

ABP ORGANISES ORIENTATION FOR 40 NEW STUDENTS



PAGE 14 | DATELINE DOHA

MINISTER SIGNS QR200MN CENTRAL PLANNING OFFICE PROJECT CONTRACT



PAGE 19 | METRO MUSINGS

QC DISTRIBUTES RELIEF ITEMS AMONG 1,000 SYRIAN FAMILIES



PAGE 20 | CITY LIGHTS

Weather Today

FINE	
Sunrise	6:22 am
Sunset	5:03 pm
High	25°C
Low	18°C
Wind	15 kts
Visibility	moderate
Pressure	1013 mb
Rel. humidity	52%

# Nation

Qatar Tribune

Thursday, January 12, 2012

PRAYER TIMING

Fajr:	4:58 am	Dhuhr:	11:42 am
Asr:	2:43 pm	Maghrib:	5:03 pm
		Isha:	6:33 pm



EMIR MEETS GAMBIAN MINISTER



The Emir His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani with Gambian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mamadou Tangara at the Emiri Diwan, in Doha, on Wednesday. Tangara, who is also the special envoy of the Gambian president, handed over a written message from the President of Gambia Sheikh Alhaji Dr Yahya AJJ Jammeh to the HH the Emir.

## Sheikha Mayassa receives SDC Honorary Volunteer Award

SANTHOSH CHANDRAN DOHA

HER Highness Sheikha al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa received the Social Development Centre (SDC) Honorary Volunteer Award at a grand ceremony held at Katara on Wednesday, in recognition of the key role she plays in volunteer work.

Dr Sheikh Mohamed bin Eid al Thani was honoured with the Honorary Volunteer Award given his role as one of the pioneers of charitable work in Qatar.

The SDC also recognised Abdullah bin Khalifa al Attiya, Yousef Hussain Kamal, Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al Thani, Mohammed Hamad al Mana and Bader al Darwish who have supported the institution financially, allowing the SDC team to achieve their goals set for 2011 and ensure that dreams and projects become a reality.

Sponsored by Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC), the event was attended by Chairman of SDC's Board of Trustees Mounira bint Nasser al Misnad, Secretary General of QOC Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al Thani, Head of SDC's Volunteer Awards Organising Committee

Dr Abdul Aziz Mohammed al Har and SDC's Executive Director Amal al Mannai, in addition to government officials and representatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Mounira bint Nasser al Misnad said, "Through such initiatives, we are trying to foster a culture of volunteerism among Qatari youth, acknowledge genuine efforts in volunteer work, and motivate individuals and organisations to contribute to

**We are pleased that volunteer work is spreading across the country and are proud of the role sports play in attracting volunteers.**

Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al Thani

their communities. Today, we say Kafu. Kafu means well done to all of you who have prioritised volunteer work and helped make this day possible."

For his part, Sheikh Saoud said, "Sponsoring SDC's event stems from our commitment to support volunteer work across Qatar and to increase understanding on the importance of such efforts in building

our community."

"We are pleased that volunteer work is spreading across the country and are proud of the role sports play in attracting volunteers who we see as our partners in everything we do," Sheikh Saoud added.

Winners of the Individual Volunteer Award were Ahmed Yousef al Ferdouni, Dara Mojib al Dosari, Shaqra Ismail al Zeyara, Ahmad Jassim al Jolo and Habes Mohammed Howail. The Time Bank, GCM-Qatar, won the Projects Award and Qatar Society of Engineers won the Institution Award of the year.

The panel of judges included Dr Kaltham al Ghanim, professor of sociology at Qatar University, Dr Abdullah al Hamadi, former professor at Qatar University, and Ayed al Kahtani, director at RAF Foundation for Humanitarian Services.

Launched by SDC on November 6, 1999, the SDC Volunteer Awards are presented to individuals and organisations that engage in volunteer work, prioritise public service and strive to have a positive impact on the community. To promote volunteerism, SDC also runs Kafu — an annual awareness campaign for the youngsters.

Nationline

Emir issues a decree

THE Emir His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani on Wednesday issued the Decree No 1 of 2012, ratifying the memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation and joint news exchange between Qatar News Agency and News of Belarus which was signed in Doha on August 15, 2011, and would have the power of law as per Article No 68 of the Constitution. The decree will be put into force from the date of issue of its publication in the official gazette. (QNA)

Emir appoints new envoy to Philippines

THE Emir His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani on Wednesday issued the Emir's decision No 5 of 2012 appointing Jassim Ali Abdullah al Ebeidi as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Philippines. The decision provides will take effect from the date of issue of its publication in the official gazette. (QNA)

Emir issues ratification instrument

THE Emir His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani has issued a ratification instrument approving the draft agreement on air services between Qatar and Ukraine which was signed in Kiev on October 19, 2011. (QNA)

Chief of staff meets UK defence secretary

THE United Kingdom's Defence Secretary Philip Hammond conferred in London on Wednesday with Chief of Staff of the Qatari Armed Forces HE Major General Hamad bin Ali al Attiyah, who is on a visit to that country. (QNA)

## QCF, Kuder in pact to boost career plans for Qatari youth

JOSEPH VARGHESE DOHA

QATAR Career Pair (QCF), a member of Qatar Foundation, has signed an agreement with Kuder, a leading international provider of internet-based tools for career planning, to provide a 'Career Advisor Training' programme for the Qatari youth.

The agreement was signed by Khalid al Sulaiten, co-chair of the QCF Steering Committee, and Phil Harrington, Kuder president, in the presence of Abdulla al Mansoori, QCF executive director, on Wednesday.

According to the agreement, Kuder will present a tailor-made career development programme for the Qatari youth. It will provide advanced training, cutting-edge tools and resources for young Qataris to advance their careers. Kuder's internet-based system can be combined with the users' interests and skills to develop a personal portfolio that enables them to explore a wide range of career options.

Speaking about the partnership, Sulaiten said, "Kuder is the one of the leading companies in the world in career assessment, guidance and planning. We chose to work with Kuder because of its potential to implement programmes related to career planning in Qatar. Kuder is a pioneer in the career development industry, and we hope our relationship will open new doors for Qatar's youngsters."

He added that the programme was only the beginning. "It will be implemented in other GCC countries in the future," Sulaiten added.



Kuder President Phil Harrington (left) and Co-chair of QCF Steering Committee Khalid al Sulaiten at a function, in Doha, on Wednesday. (HANSON K JOSEPH)

Harrington pointed out that Kuder has been a globally recognised leader in career assessment, planning and development for last 75 years. "We are thrilled to join hands with a world-class organisation like Qatar Foundation whose mission is quite similar to our own. We look forward to delivering cutting-edge tools and resources to Qatar's residents and the MENA region to ensure a future in which they have every opportunity to lead more productive and fulfilling lives," he said.

He further said Kuder will soon design and deliver a Qatar specific customised career advisor training course to teach the essential elements of career planning services and to provide tools and activities that trainees can use with students and clients.

**According to the agreement, Kuder will present a tailor-made career development programme for the Qatari youth.**

Mansoori said the career development plan may be implemented as part of the students' curriculum in Qatar. "We are starting a workshop from Thursday and will take stock of the needs of the youth in the country. Once the plan and training manuals are ready, students in schools and universities will be able to follow it as part of their curriculum," he said.

Some of the programme modules are career choice and development theory, facilitative skills,

assessment tools, role of information in career planning, methods of service delivery, ingredients of career planning and implementation.

The first component of the programme will include a career development course, designed by Kuder for academic counsellors in Qatar.

The course will assist counsellors guiding Qatari students to select careers and develop plans for their future. The QCF has exclusive rights to apply and market this course in Qatar and the GCC.

Kuder will also offer the 'Career Planning Tools' programme, which aims to equip Qatari students and graduates with the resources necessary for career planning.

## Rare Bengal tiger cubs born in Doha zoo

QNA DOHA

TWO Bengal tiger (Panthera tigris) cubs were born in Doha zoo in a rare case of birth of a semi-extinct species in captivity.

The Bengal tiger, which lives in the wild mangrove forests of the Indian subcontinent, has been classified in 2010 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources among animals that are "threatened with extinction".

Head of the zoo section Hassan al Mohannadi said in a press statement that all precautionary measures were taken for the cubs' healthy delivery.

He pointed out that the newly-born tigers were receiving special care to keep them in good health in captivity and in environment that differ from their natural habitat.

Mohannadi said that distinctive services were delivered to the pair in terms of extensive hygiene and accommodation. They are being fed twice daily with dose of calcium and vitamins, he added.

Bengal tigers are found in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar. Its pregnancy period ranges between 104 and 106 days and normally gives birth to 1-4 cubs. It can live in captivity for up to 18 years.

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DIAL DOHA

<b>FIRE</b>	999	Airport Services-Operator	44656666	Drain Centre	44687894
<b>AMBULANCE</b>		Qatar Airways	44496666/44496000	Municipality (Doha)	44363636
<b>POLICE</b>		Qatar Airways (Airport)	44496688	Ministry of Education	44941111
Electricity	991	Gulf Air	44455444	Qatar Television (QTV)	44894444
Water	991	Gulf Air (Airport)	44656318	Qatar Broadcasting Service (OBS)	44894444
Hamad Hospital	44394444	Immigration & Passport Department	44890333	Qatar University	44852222
Childs Emergency Centre (Al Saad)	44393333	Traffic Department	44890666	Postal Department	44464000
Rumila Hospital	44396666	Water Emergency	44329559	SriLankan Airlines	44322628/44369910
Women's Hospital	44396666	Electricity Emergency	44677601	Oman Air	44320509/44321373
Airport Services- Enquiry	44622999	Weather Forecasting (Admn)	44656590	Oman Air (Airport)	44626835

THAI PRINCESS VISITS MSHEIREB PROPERTIES

Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand (right) at the Msheireb Enrichment Centre, in Doha, recently. The princess was briefed on the progress in construction of the \$5.5 billion Msheireb Downtown Doha development by Msheireb Properties Project Director Engineer Mohamed al Marri.



US university students visit Qatar, boost educational relations

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

TWENTY-TWO students from the University of Maryland and Colorado State University in the US made a trip to Qatar to engage in a dialogue with a similar number of young Qatari professionals from the higher education sector.

The students' trip began with the Qatar Study Tour (QST), comprising visits to Souq Waqif, the Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art, and the Museum of Islamic Art, as well as a briefing at Fanar Islamic Cultural Centre, setting the stage for the discussions that are now taking place at the Young Professionals Institute (YPI).

Earlier, Hamad bin Khalifa University President and Qatar Education Science and Community Development (QF) Vice-President for Education Dr Abdullah bin Ali al Thani welcomed YPI, describing it as a "critical initiative" that "focuses on the importance of student learning and development as essential components of effective higher education."

"The Young Professionals Institute provides an important opportunity for students in Qatar to further themselves in their professional development process. We are pleased to once again cooperate with Colorado State University and the University of Maryland in offering this program," he said.

Placed in teams with educational professionals from Qatar, University of Maryland and Colorado State University graduate students explored topics of recruitment, admissions, retention, and international student needs, as well as student affairs as a career path in Qatar. Their findings will then be offered to the wider student body and higher education professionals in the concluding YPI symposium, wrapping up the students' trip to Qatar.

"I have been fascinated by

the devotion of the Royal Family of Qatar to ensure the future of the nation through education, science, and the arts," said University of Maryland participant Tiffane Chocharan.

"I have also been overwhelmed by the hospitality of the Qatar Foundation to ensure that our experience in Doha is a great one. This has truly been an unforgettable time," Chocharan added.

Jennifer Nival of Colorado State University further reinforced Tiffane's views, saying, "This experience has helped me expand my knowledge of higher education and student

**The students' trip began with the Qatar Study Tour (QST), comprising visits to Souq Waqif, the Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art, and the Museum of Islamic Art.**

affairs globally. From the generous hospitality to the commitment to education, it has been a breath taking experience."

Evan Witt of Maryland concluded, "This country has an uncanny ability to make dreams reality. I have been amazed by the visions of Qatari people and their ability to create their future."

The 2012 YPI plays an important role in building human capacity inside Qatar. Assistant Vice President for Faculty & Students Services for QF Dr Dennis Roberts said, "Offering opportunities for Qatari and expatriate workers to engage with leading institutions in the United States will deepen their understanding of how to enhance student learning and is essential for the future of higher education in the Gulf."

By hosting the YPI and giving both international and Qatari students an outlet to discuss together subjects relevant to student leadership, QF is undoubtedly building Qatar's future for a knowledge-based economy.

ABP organises orientation for 40 new students

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

THE Academic Bridge Program, a centre of Qatar Foundation, organised an orientation programme for 40 new students admitted to its 2012 spring semester recently.

The event was aimed at introducing the ABP's policies and procedures as well as its administrators and faculty members to the students.

ABP Director Dr Miles Lovelace welcomed students and briefed them about the programme. He emphasised the importance of hard work and many opportunities available to students studying in Education City.

Assistant Director of Student Services Moza al Bosainin introduced the Student Services staff.

Assistant Director of Academic Affairs Dr Mark Newmark explained the programme's academic policies while ABP Counselor Ellenore Hibon highlighted the college admission



ABP new students at an orientation programme, in Doha, recently.

process.

Admissions and Records Coordinator Said Hijab talked about the ABP grading system. Brief presentations were also made by ABP

Librarian S C Kumaresan, Learning Resource Center Coordinator Mark Dowd and IT Coordinator Mohammed Ragab.

ABP's Student Association

President Ibrahim al Rajhi urged the new students to work hard during the programme in order to get admission to the university of their choice. The students

were then taken on a tour of the building before meeting their academic advisors to finalise their schedules.

As a center of Qatar Foundation, the Academic Bridge Program enrolls new student twice yearly. The majority of ABP students enroll during the fall semester, which starts in August. Around 30 to 40 students are accepted in semester two (spring semester).

Students enrolling for the spring semester start classes in January, studying for only one academic term in contrast to the two terms the rest of the students take. With only two months to go before Education City university deadlines students are encouraged to focus on their studies and aim for high grades as well as commit diligently to their schedules.

The Academic Bridge Program is accredited by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation in the United States.

BFPIS honours debate winners

L N MALLICK  
DOHA

THE Bright Future Pakistan International School (BFPIS) feted winners of the second Inter-School Urdu Debate Competition during a function recently.

The contest was organised by Ehsaas, a socio-cultural organisation of expatriate Pakistanis in Qatar, to mark the birth anniversary of founder

Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Pakistan's Ambassador to Qatar HE Muhammad Sarfaraz A Khanzada presided over the event.

The BFPIS winning team members were Tahir Abdul Qudus, Muhammad Bilal, Syed Arzanish and Ayesha Abdul Qudus. The team brought home certificates of participation and a trophy. The competition was aimed at boosting the participants' public speaking skills and

**The contest was organised by Ehsaas, a socio-cultural organisation of expatriate Pakistanis in Qatar, to mark the birth anniversary of founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah.**

developing their personality. "It was a tough competition but the students did well

in their overall performance," said Qaisar Sajjad, Incharge of Debates and head of Urdu Department at the school.

Principal Mussarat Irfan expressed her appreciation to the team members for bringing laurels to the school. She commended the participants for serving as role models to their fellow students. She also praised efforts of Sajjad in preparing the team for the contest.



BFPIS Principal Mussarat Irfan (centre) with Head of Urdu Department Qaisar Sajjad (right) and the winners of the contest at a function, in Doha, recently.

# Minister signs QR200mn Central Planning Office Project contract

**QNA**  
DOHA

THE Minister of Municipality and Urban Planning HE Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Khalifa bin Abdul Aziz al Thani signed a QR200 million consultancy services contract for the 'Central Planning Office Project' with the British consulting company, WS Atkins, on Wednesday.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the minister said that the office was created to coordinate many transport projects in Qatar, which are in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030 regarding the establishment of world-class infrastructure to the national economy characterised by diversity and effectiveness for the benefit of future generations.

He said Qatar National Vision 2030 requires the development of an infrastructure of international standards, including new highways and local roads as well as underground and railway systems, in addition to a new airport, new sea port and a crossing to Doha Bay.

He also said that the details of the Gulf Crossings project will be announced soon.



Minister of Municipality and Urban Planning HE Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Khalifa bin Abdul Aziz al Thani during an agreement signing ceremony, in Doha, on Wednesday.

"We have waited for a long time because we want a distinctive and world-class project," he said.

Late in February 2010, the ministry announced the completion of the initial study for

the Gulf Crossings project, which highlighted the importance of the existence of such crossings to help ease traffic jams in the Doha area and to open a main line for traffic from Al Wakrah and the

southern areas as well as from the New Doha International Airport to the West Bay area and northern areas in Lusail. The minister also noted that these projects would be implemented in conjunction

with the construction of new sports stadiums, hotels, schools, hospitals and other vital facilities, which requires independent bodies to undertake coordination with each other.

# Deputy PM chairs Cabinet meeting

**QNA**  
DOHA

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs HE Ahmed bin Abdullah al Mahmood presided over the Cabinet weekly session held at the Emiri Diwan on Wednesday.

After the meeting al Mahmood said that the Cabinet discussed mechanism of regulations and rules of expansion in the application of educational coupon programmes for all Qatari students and the issuance of the appropriate relevant legislative tool.

He said the Cabinet approved the following: a decision by the Minister of Interior on the definition of technical specifications of cameras and security control devices, a proposal by the Minister of Business and Commerce for the establishment of a tenders committee at the ministry and the joining of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage.

The Cabinet also approved a draft agreement on the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of financial evasion with regard to income tax between governments of the State of Qatar and the Isle

of Man and a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of industry, energy and natural resources between governments of Qatar and the Republic of Korea, the minister said.

He said the Cabinet took necessary measures for the endorsement of the following agreements signed between the governments of Qatar and the Republic of Chad: an economic, technical and trade cooperation agreement, an agreement on the reciprocal encouragement and protection of investments, an agreement on cooperation in the judicial field.

The cabinet also approved the participation in the Milan International Exhibition (Expo 2015) during the period from 1/5 to 31/10/2015. It reviewed and took the appropriate decisions on a memorandum by the Ministry of Economy and Finance on a draft law amending some provisions of the Commercial Company Law issued by Law No (5) of 2002 and opinion of the Ministry of Business and Commerce to this effect and a letter by the Minister of Justice on the outcome of the 23rd meeting of the GCC ministers of justice held in Abu Dhabi in November 2011.

# Chougule receives highest Indian expatriate award

**SANTHOSH CHANDRAN**  
DOHA

HASSAN Chougule, a prominent Doha-based Indian expatriate received Parvasi Bhartaiya Samman Award, the highest honour conferred on overseas Indians in Jaipur on Monday.

President of India Pratibha Patil presented the award to Chougule and other recipients during a function organised to mark Parvasi Bhartaiya Divas, the day on which Mahatma Gandhi, the father of India returned from Africa to

India. Chougule, born in Ratnagiri in the state of Maharashtra in India, is a long time resident in Qatar. As a social activist, educationalist, he has proved himself as notable Indian community leader in Qatar.

He currently serves as the Managing Director of Emad Group of Companies, Vice-Chairman of Doha Grand Hotel Group and advisory council chairman of Indian Cultural Centre (ICC).

He is the only Indian, who has headed all the three cultural forums, ICC, ICBF and

IBPN, which function under the aegis of the Embassy of India in Qatar. Indian Ambassador to Qatar HE Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa stated in *Imprints of Life*, a book about Hassan Chougule, that he has contributed very significantly towards expansion of activities of the three apex bodies, besides making their scope of work more meaningful.

He is a founder president of DPS-Modern Indian School and founder member of Ideal Indian School and also the President of Indian Overseas Congress for Qatar.



India's President Pratibha Patil (third left) presents the Parvasi Bhartaiya Samman Award to Hassan Chougule (left) as the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi (right) looks on, in Jaipur, India, on Monday.

# HMC to empower nurses to take up innovative research

**LANI ROSE R DIZON**  
DOHA

HAMAD Medical Corporation (HMC) will ensure its nurses are empowered to embark on innovative approach to patients care, said Executive Director of Nursing at HMC Dr Nabila al Meer.

Talking to *Qatar Tribune* on the sidelines of the HMC first Symposium for Pediatric Nursing Leaders on Wednesday, Dr al Meer said, "As we embark on the Academic Health System, we need to empower nurses to use evidence-based research in their practice to provide better patient outcome."

"Once we achieve the Magnet Organisation status, we will be recognised in the region and internationally as a centre of nursing excellence. This will lead to greater satisfaction about the nursing care that our patients receive at HMC. It will also help us recruit and attract high-calibre nurses to Qatar."

The symposium is being



Executive Director of Nursing at HMC Dr Nabila al Meer speaks at a symposium, in Doha, on Wednesday. (MANESH KABSHI)

held under the theme 'Leading our future through change and innovation'.

The symposium discussed the ongoing projects of the Department of Nursing at the HMC towards becoming a centre of nursing excellence and achieving the

prestigious Magnet Organisation status from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

According to Dr al Meer, there are around 7,000 nurses at the HMC. "At present, between 94 and 96 percent of our nurses are recruited from abroad. We are trying to increase the number of Qataris and residents into the profession but it is challenging. This is why I think we have to come up with very attractive salary package and benefits to attract the citizens into this profession," she added.

Al Meer said that aside from working towards becoming a Magnet Organisation, the HMC will also introduce the advanced nurse practice role in which nurses with advanced knowledge on academic preparation can also become educators, advanced clinicians and hold research and decision management roles.

She also said that the HMC was in the process of affiliating with other educational institutions in the country to

start different specialisations in nursing certifications. She said that the department planned to build its capacity by encouraging its nurses to go for advanced education in nursing.

Dr Abdulla al Kaabi, project director of the Children's Hospital Project at HMC said, "This vision is to elevate the nursing profession in our region. Attaining Magnet Organisation status will attract young Qataris into the nursing profession. Nursing so far is not a very attractive profession among the locals in the region for many reasons, including salary packages, image and culture, among others. But the HMC is committed to raising the profile of nurses in Qatar."

Keynote speakers at the two-day symposium include Dr Victoria L Rich, chief nurse executive at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center and Margaret Keatings, chief inter-professional practice and chief nurse executive at The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada.

# QF sets January 15 deadline for stem cell meet abstracts

**TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK**  
DOHA

RENOWED scientists and experts from leading international and regional research and medical institutions will join key ethicists and policymakers to discuss the latest in stem cell research at the Qatar International Conference on Stem Cell Science and Policy from February 27.

The event will run till March 1 at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

The conference, organised by Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) and the James A Baker III Institute for Public Policy, will feature discussions on the

latest in stem cell research, its applications for developing new therapeutic approaches for a variety of diseases and policy options available within cultural, ethical and religious parameters.

The submission of abstracts to be presented at the conference will close on January 15.

QF's President of Research and Development Faisal Mohammed al Suwaidi said, "Stem cell science offers a large number of potential applications, including the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, as well as infectious and neurodegenerative diseases."

"Qatar has one of the most

permissible policies on stem cell research, in line with Islamic ethics. This conference will provide a unique platform for the convergence of science, ethics and policy where scientists and experts from Qatar and around the world can exchange ideas on the latest developments in stem cell research," he added.

The Qatar International Conference on Stem Cell Science and Policy is the culmination of a series of initiatives led by QF to develop stem cell research in Qatar and the region.

Through its partnership with the James A Baker III Institute for Public Policy, QF opened up a dialogue in the Middle East on the ethical



Faisal Mohammed al Suwaidi

and religious perspectives related to stem cell research for the first time in 2009. Later that year, senior Islamic scholars from across the Arab world met in a separate session that ultimately issued a fatwa permitting the use of embryonic stem cells for research and therapy and

emphasising the importance of stem cell research in the region.

A public forum in May 2010 engaged the Qatar community in a discussion with scientists, ethicists, policymakers and Islamic scholars to clear misconceptions among the public about stem cell research.

"As we explore new and developing areas in science research, we must simultaneously examine the ethics and develop the policies that guide research, particularly in controversial areas like stem cell research," said Dr Khalid al Subai, QF's director of Research Coordination and Compliance.

"Through conferences such

like this, Qatar Foundation connects policy and science in an international context, while promoting stronger avenues for cooperation and advancement in medical science and science-based policy," he added.

The Qatar International Conference on Stem Cell Science and Policy is part of the joint International Programme on Stem Cell Science Policy developed by Qatar Foundation and James A Baker III Institute for Public Policy. The programme aims to develop stem cell research in Qatar as well as to find ways to address the shared challenges of community support for stem cell research in Doha and

Houston. To accomplish this goal, the programme has supported several events since its inception, including meetings, workshops and training programmes in Doha and Houston.

Kirstin Matthews, fellow in Science and Technology and Director of the Baker Institute International Stem Cell Policy Programme at the James A Baker III Institute for Public Policy, said, "The Baker Institute has been honoured to partner with Qatar Foundation in developing the programme for the stem cell conference. Research in Qatar has expanded since the 2009 event and will continue to grow under the leadership of Qatar Foundation."

# QC distributes relief items among 1,000 Syrian families

IH SAN YOUSSEF  
DOHA

AS part of its humanitarian initiative to support the displaced people of Syria and Yemen, Qatar Charity has recently carried out a project to bring relief to more than 1,000 Syrian families stranded on the Syria-Jordan border.

A group affiliated to Qatar Charity, presided by Mohammed al Dardour, director of relief and emergency, and Ali Mubarak al Kubaisi, chairman of funding department, visited Syrian refugee camps located in Ramtha, Marja, Mafraq and Swayleh.

Speaking on the plight of the refugees, Kubaisi said, "Qatar Charity is seeking new donations to support the campaign to help the displaced people in Syria and Yemen. The humanitarian situation in both the countries is worsening every day. The people are in urgent need of assistance to meet basic requirements like food, shelter and medicine. These people have lost everything and need immediate assistance to be able to overcome their dire situation."

The relief initiative was launched by Qatar Charity in November 2011. It allocated QR37 million to provide urgent relief to the affected people in Syria and Yemen. According to the Qatar Charity programme, humanitarian assistance like food items, temporary shelter materials, hygiene kits, medical assistance and psychological support are being provided to thousands of affected Yemeni families and Syrians refugees currently living in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

"The campaign is part of our social solidarity towards brotherly Arab countries," said Jassim bin Salem, Qatar Charity executive director for international development. He urged Qataris and expatriates to



Qatar Charity volunteers distribute relief items to the displaced people in one of the Syrian refugee camps, recently.

**Qatar Charity is seeking new donations to support the campaign to help the displaced people in Syria and Yemen. The humanitarian situation in both the countries is worsening every day.**

ALI MUBARAK AL KUBAISI

respond to Qatar Charity's appeal for donation.

A total of QR22 million has been assigned for Syrian refugees. The refugees stranded on the Jordanian border will receive QR4 million. This amount will cover food items, health care, clothing and education. Around

QR14.2 million has been allocated for Syrian refugees who are staying in the border areas of Lebanon while around QR3.6 million has been assigned for families who have fled to refugee camps in Turkey.

In the case of Yemen, the Qatar Charity launched its emergency relief efforts in April 2011. The charity has already provided food worth QR2.4 million to 30,000 Yemeni families. The charity also set up an intensive care unit, provided operation theatre facilities and a medical lab at its field hospital in Sanaa.

In June, the charity provided food items, including milk for infants, and toiletries such as soap, shampoo and washing powder to 30,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon at a total cost of

QR704,000.

Besides Syria, Qatar Charity has assigned QR15 million for relief efforts in Yemen. This includes medical aid worth QR1.8 million. The medical aid covers emergency supplies such as surgical and general equipment and health care. Around QR10.2 million worth of food supplies, such as wheat, rice, milk and oil, is being provided along with an additional QR3 million which covers food and non-food items like hygiene materials and toiletries.

Around 6,000 people have lost their lives in the ongoing internal strife in Syria and Yemen. Tens of thousands are either wounded, missing or displaced.

# Commercialbank, Meeza join hands for 'cloud services'

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

COMMERCIALBANK, one of Qatar's leading private sector banks, announced its collaboration with Meeza, a Qatar Foundation joint venture.

According to the agreement signed by Commercialbank and Meeza, the bank's business customers will get access to a complete portfolio of localised cloud applications available across the internet. This includes payroll email, document management and web hosting solutions. This technology solution will enable direct access to agile, quality-driven and high value model of software-as-a-service.

Meeza, a managed IT services and solutions provider, offers a wide range of services to clients, from creating and managing IT infrastructure to providing technology consulting.

Announcing the strategic collaboration, Andrew Stevens, Group CEO of Commercialbank, said, "Commercialbank is pleased to enter into a partnership with Meeza. The partnership with Meeza is aligned to Commercialbank's strategy to expand its range of products and services as well as its key focus on creating customer service excellence."

He further said, "In a highly competitive marketplace, businesses require support and a distinct advantage over their competitors in order to thrive. Having a bank that understands the needs of your business through listening, offering support and advice is a necessary requirement. At Commercialbank, we believe that one of our prime functions within the



Meeza Chairman and CEO Rashid al Naimi

small and medium size business sector is to help and nurture businesses. Our focus is to develop into successful organisations that have a positive impact on the development of Qatari society."

Meeza Chairman and CEO Rashid al Naimi said, "This relationship with Commercialbank enables them to provide Meeza with cloud services in Qatar. Commercialbank can now offer a full portfolio of cloud applications to their existing and prospective client base. These cloud software applications will be running in Meeza's secure and highly available data centres."

Naimi added, "Introducing these solutions enable companies to adopt itself to the latest technologies. We look forward to a long lasting relationship with Commercialbank as we continue to invest and expand our presence in the cloud services space."

Speaking about the partnership, Raju Buddhhiraju, executive general manager at Commercialbank, said, "The strategic partnership with Meeza will strengthen and expand the products and services offered to the bank's business customers."

# Pianist Schuch to feature in QPO programme

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

LEBANESE-American George Pehlivanian will conduct and Herbert Schuch will be the soloist with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO) in a programme which will include Sergei Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini.

The programme to be held at Katara on Saturday will also host Issa Boulos, who will play the buzug in a performance of his Sama'i Nahawand. Joining Boulos will be Baian Reda (oud), Yassine Ayari (nay), Rony Moser (Arabic clarinet), George Oro (Arabic percussion) and Taoufik Mirkhan (qanun). Pehlivanian will also conduct Richard Strauss' Ein Heldenleben or A Hero's Life.

Rachmaninoff was one of the last connections between 19th century romanticism and modern times. His Paganini Rhapsody continued a tradition, begun by Schumann and Brahms of writing variations on the 24 Caprices by the great violin virtuoso, Niccolò Paganini.

Schuch was born in 1979 in Romania, the son of a family with German and Hungarian ancestry. The family moved to Germany in 1988, where he has lived ever since. Schuch has played with the Wiener Philharmoniker, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonie Köln, Danish National Symphony, MDR Sinfonieorchester Leipzig, RSO Wien, London Mozart Players, Camerata Salzburg, RSO Frankfurt, Deutsche Radiophilharmonie and Münchener Kammerorchester.

Pehlivanian was born in Beirut and emigrated to Los



Herbert Schuch

Angles with his family. He studied conducting with Pierre Boulez, Lorin Maazel and Ferdinand Leitner. In 1991, he became the first American to win the Grand Prize at the Besançon Conducting Competition. Since then he has conducted many of the world's leading orchestras, including

**Rachmaninoff was one of the last connections between 19th century romanticism and modern times.**

the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philharmonia, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, BBC Philharmonic, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and Royal Scottish National Orchestra. In North America, he has conducted the Montreal, Baltimore, Houston, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, St. Paul and Toronto symphony orchestras. Elsewhere, he has worked with the Russian National Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic, Kirov Opera Orchestra and Sydney



George Pehlivanian

Symphony. Kurt Meister, Executive Director of the Philharmonic, points out how the concert matches the mission of the orchestra and its parent body, the Qatar Foundation. "As always our audience will hear music of the highest quality. The music will be conducted by an Lebanese-American conductor. They'll hear Arabic music, Arabic instruments and musicians from the Arab world. And they'll hear two masterpieces, one German and one Russian. We are bringing this region's music-making to the world while we bring the world's music to Qatar," Meister said.

The next concert for the Philharmonic will be a chamber music concert, Mozart and Beethoven Trios, on Wednesday, January 18. The next orchestral concerts will be traditional Viennese new year's concerts on January 21, 22 and 23, with the Vienna Boys' Choir. On January 24, the Vienna Boys' Choir will join the Philharmonic and Siwar JCC Children's Choir for a family concert designed for parents and children.

# Sada honours local media



Minister of Energy and Industry HE Dr Mohammad bin Saleh al Sada with officials and guests at a function, in Doha, on Tuesday.

QNA  
DOHA

THE Minister of Energy and Industry and Chairman of the Higher Organising Committee of the 20th World Petroleum Congress HE Dr Mohammad bin Saleh al Sada honoured institutions and work teams on Tuesday, which played a part in organising the 20th World Petroleum Congress held in December 2011.

The minister honoured the local media for its efforts to make the event a success. Addressing the honouring ceremony, Sada expressed his appreciation for the local authorities' role in organising the meet. He pointed out that the event exceeded all expectations.



Minister of Energy and Industry HE Dr Mohammad bin Saleh al Sada speaks at a function, in Doha, on Tuesday.

Sada further said that Qatar has managed to host this event in its second attempt during which it was able to convince the members of the World Petroleum Council of its ability to organise such an event. "Qatar Petroleum was keen to convince the World Petroleum Congress members that Qatar is capable of hosting such global events. Qatar's position in the world of hydrocarbons is well-known," Sada added.

The minister underlined that hosting the congress in the Middle East was a necessity. Sada also distributed certificates of appreciation and gifts to the representatives of the local media, work teams and institutions in recognition of their contribution during the grand event.