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NU-Q hosts its largest graduation ceremony



Mansour exhorts young Qataris to conquer the world

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**INDEX**

QATAR	2-12, 28	COMMENT	26, 27
REGION	13	BUSINESS	1-8, 14-16
ARAB WORLD	13	CLASSIFIED	9-13
INTERNATIONAL	14-25	SPORTS	1-8

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**In brief**

**QATAR** | Weather  
**A hazy, hot and cloudy day likely**  
There is a chance of light rain in some places today, the Qatar Met department has said. The detailed forecast says it will be hazy in certain areas in the early hours of the day, followed by a hot day as well as slightly dusty and partly cloudy conditions at times. Offshore, too, hazy and partly cloudy conditions are expected today and there is also a possibility of light rain in some places at times. The maximum temperature today is likely to be 39C in Doha, followed by 38C in Wakrah, Mesaieed and Al Khor. Yesterday, the maximum was 41C in Sheehaniya, Jumaliya, Batna and Karana, while in Doha it was 39C.

**Emir meets Sudan's minister**



HH the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met at his Emiri Diwan office in Doha yesterday with Sudanese Defence Minister Lt. Gen Awad Mohamed Ahmed ibn Auf. During the meeting, they reviewed fraternal relations and ways to develop them.

**Vision to transform Mideast as a global innovation haven**

The transformation of the Middle East into a global innovation destination is already under way through regional initiatives, Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) secretary-general Hassan al-Thawadi has said.

He made the observation while speaking to entrepreneurs as a final judge of the MIT Enterprise Forum Pan-Arab Region's 10th Arab Startup Competition in Bahrain.

For the man leading Qatar's preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the first ever tournament in the Middle East offers an "unparalleled opportunity to mark the region as a global destination for innovation", the SC has said in a press statement.

"Our vision is to provide an environment for creativity and entrepreneurship to flourish and to ensure that the finest minds in our region are provided with the ultimate platform for their ideas and concepts - being part of the fabric of the World Cup in 2022," said al-Thawadi, highlighting the example of the SC's Challenge 22 regional innovation programme.

He added: "The response to Challenge 22 has been phenomenal. Almost 1,000 concepts were submitted in our latest edition. For me, Challenge 22 symbolises a window into the talent that we have in our region and the hunger and desire that exists to develop that talent." **To Page 28**

**Barwa to launch second phase of Mawater project**

By Peter Alagos  
Business Reporter

Barwa Real Estate has announced that Phase 2 of its Madinat Al Mawater project will be launched in the second quarter of 2017 following a "huge turnout rate for leasing" of the project's Phase 1.



Barwa Group CEO Salman bin Mohamed al-Mohannadi.

Spanning 1.6mn sq m in Rawdat Rashid, the development of Phase 1 was initiated in May 2016 with a built-up area of 34,000sq m, said Group CEO Salman bin Mohamed al-Mohannadi, adding that Phase 1 "is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2017".

Al-Mohannadi told reporters yesterday that the project was the result of Barwa's partnership with the government to create a central marketplace "with the necessary services" for the used-car business. The facility will accommodate showrooms, workshops, housing units, retail shops and various services, in addition to large areas of designated car parking plots.

The project, he further explained, "shall help in solving the problem of concentrating this business inside Doha and over-crowdedness of cars in the residential areas."

"The effective handover and inauguration of the site will be in August but we will hand over the facility to the tenants

started operating in the first quarter of 2017. The project comprises a total of 350 residential units.

Al-Mohannadi said the increased occupancy rate of the Barwa Al Baraha labour accommodation project helped increase net rental income by 20% compared to the same period of 2016.

The group's current operational assets, according to al-Mohannadi, include 6,463 residential units and 12,021 workers accommodation rooms, in addition to 150,940sq m of commercial shops and 44,307sq m of office spaces.

Other ongoing construction projects such as the Mustawdaat, Dara A, and Barwa Village Extension projects will provide 1,094 residential units, 688 workers accommodation rooms, and 259,446sq m of warehouses and storage spaces, in addition to 13,693sq m of offices and commercial shops once completed.

"The group also will commence the development process of various projects that are currently under design. Those projects are expected to provide 4,332 residential units and 191,340sq m built up area of warehouses and stores, in addition to 38,927sq m of office and shop spaces," he said.

On the sidelines of the press conference held at the Madinat Al Mawater project site, Wassef CEO Hamad Rashid al-Kuwari signed lease contracts with several companies for Phase 1.

**HBKU celebrates graduation of its largest class to date**



HBKU graduates with HE Sheikh Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, guests and officials.

Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation (QF) for Education, Science, and Community Development, celebrated the graduation of its largest class to date at a ceremony held yesterday at the HBKU Student Center in Education City.

The university conferred degrees on 148 graduates in the presence HE Sheikh Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairperson of QF, and Chairperson of HBKU's Board of Trustees.

Also present were government ministers, ambassadors, representatives of QF leadership and members of HBKU's Board of Trustees, as well as faculty, family and friends of the graduating students.

HBKU Class of 2017 is significantly larger than last year's 111, and is almost double the number of students of its first graduating class in 2014 - numbers that bear witness not only to the university's rapid growth, but to the increasing demand for pioneering higher education.

In another milestone for the university, this year's class marks the graduation of the first 17 students from HBKU's College of Science and Engineering master's programmes in Biological and Biomedical Sciences (BBS), Sustainable Energy, and Sustainable Environment. Also graduating were 87 students from the College of Islamic Studies, 18 from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and 26 with an Executive Master in Energy and Resources.

Earlier in the day, the university's Board of Trustees met to discuss devel-

opments at HBKU. Speaking ahead of the graduation ceremony, the board's chairperson, HE Sheikh Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, said: "At the heart of HBKU is an ethos that stems from the man from whom the university takes its name: His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, our Father Emir. His Highness's commitment to making Qatar a progressive nation that plays a transformative global role while always preserving Qatar's cherished heritage and culture has shaped HBKU's ecosystem of providing innovation, collaboration, and multidisciplinary education and research that is globally benchmarked but has Qatar at its heart. The university's leadership is committed to supporting the development of forward-thinking intellectual capacity and today's graduates join a small but growing body of HBKU alumni who, as our most powerful ambassadors, are already shaping the future."

A total of 37 countries are represented in this year's class, including over 40% Qataris. The high percentage of Qatari graduates is reflected in several of HBKU's programmes, such as the Executive Master in Energy and Resources programme, which includes 92% graduating Qataris, and the Master of Arts in Public Policy in Islam programme with 48% of Qatari graduates. Graduating students this year are fairly evenly split across gender lines, with women accounting for 49% of the total.

The President of HBKU, Dr Ahmad Hasnab, presented the diplomas to the graduating students. He highlighted how innovation is at the heart of HBKU's



HE Sheikh Hind bint Hamad al-Thani places photos on the HBKU graduation social media mosaic.

teaching model and how the university is responding to the need for education to be at the vanguard of efforts to build a strong, sustainable future economy for Qatar. "All of HBKU's academic programs have been developed in response to a clear demand for producing highly skilled experts in targeted fields," he said. "Institutions such as HBKU greatly contribute towards the creation of knowledge, advance research, and educate a new generation of leaders able to address the needs of the global knowledge economy. The exceptional students graduating today embody the many hopes and aspirations of the University; as a result, our students benefit from exceptional multidisciplinary educational training and research experience in subjects that have been deemed central to the long-term aspirations and needs of our nation, the region and beyond."

"Each of our graduates leaves HBKU

as global citizens who are equipped and empowered with entrepreneurial and practical skills that will enable them to have long term, tangible positive impact in the community here in Qatar and beyond. I applaud the dedication of HBKU's Class of 2017 and I am confident that they will continue applying what they've learned to build bright futures for themselves and their communities."

HBKU has attracted high quality faculty and staff and, in doing so, is quickly becoming a renowned hub for scholarship and research. Several discoveries, research breakthroughs, and faculty recognitions marked the University's academic year. From the discovery of new planets and development of new language apps, to being selected for validation of clinical trials for a groundbreaking immunotherapy vaccine for Parkinson's disease, HBKU has demonstrated its academic and research capabilities.

This year's HBKU graduation ceremony featured Chaker Khazal as its keynote speaker. The Palestinian-Canadian is the author of the Confessions of a War Child trilogy and is editor in chief of StepFeed and YallaFeed. In his speech, Khazal inspired the graduates to dream big, saying: "An achievement is an idea once dreamt that turned into reality with hard work, persistence and redefining possibilities. Today, you are ambassadors for the power of dreaming by becoming graduates and ambassadors for your university, for your country, and for our region."

At the ceremony, graduates shared their delight at successfully completing their studies.

Mounira Walid Fayyad, who graduated with a Master in Biological and Biomedical Sciences, said: "I found things very difficult at first because my undergraduate studies prior to coming to HBKU involved very little practical experience. However, I was able to overcome this through the strong support of faculty members. The fact that the professors at HBKU care about their students and want to help them throughout their educational journey makes a big difference to the student experience at HBKU. The practical experience I've built in a lab environment has pushed me out of my comfort zone, and really allowed me to get a feel of what it means to work in the biomedical sciences outside the confines of the classroom. I feel my time at HBKU has formed a big part of my academic journey and I'm hoping to go on to pursue my PhD."

Ahmed al-Jassin, who is graduating

with an MA in Public Policy in Islam, said: "I feel immensely proud and incredibly blessed to graduate from the College of Islamic Studies. My time here at HBKU has been filled with fond memories - from learning in the classroom, to the enriching experiences outside of it, the University has inspired me to be an advocate for positive change in the Qatari community and I look forward to applying what I have learned here in my future endeavours."

Another graduate, Ibrahim Suwan, who just earned his Master of Arts in Translation Studies, commented: "I joined my programme because I wanted to acquire translation as a skill and explore it further as a linguistic activity. The programme allowed me to draw upon multiple disciplines such as sociology, psychology and postmodern theory. I was pleased to learn that translation has taken a much different turn since the 90's, it has stopped being thought of as a profession that takes place in an office environment and is now seen more broadly as having a crucial role in international institutions."

Looking to the future, the first batch of students to complete the juris doctor (JD) graduate law degree programme and the first students to receive doctoral degrees from HBKU's College of Science and Engineering will graduate in 2018. In the meantime, the university continues to grow its academic offering with the recent launch of three new programs: a Master of Science and PhD in Genomics and Precision Medicine (GPM), a Master of Arts in Women, Society, and Development, and a Master of Arts in Digital Humanities and Societies.



# NU-Q hosts its largest graduation ceremony

Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q) held its sixth graduation ceremony, its largest graduating class, yesterday and the first graduation ceremony in its new building which will be officially dedicated today.

Opening the ceremony, NU-Q dean and chief executive Everette E Dennis noted the attendance of a number of dignitaries and industry professionals, including Northwestern University president Morton Schapiro, provost Daniel Linzer, and several deans and vice-presidents.

"NU-Q is Northwestern's 12th school - and the university's only international campus, providing an exemplar for NU's new global strategy," said Schapiro. "It is an important member of the NU family from bleeding purple at athletic events and in student life, to the classroom where NU



Dean's Award winner Vibhav Gautam.



Communication Award winner Jemina Marcos Legaspi.

academic and intellectual standards are upheld and extended."

The Class of 2017's achievements included the highest number of minors and certificates, including eight in Middle East studies, two in media and politics, one in theatre, and one in English.

Thirteen certificates were awarded in Middle East studies,

three in civic engagement, two in strategic communication, and six in public relations.

"This marks a proud moment for the faculty and staff at NU-Q and an opportunity for us to join together to celebrate the calibre, character, and capabilities of our graduating students," said Dennis. "We look forward to watching you move out into the world,



HH the Father Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani with Schapiro, Dennis, and a number of graduates.

fully capable of achieving your dreams and making positive contributions whether you choose to pursue a career in journalism, filmmaking, strategic communication - or attend graduate school.

"You will no doubt make your mark."

Derek Thompson - Northwestern alum, best-selling author, and senior editor at *The Atlantic* - gave the graduation speech.

"Everything that we do in life, ultimately serves merely as a frame - a massive arch - to make us see the things we have not yet done," Thompson said.

"To live fully in this world, to be totally alive to its possibilities and its joys, you have to fall in love with the work of it," he add-

ed. "You have to learn to love the hero's journey, not only for the brief victory that may come in the end, but also all its potholes, the frustrations large and small, and the friends and the nemeses along the way."

Earlier in the day, Schapiro hosted his annual lunch for graduating students and their families where students were acknowledged for individual achievements.

Those who received recognition are Vibhav Gautam (Dean's Award), Mohamed Shakeeb Asrar (Journalism and Strategic Communication Award), Jemina Marcos Legaspi (Communication Award), Nayab Malik (Liberal Arts Award), and HEND Mohammed al-Thawadi (Student Leadership Award).



Derek Thompson giving the graduation speech.



Hassan al-Thawadi

## Challenge 22 saw near 1,000 concepts

From Page 1

Submissions to this year's cycle of Challenge 22 have combined creativity with innovation, including concepts to make sustainable stadium seats from palm tree fibres, create smart jerseys to help prevent cardiac arrest or enhance spectator experience through in-seat food delivery.

The 28 finalists from the second cycle of the award were recently announced by the SC.

A member of a judging panel at the MIT Enterprise Forum alongside renowned regional entrepreneurs and business leaders Wassim Basrawi, Maher Ezzedine and Khaled Ismail, al-Thawadi added: "Entrepreneurship and innovation are vital in order to create the economic growth required to provide the future that the youth of our region deserve."

The first place and a prize money of \$15,000 went to Blinkapp from Egypt for offering an innovative solution by utilising smartphones to automatically detect car crashes and transmit assistance notifications.

The first runner-up and \$10,000 in prize money went to SpicaTech from Lebanon, while an Egyptian innovation called NanoGreen was the second runner-up, winning \$5,000.

The event featured more than 140 entrepreneurs, 51 judges, four trainers, over 80 start-ups which exhibited in the expo area, and 450 people who attended the final award ceremony.

"From a World Cup perspective, myself and the team in attendance were able to build new regional contacts that can work to enhance Challenge 22 and begin discussions about potentially integrating some of the entrepreneurs and their ideas into our work, whether directly or indirectly relating to the tournament," al-Thawadi concluded.

## Professionals expand their careers with HBKU degrees

The Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) fosters an environment where leaders of all age groups and in all sectors are offered the opportunity to enhance their knowledge

and take their understanding of their chosen field to a new level.

Sayed Mohammed, 37, an Egyptian graduate student from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, is graduating

with a Master of Arts in Translation Studies, having worked for over 15 years as a professional translator.

"The courses incorporated throughout the programme have expanded my understanding of the field from a different perspective, encouraging me to view translation from various multidisciplinary aspects, such as, sociology, psychology and anthropology," he says.

Graduating Master of Arts in Audiovisual Translation student, Om Elmomenine Cheibani from Mauritius, resumed her educational journey 13 years after gaining her bachelor's degree.

"Coming back to university after a lengthy period of time was extremely challenging. My master's degree has enlightened me about the theoretical aspects of translation, linking its role in society to aspects of social responsibility and ethics," she said.

The integrated programmes at HBKU allow students to gain

critical skills relevant to their field, through an innovative environment that promotes continuous learning and self-development.

The university particularly cultivates a culture where nationals are encouraged to play an active role in society and the wider community.

Having completed his undergraduate education in the UK, Abdulaziz Alkharaz, a Qatari who works as an engineer at Qatar Petroleum, finally pursued his dream of heading back to university after years of deferring his plans to revive his studies.

He is now graduating from HBKU with an Executive Master in Energy and Resources degree.

"It was a dream of mine to continue my educational journey; I finally pursued my graduate studies after years of delay due to personal commitments. Pulling through this was extremely challenging for me, as I had to juggle many other aspects of my life," he said. "Nonetheless, I have succeeded in accomplishing my academic goal whilst balancing family and work commitments."

Syrian graduate student Yaser AlSarraj, who has more than 10 years of professional experience, joined the Master of Science in Biological and Biomedical Sciences (BBS) programme at HBKU because of the opportunity for graduate students to learn from researchers working at the cutting-edge of science and discovery.

"The BBS programme develops a student's creative and strategic thinking. It forces you to challenge any preconceptions you may have," he added.



Abdulaziz Alkharaz: It was a dream of mine to continue my educational journey.



Yaser AlSarraj: The BBS programme develops a student's creative and strategic thinking.



Shaimaa Ziara, who will be graduating with a Master of Arts in Translation Studies.

## Innovation at heart of academics and research

As an integral pillar of the Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), innovation is at the core of the university's ethos.

Students, researchers, staff and faculty at HBKU are pushing the boundaries of innovation and thought leadership, with a multidisciplinary research-centric approach to supporting the future aspirations of Qatar.

Since its formation in 2010, the university has played a role in paving the way for Qatar's

knowledge-based economy. HBKU's multidisciplinary approach to academic and research excellence has attracted well-established academics, ambitious students, and pioneering researchers.

"Powered by innovation and collaboration, we are developing a unique ecosystem that is making invaluable contributions to the growth of human capital and the intellectual capacity of Qatar," said HBKU president Dr Ahmad Hasnah.

Working with local and international partners, the university has created a regional hub for excellence and scholarship.

This year HBKU launched several new postgraduate degrees that take learning beyond the confines of traditional academic subjects: master's and PhD degrees in Genomics and Precision Medicine, and a master's in Women, Society and Development and in Digital Humanities and Societies.

"We are nurturing future

leaders with a multidisciplinary, research-oriented environment, enhancing invaluable skills for an evolving society, with a world-class education, making game-changing discoveries," Dr Hasnah said.

The university is home to students and scholars in areas of science and engineering, law, Islamic studies, humanities, and social science.

HBKU has three research institutes: Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, Qatar Com-

puting Research Institute, and Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute, producing cutting-edge research and making breakthrough discoveries.

Dr Hasnah said: "HBKU is locally focused but globally minded - innovation is at the core of every decision, discovery and dialogue at HBKU. And it is this mindset that has driven our rapid growth over the years."

"We are committed to bringing the best minds under one roof to share, learn, and shape

## Qataris graduating from diverse HBKU programmes in 2017

The Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) will have 61 Qatari students graduate from its various post-graduate degree programmes this year.

"My studies at HBKU have inspired me to look at the built environment from a fresh perspective," said Reem al-Mohamed, a graduate from the College of Islamic Studies, Master of Science in Urban Design and Architecture programme. "I now have a greater understanding of the impact that the buildings we live in can have on our wellbeing and on the wellbeing of our societies."

Programmes at HBKU have been designed to suit the immediate developmental needs of Qatar.

These include programmes in translation studies, computer engineering, data science, Islamic finance, cyber security, and the recently-announced Genomics and Precision Medicine.

They seek to supply talent to those professions that are undergoing rapid expansion in the country and require highly-skilled experts.

Graduating in the Executive Master in Energy and Resources programme, Talal Alsiddiqi believes that it is every Qatari's duty to play a role in the nation's progress in a way that fits their skills, expertise, and experiences.

Ameena al-Haroon, graduating with a Master of Arts in Audiovisual Translation from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, noted: "My studies have greatly expanded



Talal Alsiddiqi: believes that it is every Qatari's duty to play a role in the nation's progress.

my knowledge of linguistics a great deal and helped me support my quantitative understanding of marketing. I have developed new insights that will be extremely useful in my future career."

Shaikha al-Thani, who has been studying for a Master of Science degree in Islamic Finance at HBKU, said the level of teaching is high and the programme offers an in-depth look at the field.

For Lolwa al-Thani, who graduates this year with a Master of Science in Urban Design and Architecture in Islamic Societies, Qatari traditions formed the core of her studies.

"I wanted to focus on studies which relate to my culture and stay within the Islamic boundaries. My studies have taken my previous knowledge and have greatly expanded upon it - exposing me to fascinating concepts and helping me formulate new ideas."



Dr Hasnah: HBKU is locally focused but globally minded.

the future," he added. "With our strong partnerships, we strive each day to go beyond the classroom, and it is with pride I can say that we are leading the way for a bright new future for the generations to come."