

# Sheikha Mayassa: Art is very powerful because it has no boundaries

QNA

**DOHA:** In a landmark international TV interview, H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson, Qatar Museums (QM), spoke exclusively to CNN International on Qatar Museums' (QM) ambitions and focus on developing arts, heritage and creativity in the country.

The interview was a highlight of the launch episode of CNN Style, a new monthly TV programme on topics, including art, architecture and design, which was launched on Saturday on CNN International.

She discussed themes, including the importance of investing in culture, QM's focus on nurturing emerging talent, bringing contemporary artists to Qatar and QM's latest exhibition as part of the Qatar China 2016 Year of Culture: What About the Art? Contemporary Art from China.

The exhibition, curated by Chinese artist Cai Guo-Qiang features the works of 15 of China's most significant contemporary artists and is currently on show at the QM Gallery, Al Bwaq until July 16.

On turning Qatar into a "world class destination for culture", she said: "I think for as long as I can remember, art has been part of our culture. It has always been part of our identity, whether it's preserving heritage, archaeology, excavation and collecting all sorts of art."

Launching the Fire Station 'Artist



H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson, Qatar Museums (QM), speaking to CNN International on Qatar Museums' ambitions and focus on developing arts, heritage and creativity in the country.

in Residence' initiative to nurture the talent of young Qatari artists and residents in Qatar.

Sheikha Mayassa is credited with transforming Qatar's old Civil Defence building into studio spaces for artists, known as the Fire Station 'Artist in Residence' initiative, which is part of QM's strategy to nurture emerging talent and inspire an indigenous culture of creativity and innovation. The initiative, which began in September 2015, spans a period of nine months and offers studio space and mentoring for 20 artists from a range of different disciplines, including art, photography, design and architecture. QM created the Fire Station as an artist hub to support the local creative community to encourage an exchange

between artists, and to perpetuate the budding landscape through local production and creativity.

Sheikha Mayassa said: "We're trying to bring the best of the best from around the world or the most influential people to think in creative ways, because creative people come up with the best solutions to times of change. We have invested a lot in education, and culture was the second thing we invested highly in."

On bringing some of the world's leading contemporary artists to Qatar, including Takashi Murakami, Damien Hirst, and Cai to inspire future generations of artistic talent and engage the local community, she said: "Most contemporary art is provocative. And a lot of people say for good art to be good,

it should be provocative. We are very clear with the artists that you are free to decide on your exhibition, but you are not free to be insulting to our culture or traditions."

The interview also explored Cai's exhibition. Following the huge success of his solo exhibition Cai Guo-Qiang: Saraab at Mathaf in 2011, Cai has returned to Qatar as a curator to present the exhibition featuring contemporary Chinese artists and collectives born in Mainland China.

On QM's longstanding relationship with Cai, she said: "Cai is a very generous artist. When he came here for his Saraab exhibition in 2011, he was here for two and a half months, working with students."

"He became so famous walking around the city that everyone would call him by his first name bringing art from China. It's quite important for us given that the art scene there is growing very rapidly so it's really an exchange of knowledge. We're really excited to have something of this calibre."

Art as a bridge between cultures that connects entities in Qatar and the world.

The interview ended with Sheikha Mayassa discussing the power of art and the effect it has on shaping culture and acting as a valuable bridge between cultures: "Art is very powerful because it has no boundaries and you don't need to belong to any country, or religion or social class. It brings people from all walks of life together to talk about an idea. There is no limit to it."

# QU seminar explores cell therapy for diabetes

The Peninsula



Dr. Essam M Abdelalim, scientist, Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, and Assistant Professor, HBKU, speaking at the event.

**DOHA:** Qatar University Biomedical Research Centre organised a seminar on the use of stem cells to treat diabetes. The event on 'Pluripotent stem cells as tools for disease modelling and cell therapy in diabetes' was delivered by Dr. Essam M Abdelalim, scientist, Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, and Assistant Professor at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU).

He said with diabetes as the most prevailing disease with progressive incidence worldwide and no permanent treatment available yet, cell therapy might prove to be the best approach to treat type 1 and severe cases of type 2 diabetes.

According to him, transplantation of pancreatic islets is used to restore the functional cells in diabetic patients, but the shortage of human donors and the occurrence of immune rejection lead to search for other sources of pancreatic cells. He said recent studies indicate that stem cells are likely to be accepted as a therapeutic tool for diabetes.

"Pluripotent stem cells (PSCs), including embryonic stem cells (ESCs) and induced pluripotent cells (iPSCs) are considered promising approaches to study diabetes. ESCs/iPSCs have a high capability to differentiate into insulin-producing cells, which are closer in nature to in-vivo cells than those differentiated from other types of stem cells. iPSCs can be generated directly

from diabetic patients, providing cells genetically identical to the patient to be used for in-vitro disease modelling and eventually cell-based therapies. Several iPSC lines have been produced from patients with different forms of diabetes and most of these are able to differentiate into insulin-producing cells," he said.

He said iPSCs could provide personalised treatment to the particular characteristics of each patient, but before PSCs could be considered a tool for regenerative medicine to treat diabetes, additional in vitro and in vivo studies are needed, as the patient safety is the most important issue to be considered. He also discussed advances, challenges and future perspectives of using iPSCs as a promising tool for disease modelling and cell therapy in diabetes.

**LIQUIDATION NOTICE**

Based on the resolution of the partners on 25 March 2016

To dissolve the company  
**FANTASTIC TRADING DOHA WLL**  
(Voluntary Liquidation)

The liquidator Kuriachan Vamattathil Kuriakose of Morison Menon Chartered Accountants and Partners hereby declare about starting the liquidation of **FANTASTIC TRADING DOHA WLL**, CR No. 67508.

So whoever is having any rights and liabilities with this company is requested to send a registered letter enclosed with supporting documents to P.O. Box No. 32312, Doha, Qatar or Fax on 44673630, or Email on: [doha@morisonqatar.com](mailto:doha@morisonqatar.com) within 75 days from the date of this notice

## Hamad Patient Contact Centre a vital link for appointments and communication

The Peninsula

**DOHA:** The Hamad Patient Contact Centre (HPCC) receives an average 1,700 calls a day from patients and others inquiring about appointments and seeking general information, according to a senior official.

The centre provides a dedicated single point of contact for patients to manage their appointments and communicate directly with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), said Nasser Saeed Al Naimi, Deputy Chief Quality Officer and Co-Director, Hamad Healthcare Quality Institute (HHQI).

"The centre operates by handling general queries and providing patients with the opportunity to confirm, resched-

ule or cancel their appointments with ease," said Al Naimi, who was instrumental in leading the development of HPCC.

"Patients also receive reminder calls from HPCC five days prior to their appointment and an SMS reminder one day prior to their appointment date," he added.

HPCC makes more than 3,650 calls a day and has become a vital line of communication between HMC and its patients.

"The centre was established in 2011, operating through 4439 5777 and is open all days with 225 staff ready to help patients," Al Naimi said.

The institute was established with the single-minded purpose of improving the quality of healthcare within HMC, Qatar and the greater region.

"The institute focuses on healthcare improvement and provides a framework to design, develop and deliver programmes of work which enhance efficiency, improve quality

and build capacity and capability," he said.

"It is founded on values and principles, including patient-centred, evidence-based outcomes, innovation, collaboration, empowerment, respect and adaptability," he added.

This commitment to quality improvement was recognised earlier this month when HMC became the first healthcare system across the globe to have all of its hospitals accredited by Joint Commission International (JCI) under the Academic Medical Centre programme.

HMC has also become the first hospital system outside the US to achieve accreditation for all its hospitals simultaneously.

Al Naimi said the recognition of staff and teamwork is essential to creating a caring and compassionate environment where all patients and their families are confident that they will receive the best possible healthcare.

## Scattered rains and unstable weather likely

The Peninsula

**DOHA:** The Meteorology Department has forecast scattered rains today, with an unstable weather prevailing over the country since yesterday.

Strong winds and thundery rains are expected to continue until Friday noon, said the department.

The third day yesterday began with the announcement of the qualifying teams for the quarterfinals and semifinals.

Activities included a press conference with debaters of the US team who expressed joy to visit Qatar and praised Qatari heritage and landmarks such as Souq Waqif.

## Ministry to intensify drive to combat fraud

Continued from page 1

The ministry had warned that it will crack down on all violations of the Consumer Protection law and will intensify its inspection campaigns to combat fraud. It added that it will refer violators of laws and ministerial decrees to the competent authorities who will in turn take appropriate action to protect the rights of consumers.

The ministry has urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department through the following channels: Call Centre: 16001; email: [info@mec.gov.qa](mailto:info@mec.gov.qa); Twitter: @MEC\_Qatar; Instagram: MEC\_Qatar; and the ministry's mobile app for Android and IOS: MEC\_Qatar

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**Ezdan Holding Group Announces the Following Tenders:**

Tender No.	Subject	Requesting Company	Document Fee	Closing	Remarks
1	Renovation of Furniture for Ezdan Villages (Ezdan Real Estate)	Ezdan Real Estate	2000 Qatari Riyal	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	With Two Envelopes: 1-Financial Quotation 2-Technical Quotation
2	Building Fabric & MEP Plant & Equipments Operation & Maintenance (Ezdan Mall - Gharafa)	Ezdan Mall Gharafa	500 Qatari Riyal	21 <sup>st</sup> April 2016	With Two Envelopes: 1-Financial Quotation 2-Technical Quotation
3	Design, Supply and Installation of Lush Green Walls at Ezdan Mall - Gharafa	Ezdan Mall Gharafa	500 Qatari Riyal	24 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	With Two Envelopes: 1-Financial Quotation 2-Technical Quotation

• Quotations for tenders will not be accepted after given date before 2:00 pm.  
• Tender documents can be collected and bids shall be submitted at Ezdan Holding Group Main Office: Doha, West Bay, Ezdan Towers, Tower No. 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Office No. 324, Tenders and Contracts Section.  
• Opening hours: 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

For more information, Please Contact  
Tel.: 44334127 - Email: [tenders@ezdanholding.qa](mailto:tenders@ezdanholding.qa)

[www.ezdanholding.qa](http://www.ezdanholding.qa)

**Czech dance**

A dance troupe from the Czech Republic enthralled visitors at Katara on Monday. The performance was part of the five-month Cultural Diversity Festival organised by the UNESCO Doha Office and Cultural Village Foundation-Katara. Pic: Baher / The Peninsula