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Weekly Briefing - Qatar

Top Headlines

[Qatar, UK discuss banking and finance ties](#)

Governor of Qatar Central Bank (QCB) H E Sheikh Bandar bin Mohammed bin Saud Al-Thani met yesterday with Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the State of Qatar H E Neerav Patel. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation relations in banking and finance and the means of consolidating them.

[Polish-Qatari investment and technological cooperation in new perspectives](#)

Tomasz Szadziński, Head of the Polish Mission in Doha, met with the Chief Executive Officer of Invest Qatar, Sheikh Ali Alwaheed Al-Thani, and the agency's Director of Investor Relations, Jeroen Carl Maria Nijland. The discussions focused on the current economic situation and investment climate in both Poland and Qatar.

[Azerbaijan, Qatar focus on enhancing economic cooperation](#)

The bilateral cooperation was discussed at a meeting between Azerbaijani Economy Minister Mikayil Jabbarov and Director for Emerging Markets at the Qatar Investment Authority Nasser Al Attiyah, News.Az reports, citing the country's Economy Ministry. The meeting, held as part of the First Azerbaijan International Investment Forum in Baku, focused on promoting mutual investments and developing cooperation in key sectors.

Sector Developments and Updates

Agriculture

[QFFD, IFAD sign MoU to support agricultural projects](#)

Minister of State for International Cooperation and Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) H E Dr. Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad attended the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between QFFD and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on the margins of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

[Municipality ministry strengthens public cleanliness management by launching smart containers project](#)

The State of Qatar attaches great importance to public hygiene management as a key element in improving the quality of life and preserving the environment. This is achieved by launching sustainable initiatives and programs and adopting innovative solutions that contribute to enhancing environmental awareness.

[Kazakhstan, Qatar enhancing cooperation in agriculture and food security](#)

During the meeting, the parties discussed prospects for joint projects in the agricultural sector and ways to strengthen food security. Special attention was given to expanding Kazakhstan product supplies under Qatar's 2030 National Food Security Strategy. Ambassador Issagaliyev underscored Kazakhstan's readiness to act as a reliable partner for Qatar.

Education

[Qatar participates in high-level event on Palestinian children in West Bank and Gaza](#)

The State of Qatar participated on Wednesday in the high-level event themed "Call to Action for Palestinian Children in the West Bank and Gaza", held on the margins of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Representing the State of Qatar at the event was HE Minister of State for International Cooperation, Dr. Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad.

[Qatar University hosts 3MT Competition in tie-in with ConocoPhillips Qatar](#)

Qatar University (QU) hosted the 5th National Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition, which brought together graduate students from ten universities across Qatar. A total of 19 finalists presented their research in concise and engaging three-minute talks before an audience of more than 250 participants, including faculty members, students, researchers, and representatives from academia and industry.

[Education Above All Opens Up Registration to EMPOWER 2025 Youth Conference](#)

The Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, a global education and development organisation, through its Reach Out To All (ROTA) programme, is pleased to announce that registration is now open for its flagship youth event, EMPOWER 2025 Youth Conference, taking place in Doha, from October 17-18 2025.

Health

[Qatar: Apex Health, InterSystems join hands to boost digital health transformation](#)

In a significant step towards advancing digital healthcare transformation and enhancing patient care, Apex Health, a subsidiary of Estithmar Holding, announced the signing of a strategic agreement with InterSystems to implement 'TrakCare', a unified health information system platform.

[Qatar to host 6th Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit](#)

Qatar is preparing to welcome global leaders and experts to advance mental health solutions at the Sixth Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit, scheduled to take place in Doha on September 30 and October 1. The summit, organised by the Ministry of Public Health under the theme "Transforming Mental Health through Investment, Innovation and Digital Solutions," aims to explore innovative approaches and strengthen international collaboration in mental health care.

[Travel Clinic at CDC 'strategic component of Qatar's public health defence'](#)

The Travel Clinic at the Communicable Disease Center (CDC) of Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) is playing a central role in safeguarding Qatar's health security, serving as more than just a vaccination centre. Medical Director of Hamad General Hospital and Chief Executive Officer of CDC, Dr. Muna Al-Maslamani, described the clinic as a "strategic component of Qatar's public health defence, actively safeguarding travellers, the local community, and the broader healthcare system."

Travel, Culture, and Tourism

[Qatar Tourism launches influencer-led winter 2026 campaign](#)

Qatar Tourism has launched its 'Winter in Qatar 2026' campaign, a new marketing initiative focused squarely on GCC travellers. The campaign, unveiled under Visit Qatar, leans heavily on the influence of popular regional content creators to showcase the destination's appeal across social and digital platforms.

[Qatar Partners with NIPL to Launch UPI, Simplifying and Empowering Payments for Indian Tourists, Driving Growth in Retail and Tourism](#)

Indian travelers to Qatar can now rejoice as the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is officially operational in the country. This exciting development comes after a collaboration between NIPL and Qatar National Bank (QNB), enabling UPI acceptance across Qatar via QR code-based transactions at point-of-sale (POS) terminals.

[Katara hosts cultural event marking anniversary of Qatar-Austria diplomatic relations](#)

Hall 32 at the Cultural Village Foundation-Katara hosted a special cultural event titled 'Culinary Arts'. The event was organized by Katara in cooperation with the Austrian Embassy in Doha, as part of the celebrations marking 50 years of diplomatic relations between the State of Qatar and the Republic of Austria.

Transport and Logistics

[Hamad Port's advanced infrastructure, automated systems enable handling diverse cargo types](#)

Hamad Port's cutting-edge infrastructure, automated systems, and scalable design enable the rapid handling of diverse cargo types, including containers, bulk and general cargo, and Roll-on/Roll-off (RORO) operations. The port is one of the most advanced port complexes in the Middle East.

[Delegation visits Al-Ruwais port to inspect Bahrain-Qatar maritime link](#)

The Ministry of Transport welcomed a Bahraini delegation, who visited Al-Ruwais Port within the framework of the bilateral maritime linkage project. The visit was aimed at viewing the route of the journey and travelers' facilities within a series of coordinated steps in preparations for operating a maritime line between Qatar and Bahrain.

[Qatar Airways wins Apex Best Global Food and Beverage Award](#)

Qatar Airways has been named the winner of the 2026 APEX Best Global Food and Beverage Award at the APEX Best Awards, presented in partnership with the International Flight Services Association. The national airline of the State of Qatar announced the achievement on its social media channels adding that the recognition is based on global passengers' votes and is a testament to the best-in-class in-flight and lounge dining curated by the airline.

Information and Communications Technology

[MCIT and GSMA Unveil Highlights of MWC25 Doha at Joint Press Conference](#)

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) and the GSMA today held a joint press conference at the DECC to announce details of the inaugural edition of MWC25 Doha, scheduled for 25 -26 November under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

[Qatar expanding its role in supporting digital innovation regionally, globally](#)

MWC25 Doha is a strategic bridge connecting the MENA region to the world, embodying GSMA's commitment to empowering communities through technology and fostering partnerships to build a more connected and innovative future. Speaking to The Peninsula on the sidelines of the press conference to reveal details of the event being hosted in Qatar, CEO of GSMA Ltd., John Hoffmann said, here in Qatar, with its rich legacy of innovation, culture, and commerce, MWC 25 Doha will showcase how connectivity is transforming societies, industries, and economies across this dynamic region.

[Vodafone Qatar and Khwarizmi AI Center Sign MoU to Drive AI Innovation Across Qatar](#)

Vodafone Qatar has entered into a strategic partnership with the Khwarizmi Artificial Intelligence Center (KAIC) in Doha, marking a significant step toward accelerating artificial intelligence (AI) innovation across the country. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Mohamed Mohsin Alyafei, Enterprise Business Unit Director at Vodafone Qatar, and Firas Sleiman, Founder of KAIC.

Emerging Technology

[Qatar Investment and Innovation Conference welcomes MCIT as strategic partner](#)

Qatar Investment and Innovation Conference has announced that the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) has joined the upcoming edition 'Driving GCC Entrepreneurial Growth' as strategic partner. This high-level forum, organised by The Business Year and Mshereb Properties aims to foster dialogue between policymakers, investors, entrepreneurs, and innovators from across the Gulf region.

[Qatar expanding its role in supporting digital innovation regionally, globally](#)

MWC25 Doha is a strategic bridge connecting the MENA region to the world, embodying GSMA's commitment to empowering communities through technology and fostering partnerships to build a more connected and innovative future. Qatar's hosting of this global event is clear evidence of its expanding role in supporting digital innovation regionally and internationally and embodies its ambitious vision for building a knowledge-based economy.

[Digital payment growth sets stage for tokenised assets](#)

Qatar's surge in digital and cashless payments is laying the groundwork for broader crypto and tokenised asset adoption, said a regional market expert. According to the Qatar Central Bank's (QCB) figures in July 2025, digital payments totalled QR16.13bn, processed across 51.697 million transactions spanning card payments, instant transfers (via Fawar), and mobile wallet platforms.

Energy and Industrial

[Petroleum Industry Pioneers Documents the Early History of Oil in Qatar](#)

Dar Al-Tafahum in Beirut, in collaboration with Dar Al-Thaqafa, has released the English edition of 'Petroleum Industry Pioneers (1850-1950)' by researcher and historian Dr Ibrahim Abdul Karim Kriedieh. The book documents the history of Qatar's oil and energy industry, tracing the early exploration efforts that marked the beginning of an industry which profoundly shaped Qatar's renaissance from the 1930s onward.

[Qatar's economy rises 2% on non-oil strength](#)

The National Planning Council reported on Sept. 21 that real gross domestic product reached 181.8 billion Qatari riyals (\$49.9 billion) at constant prices, up from 178.5 billion riyals in the same period last year. Non-hydrocarbon activities accounted for 65.6 percent of real gross domestic product, with value added climbing to 119.3 billion riyals from 115.4 billion riyals a year earlier.

[US Crude Oil, Fuel Inventories Fall Last Week Amid Rising Demand](#)

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) announced Wednesday that crude oil and fuel inventories fell last week amid rising demand. The EIA said that crude oil inventories fell by about 607,000 barrels to 414.8 million barrels last week, compared to analysts' expectations for an increase of 235,000 barrels.

Sports

[UDST launches wellness strategy during Int'l University Sport Week](#)

University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) has launched a comprehensive new Wellness Strategy 2025-2027 during a special press conference attended by senior officials, including Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al-Nuaimi, undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and president of the Qatar Collegiate Sports Federation; Dr. Salem Al-Naemi, president of UDST.

[FIFA considering plan for 64-team World Cup in 2030](#)

With the World Cup already set to expand to 48 teams next summer, FIFA is considering an even bigger expansion to 64 countries for the 100th anniversary of the global spectacle in 2030. With the idea receiving mixed reviews, FIFA leaders met with the heads of state from Uruguay and Paraguay in New York, as well as leaders from South America's CONMEBOL and the head of Argentina's football association.

[Old Doha Port to host Aquabike World Championship Grand Prix of Qatar finale](#)

Old Doha Port, in collaboration with Doha Marine Sports Club, is proud to announce that it will host the Aquabike World Championship – Grand Prix of Qatar from October 30 to November 1, 2025, along the Mina Corniche. The event marks the long-awaited return of the world's premier Aquabike series to Qatar after a decade, positioning Old Doha Port as the new stage for the season finale.

Updates in Regulations

[Qatar drafts PPP law update and foreign investment, bankruptcy law; MoCI official](#)

Qatar is drafting new legislations, including an updated public-private partnership law, a foreign investment law and a bankruptcy law, to strengthen the legal framework and also help the private sector, which otherwise has been saving QR100mn annually through various industrial incentives.

[Qatar launches Winter Camping Season 2025-26 with new regulations and sustainable initiatives](#)

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has officially unveiled the Winter Camping Season 2025-2026, scheduled to run from Oct. 15, 2025 to April 15, 2026. Registration for the highly anticipated event will begin on October 1 and runs through October 14, available via the ministry's official website and the "Be'ah" mobile application.

[Qatar passes major 2025 reforms to Legal Profession Law to strengthen justice and boost private sector](#)

Qatar's Ministry of Justice has announced that amendments under Law No. (19) of 2025 represent a major step in strengthening the legal profession, protecting rights and preserving freedoms.

News by Soutien Group

[Qatar Signs MOUs With NUMOV Promoting Investment](#)

Qatari Business Association (QBA) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the German Near and Middle East Association (NUMOV) to enhance cooperation. The signing took place in the presence of several members from the QBA Board of Directors and NUMOV members. Notably, the NUMOV is Germany's oldest and leading organisation dedicated to fostering economic relations with other countries.

[Saudi Records 32 Million Tourists Spending SAR\\$3.2 B](#)

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Tourism recently announced record breaking results for the "Saudi Summer" campaign. Over 32 million international and domestic tourists were recorded visiting the Kingdom, marking a 26% increase compared to last year.

[Oman Offers 78 Investment Opportunities To Qatar](#)

Oman's Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) recently sent a high level delegation to meet representatives from Qatar Chamber. The meeting reviewed cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the commercial, economic and investment fields.

Expertise at Soutien Group

[Market Entries & Business Localization](#)

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Frequently Asked Questions

[Why is a market entry strategy essential for Qatar?](#)

A well-defined market entry strategy is critical to understanding local regulations, cultural nuances, and market competition in Qatar. Partnering with local experts ensures a successful market entry.

[Are there restrictions on importing products or services to Qatar?](#)

Importing certain goods may require specific licenses, permits or approvals, and some sectors have restrictions to protect local businesses.

[What does business localization in Qatar involve?](#)

Business localization in Qatar requires aligning your products, services, and operations with local market preferences, regulations, and cultural practices.

[Are there Qatarization requirements for businesses in Qatar?](#)

Yes, certain sectors require compliance with Qatarization policies, mandating the employment of a specific percentage of Qatari nationals.

Contact Details

Soutien Group
Office No 11, Floor No 2
Burj Al Mana, Al Corniche Street
West Bay, Doha, Qatar

PO Box 12865
+974 50299677

qa@sacpi.com
www.sacpi.com



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qa@sacpi.com

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