrier also welcomed the return of its non-stop flights between Doha and Lisbon in June.

This year Qatar Airways also launched daily non-stop flights from Doha to Hamburg in Germany. Hamburg became Qatar Airways' fifth destination in Germany, in addition to Berlin, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt and Munich, and 49th European destination.

2024 also saw Qatar Airways launch inaugural flight to Tashkent, Uzbekistan. It now offers four weekly non-stop flights to Uzbekistan's capital city.

Qatar Airways also expanded its network to include Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, enabling greater frequencies and increased capacity to Luanda, Angola. The addition of Kinshasa increases the number of destinations in Africa served by the award-winning airline to 29.

In March 2024, Qatar Airways resumed daily service to Osaka Kansai. It now serves two of Japan's major cities, Osaka and Tokyo.

Qatar makes significant progress in addressing climate change in 2024

THE PENINSULA

The State of Qatar made significant progress in addressing climate change challenges by implementing a slew of projects and initiatives to cut the carbon footprint in 2024.

On November 17, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) unveiled its Strategy for 2024-2030, which encompasses more than 50 initiatives and 100 projects aimed at environmental preservation and climate change mitigation.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Minister of Environment and Climate Change H E Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie said: "Qatar has set ambitious goals that reflect its vision for a sustainable environmental future, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2030, restoring 30% of environmentally affected natural habitats, and protecting 30% of land and coastal areas."

He added: "In addition to protecting 17 endemic and endangered species, and reducing the introduction of invasive alien species by 50% by 2030, as part of national efforts to preserve biodiversity. The Minister said that more than 30 initiatives and over 100 projects have been developed to achieve the desired goals and sustain them in the long term."

On December 5, the State Cabinet approved the draft decision of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to consider the Umm Al Sheif area a nature reserve, with the aim of preserving the marine environment and its biodiversity, and to avoid damage to pearl oysters in this area as a result of human activities such as fishing and maritime navigation.

On November 13, the MoECC launched the updated version of the Air Quality Platform on its official website.

The new version offers enhanced data accuracy and a diverse range of information about air quality across all regions of the country. This update includes modifications that enable the display of all data according to the latest global standards, marking an important step toward establishing a national air quality monitoring network.

On October 29, the MoECC announced that it completed the first phase of the Coral Reef Protection and Restoration Program. This involved surveying and studying 17 sites in Qatar's territorial waters, revealing the presence of two types of soft coral for the first time in Qatar, along with 40 species of hard coral and five other types of soft coral.



The Coral Reef Protection and Restoration Program is part of the country's efforts to implement the Third National Development Strategy for 2024-2030 and the National Biodiversity Plan, contributing to Qatar's National Vision 2030.

On September 19, the MoECC announced its collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to develop environmental monitoring and microplastic monitoring programs in the marine environment, within the framework of the regional project "RAS7038" that aims to monitor the marine environment and understand the impact of marine plastic pollution.

The Ministry received modern devices and tools to begin implementing the first stages of the microplastic monitoring program, in a step aimed at enhancing and ensuring environmental protection and sustainability.

On August 19, the MoECC approved several new local entities and companies to provide radiation protection services to institutions that use radioactive materials and radiation-emitting devices in their activities within the country, including industrial companies, medical centers and hospitals.

The Ministry's Radiation Control Department published the new list of accredited entities on the Ministry's official website.

The MoECC launched a public platform on the non-ionizing radiation in the State of Qatar, through the Ministry's official website on May 1.

Qatar: Setting standard as global sports hub



THE PENINSULA

Qatar further solidified its reputation as a global sports hub in 2024, hosting a packed calendar of international, continental, regional and local events. The country welcomed sporting superstars across more than 100 competitions, including 15 major international championships, 37 global tournaments, and 13 Asian events.

The year began with Qatar hosting the most memorable AFC Asian Cup in history and concluded with a spectacular FIFA Intercontinental Cup. Additionally, Qatar made history by becoming the first Middle Eastern nation to host the Aquatics World Championships, drawing elite athletes from across the globe.

Top Formula One drivers and MotoGP riders returned to the Lusail International Circuit, while Doha welcomed world-class tennis and squash players for marquee tournaments, keeping Qatar firmly in the global sports spotlight.

Here's a look at the events that defined Qatar's sporting journey in 2024.

Asian Cup for the ages

The AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 held from January 12 to February 10 across nine state-of-the-art stadiums – including seven iconic FIFA World Cup venues – was hailed as the best edition in the tournament's history.

> Hosting a packed calendar of international, continental, regional and local events. The country welcomed sporting superstars across more than 100 competitions, including 15 major international championships, 37 global tournaments, and 13 Asian events.

Qatar became the first nation to host the Asian Cup three times, following successful editions in 1988 and 2011. The 2023 tournament set new benchmarks with over 1.5 million fans attending 51 matches, surpassing the previous record of 1.04 million. Stadiums achieved an impressive 73% average capacity, a 13% increase from the previous best set in China in 2004.

Digital engagement and broadcast figures highlighted the tournament's global appeal with over 5.5 billion digital impressions and record-breaking TV viewership.

"From the FIFA World Cup venues, world-class infrastructure, seamless connectivity, the absorbing atmosphere across Doha, to the unrivalled hospitality of Qatar's people, the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 was unlike anything we have ever experienced in this tournament's proud history," said AFC President Shaikh Salman.

Qatar delighted home fans by clinching their second consecutive title, defeating Jordan in the final at the iconic Lusail Stadium, adding a historic touch to a remarkable tournament.

FIFA Intercontinental Cup Qatar 2024: A spectacular finale

Qatar capped off an extraordinary sporting year by hosting the inaugural FIFA Intercontinental Cup Qatar 2024, delivering yet another football extravaganza. Featuring a clash of continental champions, the event showcased three coveted trophies at two iconic Qatar 2022 venues: Lusail Stadium and Stadium 974.

Over 67,000 passionate fans filled the Lusail Stadium to witness Spanish

giants Real Madrid secure the Intercontinental Cup title with a commanding 3-0 victory over Mexico's Pachuca on the Qatar National Day. The Mexican side impressed throughout the tournament, claiming the Derby of the Americas and the FIFA Challenger Cup with thrilling wins over Brazil's Botafogo and Egypt's Al Ahly at Stadium 974.

The three matches attracted over 118,000 fans, underscoring the global appeal of Qatar's state-of-the-art stadiums and its reputation as a premier football destination.

The final served as the grand culmination of an electrifying week, which also featured the prestigious Best FIFA Football Awards 2024. For the first time in its history, the awards ceremony was held in the Middle East, celebrating football's elite on a global stage. Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr. was crowned Best Player, adding another highlight to a landmark event.

Minister of Sports and Youth and Chairman of the FIFA Intercontinental Cup Qatar 2024 Local Organizing Committee (LOC) H E Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Thani, said, "Once again, Qatar has successfully hosted a global sporting event using world-class sporting infrastructure, while providing fans with a rich and unique cultural and sporting experience. The FIFA Intercontinental Cup further cements the country's place as a global sporting capital."



Spectacular World Aquatics Championships

Doha achieved another milestone by hosting the World Aquatics Championships – Doha 2024 from February 2 to 18, the event's first-ever staging in the MENA region.

Around 2,600 athletes from 197 countries competed across six disciplines—swimming, diving, high diving, water polo, artistic swimming and open water swimming – spread over 75 medal events at Aspire Dome, Hamad Aquatic Centre and Old Doha Port.

China dominated the medal tally with 23 golds, 8 silvers, and 2 bronzes, while the United States (9 golds) and Australia (7 golds) followed in second and third places, respectively.

"Doha has been an outstanding home for our athletes and aquatics family. I extend our gratitude to the organisers for delivering a





world-class event," said World Aquatics President Husain Al Musallam.

The excitement continued with the World Aquatics Masters Championships from February 23 to March 3, featuring over 2,500 athletes aged 25 and above from 85 countries. Breaking records, the event saw 41 championship and 19 world records shattered, highlighting the spirit of inclusivity in sport.

Qatar 1812 KM, MotoGP and Formula One spectacles

The Lusail International Circuit (LIC) continued to shine in 2024, hosting a range of motorsport events.

Qatar made its FIA World Endurance Championship debut with the Qatar 1812 KM on March 2. Named in honour of Qatar's National Day, this thrilling ten-hour endurance race featured fierce battles across the Hypercar and LMGT3 categories.

"We are immensely proud of our progress, which reflects Qatar's commitment to promoting motorsports in the region. LIC continues to strengthen its legacy by hosting premier events," said Abdulrahman bin Abdullatif Al Mannai, President of QMMF and LIC.

As part of the Lusail Speed Fest, the MotoGP season kicked off with the Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar the following week. Defending double world champion Francesco Bagnaia clinched a spectacular victory, with fans enjoying thrilling races in Qatar SuperStock 600, QSSP 300, and the Asian Talent Cup competitions.

The F1 Qatar Airways Grand Prix capped off the year's motorsport excitement, with Red Bull's Max Verstappen securing his second consecutive Qatar title, while McLaren's Oscar Piastri triumphed in the sprint. A record-breaking 154,973 fans attended the event, reaffirming Qatar's position as a motorsport hub.



Horse racing and showjumping thrills

The prestigious H H The Amir Sword Festival highlighted Qatar's packed horse racing calendar, with events at Al Rayyan and Al Uqda racecourses.

Al Shaqab Racing's Al Ghadeer claimed the coveted H H The Amir Sword title, completing the prestigious Doha Triple Crown. The three-day festival, hosted by the Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club, featured 26 high-profile races, attracting record international participation and a $10m prize purse.

In showjumping, Qatar hosted premier events like CHI Al Shaqab, the Longines Global Champions Tour and the Hathab Equestrian Series at world-class Al Shaqab and Qatar Equestrian Federation arenas, setting new benchmarks in equestrian sports.



Home to top tennis, squash players, golfers and more

The Qatar Tennis Federation delivered high-caliber tournaments such as the ATP Qatar ExxonMobil Open and the WTA Qatar TotalEnergies Open, featuring the world's best players.

Squash fans enjoyed thrilling action at the Qatar Classic, a Platinum PSA event that showcased top-ranked stars.

Golf enthusiasts witnessed stellar competition at the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters on the DP World Tour and the International Series Qatar on the Asian Tour, both staged at the scenic Doha Golf Club.

The Diamond League also returned to Doha, featuring the world's best track and field stars, while the year also saw several beach volleyball events including the Pro Tour Finals besides many chess, basketball, volleyball and cricket events, strengthening Qatar's status as a vibrant sports destination.

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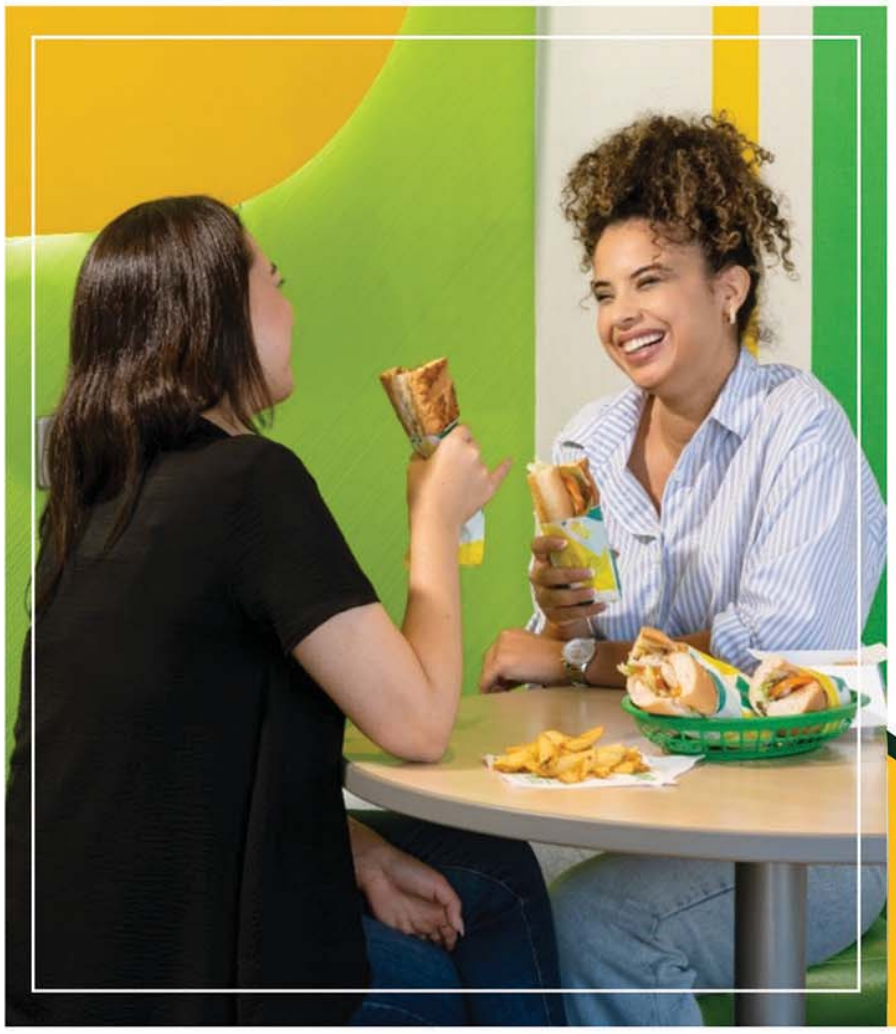
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Caribou COFFEE







CARIBOU COFFEE continues to bring joy to our community with exciting updates! .Caribow recently launched the delightful Gingerbread Latte, perfect for the season. Guests can now enjoy their favorite matches LIVE on our big screens while savoring their coffee. Caribow also renovated select branches, including the beloved Suhaim Bin Hamad location, to enhance your experience. This Qatar National Day, Caribow celebrated with special offers, and there's even more to look forward to—stay tuned for what's coming next!

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