

## QNA: Uzbek Ambassador Says Qatar National Day Symbolizes Unity Belonging and Pride



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Doha, December 17 (QNA) – HE Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Qatar, Ashraf Khodjaev, affirmed that Qatar National Day is a living commemoration of the unification of the country under its founder, Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, and a renewal of the founding values that continue to guide Qatar today. He emphasized that this occasion transcends its national dimension to become a unifying symbol of unity and belonging among citizens and

residents alike.

In exclusive statements to Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE Ambassador Khodjaev said that for Qatari citizens, National Day represents a moment of pride in a remarkable national journey, transforming the country from a small Gulf community into a confident, forward-looking state with a clear long-term vision. For residents, including the Uzbek community in Doha, the celebration fosters a sense of belonging and brings together people from many cultures around a shared respect for Qatar's heritage and leadership.

"For us as diplomats, National Day is also an opportunity to honour Qatar's contribution to regional peace and development, and to express our sincere appreciation for the hospitality extended to Uzbek citizens who live, study, and work here," the Ambassador added.

Regarding Qatar's foreign policy, HE Ambassador Khodjaev expressed Uzbekistan's deep appreciation for the country's dynamic role on the global stage under the wise leadership of HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. He noted that the two nations share deep cultural and historical ties. Qatar's foreign policy is distinguished by proactive mediation, which has helped de-escalate conflicts in Gaza, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Africa, and Latin America, earning Doha a reputation as a neutral and reliable intermediary. HE Ambassador noted that this ability to engage with major powers, regional actors, and non-state groups is unique and grounded in trust.

HE Ambassador Khodjaev also highlighted the success of the Doha Forum 2025, which showcased Qatar's hospitality and fostered global dialogue on pressing issues, including regional stability, climate change, energy security, and sustainable development. "This approach resonates strongly with our diplomatic philosophy and aligns with our commitment to peaceful resolutions, regional stability, and good-neighbourly relations," he said, noting Qatar's ability to combine rapid modernization with preservation of national identity. "What we see is not just development, but strategic development guided by Qatar National Vision 2030, with its four pillars of human, social, economic, and environmental development," he added.

The Ambassador said that Qatar has successfully employed its natural resources to achieve sustainable development and a diversified economy that serves future generations, offering an inspiring example for Uzbekistan and highlighting promising cooperation opportunities. "Our bilateral relations have undergone a remarkable qualitative leap. From traditional diplomatic ties, we have advanced to a comprehensive strategic partnership grounded in trust, shared interests, and a common vision for sustainable development," HE Ambassador Khodjaev said. He noted that the Agreement on Establishing a Strategic Partnership, signed on 15 April 2024 and ratified in early 2025, defines priority cooperation in trade, investment, transport, education, healthcare, culture, tourism, and sports.

HE Ambassador Khodjaev highlighted that the first meeting of the Strategic Partnership Coordination Council in Doha, launched in August 2025, is a practical mechanism transforming political will into real projects. Most recently, HE President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's working visit to Doha for the Second World Summit for Social Development, at the personal invitation of HH the Amir, added fresh momentum. The two leaders agreed to deepen cooperation across all fields, expand trade and investment, and jointly advance global initiatives on social justice.

HE Ambassador Ashraf Khodjaev concluded that Qatar National Day not only reflects the nation's rich heritage but also underscores its growing role as a global partner committed to peace, development, and strong bilateral and international relations.