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# The Peninsula



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## Amir discusses fraternal Qatar-Saudi relations

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani met yesterday in his office at the Amiri Diwan with Minister of State and Member of the Council of Ministers of Saudi Arabia HRH Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the accompanying delegation, on the occasion of his visit to the country.

At the outset of the meeting, Prince Turki conveyed the greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, to H H the

Amir, wishing His Highness good health and happiness, and the Qatari people further progress and prosperity. The Amir entrusted Prince Turki with his greetings to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and to Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, wishing them good health and wellness, and for the Saudi people continued progress and prosperity. During the meeting, the two sides discussed fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries and ways to support and develop them, in addition to exchanging views on several topics and issues of mutual interest. — QNA



Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani meeting with Minister of State and Member of the Council of Ministers of Saudi Arabia H R H Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

## 'MWC Doha a big step forward for region'

JOEL JOHNSON  
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar's accelerating push toward artificial intelligence and digital transformation took the spotlight at the Mobile World Congress Doha 2025 (MWC Doha), where the country's momentum and the wider regional significance of hosting the event are recognised, said an official.

Speaking to *The Peninsula* on the sidelines of the conference, Jad Haddad, Partner and Global Head of Quotient – AI by Oliver Wyman, called this year's edition "a great step for the region," noting that it marks the first time the NWC gathering has been held in the Middle East and specifically within the GCC. "I think it's great for telecoms, but it goes way beyond," he said. "In the region here, the telecom operators are basically catalysts of digital transformation for the countries. So I see this really as a big step forward for the region and not only for Qatar, but also beyond telecommunications."

→ P4

## Cabinet approves conditions, controls for online-only commercial activities

DOHA: The Cabinet, which met yesterday with Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani in the chair, approved a draft decision of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to determine the conditions and controls for conducting commercial activities via websites that do not require a

physical location to practice them.

The preparation of this draft decision comes to establish the legal framework for practicing trade via websites and to determine its controls in a way that allows for the creation of an attractive environment for investors and entrepreneurs while preserving the rights of traders and consumers.

Following the Cabinet meeting, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs H E Ibrahim bin Ali Al Mohannadi stated that at the outset of the meeting, the Cabinet commended the participation of Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani in the G20 Summit 2025, held on November 22 in Johannesburg, South Africa. — QNA → P4

## Doha designated as Arab Media Capital for 2027

CAIRO: The Council of Arab Information Ministers have decided to designate Doha as Arab Media Capital for 2027.

The announcement came at the conclusion of the council's 55th ordinary session held at the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo yesterday.

They also approved the designation of Rabat as Arab Media Capital for 2026 and Damascus for 2028.

In its final communique, the council called on the Kingdom of Morocco to put in place the essential procedures to advance a comprehensive programme to celebrate Rabat as Arab Media Capital for 2026, ensuring that the programme includes dedicated activities and events for Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

The Council further urged



Arab media to give special attention to the issue of occupied Jerusalem and to implement the decision of the Council of Arab Information Ministers to treat this holy city as the eternal Arab Media Capital. — QNA → P5

## Qatar strongly condemns shooting near White House

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar has expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the shooting incident that occurred near the White House in the United States of America.

Qatar has affirmed its full solidarity with the friendly United States, its government, and

its people. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reiterated Qatar's firm stance against violence, terrorism, and criminal acts, regardless of the motives or reasons.

According to media reports, two US National Guard soldiers were shot in the incident, and police said a suspect was detained in an extraordinary security drama. **SEE ALSO P12**

**Winter Getaways**

Qatar emerges as leading winter tourism destination in the region

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<p><b>2 DAYS ONLY</b></p>  <p>روبيان مزرعة كبير إماراتي 1 كيلو Farmed Prawns Large 20/30 1kg UAE</p> <p>QAR: <b>42.75</b> QAR: <b>26.75</b></p>	 <p>لحم جاموس هندي / بدون العظم 1 كيلو Buffalo Boneless India 1kg</p> <p>QAR: <b>29.75</b> QAR: <b>19.75</b></p>	<p><b>2 DAYS ONLY</b></p>  <p>لحم ماعز مقطع / باكستاني 1 كيلو Mutton Cuts Pakistan 1kg</p> <p>QAR: <b>47.75</b> QAR: <b>38.75</b></p>	 <p>أفراس شرائح صدر الدجاج الطازج 0-50 غرام Afras Fresh Chicken Breast Sliced 500gm</p> <p>QAR: <b>8.75</b></p>	 <p>باسكين روبينز آيس كريم منوع 90 مل / حبات Baskin Robbins Ice Cream Stick Asstd 90ml X 2pcs</p> <p>QAR: <b>20.00</b> QAR: <b>15.00</b></p>
 <p>كريمة طازجة / قطرية 1 كيلو Qatar Fresh Cream 1kg</p> <p>QAR: <b>36.00</b> QAR: <b>26.00</b></p>	 <p>جبنة رومي مصرية خفيفة 1 كيلو Egyptian Mild Rousy Cheese 1kg</p> <p>QAR: <b>34.00</b> QAR: <b>24.75</b></p>	 <p>أبو الولد جبنة 32 قطعة 480 غرام / 2 باكيت Regal Picon Cheese 32's 480gm X 2pkt</p> <p>QAR: <b>26.50</b> QAR: <b>17.75</b></p>	<p><b>2 pcs</b></p>  <p>باسكين روبينز آيس كريم منوع 90 مل / حبات Baskin Robbins Ice Cream Stick Asstd 90ml X 2pcs</p> <p>QAR: <b>20.00</b> QAR: <b>15.00</b></p>	 <p>برسيل منظف سائل للغسيل منوع 4.8 لتر / 1 حبة Persil Liquid Detergent Asstd 4.8Ltr X 1pc</p> <p>QAR: <b>76.25</b> QAR: <b>49.50</b></p>
 <p>واي واي نودلز دجاج 70 غرام / 10 حبات Wai Wai Chicken Noodles 75gm X 10pcs</p> <p>QAR: <b>9.50</b></p>	<p><b>4 pcs</b></p>  <p>كينكو نايس شيبس منوع 80 غرام / 4 حبات Kitco Nice Chips Asstd 80gm X 4pcs</p> <p>QAR: <b>14.00</b> QAR: <b>9.75</b></p>	 <p>لوريال إلفيف شامبو منوع 400 مل / 2 حبات Loreal Elvive Shampoo Asstd 400ml x 2pcs</p> <p>QAR: <b>43.00</b> QAR: <b>22.00</b></p>	<p><b>2 pcs</b></p>  <p>فازلين لوشن للجسم جلوتو هيا منوع 200 مل / 2 حبات Vaseline Body Lotion Gluta-Hya Asstd. 200ml x 2pcs</p> <p>QAR: <b>36.50</b> QAR: <b>24.00</b></p>	 <p>برسيل منظف سائل للغسيل منوع 4.8 لتر / 1 حبة Persil Liquid Detergent Asstd 4.8Ltr X 1pc</p> <p>QAR: <b>76.25</b> QAR: <b>49.50</b></p>

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## ELEVATE YOUR SPECIAL OCCASIONS WITH ZULAL'S WELLNESS JOURNEYS

From intimate escapes to shared milestones, every celebration is transformed into meaningful moments of joy, balance, and renewal.



**Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som**, the Middle East's largest immersive wellness destination, proudly unveils its wellness-inspired journey for **Special Celebrations** – a new way to celebrate life's milestones through transformative experiences rooted in holistic wellbeing. More than a party, these thoughtfully designed packages embrace the art of self-love, connection, and renewal, creating memories that are both joyful and nourishing.

Special occasions are moments to pause, reflect, and celebrate life's journey. At Zulal, every celebration is infused with the principles of **Traditional Arabic and Islamic Medicine (TAIM)** blended with modern integrative therapies, inviting guests to step away from the ordinary and into a world of balance, vitality, and heartfelt connection. From an intimate escape for two to a gathering of friends and loved ones, Zulal transforms special celebrations into experiences of rejuvenation, joy, and wellness.

Perfect as a meaningful gift or intimate escape, guests are invited to indulge in an Explore Retreat with the luxurious accommodation. Each guest is treated to two treatments of choice, from a curated menu; one massage, with a choice of Signature Full Body Tadleek, Invigorating Massage, Oriental Scalp Massage, or the Signature Al Qadam Foot Massage; and one specialised therapy, selecting from Gyrotonic, Neurac, TECAR Therapy, Watsu, NuEra, Cupping, Acupuncture, Reiki, or Craniosacral Therapy. This thoughtful blend of relaxation and restoration ensures every celebration is as rejuvenating as it is memorable. Guests are welcomed with a red-carpet entrance, a thoughtful wellness gift of an essence candle and fresh flower bouquet, and a personalised touch in the room, complete with special décor, embroidered pyjamas, engraved flasks, and a wholesome snack.

The evening unfolds with a dinner under the stars, hosted at unique resort venues such as the serene mangrove deck, the cosy fire pit, or

SCAN TO GET CONNECTED



a private terrace. A personalised wellness-crafted cake completes the celebration, while shared treatments and tranquil moments create lasting memories of connection and care.

For those who believe joy multiplies when shared, Zulal introduces a tailored the Special Celebration Package for three guests and above. Perfect for milestone any special occasions, family reunions, or wellness-inspired get-togethers, the group package transforms traditional gatherings into collective journeys of health and happiness.

"At Zulal, special occasions are moments to pause and embrace wellness in its truest form," says Mr. Ammar Samad, General Manager. "Our new packages combine celebration with transformation, ensuring every guest leaves with renewed energy, joy, and purpose."

Whether seeking a private retreat for couples or group gathering with loved ones, Zulal Wellness Resort crafts wellness celebrations that honour the self, celebrate togetherness, and embrace the timeless gift of wellbeing.

For more information or reservations, please email Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som at [reservations@zulal.com](mailto:reservations@zulal.com), call/WhatsApp +974 4477 6555 or visit [www.zulal.com](http://www.zulal.com).

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<p><b>4 QR.75</b></p> <p>موز اصفر كبير هندي ١ كجم Yellow Banana Big India 1 kg</p>	<p><b>5 QR.00</b></p> <p>تفاح رويال جالا تشيلي ١ كجم Apple Royal Gala Chile 1 kg</p>	<p><b>5 QR.00</b></p> <p>كيوي صيني ١ كجم Kiwi China 1 kg</p>	<p><b>4 QR.75</b></p> <p>توت ازرق افريقي ١٢٥ جم ١ عبوة Blueberry Africa (Approx: 125g) 1 box</p>	<p><b>9 QR.75</b></p> <p>فراولة دريسكولز افريقيا ٢٥٠ جم ١ عبوة Strawberry Driscoll's Africa (Approx: 250g) 1 box</p>	<p><b>12 QR.00</b></p> <p>تيرين مجفف حبل ٥٠٠ جم Dry Fig Rope 500 gm</p>	<p><b>4 QR.00</b></p> <p>مافين احبة مشكل ٦ قطع Muffins Asrtd. 6 pcs</p>	<p><b>20 QR.00</b></p> <p>ارز مزة بسمتي هندي ٥ كجم x احبة Amana Indian Mazza Basmati Rice 5 kg x 1 pc</p>	<p><b>15 QR.00</b></p> <p>الجزيرة زيت زيتون بكر ٥٠٠ مل x احبة Al Jazira Extra Virgin 500 ml x 1 pc</p>	<p><b>9 QR.00</b></p> <p>ساديا دجاج تشويية ١١٠٠ جم x احبة Sadia Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc</p>



**Amir receives invitation from Bahrain's King to participate in GCC Summit**

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani received a written message from HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain to participate in the 46th session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which will be hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain in December. Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani received the message yesterday during his meeting with Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Qatar H E Mohammed bin Ali Al Ghatam.

**Prime Minister chairs Steering Committee meeting for Smart Government and Digital Leadership**



Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani chaired yesterday the meeting of the Steering Committee for Smart Government and Digital Leadership. The meeting discussed several projects related to digital government and enhancing integration between ministries, government agencies, and public institutions. These projects aim to contribute to achieving the goals of Qatar's national digital transformation and to facilitate services and transactions for individuals and institutions across various sectors. Appropriate decisions were made regarding these projects. The meeting was attended by Their Excellencies the Ministers - members of the committee, along with concerned senior state officials.

**Sheikha Moza attends expert workshop introducing WISE Education Index**

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Chairperson of Qatar Foundation H H Sheikha Moza bint Nasser attended an Expert Consultation Workshop, introducing the WISE Education Index – a framework designed to rethink how the effectiveness of the world's education systems is assessed – at the WISE 12 Summit. The Index, developed by Qatar Foundation's global education initiative WISE, was presented at WISE 12, the latest edition of WISE's global biennial summit, where leading researchers, economists, and policymakers convened to review and discuss the

framework ahead of its pilot phase. The workshop was also attended by Vice Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, H E Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani and saw the participation of Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khater. The Index addresses a critical gap: while education systems across the world are adapting to rapidly shifting demographics, technological change, and economic transformation, the many current global indicators that measure access, literacy, employability, and national performance fail to capture the full continuum of

education – from the conditions that shape early learning to long-term processes that influence wellbeing, workforce readiness, and lifelong learning. Unlike traditional approaches that centre on static outcomes often correlated with national wealth, the WISE Education Index seeks to recognize that education systems do not begin from the same starting point. The Index will aim to offer a holistic and process-oriented, rather than input-driven, framework that helps explain not only what education systems achieve, but how they improve over time. "The WISE Index has the

potential to become a powerful tool for policymakers, so long as it stays aligned with national priorities, remains clear and practical, and reflects the true purpose of education," said Secretary General of the National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Nofe Al Suwaidi speaking at the high-level consultation workshop. "If designed thoughtfully, it can help us monitor where we stand, where we must go, and how to build systems that nurture learning, equity, and human values." By centering its analysis on systemic processes and

improvement pathways, the Index aims to challenge the long-standing "data-rich but information-poor" reality of global education measurement and support more equitable, evidence-driven approaches to education reform. Reflecting Qatar Foundation's commitment to advancing education on a national, regional, and global level, the Index aims to support governments and education leaders as they design policies that champion social-cultural integration, innovation readiness, equity and human flourishing. Its multidimensional structure examines systems through the

interconnected lenses of inputs, processes, and outcomes, enabling decision-makers to identify the conditions that exist, how resources are used, and which practices down to the classroom level generate the greatest impact. The Index introduces a new lens for a new era, one that measures education systems not by narrow outputs, but by the full continuum that enables human flourishing. This Index aims to redefine global understanding of what effective, equitable, and future-ready education truly looks like," said Director of Policy and Research at WISE, Selma Talha-Jebriil.

**MCIT, QT launch tourism digital transformation roadmap**

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) and Qatar Tourism (QT) announced today, during a joint press conference held at MWC25 Doha, the launch of the Tourism Digital Transformation Roadmap. The roadmap marks an important step toward elevating Qatar's tourism ecosystem by adopting advanced technologies, delivering agile digital services, and enabling greater integration between government platforms and the wider tourism sector. The press conference was attended by Assistant Undersecretary for Digital Industry Affairs at MCIT, H E Reem Al

Mansoori, and Chief of the Tourism Development Sector, Omar Al Jaber at Qatar Tourism, who presented the roadmap's key components and its projected impact on the future of the tourism sector. Al Mansoori emphasised that the collaboration represents a new model of national strategic partnerships, stating: "We are proud to formalise our cooperation with Qatar Tourism through the establishment of the Tourism Digital Transformation Office, a joint institutional platform designed to enhance innovation and service development. Together, we have co-developed a comprehensive roadmap that prioritises more than 39 strategic

digital initiatives, ranging from next-generation visitor-experience platforms to AI-powered analytics and predictive services." He noted that these initiatives are designed to drive a full digital transformation of the tourism ecosystem, built around three core themes: Visitor Experience and Destination Promotion, Sector Data Management, and Ecosystem Operations and Service Delivery. She further highlighted that this approach aligns with Qatar's ambition to build a competitive digital economy and is expected to contribute around QR195m to the ICT sector's GDP through enhanced productivity, improved service efficiency, and


new growth opportunities. For his part, Omar Al Jaber affirmed that the roadmap represents a transformative milestone for Qatar's tourism future, saying: "The roadmap developed in partnership with MCIT marks a significant leap forward in building a world-class tourism ecosystem. Leveraging AI and data-driven insights will enable us to deliver personalized experiences at scale, attract more international visitors, and strengthen Qatar's position as a leading tourism destination in the region." Al Jaber added that implementing the roadmap will equip the sector with advanced digital tools that fully reshape the visitor journey, highlighting the



Assistant Undersecretary for Digital Industry Affairs at MCIT H E Reem Al Mansoori, and Chief of the Tourism Development Sector, Omar Al Jaber at Qatar Tourism during the press conference.

Integrated Visitor Application, set to launch in 2026, which will redefine the Visit Qatar platform to become a unified companion supporting the entire visitor

journey from discovery and planning to on-site engagement—powered by AI-generated itineraries and AR/VR capabilities.



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QatarEnergy

The General, Limited Tenders Committees and Supply Chain Department announces the following Tenders:

**Important Notice:**  
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1.	GT25112200	27.11.2025	03.12.2025	15.01.2026	760,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR
Title of Tender: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES SUPPORT FOR SOLAR PLANTS								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location:		To be advised if required						
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time:		To be advised if required						
2.	GT25113000	27.11.2025	03.12.2025	18.01.2026	300,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR
Title of Tender: MISCELLANEOUS ELECTRICAL MOCS (2026) FOR DUKHAN FIELDS								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location:		To be advised if required						
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time:		To be advised if required						
3.	GT25MT0022	27.11.2025	03.12.2025	21.12.2025	1250,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR
Title of Tender: SUPPLY OF VARIOUS COMPUTER DEVICES AND BUYBACK OF USED DEVICES ON CALL OFF AGREEMENT BASIS.								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location:		To be advised if required						
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time:		To be advised if required						

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- Suppliers and Contractors who are in possession of a valid SAP ID issued by QatarEnergy are instructed to maintain their Company Registration and Communication details upto date and valid via QatarEnergy Mushtaryat Portal on urgent basis.
- No queries will be entertained, or bids received, from entities who have not purchased tender documents in compliance with the above provisions.
- QatarEnergy invites all prospective Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in QatarEnergy Tenders to register online and obtain a QatarEnergy SAP Vendor Code, a mandatory requirement for the issue of Tender Documents by QatarEnergy.
- Prospective Qatar based Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in future QatarEnergy Tenders shall obtain an ICV score. Relevant information pertaining to ICV, ICV Scorecard, ICV Certification, and ICV Guidelines are available on the ICV Digital Portal - https://icv.qa/en-US

**Cabinet approves conditions, controls for online-only commercial activities**

FROM PAGE 1

The Cabinet stressed that H H the Amir's participation in this summit reflects Qatar's distinguished position, and the global appreciation it enjoys at the international level, for its successful efforts in resolving conflicts and settling crises through diplomatic means, and for its effective role in supporting peace and development issues, and defending the rights of peoples to justice, equality and a decent life. The Cabinet also hailed the outcomes of the Amir's official visit to Rwanda on Nov. 20-21, which was followed by a state visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The Cabinet affirmed that the constructive discussions that H H the Amir had held with President of Rwanda H E Paul Kagame, and President of the

Democratic Republic of the Congo H E Felix Tshisekedi, as well as the agreements and memoranda of understanding that were signed, embodied the depth and strength of Qatar's relations with the two friendly countries, and opened new and promising horizons for developing and expanding cooperation with them in various fields. The Cabinet also decided to approve a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) on mutual cooperation in the field of diplomatic training between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, a draft MoU for cooperation in the field of agriculture and food security between the Ministry of Municipality of Qatar and the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay, and a draft cooperation programme between the Ministry

of Justice of Qatar and the Ministry of Justice of Iraq for the years 2026-2030. The Cabinet concluded its meeting by reviewing four reports and taking the appropriate measures in their regard. The documents included the third annual report on the outcomes of the work of the Civil Defense Department for the year 2024, the annual report on the activities of the Qatar Development Bank and its financial position 2023-2024, a report on the outcomes of participation in the third session of the joint financial and economic committee between Qatar's Ministry of Finance and Switzerland's Federal Department of Finance (Bern - September 2025), and a report on the outcomes of participation in the second regular session of the Arab Cybersecurity Ministers Council (Riyadh - September 2025).

**'MWC Doha a big step forward for region'**

FROM PAGE 1

Haddad highlighted Qatar's "very ambitious vision" for AI, pointing to the innovations showcased at MWC by both major operators and homegrown tech players. "We're seeing all the players at MWC are showcasing a lot of AI use cases, but also innovations that are happening, and that I think is very important also for Qatar," he said. Qatar's strong investment posture, he stated, is already paying visible dividends. "Qatar is definitely investing very heavily in digital transformation overall, but also in AI. So I think Qatar is number seven globally when it comes to investment in digital transformation," Haddad noted. "As we walk around

MWC, but also outside in Doha, that is showing very clearly in the smart city infrastructure, in the communication infrastructure, but also around the services that we get." According to Haddad, the nation's priorities are increasingly oriented toward economic transformation. "It's basically leveraging that digital transformation to accelerate the economic transformation of the country towards more of a knowledge economy and ICT," he said. He pointed to both Qatar's National Development Strategy and its Digital Agenda 2030 as clear signals of this direction. He stressed, "The digital agenda sets very ambitious targets for ICT GDP as well as ICT job growth in the country, dou-

bling effectively in the next five years." Haddad also underscored Qatar's pioneering approach to adopting advanced technologies, particularly within the public sector. "We've seen adoption of key AI technologies that have been announced recently," he said. "The government, led by MCIT, has been basically driving the AI transformation of the country. The scale of the country is perfect to launch and disseminate, and adopt those technologies at a large scale, whether it is 5G, 6G, or AI." With government backing, a dynamic private sector, and a clear national strategy, the official said that the country is positioning itself as a regional leader in the digital era.



### Minister of Interior chairs 2025's third meeting of Supreme Council of Police Academy

Minister of Interior, Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), and Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Police Academy H E Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani chaired the Council's third meeting for 2025, held at the Ministry of Interior headquarters, with the attendance of Their Excellencies members of the Supreme Council. During the meeting, the Council reviewed the agenda items, including the development of the academic system, curricula, and training programmes; operational strategies; and various initiatives to enhance the Academy's performance. Appropriate decisions were adopted to further strengthen the Academy's role in preparing qualified security personnel.

### ALECSO selects Katara as Arab Opera City

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) has announced the selection of the Katara Cultural Village Foundation as the "Arab Opera City" in a ceremony held yesterday at its headquarters in Tunisia.

The ceremony was attended by Director General of the Katara Cultural Village Foundation H E Prof. Dr. Khalid bin Ibrahim Al-Sulaiti; Director General of ALECSO H E Dr. Mohamed Ould Amar; Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Tunisia H E Zayed bin Saeed Al Kumait Al Khayarin; and a number of Their Excellencies the Ambassadors of Arab countries in Tunisia.

This honour bestowed upon the Katara Cultural Village Foundation is an Arab and international recognition of its pioneering role in supporting Arab opera music and

Katara will organise the first Arab Opera Festival from December 8 to 11.

enhancing its presence on the regional and international stage.

On this occasion, Professor Dr. Al-Sulaiti expressed his pride in this selection, saying: "The selection of Katara as the Arab Opera City is an honor for the Foundation's efforts in supporting musical creativity and preserving Arab cultural identity."

"We consider this title a new responsibility that motivates us to continue working on presenting Arab operatic works that reflect the beauty of our language and culture, and contribute to enhancing the Arab artistic scene globally."

He added that Katara will organise the first Arab Opera Festival from December 8 to 11, in cooperation with ALECSO, with the participation of 13 Arab

opera houses, in addition to a selection of Arab artists and creators.

The Cairo Opera House was chosen as the guest of honour for the festival's first edition, as it is the oldest Arab opera house.

He confirmed that the festival will include numerous events, among them an opening ceremony honouring the renowned Arab composer Omar Khairat, in addition to musical and operatic performances featuring the Cairo Opera Orchestra and the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra.

An online platform will also be launched for Arab opera houses, enabling those interested in opera to access the programs of each Arab opera house throughout the year.

The festival will also include workshops introducing the art of operatic singing and performance techniques, as well as the unveiling of a model of Katara, the Arab Opera City.

### MoPH organises key activities during Qatar Infection Prevention and Control Week 2025

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), in close collaboration with healthcare institutions across Qatar, recently organised a wide range of important activities and events as part of Qatar Infection Prevention and Control Week (QIPCW) 2025.

This year's campaign embraced the theme "Stand UPPP for Infection Prevention" as a unifying call for collective action. The UPPP acronym stands for Unite, Protect, Prevent, Prevail—four fundamental principles which underscore what it takes to stop the spread of infection and build safer, healthier environments for all.

The Ministry emphasised that these pillars highlight the importance of collaboration and integration between all healthcare professionals to

achieve the shared goal of reducing infections and protecting both patients and staff.

As part of the celebrations, the MoPH organised a CPD-accredited virtual symposium that explored crucial topics such as outbreak management, the role of artificial intelligence and modern technologies in infection control, environmental protection, and the importance of multidisciplinary teamwork. The event featured an array of international, regional and local speakers, and attracted over 700 participants from diverse healthcare facilities throughout Qatar—demonstrating the sector's strong commitment to knowledge sharing and advancing expertise in this vital field.

The Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Section, Healthcare Quality Department, also hosted a

creative competition for designing social media messages and materials. This initiative aimed to foster innovation and effective engagement in spreading infection prevention awareness across the country. Nearly 40 entries were received from over a dozen healthcare institutions, reflecting the dedication and creativity of healthcare workers in promoting the culture of infection control.

Throughout the week, healthcare organisations organised internal events, including educational lectures, awareness exhibitions, and competitions to further enhance staff awareness, encourage ongoing adherence to IPC practices, and raise standards in healthcare settings.

The IPC and AMR team at MoPH also conducted site visits to several health facilities.

### Qatar and Pakistan strengthen cooperation in education and vocational training



Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khater met with Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H E Wajiha Qamar. The meeting discussed prospects for cooperation in the fields of education and vocational training between the two friendly countries, with the aim of exchanging expertise and best practices and enhancing the quality of education.

### Arab Ministers designate Doha as Arab Media Capital for 2027

FROM PAGE 1

It hailed the efforts undertaken by Kuwait in celebrating Kuwait as Arab Media Capital for 2025, calling on the General Secretariat to be provided with a report on the efforts and activities conducted throughout 2025 so that it can be circulated to member states for reference in future experiences.

CEO of Qatar Media Corporation (QMC) H E Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz bin Jassim Al-Thani said in a post on his X account, "The selection of Doha as the Arab Media Capital for 2027 by the Council of Arab Information Ministers affirms confidence in Qatar's vision and the steadfast support of its wise leadership for the journey of media development and



The selection of Doha as the Arab Media Capital for 2027 by the Council of Arab Information Ministers affirms confidence in Qatar's vision and the steadfast support of its wise leadership for the journey of media development and innovation. This decision reflects appreciation for Qatar's role in enriching Arab content and motivates us to continue advancing and innovating in service of Arab and global media.

innovation." This decision, he wrote, reflects appreciation for Qatar's role in enriching Arab content and motivates us to continue advancing and innovating in service of Arab and global media.

Meanwhile, Qatar participated in the session yesterday. Director of the Office of International Cooperation and

Agreements at QMC, Abdullah Ghanem Al Muhannadi, chaired Qatar's delegation at the session.

Discussions focused on reinforcing joint Arab media action in support of Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian cause, alongside a range of media issues at the Arab level. The session also



Director of the Office of International Cooperation and Agreements at Qatar Media Corporation, Abdullah Ghanem Al Muhannadi, chairing Qatar's delegation at the session.

addressed the recommendations submitted by the Permanent Committee for Arab Media during its 103rd ordinary session, chaired by

Head of the committee, H E Abdulrahman bin Nasser Al Obaidan, to the executive bureau of the council in its 21st ordinary session.

### Envoy attends consultations on post-conflict international humanitarian law

GENEVA: Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations Office in Geneva H E Dr. Hind Abdalrahman Al Mufthah participated yesterday in the second round of state consultations on international humanitarian law in post-conflict phases, held at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva.

In her intervention during the meeting, delivered on behalf of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Colombia, and Ethiopia, as co-chairs of Track III of the Global Initiative on International Humanitarian Law, focused on international humanitarian law and peace She explained that international humanitarian law plays a pivotal role during this phase, as its obligations extend beyond the battlefield to include the treatment of detainees.

— QNA

### Lawh Wa Qalam: M. F. Husain Museum opens to public on Nov 28

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: This week, Qatar Foundation will officially unveil Lawh Wa Qalam: M. F. Husain Museum to the public – a new addition to the arts and cultural landscape of Qatar, celebrating the life and work of the iconic modern artist Maqbool Fida Husain.

The museum, which opens to the public on November 28, will be as a dynamic space where art meets learning, located at the heart of Education City's vibrant hub of innovation and discovery. But it is also much more than a museum, as it invites everyone – from families and students to art enthusiasts, both local and global – to come together to learn, explore, and connect. Manager of Communications Outreach at Qatar Foundation, Jawaher Al Marri said: "Lawh Wa Qalam: M. F. Husain Museum embodies what Education City stands for – a place where curiosity is encouraged, connections are made, and learning continues throughout life. By bringing Husain's work into our community, we are creating a space that is open, accessible, and collaborative – where art becomes a catalyst for dialogue and discovery.



"The museum reinforces Qatar's role as a regional and global hub for culture and creativity, inviting people to explore ideas that inspire, challenge, and unite – and we look forward to opening its doors to the world and to audiences from all walks of life."

Syeda Deeba is a fourth-year Interior Design student at Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar (VCUarts Qatar), a QF partner university.

"The opening of Lawh Wa Qalam: M. F. Husain Museum feels incredibly

inspiring," she says. "The museum enriches Qatar's cultural landscape by celebrating one of the most influential artists of the 20th century, and for young designers and artists, it offers a space to study the relationship between art, space, and culture."

Reflecting the openness and inclusivity of Education City, the museum complements existing cultural offerings across Qatar Foundation's ecosystem, as well as its schools, universities, research centers, and community initiatives. This creates a natural

environment for cross-collaborative learning, where people can connect, interact, and collaborate in enriching, unexpected ways. "Education City thrives on collaboration across fields design, engineering, science, medicine, and the arts. A museum dedicated to a major global artist adds a cultural anchor that everyone can access," Deeba says.

"The museum becomes a shared space where students from all disciplines can learn, reflect, and find inspiration. Whether someone is studying architecture, AI, business, or design, Husain's work opens conversations about history, innovation, identity, and storytelling. It will encourage more cross-campus interactions, workshops, joint projects, and cultural exploration."

Housed in a building inspired by Husain's own sketch – and brought to life by architect Martand Khosla – the museum offers a unique insight into the artist's creative vision and multidisciplinary approach. Visitors can explore one of the most comprehensive collections of Husain's later works, many of which draw on themes from Arab civilization and Islamic culture,

as well as his final masterpiece, Seerof al ardh, which now forms part of Lawh Wa Qalam: M. F. Husain Museum.

Alongside paintings, films, tapestries, and photography, the museum will host workshops, conversations, artistic programs, and interdisciplinary encounters. In doing so, it reinforces Education City's mission to create opportunities that are accessible, inclusive, and meaningful for everyone, enriching the landscape as an active, living space. "QF and VCUarts Qatar have been fundamental in creating pathways for young creatives like me," Deeba says. "Through world-class facilities, mentorship, internships, and access to cultural institutions like this museum, they ensure that creativity is valued and supported," Deeba explains.

"As a VCUarts Qatar student, I've had opportunities to work on real-world projects, connect with industry professionals, and participate in exhibitions and leadership events—all of which shape us into confident and responsible designers. QF's vision allows students to grow in an environment where art, culture, and innovation are seen as essential parts of Qatar's future."

## National Day of United Arab Emirates celebrated in Doha

Minister of Environment and Climate Change H E Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie, Minister of State for International Cooperation H E Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad and Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates to the State of Qatar Rashid Abdulrahman Al Ali with other officials cutting a cake to celebrate National Day of the UAE in a reception in Doha yesterday.

PIC: RAJAN VADAKKEMURIYIL / THE PENINSULA



## Over 3,000 attend Mo Amer Live show organised by Visit Qatar

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Over 3,000 fans attended the Mo Amer Live show, organised by Visit Qatar, at the Katara Amphitheatre on 21 November 2025. Internationally acclaimed Palestinian-American comedian and actor Mo Amer delivered his signature blend of satire and compelling storytelling.

The show attracted a diverse audience of over 50 nationalities, reflecting the wide appeal of Mo Amer's global comedic voice. The top three countries represented among attendees were Qatar, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

The event forms part of Visit Qatar's commitment to hosting diverse cultural experiences to the country, further enriching Qatar's vibrant year-round calendar of events.

## Minister of State for Interior Affairs meets Egyptian envoy

Minister of State for Interior Affairs H E Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Faisal bin Mohammed Al-Thani met yesterday with Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the country H E Walid Fahmy Al Faqi. During the meeting, they discussed a number of topics of mutual interest and ways to enhance security cooperation between the two countries, in addition to developing work mechanisms in related fields.



## HMC's Long-Term Care Services earn JCI reaccreditation

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Hamad Medical Corporation's (HMC) Long-Term Care and Residential Services at Rumailah Hospital have successfully achieved reaccreditation from the Joint Commission International (JCI) for the fourth time, following a detailed survey conducted in

October 2025. This important milestone covers HMC's Long-Term Care facilities, including the Enaya and Daam Specialised Care Centre and the Residential Care Compound-1, reaffirming HMC's commitment to providing safe, high-quality care. The reaccreditation serves as a strong endorsement of the quality and safety standards

embedded in every aspect of service delivery.

The Enaya and Daam Specialised Care Centre and Residential Care Compound-1 provide 24/7 care and rehabilitation for long-term patients with complex and chronic medical conditions. These specialised centres are the only facilities of their kind in Qatar.

## Education Ministry releases 2025-2026 exam guidelines

DOHA: The Ministry of Education and Higher Education, through its Educational Affairs sector, has issued a circular regulating operations in public schools during the end-of-semester examination periods for the first and second semesters of the 2025-2026 academic year.

The move is intended to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for students and to increase flexibility for administrative and teaching staff.

In a statement, the ministry said the circular supports

schools' efforts to create an appropriate atmosphere for students taking exams and to ensure that assessment, grading and certificate issuance are conducted to the highest standards of quality and accuracy.

The circular allows students to leave school immediately after completing their exams to reduce crowding and improve movement within school buildings. It requires schools to complete grading, recording of marks and issuance of certificates within the specified timelines while maintaining rigorous quality controls in cor-

rection and review processes.

School employees are permitted to leave two hours before the official end of the workday during both examination periods, provided that these early departures are not combined with breastfeeding hours or other reduced-schedule arrangements and that total daily early departures and authorized absences combined do not exceed two hours.

The ministry stressed that the measures are designed to enable schools to carry out their duties efficiently during exam periods. — QNA

## UDST hosts conference on 'Cancer Risk Reduction Innovations'

DOHA: University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST), in collaboration with the Qatar Cancer Society successfully hosted the Technological Innovations for Cancer Risk Reduction and Detection conference.

Bringing together leading national and international experts to explore the integration of cutting-edge technologies aimed at enhancing cancer prevention, early detection, and community well-being.

With keynote presentations from experts at the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO-IARC) and the

WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO-EMRO), the conference served as a platform to advance applied research, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and support national and global health priorities.

The conference highlighted innovations in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies for cancer risk reduction and detection, while strengthening collaboration among key institutions, including WHO-IARC, WHO-EMRO, the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), and leading healthcare and academic entities.

Students actively participated through research

presentations, innovation showcases, and interactive sessions designed to cultivate future leaders in healthcare technology.

The event also promoted community awareness and wellness were further promoted through the dissemination of the latest scientific evidence, national priorities, and practical strategies for cancer prevention and early detection, showcased through a dedicated poster exhibit. In his remarks, Dr. Salem Al-Naemi, President of UDST, said: "It was inspiring to see so many experts, students, and community partners come together for this conference.

## 'AI emerges as next frontier for telecom growth'

JOEL JOHNSON  
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: As artificial intelligence (AI) advances from experimental technology to enterprise backbone, the global telecom industry is positioning itself at the forefront of its adoption.

At the Mobile World Congress (MWC Doha) 2025, industry leaders highlighted how AI, especially agentic and sovereign AI models, is rapidly becoming the next frontier for telecom growth, reshaping both revenue opportunities in the B2B market and the internal operations of operators themselves.

"So, number one, for sure, it's a great opportunity for the region to host MWC and to see the evolution of the telco industry towards a technology-centred industry," Emmanuel Durou, Deloitte's Technology, Media & Telecoms Leader for the Middle East, told *The Peninsula*.

He credited MWC and its host GSMA for helping operators shift "from the communication service provider towards value-added services, towards new technology offerings, including cloud, and more and more AI and agentic-AI driven."

Durou outlined two major areas of disruption and opportunity for operators, one in the market and one within their own organisations. On the



Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education H E Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al-Nuaimi with other officials during the event.

THE PENINSULA

## Qatar hosts launch of the 2024-2025 Global Education Monitoring Report

DOHA: The State of Qatar, in cooperation with Unesco, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, hosted the launch of the 2024-2025 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report.

The launch took place on the second day of the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE 12) at the Qatar National Convention Centre. The event was held as part of a high-level panel session titled "Leadership for Education – Leadership for Learning," featuring prominent education leaders, international experts, and policymakers.

The session was attended by Salah Khaled, Director of Unesco's Doha Office; Dr. Jutta Urpilainen, Chair of the Report and former European Commissioner for International Partnerships; and Dr. Nouf Khalid Al-Suwaidi, Secretary-General of the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science.

In his opening remarks, H E Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al-Nuaimi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, emphasised that the report reaffirms the pivotal role of educational leadership in developing education systems and enhancing their ability to adapt and innovate.

He noted that international evidence shows that educational leadership is a decisive factor in improving learning quality, governance, and building institutions capable of keeping pace with change. He added that the report provides an essential knowledge framework and practical recommendations that countries can benefit from based on their national priorities.

Al-Nuaimi explained that, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030, the State of Qatar is working to strengthen effective, evidence-based educational leadership and has made significant progress.

The education sector's capacity has expanded by 1.7 times over the past decade, education contributed 9.4% to GDP in 2024.



Emmanuel Durou

external opportunity side, he said telcos are now well-positioned to capitalise on the commercial potential of AI, particularly in B2B markets. "We believe that it's time for the telcos to get on the revenue-generating opportunity of AI," he said. In the Middle East, operators have a strategic advantage in becoming "the key leading players, supporting the B2B space with sovereign AI, thanks to their infrastructure, trusted brands, and reputation for secure services."

The second major area of opportunity lies inside the telcos themselves. Durou said agentic AI and autonomous systems will redefine how telecom companies operate. "There's a significant opportunity for telcos to become much leaner organisations," he said, pointing to concrete use cases across field-force automation, supply-chain efficiency, and

network operations. A growing component of this shift, he noted, is the integration of physical AI, including drones and autonomous machines, to modernise field operations and automate network management.

Looking at the broader AI journey, Durou said the region has already moved past early adoption. "We have seen a lot of early adopters in Gen-AI. Now we're moving towards agentic AI, and eventually we'll move to multi-agent systems," he said.

Cloud-native AI platforms are essential for rapid deployment, he said, but the real challenge is scaling responsibly. Durou emphasised Deloitte's "scaling safe" framework, which ensures organisations adopt AI with strong governance and guardrails. "First, you start with a human in the loop and then progressively you make sure that you deploy agentic AI at scale in the organisation."

Durou also elucidated that operators cannot afford to sit out this technological shift. "For us, telcos do not have the choice but to embark on the AI journey," he said. "Given the history of telcos, and for telcos to avoid being only dumb pipes, it is very important that they embark on the agentic AI bandwagon."

## Katara ignites spirit of 2025 Arab Cup with over 45 cultural events

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Cultural Village Foundation – Katara has announced the launch of an extensive programme of cultural, artistic, and heritage events accompanying the 2025 Arab Cup, scheduled to take place from December 1 to 18, 2025.

The programme features more than 45 diverse activities across Katara's various venues, creating a vibrant atmosphere that reflects the cultural richness of the participating nations and celebrates the large audiences expected to attend the tournament.

Katara emphasised that these events align with its mission to promote intercultural dialogue, highlight Arab identity

and local heritage, and create engaging spaces that blend art and sport offering visitors and fans a comprehensive experience throughout the tournament.

The events will begin with a series of art exhibitions, including the Qatari Fine Art Exhibition in Building 19, the Arab Cup Stamp Exhibition in Building 22, the History of the Oud Exhibition in Building 6, and the "Colours of Qatari Hospitality" Exhibition in Building 47. From December 1 to 18, visitors will enjoy a variety of daily activities along the Katara Corniche from 1:00 PM to 10:00 PM, featuring competitions, artistic performances, folk dance troupes, and theatrical productions from several Arab countries.



Musical performances will be a major highlight of the programme, including shows by the Al-Jahra Folk Arts Troupe, Kuwait's Nasser Bu awad Troupe, and folk-dance groups from five Arab countries, along with the traditional Qatari Artha. Omani artist Mariam Al-Munji will present a musical

evening at Al-Hikma Square from December 4 to 8, and the Algerian Orchestra will perform on December 18. Audiences will also enjoy a spectacular military musical display (Tattoo) on the Katara Corniche. Additionally, Katara will host the Arab Opera Festival at the Katara Opera House from December 8 to 10,

from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

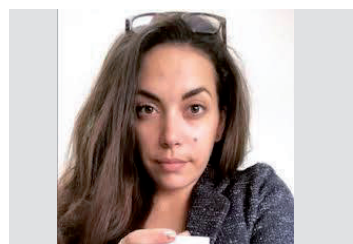
Wisdom Square will screen live broadcasts of the tournament matches, while Creativity Square will host Language of the Letter Dhad events celebrating World Arabic Language Day on December 17.

Katara will also present a range of interactive

art workshops and drawing competitions for children inspired by the cultures of the participating nations. The Drama Theatre will host the play King of the Stage from December 16 to 20, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, while the Outdoor Theatre will feature a puppet show and storytelling performances.

Katara stressed that the programme is designed to appeal to all age groups and nationalities, reinforcing its position as a global destination that brings together artistic excellence, rich heritage, and creative innovation. Katara is preparing to welcome thousands of visitors who will enjoy a unique blend of arts, culture, and sports in an atmosphere that celebrates Arab identity and unity.

# No, there is no ceasefire in Gaza



YARA HAWARI  
AL JAZEERA

WHEN on October 10, a “ceasefire” was declared in Gaza, many Palestinians breathed a sigh of relief. They had just endured two years of constant bombardment estimated to equal roughly six times the explosive force of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945, concentrated on an area less than half the size of the Japanese city.

The devastation was all encompassing. All hospitals and universities had been bombed, most homes and schools destroyed and vital infrastructure, such as the sewage system and electricity lines, had been damaged beyond repair. An estimated 50 million tonnes of rubble was strewn across the strip and under it lay at least 10,000 bodies of Palestinians killed in bombardments who were yet to be recovered.

And yet, the respite the people of Gaza expected to finally come never materialised. Almost immediately after the “ceasefire” announcement, the Israeli regime started bombing the strip again. It hasn’t stopped since then.

According to Gaza’s Government Media Office, Israel has violated the “ceasefire” nearly 500 times in 44 days, killing 342 civilians. The deadliest day was on October 29 when the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) killed 109 Palestinians, including 52 children. More recently, on Thursday, 32 Palestinians were killed, including an entire family in the Zeitoun neighbourhood of Gaza City when a bomb was dropped on a building they were sheltering in.

But it is not just the bombardment that hasn’t stopped. The starvation hasn’t either.

As per the “ceasefire” agreement, 600 trucks of aid were supposed to be allowed in every day, which Israel has not fulfilled. As Al Jazeera’s correspondent Hind al-Khoudary has reported from Gaza, the IOF is permitting only 150 trucks a day to cross into the strip. They are also preventing the entry of nutritious foods, including meat, dairy and vegetables, as well as much-needed medicine, tents and other materials for shelter.

A coalition of Palestinian relief agencies estimated that the aid

that enters now doesn’t even cover a quarter of the basic needs of the population.

The United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), which says it has enough food in its warehouses to feed everyone in Gaza for months, is still not allowed to bring in any of it. This is in direct contravention of an October advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that the Israeli regime has a duty to not impede the supply of aid by UN agencies, including UNRWA.

The court also rejected Israeli accusations that the agency lacks neutrality and asserted that it is an indispensable actor in the humanitarian landscape. Nonetheless, the Israeli regime has rejected the advisory opinion and continues to limit UNRWA activities by preventing aid distribution and denying visas to its international staff.

The Israeli regime is also not abiding by the provisional measures that were laid out in an ICJ ruling in January 2024 that found that plausible acts of genocide were being committed in Gaza. These measures included preventing acts of genocide, preventing and punishing incitement to genocide and allowing humanitarian assistance into Gaza. Since then,

the court has reaffirmed its provisional measures several times. The Israeli regime continues to ignore them.

And that is because on the international level, it continues to enjoy unprecedented diplomatic, financial and military cover. The latest iteration of that came on November 17 when the UN Security Council passed Resolution 2803, endorsing United States President Donald Trump’s 20-point plan for Gaza.

Among its provisions is the creation of two bodies that would take control of Gaza: the board of peace, chaired by Trump himself, and the international stabilisation force, tasked with maintaining security and enforcing the disarmament of Palestinian groups. The governing structure of both bodies remains unclear, but they would

operate in coordination with the Israeli regime, effectively installing another layer of foreign control over the Palestinian people.

The resolution also allows for the bypassing of existing local and international structures in the distribution of aid. It makes no mention of the genocide and does not propose any mechanism for accountability for war crimes. Essentially, the resolution contravenes international law and gives the US – a co-perpetrator of genocide – control over Gaza.

All of this makes clear the fact that the “ceasefire” is not a ceasefire at all. The Israeli regime continues to attack Gaza, to starve the Palestinian population and to deny it access to proper shelter and healthcare.

Calling this arrangement a ceasefire allows third states to claim progress on conflict resolution and even peace when the core genocidal reality of the Palestinians on the ground remains largely unchanged. The “ceasefire” is a diplomatic sham – a cover for the continuing extermination, displacement and erasure of the Palestinian people in Gaza and a distraction for the international public and the media.

— Yara Hawari is co-director of Al-Shabaka, the Palestinian Policy Network.



Israel’s bombing of Gaza is not a ‘violation of the ceasefire’. It is a continuing genocide under diplomatic cover.



Displaced Palestinians stand on a road after heavy rain in Jabalia city, northern Gaza Strip, on November 25, 2025. (AFP)

## EDITORIAL

### Doha Arab Media Capital 2027

THE decision by the Council of Arab Information Ministers to designate Doha as the Arab Media Capital for 2027 marks far more than a ceremonial title: it represents a strategic acknowledgment of Qatar’s growing influence as a regional and global media hub, as well as its expanding role in shaping public diplomacy, narrative power, and cultural outreach across the Arab world.

During the 55th ordinary session in Cairo, the Council announced Doha’s selection for 2027, following Rabat in 2026 and preceding Damascus in 2028. With Doha home to world-leading media institutions, multilingual newsrooms, and training centres, the city has long become a magnet for talent, ideas, and narrative innovation, the Arab world looks ahead to 2027, where the country stands ready to transform the Arab Media Capital title into a dynamic platform for cooperation, creativity, responsible storytelling, and regional solidarity.

Doha’s designation provides Qatar with a unique opportunity to showcase its media leadership at a time when the Arab world seeks stronger, more unified messaging on issues of global concern. Qatar has demonstrated its ability to convene voices, foster dialogue, and project balanced narratives that resonate across continents. The 2027 designation is expected to mobilise a full calendar of conferences, exhibitions, awards, workshops, and cross-border collaborations to further enhance Qatar’s media ecosystem and positioning the country as the natural convening point for Arab information strategy.

This recognition also carries significant implications for Qatar’s tourism and cultural diplomacy. As a country that has successfully leveraged major global events, from the FIFA World Cup 2022, to international expos, Qatar understands how to transform large-scale celebrations into enduring nation-branding opportunities.

Hosting the Arab Media Capital year in 2027 will draw media professionals, cultural delegations, investors, and content creators to Doha, reinforcing its image as a vibrant destination for innovation, culture, and hospitality. The visibility generated throughout the year will amplify Qatar’s narrative as a modern, open, and globally connected country.

Qatar, through its 2027 platform, will contribute to highlight Arab priorities, and foster wider public engagement through responsible, impactful media programming.

Furthermore, the designation enables Qatar to expand its public diplomacy, strengthening partnerships with regional broadcasters, training future media leaders, championing the role of youth and women in media, and promoting ethical and professional standards across the Arab information landscape.

Doha’s selection for 2027 is the result of decades of investment in media freedom, cultural exchange, technological advancement, and international connectivity.

Doha’s moment on the Arab media stage is an invitation for the entire region to imagine, innovate, and communicate a shared future.

## Finding light in unkind digital world



LIM WOONG  
THE KOREA HERALD

IT is not difficult to see that online platforms have become the primary spaces where our youth gather, talk, argue, chase trends and figure out how to live with others. For students, social media functions almost like a parallel reality they cannot ignore. We often say that libraries shape their habits of mind, yet it is social media where their sense of right and wrong is tested, where they learn, sometimes painfully, to read situations, protect themselves and form a sense of community and belonging. Digital literacy, in this sense, is not just an academic skill but a foundation for navigating modern society.

Yet the same online spaces that

encourage connection can quickly turn hostile. Research on dark personality traits shows that narcissism, Machiavellianism, psychopathy and sadism – often referred to as the dark tetrad – thrive in environments marked by anonymity, low accountability and the instant gratification of provoking a reaction. Social media provides ideal conditions for malice and troubled minds. Trolling, harassment, vanity, scams, fake news and deepfake content are predictable outcomes when empathy thins and attention becomes currency.

Teachers feel these effects acutely. Studies in educational settings describe a small but significant group of children – sometimes as early as kindergarten – who pressure peers, exploit classmates’ goodwill, refuse responsibility, or display striking emotional bluntness. For teachers, these behaviors stop being clinical cases in a textbook the moment they enter the classroom: they become emotional burdens they can’t help but face every day. Many enter the profession driven by a passion for learning and mentorship, only to find themselves face-to-face with students (and often parents as well) whose behavior resists trust and

the very guidance meant to help them. The result is teacher burnout: an erosion of moral confidence and professional identity defined by the painful gap between who teachers hope their students can become and who they sometimes reveal themselves to be.

My own sense of disillusionment deepened recently while watching an SBS documentary titled “Savage Hours” about the serial killer Lee Chun-jae. The program aired his voice and memories with an oddly poetic tone, as if inviting viewers to empathize with him. It reflected a troublingly romantic view of evil, the belief that darkness is misunderstood trauma or that we owe even the most sadistic individuals sympathy and forgiveness. But darkness is not always a wound; sometimes it is simply darkness. To sentimentalize cruelty is to misread it and, more importantly, to betray the victims whose lives were irreparably harmed.

Moments like these make cynicism feel like the only rational stance. Yet something unexpectedly hopeful often rises in its place. Recently, my graduate students led a seminar discussion on the “Light Triad,” a psychological framework

emphasizing humanism, compassion and moral clarity. Unlike the dark triad, associated with exploitation, emotional coldness and ruthless greed, the light triad highlights the quieter but equally real dimensions of kindness and empathy that hold together authentic human relationships.

At the end of their presentation, my students shared something more personal: a YouTube music video titled “The Princess Code” – you must watch it for yourself. At first glance, the video appears playful. Yet its lyrics offer a surprisingly resilient worldview. They encourage greeting each day with a smile, finding small joys in the mirror, staying composed amid chaos, accepting hardship as part of one’s story, and above all, not giving up. What may initially sound like self-centered positivity emerges as a declaration of self-respect and emotional maturity. It reflects the belief that even in an unkind world, one can still choose dignity.

For many teachers, this mindset becomes Teflon against so-called student “villains.” Those who endure difficult students do not rely on duty alone. They draw strength from a quiet, persistent confidence that their work matters, that

kindness is not naive and that spiteful behavior, online or in person, does not define the limits of what humanity can be. For them, the light triad is not theory but lived experience.

This offers an important reminder: Digital platforms expose us to some of the worst sides of human behavior, and the same dynamics too easily seep into classrooms, where that darkness plays out with little restraint. We cannot eliminate the internet’s darker corners, nor can we fully reform those who take pleasure in cruelty. Yet we can cultivate what is good in the overwhelming majority of us: humility, compassion and the courage to remain kind and to refuse malice when it would be easier to look away.

As long as we tend to the light within ourselves and recognize that same light in others (as found in my students, who must find their way through a world far more complex and less forgiving than the one I inherited), darkness does not prevail. It becomes only a brief chapter in a much longer and more hopeful story of teachers in Korea.

— Lim Woong is a professor at the Graduate School of Education at Yonsei University in Seoul.

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### Qatar, Lebanon discuss cooperation

Minister of Communications and Information Technology H E Mohammed bin Ali Al Mannai met with Minister of the Displaced of the Republic of Lebanon H E Kamal Shehadeh and Ambassador of Lebanon to the State of Qatar H E Bilal Kabanal to discuss areas of mutual cooperation. On the sidelines, Minister Al-Mannai, held several high-level bilateral meetings with ministers, industry leaders, and accompanying delegations participating in the inaugural edition of MWC25 Doha which is being held for the first time in the MENA region organised by GSMA in partnership with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

### Minister of Education, Sudanese counterpart visit Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School



Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khater visited with Minister of Education of the Republic of Sudan H E Dr. Al-Tuhami Al-Zain Hajar and Ambassador of Sudan to Qatar H E Badreddine Abdullah Mohammed Ahmed, Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys. During the visit, the Sudanese minister was briefed on the school's facilities, learning environment, and the technical education curricula it offers students, programmes that help supply the Qatari market with distinguished technical and vocational talent, aligned with the needs of the knowledge-based economy and supporting Qatar's leadership and competitiveness.

## EU Youth Short Film Festival 2025 celebrates young filmmakers

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The delegation of the European Union to the State of Qatar concluded the second edition of the EU Youth Short Film Festival on November 25 at Doha Sands Beach, celebrating the power of youth storytelling, cultural dialogue, and creative exchange between Europe and Qatar.

Over the course of two evenings, audiences were captivated by outstanding short films that tackled themes ranging from identity, resilience, and inequality to dreams, imagination, and inner strength.

The festival also featured two masterclasses with award-winning filmmakers Jamillah van der Hulst and Conrad Alleblas, hosted in collaboration with Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar and Northwestern University in Qatar, inspiring over 200 students to pursue their creative aspirations.

Ambassador of the European Union to the State of Qatar H E Dr. Cristian Tudor, remarked: "This festival is not only a celebration of cinematic

*This year's awards celebrate filmmakers whose exceptional storytelling, craft, and vision have distinguished them among a highly competitive field.*

creativity, but also a celebration of young voices and the bridges that culture can build across continents. The diversity and depth we witnessed this year are a testament to the extraordinary talent emerging from Europe and Qatar alike."

This year's awards celebrate filmmakers whose exceptional storytelling, craft, and vision have distinguished them among a highly competitive field. The following awards celebrate the creativity, innovation, and artistic excellence demonstrated across a diverse range of films.

Best Picture was awarded to *Fragile* – Directed by Kholoud Al Ali, Best Screenplay: *Pema* – Directed by Victoria Neto, and Best Emerging Filmmaker: *We Will Keep Swaying* – Directed by Jannat

Malik. Honourable Mentions include *AirHostess-737* – Directed by Thanasis Neofotistos, *Civilization of Equality* – Directed by Ibrahim Albuainain and *Polio & Prejudice* – Directed by Mahnoor Naveed.

The awards were evaluated by a jury made up of: Noor Al-Nasr – Film Programmer and Curator; Angelos Lenos, Deputy Head of Mission of the Delegation of the European Union to the State of Qatar; Jamillah van der Hulst – Filmmaker & Founder of Jaja Film Productions; Conrad Alleblas; Film Consultant and Producer

During the closing ceremony, appreciation certificates were presented to key partners who contributed to the success of the event, namely Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar, Northwestern University in Qatar, Doha Sands Beach, Al Mana Film Studios, Zerohundred, Odysseys and Media Stream.

Each of these partners played a vital role in bringing this festival to life, from educational outreach and technical production to branding, logistics, and venue support.



### Qatar participates in General Assembly of Bureau International Des Expositions

Qatar participated in the 177th session of the General Assembly of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) in Paris, with the participation of representatives from member states to discuss key reports and the latest developments related to upcoming international exhibitions. The delegation of Qatar participating in the meeting was headed by Ambassador of Qatar to the French Republic and Permanent Representative to the Bureau International des Expositions H E Sheikh Ali bin Jassim Al-Thani.

## Media City Qatar takes part in MWC25, showcasing Qatar's creative and digital ecosystem

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Media City Qatar participated in the first-in-the-region GSMA MWC25 Doha from November 25–26 as a Headline Sponsor, advancing conversations on the future of media, technology, and the creative industries.

Through its Media Village, speaking sessions, fireside discussions, and participation across key program platforms, Media City Qatar highlighted the country's expanding ecosystem for content creation and digital innovation. During the event, Media City Qatar hosted the Media Village, a dedicated space, exclusively provided for journalists and media organizations to connect and produce onsite coverage.

On the first day, Eng Jassim Mohamed Al Khori, CEO of Media City Qatar, delivered a session at the Qatar University Booth titled, "How AI is Transforming Innovation, Media, and



CEO of Media City Qatar Eng Jassim Mohamed Al Khori speaking during a session.

Creative Industries," where he highlighted how artificial intelligence is reshaping creative workflows, content development, and production

efficiency across the media sector. He later joined a fireside conversation on the MWC Main Stage titled "Designing the Experience Economy," moderated

by Laila Humairah, Executive Producer & Presenter at Euronews, exploring how immersive technologies and AI are transforming audience engagement and enabling new forms of cultural, entertainment, and media experiences.

Eng Jassim Mohamed Al Khori, CEO of Media City Qatar, said, "Hosting the first edition of MWC in the region underscores Qatar's growing role as a hub for media and technology. Our participation as Headline Sponsor reflects our commitment to advancing AI, digital creativity, and intelligent media ecosystems in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030. Together with GSMA, we are building platforms that bring global and regional innovators together, open new pathways for talent and investment foster new investment and shape the future of creative industries in Qatar and beyond."

Media City Qatar also participated

on the 4YFN Stage, where Tevfik Ergun, Director of Strategy and Excellence, joined a session titled, "Strategic Media Innovation: Where Content, Technology, and Venture Creation Converge," moderated by Dr. Ilana Wisby. The discussion highlighted Media City Qatar's role in developing an ecosystem that connects global media organisations, emerging creators, and startups, and highlighted its support for innovation through talent development and collaborative infrastructure.

In addition, Media City Qatar took part in the CMO Circle Roundtable, hosted by Lara Dewar, CMO at GSMA. It convened senior marketing leaders to examine findings from the IBM Institute for Business Value's 2025 CMO Study and the growing influence of AI on global growth strategies. The discussion aligned with Media City Qatar's efforts to support forward-looking conversations in media and technology.

## AI vs doctors? The choice will soon be yours, says health pioneer at MWC25

MARIVIE ALABANZA  
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: "If AI can give you the same support for 10 dirhams that a specialist charges 950 for, why wouldn't you choose it?"

With that striking question, Sophie Smith, Founder and CEO of UAE-based Nabta Health, set the tone at the inaugural MWC Doha 2025, where AI took centre stage as hundreds of tech founders, researchers, and investors gathered to explore the future of connected innovation.

The two-day event, which concluded yesterday, served as the new flagship MWC gathering for the Middle East and North Africa. It showcased next-generation technologies from 5G to digital therapeutics. Among the key discussions on the 4YFN Stage was AI-enabled healthcare, where Smith joined the panel exploring the global \$2 trillion digital health market and how AI and tech are reshaping healthcare in the MENA region.

Smith leads Nabta Health, the Middle East's pioneering AI-powered women's health company, recently recognised by *TIME* Magazine as one of the world's Top HealthTech Companies.

*With that striking question, Sophie Smith, Founder and CEO of UAE-based Nabta Health, set the tone at the inaugural MWC Doha 2025, where AI took centre stage as hundreds of tech founders, researchers, and investors gathered to explore the future of connected innovation.*

For her, AI is not an add-on but the core of a new healthcare paradigm she calls hybrid healthcare.

"We coined the term in 2018. Our entire model is built on three pillars: patient centricity, decentralisation, and augmented intelligence," Smith told *The Peninsula* on the sideline of the event. "We combine patient, clinician, and artificial intelligence to reorient specialist knowledge around the individual. Our model simply wouldn't operate without AI," she said.

While AI is rapidly transforming diagnostics and remote monitoring, Smith said its most immediate impact

may be in mental health, especially in regions with severe shortages of psychologists and psychiatrists.

"In the Middle East, access ratios are far outside WHO recommendations. Specialist mental healthcare relies heavily on conversation, observation, and therapeutic techniques like cognitive behavioural therapy of which none require physical examination."

That makes mental health uniquely suited to AI-driven care, according to Smith. "AI could eventually replace up to 100% of specialist care in cases where no physical intervention is needed." Despite her bold predictions, Smith was clear that AI will not eliminate the need for human clinicians.

"Doctors will never disappear. But AI will allow people to make informed decisions that reflect their circumstances. If specialist care is financially or culturally inaccessible, AI can offer an alternative," she said.

She described the reality many face: "What if every psychiatrist appointment costs 950 dirhams, and you earn 3,000 a month? You will never go. But if an AI agent can provide similar support for 10 dirhams? Most people will choose that."



Panellists during the 'AI-Enabled Health' session at MWC Doha 2025. PIC: MARIVIE ALABANZA

Smith anticipates that AI will make up to 80% of specialist knowledge more efficient, automated, and decentralised, expanding care to millions who currently have none. Asked when AI might begin replacing specialty care, Smith said that "it's already happening."

However, she noted that the Middle East and Africa face one hurdle: the lack of large local datasets.

"We need to build regional data foundations first. Maybe that takes two, three, five years. But once we have it, within a couple of years after that, we'll

see major specialties supported or even replaced by AI-enabled agents," she told *The Peninsula*.

Smith added that when this shift arrives, the choice will ultimately lie with the people themselves: "AI won't eliminate doctors, but it will give individuals the option to choose what kind of care best fits their needs, their comfort, and their circumstances."

"What changes is that people will finally have a choice whether they prefer an AI agent, a human specialist, or a combination of both."



Minister of Municipality H E Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al Attiyah with other officials during the meeting of GCC Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security Committee.

## Qatar participates in 37th meeting of GCC Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security Committee

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The State of Qatar took part in the 37th meeting of the Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security Committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), with a delegation headed by Minister of Municipality H E Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al Attiyah. The meeting was held yesterday, in the State of Kuwait.

During the meeting, Their Excellencies the Ministers discussed a number of topics on the agenda, including the GCC Food Security Strategy, the Plant Genetic Resources Bank, and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) program.

The meeting also reviewed the advisory services project for studying and evaluating modern technologies and artificial intelligence in farm management and productivity enhancement, implemented in cooperation with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).

Participants also reviewed a number of joint GCC legislations and systems, including the adoption of the Law (System) on Preventive Measures Against Infectious and Epidemic Animal Diseases, the adoption of the executive regulations of the Law (System) for the Practice of the Veterinary Profession, amendments to the executive

regulations of the Veterinary Quarantine Law, as well as the adoption of the executive regulations of the Law (System) on Veterinary Products. The unified law (system) for the protection, development, and exploitation of living aquatic resources in GCC states was also discussed.

The meeting included a follow-up on the implementation of the resolutions issued by the Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security Committee during its 34th meeting.

The 36th meeting of the Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security Committee was held in Doha on 5 September 2024, chaired by the Minister of Municipality.



Minister of Transport H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulla bin Mohammed Al Thani with other senior officials attending the IMO reception.

## MoT showcases Qatar's maritime industry achievements at IMO reception

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: In the name of the State of Qatar, the Ministry of Transport has held a reception evening in London for the Member States of the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), to showcase the country's achievements of the maritime industry.

In addition to Minister of Transport H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulla bin Mohammed Al Thani, Ambassador of Qatar to the UK, Ireland, and Iceland, and Permanent Representative to the (IMO) H E Sheikh Abdulla bin

*Addressing the attendees, the Minister expressed Qatar's thanks and gratitude to the IMO for its effort to ensure the safety and security of global maritime navigation and protection of the marine environment.*

Mohammed bin Saud Al Thani, and IMO Secretary General H E Arsenio Dominguez, the international reception was attended by the Embassy of the

State of Qatar in the UK, several Qatari maritime industry entities, several ministers from brotherly and friendly countries, numerous ambassadors accredited to the UK, senior officials, and heads and members of Member States' delegations.

Addressing the attendees, the Minister expressed Qatar's thanks and gratitude to the IMO for its effort to ensure the safety and security of global maritime navigation and protection of the marine environment. He also reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to working closely with the Organization to achieve its goals and mission.

## DI organises academic event 'Why and How Do We Think Today?'

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Philosophy Program at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (DI), in cooperation with the Philosophy Club, organized an academic event on Monday, 24 November 2025, on the occasion of World Philosophy Day, under the title: "Why and How Do We Think Today? The Question of Philosophy Between Artificial Intelligence and Genocide."

The event opened with a welcome speech by Dr. Amal Ghazal, Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, who emphasized the importance of reviving philosophy at a global moment where technology intersects with major human questions.

Philosophy, she stressed, is not abstract contemplation but rather a practice of resistance in the face of the power of technologies and the violence associated with them.

Following this, Dr. Elizabeth Kassab, Head of the Philosophy Program, offered introductory remarks underscoring the need to rethink the very meaning of reflection in an age of artificial intelligence and profound global transformations.

She said that reflective thinking is no longer an intellectual luxury, but a necessity imposed by a complex reality in which technology is intertwined with the structure of political and ethical decision-making.

The event was organized into four main sessions, addressing contemporary philosophical issues related to artificial intelligence, ethics, human agency, and epistemic transformations in times of genocide.

The opening session featured a presentation by Dr. Raja Bahlul, who delivered a critical paper on artificial intelligence and its philosophical implications, highlighting the epistemological, metaphysical, ethical, and social issues raised by AI, while considering the remarkable developments in the field since the time of Turing and the early pioneers.

Dr. Walid Al-Saqqaf, Associate Professor in the Journalism Program, discussed whether code can itself carry culture and whether the culture embedded in data can reshape the code.

## Carnegie Mellon students lead in Charity Week Qatar fundraising

THE PENINSULA

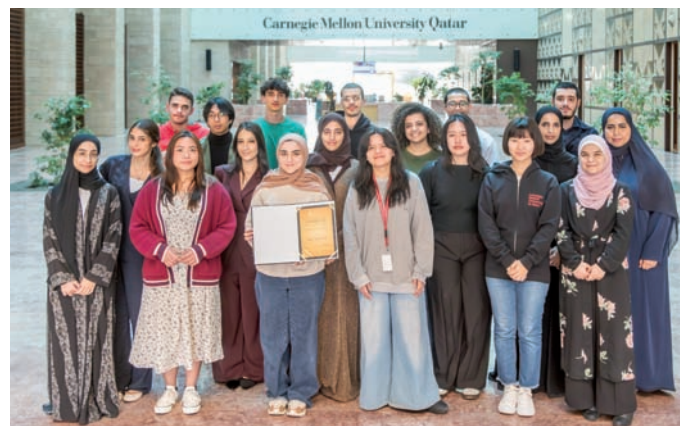
DOHA: For Charity Week 2025, students at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q) organised an ambitious campaign of community events to secure the top fundraising position among schools, universities and institutions in Qatar.

This significant effort, driven entirely by student initiatives, will support vital education projects around the globe. CMU-Q is a Qatar Foundation partner university.

Taking place across several countries, Charity Week is a student-led volunteer initiative to raise money for charitable projects. In Qatar, the funds are channeled to the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, directly benefiting programs in places such as Gaza, Sudan, and Bangladesh.

"I am so proud of our students' enthusiasm and ingenuity during Charity Week," said Michael Trick, dean of CMU-Q. "Their efforts inspired our whole community, as well as many of their Education City classmates, to unite in supporting those who lack access to the life-changing power of education."

The success of this year's campaign was a direct result of



Student organisers included representatives from many student clubs and was led by members of the Muslim Students Association.

the effective collaboration and organisation among the student body. Led by the Muslim Students Association (MSA), the core organizing team mobilized the students clubs, many of which hosted Charity Week events. More than 50 students served as volunteers across the seven-day campaign.

The activities included a bake sale, volleyball and football tournaments, an auction, arts and crafts stations and a trivia event. The week concluded with a reflection dinner hosted by the MSA.

Mohamed Elostas was the chair of the Charity Week organizing committee. "This was all

about teamwork and community. It was fitting that we concluded the week by reflecting on why we participated in Charity Week: to unite our community in a common purpose and to use our skills and education to make real change in the world."

The students were so energised by the success of Charity Week that they are already laying the groundwork for next year's campaign. "We learned so many lessons this year," said Elostas. "Many of our ideas were not possible in such a short amount of time, but now we can start planning and make next year even better."

## Al Jazeera Media Network wins multiple awards

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Al Jazeera Arabic's programme "The Story Continues" has won the 2025 International Emmy Award in its fifty third edition, in the News category, for its episode "Gaza Searching for Life." Al Jazeera was selected from among sixty four international nominations, making it the only Arab network to reach the final shortlist this year.

Production of the award-winning episode began in the early days of the war on Gaza, on October 8, 2023. The film highlights the lives of five individuals who risk their safety every day to carry out their work, including municipal workers, civil defence teams, and hospital staff who continued saving lives under constant threats and unprecedented levels of destruction.

In addition to winning the International Emmy Award, the Al Jazeera Media Network received special recognition at the Anthem Awards, which celebrate influential media projects with a humanitarian mission. The initiative "Targeting Journalists is a Crime" received two Gold Awards in the Human Rights and Civil Liberties categories for Best Global Awareness Campaign and Best Special Project, along with the Bronze Shorty Impact Award.

## IHG Hotels in Qatar strengthen sustainability collaboration with Earthna

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: As part of its growing commitment to environmental sustainability, community engagement, and wellbeing, IHG Hotels in Qatar has embarked on a multi-faceted collaboration with Earthna Centre for a Sustainable Future. This partnership reflects IHG's dedication to supporting Qatar's national sustainability agenda through meaningful, long-term initiatives that engage both colleagues and the wider community.

A central highlight of this partnership was an immersive visit to one of Qatar's natural mangrove sites, conducted under Earthna's Mangrove Stewardship Programme. The visit was led by Dr Aspa D. Chatziefthimiou, Earthna's ecosystem expert and a key architect of the mangrove programme. Dr Aspa guided leaders from all seven IHG hotels through the ecological significance of mangroves and demonstrated the hands-on conservation activities essential to restoring and preserving these unique coastal ecosystems. Her presence, expertise, and passion were fundamental to shaping the collaboration and inspiring the teams' commitment to long-term stewardship.

Participants learnt about seed collection, seedling cultivation, geo-tagging, transplantation, and restoration techniques, all reinforcing the role individuals can play in supporting Qatar's environmental resilience.



IHG Hotel staff members and Earthna officials during the visit.

The collaboration extends beyond environmental conservation. As part of Qatar Sustainability Week 2025, IHG Qatar has already launched its first initiative: a Full Moon Yoga session hosted at InterContinental Doha Beach & Spa. The session aimed to promote mindfulness, wellness, and sustainable lifestyle choices among colleagues, reflecting IHG's holistic approach to sustainability—one that balances environmental action with human wellbeing.

"Our partnership with Earthna marks the beginning of a long-term journey," said Mohamed Azakir, Area Director of

Human Resources for IHG in Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain and currently based at InterContinental Doha Beach & Spa. "From engaging our leaders in hands-on environmental conservation to promoting wellness through initiatives like our Full Moon Yoga session, we are committed to embedding sustainability into every layer of our culture. Dr Aspa's leadership and the Earthna team's guidance have been instrumental in shaping this vision." IHG Qatar has published a short video capturing the essence of the mangrove visit on IHG hotels' social media platforms.



SDG Ambassadors with officials at Snoonu headquarters.

## When children pitch hope: Youth ambassadors win instant backing for 'Inspired by Eisha'

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: At Snoonu's headquarters in Doha, it wasn't executives setting the agenda, but a group of SDG Ambassadors still in school.

They came with "Inspired by Eisha" – a simple idea with big intent: a mobile gift-cart where children learn to turn jars, boxes and scraps into thoughtful, eco-friendly gifts instead of more waste. They spoke about birthday rubbish, about seeing things thrown away, and about wanting kids to "fix things, not just buy new ones."

Listening was Snoonu CEO Hamad Mubarak Al-Hajri, who made an unusually fast call by corporate standards: QR20,000 approved on the spot, the quickest green light in the company's history.

For those in the room, the moment captured something larger than a donation; a glimpse of how climate and sustainability conversations in Qatar are increasingly being led by young voices, and how adults are learning that sometimes the most responsible response is simply to listen, and say "yes".

**Mol Undersecretary meets Iraq's Ambassador**

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) H E Abdullah bin Khalaf bin Hattab Al Kaabi met with Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the State of Qatar H E Mohammed Jaafar Al Sadr. The meeting discussed a number of issues of mutual interest and reviewed cooperation in security fields and ways to support and enhance it.

**Qatar, Tanzania sign MoU on seafarer's certificates**

THE PENINSULA

**DOHA:** The State of Qatar and the United Republic of Tanzania have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on mutual recognition of seafarer's certificates.

The MoU was signed by the Assistant Undersecretary of Maritime Transport Affairs at the Ministry of Transport, Eng. Abdulaziz Abdulla Al-Sulaiti, and the Director General of Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) Mohamed Salum.

Signed on the sidelines of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Assembly's 34th Session in London, the MoU comes within the framework of carrying out the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and

Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), an international treaty established by the IMO, and its amendments. The

MoU helps advance both countries' commitment to best international standards in the field.



Assistant Undersecretary of Maritime Transport Affairs at the Ministry of Transport Eng. Abdulaziz Abdulla Al-Sulaiti, and the Director General of Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation Mohamed Salum during the signing ceremony.

This Memorandum applies to the certificates of seafarers who serve on registered merchant ships of any of the two parties and sail under its flag except for those who serve on the ships mentioned in Article 3 of the STCW Convention, with an affirmation that this MoU does not contradict the local laws of the two countries.

Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the UK, Ireland, and Iceland and Qatar's Permanent Representative to the IMO H E Sheikh Abdulla bin Mohammed bin Saud Al Thani, was also in attendance.

**The 6th International Primary Health Care Conference begins today**

THE PENINSULA

**DOHA:** The Sixth International Primary Health Care Conference (IPHCC) commences today (Thursday), at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, under the patronage and attendance of Minister of Public Health, with the participation of a wide range of leaders, experts, and representatives of health and research organisations from around the world.

The conference brings together a diverse global community of healthcare professionals, policymakers, researchers, and educators—united by a shared mission: to safeguard health and improve quality of life.

As the world undergoes rapid transformations that bring increasingly complex challenges—from pandemics and their social and health impacts, to climate change and its implications for human well-being, to shifting economies and the evolving needs of societies—primary health care remains the heart of

health equity.

The conference aims to explore the latest scientific developments and international best practices in primary health care, showcasing innovative experiences from various countries that contribute to developing mechanisms for prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and health promotion.

More than a thousand specialists including physicians, researchers, experts, and policymakers will take part in the conference, alongside strong representation from regional and international health organisations, making it one of the largest specialised scientific gatherings in the region.

The programme features an extensive range of scientific sessions, interactive lectures, workshops focused on quality of health services, workforce empowerment, innovation in chronic disease management, as well as research presentations and scientific posters by scholars and students from Qatar and beyond.

**QF's Akhlaquna ambassadors share how values shape students at WISE 12**

THE PENINSULA

**DOHA:** Youth ambassadors from Qatar Foundation's Akhlaquna initiative took part in a panel discussion at the WISE 12 Summit, which explored the impact of non-classroom learning experiences on shaping students' character and ethical values.

The summit held every two years by Qatar Foundation's global education initiative WISE saw the students share their personal journeys and key moments from their experiences both inside and outside the classroom, emphasising the role of non-classroom activities in building skills, strengthening confidence, and reinforcing ethical values, and how these experiences contribute to making a meaningful difference in learners' lives.

Moza Abdulla Al Fakhroo, 19, spoke about her experience in the session, saying: "I've learned that real education isn't limited to what we receive in the classroom, it's shaped by every experience we live outside of it.



Youth ambassadors from Qatar Foundation's Akhlaquna initiative during panel discussion at the WISE 12 Summit.

"Being part of the WISE Summit came with a strong sense of responsibility, as it gave us students, a platform to share our experiences.

"Over the course of my journey, I realised that what truly shaped my character wasn't grades or assessments, but the initiatives and volunteer work I pursued out of personal motivation and without any reward. These experiences refined me, strengthened my confidence, and gave me the courage to take bigger steps in

my path."

Fatima Saad Al-Muhannadi, 18, said: "Taking part in the WISE Summit was a great honour for me, as it brings together influential voices from around the world. What distinguishes this edition of the conference is its focus on human values, values that are not secondary elements of society, but the foundation upon which we build our relationships, decisions, and daily responsibilities."

During the session,

Al-Muhannadi highlighted the practical role of ethics in everyday life, beyond theoretical concepts, saying: "Many of the behaviours we practice, whether at home, in school, or in our daily interactions, carry ethical values that influence us and those around us more than we realise.

"Through the stories and experiences we shared, it became clear that even simple actions can make a significant difference in the lives of individuals and the wider community."

Abdulla Mohammad Al Biri, 14, spoke about the impact of student participation on building confidence and responsibility, saying: "I believe that initiatives and activities outside the classroom are not a luxury, but an essential part of a student's development. "They provide us with skills we cannot gain from classroom learning alone, and introduce us to values such as commitment, respect, and responsibility."

Registration for the 2026 edition is open until January 11, 2026.

**QRCS intervention protects maternal health in Sudan**

THE PENINSULA

**DOHA:** Amid the humanitarian crisis in Sudan as a result of the ongoing war and widespread displacement, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has launched a new health project to distribute 4,700 safe child-birth toolkits to pregnant women in River Nile and Gezira states, as well as women recently displaced from Al-Fasher.

The project targets 3,000 displaced women in River Nile and 1,700 pregnant women in Gezira. It is a partnership between QRCS and Sudan Family Planning Association (SFPA), aimed at reducing the healthcare gap exacerbated by the collapse of medical infrastructure in several parts of the war-torn country.

In a statement, Dr. Magda Abdullah, Minister of Health for River Nile State, affirmed that QRCS had been providing continuous support since the



QRCS representatives with displaced women.

outbreak of war, including essential medications and rehabilitation of hospitals and dialysis centres.

According to her, this demonstrated that this initiative was not an isolated event, but rather one episode of a long-standing commitment to health and humanitarian assistance.

Kawthar Mohamed Ibrahim, State Director of Family Planning, described cooperation with QRCS as a

smart partnership, noting that aid was given directly to the most affected beneficiaries.

Dr. Salah Al-Din Daak, head of QRCS's representation office in Sudan, explained that the project focused on reaching out to pregnant women in remote areas, reflecting a humanitarian approach that combined healthcare with human dignity, especially in the face of gender-based violence challenges.

**DFI launches training programmes with top French institutions**

THE PENINSULA

**DOHA:** Doha Film Institute (DFI) yesterday announced a new milestone in its commitment to nurturing regional creative talent with the launch of specialised vocational training programmes in partnership with two of the world's leading film and creative arts schools, La Fémis and Gobelins Paris.

Developed with support from Institut Français du Qatar and Qatar Museums, the programmes form a core pillar of DFI's long-term strategy to expand access to industry-ready education and create alternative pathways for emerging filmmakers, animators, and creative professionals. Designed with a hands-on, project-based approach, the training will offer participants theoretical and practical training in cinematography and animation while connecting them with internationally

acclaimed faculty and industry professionals.

By investing in vocational education and building strong global partnerships, the Institute reinforces its role as a regional leader in cultivating talent and shaping the future of cinema, animation, in the region.

CEO of DFI Fatma Hassan Alremaihi said: "Vocational training represents the future of learning. In a fast-changing world, we must empower young people with education that is practical, adaptable, and connected to real opportunities. Our partnerships with La Fémis and Gobelins Paris add to our year-round workshops and mentoring sessions that have, over the years, helped build a thriving creative ecosystem in Qatar and the wider region. Placing skills, creativity, and hands-on experience at the heart of how we prepare the next generation of storytellers, they are pathways into the

industry, bridges to global networks, and catalysts for creativity across our region."

The initiative is designed to support the advancement of the regional ecosystem while contributing to the growth of Qatar's creative economy through intensive labs and specialised workshops throughout 2026.

The La Fémis Cinematography Certificate Programme is an intensive four-month training session dedicated to young talent who wish to deepen their artistic and technical understanding of cinematography. Designed with La Fémis and delivered through a clear progression of theory, practical exercises and online and in-person sessions, the programme guides participants toward a strong foundation in the craft of cinematography. Selected participants will learn the creative and technical responsibilities of a Director of Photography.

**Roche supports Sidra Medicine's global DMD exchange, spotlighting Qatar as a gene therapy hub**

THE PENINSULA

**DOHA:** Roche Pharmaceuticals, through its local representative Ebn Sina Medical, a fully owned subsidiary of Aamal Company Q.P.S.C will co-organise the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) Peer-to-Peer Exchange 2025 at Sidra Medicine.

The high-level event convened 25 leading neurologists from 9 countries across the world who met in Qatar from to share best practices and learn from Sidra Medicine's world-class rare disease programme.

Sidra Medicine, a women's and children's hospital in Qatar, established a dedicated Gene Therapy Centre in early 2025, which solidifies Sidra Medicine's position as a regional leader in gene therapy and Qatar as an emerging hub for innovative and pioneering pediatric treatment protocols.

The Global DMD Exchange initiative underscores Roche's commitment to advancing science and supporting the global medical community. The preceptorship provides a vital platform for physicians to gain direct insights from a centre of excellence that is actively implementing advanced therapies for DMD.

"At Roche, we are deeply committed to improving the lives of patients with rare diseases, which includes supporting the independent exchange of cutting-edge science," said Roche's Gulf Cluster Head, Dr Ahmed Tawfik.

"True progress comes from collaboration. Sidra Medicine is a true centre of excellence in pediatric gene therapy, and we are honoured to help facilitate this forum. Allowing experts pioneering real-world experience to be shared benefits

physicians and, ultimately, patients across the globe."

Division Chief of Genetic and Genomic Medicine at Sidra Medicine, Prof. Tawfig Ben-Omran said, "The Peer-to-Peer DMD Exchange programme with Roche highlights Sidra Medicine's growing expertise and leadership in the care and treatment of DMD. Since 2024, we have offered gene therapy protocols to 15 children from several countries.

As we expand our services to align with our goal to be a regional centre of excellence, the global DMD Exchange is another step forward to address the need to share best practices and knowledge about innovative treatment protocols with our peers from around the world."

Commenting on the event, CEO of Aamal Company Q.P.S.C., Rashid bin Ali Al



Participants during the event at Sidra Medicine.

Mansouri said, "Aamal Company is proud to support this international medical programme through our subsidiary, Ebn Sina Medical, and in collaboration with our partner, Roche.

Such initiatives contribute to the exchange of expertise among leading specialists and strengthen Qatar's position as

a hub for advanced healthcare and medical innovation. We at Aamal Company are committed to supporting initiatives that elevate the health sector through our medical-focused subsidiaries, and we are particularly proud to collaborate with Roche, a global leader in this field, to jointly advance healthcare and medical

research in Qatar.'

During the two-day programme, visiting experts will engage directly with Sidra's "Gene Therapy Team."

The agenda focuses on practical, real-world experience, including gene therapy site readiness, patient management, and multidisciplinary coordination.

## Israel launches new operation in West Bank

**TUBAS:** Israel's military yesterday launched a new operation in the occupied West Bank, where a local governor told AFP that Israeli forces had raided several towns.

Israel has occupied the West Bank since 1967.

The operation, which began overnight, was taking place in predominantly agricultural Tubas, the north-easternmost of the 11 governorates in the West Bank.

Ahmed al-Asaad, governor of the Tubas region, told AFP: "This is the first time that the entire governorate is included — the whole governorate is now under Israeli army operations." Asaad said Israeli forces raided the towns of Tammun and Tayasir, and the Al-Faraa Palestinian refugee camp.

"The army has closed the city entrances with earth mounds, so there

is no movement at all," he added.

He told AFP that "an Apache helicopter" was involved in the operation, and claimed it had fired in the direction of residential areas.

"This is a political operation, not a security one," he said.

An AFP photographer saw some soldiers walking around inside Tubas city, with a few armoured patrol vehicles (APVs) driving through and a surveillance aerial vehicle buzzing overhead. Most shops were closed.

The road entrance to nearby Tammun had been closed off by a military vehicle.

An ambulance was allowed to go through but citizens were not. APVs were driving around at the scene.

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said its teams in the governorate had treated 10 injured people,

four of whom had to be transferred to hospital.

It added that some of its teams were "facing obstruction in transporting patients in the city of Tubas and the town of Tammun since dawn", and were still responding to calls for help following the raids.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad condemned the Israeli operation.

Hamas said in a statement that it was part of a policy "aimed at crushing any Palestinian presence in order to achieve complete control over the West Bank".

Israeli troops or settlers have killed more than 1,000 Palestinians, including scores of civilians, in the West Bank since the start of the Gaza war, according to an AFP tally based on Palestinian health ministry figures.

At least 44 Israelis, including both



An ambulance is stopped for a search as an Israeli military vehicle blocks the entrance to Tammun, south of Tubas in the occupied West Bank, yesterday. (AFP)

soldiers and civilians, have been killed in Palestinian attacks or Israeli military operations, according to official Israeli figures. — AFP

## Israel returns 15 bodies to Gaza after hostage remains identified

**KHAN YUNIS:** The health ministry in Gaza said Israel returned the bodies of 15 Palestinian prisoners yesterday as part of the exchange deal under the US-brokered ceasefire.

It came after Israel announced that a body handed over from Gaza on Tuesday was that of Dror Or, one of the last three deceased hostages held in the Palestinian territory.

Under the ceasefire deal, which came into effect on October 10, Israel is required to

hand over the bodies of 15 Palestinians for every deceased Israeli returned.

"The Ministry of Health announces the receipt of 15 bodies of martyrs released today by the Israeli occupation via the International Committee of the Red Cross, bringing the total number of bodies received to 345," the Gaza ministry said in a statement.

The ICRC facilitates the transfers in its role as a neutral intermediary. Hamas

spokesman Hazem Qassem said in a statement that the handover "reflects Hamas's steadfast commitment to fully complete the exchange process and its ongoing efforts to finalise it despite significant difficulties".

AFP witnessed the 15 bodies, in white body bags, being carried inside the morgue at Gaza's Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Yunis.

Mahmud Ashour, spokesman for the forensic

evidence department in Gaza, told AFP that of the 345 bodies received via the ICRC, 99 have now been identified.

"We always receive these bodies in a state of decomposition and with facial features missing," he said.

"We also see signs of injuries on the bodies, and we do not know the true circumstances" that led to their deaths, he added. "The families face extreme difficulty in identifying the bodies." Israel's military

assault on Gaza has killed at least 69,785 people, according to figures from the territory's health ministry that the UN considers reliable. Since the start of the ceasefire, Hamas has since released all the living hostages and returned the remains of 26 dead hostages.

In exchange, Israel has released nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners in its custody and returned the bodies of hundreds of dead Palestinians.

— AFP

## UN Security Council to visit Syria, Lebanon

**UNITED NATIONS:** The UN Security Council will visit Syria and Lebanon next week, the Slovenian mission said yesterday, as it looks to chair the council starting in December.

The ambassadors for 15 member states are set to visit Damascus on December 4.

The diplomats are expected to meet new authorities there, including President Ahmed Al-Sharaa, the mission told reporters.

As the United Nations works to reestablish itself in Syria, the Security Council recently lifted sanctions against Al-Sharaa.

Security Council officials will then travel to Beirut on December 5, heading south the next day to meet peacekeepers with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which is set to leave the country by the end of 2027 after serving as a buffer between Lebanon and Israel since 1978. The visit comes as Lebanon has accused Israel of violating the ceasefire agreement. — AFP

## Sudan army chief calls on Trump to end country's war

**PORT SUDAN:** Sudan's army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, at war with a rival paramilitary group since April 2023, called on US President Donald Trump yesterday to bring peace.

"The Sudanese people now look to Washington to take the next step: to build on the US president's honesty and work with us — and those in the region who genuinely seek peace — to end this war," Sudan's de facto leader wrote in an op-ed published in *The Wall Street Journal*.

Attempts to broker peace between Burhan and his one-time deputy, Rapid Support Forces commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, have repeatedly failed over the course of the war that has killed tens of thousands, displaced 12 million and created the world's largest hunger and displacement crises.

Trump took an interest in the war for the first time last week, vowing he would end it. "The consensus among Sudanese is that Mr Trump is a leader who speaks directly and acts decisively. Many believe he has the resolve to confront the foreign actors prolonging our suffering," Burhan wrote. In his 1,200-word piece published yesterday, Burhan said the choice was "between a sovereign state trying to protect its citizens and a genocidal militia bent on destroying communities". — AFP

## Lebanon, Cyprus sign maritime border agreement

**BEIRUT:** Lebanon and Cyprus yesterday signed a new maritime border agreement to demarcate the countries' exclusive economic zones, the latest high-seas deal aiming to open up commerce in the eastern Mediterranean.

The agreement comes nearly two decades after the countries hammered out a deal to delineate their respective exclusive economic zones.

The deal, however, was

never ratified by the Lebanese parliament due to an unresolved dispute with Israel.

In 2022, Lebanon signed a maritime boundary deal with Israel, allowing the country to move forward with maritime border talks with Cyprus.

"We are here to celebrate the achievement of demarcating the exclusive economic zones between our two countries," Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said after the

signing of the agreement alongside his Cypriot counterpart Nikos Christodoulides.

An exclusive economic zone, or EEZ, is an area of coastal water or territory within a certain area of a country's coast, where it has exclusive rights for fishing, drilling and other economic activities.

Lebanon, however, is still unable to define the entirety of

its EEZ with Cyprus in the absence of a deal with Syria.

Following the signing of the agreement, the Lebanese president issued "a clear and honest invitation to complete this maritime understanding with all those who want to cooperate with us" but did not name Syria specifically.

Lebanon and Syria have largely reset ties following the fall of Bashar Al-Assad's government last year. — AFP

## Hong Kong housing estate fire kills at least 36

**HONG KONG:** A huge fire that engulfed a Hong Kong residential estate has killed at least 36 people and left more than 200 unaccounted for in the city's worst blaze in decades.

The fire, which started yesterday afternoon and was still burning in the early hours of today, shocked the Chinese financial hub, which has some of the world's most densely populated and tallest apartment blocks.

Massive flames first took hold on bamboo scaffolding on several apartment blocks of Wang Fuk Court, which contains nearly 2,000 flats in eight towers.

Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed condolences to the victims, including "the firefighter who died in the line of duty", according to state media.

"He offered sympathies to the families of the victims and



Thick smoke and flames rise as a major fire engulfs several apartment blocks in Hong Kong's Tai Po district yesterday. (AFP)

those affected by the disaster, and called for making every effort to extinguish the fire and minimise casualties and losses," state broadcaster CCTV said.

City leader John Lee

updated the death toll to 36 and said that 279 people were unaccounted for.

Twenty-nine people were hospitalised, with seven in critical condition. — AFP

## G Bissau rocked by coup d'etat, arrest of president

**BISSAU:** Military officers in Guinea-Bissau declared they have "total control" of the coup-prone west African country yesterday, closing its borders and suspending its electoral process three days after general elections, with military sources confirming its president's arrest.

The officers' announcement followed heavy gunfire that rang out near the presidential palace earlier in the day, with men in military uniform taking over the main road leading to the building.

In the early afternoon, General Denis N'Canha, head of the presidential military office, told members of the press that a command "composed of all branches of the armed forces, was taking over the leadership of the country until further notice".

He read the announcement seated at a table and surrounded by armed soldiers.

Incumbent president

Umaro Sissoco Embalo, who had been favoured to win Sunday's election, was arrested and being held at general-staff headquarters where he is being "well-treated", a military source told AFP.

A senior officer who also confirmed the arrest, added that Embalo had been detained along "with the chief of staff and the minister of the interior".

Embalo and opposition candidate Fernando Dias had already each declared victory in the presidential race, with official provisional results expected Thursday.

The tumultuous west African country has experienced four coups since independence, as well as multiple attempted coups.

N'Canha, in his declaration, claimed to have uncovered a plan to destabilise the country "involving national drug lords" that had included "the introduction of weapons into the country to alter the

constitutional order". In addition to halting "the entire electoral process", he said military forces had suspended "all media programming", closed "land, air, and sea" borders, and imposed a mandatory curfew.

Guinea-Bissau is among the world's poorest countries and is also a hub for drug trafficking between Latin America and Europe, a trade facilitated by the country's long history of political instability.

Guinea-Bissau's National Electoral Commission (CNE) was additionally attacked by unidentified armed men on Wednesday, commission communications official Abdourahmane Djalo told AFP.

More than 6,780 security forces, including from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Stabilisation Force, were deployed for Guinea-Bissau's vote and the post-election period.

— AFP

## Floods and landslides kill eight in Indonesia

**JAKARTA:** Floods and landslides killed at least eight people and injured dozens after torrential rains struck Indonesia's island of Sumatra, a disaster official said yesterday.

Extreme weather has lashed North Sumatra for several days, flooding parts of the Tapanuli Selatan district since Monday, according to the national disaster agency, BNPB. "In Tapanuli Selatan, the disaster of floods and landslides has resulted in eight people losing their lives, 58 being injured, and 2,851 residents had to evacuate," BNPB spokesman Abdul Muhari said in a statement.

The local disaster agency has deployed heavy equipment to clear debris, which has blocked road access to the district, he said.

At least three other districts in the province have also been affected by flooding and landslides. — AFP



## World in brief

### Floods in Thailand and Malaysia kill at least 34

**BANGKOK:** Tens of thousands of people in Thailand and neighbouring Malaysia were displaced by widespread flooding, with streets submerged, homes inundated and at least 34 dead, officials said yesterday.

The Thai government declared a state of emergency in Songkhla province on Tuesday, with torrential rains since late last week drenching several southern provinces.

Thai government spokesman Siripong Angkasakulkiat told reporters that 33 people have died across seven provinces, including from drowning and electrocution.

In neighbouring Malaysia, flooding from days of heavy rain swept through eight states, with forecasters predicting more rain in the region in the coming days. More than 27,000 people were evacuated to dozens of temporary shelters this week, with one death recorded in one of the worst-hit states, Kelantan, on the northeastern coast, according to rescue officials. — AFP

### Blast at arms depot kills five in northwest Syria

**DAMASCUS:** An explosion at a weapons depot in northwest Syria's Idlib province killed five people and wounded nine others yesterday, security forces said in a statement.

The explosion in the town of Kafr Takharim was "caused by a warehouse containing missiles and ammunition, and occurred due to work underway" at a site nearby, the Idlib security forces said, adding that five site workers were killed.

State television reported the same toll, without saying what caused the blast. Nine other people were injured, the security forces added. — AFP

### Indian trade union workers protest new labour codes

**MUMBAI:** Thousands of trade union workers across India protested yesterday against the government's rollout of new labour codes, saying they would lead to corporate exploitation and erode their hard-won rights.

The world's fifth-largest economy last week implemented long-awaited labour laws that will replace colonial-era legislation and simplify a maze of confusing regulation.

Gautam Mody from the New Trade Union Initiative said workers from across all sectors were protesting yesterday outside factories and in many city centres.

"Workers have been blindsided by the government," he told AFP. "We want fairness, justice and equity before the law which are being denied under the new codes," Mody said. — AFP

### Bangladesh authorities seize 10kg gold of ex-PM

**DHAKA:** Anti-corruption authorities in Bangladesh have seized about 10 kilograms of gold worth about \$1.3m from bank lockers belonging to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, officials said yesterday. Officials from the Central Intelligence Cell (CIC) of the National Board of Revenue said the discovery was made after opening lockers that had been seized in September.

"Following a court order, we opened the lockers and found about 9.7 kilograms of gold belonging to the former prime minister," a senior CIC official told AFP, requesting anonymity.

The haul included gold coins, bars and jewellery. Investigators said Hasina had failed to deposit some of the gifts she received while in office at the state treasury, known as "Toshakhana", as required by law. — AFP



## World in brief

## Five people found dead in suspected murder-suicide in Germany

**BERLIN:** Five people from one family were found dead at three different locations in southwestern Germany, local authorities said yesterday.

The victims were discovered on Tuesday in Reutlingen, Pfullingen, and St. Johann. Investigators believe the 63-year-old father killed four relatives before taking his own life, according to the Tuebingen public prosecutor's office and the Reutlingen police department. A caregiver first found the man's 60-year-old sister dead in her apartment in Reutlingen on Tuesday morning. Police soon identified her brother as a suspect.

That evening, police officers searching his home in Pfullingen found the 63-year-old man and his 57-year-old wife dead from gunshot wounds, alongside a firearm believed to have been used in the killings. — **XINHUA**

## Kremlin says too early to conclude Ukraine conflict nearing end

**MOSCOW:** Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday that it is premature to assume the Ukraine conflict is nearing an end.

"It's too early to say that," Peskov said, responding to suggestions that the two sides had never been closer to a peace agreement.

He also urged against overinterpreting leaked Russian-US telephone conversations, which he said appeared aimed at disrupting ongoing diplomatic efforts. Bloomberg on Wednesday published two transcripts of phone calls between senior US and Russian officials, showing the Trump administration had held secret talks with the Kremlin on a 28-point Ukraine peace plan, without disclosing the source of the records. — **XINHUA**

## Hundreds of women protest against gender-based violence in Mexico

**MEXICO CITY:** Hundreds of women protested in Mexico City on Tuesday against gender-based violence, which kills an average of 10 women or girls every day in Mexico, according to official data.

Mexican lawyer Alejandra Perez said she lives in fear every day since the violence she faced from her ex-partner temporarily left her disabled.

But the 37-year-old summoned the courage to join the protest to denounce the impunity of many perpetrators of gender-based violence in Mexico, and marched holding a poster showing the man she accuses of attacking her.

"I filed a complaint against him three years ago, and this man is still at large," she said of her daughter's father. "The system is very slow. Unfortunately many women have to conduct their own investigations."

The United Nations reports that 70 percent of Mexican women over the age of 15 have experienced some form of aggression at least once in their lives. — **AFP**

## Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro begins 27-year jail term for coup bid

**BRASÍLIA:** Brazil's Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered far-right former president Jair Bolsonaro to begin serving a 27-year sentence for plotting a failed coup, after he exhausted all appeals.

The brash former army captain who fired up Brazil's right and reshaped the country's politics is ending a divisive career jailed in a small room at police headquarters equipped with a TV, mini-fridge, and air-conditioning.

Bolsonaro, 70, was convicted in September over a scheme to stop Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva from taking office as president after the 2022 elections that included a plot to kill the veteran leftist.

Prosecutors said the scheme failed only due to a lack of support from military top brass.

The Supreme Court rejected an appeal to his sentence earlier this month, and on Tuesday ruled the



Rio de Janeiro's Councillor, Carlos Bolsonaro (centre), son of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, leaves the Federal Police headquarters where his father is being held, in Brasilia, on November 25, 2025. (AFP)

judgment was now final.

The court also ordered a military tribunal to decide whether Bolsonaro should be stripped of his captain's rank.

Bolsonaro had been under house arrest until Saturday, when he was detained at police headquarters in the

# Two National Guard soldiers shot near White House, suspect in custody

**WASHINGTON:** Two US National Guard soldiers were shot yesterday near the White House, officials said, and police said a suspect was detained in an extraordinary security drama likely to fuel controversy over President Donald Trump's crime crackdown.

Initial reports were that the two soldiers -- part of a militarized anti-crime deployment around the United States ordered by Trump -- had been badly wounded.

West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey said the soldiers, both deployed to the capital from his state, had "passed away from their injuries," but then said there were "conflicting reports." It was the most serious incident involving the National Guard since Trump began ordering troops onto the streets of several Democratic-run cities shortly after starting his second term this January.

The Republican, who was at his Florida golf club, described the shooter as an "animal." He said the two soldiers were "critically wounded." The suspect "is also severely wounded, but regardless, will pay a very steep



An unidentified man in military fatigues lies on a stretcher inside an ambulance in downtown Washington. (AFP)

price," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

An AFP reporter near the scene heard several loud pops and saw people running.

Dozens of bystanders were caught up in the chaos.

"We heard gunshots. We were waiting at the traffic light and there were several shots," said Angela Perry, 42, who was

driving home with her two children.

"You could see National Guard running toward the metro with their weapons drawn." Soon after the shootings, security agents flooded the area around the Farragut West metro station, two blocks from the White House. Officers carrying rifles

stood guard behind yellow tape at the perimeter of the area and a helicopter circled over the busy downtown.

An AFP reporter saw emergency crews running toward the metro with a wheeled stretcher and shortly after emerging with a casualty wearing camouflage, whom they loaded into an ambulance. — **AFP**

## Trump steps back from Ukraine peace process

**KYIV:** President Donald Trump's demand that Ukraine sign a deal by Thanksgiving appears to have softened as he leaves some of the most important details of the peace plan in the hands of his envoys, one of whom was just embroiled in a high-profile phone leak.

A recording of an alleged phone call between Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and a top aide to Russian President Vladimir Putin from October appears to show the envoy advising the Russians on their negotiating strategy.

Trump postponed an expected meeting with Ukrainian

President Volodymyr Zelensky ahead of today's deadline, when he had initially threatened to cut off all support to Ukraine if it was not met. On Tuesday, Trump said he was not ready to meet with Zelensky or Putin.

"I look forward to hopefully meeting with President Zelenskyy and President Putin soon, but ONLY when the deal to end this War is FINAL or, in its final stages," Trump wrote on social media. However, several Russian officials said any peace deal was still far off and reiterated hardline positions that conflict with the latest amendments to the US peace plan.

The change in Trump's stance offered some relief and could give Kyiv time to strengthen its position before an extremely high-stakes meeting with its most important -- and most unpredictable -- partner. But the delay could also thwart Ukraine's hopes to hammer out agreeable terms on the most sensitive issues of the deal without Russian influence. Trump's comments Tuesday also cast doubt on US assessments from earlier that day that the Ukrainians had agreed to a deal, barring some minor details. — **THE WASHINGTON POST**

## California affirms vaccines not linked to autism

**SACRAMENTO:** California Governor Gavin Newsom and the West Coast Health Alliance declared Tuesday that vaccines are not linked to autism, reaffirming science-based health guidance after the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) altered its position on the contentious issue.

The West Coast Health Alliance, comprised of California, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii, emphasized that "rigorous research of millions of people in multiple countries over decades provides high-quality evidence that vaccines are not linked to autism," said Governor Newsom's office in a statement.

US Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. personally instructed the CDC to revise its website on November 19. The updated CDC page then asserted that the claim "vaccines do not cause autism" was "not evidence-based."

Kennedy has opposed vaccines since at least 2005, when he published an "error-laden story" in Rolling Stone and Salon claiming that the mercury-containing preservative thimerosal in vaccines caused autism, said the Annenberg Public Policy Center. Salon retracted the article on January 16, 2011, acknowledging multiple inaccuracies.

According to STAT News, Kennedy's thimerosal theory "defies logic because the MMR vaccine never contained thimerosal."

"Americans deserve public health guidance grounded in science, not opinions," Governor Newsom stated. Kennedy cited gaps in vaccine safety research as justification for the change, but The New York Times reported that he acknowledged that "extensive epidemiological research has found no connection to autism." — **XINHUA**

## France's top court upholds ex-president Nicolas Sarkozy's second conviction

**PARIS:** France's highest court ruled against former president Nicolas Sarkozy yesterday over illegal financing of his 2012 re-election bid, adding a second definitive conviction to his rap sheet.

The ruling comes after Sarkozy, a one-term president from 2007 to 2012, was sent to jail last month in a separate case, related to alleged Libyan funding in his earlier election campaign. The 70-year-old's 20 days in jail made him the first post-war French leader to serve time behind bars, before his release earlier this month pending an appeals trial.

The Court of Cassation on Wednesday said Sarkozy was "definitively convicted" in the 2012 campaign financing case, upholding the ruling of an appeals court last year that sentenced him to a six-month term with an electronic tag.

Prosecutors argued Sarkozy's right-wing party worked with a public relations firm, Bygmalion, to hide the true cost of his 2012 electoral campaign. They said he spent nearly €43m (almost \$50m) on his 2012 campaign, nearly double the permitted amount of €22.5m. Unlike his co-defendants, he was not implicated in the double-billing system allegedly used to cover costs but was held accountable as the beneficiary of illegal campaign financing. Sarkozy has denied "any criminal responsibility", denouncing the allegations as "lies".

But his lawyers Patrice Spinosa and Emmanuel Piwnica in a joint statement told AFP that he had taken note of the Court of Cassation's decision. — **AFP**

## Secretary-General selection process begins at United Nations

**UNITED NATIONS:** The search for the next Secretary-General of the United Nations launched on Tuesday, as member states were invited to send nominations to replace Antonio Guterres for the term starting in 2027. In a letter from UN leaders to 193 member states, the 80-year-old global intergovernmental organization is seeking candidates with extensive experience in international relations, diplomacy and language skills.

"The position of Secretary-General is one of great importance and one that requires the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and a firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations," said the joint letter from Sierra Leone ambassador and current Security Council president Michael Imran Kanu and General Assembly President Annalena Baerbock. Some member states are advocating for a woman to be selected, and in its letter UN leadership noted "with regret that no woman has ever held the position of Secretary-General" and called on members "to strongly consider nominating women." Some names that are already in the mix include former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, the Argentinian International Atomic Energy Agency head Rafael Grossi, and Costa Rica's Rebeca Grynspan, who is currently leading UNCTAD. — **AFP**

## Bosnia blocks Hungary FM's planned visit to Serb entity

**BELGRADE:** Bosnia's defence minister yesterday refused permission for Hungary's foreign minister to arrive by military plane and land in Banja Luka, the capital of Bosnia's Serb entity.

Minister Zukan Helez wrote on Facebook that Hungary had provided no clear explanation for foreign minister Peter Szijjarto's planned arrival in a military

aircraft.

Helez added that Szijjarto and Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban had both supported ousted Bosnian-Serb leader Milorad Dodik "in actions that undermine the sovereignty, territorial integrity and cohesion of Bosnia and Herzegovina".

Dodik was ejected from office in August following his conviction for ignoring rulings

by the international envoy who oversees Bosnia's peace deal, which has held the country together since the end of its 1990s inter-ethnic war.

The conflict killed more than 100,000 people and left the country split into two semi-autonomous halves -- the Serb-run Republika Srpska and a Bosniak-Croat federation -- linked by weak central institutions. — **AFP**

## EU chief vows to back Ukraine 'every step' until peace

**STRASBOURG:** EU chief Ursula von der Leyen vowed yesterday that Europe would keep supporting Ukraine and pressuring Russia until a "just and lasting peace", calling a revised US plan a "starting point" to end the war.

"I want to be clear from the very outset: Europe will stand with Ukraine and support Ukraine every step of the way,"

von der Leyen told EU lawmakers. Europe has been scrambling to shore up Kyiv and assert its own influence after the United States produced a plan to end the fighting that was heavily slanted towards Russia's demands.

The European Commission president said days of negotiations to refine the US plan had begun to lay the groundwork for a possible settlement, but

warned Russia showed no sign of really wanting to stop the war.

"Yes, the situation is volatile. Yes, the situation is dangerous. But I believe there is also an opportunity here to make real progress," she said. As the USA has stepped up its efforts to stop the fighting, the EU is wrangling over proposals to use frozen Russian assets to fund a €140bn (\$162bn) loan for Kyiv. — **AFP**

## Italy votes to make femicide a crime

**ROME:** Italian lawmakers on Tuesday unanimously backed a bill making femicide -- the intentional killing of women or girls -- a specific crime punishable by life imprisonment.

The new article in the penal code creates a category of homicide "based on the characteristics of the victim", according to the bill's explanatory note.

Italian law had previously only provided for aggravating circumstances in cases where the killer was married or related to the victim.

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni hailed the vote and called the measure a tool to "defend the freedom and dignity of every woman".

The government initiative, already approved by the Senate in July, passed with 237 votes in favour and none against.

The new article mandates life imprisonment for acts intended to cause the death of a woman "out of discrimination, hatred or violence" among other reasons.

The United Nations marked International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on Tuesday with a report saying that some 50,000 women and girls died last year at the hands of their partners or family members.

Italy's national statistics institute (Istat) said 116 of the 327 homicides recorded in the country in 2024 involved women and girls. — **AFP**

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FAJR 4:38AM	ASR 2:24PM
SUNRISE 5:59AM	MAGHRIB 4:45PM
DHUHR 11:22AM	ISHA 6:15PM

**WEATHER TODAY**



**16°C** | **29°C**  
Minimum | Maximum  
Moderate temperature daytime with some clouds.

“NAV<sup>B</sup>athy empowers users by giving them instant access to high-resolution satellite imagery and rapid, large-scale bathymetry, turning what traditionally required weeks of field surveys into a near-instant digital workflow.”

## Qatar-based startup unveils world's first Rapid Satellite-Derived Bathymetry engine

**VICTOR BOLORUNDURO**  
THE PENINSULA

**DOHA:** In a breakthrough poised to redefine global marine mapping, Qatar's deep-tech startup Darkocean has launched NAV<sup>B</sup>athy, the world's first Rapid Satellite-Derived Bathymetry engine capable of generating large-scale depth models within seconds.

The pioneering system marks a significant leap in coastal intelligence, harnessing a fusion of satellite technology and advanced artificial intelligence to deliver unprecedented speed, scale, and accessibility in bathymetric analysis.

NAV<sup>B</sup>athy is built on an integrated technological stack that

draws from diverse satellite sources—including NASA platforms, Worldview, Maxar, Landsat, and Spot imagery—combined with internally developed AI and machine-learning models.

This architecture enables the platform to process vast satellite datasets rapidly and output consistent, high-resolution relative depth assessments across coastal and shallow-water regions.

According to Darkocean, NAV<sup>B</sup>athy empowers users by giving them instant access to high-resolution satellite imagery and rapid, large-scale bathymetry, turning what traditionally required weeks of field surveys into a near-instant digital workflow.

“The ability to generate accurate, large-scale relative depth maps within seconds transforms how coastal projects are scoped and risk-assessed,” said Neha Supekar, AI Solution Architect at Darkocean. Early demonstrations showed the system covering 70% of Qatar's coastline and over 100km of adjacent waters within moments, providing engineers, planners, and operators immediate insight into seabed conditions.

“The company is now preparing to tokenize access to NAV<sup>B</sup>athy, maintaining both free and paid monthly PRO subscription options on the Darkocean AI platform. In addition, NAV<sup>B</sup>athy will be

available through API integrations, allowing third-party platforms, engineering offices, and government agencies to embed its capabilities directly into their existing workflows,” said Darkocean CEO Anupam Thakur.

According to him, this strategy ensures scalability while supporting democratized access to high-value geospatial intelligence.

Beyond bathymetry, Darkocean's internally developed AI models are expanding into a broader suite of digital geophysics solutions. These include geophysical mapping, underwater object detection, and geotechnical interpretation for both marine

and terrestrial environments.

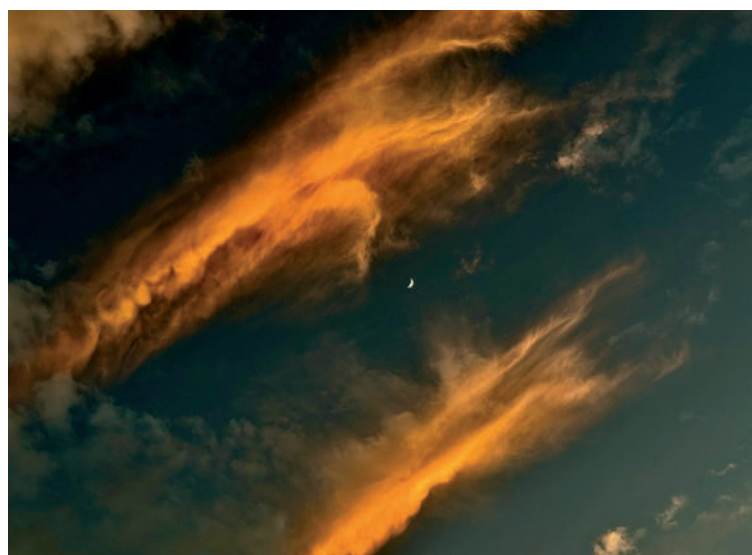
The company emphasizes that its tools are optimized for real-world accessibility: lightweight applications capable of running smoothly on mobile phones and tablets, eliminating the need for expensive high-performance computers traditionally required for geospatial analytics.

“Discussions are also underway with Qatar Satellite Company, signalling growing regional momentum for the technology. The company is currently raising funds to expand its processing infrastructure as global demand accelerates,” Thakur added.

Adding to its recent achievements, Darkocean has been

accepted into the Web Summit Startup Programme, where it will showcase its digital ocean-mapping innovations on an international stage. The company views this milestone as a key step toward strengthening partnerships, scaling adoption, and positioning NAV<sup>B</sup>athy as a transformative tool for coastal nations worldwide.

With NAV<sup>B</sup>athy, Darkocean intends not only to speed up marine decision-making but to fundamentally change how governments, developers, and researchers understand and interact with the world's coastal and underwater environments—bringing rapid, AI-powered mapping into the hands of anyone with a connected device.



### Breathtaking evening sky

A vivid display of sunset-lit clouds over Al Bidda Park last evening.  
PIC: ALEXANDRA EVANGELISTA/THE PENINSULA

## DFF amplifies today's most important voices in cinema

THE PENINSULA

**DOHA:** Doha Film Institute underlined the significant impact of Doha Film Festival on audiences, artists and the industry, and announced clear ambitions for 2026 through stronger collaboration, wider reach and more opportunities for emerging talent from Qatar and the region.

Addressing the media, Festival Director and CEO of DFI Fatma Hassan Alremaihi said: “Our focus has always been on authentic stories, meaningful dialogue and experiences that bring people together. Doha Film Festival 2025 (DFF) has exceeded our expectations because of this. Its success is reflected in full cinemas, vibrant exchange, and quality conversations.”

“DFF builds on our 15-year legacy of nurturing talent and fostering cultural dialogue while bringing

fresh perspectives and opportunities and represents the next step in Qatar's journey of cultural leadership. We are not here to compete but contribute by creating opportunities that will benefit not just our region but the entire global film community. Our unique strengths lie in our legacy of amplifying Arab voices, our deep community roots, and our unwavering focus on authentic storytelling, and we will continue to focus on our strengths,” she added.

Collaboration remains central to DFI's strategy said Alremaihi. “We collaborate with other festivals to expand opportunities for filmmakers to reach more screens, more audiences and more partners. Recent announcements, such as the Film Committee's collaboration with Cairo Film Festival, reflect a complementary approach that serves the wider creative community.”

DFF's community-centric programming also reached new heights. Geekdom welcomed over 7,000 visitors, underscoring the Institute's commitment to communities across film, gaming, comics, design and music. “We are focused on strengthening relationships with content creators, game developers, illustrators, writers and expanding workshops year-round,” said DFI's Chief Administrative Officer, Abdulla Jassim Al-Mosallam.

Programming at DFF 2025 balanced cinematic innovation with audience connection, said filmmaker and DFI programmer Majid Al-Remaihi. “We watched countless films and built the selection around works that are artistically bold and emotionally resonant, with titles that speak to this moment across geographies and histories, without compromising on new voices, style and form.”



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