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Through Magazine Diplomacy, Trade, Culture, Education & Tourism

DIPLOMATIC FOCUS

"To be published soon from UAE, London & Schengen States"

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His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani

The Amir of the State of Qatar

H.H. The Father Amir Sheikh
Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani

His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani

the Amir of the State of Qatar

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Editorial

Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan and Qatar enjoy great bilateral relations. Pakistan–Qatar relations refer to the bilateral links between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the State of Qatar. Both the countries have developed great trust and confidence into each other with each passing day. Qatar has always been open to assist Pakistan during any trouble times. For example, during the 2010 severe flood that hit most parts of the country and devastated the crops, cattle and properties of billions, it was Qatar that provided timely assistance to Pakistan. Besides, more than 50,000 Pakistanis are working in various fields there in Qatar and send a huge remittance every year to Pakistan.

Qatar is a state full of natural resources and hub of trade and therefore, Pakistan has always been keen to further develop and enhance trade with it. In this regard, visits of the high officials also take place time by time. Most recently, Punjab Chief Minister, Shahbaz Sharif visited Qatar and held meetings with the Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Prime Minister of Qatar Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasir Khalifa Althani and Qatari business community in Doha. Promotion of bilateral relations, prospects of investment and the most valuable LNG project were discussed during the meetings.

The Emir of Qatar said that he was deeply interested in progress and stability of Pakistan. He further said that besides meeting gas requirements of Pakistan, Qatar would also cooperate in agriculture, power generation and skilled manpower sectors.

On the other hand, Qatar Investment Authority, an investment institution of Qatar government has also expressed willingness on huge investment in various national development projects in Pakistan.

With these visits and projects a new era of relations between both the countries has started. This is also important to mention that there is a vast scope of investment in various sectors in Pakistan for Qatar where it can benefit from investment opportunities. The government should provide all necessary requirements and conducive atmosphere so that people of the countries should be benefited from these projects and development works.

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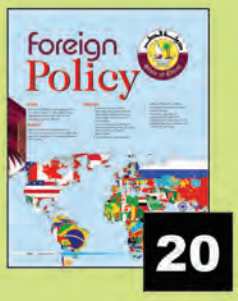

20

22

28

30

34

40

48

Contents

Special Supplement
on the auspicious occasion of the National Day Anniversary of the State of Qatar

وعاملت أنا بالصدق والنصح والنقا

Special Report by Mian Fazal Elahi

His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani	09
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani & 69th UN Sesion	10
The political system	11
Qatar cooperation to Pakistan in resolving the energy crisis is commendable: Shahbaz Sharif	12
GCC summit looks to tackle Iran & ISIL	14
Message of H.E. Mr. Khalifa Thani Mohamad Al-zarra	16
Historical Overview	18
Foreign Policy	20
Qatar Charity serving the humanity	22
Qatar thru lens	28
Education	30
Qatar one of the most attractive country for Tourism	34
Qatar: Culture, Arts & Heritage	40
Sports	48
International cooperation	51

SHEIKH TAMIM BIN HAMAD AL-THANI & 69TH UN Session

SHEIKH TAMIM BIN HAMAD AL-THANI, Amir of Qatar, said that at this time when the safety and security of all humanity was being affected by the latest developments, compliance with the provisions of international law and respect for the principles of human rights were at the base of achieving international peace and security. Turning to the situation in the Middle East, where he noted that the Gaza Strip had recently been destroyed on a large scale, he said that the "aggression" seen there amounted to a crime against humanity. The Security Council should pass a resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter forcing Israel to take numerous steps ultimately leading to a permanent settlement of the Palestinian issue. Turning to Syria, he lamented the fact that the international community had not acted when Qatar had warned precisely of today's scenario coming to pass. The Syrian people had become stuck between the terrorism of the regime and that of extremist forces, which thrived in the "swamp of violence". The international community should provide "all aspects" of humanitarian aid to the people of Syria, and the Security Council should support Syrians against the "terrorism of the regime" and terrorist forces. The first danger, he said, had begotten the second. Throughout the Middle East and North Africa, he said, terrorism threatened security and stability and hampered development. All civilizations had known terrorism, but the communities from which it sprang were the most affected. That scourge was hostile to diversity and pluralism, which enriched society. The international community needed to stand beside Iraq to lay the foundations for a society free of sectarian and ethnic conflict. In the same context, the Libyan people's aspirations must be supported. Libyan political forces should follow the path of "national dialogue" to achieve a formula for the governance they want. His country was encouraged by the successful transfer of power in Yemen, which he said was the outcome of national dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations, supported by the Security Council. He warned against those who would offer sectarian conflict and factional interests in place of good governance. On the subject of Qatar's national achievements, he listed his country's ranking as thirty-first globally on the United Nations Human Development Index, noting that it would continue to follow its national strategy for development in various fields. Having contributed $2.2 billion in governmental humanitarian aid over the last five years, Qatar would also continue its active role in mediating and providing a platform for dialogue.

The political system

Before its independence from Britain in 1971, Qatar enacted its provisional constitution. This constitution embodied Qatar's first provisional basic law of governance. One year after Qatar's national independence, the provisional constitution was amended to be compatible with both the requirements and responsibilities of this new era. This constitutional amendment carved three aspects of Qatar. It determined Qatar's image. In addition, it specified objectives of Qatar's policies. Furthermore, it underscored Qatar's Gulf Arab and Islamic affinity. Together with this constitutional development, Qatari the expertise of Qatari authorities and organs grew further. As those governmental entities developed their practices constructively at home and abroad. Some provisions of Qatar's provisional constitutions were amended legislatively. The provision tackling the executive authority, heredity rule system, and the constitutional status embodied an example of those amended provisions. The enactment of fundamental laws organizing the civil and commercial activities carved the path towards the creation of the Rechtsstaat (Legal State). The enactment of the law regarding the judiciary authority law represented an example of such process. For the first time in Qatar, free elections took place to form the Central Municipal Council (CMC). This momentous experience marked Qatar's first step towards civic democracy. For the first time, Qatari women were allowed to both vote and run as candidates in this fundamental step towards people's participatory democracy in the process of decision making in Qatar.

Qatar's 2005 constitution provides for a Majlis al-Shura, or Consultative Assembly, composed of with 30 elected members and 15 members appointed by the Emir. The assembly generally has only advisory powers, although it does have a limited role in drafting and approving legislation. The Emir has the final say in all matters. Elections were due to be held in the second half of 2013 but have effectively been postponed indefinitely since the outgoing Emir extended the term of the existing Consultative Assembly for another three years before transferring authority to his son.

Qatar has been slow to adopt democratic reforms, and the only functioning democratic body is the Central Municipal Council, which has been elected four times since 1999. The 1999 elections made Qatar the first country in the region to hold an election with universal male and female suffrage for adults. However, migrant workers, who make up a majority of the population, cannot vote. No political parties are allowed. Even professional bodies are banned.

Qatar's constitution, approved in April 2003 by popular referendum, has created a legislative body to be two-third elected by universal suffrage, and one-third appointed by the Emir. According to the constitution, the legislature will have three powers: to approve (but not prepare) the national budget; to monitor the performance of ministers through no-confidence votes; and to draft, discuss and vote on proposed legislation, which becomes law only with the vote of a two-third majority and the Emir's endorsement.

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Qatar cooperation to Pakistan in resolving the energy crisis is commendable: *Shahbaz Sharif*

Qatar Emir H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani is receiving Chief Minister Punjab, Shahbaz Sharif at his office in Doha.

Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif in a meeting with Qatar Emir H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani in Doha.

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif visited Doha, the capital of Qatar, on a two-day visit during the first week of the running month.

The chief minister was accompanied by Adviser to Prime Minister on Aviation Mohammad Shujaat Azeem and two senior government officials.

Mr Shahbaz Sharif, during his visit, met the Emir of Qatar. Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani promised to make investment in various sectors of development in Pakistan besides helping the country end its energy crisis.

The Emir of Qatar made the announcement during a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif on Tuesday. It was also agreed in the meeting to promote relations between Pakistan and Qatar and expand economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

The Emir of Qatar said that he was deeply interested in progress and stability of Pakistan. He further said that besides meeting gas requirements of Pakistan, Qatar would also cooperate in agriculture, power generation and skilled manpower sectors. The Emir of Qatar further said that his country was fully aware of the problems being faced by Pakistan in the energy sector and would extend maximum cooperation for ridding Pakistani brethren of the power shortage. He said that Qatar was ready to welcome skilled and experienced people from Pakistan in various sectors. The Emir of Qatar further said that his country highly appreciated recent efforts made by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for strengthening the Pak-Qatar friendship.

Shahbaz Sharif, speaking on the occasion, said that Qatar was extending commendable cooperation to Pakistan in resolving the energy crisis and it was hoped that Pakistan would be able to overcome the load shedding with the help of its friendly countries. He also thanked the Emir of Qatar for extending support to Pakistan at international economic forums.

Meanwhile, Qatar Investment Authority, an investment institution of Qatar government has expressed willingness on huge investment in various national development projects in Pakistan.

This investment of billions of rupees by Qatar will be made in energy generation, gas supply and other sectors. Qatar Investment Authority made this announcement during a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and his staff. Federal Minister for Petroleum Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Special Assistant to Chief Minister Dr Musadiq Malik and Ambassador of Pakistan in Qatar Shahzad Ahmed were also present on the occasion. It was decided in the meeting that a high-level delegation of Qatar Investment Authority will visit Pakistan this month to discuss Qatari investment.

It may be mentioned that work on the development projects of billions of dollars is continuing in various countries of the world including Turkey, Middle East and Europe with the capital of Qatar Investment Authority, however, the investment by Qatar Investment Authority in Pakistan is negligible. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that Pak-Qatar relationship is taking new dimension and the decision of investment of billions of rupees by Qatar government will usher a new era of foreign investment in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister

Punjab Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif met Prime Minister of Qatar Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasir Khalifa Althani in Doha. Promotion of bilateral relations and prospects of investment were discussed during the meeting. Talking to Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Qatar said that stability of Pakistan is the stability of Qatar and Qatar wants to see Pakistan a peaceful and prosperous country. He said that Qatar government will welcome manpower of Pakistan with open heart. Shahbaz Sharif, talking to Prime Minister of Qatar, said that vast opportunities of investment exist in Pakistan. He said that the situation in the region is improving and the relations with Afghanistan have improved. He expressed the hope that Pakistan will soon overcome terrorism.

On the other hand, senior officials of Ministry of Petroleum and heads of investment companies of Qatar held meetings with Chief Minister Punjab Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif in Doha in which besides cooperation in energy sector, increasing manpower from Pakistan to Qatar came under discussion. Prospects of investment in various sectors in Pakistan particularly Punjab were also discussed in detail. The investors of Qatar expressed their interest in investment in agriculture, energy and other sectors in Pakistan. Talking to Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Qatar officials assured that Qatar will extend cooperation to Pakistan in various sectors of national development and Qatar is ready to make Pakistani manpower part of development process in Qatar. They said that the role of Pakistani manpower and overseas Pakistanis cannot be forgotten in the national development of Qatar in early days and assured to promote cooperation in various sectors with Pakistan in coming days. Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif said that all reservations of Qatar will be removed with regard to expertise of manpower and security matters. He said that a new era of relations between both the countries has started due to his visit to Qatar. He said that there is a vast scope of investment in various sectors in Pakistan particularly Punjab. He said that government is providing facilities to the investors on priority basis and investors of Qatar can benefit from investment opportunities in various sectors in Punjab. The Chief Minister said that a conducive atmosphere has been created for investment in Punjab and all facilities are being provided to investors under one roof. He said that the project of construction of LNG terminal in Karachi is being completed speedily and will be completed in a record period.

GCC summit looks to tackle Iran & ISIL

By Mian Fazal Elahi /Monitoring desk

A summit of Gulf Arab leaders billed as sealing reconciliation after months of vitriol was described as the "happy summit" by their club's secretary general, but despite pledges of unity from its members, mistrust persists. "We cannot be sidetracked by differences over details," said Qatar's Emir, Sheikh Tamim, who hosted Tuesday's meeting. His words were a call to unity, but also an implicit message to Doha's Gulf critics to cease criticism of its support for the Muslim Brotherhood, seen by neighbours as a dangerous enemy. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, is the most stable and prosperous bloc in the Middle East, but its influence on Arab affairs has been weakened by infighting. In March, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain pulled their ambassadors from Qatar over its backing of Islamists and only returned them last month after intensive mediation by Kuwait aimed at allowing the summit to go ahead. Gulf officials had eagerly trailed the expected announcement of a new joint military command centre, to be based in Riyadh and with each country pledging military units that it could call upon in crisis. But the final statement only voiced satisfaction on efforts to reach this goal, which was first announced in 2012 and agreed to pursue it further with more studies. A joint police unit, to be based in Abu Dhabi and focus on security issues, was set up. "They wanted this summit to be a success, so they have decided not to talk about the things they still disagree on," said a Gulf political analyst. Qatar's eviction of some Brotherhood members and its promises to fellow GCC states not to give the group a platform inside the Gulf were enough for a formal reconciliation, but they did not resolve continued disputes over foreign policy. There are also differences over

policy towards Iran, which both Saudi Arabia and Bahrain see as a mortal foe, and over the group's ultimate form. Some of its members fear further integration would lead to their domination by its most populous member Saudi Arabia.

Since it was founded in 1981 to close Arab ranks against Iran's revolution, the GCC has strengthened ties in a crisis, but done little to advance a supposed goal of greater unity. The group's annual summits regularly call for closer ties, but longstanding efforts to achieve a customs union, a missile shield and other goals have made little apparent headway. The efforts to demonstrate goodwill extended to the group's decision to

"They wanted this summit to be a success, so they have decided not to talk about the things they still disagree on, "Gulf political analyst

praise Oman for the role it played in hosting secret talks between the United States and Iran, as a precursor to last year's deal for formal negotiations over Tehran's nuclear plans. The GCC supports the talks -- provided they ensure Iran cannot gain atomic military capability -- but in private Saudi officials had been furious about Muscat's role in helping the deal happen, diplomats in the Gulf said at the time.

Although the group made a statement of support for Egypt, whose government has been at daggers drawn with Qatar over its backing of the Brotherhood, there was no announcement of any new initiative to restore ties between Doha and Cairo. While they agreed to condemn the role of militias in Libya, they did not specify which were more to blame in a conflict where Qatar and the UAE continue to back opposing armed forces. The summit was cut short from two days to one at the last minute. "We agree on all the issues so we don't need more time. We read this as a very positive and healthy indication,"

Message of
H.E. Mr. Khalifa Thani Mohamad Al-Zarra,

Charge d' Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Pakistan, on the auspicious occasion of the National Day Anniversary of the State of Qatar

We congratulate His Highness Shiekh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, His Highness Shiekh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the father Amir, and We congratulate ourselves, and all our friends, on this glorious anniversary, and remember our founding Father, who is the reason for the extension of this renaissance and its reaching to us, we are celebrating the accession of Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohamed Bin Thani, the founder of the State of Qatar, to the rule of the country.

Following the path of the founders every December 18, we celebrate our National Day in commemoration of the historic day in 1878 when Sheikh Jassim, founder of the State of Qatar, succeeded his father, Sheikh Muhammad Bin Thani, and led the country towards unity.

Qatar's firm policy in the economic sphere is to diversify income sources and stabilize economic growth through optimizing the utilization of its natural resources and enhancing the development of the North Gas Field and Petrochemical, Iron and Steel and Refining Industries.

Under the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, The Emir of the State of Qatar, the State has succeeded in a record time in establishing and operating a massive industrial base; and has thus become a major world producer and supplier of Liquefied Natural Gas and other Petroleum products which has considerably increased the country's income and helped further its social and economic structure developments.

Qatar can look to the future with confidence. On the horizon, there is advancement in all fields, the progress and prosperity; and looking over the horizon, will be further progress and a peace loving country wishing all the best for the rest of the world and having all the resolve to join hands with all to ascertain peace and harmony in the world.

The State of Qatar and Islamic Republic of Pakistan, are enjoying an excellent and brotherly ties, the Leadership of both the countries are willing and very much desirous to further enhance and strengthen this relationship and bringing it to the highest possible levels.

I seize this happy occasion to extend my sincere appreciation to all of those who have contributed in developing and enhancing the existing friendly bilateral relations between the State of Qatar and Islamic Republic of Pakistan, both on official and public levels. It also gives me profound pleasure and happiness to be serving in the beautiful city of Islamabad.

To date the State of Qatar remains to be a key economic partner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and has become a significant host for overseas Pakistani workers. The harmonious relationship between the State of Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has continued to be reinforced, with both devoted to establish a stronger, long-term partnership. On this note we wish to express our earnest desire to strengthen further this bilateral relation for the common good of both nations.

I would like to reiterate my appreciation for the Government of Pakistan for the continued support to me, which is the result of the Qatar-Pakistan commonalities and mutual ties.

In closing, I would like to stress on my country's firm commitment to continue seeking ways for expanding our bilateral relationship on all dimensions, and my hope is that the current level of support and cooperation from all concerned in both the countries will continue and even broaden in order to attain that goal.

I pray for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Pakistan .under their wise and dynamic leadership

Ex-Ambassador His Excellency Sayar Abdul Rahma Al-Mawdah with H.E. Mr. Khalifa Thani Mohamad Al-Zarra, Charge d' Affaires a.i. of the State of Qatar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,

Historical Overview

Human habitation of the Qatar Peninsula dates far back to nearly four thousand years BC, according to archaeological evidences, excavations, inscriptions and scarce potteries found in various areas of the country.

In the 5th century BC, the Greek historian Herodotus referred that the first dwellers of Qatar were the Canaanite tribes, who were known for their navigation and naval commerce. Furthermore, the Greek geographer Ptolemy's so-called Map of Arabia included as well what Ptolemy himself then called "Qatra", which is thought to be a reference to the Zubara city, being previously one of the most important commercial ports in the Gulf area.

Qatar played a vital role as narrated by the Arab-Muslim historical sources. The Qatari dwellers involved themselves in preparing the first naval fleet to transport armies during the Muslim conquests.

Under the Abbasid rule during the eighth Hijri century (14th AD), Qatar witnessed a period of economic prosperity as made evident by the written records found in the Maroub Fort on the western coast that represents the Abbasid architectural character.

Upon their military alliance with the Turks during the tenth Hijri century (16th AD), the Qataris could drive the Portuguese away, and that was the beginning of the rule of the Ottoman Empire over the whole Arabian Peninsula including Qatar for about four successive centuries.

The Turkish rule in the region, however, declined with the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 and a treaty was entered with Britain in 1916 providing for the protection of the Qatari lands and people. The British authority was restricted mostly to its supervision on some administrative affairs.

Qatar was ruled by the Al-Thani Dynasty, after its leader Thani bin Mohammad — father of Sheikh Mohammad bin Thani, who was the first sheikh later on to have an actual power over the Qatari Peninsula during the mid-nineteenth century.

Being a descendent of the Bani Tameem Tribe with their ancestral lineage dating back to Mudhar bin Nizar, the Al-Thanis settled on the Jibrin Oasis in the south of Nejd prior to their movement to the north of the Qatari Peninsula. Then, they moved to Doha in the mid nineteenth century under the leadership of Sheikh Mohammad bin Thani.

THE SUCCESSION OF THE RULERS OF QATAR:

- Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammad Al-Thani (1878-1913).
- Sheikh Abdullah bin Jassim Al-Thani (1913-1949). The first oil discovery in the country was made during his rule.
- Sheikh Ali bin Abdullah Al-Thani (1949-1960).
- Sheikh Ahmad bin Ali Al-Thani (1960-1972).
- Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani (1972-1995).
- Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani the Father Emir (1995-2013).
- Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani came to power on 25.6.2013.

Foreign Policy

VISION

To have a distinguished foreign policy for the State of Qatar at both regional and international levels, and care for the interests of citizens abroad.

MISSION

Adopt well-established policies that achieve the aspirations and interests of the people of Qatar and the strategic interests of the State.

OBJECTIVES

- To promote and enhance international cooperation with all countries and organizations towards the achievement of world peace.
- To consolidate Qatar's bilateral and multilateral relations to best serve the goals of Qatar's general policy.
- To contribute to development efforts in the various fields.
- To provide excellent services to citizens abroad.
- To build and develop the capacity of the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the various diplomatic, consular and administrative fields.

قطر الخيرية
Qatar Charity
PAKISTAN PROGRAMME

QATAR CHARITY
SERVING THE HUMANITY

Vision
A pioneer and distinguished Islamic institution that combines originality, creativity & professionalism in the field of development.

Mission
Empowering the abilities of the neediest groups to fulfill human dignity and promote social justice in collaboration with development partners.

Values
A pioneer and distinguished Islamic institution that combines originality, creativity and professionalism in the field of development.

About Qatar Charity

Qatar Charity (QC) is an international non-profit and non-governmental humanitarian organization founded in the state of Qatar in 1980. In Qatar, Qatar Charity is duly Registered with the ministry of Endowment and Islamic Affairs-Serial No.06 dated 24/07/1994-under law No (2) of 1974, amended by decree-law No(17) 1989 and law No (8) of 1998, which regulates the work of private societies and foundations.

In Pakistan, Qatar Charity is duly registered with Economic Affairs Division (EAD), Ministry of Economic Affairs & Statistics under Registration No.4 (69) EA.NGO/06. QC has its headquarter in Doha, State of Qatar and is administered by a General Assembly and a Council of Directors supported by a set of specialized departments and sections, overseeing the execution of plan of actions and strategies. Qatar Charity started its operations in 1992 in Pakistan, with major focus on charitable and social protection issues. From 2006 onwards, Qatar Charity expanded its scope of work and emerged as one of the mainstreamed development & humanitarian organization of Pakistan. QC works in multi sectors with an integrated and holistic development approach. The strategic areas of interventions include; Social Protection, Water Sanitation & Hygiene, Livelihoods, community physical infrastructure development and relief & recovery. QC approach towards implementation of its programs &projects is purely based upon strong social mobilization and participation of local communities.

QATAR CHARITY
PROGRAM IN PAKISTAN:

Qatar Charity is successfully implementing various development and humanitarian programs in different areas of Pakistan since its inception in 1992. The areas where QC has responded or responding include Rajanpur, DG Khan, Tando Muhammad Khan, Badin, Swat, Dir lower, Bagh, Muzaffarabad, Bannu, Muzaffargarh and Leepa Valley in AJK. All the targeted areas are selected for intervention on the basis of poverty ratios and vulnerability in context of disasters. Following is the brief detail of various programs and projects implemented in different areas of Pakistan;

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

Qatar Charity reaches to people with clean drinking water and healthy hygienic and promotes sanitation practices. These interventions include; gravity flow drinking water supply schemes, elevated hand pumps installations, lead hand pumps, water ponds for brackish zones, deep hand pumps and solar hand pumps, self help latrines, sanitation marketing, WASH clubs formation and hygiene promotion. These projects are implemented both by QC's internal funding sources and also in collaboration with other

institutional donors includin UNICEF. During the years, QC ha reach out to far-flung areas o Pakistan and has tremendousl improved WASH setup i deprived communities.

PAKISTAN APPROACH TOWARDS TOTAL SANITATION (PATS) PROJECT - UNICEF

During Year 2012, QC entered into project cooperation agreement with UNICEF for implementation of a project titled "Pakistan Approach towards Total Sanitation" (PATS) in District Rajanpur, Punjab.

Key approaches used during the PATS project included;

1. **Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)**
2. **School Led Total Sanitation (SLTS)**
3. **Sanitation Marketing**
4. **Behavioral Change Campaigns (BCC).**

HYGIENE & SANITATION COMPONENT:

Sanitation is a good investment, which may have a positive impact on sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction. QC has implemented various sanitation related projects & activities in its operational areas, these interventions included; creating awareness about use of toilets and hands washing practices, training of masons at village level for construction of low cost toilets, construction of financially supported toilets, and construction of toilets on self-help basis, construction of latrines sets in schools & communal places, construction of sewerage treatment units at village level, waste management in schools etc.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT AND INCOME GENERATION

This program of Qatar Charity is to sustain the livelihoods of most vulnerable communities and to equip the targeted population with the necessary skills by enabling them to help boost their disposable income. Key livelihood activities undertaken by QC include; agriculture e.g. orchard farming, olive grafting, demo plots, cooperative farming and others e.g, rural backyard poultry, breed improvement of large animals through artificial insemination, small & medium enterprises & construction of irrigational channels. To ensure quality, sustainability and transparency; all these activities are carried out with broad based community mobilization.

COMMUNITY PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (CPI) DEVELOPMENT

QC pays significant importance to CPIs in its program & projects therefore QC has developed and improved physical infrastructure facilities in the targeted area. QC has implemented a numerous projects in the targeted areas through community led approach which include construction and development of link road projects, foot paths, hydro power plant and street pavement projects during the years in Pakistan. These infrastructure schemes are planned, implemented, monitored and supervised by the communities themselves.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

The basic aim of this programme is to provide safety nets to the most underprivileged groups of Society through financial support. This is one of the largest programme of QC which is being carried out in Pakistan. The social protection programme consists of the following three main categories;

Orphans Care & Welfare:

Apart from financial support to 3050 orphans, different co-curricular activities like, quiz competition, drawings competition, sports gala, talent award etc. are regularly held under this program.

Livelihood & Family Support:

Under this intervention QC is supporting 350 extremely vulnerable families, headed by widow or the families; whose head is socially or physically challenged.

Student Support /Scholarships:

This intervention has been started on pilot basis by supporting 25 students for higher level education

Orphan Care is greatly valued, highly appreciated and deeply stressed in Islamic teachings, as one of the most important social work for the well-being of the vulnerable and destitute. Besides giving financial support to the orphans, QC regularly conducts co-curricular and recreational activities in different locations of Pakistan. The aim of these activities is to provide a platform to the supported children, enhance their capacities and boost their confidence, to become more active part of society

SEASONAL PROJECTS

Qatar Charity celebrates every year Islamic festivals with the poor and deprived groups in Pakistan. The seasonal programme aims to address and serve the targeted needy families by fulfilling their nutritional, financial and recreational needs on different occasions of Islamic festivals. The main objective of this activity is to strengthen the bond of humanity with spiritual enthusiasm. It includes distribution of Iftar packages, Zakat ul fitar (Monetary and non-monetary) and distribution of Meat packages of sacrificial animals (Qurbani – eiduladha)

Special Supplement
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Anniversary of the State of Qatar

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION:

Social Mobilization occupies a central place in Qatar Charity as a cross cutting while implementing its development initiatives. The core objective of QC's social mobilization is to involve and organize local communities, institutions and leadership for collective efforts towards their development. Currently QC has a strong network of Community Organizations (COs) in different areas of Muzaffarabad, Leepa, Swat, Dir, Rajanpur, TandoMuhamamd Khan, Lakki Marwat, Mardan, Badin and Pishin

EDUCATION & CULTURAL SUPPORT

Preserving and promoting the Islamic culture is the main domain of Qatar Charity. Pakistan in general is characterized with low literacy level and lack of basic infrastructure required for the education. Key activities under education & cultural support include educational uplift projects, capacity building of teachers, construction & rehabilitation of mosques and Islamic Institutions and government schools buildings.

Qatar Charity has responded to following disasters in last 02 years;

1. Awaraan Earthquake Baluchistan,
2. Emergency Relief in Afghanistan
3. Flood Emergency, Rajanpur South Punjab 2013
4. Early Recovery Phase of shelter construction in Tando Muhammad Khan Sindh.
5. Emergency Response in Muzafargarh 2014 – South Punjab

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Qatar Charity has its strong presence in the disaster prone areas where it has adopted an approach of Disaster Response, Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Mitigation by building up the capacities of local communities and institutions.

Global Days Celebration

Qatar Charity also carries international commitments and celebrates global days as celebrated all over the world. It includes World Water Day, Global Hand washing Day and Orphan Day. These days are usually celebrated with School children and orphans who are sponsored by Qatar charity.

Qatar Charity:

Country Director's Message:

With great pleasure, QC conveys warm felicitation on the occasion of Qatar National Day.

Qatar Charity aims to support Pakistani people to live longer, healthier and prosperous life and to empower communities to sustain without any support.

Qatar Charity (QC) is an international nonprofit Organization having its offices in various parts of Europe, Asia and Africa. The major source of funding is Qatari People who keep a deepest and utter empathy for the poor communities all over the world. QC has been working in Pakistan since 1992 and achieved outstanding results during the span. Currently, we are striving and scaling up to alleviate the sufferings of the deserving people of Pakistan.

QC is implementing its major Development Projects in Rajanpur – South Punjab, Tando Mohammad Khan – Sindh, Swat – Khyber Pakhtoonkha and Muzaffarabad – Kashmir. Moreover, QC has always been actively involved in Humanitarian response and during 2013 -2014, QC has played pivotal role in uplifting the strangled communities as in IDPs in Bannu - KPK, Earthquake affectees in Awaaran – Balochistan and Flood affectees in Muzafaragarh – Punjab. This program aims to provide food, shelter (permanent & semi permanent) and NFIs (Non Food Items).

QC's livelihood and Income Generation Program is focused on restoring the lives of targeted communities by enabling them to boost their disposable income. So far, QC has achieved remarkable results under this program. Our WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) program has been broadening all over Pakistan, which enables the local communities to have access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities.

Our Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) Development Program plays a significant role in developing and improving physical infrastructure facilities in targeted areas.

Under Social Protection Program, QC is providing financial support to the underprivileged groups of society which is further segmented into Orphan Care and Welfare, Livelihood and Family Care and Scholarships. Besides this, QC is also mainly active for Seasonal Program which is being carried out every year. It includes iftar (Ramadhan) packages, Zakat ul fitar (monetary and non-monetary) and Distribution of Meat Packages during Eid-ul Adha.

In coming years, we are more focused and planned to improve the standard of living of the deprived communities to make this world livable for them.

QC's success is due to the support of our donors in Qatar, our ability to learn and adopt to ever changing situations of the humanitarian scene in the country and our relentless Pakistani team efforts to curtail difficult challenges and proper coordination with Pakistani line departments.

QC-Pakistan extend thanks to all those who have contributed to make our intervention a positive change in the lives of the targeted needy families.

Khaled Wakil
Country Director
Qatar Charity Pakistan

Qatar: Thru Lens

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on the occasion of the National Day
Anniversary of the State of Qatar

Location

The State of Qatar is a peninsula located amid the western coast of the Arabian Gulf. Of the islands affiliated to Qatar, Halul, Shraouh and Al-Asshat are the most important.

Topography

The land mainly consists of a flat rocky plain, covered with a range of low limestone outcroppings in Jebel Dukhan in the west and Jebel Fuyart in the north. This plain is mostly marked by its many inland seas (Khors), bays and basins called (al-Riyadh) over the northern and middle areas that are considered to be the most fertile lands housing different natural plants.

Area

Qatar occupies an area of 11,521 square kilometers.

Population

Qatar has a population of about one million and eight hundred thousand (as per 2012 Population census). About 83% of the population lives in Doha and its major suburb Al-Rayyan.

Capital City

Qatar's capital city is Doha.

Language

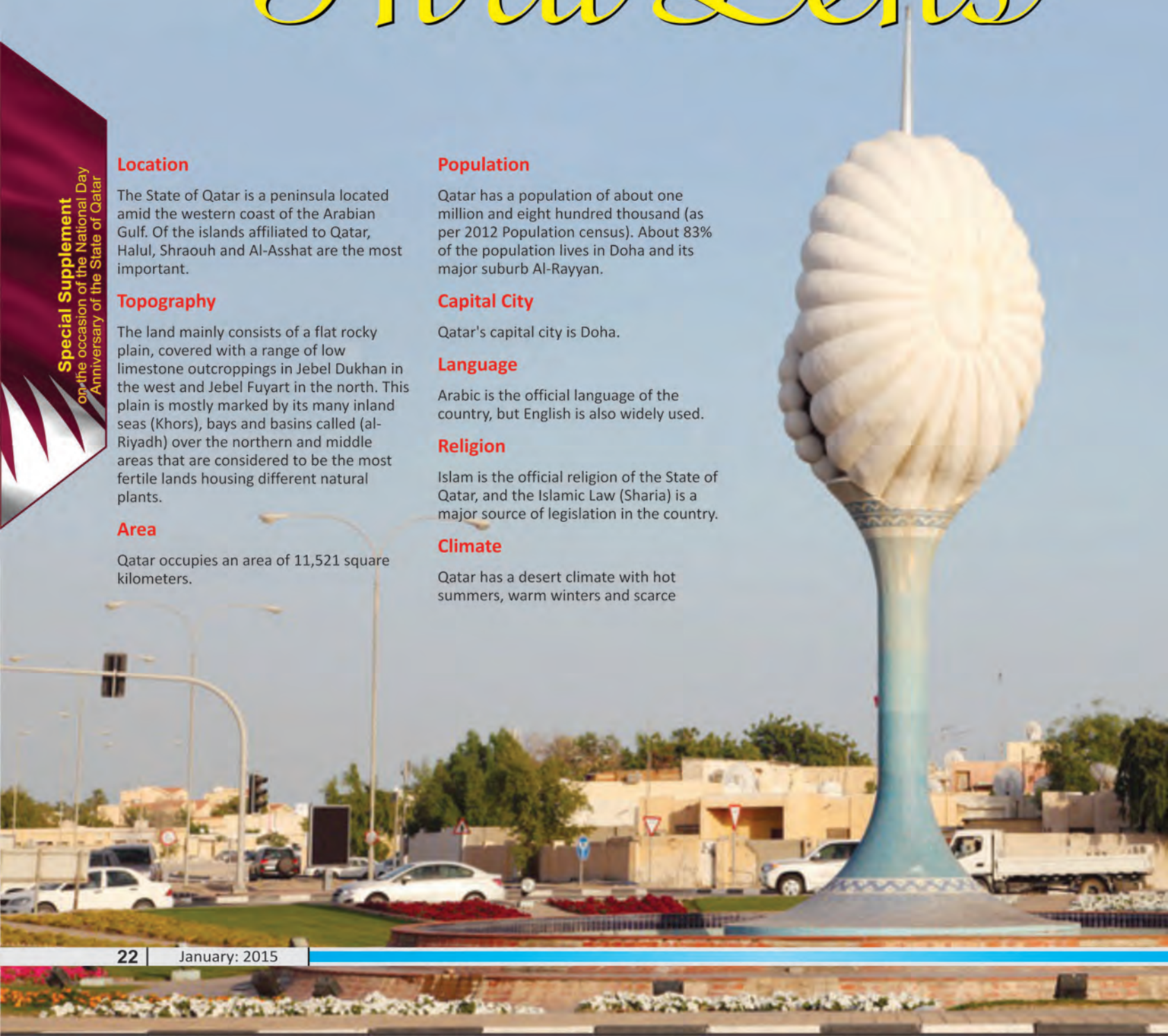
Arabic is the official language of the country, but English is also widely used.

Religion

Islam is the official religion of the State of Qatar, and the Islamic Law (Sharia) is a major source of legislation in the country.

Climate

Qatar has a desert climate with hot summers, warm winters and scarce



rainfall.

Major Cities

Doha, Al-Wakrah, Al-Khor, Dukhan, Al-Shamal, Msaieed, Ras Lafan and others.

Currency

Qatari Riyal (One Riyal = 100 Dirhams), and one US Dollar = QAR 3.65 (as a fixed rate).

National Day

December 18 every year to commemorate Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammad Al-Thani, the founder of the State of Qatar.

Official Holidays

- The National Day: December 18 every year.
- The holy Eid Al-Fitr, four days from Ramadan 28th to Shawwal 4th (as per the Hijri calendar).
- The holy Eid Al-Adha, five days from Dhul Hijjah 9th to 13th Dhul Hijjah (as per the Hijri calendar).
- The Sports Day on Tuesday of the second week of February every year.

Flag of the State of Qatar

The national flag of the State of Qatar is maroon with a broad white nine-point serrated band breaking into the maroon side. The meaning of Qatar's flag is as follows:

- The white colour denotes the internationally recognized symbol of peace.
- The maroon symbolizes the blood that was shed during the several wars Qatar has undergone, particularly in the second half of the 19th century.
- The nine-point serrated line obviously indicates that Qatar is the 9th member of the (Reconciled Emirates) on the Arabian Gulf in the wake of concluding the Qatari-British treaty in 1916. This is recorded by the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1931 regarding Qatar's national flag's layout and colouring.

Official Working Hours

- Ministries and Government Departments: From 7 a.m. to 2 p.m
- Private Companies and Establishments: From 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Fridays and Saturdays are the official days off in Qatar.

Local Time

GMT +3 hours.

Education

Public education was established in the State of Qatar in 1952. Since then, a comprehensive education policy has been crystallizing based on well-established principles to preserve the heritage and conservative character of the Muslim nation, develop the curricula and educational systems and continue to benefit from the modern technological achievements and recent educational experiences.

The educational development pace was accelerated for both sexes in all sectors of the society in the country and in all school stages up to university level. Recently, the Qatari Government launched the "Education for a New Era" initiative to further develop public education in the state with the aim to provide the best means of education for its citizens in order to be well-prepared and capable of meeting the requirements of the socioeconomic development process.

The government also encourages the establishment of all sorts of private educational institutions and provides them with the support they need in in the field of legislation and supervision.

SUPREME EDUCATION COUNCIL

"Education for a New Era" Initiative

This Governmental initiative entitled "Education for a New Era" aims at developing public education in Qatar by providing the best means of education for its citizens in order to be well-prepared in a manner to cope with the modern changes and be capable of meeting the requirements of the socioeconomic development process. The Supreme Education Council (SEC) was established as the highest authority responsible for setting the national education policy in general and drawing up and supervising the implementation of the education development plan in particular.

Under SEC's umbrella, three executive bodies operate and are directly responsible for achieving the goals of the development plan. They are:

· The Education Institute, which is responsible for supporting the establishment of independent schools and supervising their performance

· The Evaluation Institute, which is responsible for determining to what extent the students and teachers are attaining their objectives, and for monitoring the performance of schools, students and teachers.

· The Higher Education Institute, which is responsible for guiding students on their professional and career choices and postgraduate opportunities at home or abroad, as well as managing academic scholarship programs.

Independent Schools

They are government funded schools covering all elementary, intermediary and secondary educational stages. Such schools are established by SEC under the supervision of the Education Institute. They are designed to provide a student-focused creative educational environment, which also allow parents to choose the schools that may well fit their children's needs and requirements.

SPECIALIZED EDUCATION (FOR BOYS)

Religious Institute

The Institute offers education in the preparatory and secondary stages for three years in each stage.

Secondary School of Commerce

This 3-year terms school accepts the students who have passed third grade in preparatory schools. Those who pass this stage are awarded the Secondary Diploma of Commerce.

Secondary School of Industrial Technology

This school is working through theoretical and practical programs to help the students to acquire the English language and technical skills including various computer applications in a way that most fits the capabilities and tendencies of the students.

ILLITERACY AND ADULT EDUCATION

Since the inception of the educational renaissance in 1954/55, the Qatari government recognized the importance of combating and eliminating illiteracy. Many of of the government's attempts were made to deal with this problem. Evening schools for adult education for both men and women were opened. Special curricula that take into consideration the cognitive, psychological and age factors of the learners were developed for adult education.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

When special education was introduced in Qatar in 1974 there was only one class attached to an elementary school for boys in Doha. In 1980 the number rose to three classes taught by 8 teachers.

Al-Amal Institute for Boys was set up in 1981 followed by Al Amal Institute for Girls in 1982. The two became known as Al Amal School for Boys and Al Amal School for Girls. Later there were two schools for mental education for boys and one such school for girls as well as two schools for audio education, one for boys and the other for girls.

QATARI CENTRE FOR THE GIFTED

The center offers activities, services and programs that aid gifted pupils to acquire skills of thinking and employ these skills in problem-solving and decision-making. The center helps pupils and their parents to become acquainted with the latest development in the field of creativity as well as the literature related to this vital field.

PRIVATE EDUCATION

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education provides support to schools of the expatriate communities in the country through extending educational guidance, medical care and exemption from water and electricity dues.

The number of the schools of the expatriate communities is at the tune of (338) schools and kindergartens, (47) of that number are Arab- communities schools, (154) non-Arab communities schools, and (37) kindergartens, not counting the kindergartens which are

affiliated to the schools of the non-Arab communities.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Qatar University

Qatar University (QU) was founded in 1973 with the two separate faculties of education, one for boys and one for girls. It then started developing in successive expansion with more activities and faculties over the years until it became in 1977 an officially integrated university. QU today consists of six faculties; Education, Arts and Sciences, Sharia and Islamic Studies, Law, Engineering, Administration and Economics, Pharmacy, and International Affairs.

The University has a Board of Trustees composed of 10-15 members, who are businesspersons, diplomats and people with experience and good gudgement.

QATAR FOUNDATION (QF) FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

QF is a non-profit organization established in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of Qatar. Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser Al-Misned, wife of the Emir of Qatar, is the QF's chairperson. Being the driving force, Sheikha Moza leads and directs QF toward the achievement of its goals and programs by means of a number of interconnected, yet independent, authorities and directorates.

QF today upholds a distinguished set of basic principles of collaboration with its partners to enhance human potential, respect of individuality and the society and social responsibility; and its students

participate in many regular and parallel programs within the voluntary programs.

EDUCATIONAL CITY

The educational city of Qatar Foundation is a pioneering project aiming to prepare human cadres through enhancing their futuristic thinking and creative problem solving potential.

It covers top priority and essential academic specializations in Qatar and the region as a whole; focusses in particular on scientific streams most related to oil and gas industries, engineering and business administration; and seeks to integrate administrative researches and educational programs on scientific and technological grounds.

The educational city also hosts many branches of global universities specializing in technology, administration, economics, engineering and international affairs and local institutions as follows:

Academic Bridge Program

The Academic Bridge Program offers students an intermediary educational program that supports their smooth transition from high-school to university.

Qatar Leadership Academy (QLA)

Being an outcome of the joint cooperation between QF and the Qatari armed forces, QLA adopts an integrative approach to the highest globally-recognized educational standards with the aim to prepare leaders to meet the requirements of the future.

QLA is a member of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program that qualify its graduates to the international baccalaureate certificate. Furthermore, the academy continues to engrain heritage and leadership-related aspects in the student,

while providing them with high quality educational programs in English medium.

Weill Cornell College of Medicine in Qatar (WCCM Qatar)
WCCM Qatar is the first US university offering its medical program outside the United States of America. It actually offers an integrated program combining both pre-medicine and medicine study programs.

Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar (VCU Qatar)

VCU Qatar provides its students with an opportunity to obtain bachelor's degrees in costume, graphic, and décor designing.

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU Qatar)

CMU Qatar allows its students to obtain bachelor's degrees in business administration, computer science and information systems.

Texas A&M University

Texas A&M University offers a bachelor's degree in in chemical, electrical, mechanical and petroleum engineering.

Georgetown University: School of Foreign Service (SFS Qatar)

SFS Qatar offers a bachelor's degree of arts in foreign service with concentration on international politics.

North Western University in Qatar (NWU Qatar)

Launched in 2008, NWU Qatar offers undergraduate programs in journalism and information. Journalism program trains the students on basic journalism skills, while the information program prepares them to take up creative and administrative roles in the field of information and entertainment.

Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies (QFIS)

QFIS offers a general diploma in Islamic Studies; and awards both master's degrees in contemporary jurisprudence and public policy. It is considered to be an international center for Islamic thought and dialogue aiming to enhance research in Islamic culture.

Qatar Academy

Qatar Academy offers a K-12 comprehensive and integrated educational program through which to fulfill the students' requirements for knowledge and physical, social and cultural education; and help the students enter first class world universities and higher education institutions.

RAND-Qatar Policy Institute (RQPI)

RQPI is considered an excellent regional center for education, research and technical development. It is concerned with with training political analysts in the region on essential research techniques that help leaders take wise and well-informed decisions.

Education Centre

This center provides diagnostic consultation and educational and medical treatment services for the students who are suffering from learning difficulties in a K-12 school system.

Qatar Science and Technology Park

Science and Technology Park is home for technology companies from all over the world and a cradle for emerging technological projects. The park has offices and laboratories equipped with all scientific means, installations and required supporting programs all of which help facilitate commercial operations. It acts as a "free zone", attracting the international technology companies to work in Qatar.

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

College of the North Atlantic (CAN qatar)

North Atlantic College is designed to the top standards of flexibility to meet all the possible requirements for quality education. It has a 1-year and a 2-year programs, after the completion of which the student gets an internationally recognized proficiency certificate; and a 3-year program which qualifies the student to obtain the college's diploma. Holders of higher education degrees including diploma, bachelor's, master's and PhD can join the college's programs to obtain proficiency certificates that they can use to seek employment in various fields. The college allows its graduates to pursue their higher or postgraduate education in the Canadian universities.

Stenden University Qatar

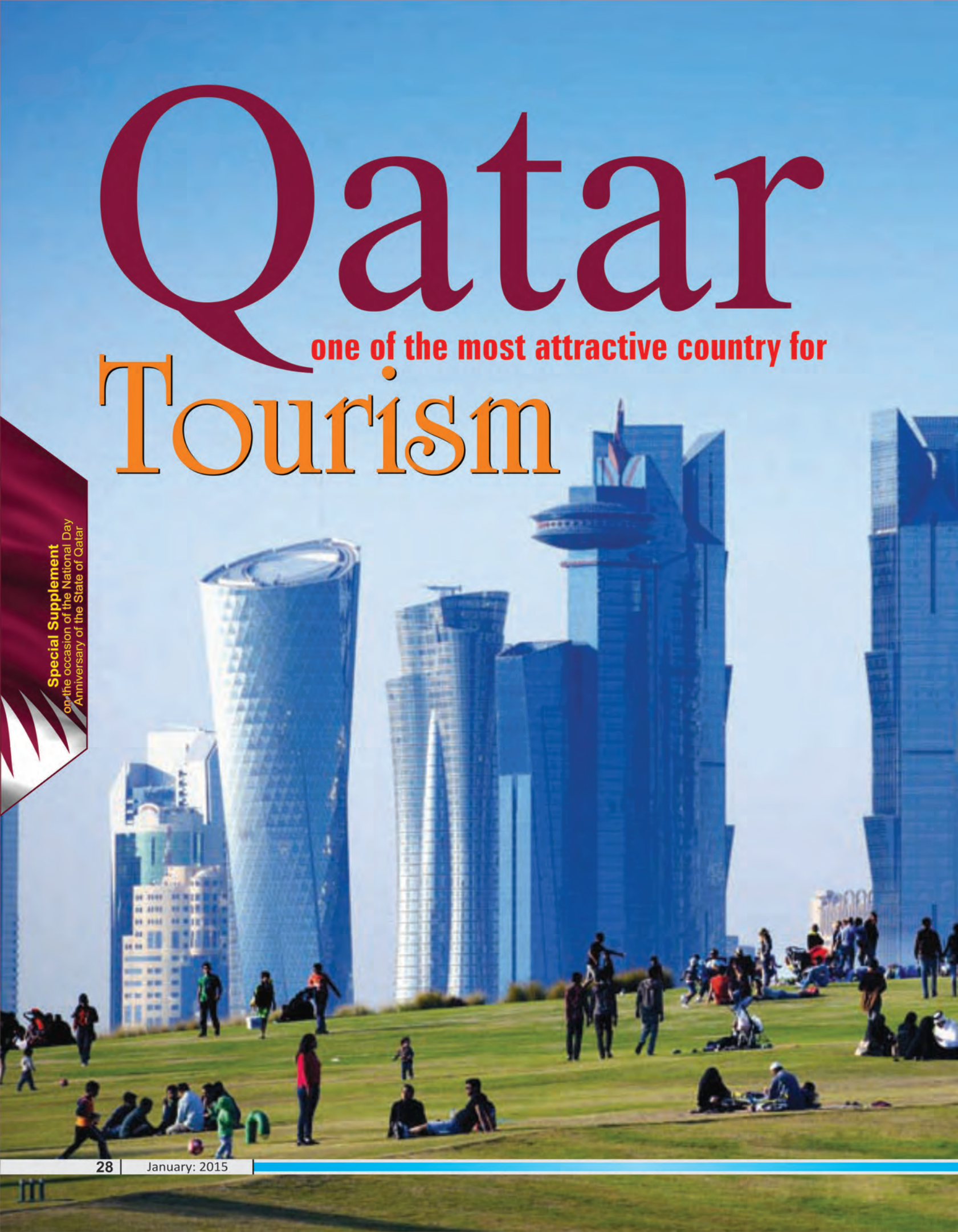
The Dutch Stenden University Qatar, formerly known as C.H.N. University in Qatar, was established in 2000 to be the first university with a specialized faculty for hospitality and tourism management. The institute offers a bachelor's degree in business administration from a hospitality and tourism management program, and a diploma in hotel management.

Qatar

one of the most attractive country for

Tourism

Special Supplement
on the occasion of the National Day
Anniversary of the State of Qatar



Under the ambitious five-year development plan of the Qatar Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (QTEA), the government aims to boost the number of visitors. The funding needed to meet this goal is certainly there – in 2008 the state allocated some $17bn for tourism development through 2014, most of which is going towards hotels, exhibition space and infrastructure. In order to keep up with a rising number of visitors, the government hopes to increase hotel capacity 400% by 2012. In addition to financial support, the government has also worked to ease business regulations in a bid to increase private sector activity. A major aspect of expansion plans is the New Doha International Airport (NDIA),

which will have the capacity to handle up to 24m passengers upon the completion of the first phase in 2012. Considering the vast majority of these visitors are members of the business community, the government has naturally targeted the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions segment as a viable source of development, with two new convention centres slated to open in 2011. Other niche tourism segments receiving special focus include cultural tourism on the back of the recent headline-grabbing opening of Doha's Museum of Islamic Art, and sports tourism, initially spurred by the Asian Games, to which Qatar played host in 2006. The government appears to be committed to long-term expansion plans, but challenges nevertheless remain, including effective marketing to the international community as well as the effect of the financial crisis on global tourism appetite.

Transport

With a fast-expanding population and substantial economic growth over the past decade, a reliable and extensive transportation network is becoming increasingly necessary within Qatar. So far the government, the primary transport developer, has done well in terms of keeping up with demand for new transportation options. In 2008 the Public Works Authority (Ashghal), one of the bodies that oversees infrastructure development, underwent a major reorganisation in order to streamline and modernise the authority in preparation for major project expansions across all segments in the near future. Ashghal works in tandem with the Urban Planning and Development Authority (UPDA), the body that designed the transportation master plan, instituted in March 2006 and running to 2025.

As driving is the primary mode of transport in Qatar, the road network is a major focus of the plan. Project highlights in this segment include the multibillion-dollar Doha Expressway and the Qatar Bahrain Causeway, which will connect Qatar to Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and is considered a milestone in regional interconnectivity. Mass-transit options, such as a Doha

metro, light-rail system and more extensive bus networks, are also under development to ease road congestion. In addition, the railway system is being significantly expanded and could eventually form an integral part of a GCC-wide network linking all the Gulf states. The airport, too, is expanding capacity to keep up with rising visitor numbers. The New Doha International Airport is one of the largest projects in Qatar today and will boast a capacity of 50m passengers upon completion in 2015. Finally, port infrastructure is seen as an integral part of Qatar's economic development as it focuses on LNG and industrial exports. The port at Mesaieed is undergoing expansion and will be able to handle around 1m twenty-foot-equivalent units by 2020. While the financial crisis may present challenges to infrastructure development later in 2009, once all projects are up and running Qatar will have one of the most advanced and modern transport infrastructures in the region

Other destinations

Khor Al Udeid (Inland Sea) - a region of rolling dunes and high revving engines, many tourists and locals alike enjoy racing up and down the seemingly endless sand dunes. There are a variety of tourism companies that will give you a guided tour of the region, often complete with a traditional Arab meal and campfire.

Zubarah - Contains the ruins of a deserted city and a fort built in 1938 by Sheikh 'Abdu'llah bin Qasim Al-Thani. Also the planned site of the Qatar-Bahrain Friendship Bridge which will allow road travel between North-West Qatar and Bahrain.

Get in

Citizens of GCC countries: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and United Arab Emirates do not need a visa to enter Qatar.

For other nationalities, visa procedures can be complicated, as you will need a guarantor on the Qatari side, either a company or a government entity. Also Qatari embassies, unlike those of most

other countries, are not entitled to issue visas, so someone in Qatar will have to file the application for you. 4/5-star hotels offer full visa service, for a price, if you book a room with them for the duration of your stay. Qatar Airways can arrange the hotel and visa for you, tel. +974 44496980. In this case, there also seems to also be a new regulation in place (2008) to either present a credit card or QAR 5000 at the point of entry - which should generally not be a problem, if you can afford the room. When booking with other hotels, you'll need a guarantor in Qatar.

For longer stays, visas must be arranged by having a sponsor. Unmarried women under the age of 35 will have a hard time in procuring a visa for a lengthy stay, as the country seems to fear that their safety and well being cannot be guaranteed.

By plane

When going by plane to Qatar, you will most likely enter the country at Doha's airport: Hamad International Airport (DOH), which opened on 30 April 2014. Local carrier Qatar Airways is building a growing worldwide network with flights from there.

By car

The only land route to Qatar is from/through Saudi Arabia. Night travel by car is not recommended. If you are travelling during the day, watch out for speeding cars and trucks. Wear your seat belt and try not to speed over 50 mph (80 km/h).

By bus

You can travel to Qatar by bus from/through Saudi Arabia, there are fixed bus routes, within Qatar, although mostly used by men only. However, customs can take up to 4 hours especially at night and

you will not be treated nearly as well as if you fly into Doha. The cheapest airline is SAUDIA and costs c. SR1100-1600 for a round trip while by Bus (SAPTCO) Costs SR.230 for a round Trip.

By boat

There are no specific boat routes, but there are commercial freight boats coming into Doha from all over the world, as well as small commercial boats coming in from Dubai and Iran.

Get around

There are three different modes of public transportation that you can use in Qatar: buses, taxis and limousines, all of which are owned by Mowasalat (Karwa) apart from some limousine companies.

The bus service began in October 2005. Ticket prices start from just Qr4.00. You can travel as far north as Al Shamal/Al Ruwais, as far west as Dukhan, and as far south as Mesaieed (Umm Said). You will require a Karwa Smart Card to journey on buses - paying on the bus with cash stopped in 2010.

An alternative to taxis and buses would be to use a limousine service, which will send a car to your location (as will Karwa taxis if they are booked by telephone). Limousines are expensive, but they are the most comfortable form of transport.

Uber taxi service is available in Qatar since December 2013. This smart-phone based taxi service seems to work well: they arrive at your location typically within 15 minutes. You receive a photo of the driver with his name and telephone number, which is a good security feature.

You can hire a car with local Car Rental companies. You will find plenty of car rental company in cities, airports or via your hotel.

Walking and using bicycles is usually not a good idea in the hotter months of the year, as the heat can get very intense and tiring.

Qatar: Culture, Arts

Doha, the capital, houses more than 80 percent of the population. Its parks, promenade, and award-winning waterfront architecture are considered as the centerpiece of Doha. The large-scale land reclamation project undertaken by the government to create those waterfront properties is recognized as a major engineering feat and a symbol of the country's economic and technological advancements.

Smaller towns such as Dukhan, Um Said, and Al Khor have become centers of the oil industry, and Wakrah, Rayyan, and Um Slal Mohammad have grown as suburban extensions of Doha. Smaller villages are spread throughout the desert interior. Doha's cityscape represents an attempt to fuse the modern with the traditional. At the start of the building boom in the 1960s, little thought was given to aesthetics; the objective was to build as quickly as possible. As the pace of development slowed, more consideration was given to developing a city that symbolized Qatar's new urban character and global integration. Designs were solicited that used modern technologies to evoke the nation's past. The main building of the university has cube-shaped towers on the roof. Those towers, with stained glass and geometric gratings, are a modernist rendition of traditional wind towers. The university towers are decorative rather than functional; however, they are highly evocative of Qatar's commitment to the lifestyles of the past while encouraging economic and technological development. Similar examples are found in government and private buildings. Many building designs incorporate architectural elements resembling desert forts and towers or have distinctively Islamic decorative styles executed in modern materials. Homes also symbolize people's identities.

Food

Foods central to Qatar's cuisine include the many native varieties of dates and seafood. Other foods grown locally or in Iran are considered local delicacies,

including sour apples and fresh almonds. The traditional dish machbous is richly spiced rice combined with meat and/or seafood and traditionally served from a large communal platter. The main meal is eaten at midday, with lighter meals in the morning and late evening. The midday meal on Friday, after prayers, is the main gathering of the week for many families. Coffee is a central feature of the cuisine. Arabian coffee made of a lightly roasted bean that is sweetened and spiced with cardamom is served in small thimble-shaped cups to guests in homes and offices. Most households keep a vacuum jug of coffee and sometimes tea ready for visitors. Another beverage, qahwa helw(sweet coffee), a vivid orange infusion of saffron, cardamon, and sugar, is served on special occasions and by the elite. In recent years, restaurants and fast-food franchises have opened.

1 – Museum of Islamic Art, Doha :

The Museum of Islamic Art is a museum located in the Qatari capital Doha and designed by architect I. M. Pei. The museum's interior gallery spaces were designed by a team lead by JM Wilmotte of Wilmotte Associes.

- Address: Doha Port, Doha, Qatar

- Opened: November 22, 2008

& Heritage

- Architectural style: Islamic architecture

- Function: Museum

- Architects: I. M. Pei, Jean-Michel Wilmotte

2 – Mathaf , Arab Museum of Modern Art :

The Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha offers an Arab perspective on modern and contemporary art and supports creativity, promotes dialogue and inspires new ideas. It is the first institution of its kind in Qatar.

- Address: Education City, Al Huqoul St, Doha, Qatar

- Phone: +974 4402 8855

3 – Doha Corniche :

The Doha Corniche is a waterfront promenade extending for several kilometers along the Doha Bay in the capital city of Doha, the state of Qatar .

4 – Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex :

The Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex is a tennis complex in Doha, Qatar. The center is owned and operated by the Qatar Tennis Federation

- Address: Al Majles Twaon Street, Al Dafna, Doha, Qatar

- Opened: December 16, 1992

- Phone: +974 4440 9666

5 – The Pearl-Qatar :

The Pearl-Qatar in Doha, Qatar, is an artificial island spanning

nearly four million square metres.

It is the first land in Qatar to be available for freehold ownership

by foreign nationals.

Cultural Village (KATARA)

Katara was the ancient name for Qatar Peninsula in the geographical and historical maps. Today, it refers to the Cultural Village situated on the coast of the Arabian Gulf between the West Bay area and the Pearl Project on the road leading to the north of Qatar. Katara was constructed in order to host many cultural events and offer entertaining and tourist public services. It consists of the Roman Theatre or playhouse with its various terraces. There are also several restaurants, open spaces, and two large mosques. It also has a special hotel for falcons, dovecots, veterinary center and special association for falcons and birds in general, as well as an open air theatre.

Theatre in Qatar

Seeking to develop the theatrical movement in the country, the government established the Department of Culture and Arts in order to follow up

and promote the theatrical activity. It has been since 1972 financially supporting the private theatrical troupes to encourage them to improve their works and avoid commercializing them.

In this respect, the Qatari theatrical movement—despite its humble beginnings—has successfully laid down the corner stone for and established a strong presence among its counterparts in the Gulf region and the Arab world; it has toured the entire region and received the gratitude of all the various cultural and theatrical departments.

The first Qatari theatrical troupe was officially recognized in 1972 under the name of the "Qatari Theatrical Troupe." In the same year, this troupe presented its first theatrical work; it continued presenting its various shows until 1994 with the appearance of 3 other bands; Sadd Theatrical Troupe, Lights Theatrical Troupe and Folk Theatrical Troupe .these troupes were merged into two instead of four troupes so as to focus their efforts, enhance their memberships and concentrate their capabilities to present better theatrical works.

Private Artistic Firms

In early 1986, several private artistic groups began appearing in the field of theatrical production. They presented a set of theatrical works which received big public attendance. Such groups work with actors from the local theatrical troupes as well as actors from the Gulf and Arab countries.

Theatres of Qatar

In Qatar, there are two large theatres equipped with advanced instruments and equipment:

Qatar National Theatre, which was opened in 1986 and is considered to be one of the best theatres in the region. It is equipped with advance technologies and is of vast capacity for various theatrical, ballet and folk shows.

The Cultural Neighborhood (Katara) theatres

Souq Waqif theatre

1 – SOUQ WAQIF :

· One benefit of a visit to Qatar is the abundance of quality 18- and 22- carat gold available in the dozens of tiny jewellery shops lining Al Ashat Street (a small street off Grand Hamad Street near Alfardan Centre) that make up the Gold Souq. In many of these shops, gold is not only sold but also handcrafted by second- and third-generation skilled craftsmen, any of whom will be happy to make up a piece of jewellery to your own unique design.

- Row upon row of glittering 22-carat gold chains, bangles and

earrings adorn the tiny shop windows, and it is often possible to watch the jeweler sitting cross-legged on the floor, busily melting down pieces of gold before carefully hammering it into shape using the most rudimentary equipment.

- Centuries of trading with India, China and other distant lands have made their mark, influencing the designs of much of the ornate local jeweler. Traditional "bridal jewellery", which is given to Qatari girls by their husbands-to-be prior to the wedding, includes spectacular headdresses, gold belts and heavy necklaces and gives an insight into local taste. Gold is priced according to weight, carat, and whether it is made by hand or machine.
- Elsewhere in Doha, many up market shops sell gold jewellery more suited to Western tastes, with much

of it made in Italy. Despite this, it is still very cheap and a must-have souvenir for most visitors.

2 – AL KOOT FORT :

- Set in the heart of Doha city, close to Souq Waqif, Al Koot Fort was built in 1880, originally on the outskirts of the old town of Doha. This attractive Moorish-style white building, with its three distinctive towers, lies at the very heart of the history of Qatar.
- During the early 20th century, it was used as a prison, and a base from where the traditional armed guards, or nattoor, patrolled the lively souq area.
- Its restoration in 1978 transformed it into an ethnographic museum, a storehouse of information on the traditional crafts of the nation with exhibits and artifacts of weavers, boat builders, gypsum carvers, basket makers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, rope-makers, tailors and embroideres – visual reminders of times gone by. However, some of the original features were lost during this project and today Al Koot Fort is being rebuilt to reflect its precise former glory. Although currently closed to the public, the building provides a popular photo opportunity.
- The fort is located at the corner of Jasim Bin Mohammed and Al Qalaa Streets, adjacent to the Souq Waqif car park.

3 – AL SHAQAB STUD :

- Set in a beautiful and tranquil environment in Al Rayyan, the prestigious Al Shaqab Stud farm – owned by HH the Emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, and attached to Qatar Foundation is home to an unrivalled collection of pure-bred Arab show and race horses. One of the first private studs to be established in the Gulf, its architecture reflects the historic importance of horses in Arab culture and tradition, with walled paddocks surrounding a fortress-style stable yard and water well.

4 – Al Wakra :

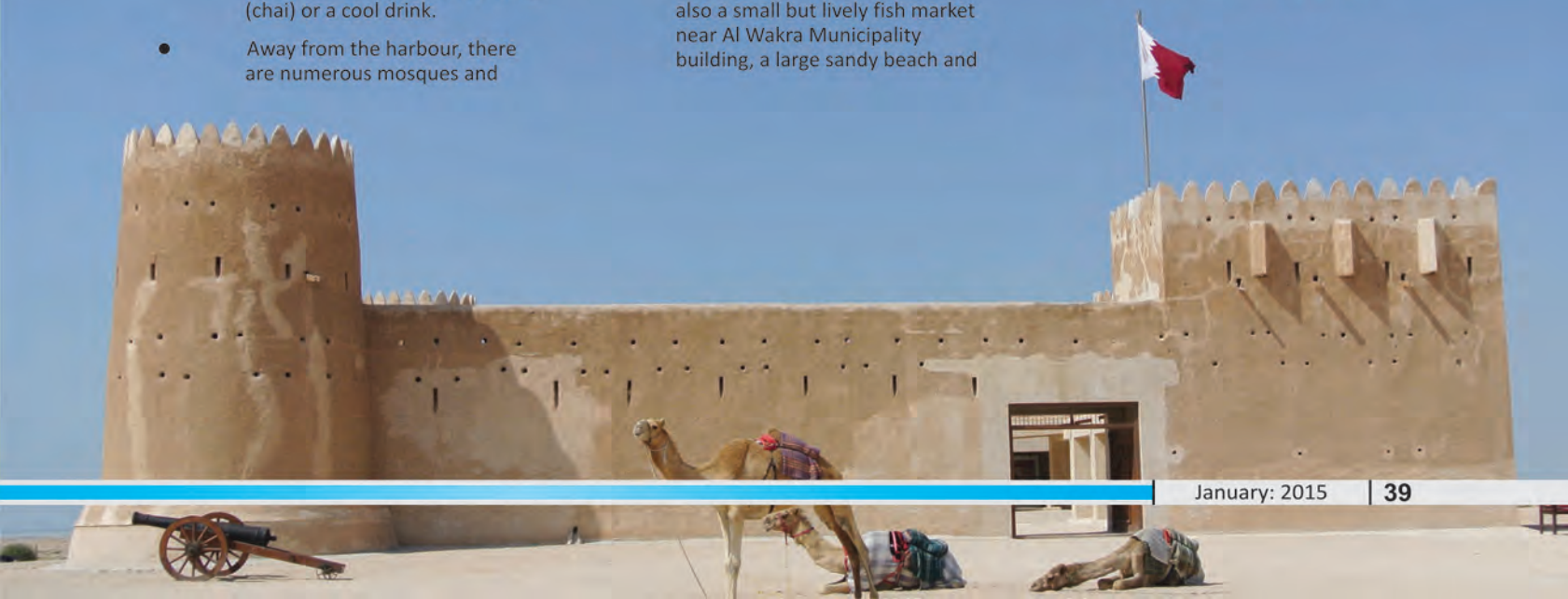
- Just 12 km south of Doha, Al

Wakra has grown from a tiny fishing and pearling village into a small residential town with a colourful and bustling fishing and dhow harbour – a great place to spend a few hours on a winter's afternoon as there is plenty to watch. The jetty attracts fishermen with handlines, always ready to show their catch, and the dhows provide an excellent photo opportunity. At the end of the jetty is a small cafeteria where you can enjoy a cup of tea (chai) or a cool drink.

- Away from the harbour, there are numerous mosques and buildings that give some insight into how Wakra might have looked back in the early 20th century, when it was administratively independent from Doha. These abandoned buildings offer some characteristic architectural features, such as the use of mangrove poles to form the roof, the use of gypsum for decoration, small windows to keep out the heat, and the lewan or covered verandas. There is also a small but lively fish market near Al Wakra Municipality building, a large sandy beach and a park with a children's play area.
- To the south of Wakra, mangrove plantations are developing, making it an excellent venue for birdwatching and spotting wildlife. Access to the mangrove plantation is restricted to those in 4WD vehicles. (Beware of soft sand near the shoreline.)

5 – AL ZUBARA :

- At the very tip of the Qatari peninsula, the now rather desolate area of Al Zubara was the site of successive communities and was once a thriving and prosperous settlement – the focus of the region's trade.
- Between 1775 and 1780, an attack by the Persians on Basra, coupled with an outbreak of the Plague, forced many merchant families to flee the southern Iraqi city, with many settling at the walled city of Al Zubara.
- At its prime, it is estimated that some 5,000 to 6,000 inhabitants lived there, earning their living by fishing, pearl harvesting and merchant trading. The fortess



city was destroyed in a siege in September 1878.

- Archaeological excavations on the 54-hectare site are ongoing but have already uncovered the foundations of the city walls with the bases of 20 watchtowers, many residential dwellings and artifacts, along with evidence of some limited cottage industries.
- Al Zubara Fort, slightly inland from the city, was built in 1938 during the reign of Sheikh Abdullah Bin Qassim Al Thani and was used by the military until the mid-1980s. It now houses a regional museum that is open to the public.

Music

The music of Qatar is based on sea folk poetry, song and dance. Traditional dances in Doha are performed on Friday afternoons; one such dance is the Ardah, a stylized martial dance performed by two rows of dancers who are accompanied by an array of percussion instruments, including al-ras (a large drum whose leather is heated by an open fire), tambourine and cymbals, along with small drums. Other instruments played in Qatar include the oud and rebaba, both string instruments, as well as the Arabian flute.

Fann at-Tanbura is a type of spiritual music and dance ritual.

The Qatari Gulf Folklore Center is one of the preeminent centers for the study of the folk music of the Persian Gulf.

A noteworthy cultural institution is the Qatar Music Academy in Doha, Qatar. Their mission is "to develop promising young talent from the region to be the next generation of world-class musicians, by providing a comprehensive music education program which draws on practice, music theory and incorporates both Arab and Western classical music curriculum. QMA will provide an environment that encourages students to achieve their potential and will allow them to pursue a diverse range of career options relating to the music industry."

Sealine Beach Resort

Sealine Beach Resort is situated 55 km from the capital.

Al-Gharriyya Resort

Al-Gharriyya Resort is situated in Al-Gharriyya area in the north of the country; and it comprises a number of furnished villas.

The Zoo

The Zoo includes a big collection of animals, reptiles and birds, and has a small fun city.

Al-Rumaila Park

Al-Rumaila Park lies on Doha Corniche and has landscapes, children rides, a popular market and restaurants.

Dahl El-Hamam Public Park

Dahl El-Hamam Public Park has several green areas, passageways and playgrounds for children.

Khor Al Udaid Beach

Khor Al Udaid Beach lies on the most south-eastern part of the country, 78 km from Doha, and features fine sand dunes.

Al-Jassasiya

Al-Jassasiya is a range of rocky hills overlooking the north-eastern coast of the country.

Al-Maha Reserve

Al-Maha Reserve was established to protect the Oryx (named Al-Maha in Arabic), which is an endangered desert antelope.

International cooperation

International cooperation means mutual collective work by the countries of the world for the common good of the international community, which responds to the motives of the need to improve the lives of the international community for the better by developing solutions to the existing problems, or through devising the means to improve the economic, political, social, cultural and scientific conditions of the international community. The significance of international cooperation lies in its success to achieve a range of benefits including the following:

- Enhance and augment political and economic stability.
- Achieve sustainable development with all its economic, social and environmental dimensions; and endeavor to achieve its broad goals.
- Contribute to the rapprochement between peoples and promote their common interests.
- Promote the global partnership in development.
- Contribute to solving economic and social problems of a global nature.
- Facilitate access to loans and development assistance on concessional terms.
- Assist in dispute resolution among members of the international community.

Sports

The government cares a great deal for sports. It set Tuesday in the second week of February every year as the National Sports Day, in which everyone is encouraged to exercise. National Sports Day is a national holiday, in which all ministries, other government departments and public authorities and their affiliated organs, alongside with all entities operating in the country including the private sector establishments organize sports activities and exercises for their employees compatible with their conditions and ages with a view to spread the awareness of the significance of sports and their role in the wellbeing of individuals and societies.

Qatar Olympic Committee

Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) is responsible for the administrative and technical supervision of the national sports federations and institutions. There are 24 sports federations and assemblies along with 10 first-class sports clubs and 6 second-class clubs, to which all QOC provides both human and financial capabilities so that they can fulfill their missions. QOC also supervises the Girl Sports Committee.

The Committee aims at spreading sports and physical health throughout the country, taking care of and developing Olympics in accordance with the basics stated in the Olympic Charter, and supporting and developing sports performance in an Olympic spirit. QOC is also concerned with composing and organizing the national sports delegations to participate in the Olympics, regional, continental and international championships and training camps in addition to supporting the organization of the same held in Qatar.

Sports Facilities

There are one hundred and fifty (150)

sports facilities in Qatari, most prominently:

- Khalifa Olympic City
- Aspire Zone Complex
- Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex
- Sports Medicine Center
- Doha Golf Club
- Hamad Complex for Water Sports
- Women's Tennis Hall
- Al-Wajbah Centre for Girls Training

Women's Sports in Qatar

Qatar Women's Sport Committee was established in 2000, and was affiliated to Qatar National Olympic Committee in 2001 by a decision from HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani the Heir Apparent and President of Qatar National Olympic Committee.

Women Sports Committee seeks to improve women's performance in sports, enhance their participation in the various sports events, sessions and conferences either at home or abroad and improve their administrative and technical capacities in this respect, in addition to creating a general awareness of the importance of sports activities.

Major Traditional Sports in Qatar

Camel Race

Annual Arabian camel races are organized, including two main races: HH the Emir Sward race and HH the Heir Apparent sward race in which camels from the GCC countries participate.

Falconry

Falconry (Qans as called in Arabic) is one of the most favorite pastimes among the residents of Qatar. Falconry season in the Gulf region usually starts at the beginning of winter and continues until the end of it. Specialized fairs are held to display different varieties of falcons.

Horse Race

Horse racing is one of the old sports and most favored in this country. Horse races include HH the Emir's Cup races and HH the Heir Apparent's Cup races; and they are organized by Racing and Equestrian Club.

Modern Sports

Football

Football is the premier and most popular sport in Qatar. It is widely practiced among the youth through various clubs and in modern pitches. Work is underway to prepare the required football facilities for the FIFA Cup 2022.

Golf

Doha Golf Club is very well-known internationally for its annual tournaments state-of-the-art facilities. Based on this reputation, it is girded for a luminous future with the organization of more regular championships.

Tennis

Qatar Open Tennis Tournament is a prestigious international event, attracting scores of the world first-class players every year. It is held at the Tennis Complex, comprising seventeen tennis courts and other highly advanced facilities.

Squash

Qatar Tennis and Squash Federation (TSF) organize Qatar Squash International Tournament every year. This tournament attracts the best world and well-known players

Qatar Rally

Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation organizes Qatar Motor Rally which is the best rally in the Middle East, with vast participation from top international rally champions.

The federation also organizes an annual motorcycle rally on Lusail International Arena which is of the most modern motorcycle rallies in the Middle East.

Athletics

Qatar is distinguished by being the only country in the Middle East to host on annual basis many local, Arab and international athletics championships, which are supervised by the International Athletics Federation.

Desert Horseracing Marathon

Qatar International Desert Marathon is a real test for both man and beast, where competitors do the standard marathon distance. This exciting long distance endurance event enjoys a worldwide media coverage.

Swimming

The State cares a lot for swimming since the establishment of the Swimming Committee by a decision from Youth General Authority in 1993. Qatar national swimming team participated in all Gulf, Arab, Asian and international swimming competitions.

In 2000, Hamad International Complex for Water Sports was established with training, instruction and competition programs and facilities for swimming and diving.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN QATAR

Qatar hosts many international championships that have confirmed its position on the Gulf, Arab and

international sports map, and attracted the attention of the world.

- H.H. The Emir Arabian Camel Race Cup
- H.H. Heir Apparent Football Final Cup
- Qatar Masters Squash Championship
- H.H. The Emir Volleyball Cup
- Qatar Gymnastics Grand Prize
- H.H. the Emir Football Final Cup
- Qatar International Bowling Championship
- H.H. The Emir Basketball Final Cup
- Qatar Cycling Tour
- Qatar Motor Rally
- Qatar International Sailing Regatta
- Qatar masters gold championship
- Qatar International Equestrian Festival.

Qatar's Sports Academy (Aspire)

One of the most advanced sports institutions in the world and the first of its kind in the Middle East, aspire is built around turning young sporting hopefuls into winners at the highest levels of international competition.

The Academy offers state-of-the-art and world-class educational and sporting installations and technologies; and comprises an integrated array of facilities either on the academic side including study halls and advanced sports science labs; or on the sporting side including training fields and courts, a physiotherapy and medical center, fitness halls and recreation facilities.

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