

‘Qatar champions dialogue to foster global peace and stability’

BERLIN: Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and Chairman of the Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations H E Dr. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi participated in the symposium “Building Bridges: Qatar and Germany in Dialogue for Tolerance, Peace, and Solidarity,” held at the Arab Culture House (Divan) of the Embassy of Qatar in Germany.

The symposium was attended by H E Michael Müller, a member of the German Parliament and former Mayor of Berlin, and a group of intellectuals, professors, and those interested in the dialogue of civilizations from both Qatar and Germany.

In a speech at the event, Al Hammadi said Qatar regards dialogue among civilizations as an indispensable mechanism for building bridges

MoFA Secretary-General announces the launch of the fifth edition of the Qatar Global Award for Dialogue Among Civilizations 2025-2026.

of communication between societies and peoples, getting to know each other, promoting mutual respect, and achieving international stability and peace.

He highlighted the importance of this symposium, which focuses on building bridges of cooperation between Qatar and Germany, promoting the values of coexistence and human solidarity, and spreading a culture of peace and non-violence — especially since both countries contribute, through national and international humanitarian institutions, to supporting the

efforts of the international community in the field of human development and in consolidating stability in countries emerging from conflicts and wars.

On the sidelines of the symposium, Al Hammadi announced the launch of the fifth edition of the Qatar Global Award for Dialogue Among Civilizations 2025-2026, under the title: The role of youth in achieving civilizational advancement and promoting human communication. It is in cooperation with the ICESCO Chair in Alliance of Civilizations at the Qatar University’s College of Sharia and Islamic Studies.

Meanwhile, the MoFA Secretary-General met in Berlin with State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, H E Dr. Geza Andreas von Geyr.



MoFA Secretary-General and Chairman of the Qatar Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations H E Dr. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi and other dignitaries at the event in Berlin.

During the meeting, they discussed cooperation and relations between the two countries and ways to support and enhance them, in addition to a host of topics of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Ambassador of Qatar to Germany, H E Abdullah bin Ibrahim Al Hamar and the accompanying delegation. — QNA

United Nations House celebrates cultural heritage, peace

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Cultural heritage is a powerful foundation for dialogue and peace, reminding us of our shared humanity and the values that unite communities across generations. Reflecting this vision, the United Nations House in Qatar is hosting a series of cultural and educational workshops this October in celebration of two globally significant observances: the International Day of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (October 17) and United Nations Day (October 24). Proclaimed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) in 2023, the International Day of the Intangible Cultural Heritage honours the living traditions, expressions, and practices that shape communities and connect generations.

These cultural elements—ranging from oral traditions to craftsmanship—are increasingly at risk due to urbanisation and the loss of inter-generational transmission.

United Nations Day, commemorating the entry into force of the United Nations Charter in 1945, reaffirms the UN’s mission to promote peace, human rights, and international cooperation. The preservation of intangible cultural heritage is deeply aligned with these values, fostering dialogue, inclusion, and respect for cultural diversity. To mark these occasions, the



Director of Unesco Doha Office, Salah Khaled, and ambassadors and officials at the inaugural event.

Unesco Regional Office for the Gulf States and Yemen, the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, the Ministry of Culture, the Art, Fashion and Cultural Diplomacy Association (AFCD), and Qatar University/College of Education are organising an art exhibition from October 16 to 23, highlighting the richness of Qatari cultural heritage.

The 4th Edition of the Art, Fashion and Cultural Diplomacy Exhibition will be led by its Founder and Patron, Farhan Al Sheikh Al Sayed, and Secretary-General Rodica Grigorita, Spouse of the Ambassador of Moldova.

Director of Unesco Doha Office for Gulf States and Yemen, Salah Khaled, said: “Here at the United Nations, a hub dedicated to peace—a value ever more precious amid today’s fraught regional tensions—we must remember that our collective responsibility extends to our living heritage. To protect, promote, and pass it on is to directly support the building of a more inclusive and culturally rich world. And it fills me with great hope that we undertake this vital work here in Qatar, a nation that has firmly established itself as one of the world’s essential architects of peace and dialogue.”

MoPH marks Qatar Infection Prevention and Control Week

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) is celebrating Qatar Infection Prevention and Control Week (QIPC) from October 19 to 25, under the theme “Together we Stand UPPP (Unite, Prevent, Protect, Prevail) for Infection Prevention”, in collaboration with the healthcare sector in the State of Qatar.

On this occasion, the Ministry, together with its partners, is organising a range of important activities and events, most notably the Annual Conference for Qatar Infection Prevention and Control Week, which will be held virtually on Sunday, October 19, 2025, with the participation of international, regional, and local experts.

The conference will provide a distinguished platform for professionals to exchange knowledge and expertise in a collaborative environment that promotes the safety of healthcare for all.

The Ministry of Public Health has invited all infection prevention specialists, leaders and healthcare workers to join the activities of Qatar Infection Prevention and Control Week, inspired by the International Infection Prevention Week (IIPW) 2025. The initiative encourages the promotion of awareness across health institutions and organisations and the continued strengthening of infection prevention and control practices throughout all healthcare facilities in the State of Qatar.

PowerMind launches NeuraBots.ai to redefine the future of AI-powered enterprise automation



DOHA: PowerMind, the AI and data solutions subsidiary of TMT, the telecommunications and technology arm of Power International Holding (PIH), has launched NeuraBots.ai, a new Agents-as-a-Service platform built on UiPath’s Agentic AI technology, marking a futuristic step forward in the company’s digital transformation journey.

The new platform combines artificial intelligence and automation to manage complex workflows across departments, helping organizations work faster, more accurately, and at lower cost. The launch comes as part of PowerMind’s mission to accelerate digital transformation across Power International Holding’s diverse operations in energy, construction, healthcare, services, technology, real estate, and agriculture.

Built using the UiPath Platform™, NeuraBots.ai allows software robots and AI agents to collaborate with human teams in a single, unified system.

PowerMind has been shortlisted for the Qatar Digital Business Awards 2025 in the Best AI Solution – Corporate category.

Built using the UiPath Platform™, NeuraBots.ai allows software robots and AI agents to collaborate with human teams in a single, unified system. Since its introduction, the platform has automated many core business processes across Power International Holding’s companies, leading to major improvements in productivity, accuracy, and cost efficiency.

Since its introduction, the platform has automated many core business processes across Power International Holding’s companies, leading to major improvements in productivity, accuracy, and cost efficiency.

“NeuraBots.ai represents a new phase in our automation journey,” said Jasim Abdul Rahman, CEO of PowerMind and Group CIO of Power International Holding. “We’re creating an environment where people and intelligent systems work together, enhancing decision-making, speed, and precision. This is the future of enterprise operations, adaptive, connected, and intelligent.”

The platform is powered by UiPath’s Agentic AI, which coordinates autonomous agents capable of handling high-value, cross-departmental tasks. It helps eliminate time-consuming and error-prone manual workflows in areas such as supplier

onboarding, finance, and human resources — common challenges in large, multi-sector organizations.

Ashraf El Zarka, Regional Vice President for the Middle East and Africa at UiPath, said: “PowerMind’s NeuraBots.ai shows how agentic automation can transform businesses. It sets a new benchmark for how companies in the region use AI to create real operational value.”

PowerMind has been short-listed for the Qatar Digital Business Awards 2025 in the Best AI Solution – Corporate category, recognizing its leadership in applying artificial intelligence and automation to business operations. The company said NeuraBots.ai supports PIH’s broader goal of building a connected, technology-driven ecosystem across all its subsidiaries, where AI not only improves efficiency but also drives innovation and new opportunities.

ET HealthWorld honours 33 Holdings and Naseem Healthcare for global drive in healthcare innovation

DOHA: The recent recognition by the Economic Times HealthWorld and ETL Middle East marks a defining milestone for 33 Holdings and its healthcare brand, Naseem Healthcare, as they continue to shape the global healthcare landscape. Naseem Healthcare has been awarded Integrated Clinic Network of the Year, and the visionary leader Mohammed Miandad VP has been honoured as Transformational CEO of the Year. This spotlight from one of the region’s most respected platforms celebrates the group’s transformative vision where strategic investment, medical excellence, and social purpose come together to drive global impact.

At the heart of their journey lies a shared ambition: to build a healthcare ecosystem that transcends borders. 33 Holdings, through its strategic investment framework, and Naseem Healthcare, through its integrated people-centric model, are together redefining how innovation and compassion can coexist to deliver superior and world-class care to the people in Qatar.

This recognition further amplifies their credibility among global health stakeholders, investors, and



“Our journey is more about shaping a future where innovation and compassion go hand in hand,” said Mohammed Miandad, Transformational CEO of the Year 2025. “This recognition reaffirms our belief that purposeful progress in healthcare can truly create global impact.”

With strong foundations in Qatar and expanding reach across continents, 33 Holdings and Naseem Healthcare continue to stand as beacons of excellence, leading the next wave of healthcare innovation from the Gulf to the world.

policymakers, underscoring their role as frontrunners in bridging markets, fostering international collaborations, and advancing equitable healthcare access.



Qatar reaffirms support for Palestine’s sovereignty over natural resources

DOHA: The State of Qatar has reiterated its unwavering stance on the justice of the Palestinian cause and its full support for the Palestinian people's sovereignty over their natural resources and their legitimate rights, including the establishment of an independent state based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

This came in Qatar's statement delivered by Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, Talal Abdulaziz Al Naama, before the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly during its 80th session, under the item on the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, at UN Headquarters in New York.

Al Naama affirmed that the Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian territories, along with systematic human rights violations by Israeli security forces and settlers, and the long-standing discriminatory regime under which Israel exercises control over Palestinians, undermines the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination.

He stated that Qatar has called for an end to the Israeli military occupation and its negative impact on social and economic development and living conditions of the Palestinian people, as well as the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan.

He added that Qatar welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of the advisory opinion issued last year by the International Court of Justice regarding the legal consequences of Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territories, which affirmed the illegality of the occupation and its resulting practices, and called on Israel to end its unlawful presence and fully comply with its obligations under international law.

Al Naama noted that since the outbreak of the war, Qatar has been committed to providing essential humanitarian and development aid to the Palestinian people in Gaza, despite restrictions on the entry of humanitarian assistance.

This aid has included thousands of tons of food, medicine, medical supplies, shelter materials, field hospitals, and medical treatment for thousands of wounded and ill individuals.

He pointed out that Qatar's total support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has reached approximately \$49m, in addition to renewing a multi-year support agreement for 2025-2026 worth \$20m to help the agency fulfil its mandate efficiently, especially amid chronic funding shortages. — *QNA*

Rawabi Wholesale Division celebrates 25 years of excellence with ‘Silver Jubilee Bonanza’



Rawabi officials during the celebration.

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Rawabi Wholesale Division, a leading FMCG distribution network under the Al Rawabi Group of Companies, proudly celebrates its 25th Year Silver Jubilee, marking a remarkable journey of growth, innovation, and customer trust since its establishment in 2000.

To commemorate this milestone, the division has launched an exciting customer campaign — ‘Silver Jubilee Bonanza’ — offering shoppers a chance to win a brand-new Haval H9 SUV and 10 iPhone 17 Air (256 GB).

Customers who shop for QR250 or more at any Rawabi Wholesale Division outlet can register their details to receive an E-Raffle coupon and enter the grand draw. The campaign is valid across all divisions — Rawabi Food International, Al Rawabi Food Stuff W.L.L, Emdadco Foodstuff Trading, and Wholesale Plus — catering to both B2B and B2C customers across Qatar.

The Silver Jubilee Bonanza launch event took place on October 16, 2025, at Wholesale Plus, Al Nayef Building, Al Rayyan, inaugurated by Mr. Kannu Baker — Group General Manager, in the presence of Muhammed Jaseel — Associate Director, Naushad KTK — Assistant General Manager (Wholesale Division), along with department heads and store managers from across the group.

From its humble beginnings in 2000, Rawabi Wholesale Division has grown into a major player in Qatar's Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector, providing high-quality food and non-food products to a wide network of hypermarkets, supermarkets, restaurants, cafeterias, and retail customers. Today, the division serves both business partners (B2B) and end consumers (B2C) with an unmatched commitment to reliability, affordability, and service excellence.

Speaking on the occasion, Kannu Baker, Group General Manager of Al Rawabi Group, said, “Reaching 25 years is more than a milestone — it's a celebration of our people, our partners, and the trust of our loyal customers. Over the years, Rawabi Wholesale Division has evolved into a strong FMCG brand serving both B2B and B2C markets across Qatar. The Silver Jubilee Bonanza is our way of expressing gratitude to everyone who has been part of this journey. We look forward to continuing our mission of excellence and expanding our reach across the nation.”

The Silver Jubilee Bonanza campaign will run from October 15, 2025, to January 15, 2026, across all participating Rawabi Wholesale branches in Qatar.

McDonald Qatar fosters culture of care with breast cancer workshop

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: McDonald's Qatar has organised a Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop in collaboration with Al Aziziya Medical Centre, bringing employees together to learn, connect, and support one another in recognition of Pink Month.

The initiative reflected the brand's unwavering commitment to employee wellbeing, inclusion, and its purpose-driven culture under the Rahlatuna “Our Journey”, Corporate Social Responsibility platform and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion values.

The workshop gathered more than 100 McDonald's Qatar employees for expert-led presentations by an Obstetrics and Gynecology Specialist from Al Aziziya Medical Centre. The sessions highlighted early detection, national screening programs, prevention strategies, and balanced lifestyle habits, followed by a Q&A that encouraged employees to address personal health questions directly with the experts.

The session concluded with closing reflections, highlighting the value of education, access to healthcare, and McDonald's Qatar's ongoing commitment to employee wellbeing and empowerment.

The initiative provided exclusive health benefits for employees including 50% discounts on mammograms, reduced rates on medical services, and free consultations across all services, including ultrasound, reinforcing the brand's belief that access to healthcare is essential to creating a supportive workplace.

“Belonging, wellness, and empowerment are at the heart of who we are as McDonald's Qatar,” said Imane Abid, Senior HR Manager & Compliance Lead, McDonald's Qatar. “This workshop created a safe and meaningful space where our people felt supported, educated, and valued. Partnering with Al Aziziya Medical Centre allows us to go beyond awareness by offering real health benefits and expert guidance. When we invest in the wellbeing of our employees, we strengthen our culture, our community, and our purpose.”

“Our partnership with McDonald's Qatar reflects our shared belief that awareness is the first step toward prevention,” said Dr. Islam Khalid Omran, Al-Aziziya Medical Center representative.



Participants during the celebration.

Zulal hosts Pinktober awareness event in partnership with QCS



Attendees during the workshop.

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som is proud to announce the successful conclusion of its special “Pinktober” event, held recently in collaboration with the Qatar Cancer Society, as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The event brought together a vibrant community of health and wellness enthusiasts, along with distinguished guests including Mariam Farid, Friend of Chiva-Som in Qatar, members of the Qatari Businesswomen Association (QBWA), Doha Women Forum, and the Qatar Cancer Society, in a shared mission to promote awareness about the importance of early cancer detection, prevention strategies, and comprehensive post-recovery care.

Guests participated in a dynamic programme of activities, including expert-led panel discussions focused on integrative health, early diagnosis, and holistic recovery pathways; inspirational testimonials from cancer survivors, who shared their journeys of resilience and recovery; therapeutic breathing sessions and herbal remedy workshops, aligning with the resort's Traditional Arabic & Islamic Medicine (TAIM) philosophy; a specially curated TAIM-inspired healthy lunch, emphasizing the role of nutrition in wellness and prevention; and in line with the ongoing “Pinktober” campaign, Casuarina Café continues to serve coffee in signature pink cups throughout October, with 10% of proceeds donated to support breast cancer research and awareness programs through the Qatar Cancer Society.

General Manager of Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som, Ammar Samad said, “At Zulal, our mission extends beyond wellness retreats, it's about creating a community that champions awareness, prevention, and holistic healing. Seeing so many individuals and organisations come together with compassion and purpose reminds us that early detection, education, and integrated care truly save lives.”



PRESS NOTICE FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION (PQ) OF CONTRACTORS

No.	PQ TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	PQ TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	PQ FEE	PQ TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/NFW/DREDGING/25 – Provision of Dredging works for North Field West (NFW) Project	19/10/2025 to 27/10/2025	NIL	15/11/2025

1. QatarEnergy LNG (COMPANY), as an agent for and on behalf of QatarEnergy, invites application from eligible, competent, and resourceful contractor for pre-qualification for undertaking the work for “Provision of Dredging Works for NFW Project”.

2. **Scope of Work:** Contractor's Scope to execute Dredging works shall include surveying, engineering, design, preparing and submitting documents, securing requisite approvals, procurement, transporting, delivering, reclamation of the identified area, waste disposal, inspection, testing, achieving completion, disposal of unsuitable material and final acceptance of the facility to COMPANY'S satisfaction in compliance with HSE & Security regulations. The scope to be executed by the Contractor shall be on a lump sum compensation basis. The estimated timeframe for the execution is from Q3-2026 to Q3-2027.

3. **Tender Pre-qualification Requirement:** Tenderer interested to participate and pre-qualify as a potential Bidder must have a documented past experience of at least five (5) years as a Contractor in providing Dredging projects of similar size and scope internationally or in Qatar. Tenderer shall provide documents and evidence in support of proven Dredging works experience and capability for Dredging projects of similar size and scope.

4. Contractors interested in pre-qualifying as a potential Bidder for the above Dredging works must submit their interest via email at Pjoshi@qatarenergylng.qa on or before **27/10/2025** together with a valid copy of their Commercial Registration. Upon confirmation of interest, the COMPANY will issue the Pre-qualification Questionnaire (PQQ). Contractor shall nominate a focal point with official email address, mobile number, and office number for all communications related to the transfer and receipt of the PQQ.

Note: PQ will not be issued to any Contractor who submits their interest after the deadline of 27/10/2025.



Qatar Chemical Company Limited
Al Dafna – Amwal Tower – First Floor
P.O. 24646 Doha / Qatar – Tel. 44847111 – Fax 44847695

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TENDER

No.	Document No.	Description	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1.	QC/TC/P/110/25	Three Years Agreement for Supply of Solvent Naphtha 150 / 200 for Q-Chem, RLOC & RLP	QAR 318,500	12:00 hrs. on 23 rd November 2025

Brief Scope:

Bidders are invited to submit proposals for the supply of Solvent Naphtha 150 / 200 to Q-Chem's plant in Mesaieed, RLOC's & RLP's plant in Ras Laffan under a call-off purchase order agreement, for a duration of three years.

Tender Documents for the above description can be obtained as follows:

A. Pay to Bank and send the original receipt with authorization letter via email.

For each tender pay a **non-refundable document fee (cash only) of QR 1,000/-** Payable to Q-Chem, Bank Account (Contract Services - Tender) – Account Number **001-242007-003 with HSBC Bank** and submit the original receipt with an Authorization letter on Tenderer Company Letterhead with ID copy of the Tenderer representative **via email to tadvertising@qchem.com.qa** In the authorization letter Tenderer shall nominate a single focal point with contact mobile number, **official email address**, office number, fax number for the communications related to this tender for the transfer and receipt of the tender documents. **The Bank receipt must indicate the tender number and the tenderer name (company name).**

B. Date and Time of Tender documents Issuance via email

Tender documents Issuance from 19th October 2025 to 23rd October 2025, 8am-12noon.

C. Proposal details

Proposals should be valid for **240** days from the tender closing date.

D. Submission of Proposals

Guidelines for Electronic Bids Submission Is attached In the Tender documents.

Gaza Civil Defence says nine members of family killed in Israeli firing at bus

GAZA CITY: Gaza's civil defence agency said that Israeli forces killed nine members of a single Palestinian family when they fired on a bus Friday, after the military confirmed it had targeted a vehicle that crossed the so-called “yellow line”.

Mahmud Bassal, a spokesman for the Civil Defence, which operates under Hamas authority told *AFP* that the victims were members of the Abu Shabaan family and were killed while “trying to check on their home” in the Zeitun neighbourhood.

The Israeli military said a vehicle had been identified crossing the “yellow line”, the boundary behind which Israeli troops are stationed under the ceasefire agreement with Hamas.

“The troops fired warning shots toward the suspicious vehicle, but the vehicle continued to approach the troops in a way that caused an imminent threat to them,” the military said in a statement. “The troops opened fire to remove the threat, in accordance with the agreement.” — *AFP*

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**PRAYER TIMINGS**

FAJR 4:17AM	ASR 2:37PM
SUNRISE 5:34AM	MAGHRIB 5:05PM
DHUHR 11:20AM	ISHA 6:35PM

WEATHER TODAY



22°C

Minimum

34°C

Maximum

Relatively hot daytime and mild by night.



Since 2015, the MED Conference has been bringing together top-level political and institutional representatives and media to discuss some of the key issues for the Mediterranean and to improve intra-regional cooperation.

At the invitation of organisers *The Peninsula* participates in Mediterranean Dialogues Conference in Italy

Editor-in-Chief attends discussions on intra-regional cooperation

THE PENINSULA

NAPLES: Editor-in-Chief of *The Peninsula* Dr. Khalid bin Mubarak Al-Shafi participated in the Mediterranean Dialogues Conference 2025 held in Naples, Italy.

Since 2015, the Conference has been bringing together, on a yearly basis, top-level political and institutional representatives, officials, experts, analysts and representatives from society, economy and media to discuss some of the key issues for the Mediterranean and to improve intra-regional cooperation.

The first day of Mediterranean Dialogues 2025, October 15, was closed-door roundtables while a number of important sessions were held on October 16-17 in which a wide-ranging subjects revolving around Mediterranean region from politics to security and economy to energy were discussed by delegates participating in the event.

Dr. Khalid bin Mubarak Al-Shafi was the only Editor-in-Chief of a Qatari newspaper who participated in the conference and attended a number of important sessions on October 16-17.

The 11th edition of the 'MED – Mediterranean Dialogues Conference', organised by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) in collaboration with ISPI (Italian Institute for International Political Studies) took place at the historic Royal Palace in Naples.



Editor-in-Chief of *The Peninsula* Dr. Khalid bin Mubarak Al-Shafi attending the Mediterranean Dialogues Conference 2025 held in Naples, Italy.

The 11th edition of the 'MED – Mediterranean Dialogues Conference', organised by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in collaboration with ISPI (Italian Institute for International Political Studies) took place at the historic Royal Palace in Naples.

The institutional opening session also featured remarks by Minister of

Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, Antonio Tajani.

A number of important session held on October 16 including "Pathways to peace: Engagement, cooperation and consensus in the Middle East" which was held in cooperation with the Middle East Peace and Security Forum. Another session "After Sharm El-Sheikh: A new Middle East?" was also attended by Vice President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy, Antonio Tajani; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Palestinian National Authority, Varsen



Aghabekian Shahin; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Iraq, Fuad Hussein; among others.

Gilbert Achcar, Emeritus Professor, SOAS University of London; Mirette Mabrouk, Senior Fellow and Founding Director, Egypt and Horn of Africa Programme, Middle East Institute among others participated in another session "After Sharm El-Sheikh: A time of reckoning for the Middle East?" on October 16.

The important sessions of October 17 include "From Yemen to the Horn of Africa: Securing the Red Sea" which was held in cooperation with Chatham House while another session "The future of Palestinian governance" was also addressed by Hugh Lovatt, Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations among other participants.

Another important session on October 17 included "Facilitating peace: Mediators beyond (regional) borders" which was organised in cooperation with Center for International Policy

Research while "Syria's transition: Taking stock a year in" session was held in cooperation with Geneva Call.

The event aimed at fostering an open and informal high-level debate on the challenges of the enlarged Mediterranean, in order to highlight the centrality of this strategic region for Italy's foreign policy and to define a "Positive Agenda" for the relaunch of the region.

Managing Editor of *The Peninsula*, Mohammed Osman Ali, accompanied the Editor-in-Chief to the Conference. MED – Mediterranean Dialogues builds upon five pillars: Shared Security, Shared Prosperity, Human Dimension, Power of Narratives and Culture for Peace.

This year's edition is exceptionally hosted in Naples, in collaboration with the Neapolis 2500 National Committee, highlighting the city's historic role as a political and economic crossroads between Europe and the Mediterranean, and celebrating 2,500 years since its founding.

Stars of Science finalists race towards the title of top Arab innovator

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: After weeks of intense competition, Stars of Science has announced its top three finalists for Season 17, each driven by a shared mission: using innovation to solve real-world problems. The finalists – Saudi Arabia's Razan Salem Bahabri, Algeria's Laid Dardabou, and Jordan's Mohammad AlShaikh Saleh – will now compete for the title of Top Arab Innovator, which will be decided by jury deliberation and public voting. The winner and runner-up will share the Grand Prize.

Among the finalists is Razan Salem Bahabri, a Saudi completing her PhD in biomedical engineering, whose invention uses wearable gaming systems to support stroke patients in their rehabilitation journey. Her innovation merges therapy and technology to make recovery more interactive and accessible.



The three finalists of Stars of Science.

"I wanted to prove that science can be personalized and empowering," said Bahabri. "Too often, rehabilitation feels clinical and detached. My goal is to bring empathy back into recovery - where patients are not just treated, but truly engaged."

Also vying for the top prize is Laid Dardabou from Algeria, who holds a PhD in Animal Nutrition and Physiology, who

created a smartwatch-based system that tracks biomarkers such as Vitamin D and serotonin to detect early signs of depression and anxiety. Motivated by a deeply personal story, Dardabou's invention could change how mental health is monitored worldwide. "This project began as a promise," he said. "Someone close to me suffered from undiagnosed depression caused by

a Vitamin D deficiency. I wanted to ensure others never go through that same experience. Stars of Science gave me the tools to transform that promise into innovation."

Completing the trio is Mohammad AlShaikh Saleh, a Jordanian Postdoctoral Research Fellow with a PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering, who has developed an AI-powered device that monitors electric vehicle (EV) battery health, reducing costs, waste, and emissions. His invention combines artificial intelligence with physics-based models to deliver accurate, transparent predictions - helping advance global sustainability goals. "I wanted my research to make a tangible difference," said Saleh. "My device supports the shift toward electric mobility by building trust in EV technology and aligning with sustainability visions across the Arab region."

Throughout Stars of Science Season 17, the finalists have transformed their ideas into working prototypes through a rigorous process of testing, mentorship, and collaboration. Supported and backed by the Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP) as ground facilitator and incubator, a panel of world-class experts and an expansive alumni network, they've refined their innovations into solutions capable of making a real impact.

Don't miss your chance to support the region's brightest innovators - and to be inspired by how science is shaping a better future for all. Cast your vote now as public voting is now open on www.starsofscience.com and will close on October 23, at 3 pm GMT (6 PM Doha time). The grand finale will air on October 24, at 9pm Doha time when the winner of Stars of Science Season 17 will be revealed.

Brit Gala? British Museum to host fundraising ball

LONDON: The British Museum hosts its inaugural fundraising ball yesterday, a glitzy event that has been touted by many observers as London's answer to New York's Met Gala.

The museum, which boasts one of the largest permanent collections on the planet, said the ball aims to "celebrate London's status as one of the world's leading cultural capitals" and become a new fixture of its social calendar.

The theme, less ambitious than the Met's elaborate fashion cues, is "pink" -- inspired by the "colours and light of India" as the museum's exhibition on "Ancient India: living traditions" draws to a close.

It will be chaired by arts patron Isha Ambani, daughter of Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani and a director on the board of his oil-to-technology conglomerate Reliance.

The ball's committee features veteran British supermodel Naomi Campbell, Italian fashion designer Miuccia Prada, Spanish designer Manolo Blahnik and Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor.

Helen Brocklebank, CEO of British luxury sector body Walpole and on the ball's organising committee, said London's social calendar has "always lacked a big crescendo moment... until now".

Describing the ball as "Met Gala ambition with UK uniqueness", Brocklebank said on social media that the event is "set to become London's centrepiece".

Highlighting the involvement of prominent writers, artists and architects, British Museum director Nicholas Cullinan has insisted the ball will stand apart from New York's Met Gala. — *AFP*

Katara Arabic Novel Festival continues on Day 6

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The activities of the eleventh edition of the Katara Arabic Novel Festival continued for the sixth consecutive day yesterday.

A dialogue session entitled "The Novel Through Dark Lenses" was held, featuring Kholoud Hamad, a writer and the Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Qatar Cultural Center for the Blind. The session was moderated by Mohammed Al-Shahwani, who is the Head of the Cultural Literature Department at Katara.

The writer highlighted that the concept of the novel through dark lenses does not pertain to blindness, but rather to an alternative form of vision, asserting that writing represents a light that cannot be extinguished.

She discussed various

topics, beginning with an introduction to the realm of the novel and the reasons behind our inclination to write it. The second topic addressed the distinctions between the novel, the story, and the short story, noting that the differences are found in aspects such as length, time, character count, events, language, and conclusions.

In the third section, there was discussion on the difference between blind and sighted writing, based on differences in perception, not ability. They explained how the blind reconstruct space using other senses (sound, touch, smell, time), along with the technical tools used by the blind in writing (screen readers, Braille, voice dictation).

Hamad also addressed the impact of the absence of visual imagery on the formation of

language and narrative rhythm.

In the fourth section, they discussed blind Arab novelists and their experiences, including: Khalil Muhammad Ibrahim (Iraq) – The State of Beggars (2014); Abdul Hamid Younis (Egypt) – his works in folklore and popular narrative; and Taha Hussein (Egypt) – The Days and The Call of the Curlew as a founding historical model. It was concluded that creativity does not require two eyes, but rather linguistic and human insight.

In the fifth section, there was discussion on the narrative code of writing through dark lenses.

Meanwhile, the Boys' Novel and Fine Arts Workshop concluded its activities today at the Katara Arabic Novel Library, Building 48. Khaled Al-Mohannadi, Director of the



One of the stalls at the festival.

Katara Arabic Novel Library, distributed certificates of appreciation to the participants. The workshop, led by trainer Ilham Mujahid Al-Amri, spanned two days.

On the first day, the novel "The Strange Journey: Sons of the

Moon" by Abdul Majeed Zaraket was discussed. This science fiction and adventure novel is composed of an imaginary frame story that narrates a cultural and intellectual journey within which stories are generated: myths, fables, and stories.

TRENDING IN QATAR



On *The Peninsula* social media platforms

Flight safely diverted to Shanghai after battery fire in Air China's cabin

A commercial passenger flight has been safely diverted to Shanghai after a battery stowed in a passenger's carry-on luggage caught fire.

UN aid chief foresees 'massive job' ahead in Gaza

The United Nations' aid chief took stock of the monumental task of restoring basic necessities in the devastated Gaza Strip.

Thousands flee Philippine coast as storm approaches

Thousands of residents fled their homes along the Pacific seaboard of the Philippines as tropical storm made landfall.

Brewing crisis: NY faces soaring coffee costs

Coffee-lovers are facing increasing pain as they pay for their espresso shots and elaborate pumpkin spiced lattes as the cost of beans has jumped 21 percent.