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# UDC inaugurates Corinthia Golf Club on Gewan Island

Huge spike in number of visitors to Pearl Island since the start of the World Cup, says Khater

**SATYENDRA PATHAK**  
DOHA

IN a first of its kind on a man-made island, United Development Company (UDC) opened the state-of-the-art Corinthia Golf Club on Gewan Island on Tuesday.

Minister of Sports and Youth HE Salah bin Ghanem Al Ali inaugurated Corinthia Golf Club on Gewan Island in the presence of UDC Chairman Turki bin Mohammed Al Khater, UDC President, CEO & Board Member Ibrahim Jassim Al Othman and other senior UDC and Corinthia officials.

The inauguration of United Development Company's new state-of-the-art sporting facility falls in line with its efforts to improve and diversify recreational and sports offerings, at its flagship developments, The Pearl and Gewan Islands to provide an integrated residential and leisure experience that fulfills the aspirations of all residents, visitors, and tourists alike.

Talking to Qatar Tribune on the sidelines of the opening ceremony, President, CEO & Board Member Ibrahim Jassim Al Othman said, "This is the first time that you see a Golf course situated on an island and this is something unique. There is not much such development around the world."

UDC had also recently introduced a series of new facilities and attractions at The Pearl Island which have been strategically launched in parallel to the FIFA World Cup Qatar.

Commenting on the inauguration of Corinthia Golf Club, Khater said, "The opening of Corinthia Golf Club fulfills UDC's sustainable growth strategy which aims at developing hospitality and entertainment sectors, given the promising prospects they hold for The Pearl and Gewan Islands, in light of the increase in the number of visitors and demand for UDC properties and investments, which in turn drives UDC to provide comprehensive entertainment facilities and services."



Minister of Sports and Youth HE Salah bin Ghanem Al Ali inaugurated Corinthia Golf Club in Gewan Island in the presence of UDC Chairman Turki bin Mohammed Al Khater, UDC President, CEO & Board Member Ibrahim Jassim Al Othman and other senior UDC and Corinthia officials.

Khater told Qatar Tribune there is a huge spike in the number of visitors to Pearl Island since the beginning of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

"Fans from across the world are visiting in large numbers to take part in the various offerings that we are providing on Pearl Island during the World Cup. The number of visitors is expected to rise and we are ready with many more entertainment activities for the fans as the tournament progresses," Khater said.

Othman said, "The inauguration of Corinthia Golf Club

reaffirms that our projects and developments are proceeding in full swing as planned and demonstrates the depth and comprehensiveness of our entertainment vision through integrated facilities and leisure destinations which include Corinthia Hotel Gewan Island and its annex beach club, the air-conditioned Crystal Walkway and seaside promenade, and of course the recently completed Corinthia Yacht Club on The Pearl Island."

Corinthia Doha Managing Director Matthew Dixon said, "We are delighted to be launching the next phase of the wider Corinthia development in

Doha, bringing another tier to our launch following on from the Corinthia Yacht Club."

The golf course consists of nine holes spread over sprawling greens of 32,000 square meters surrounded by 616 trees and 96 palm trees and adorned by two sizable lakes, within a total facility area of 57,980 square meters.

The golf club also provides a temporary building to host players until the completion of the main facility within Corinthia Hotel, where the current building includes a majlis and a rooftop terrace in addition to washrooms and lockers for storing personal belongings.

# Vodafone's iPay partners with Mowasalat for digital payment

**TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK**  
DOHA

IPAY has announced its first strategic partnership with the official transportation company in Qatar, Mowasalat (Karwa). Customers can register through the iPay application to make instant digital payments after completing their trips.

iPay, a secure e-wallet application, is part of Vodafone Qatar's Infinity Payment Solutions (IPS), a separate financial entity and 100 percent subsidiary of Vodafone.

In line with Qatar Central Bank's recent announcement stating that all businesses must provide consumers with access to digital payments, the partnership also aims to drive QCB's vision for a cashless economy by 2030.

Commenting on the partnership, Vodafone Qatar COO Diego Camberos said, "This partnership with Mowasalat marks a significant milestone in the development of iPay. Through this collaboration, we can support the drive towards a fully digitized economy in Qatar, as well as provide our customers with a hassle-free experience while making day-to-day payments."

Speaking on this occasion, Mowasalat (Karwa) Chief Administrative Officer Ahmed Abdulrahman JA Al Muftah said, "I am pleased to announce that Karwa customers will be the first in Qatar to enjoy paying their ride fares through the iPay e-wallet. This step is part of the collaboration between the two entities in many fields. This operator-independent digital wallet is a product conceptualized in Qatar, and we are happy to make this available to our (Karwa) customers as an addition to the current (Karwa Taxi) App payment options.

"We are moving towards providing improved services to our local community, by



Mowasalat Chief Administrative Officer Ahmed Abdulrahman JA Al Muftah



Vodafone Qatar COO Diego Camberos

making every ride with (Karwa) a seamless, comfortable, and enjoyable experience. At Mowasalat, we believe technological innovation in our services is key to increasing our customer base and ensuring continued customer satisfaction."

Vodafone Qatar provides a comprehensive range of services including voice, messaging, data, fixed communications, IoT and ICT managed services in the Qatar, for both consumers and businesses alike.

# QIB hosts unforgettable events for customers

QIB lines up a series of activities to share the joy of the game with the community and visitors to Qatar from across the globe

**TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK**  
DOHA

IN celebration of the greatest sporting event in the world, Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB), Qatar's leading digital bank, has been gearing up for this milestone with a series of exciting activities and events designed for its customers and employees, as well as the community and visitors to Qatar.

On this special occasion, QIB launched a campaign showing Qatar's celebrated traditions that sets it apart from the rest of the world. QIB launched three videos in line with this initiative including '#HowWeDoItIn-Qatar' to introduce some of the traditions and interactions that define the welcoming hospitality of Qatar and the Middle East.

On the same occasion, QIB collaborated with renowned Qatari football player Abdulkarim Hassan for the period of the tournament. Abdulkarim Hassan was selected to support Qatar throughout the tournament.

Furthermore, QIB decorated its branches and launched a fun and interactive activities for the community to take part in the showcase of Qatar's identity to visitors, while giving them the opportunity to explore a new culture.

Billboards of Abdulkarim Hassan have taken over key locations across Qatar with the slogans 'Qatar, Champions of Connecting the World' and



QIB, Qatar's leading digital bank, has organised a series of exciting activities and events designed for its customers and employees, as well as the community and visitors to Qatar during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.



'Qatar, Champions of Achievements' to applaud Qatar's efforts in organizing the first World Cup in the Arab world and cheer for the national football team as it makes its debut in the biggest football tournament in the world.

Social media aficionados can use QIB's special filters on Instagram and Snapchat to share their support for the participating teams using the hashtag #SupportYourTeam. Users can also share QIB's lens and filter links with anyone who has accounts on Snapchat and Instagram.

Mashaal Abdulaziz Al Derham, Assistant General Manager, Head of

Corporate Communications & Quality Assurance at QIB, said: "This historical sporting event is an opportunity to introduce our culture and traditions to the whole world. We are very proud to be part of celebrating a key milestone in the country's history with our customers, employees, and the wider community, as well as with visitors from all around the world."

"As we celebrate the champions of the world this year, we take pride in collaborating with Abdulkarim Hassan and supporting Qatar in celebrating the biggest sporting event to be hosted in our history and the region.

As part of this endeavour, we have designed unique ways to engage with our customers to share with them the joy of this milestone through engaging activities, as well as exclusive products and services. We believe in the power of sports in bringing communities together and we are proud to be supporting the private sector while contributing to the diversification of Qatar's economy as part of Qatar National Vision 2030," said Mashaal.

QIB has teamed up with Visa to offer its Visa cardholders a chance to win tickets through its 'Spend and Win' campaign at Doha Festival City.

Running until November 30, 2022, QIB Visa cardholders can enter the draw for a chance to win a ticket to attend the final match. Each QR250 spent at Doha Festival City will give customers one entry in the draw.

Those who do not have QIB Visa cards are still able to be part of the campaign by applying for any Visa card using the QIB Mobile App. To download the App, all citizens and residents in Qatar can visit their respective App Stores and search for QIB Mobile. QIB customers can easily self-register to the App using their Debit card details.



## Ooredoo offers 10X free local data for Aamali customers

Data added automatically to customer accounts for the duration of the FIFA World Cup Qatar

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

OOREDOO, the official Middle East & Africa Telecommunications Operator of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, now offers all new and existing Aamali Mobile business customers 10X free local data to celebrate the global football tournament.

Customers will have found the data added to their plans automatically prior to the opening match of the competition on November 20, 2022.

Ooredoo Executive Director Business Thani Al Malki said, "Once again we say upgrade your world to our business customers who can make their businesses unstoppable

during FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. This huge and free extra data allowance can more than match the increase in demand that enterprises will face as we welcome thousands of fans and visitors to our country."

"Customers could also use some of the data to watch the football on their devices," he added.

The 10X free data is valid until December 18, 2022, inclusive. Business customers can leverage the Ooredoo Advantage, making Ooredoo 'Best for Business', thanks to its breadth and depth of talent, best fixed and mobile networks, broadest portfolio of ICT services and solutions, and trusted partner for 60 years.

# QDB supports training of Ophthalmologists

QNA  
DOHA

THE 'Women in Conflict Areas' initiative, led by Qatar Development Bank (QDB), carried out a successful simulation of ophthalmic surgery and nursing techniques through the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital.

A group of female ophthalmologists, who receive humanitarian support from the State of Qatar, conducted the simulation on board the plane under the supervision of QDB, and in cooperation with Qatar Charity, over a one-week period in November.

The simulation is the hospital's first international training program since the COVID-19 pandemic. It aimed at providing appropriate training for women who usually cannot access training opportunities so that they can support more people within their communities. Participants from seven countries, namely Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen, joined the training program, with the aim of obtaining in-depth simulation training on eye surgery techniques by volunteers, employees, and specialists of Orbis.

The training project is part of the new initiative launched by Qatar Development Bank on the sidelines of the 77th



The headquarters of QDB in Doha.

session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September, in an effort to empower women in conflict-affected societies and motivate them to confront crises.

Libyan ophthalmic surgeon Dr. Israa Al Nayhoum commended the training week, saying that it was concentrated and rich in information, and was provided by expert volunteers who shared the experience they have gained over years.

She expressed pleasure with this opportunity especially since the trainees in this course do not have access to the same equipment and techniques, nor such simulation.

Consultant ophthalmologist and Orbis volunteer Dr Samita Mulani said that the training was attended by participants from areas where conflict can suppress their ability to learn.

Over the course of a week, the young women discussed their personal and professional challenges, and the group became a promising family that supports and guides each other, she noted.

She added that many parties have worked together to implement this program, noting that Qatari executives, Qatar Airways, and Hamad International Airport provided

the necessary support for the plane - Flying Eye Hospital - which is the only internationally accredited teaching hospital for ophthalmology.

In her turn, the Associate Director of Clinical Services at the hospital Dr. Maria Romero said that there are 112 million women suffering from blindness globally, and the availability of workers in the field is critical, stressing the importance of creating opportunities and such programmes.

Romero also emphasized the importance of strong partnerships and teamwork as vital and necessary to reduce blindness everywhere.

# Oil prices gain after Saudi Arabia denies report on talks with Opec+ to raise output

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK

OIL prices gained on Tuesday after Saudi Arabia denied a media report that it was discussing a crude output increase with the Opec+ group of oil-producing countries, which caused the market to tumble a day earlier.

Brent, the benchmark for two thirds of the world's oil, was trading 1.5 per cent higher at \$88.74 a barrel at 3.47pm Qatar time. West Texas Intermediate, the gauge that tracks US crude, was up 1.4 per cent at \$81.17.

Prices fell about \$5 late Monday after the Wall Street Journal reported that top crude exporter Saudi Arabia was considering raising output targets by 500,000 barrels per day at the Opec+ meeting on December 4.

"There is simply too much drama, and false information out there and traders are confused about it," said Naeem Aslam, chief market analyst at Avatrade. The Journal's report "made no sense at all when it was released", Aslam said.

Crude futures rebounded to about \$88 a barrel after Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said the current output cut of 2 million bpd would continue until the end of 2023.

"It is well known and no secret that Opec+ does not discuss any decisions ahead of its meetings," Prince Abdulaziz was quoted as saying by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

"If there is a need to take further measures by reducing production to balance supply and demand, we always remain ready to intervene."

"First, the US will stop selling its strategic petroleum reserves. And second, the EU sanctions against Russian oil will become effective in December," she said. "Both, should support another leg higher in oil."

Despite the large Opec+ cut last month, prices have slumped in recent weeks on concerns of a global economic slowdown and China's restrictive Covid-19 policy, which has prevented fuel demand from returning to pre-pandemic levels in the world's second-largest economy and biggest importer of crude.

"Oil is going to have trouble finding a floor, with a deteriorating crude demand outlook for both [the



Crude futures rebounded to about \$88 a barrel after Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said the current output cut of 2 million bpd would continue until the end of 2023.

world's largest economies," said Edward Moya, senior market analyst at Oanda.

"Until we get some positive news from either China or the US, the dollar will continue to rebound and crude's path appears to be headed lower."

China has had several Covid-19 outbreaks, from Zhengzhou in central Henan province to Chongqing in the south-west. It reported 26,824 new local cases for Sunday, close to the peak reached in April.

Chinese Vice Premier Sun Chunlan called for "immediate, resolute and decisive measures" to contain the current outbreak in Chongqing, a key industrial centre, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

"The warnings from key Chinese officials are the primary driver behind oil's current slump," said Mr Moya.

Meanwhile, physical crude markets are already showing the effects of the looming EU embargo on Russian crude exports, he said.

The Group of Seven advanced economies is set to place a price cap on Russian crude exports from December 5. Details of the level of the price cap are expected to be released later this week.

"Europe has been quickly erasing its dependence with Russian crude and that will continue as we approach the oil price cap deadline," said Moya.

Saudi officials have been adamant that their decision to cut production last month wasn't designed to support Russia's war in Ukraine. Instead, they say, the cut was intended to get ahead of flagging demand for oil caused by a global economy showing signs of slowing down.

Raising oil production ahead of the price cap and EU embargo could give the Saudis another argument that they are acting in their own interests, and not Russia's.

Another factor driving discussion around raising output: Two big OPEC members, Iraq and the United Arab

Emirates, want to pump more oil, OPEC delegates said. Both countries are pushing the oil-producing group to allow them a higher daily-production ceiling, delegates said, a change that, if granted, could account for more oil production.

Under OPEC's complex quota system, the U.A.E. is obligated to hold its crude production to no more than 3.018 million barrels a day. State-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Co., which produces most of the U.A.E.'s output, has an output capacity of 4.45 million barrels a day and plans to accelerate its goal of reaching 5 million barrels of daily capacity by 2025. Abu Dhabi has long pushed for a higher OPEC quota, only to be rebuffed by the Saudis, OPEC delegates have said.

Last year, the country was the lone holdout on a deal to boost crude output in OPEC+, saying it would agree only if allowed to boost its own production much more than other members.

## Australian Parliament passes trade deal with India, says Albanese

ANI  
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Tuesday announced that country's Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India has passed through its Parliament.

"BREAKING: Our Free Trade Agreement with India has passed through parliament," Albanese tweeted. This comes a few days after Albanese said that he will visit India in March next year. He announced this on the sidelines of the 17th edition of the G20 summit.

"I also met with Prime Minister Modi of India, where we discussed the finalization of the closer economic cooperation agreement between Australia and India, which we regard as being very important for expanding the economic relationship between Australia and India. I will visit India in March," said Albanese while addressing the presser on Wednesday.

"We'll take a business delegation to India. And that will be an important visit and an upgrade in the relationship that we have between our two nations," he added.

Last week, Australian Trade Minister Don Farrell said that the trade agreement with India presents an enormous opportunity for Australian services companies and professionals accessing the Indian market.

"The quality of this Agreement, in terms of market access and opportunity for Australian businesses, demonstrates India's commitment to our bilateral economic partnership," Farrell said.

"India presents unparalleled growth opportunities for Australian business across a range of sectors, from food and agriculture, technology and green energy, to health and education services," he added.

The Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) was signed on April 2.

According to the Australian government, the agreement will secure Australia's foothold in the world's fastest growing large economy and enable Australian businesses to unlock or expand their operations in a market of nearly one and a half billion consumers.