Qatar-India ties

Prime minister meets Airbus CEO

U.S. wants to deploy new missiles in Asia

Sudan protesters, generals reach ‘full deal’ on civilian rule

Qatar

Qatar has announced it will send a military delegation to the U.N. to support the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Qatar’s response to the pandemic has been praised for its rapidity and decisiveness, with the government implementing strict measures to control the spread of the virus.

The country has reported a total of 3,371 cases, including 3,145 recoveries and 76 deaths.

Qatari government spokespeople said the country’s vaccination program is progressing well, with more than 300,000 doses administered so far.

Qatar has also been using its resources to support other countries in the region and beyond, with medical supplies and equipment being sent to countries like Iran, Jordan, and Yemen.

In addition to its domestic efforts, Qatar has also been working with international organizations like the WHO and UNICEF to coordinate the global response to the pandemic.

Prime minister meets Airbus CEO

The Prime Minister of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, met with Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury in Doha on Monday to discuss the status of the Qatar-India aviation agreement.

The agreement, which was signed in 2016, aims to increase aviation connectivity between the two countries.

Airbus said in a statement that the meeting was “a strong commitment to furthering the growth of air travel and the economies of both countries.”

U.S. wants to deploy new missiles in Asia

The U.S. plans to deploy new medium-range missiles in Asia, according to a statement from the Pentagon.

The new missiles are part of a broader strategy to counter China’s increasing military capabilities.

The Pentagon said the missiles would be deployed in “an area that is consistent with U.S. security interests in the region.”

Sudan protesters, generals reach ‘full deal’ on civilian rule

A joint statement issued by the Sudanese military and civil society groups late Monday confirmed the deal had been reached.

The statement said the military council would transfer power to a civilian-led transitional government within 18 months.

The agreement comes after months of protests against military rule and calls for a civilian government.

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HMC’s Hazm hospital opens its 2nd outpatient psychiatry clinic

H uman Medical Corporation’s (HMC) newest hospital, Hazm Hospital (Hazm), in Doha’s Industrial Area, has introduced the second outpatient psychiatry clinic in line with the National Mental Health Strategy’s objective to improve the quality and access to mental healthcare services.

The clinic is a response to the growing need for community-based mental healthcare services. It is a reflection of the National Mental Health Strategy and is a no-cost initiative towards the establishment of a second outpatient clinic.

In an interview with Gulf Times, Dr Nima Nazari, director of Psychiatric Services at HMC and National Health Strategy lead for Mental Health and Wolfson said HMC’s ongoing expansion of community-based mental health services is in line with the National Mental Health Strategy’s objective to improve the quality and access to mental healthcare services.

“The establishment of this second clinic means that patients will now have access to outpatient psychiatric clinics every Tuesday and Wednesday. Patients who present at our new clinic can now be referred to these specialist psychiatrists on a multidisciplinary approach,” said Dr Nazari.

The establishment of a second outpatient clinic will allow us to better serve our patients,” said Dr Iain Tulley, CEO of Mental Health Services at HMC and National Health Strategy lead for Mental Health and Wolfson.

“This is part of a wider strategy towards the establishment of a second outpatient clinic in Doha’s Industrial Area, has introduced the second outpatient psychiatry clinic,” said Dr Iain Tulley, CEO of Mental Health Services at HMC and National Health Strategy lead for Mental Health and Wolfson.

O odedo has announced a promotion that gives Shariqy and Qatarna customers using the Ooredoo app access to a 35% discount on up to two Uber rides, up to a value of QR20 per ride.

Qatar's leading mobile operator, Ooredoo, has announced its new promotion, all Shahry and Qatarna customers using the Ooredoo app will get two promotional codes per month, each one valid for use only once.

Dr Nima Nazari, director of Psychiatric Services at HMC and National Health Strategy lead for Mental Health and Wolfson said HMC’s ongoing expansion of community-based mental health services is in line with the National Mental Health Strategy’s objective to improve the quality and access to mental healthcare services.

Iain Tulley, CEO of Mental Health Services at HMC and National Health Strategy lead for Mental Health and Wolfson said: “Our tie-up with Uber is a great way for us to offer additional value to our customers and enhance the experience for our customers using the Uber app.

Customers can sign up to a Shariqy or Qatarna pack at any Ooredoo shop in the country.

TII offers language courses for children and teenagers

S ix foreign language courses for children and teenagers are now on offer at the Translation and Interpreting Institute (TII), part of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU). The classes will be delivered by experienced teachers at a price set to commence in September.

The full courses, offered through the Language Center of TII, include Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish. A specially-designed Arabic course for non-native speakers aged 6 to 12 will aim to strengthen the reading skills of students and develop their communication abilities. The course will cover simple dialogue exercises and help students read and understand short passages that address daily life.

The classes will be held at TII’s main campus until December 14.

To enrol for one of TII’s language courses, visit http://tii.qa/LanguageCenter and follow the instructions that address daily life. All courses will be held at TII’s main campus until December 14.

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Subsidised sheep prices initiative launched for Eid al-Adha

In a bid to promote local sheep production and control the price of sheep during Eid al-Adha, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with the Ministry of Municipality and Environment (MME) and Widam Food Company, have announced the subsidised sheep prices initiative.

The sale of sheep will begin today (Dhu al-Hijjah 3) and continue until August 13 (Dhu al-Hijjah 12), the third day of Eid al-Adha.

A MoCI statement said an agreement was signed with Widam Food Company in order to ensure a supply of 9,000 sheep of Arab origin (local and Syrian). A total of 2,500 local sheep (Arab Awassi) with a weight of 35kg and above will be available for buyers at QR1,000 each, whereas 6,500 Syrian sheep with a weight of 40kg and above will be available for QR950.

The sheep will be sold through Widam Food Company’s outlets in Al Shamal, Al Khor, Al Mazrouah, Al Daayen, Al Daayen, Al Wakrah, Al Wakrah, Al Khor, Al Shamal, and Al Daayen. Home delivery services will also be available.

According to the terms of the initiative, sheep will be sold to each Qatari citizen who presents a valid ID card. The buyer should be at least 20 years old (born in 1999 or later) and he will have the right to purchase only one sheep.

Local Dates Festival concludes; sale of over 170 tonnes recorded

The fourth edition of the Local Dates Festival by the Ministry of Municipality and Environment (MME) and Souq Waqif management concluded at Souq Waqif yesterday. Over 170 tonnes of dates were sold at the event that attracted as many as 51,000 visitors, according to statistics released by the MME.

The festival that started on July 23 was organised as part of Qatar’s efforts to promote locally grown products and help local farmers find the ideal market for dates. More than one dozen local dates varieties from across Qatar including Al-Khalas, Al-Shishi, Al-Khenaizi, Al-Barhi, Al-Iraqi, Al-Silji, Al-Saqai, Nabt Saif, Al-Lulu and Al-Razizi were on sale.

Last year, the festival attracted about 54,000 visitors and sold 205 tonnes of fresh dates worth QR1.7mn.

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced temporary full closures of a number of Qatar’s main roads in co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic, to allow the completion of upgrading works. Drivers are advised to follow the road signs to ensure safety.
Zarif: Iran will further reduce commitments to nuclear deal

Iran will take another step to reduce its compliance with a landmark 2015 nuclear accord, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said yesterday.

Iran has repeatedly said it will reduce its compliance to the nuclear accord in stages and may even withdraw from the pact altogether if the re-imposition of US sanctions is not lifted.

In December 2008 in Iran when he returned to his native land to end his three-year sentence, "Esmaili said, quoted by the judiciary’s official news agency, Mizan Online.

"The third step in reducing commitments by the nuclear deal is not completely implemented by others then we will also implement it in the same incomplete manner," he said.

"We have said that if this deal is not completely implemented by others then we will also implement it in the same incomplete manner.

"And of course all of our actions have been within the framework of Iran’s laws and regulations," he added.

The United States on Wednesday imposed sanctions on Zarif himself, blocking any property or interests he has in the United States, although Zarif said he was not actually sanctioned by the US treasury.

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"The third step in reducing commitments by the nuclear deal is not completely implemented by others then we will also implement it in the same incomplete manner."
Syria airbase blast kills 31 regime fighters: monitor

Agencies

A munitions blast killed 31 regime and allied fighters at an airbase in central Syria yesterday, a war monitor said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which is based in Britain and relies on a network of sources on the ground, said it was unclear what had caused the deadly explosion at the Shayrat airbase in Homs province.

But state news agency Sana reported that a “technical fault during the transport of expired ammunition” had killed an unspecified number of victims.

The Shayrat airbase is one of the regime’s most significant installations in the centre of the country, and its destruction would deal a serious blow to the regime in Syria’s ongoing civil war, the observatory said.

In 2017, US air strikes hit the base in response to a suspected sarin gas attack on the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhun in northwest Syria that killed more than 80 people.

The US military had claimed that the base was the launchpad for the atrocity.

Iranian fighters, who support the regime in Syria’s civil war, are based there, according to the observatory.

Syria’s war has killed more than 370,000 people since starting in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government protests.

The observatory said civilians who were displaced from the south of Idlib province and fled towards its northern border region with Turkey, rode in trucks loaded with belongings along the Bab al-Hawa highway yesterday on their way back home after 15 months of deadly bombardment.

Fourteen suspected members of a drug trafficking network escaped yesterday from a police station in Baghdad, an Iraqi security official told AFP.

“The defendants first insulted the police, then beat them and managed to escape” from the police station in eastern Baghdad, near the Shia bastion of Sadr city, the official said, on condition of anonymity.

Prison security is a critical issue in Iraq, where escapes are not uncommon, whether by violence or bribery.

The 12th most corrupt country in the world, experts have pointed to very high levels of corruption in Iraq’s prisons.

During the years of insurrection and sectarian violence that followed the United States’ 2003 invasion, hundreds of militants – the majority from Al Qaeda at the time – were able to escape from prison, Iraq is currently seeing a flood of local and foreign inmates, while keeping them in overcrowded prisons.

The sale and use of drugs has been booming for years in Iraq. Almost every day authorities announce the seizure of narcotics or the arrest of traffickers.

14 alleged drug traffickers escape Iraqi custody
In this file photo, members of IMN wave flags and chant slogans as they protest against the Nigerian government in Abuja. The Nigerian government has banned the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN), a Shia movement that advocates for the release of its leader, Zakzaky, and demands an end to government abuses. The ban comes after a string of violent clashes between the IMN and Nigerian security forces, during which at least 20 people, including some IMN members, were killed.

The IMN, founded in the 1980s, is known for its radical approach and has been involved in armed conflict with the Nigerian government. The group has been associated with the deaths of hundreds of its members, including Zakzaky and his wife, who were detained after a violent clash in 2017.

Since the ban was announced, the IMN has staged protests across Nigeria, with thousands of members marching in the capital, Abuja, and other cities. The group's leaders have called for a peaceful approach, but some members have been forcing security forces to retreat with shots fired.

The ban, which also applies to the group's leader, Zakzaky, who is currently being held in custody, has sparked international criticism. Human rights organizations have condemned the ban, calling it a violation of freedom of expression and association.

The Nigerian government, however, has defended the ban, saying it is necessary to maintain law and order in the country. The government has also announced that it will review the situation after six months.

The ban on the IMN comes at a time when Nigeria is grappling with a widening security crisis, with ongoing conflicts between the government and various armed groups, including Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP).

The Nigerian government has been accused of using excessive force against protesters and other civilians, resulting in widespread human rights violations. The UN has called on the government to take urgent action to address the situation and ensure that human rights are respected.
Qatar Charity (QC) has signed a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Albania to provide the necessary medicines to meet the needs of Albanian hospitals. The agreement was worth 200,000 euros.

The agreement was signed for Qatar Charity by Director of Project Management Khalid Al Yafei, and for the Albanian Ministry of Health by Secretary General of the Ministry, and for the Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Albania, Jollardina Prudani, in the presence of HE Qatar’s Ambassador to Albania, Ali bin Hamad Al Marri and HE the Minister of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Albania, Ogerta Manastirliu.

Al Yafei said that this agreement is a continuation of Qatar Charity’s assistance to Albania which started in 1994 and has continued to this day in order to strengthen cooperation and development ties with the Albanian people in many fields.

The agreement was signed in the presence of the two countries’ long-standing assistance and fruitful cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Ahmed Saad Al Rumaihi Head of International Partnerships- Qatar Charity participated in the panel discussion and briefed the participants about Qatar Charity and its operations globally and the different aspects of humanitarian assistance projects for refugees and its impact on their lives.

The campaign primarily aims to the protection of displaced persons and refugees and the provision of a decent life for them in their countries or countries of asylum.

Responding to a question on how the trust of beneficiaries has been built while using social media platforms, Al Rumaihi said: “QC has a specialized department, which manages social media accounts like Snapchat, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc”. Our team works to spread the word to the public to increase the numbers of potential donors.
A New York police officer was suspended on Friday after being recommended to be fired for his role in the death of Eric Garner, who resisted arrest but was chokes to the ground by an officer, according to a disciplinary hearing that concluded on Thursday.

The inquest appointed three former officers, one of whom was an officer, to investigate the death of Garner, who was killed during an arrest on July 17, 2014. Garner’s family slammed the department’s decision as an “insult.”

On Thursday, the department’s decision was announced. Garner’s family said that the decision was a step toward justice, and they hoped that it would bring peace.

But the decision was met with criticism by some who said that it was not enough to pull its head out of the grate.

The governor and attorney general both said that they were disappointed with the decision.

Meanwhile, another officer pressed Garner’s head to the pavement amid claims that Garner suff ered from a heart attack.

Garner’s family has called for his involvement in the case to be made public.

The department said that Garner’s family slammed as “insulting.”

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Train derails in Canada’s Alberta

A train derailed in Canada’s Alberta province on Sunday, killing at least one person and injuring several others. A Canadian Pacific Railway train was traveling through the area when it derailed near the town of Three Hills.

The company said that it was working to clear the tracks and restore service.

The cause of the derailment is under investigation.

The train was carrying coal from the Alberta mountains to a power plant.

The accident is the latest in a series of recent derailments in Canada.

In June, a train carrying oil derailed near the town of Fort McMurray. In May, a train carrying grain derailed near the town of Prince Albert.

The latest accident comes amid concerns about the safety of Canada’s rail network.

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China: Progress on ties with Australia ‘unsatisfactory’

The progress of repairing China’s bilateral relations with Australia, damaged severely by the so-called China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA), has not yet been back on track as soon as possible, according to a statement from the Chinese foreign ministry.

The Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said that the Chinese side welcomed the Australian government’s positive attitude toward visa negotiations between the two countries.

Geng said that the Chinese side welcomed the Australian government’s positive attitude toward visa negotiations between the two countries.

However, he also pointed out that the Chinese government had repeatedly expressed its view that the Chinese-Australian relationship should be based on mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit.

Geng noted that the Chinese side had always been willing to enhance cooperation with the Australian side in various fields.

He emphasized that the Chinese government would continue to support the Australian side’s efforts to promote economic and social development, and hoped that the two sides would continue to strengthen cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, education and culture.

In his remarks, Geng also highlighted the need for the two sides to continue to enhance mutual understanding and respect for each other’s core interests.

Gong said that the Chinese government would continue to support the Australian side’s efforts to promote economic and social development, and hoped that the two sides would continue to strengthen cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, education and culture.

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Anti-fascist activists clash with right-wing protesters

Councillors across the country welcomed the funding but highlighted that far-right protesters are already causing havoc.

"This is a moment of opportunity," said one council leader. "We need to seize the moment and do everything we can to prevent any further violence."

The funding was welcomed by many councils but they warned that the scale of the problem is still not clear.

"We can't march unopposed" some leaders said.

The funding was announced in response to the growing concern about far-right activism.

"This is not about the emergency situation anymore," said one leader. "This is about ensuring that we are all prepared for any future incidents."

The funding will be used to support local authorities in their response to far-right activism and to develop strategies to address the issue.

"We need to be prepared for any eventuality," said another leader. "We need to ensure that we are all working together to address this issue."

The funding will also support the development of local plans to deal with far-right activism and to raise awareness of the issue.

"We need to ensure that everyone understands the issues," said one leader. "We need to ensure that we are all working together to address this issue."

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Hundreds arrested at rally in Moscow

Reuters

Russian police detained hundreds of people, including prominent opposition figure Ilya Yashin, as they attempted to hold a protest in Moscow despite a ban on demonstrations.

The move was the latest in a series of crackdowns by authorities on dissent and opposition, following the recent detention of opposition leader Alexei Navalny and his allies.

Police said they had detained 559 people in total, including Yashin. The opposition leader, who is running for mayoral elections in Moscow next year, had called on his supporters to gather to demand fair elections.

The protests were held near Moscow's Pushkinskaya Square, where Navalny had called on social media for people to come to a rally to demand free and fair elections.

Yashin was among those arrested, his lawyer said. He was taken to a police station where he was later released.

Navalny's team said they had called off the rally after the arrest of Yashin and other opposition leaders.

The Kremlin has esta...
**INDIA**

Panic sets in Valley amid shortage of food items

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**Panic sets in Valley amid shortage of food items**

Dozens of Kashmiri youth walked on the street of Srinagar yesterday night as news of new restrictions hit the region.

Kashmiri students who were outside the valley before cold sets in.

**Tourists flee Kashmir after ‘terror’ warning**

As reports of multiple attacks came out of the region, tourists are leaving Kashmir.

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The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has extended the deadline for filing tax returns for the year 2018.

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A series of dates have been set by the government for the return of the petitioner and the respondent.

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Qatar’s fundamentals boost its credit profile

Qatar’s strong fundamentals such as its solid credit position, robust fiscal and monetary policies, growing natural gas reserves and exceptionally high per capita income have come in for special mention by a premier credit rating agency.

In its August 1 report, Moody’s Investors Service said Qatar’s strong fundamentals and solid track record of well-managed public finances mean that its credit metrics are likely to remain consistent with the assigned rating, despite the continuing diplomatic, economic and political tensions in the Gulf region that have left large debt burdens on the non-financial public sector carries some financial risk.

A sustained and significant reduction in external vulnerabilities through a decrease in external debt and a rebuilding of foreign exchange reserves would likely prompt an upgrade of the rating, Moody’s noted.

“Moderate fiscal and external break-even oil prices have helped Qatar to withstand the oil price shock,” Moody’s analyst said. “Although the country’s economy still relies heavily on oil and gas sector, non-hydrocarbon growth has been a key driver of growth in recent years.”

That said, Moody’s also highlighted some credit challenges before Qatar faces. Among the country’s concerns is the government’s reliance on hydrocarbon-related revenues to support the public finances, which could expose the public sector to oil price declines, while the relatively large debt on hydrocarbon-related revenue that exposes the public sector to associated contingent liability risks.

Analyst said. “Although the country’s economy still relies heavily on oil and gas sector, non-hydrocarbon growth has been a key driver, it noted.

Analyst said that the projected non-hydrocarbon growth for this year reflects the lingering multiplicative effects of sustained increases in capital expenditures in the last few years, the gradual pace of fiscal consolidation, ample liquidity, and increased private sector activity, it said, adding medium-term growth would be supported by increased gas production from the Barzan fields, a planned increase in LNG production capacity by 49%.

The IMF report said inflation is projected to peak at 5.7% in 2019, with the introduction of a valued added tax, but contracts to 2% in the medium term.

Highlighting Qatar’s debt-to-GDP ratio is its expected to remain consistent, albeit at a slower rate; IMF said that in 2019, expenditure restraint and large surmise impact of higher oil prices would need in further improvement of fiscal position to avoid about 9% from 2.9% in 2018.

Over the medium term, the fiscal position would be in moderate surplus due to broadly stable hydrocarbon prices and sustained expenditure control.

“A current account surplus of about 4.9% of GDP is envisaged for 2019 in line with the projected oil prices, and slower import growth than GDP, thus maintains this ratio the medium term, the current account would be in modest surplus.” it said.

Qatar’s reform agenda pertaining to the business environment, significant economic zones, labour law, increased foreign ownership limits and privatization has also been hailed by the IMF.

The building political pressures of populism and national situations are threatening to push the pursuit of the UN’s single goal.

We can see that side-based. Although the superpower gone, no longer serious threats and under increasing threats at a time when used for effective multilateralism and action capacity is more important and the multifacility back to the core of the global order of the post-Vietnam conflict, which is characterized by the rise of the superpower and the multipolar system of power, and the growth of international institutions.

The multiplication of entities and an international co-operation coalition in which the powers are essentially muscle power, the growth of international institutions.

The UN remains the most important element of the international system, as a result of the UN’s ability to mediate the 20 years – and still several agencies operations, the number of countries, and the number of countries that have not adopted the "new world order".

In the end, the UN adopted the abandonment of the anti-totalitarian politics that had prevailed since the Second World War, a planned increase in LNG production capacity by 49%.

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The UN remains the most important element of the international system, as a result of the UN’s ability to mediate the 20 years – and still several agencies operations, the number of countries, and the number of countries that have not adopted the "new world order".
Climate change will survive Democratic debates

By Leonid Bershidsky

Leanne Fisher from Climate Transparency published a column on the impact of climate change in the Democratic primary debates. The author argues that while many commentators and a Trump campaign that was “a political stunt” may have had some influence, the debates still contained some hard truths for those still in doubt. The author notes that Climate Transparency’s “higher ground” plan would help the candidates and the public understand climate change.

Russiagate is deadlier than ever

By Leonid Bershidsky

The 2020 presidential election campaign is not only about policy, but also about the dissemination of false information. The author argues that the Trump campaign has been using similar tactics to its predecessor, the Clinton campaign, and that the information is genuine, the public should be aware of it. The author also notes that the US Chamber of Commerce on his plan for a Green New Deal, which contrasts with the US Senate’s “middle ground” plan, is not helping the Democratic candidate there.

Live issues

Yellow lens glasses don’t improve drivers’ night vision

By Linda Carroll

The author argues that yellow-lens glasses do not improve drivers’ night vision. The research conducted on the effectiveness of yellow-lens glasses showed that they did not improve drivers’ ability to distinguish colors or improve visual acuity. The author states that the widespread use of yellow-lens glasses, particularly by older drivers, has been a cause for concern, but the research findings suggest that these glasses do not improve driving safety.
‘Perfect Duet’ art exhibition reflects close Qatar-India ties

Indian ambassador to Qatar P Ramasamy said during the opening night: “The vibrant expression of the union between India and Qatar, nurtured over centuries of trade and cultural links, has been interpreted and expressed by both artists Ahmed Al-Jufairi and his mother Hanady Al-Othman in their unique styles, exploring the dynamic exchange between our two cultures.”

Also in attendance on the opening night were ambassadors and dignitaries, Fire’s deputy chief of mission, Oswaal assistant general manager Western Desk of Unesco Doha Office director Dr P Kumaran, W Doha general manager Wassim Daaje, AIB chairman Abdulla Aman Alkhater, DPS-MIS vice-president Mr Oswal DJ and W Doha Hotel & Residences deputy chief of mission, Oswaal.

The ‘Perfect Duet’ exhibition comprises more than 20 installations based on different media of art, such as sculpture, prints, digital prints, oil and acrylic paintings. Al-Jufairi and Al-Othman have a very distinctive interpretation on the Qatar-India artistic message, with Al-Othman choosing to celebrate women in a very bright, colourful and artistic manner, with Al-Jufairi interpreting on the Qatar-India cultures and histories, India and Qatar, nourished over centuries of trade and cultural links, expressed by both artists Ahmed Al-Jufairi and his mother Hanady Al-Othman in their unique styles, exploring the dynamic exchange between our two cultures."

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