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QatarEnergy signs long-term agreements to purchase 4 MTPA of US LNG



Minister of State for Energy Affairs, the President and CEO of QatarEnergy H E Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi and Chairman, President and CEO of Cheniere Energy, Inc. Jack Fusco with other officials during the signing ceremony.

Under the terms of the SPAs, deliveries will be on an FOB basis and are anticipated to commence in 2031 and continue through 2054.

The two SPAs reflect QatarEnergy's continued confidence in the long-term role of LNG in the global energy mix and its efforts to further develop a flexible, diversified, and globally competitive LNG portfolio.

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: QatarEnergy signed two long-term Sale and Purchase Agreements (SPAs) with Cheniere for the purchase of up to 4 million tons per annum (MTPA) of LNG from Cheniere's Sabine Pass and Corpus Christi facilities in the States of Louisiana and Texas respectively, located along the United States Gulf Coast.

Under the terms of the SPAs, deliveries will be on an FOB basis and are anticipated to commence in 2031 and

continue through 2054.

The SPAs were signed by H E Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, the President and CEO of QatarEnergy, and Jack Fusco, Chairman, President and CEO of Cheniere Energy, Inc.

Commenting on the occasion, H E Minister Al-Kaabi said, "The signing of these two SPAs marks an important milestone in our LNG strategy. This major long-term purchase will expand and diversify our global LNG portfolio and advance our

ability to meet the evolving requirements of the market. The additional volumes will complement QatarEnergy's existing LNG supplies, enhance our supply and trading portfolio, and strengthen our ability to serve customers across the globe."

The two SPAs reflect QatarEnergy's continued confidence in the long-term role of LNG in the global energy mix and its efforts to further develop a flexible, diversified, and globally competitive LNG portfolio.

Qatar boosts digital business through e-commerce licence

DEEPAK JOHN THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) is supporting the continued growth of e-commerce in Qatar through the e-commerce licence, a new framework designed to provide greater flexibility for businesses conducting approved commercial activities electronically.

The licence is issued pursuant to the decision of the Minister of Commerce and Industry No. (25) of 2026 and allows a specific range of approved commercial activities to be conducted electronically. Depending on the nature of the business and the approved activity, businesses can be managed from a home, office or other suitable location, MoCI noted in a post on its X platform.

The initiative reflects the changing nature of commerce as digital technology becomes an increasingly important part of how businesses operate, communicate with customers and deliver products and services.

Through the e-commerce licence, the Ministry aims to facilitate the launch and operation of eligible businesses electronically while enhancing flexibility within Qatar's business environment. The framework provides entrepreneurs with an opportunity to establish digital business models where the nature of their activities allows them to be conducted online.

A key feature of the licence is the flexibility it provides in managing approved commercial activities. Entrepreneurs may be able to operate their businesses from home, an office or another appropriate location, depending on the requirements of the activity. This offers businesses an alternative to conventional models that rely entirely on a physical commercial premises.

The initiative also supports the development of electronic businesses by making it easier

The initiative reflects the changing nature of commerce as digital technology becomes an increasingly important part of how businesses operate, communicate with customers and deliver products and services.

for eligible entrepreneurs to start and operate their ventures digitally. Online platforms and digital tools can enable businesses to reach customers, promote products and services, manage transactions and conduct other commercial activities electronically.

The Ministry's approach recognises the growing role of e-commerce in Qatar's commercial landscape and the opportunities presented by digital entrepreneurship. As consumer behaviour and business practices continue to evolve, electronic platforms are providing businesses with new ways to connect with customers and develop their operations.

At the same time, the e-commerce licence provides a formal framework for conducting approved commercial activities electronically. The licence applies to a specific range of activities, meaning businesses and entrepreneurs must ensure that their proposed commercial activity falls within the approved scope and complies with the applicable requirements.

The framework can be particularly relevant to entrepreneurs developing businesses around online sales, digital services and other activities that are suited to electronic operation. By providing greater flexibility in where and how eligible businesses are managed, the initiative supports different approaches to entrepreneurship and business development.

QSE's ability to hold steady at current levels faces test

DOHA: The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) index ended this week lower 2.26%, shedding 199.070 points from the previous week's close to settle at the 8,611 points. The decline was driven by six sectors, with the telecommunications sector posting the largest gains, rising by 1.91%, while the transportation sector recording the steepest losses, falling by approximately 3.91%.

Talking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), financial markets analyst Youssef Bouhaliqa said the QSE index

remains in the 8,600-point zone, a critical threshold for gauging its ability to stabilize, adding that the 8,760-8,810-point range represents an initial resistance zone that the market may test if the rebound continues and liquidity improves.

Bouhaliqa noted that if the market reaches these resistance levels, holding above them could support further upward corrective movements, whereas falling back below them could expose the market to additional pressure. However, confirming



any new trend requires monitoring daily closes, trading volumes, and the breadth of participation across listed stocks during any rally.

He further explained that the index's performance this week suggests the market

still needs clear catalysts to regain upward momentum, whether through improved liquidity, positive financial results from listed companies, or reduced uncertainty in the markets.

Concluding his assessment of the QSE's performance, Bouhaliqa said that, given these conditions, the coming sessions will be crucial in determining whether the recent rebound marks the beginning of a gradual recovery or merely a temporary move within a broader corrective trend. — **QNA**

QNB Group announces completion of largest QAR-denominated Shogun bond issuance

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: QNB Group, a leading financial institution in the Middle East and Africa, has successfully completed its second Qatari-Riyal denominated Shogun bond issuance, raising QR750m from a diversified base of Japanese investors. The three-year transaction represents the largest QAR-denominated Shogun bond issuance to date.

The transaction builds on QNB's inaugural QR500m Shogun issuance in February 2025, which marked the first-ever Qatari riyal-denominated bond issued in this market. At 50% larger than the debut transaction, the latest issuance brings the total raised across the two transactions to QR1.25bn and represents a further step in developing QNB's access to Japanese investors.

The three-year transaction represents the largest QAR-denominated Shogun bond issuance to date. The transaction builds on QNB's inaugural QR500m Shogun issuance in February 2025, which marked the first-ever Qatari riyal-denominated bond issued in this market.

Returning to the market forms part of QNB's strategy to diversify its funding sources and build enduring relationships across international capital markets. Broadening access to investors across geographies provides greater funding flexibility, supporting the Group's ability to pursue



its business objectives through changing market conditions. Commenting on the issuance,

Senior Executive Vice President, Group Treasury and Financial Institutions, Noor Mohd Al-Naimi, QNB Group, said:

"Our inaugural Shogun issuance established a new funding channel for QNB. Returning with a larger transaction builds on that foundation and diversifies our funding base, giving us the flexibility to support our business across market cycles, and this issuance is another step in strengthening that capability."

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) was mandated by QNB Group to arrange the issuance, continuing the relationship established through the inaugural transaction, which was arranged by SMBC Group.

The issuance builds on QNB's track record of accessing funding across currencies, markets, and formats in recent years, demonstrating the Group's continued development of a diversified international funding base.

Namibia cuts 2026 growth forecast to 2.3% as mining revenue weakens

WINDHOEK: Namibia has cut its 2026 economic growth forecast to 2.3 percent from 3.1 percent following weaker-than-expected first-half performance, Finance Minister Erich Shafudah said yesterday.

Presenting the 2026/2027 mid-year budget review in Parliament, Shafudah projected growth of 2.6 percent in 2027, 3.0 percent in 2028 and 3.3 percent in 2029, supported by mining projects, strong uranium and gold prices, and a recovery in consumption as inflation and interest rates ease. Revenue for the current financial year is now forecast at 88.1bn Namibian dollars, reflecting lower mining receipts, fuel levy revenue and

administrative fees, she said.

Diamond taxes and royalties are projected to fall to 414 million Namibian dollars in 2026/2027 from 5.8bn Namibian dollars in 2023/2024. Shafudah said mining revenue remained the main source of weakness, underscoring the need to diversify the economy through agriculture, downstream value addition, services and renewable energy.

Public debt is projected to reach 201.7bn Namibian dollars, or 68.7 percent of GDP, in 2026/2027. Interest payments are forecast at 15.4bn Namibian dollars, equivalent to 17.5 percent of revenue, while the budget deficit is projected at 5.5 percent of GDP. — **XINHUA**

Build Your House exhibition 2026 set for October 26–28

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Under the patronage of H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, NeXTfairs has announced that the seventh edition of Build Your House Exhibition will be held from 26 to 28 October 2026 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), Halls 7, 8 and 9.

This year's edition will bring together more than 250 exhibitors from over 10 countries, alongside an expanded conference programme featuring more than 50 speakers.

The exhibition will be inaugurated by H E Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani,

Minister of Commerce and Industry. Building on six successful editions that have collectively attracted more than 150,000 Qatari visitors, Build Your House returns with increased participation from exhibitors and sponsors.

As Qatar's premier platform for residential construction, renovation, design and smart living, the exhibition continues to connect Qatari homeowners with the companies and industry professionals supporting their building and renovation projects.

Rawad Sleem (pictured), Co-Founder and General Manager of NeXTfairs, said: "Build Your House has established itself as an important link between Qatar's



residential construction industry and the homeowners it serves. Our vision goes beyond showcasing products and services. We have built it to be a practical knowledge and decision-making platform where homeowners can better understand the building

process, compare solutions and seek professional guidance before making important decisions. For exhibitors, it provides direct access to a highly relevant market of homeowners, investors and prospective buyers, creating opportunities to showcase their expertise, generate enquiries and build valuable business relationships."

"As we continue to grow, our focus is on strengthening this role and supporting a more competitive private sector, contributing to Qatar's economic development priorities under Qatar National Vision 2030," he added.

The 2026 edition is supported by 45 partners and sponsors. ➔ **P9**

QFZ highlights investment opportunities and industrial growth at UK-GCC Strategic Dialogue in London

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZ) participated in the UK-GCC Strategic Dialogue, organised by The Business Year, under the patronage of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), held in London on 20 October 2026.

The participation reinforced QFZ's commitment to strengthening economic cooperation, attracting high-value international investment and advancing industrial development between Qatar, the United Kingdom and the wider Gulf region.

Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Free Zones Authority, Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Faisal Al-Thani, participated in the leadership roundtable titled "Infrastructure, Industrial Transformation & Strategic Growth," which explored the role of free zones, infrastructure and industrial development in shaping the next phase of UK-GCC investment. The dialogue brought together senior policymakers, investors and business leaders to discuss opportunities for deeper trade and investment cooperation.

"Qatar and the United Kingdom share a strong



QFZ CEO Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Faisal Al-Thani with other panelists during the discussion at the UK-GCC Strategic Dialogue in London yesterday.

foundation of economic cooperation, with significant opportunities to deepen collaboration across technology, industry and investment. At QFZ, our focus is on attracting businesses that bring specialised expertise, strengthen local capabilities and create long-term value," commented Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Faisal Al-Thani, Chief Executive Officer of QFZ.

"Through our integrated infrastructure, strategic connectivity and dedicated investor support, we provide international companies with a

competitive platform to establish operations, access regional markets and grow, while contributing to Qatar's economic diversification."

During the leadership roundtable, Sheikh Mohammed highlighted Qatar's growing position as an international investment destination and the importance of economic resilience in supporting long-term growth.

He also underscored the scale of UK-Qatar economic ties, with bilateral trade reaching GBP 5.8bn (approximately QR28.1bn) and Qatari

investment in the UK exceeding GBP 40bn (approximately QR194.1bn).

More than 40 British companies are currently registered within QFZ, demonstrating the established presence of British businesses across key sectors.

Looking ahead, QFZ will continue to pursue strategic partnerships in priority sectors, including emerging technologies, biomedical sciences, logistics and advanced manufacturing, supporting industrial development and the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030.

MoCI organises training workshops for retail outlets and suppliers

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), represented by the Department of Specialized Licensing and Market Control, organised training workshops for food suppliers and major retail outlets to introduce its electronic services and systems and demonstrate how to use them to streamline procedures and expedite transactions.

Participants received practical guidance on submitting and tracking applications electronically, including the relevant requirements and procedures. Common issues that may delay processing were also addressed

to help businesses submit complete and accurate applications.

The sessions provided an opportunity for direct engagement with suppliers and retail outlets, enabling Ministry representatives to address enquiries and gather feedback on the challenges businesses face when using electronic systems. These insights will support ongoing efforts to develop services and improve the customer experience.

The initiative reflects MoCI's commitment to strengthening cooperation with the private sector, raising awareness of its electronic services, and delivering more accessible and efficient services.



Participants during the workshop.

Cityscape Qatar 2026 reveals headline developments shaping this year's showcase



Panelists during last year's Cityscape Qatar in Doha.

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: As the opening of Cityscape Qatar 2026 nears, more than 400 live projects are set to take centre stage at the Doha Exhibition & Convention Center (DECC) from 27-29 October. The three-day exhibition will bring together more than 70 developers from Qatar and international markets, presenting a broad mix of residential and mixed-use developments.

Headline Sponsors Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company, Qetaifan Projects and Barwa will anchor this year's line-up, alongside Platinum Sponsor Ariane Real Estate. They will be joined by Shelter Development, United Development Company, Capstone Property, JMJ Group Holding and Mazaya, adding further breadth to the exhibition floor.

Under the theme 'Where Vision Meets Investment',

Cityscape Qatar 2026 will help buyers and investors navigate the projects on display through tailored recommendations, investor matching and direct access to developer teams.

Lusail will feature prominently in this year's showcase, with Qetaifan Island North among the key highlights. Developed by Qetaifan Projects, the waterfront destination combines residential, hospitality, retail, leisure and entertainment within an integrated masterplan.

Within Qetaifan Island North, JMJ Group Holding will launch The Grove, a waterfront residential scheme with architecture and interiors by Zaha Hadid Architects, scheduled for completion in 2030.

It will offer one- to three-bedroom apartments and three- and four-bedroom penthouses, alongside private outdoor spaces and resident amenities. A 500-metre retail and dining boulevard will add

to the wider offering.

Shelter Development will also launch Lusail Marina Heights at the event, a residential project scheduled for completion in May 2027.

Alexander Heuff, Group Director, Cityscape, said: "One of the clearest signals in any real estate market is what developers are choosing to bring forward. This year's line-up gives a timely picture of where confidence is building, which parts of the market are attracting new activity and how developers are responding to changing expectations. Taken together, these projects do more than showcase individual opportunities — they offer a broader view of where the market is heading."

The exhibition will sit alongside the 4th Qatar Real Estate Forum, powered by Cityscape, providing wider context through discussions on Qatar's investment outlook, financing and the future of real estate.

GCC-UK trade reached almost \$70bn in 2025

LONDON: The total trade volume between the GCC states and the UK reached approximately \$70bn in 2025, making the GCC states collectively the UK's tenth-largest trading partner, said Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi, addressing the opening of the economic forum between the GCC states and the UK in London on Tuesday.

Albudaiwi explained that the total value of investment assets and liabilities between the UK and the GCC reached approximately \$643bn in 2024, underscoring the depth of financial and investment ties between both sides. He pointed out that these figures and facts demonstrate the strength of GCC-UK economic relations and their substantial potential for further growth and expansion.

The combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the GCC states reached roughly \$2.4 trillion, placing them collectively among the world's ten

largest economies, the GCC chief noted, adding that the overall foreign trade of the GCC states surpassed \$1.8 trillion, ranking them collectively fifth globally.

Albudaiwi continued that these economic strengths, coupled with the high-end infrastructure and strategic location of the GCC states, which connect global markets, have elevated their attractiveness as reliable international economic and trading partners.

The GCC-UK relationship is founded on a long-standing history of cooperation, trust, and shared interests, which has contributed to exploring and establishing an incredible economic and trade partnership between the two sides, he underlined.

He stated that the conclusion of negotiations on the GCC-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) represents a strategic step toward building on these relations, establishing a broader framework to facilitate trade, encourage

investment, and create new opportunities for the private sector.

Albudaiwi noted that the conclusion of the FTA negotiations is an outgrowth of sustained combined efforts and intensive negotiations that culminated in a comprehensive agreement covering a broad range of areas of mutual interest.

Among the most significant expected benefits of this agreement is the elimination of customs duties on more than 99 percent of GCC exports to the UK, which will unlock further prospects for increasing non-oil exports, particularly in the aluminum, fertilizer, and manufacturing sectors, the Secretary-General noted.

He asserted that the pact also provides opportunities to bolster the GCC's position as a global hub for logistics and re-exports, while enabling small and medium-sized enterprises to expand their operations and increase their access to the British market. — QNA

Build Your House exhibition 2026 set for October 26-28

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Government partners include the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Municipality, the Ministry of Social Development and Family, the General Directorate of Civil Defence, and Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (Kahramaa) as Sustainability Partner. Key partners include Qatar Development Bank as Development Partner and Tadmur Trading as Founding Partner, alongside Platinum Sponsors QA Tech, Qatar UPVC Windows & Doors, Eshhar Projects and Jazeera Factory for Paints.

Through its Family Empowerment Department, and in cooperation with NeXTfairs,

the Ministry of Social Development and Family is providing free exhibition spaces for national productive project owners under the "Min Al Watan" slogan.

This participation reflects the Ministry's efforts to support and empower national projects, enhance opportunities to market their products and introduce them to the exhibition's audience, develop their capabilities, and promote their economic sustainability.

The exhibition will showcase products, services and innovations across five key sectors: consultants, contractors, suppliers, smart solutions and general services.

QSE announces Widam Food capital restructuring date

DOHA: The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) announced that the capital restructuring of Widam Food Company will be implemented at the close of trading on Thursday, October 29, 2026.

Trading of the company's shares based on the new capital will commence on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026.

In a press release published yesterday on QSE website, Widam Food Company said that it will implement a capital restructuring process according to a set timeline.

This restructuring will consist of a capital reduction to cover a portion of the company's accumulated losses, followed by a capital increase through the conversion of bonds, issued against a loan provided by Hassad Food Company, an existing shareholder, into equity shares.

First, a reduction of the company's capital from

QR180m to QR50m divided into 50 million shares with a par value of QR1 per share by canceling 130,000,000 shares (equivalent to QR130m, or 72.2 percent of the total capital).

Second, an increase in the company's capital through the conversion of bonds valued at QR30m into shares for the benefit of Hassad Food Company.

Following this increase, Widam's total capital will amount to QR80m, divided into 80,000,000 shares with a par value of QR1 per share.

Widam indicated that the restructuring aims to strengthen the company's financial position and balance sheet by covering a portion of its accumulated losses and reducing its liabilities, as well as to provide a financial foundation from which the company can pursue its objectives. — QNA

Qatar Chamber trains customs officials on e-ATA Carnet

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The General Authority of Customs (GAC) and Qatar Chamber (QC) jointly organised a training programme on the Electronic ATA Carnet (e-ATA Carnet) for more than 35 customs officials as part of ongoing efforts to advance digital transformation and streamline customs procedures.

Held at the GAC headquarters, the session was delivered by Dr. Jihad Itani and Tania Radwan from Qatar Chamber, who provided a comprehensive overview of the e-ATA Carnet system, its applications, and related operational procedures.

In statements, QC Director of the International Relations and Chamber Affairs Department, Sheikh Tamader Al Thani, highlighted that the programme reflects the strong ongoing cooperation between Qatar Chamber and the GAC to modernise customs services and improve cross-border efficiency. She praised the active



Dr. Jihad Itani taking a session on the the e-ATA Carnet system.

participation of the GAC officials, noting their shared commitment to developing professional capabilities and adopting modern electronic systems in line with Qatar's digital transformation goals.

Sheikha Tamader explained that the ATA Carnet is a vital instrument for facilitating the temporary admission of goods, such as exhibition items, professional equipment, and commercial samples, without standard customs duties or

taxes. She emphasised that transitioning to the e-ATA Carnet is a major milestone for the business community, as it reduces reliance on paper documents, accelerates transaction processing, and enhances data accuracy and transparency.

She added that the training extended beyond technical mechanisms to harmonise procedures and strengthen coordination among concerned bodies, ultimately improving service delivery for businesses,

The training covered several key topics related to the e-ATA Carnet system, including its core concepts, the issuance and usage of electronic carnets.

importers, and exporters.

The training covered several key topics related to the e-ATA Carnet system, including its core concepts, the issuance and usage of electronic carnets, temporary admission and re-export procedures, the respective roles of customs authorities and chambers of commerce, and the tracking of carnets alongside the completion of related transactions.

It also featured practical cases, enabling participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of the various stages involved in processing an e-ATA Carnet—from initial issuance through to final customs clearance and re-export.