

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education said the "Khibrat" programme forms part of its broader efforts to develop Qatar's national teaching workforce by enhancing educators' professional and leadership capabilities. Through exposure to international best practices and the exchange of expertise, the initiative aims to improve the quality of education and support the country's educational development goals.

Seven voices from Arab world captivate audiences at Cineteca Nacional de las Artes in Mexico

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: This month, the main theatre of Cineteca Nacional de las Artes served as a window onto contemporary Arab cinema.

The Doha Film Institute (DFI) presented a curated selection of seven films it has supported in recent years, a programme that brought together prize-winners from Cannes, Venice and Thessaloniki, featured as part of the 2026 Year of Culture partnership between Mexico and Qatar.

More than 1,000 people attended the screenings over the course of the programme, an exceptional turnout for Cineteca Nacional de las Artes underscoring the strong interest in contemporary Arab cinema among Mexican audiences.

For Mexican audiences, the programme offered a rare opportunity to experience films from Iraq, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Egypt. These stories explored themes

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of identity, memory, family, and tradition, bringing perspectives that are seldom seen on Mexico's film circuit.

Nelson Carro, Director of Outreach and Programming at Cineteca Nacional de las Artes, said: "Our partnership with the Doha Film Institute is especially valuable, as it gives us access to films that are not always easy for us to reach. Since we mainly work with European distributors, access to Arab cinema is not always direct. Through this collaboration, we were able to present a carefully curated programme of films that explore themes that speak to all of us.

That is why we believe it is so important to continue strengthening this relationship and giving it room to grow."

Advisor on Latin America for the Years of Culture, Mohammed Al Kuwari, added: "Years of Culture is built on the idea that lasting partnerships are shaped through people-to-people connection. Film plays a vital role in that by enabling stories to travel. The Years of Culture's summer programme, which coincides with World Cup 2026 also reflects a broader vision: using culture alongside sport to build meaningful, long-term connections between societies."

The film cycle is part of a wider programme that the Years of Culture will roll out in Mexico City this summer, in partnership with institutions such as Museo Jumex and the Centro de Cultura Digital, spanning film, art, heritage, design and sport throughout 2026.



CEO of Qatar Media Corporation meets Ambassador of Kuwait

CEO of Qatar Media Corporation H E Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz bin Jassim Al-Thani met yesterday with Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the State of Qatar H E Ahmad Abdulrahman Al Shuraim. During the meeting, they discussed the fraternal relations between the two countries, and prospects for joint cooperation in the media fields.



Ministry of Defence signs MoU with Russian Federation

The Ministry of Defence has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation aimed at establishing and operating a direct communication channel for immediate notification in the event of crises. The MoU was signed on behalf of Qatar's Ministry of Defence by Brigadier (Air) Rashid Sultan Al-Hatmi, Acting Commander of the Doha Joint Rescue Coordination Center. Representing the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation was Vice Admiral Viktor Alexandrovich Kalganov, Deputy Head of the Russian National Defence Management Center.

MoFA issues guide describing, classifying jobs of diplomatic and consular corps

DOHA: Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani issued Ministerial Decision No. 34 of 2026 issuing a guide to describing and classifying the jobs of the diplomatic and consular corps.

This decision comes within the framework of developing and strengthening the institutional work system in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organising career paths through clarity of tasks and responsibilities, raising performance efficiency, enhancing accountability, and emphasising effective performance to members of the two corps in the Ministry's General Directorate and the State's diplomatic missions abroad.

The guide is an



The guide aims to provide an accurate and comprehensive description of positions and job titles, to enhance clarity and responsibilities

organisational reference for members of the diplomatic and consular corps, contributing to the standardisation of procedures and the clarification of

career paths in the Ministry's General Directorate and representative missions.

It aims to provide an accurate and comprehensive description of positions and job titles, in support of professional development to raise performance efficiency, enhance clarity of responsibilities, and to facilitate recruitment and career development processes, while ensuring consistency with the organisational structure of the Ministry. — QNA

Qatar wins several awards at International Arab Women Forum

CAIRO: The State of Qatar won several prestigious awards during the "International Forum of Arab Women Diplomats: Journey and Achievements," organised yesterday at the headquarters of Arab League in Cairo by the General Secretariat of the League, in cooperation with the Arab Council for Social Responsibility.

The event coincided with the International Day of Arab Women Diplomats. The forum awarded Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khater, the Arab Women's Excellence Shield for Social Responsibility 2026, in recognition of her leadership and outstanding contributions at the national, regional, and international levels in supporting education and community development, as well as her role as an inspiring model of Arab women's leadership. The award was received on her behalf by Khalid Abdullah Al Ibrahim, Advisor at the Embassy of the State of Qatar in the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Permanent Delegation of Qatar to the Arab League

In the same context, Director of the Department of Private Schools and Kindergartens at the



Director of the Department of Private Schools and Kindergartens at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Dr. Rania Yousri Mohammed receiving the award at the ceremony.

Ministry of Education and Higher Education Dr. Rania Yousri Mohammed received the Arab Woman Award for Social Responsibility 2026 for her Social Responsibility Project in Private Schools and Kindergartens.

The forum also honoured Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council H E Dr. Hamda bint Hassan Al Sulaiti with the Arab Woman Award for Social Responsibility in recognition of her distinguished contributions to parliamentary and community work and her efforts to promote the values of social

responsibility. The award was received on her behalf by Khalid Abdullah Al Ibrahim.

In addition, Maryam Ahmed Al Shaibi, Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Deputy Permanent Representative of Qatar to the League of Arab States, was also honored for her outstanding efforts in advancing diplomatic work, strengthening joint Arab cooperation, promoting social responsibility, and empowering women in the diplomatic field. — QNA

HMC launches two advanced paediatric diagnostic services

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has announced the launch of two new specialised services in paediatric allergy: skin allergy testing to accurately identify food and environmental allergens, and food and drug challenge tests, which are considered the internationally recognised gold standard for confirming or ruling out allergies under specialist medical supervision.

The services are provided through the paediatric clinics at the Ambulatory Care Centre and aim to enhance the accuracy of early diagnosis, improve the quality of specialised care provided to children, and reduce allergy-related complications.

Dr. Mohammed Al Amri, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Medical Director at Hamad General Hospital, and Chair of the Paediatrics Departments at HMC, emphasised that the launch of these two services reflects HMC's commitment to providing advanced diagnostic care that enhances children's health and empowers families to make treatment decisions based on accurate and reliable medical evidence.

The two services utilise

more accurate and specialised diagnostic approaches in paediatric allergy, contributing to early diagnosis, reducing allergy-related complications, and supporting individualised treatment plans for each patient.

They also provide families with guidance and education on managing allergic conditions in children, including emergency action plans.

The clinic accepts referrals from Primary Health Care Centers, HMC hospitals, and Paediatric Emergency Centers for children aged 6 months to 14 years. It offers early diagnosis and specialised follow-up care

through a multidisciplinary team specialising in paediatric allergy.

Skin allergy testing provides an accurate assessment of food and environmental allergies in children. It is one of the key tools used in diagnosing allergic conditions, as it helps doctors identify allergy triggers more precisely when combined with clinical evaluation and laboratory tests.

Early and accurate diagnosis also helps prevent life-threatening allergic reactions such as anaphylaxis, in addition to supporting families and schools with clear plans for managing emergency situations.



A doctor consults with a mother and her daughter at a paediatric clinic.

QNL marks summer season with discovery creativity and professional growth

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: With the summer season in full swing, Qatar National Library (QNL) invites heritage professionals, children, families, and career-minded adults to a vibrant July of programming spanning cultural conservation, STEM exploration, creative arts, literacy, and professional development. At the heart of the month is the Library's Seventh Summer Camp, which welcomes young learners of every age across multiple tracks, from toddlers to teenagers.

The month opens with a specialised gathering for the heritage community. On July 1, Qatar National Library, in its capacity as the IFLA PAC Regional Centre for the Arab Region, presents the webinar "Emergency Grants for Cultural

Heritage: Opportunities and Application Process," delivered by Romana Delaporte, Project Coordinator at Cultural Emergency Response, an international NGO that provides first-aid support to cultural heritage threatened by conflict, climate change, or natural disaster. The session will explore the scope and objectives of available grants, the types of projects eligible for funding, application requirements and selection criteria, and practical guidance drawn from previously supported emergency response initiatives. Moderated by Maxim Nasra, Head of Preservation and Conservation at the Library, the webinar is addressed to heritage professionals, librarians, archivists, and museum specialists.

The first of July also marks the start of the 2026 Summer



Reading Challenge, offered in partnership with the Kutubee interactive reading platform. Running for six weeks until August 15, the challenge encourages children aged 6 to 14 to keep reading through the

summer months and to guard against the seasonal learning loss commonly known as the "summer slide." Participants work toward reading goals scaled to their age group, building language skills,

broadening their knowledge, and strengthening critical thinking and creativity along the way. The winners will be announced in September 2026.

On July15, the Seventh Summer Camp opens, with each track designed to engage and inspire a different age group. The tracks run on a weekly basis.

The Library welcomes its youngest visitors with the Fun Summer Camp for Toddlers, a bilingual two-hour play camp for children aged 1 to 4. Featuring sensory toys, building toys, art activities, and storytelling sessions, it offers a nurturing and imaginative environment for children and their families.

Storytime for Children offers an equally enriching experience for children aged 7 to 12, combining expressive storytelling with puppetry to take young audiences

on imaginative journeys through carefully chosen stories. The programme aims to foster a love of reading, stimulate imagination, and strengthen listening and communication skills in a joyful and nurturing setting.

For children aged 7 to 10, a dedicated STEM activity blends science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through hands-on experimentation, inviting young participants to test ideas, solve problems, and explore how the world works in a spirit of curiosity and discovery.

Teenagers aged 13 to 17 are invited to "Make with Me," a craft and art-making session that draws older participants into a world of color and imagination, encouraging creative expression in a lively and inspiring environment.

MoM opens health clinic at General Cleanliness Department

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: As part of the Ministry of Municipality's (MoM) efforts to enhance healthcare services and improve the work environment, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Services Affairs at MoM Abdullah Ahmed Al Karani, inaugurated the new health clinic at the General Cleanliness Department Complex in the Industrial Area (Street 52).

The inauguration was attended by Assistant Undersecretary for Expatriate Labour Affairs at the Ministry of Labour Hamad Faraj Dalmook, and Director of the General Cleanliness Department Moqbel Madhour Al Shammari, along with a number of directors from the Ministry of Municipality.

On this occasion, Al Shammari affirmed that the opening of the clinic

reflects the Department's ongoing commitment to providing a healthy and safe work environment in accordance with the highest standards.

He noted that the clinic serves more than 3,200 employees and provides medical consultations, preliminary examinations, and medication dispensing services.

The clinic operates in two daily shifts: a morning shift from 9am to 1pm and an evening shift from 6pm to 10pm, ensuring flexible access to healthcare services for all employees.

This strategic initiative aims to strengthen occupational health and safety for employees by providing comprehensive and timely medical services within the workplace, thereby contributing to an enhanced quality of work life and the sustainability of services provided.



Assistant Undersecretary for Public Services Affairs at MoM Abdullah Ahmed Al Karani and Assistant Undersecretary for Expatriate Labour Affairs at MoL Hamad Faraj Dalmook inaugurating a health clinic.

The clinic operates in two daily shifts: a morning shift from 9am to 1pm and an evening shift from 6pm to 10pm, ensuring flexible access to healthcare services for all employees. The initiative aims to strengthen occupational health and safety for employees by providing comprehensive and timely medical services within the workplace, thereby contributing to an enhanced quality of work life and the sustainability of services provided.

Announcement of Deregister

The owners of (TERRA UNITY LIMITED (QFC) have decided on June 14th, 2026, to cease the activities of the company in the State of Qatar (Q.F.C) and to deregister (QFC No. 02404).

Accordingly, all persons and entities having an interest or any claims in (TERRA UNITY LIMITED (QFC) should notify Adib Al Chaa & Co.

P.O. Box: 17048 – Doha – Qatar.

During the period of one month from the date of this advertisement.

Upgraded Hukoomi Platform transforms digital government experience

FROM PAGE 1

Instead of repeatedly uploading official documents such as identification cards or commercial registrations, users benefit from secure data sharing between government agencies, reducing paperwork while improving efficiency and the accuracy of official information.

He said that MCIT plans to expand the number of Life Moments while introducing fully automated and proactive services. Instead of requiring users to search for services, the platform will eventually send timely notifications reminding them of upcoming government procedures, such as school registration

deadlines or other important life events. He said that artificial intelligence will play an increasingly important role in delivering smarter, more personalised and predictive government services.

Al Tamimi encouraged users to provide feedback through the platform to help shape future

enhancements, noting that ongoing development will be driven by public needs and expectations.

He also thanked all participating government entities for their collaboration in creating a unified digital gateway designed to simplify access to public services for everyone living in or visiting Qatar.

**QAFCO**
شركة قطر للأسمدة الكيماوية
QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY

QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY PSC
INVITATION TO TENDER

QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER FEE RECEIPT SUBMISSION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFO - 6000005689	Stress Analysis for Cogen Steam Line No. 611-SY1033	500/- (non-refundable)	Not Applicable	30.06.2026 01.07.2026 02.07.2026 05.07.2026 06.07.2026 07.07.2026	16.07.2026

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company's following Account at any QNB branch:
 - Account Name : **QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)**
 - Account Number : **0013-025828-058**
 - IBAN : **QA51QNBAA000000000013025828058**
 - Bank Name : **QATAR NATIONAL BANK**
- The interested Bidders shall mention their company's name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder's name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender (**Very Important**), during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.
- Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to purchase@qafco.com.qa and halathbi@qafco.com.qa on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (nonrefundable).
- After submission of the above documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately.
- For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the submission Tender Fee receipt at the QAFCO Housing Section, you may contact at halathbi@qafco.com.qa or on 44227795
- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of Tender Bond.
- The Tender shall be strictly submitted using the QAFCO's Supply Chain Portal – SAP / Ariba, on or before the "Tender Closing Date". Tenderers who fail to adhere to this requirement will result in the disqualification of their Tender.

Invitation to participate in a Tender

Dar Al Sharq LLC would like to invite experienced and specialized contracting companies to participate in the tender mentioned below:

Tender reference number	Subject of the tender	Non-refundable tender purchase fee	Bank guarantee amount (bid security)	Closing date
DD02	Execution of modification, renovation, refurbishment, supply, and installation works for the existing Dar Al Sharq Building (B+G+1+2) located on D-Ring Road	2000 QR (Two thousand Qatari riyals)	QAR 100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Qatari Riyals)	09/07/2026 at 12:00 Noon

Those wishing to submit bids can obtain tender documents from Dar Al Sharq headquarters at Old Airport Area No. 45 - Fourth Ring Road 250 - Building No. 77 during official working hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in exchange for payment of the fees mentioned in the table above and submission of a letter of no objection to participate in the tender, accompanied by a copy of the commercial register and the establishment's registration.

This is in accordance with the following conditions:

- The bidder must prepare the bid in the manner specified in the technical bid form and financial bid form and comply with the technical requirements and conditions and the attached forms. Dar Al Sharq has the right to reject bids that do not comply with these requirements.
- A bank guarantee (bid bond) in the amount of QAR 100,000.00 valid for 120 days from the closing date, must be submitted with the bid, Bids for which the original guarantee has not been delivered will be rejected.
- The contractor and company classification certificate must be valid, with a classification of at least C, issued by the Ministry of Finance. Dar Al Sharq reserves the right to exclude bids that do not comply with this requirement.
- Dar Al Sharq may, before the closing date and time and in accordance with the requirements of the public interest, amend the deadline for submitting bids by extending it and amending the closing date.
- Dar Al Sharq has the right to cancel the tender at any stage, and participants in the tender are not entitled to claim any compensation as a result, and only the purchase price of the tender will be refunded.
- Bids shall be delivered in Two envelopes (technical envelope - financial envelope) to the Administrative Affairs Department at Dar Al Sharq headquarters.

Submission of inquiries:

Inquiries related to the execution of the required work and their conditions contained in the tender documents shall be submitted to the office of Orbit Engineering Consultancy Consultants within the period specified in the documents, or a maximum of three working days before the closing date if not specified in the tender documents.

Email: info@orbitconsults.com **Address:** Salwa Road - Midmac Roundabout - Doha, Qatar
Telephone: +974 4037 5129 **Mobile:** +974 7757 7288

Indian Mango Exhibition records 187,300kg in sales

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The third edition of the Indian Mango Exhibition (locally called Hamba) at Souq Waqif concluded with record-breaking success, achieving total mango sales of 187,300 kilograms over 10 days and attracting 155,600 visitors, underscoring the growing popularity of the annual event and strong consumer demand for Indian mango varieties in Qatar.

Held from June 18 to 27, the exhibition brought together more than 35 Indian companies, showcasing a wide selection of premium Indian mangoes and related products. The event also featured 25 restaurants and retail outlets, offering visitors a diverse culinary and shopping experience centered on the seasonal fruit.

The impressive sales figures highlighted the strong appetite among consumers for Indian mangoes, while the high visitor turnout reflected the exhibition's status as one of Souq Waqif's most popular seasonal events. The record-breaking performance marks another milestone for the exhibition, which has continued to expand in scale and public appeal since its launch.

Throughout the 10-day event, visitors had the opportunity to explore a variety of renowned Indian



The impressive sales figures highlighted the strong appetite among consumers for Indian mangoes.

mango varieties, purchase fresh produce directly from exhibitors, and enjoy mango-inspired dishes and products offered by participating restaurants and shops.

Organizers described the third edition as a resounding success, with the final statistics confirming unprecedented public engagement and commercial activity. They noted that the exhibition's achievements

New batch of experts take legal oath at Ministry of Justice

DOHA: A new batch of experts took the legal oath yesterday at the Ministry of Justice to be registered in the Ministry of Justice's roster of experts accredited before the judicial authorities in the country,

in accordance with the regulations stipulated in Law No. (16) of 2017 regulating expert work.

The new batch comprised (15) experts from national cadres, with expertise in various specialisations,

including accounting, real estate, electrical engineering, architecture, survey engineering, banking, industry management, industrial engineering, engineering project management, and social

**KATARA**
HOSPITALITY

RFP No.	Subject	Document Sale Period		Closing Date	Fees QR.
		Start Date	End Date		
KH/RFP/046-26/SDH	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of One (1) No. Steam Boiler in MER-5 Plant Room at Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel	30/06/2026	16/07/2026	23/07/2026	700.00

CONDITIONS

- Interested vendors are invited to register their Company online and obtain a Supplier Registration ID, a requirement for the Issuance of RFP Documents by Katara Hospitality.
- A payment of non-refundable document fees should be deposited to Katara Hospitality Bank Account No. 0013-038587-060 with Qatar National Bank.
- Bank receipt together with valid Company Commercial Registration and Computer Card must be submitted via KH.onlinetender@katarahospitality.com only. Documents will be sent electronically within 24 hours during working days from receipt of complete requirements.
- Proposal to be submitted in sealed envelopes as per the RFP Documents requirements in (HARD COPY) & (SOFT COPY on USB).
- The successful vendor is required to submit a performance bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar equivalent to 10% of the contract sum and shall be valid to 90 days after the expiry of Maintenance Certificate.
- Offers should be valid for 120 days commencing from the closing date (as stated above).
- Katara Hospitality has the right to increase or decrease the scope of services by 20% with the same terms, conditions.
- Katara Hospitality is not bound to accept the lowest bidder or any other participant and is under no obligation to show reasons thereof.
- Bids must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon on the specified closing date. All submission should be delivered to the 30th Floor Reception of Katara Hospitality Head Office, Burj Marina Tower, Lusail City and quoting the RFP Number and Subject.
- Offers arriving thereafter may not be considered.

REGISTER YOUR COMPANY ON OUR WEBSITE UNDER E-SOURCING TAB TO ACCESS ALL ACTIVE TENDERS THAT CAN BE VIEWED ON
KATARA HOSPITALITY WEBSITE "WWW.KATARAHOSPITALITY.COM"
Tel: 44237778 / 44237774 / 44237870 Fax: 44237734

experience (disability and autism category).

On this occasion, Director of the Experts Department at the Ministry of Justice, Abdullah Abu Shahab Al Marri congratulated the new experts on their taking of the legal oath. He emphasised the importance of their role as assistants to judges and one of the pillars of achieving effective justice, based on their legal responsibility to show

The Ministry of Justice, through its Department of Experts, remains keen to strengthen the national cadre of experts and provide qualified professionals who keep pace with the country's comprehensive development across various sectors.

evidence and proofs related to the technical aspects of various cases, and the role expert reports play in expediting the issuance of judgments and the adjudication of cases.

The Ministry of Justice, through its Department of Experts, remains keen to strengthen the national cadre of experts and provide qualified professionals who keep pace with the country's comprehensive development across various sectors.

This is achieved by fostering an integrated work environment that supports the development of a leading Qatari expertise system and by introducing new areas of expertise in line with the needs of the judicial authorities and other competent entities. — **QNA**

Qatar participates in GCC meeting on water interconnection projects

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: President of Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) Eng. Abdullah bin Ali Al-Thiyab headed Qatar's delegation to the extraordinary meeting of the GCC Electricity and Water Cooperation Committee, which was held via videoconference to discuss the latest developments in the preparation of a study on the feasibility of establishing water interconnection projects among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states.

The meeting was convened in implementation of the directives of the GCC leaders and the relevant resolutions of the GCC Ministerial Council.

Participants reviewed the overall framework of the proposed study, its objectives, and the suggested implementation phases. These include assessing



Kahramaa President Eng Abdullah bin Ali Al-Thiyab during the meeting held via videoconference.

the current status of water infrastructure across GCC countries, developing scenarios and options for water interconnection, establishing institutional and

governance frameworks, and preparing an implementation roadmap outlining priorities, timelines, implementation mechanisms, and follow-up

procedures. The meeting also examined a number of international experiences in water interconnection and explored how these could be utilised in devel-

oping the GCC study.

Eng Al-Thiyab emphasised that Qatar, represented by Kahramaa, attaches great importance to strengthening joint Gulf cooperation and supporting initiatives that enhance the security and sustainability of the electricity and water sectors.

He said, "Qatar, through Kahramaa, places great importance on advancing joint GCC action and supporting initiatives that contribute to enhancing the security and sustainability of the electricity and water sectors, based on its belief in the importance of integration among GCC member states in addressing future challenges, achieving shared interests, and ensuring the sustainability of vital resources and services."

He added that preparing a comprehensive and specialized study on water interconnection represents an important step

toward developing a strategic vision based on international best practices while taking into account technical, economic, operational, and governance aspects. This, he noted, would ensure that future decisions are grounded in scientific principles and achieve the highest levels of efficiency and reliability.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the committee discussed the next steps for completing the study, including organizing a workshop with the participation of senior officials from GCC member states and completing the collection of the necessary data and technical studies. The study's findings and recommendations will then be presented to the GCC Electricity and Water Cooperation Committee at its next meeting before being submitted to the GCC Ministerial Council for consideration.

Katara opens Pakistani Corner as part of FIFA WC 2026 activities

VICTOR BOLORUNDURO
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Katara Cultural Village yesterday inaugurated the Pakistani Corner at Building 45, celebrating Pakistan's contribution to the global football industry as part of activities accompanying the FIFA World Cup 2026.

The cultural space was inaugurated by the General Manager of Katara Cultural Village Foundation Professor Dr. Khalid bin Ibrahim Al-Sulaiti in the presence of the Ambassador of Pakistan H E Muhammad Aamer and other VIPs and guests.

Organised by Katara in collaboration with the Embassy of Pakistan in Qatar, the Pakistani Corner will remain open throughout the tournament, offering visitors a unique blend of culture and sport, while highlighting Pakistan's longstanding role in football manufacturing.

Speaking to *The Peninsula*, Professor Dr. Al-Sulaiti said, "I

am delighted to inaugurate the Pakistani Corner at Katara today alongside His Excellency the Ambassador of Pakistan to the State of Qatar. This is one of several national corners that Katara has established to showcase the cultures and achievements of countries from around the world. We have opened cultural corners in collaboration with different nations, and we are proud to add Pakistan to that growing family."

He added that the corner is particularly special because it highlights Pakistan's remarkable contribution to the world of sport through the display of three footballs manufactured in Sialkot, the city internationally renowned for producing footballs used in FIFA World Cup tournaments.

A key attraction of the exhibition is the display of the Trionda, the official match ball of the FIFA World Cup 2026, showcased at Gallery 45 in

Building 45, home to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Legacy Exhibition.

Ambassador Aamer highlighted Pakistan's global leadership in football production, noting that the city of Sialkot manufactures around 70 percent of the world's footballs, including official match balls used in several FIFA World Cup tournaments.

"This particular handicraft is part of our small industry in Sialkot. It is the people who have developed this art into excellence in so many years" the Ambassador told *The Peninsula*.

He said the production of the Trionda ball for the 2026 FIFA World Cup reflects decades of Pakistani craftsmanship, precision and innovation. The industry, he noted, has evolved from traditional hand-stitching techniques to advanced manufacturing technologies, earning the confidence of leading international sports organisations.

"We have a huge diaspora in Qatar and at these gatherings people get together and share their joys and happiness and unique moments together. So, launching of this corner of Pakistan's football is really important for the relations, people to people relations of countries like Pakistan and all the other football playing nations," the Ambassador added.

The Pakistani envoy added that the initiative goes beyond celebrating sporting excellence, describing it as a cultural platform that showcases Pakistan's contribution to the world's most popular sport while strengthening ties between nations through sport and culture.

He added that the exhibition also offers visitors an opportunity to gain insight into the global supply chains behind football production and promotes cultural exchange,



Katara General Manager Prof. Dr. Khalid bin Ibrahim Al Sulaiti and Ambassador of Pakistan H E Muhammad Aamer during the event at the Katara yesterday. PIC: SALIM MATRAMKOT/THE PENINSULA

friendship and mutual understanding. The initiative further reflects the growing cultural cooperation between Qatar and Pakistan.

The Pakistani Corner is located in Building 45, which

houses the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Legacy Exhibition, providing visitors with an opportunity to explore both Qatar's World Cup legacy and Pakistan's contribution to the global game at one venue.

QCS warns against tanning beds; launches 'No Safe Tan' campaign

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) has warned against the use of tanning beds, which have recently become increasingly popular among some women and adolescents seeking a tanned complexion.

The Society stressed that tanning beds are not a safe way to achieve a tan, as they expose users to artificial ultraviolet (UV) radiation that significantly increases the risk of skin cancer, including malignant melanoma.

In addition, they accelerate premature skin ageing and may cause damage to the eyes and the DNA of skin cells.

Dr. Hadi Mohammed Abu Rasheed (pictured), Director of Programmes at QCS, explained that the common perception that tanned skin reflects beauty or good health is a misconception. A tan produced by a tanning bed is simply the skin's natural response to UV-induced damage and should never be considered an indicator of healthy skin.

He added that the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classify UV-emitting tanning

devices as Group 1 carcinogens—the highest classification for agents scientifically proven to cause cancer in humans.

Dr. Abu Rasheed noted that scientific evidence shows that using a tanning bed at least once during a lifetime is associated with approximately a 20% increased risk of melanoma compared with never using one.

The risk rises by 59% when indoor tanning begins before the age of 35. Evidence also confirms that skin and DNA damage can occur even without visible sunburn or redness, dispelling the misconception that tanning is safe as long as the skin does not burn.

He further emphasised that tanning beds are not a safe source of vitamin D.

Instead, vitamin D requirements can be met through a balanced diet, supplements when medically indicated, and moderate sun exposure in accordance with public health recommendations.

In line with its commitment to cancer prevention, the QCS has launched a three-month public awareness campaign entitled "No Safe Tan" to increase awareness of the



health risks associated with indoor tanning and correct misconceptions linking tanned skin with beauty or wellness.

"Prevention begins with awareness," Dr. Abu Rasheed said.

"It is essential that the public, particularly young people—understand that any unnecessary exposure to ultraviolet radiation increases the risk of skin cancer and can have lasting harmful effects on skin health."

He urged the public to adopt healthy and safe alternatives to protect their skin and avoid tanning beds, particularly individuals who are at greater risk of complications, including those under the age of 18, people with fair skin, individuals with a personal or family history of skin cancer, and those taking medications that increase sensitivity to ultraviolet radiation.

Friday sermons across 600 mosques highlight dangers of drug abuse

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has intensified its public awareness campaign against drug abuse by dedicating Friday sermons in around 600 mosques across the country to the dangers of narcotics, reinforcing religious and social awareness as part of a coordinated national effort to protect individuals, families and society.

The initiative, led by the Ministry's Department of Mosques, coincided with the observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 26 and was carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior. It forms part of a comprehensive outreach programme aimed at addressing pressing social issues through religious guidance rooted in Islamic values and practical community engagement.

During the sermons, imams warned worshippers about the devastating consequences of



drug abuse, describing narcotics as one of the gravest threats to public safety, family stability and social cohesion. They stressed that drug addiction endangers both physical and mental health, contributes to family breakdown, fuels

crime and delinquency, and imposes significant economic and security burdens on society.

The sermons also highlighted that drug use and trafficking constitute a direct violation of the objectives of Islamic law, which seeks to preserve the five essential necessities of life, foremost among them the protection of life, intellect and faith. Worshippers were cautioned against the influence of bad company and misleading ideas, while being encouraged to strengthen their faith, exercise self-discipline, and seek treatment and professional support whenever needed.

The Ministry underscored the vital role of mosques as centres of guidance, education and community reform, noting that Friday sermons provide one of the most effective platforms for reaching diverse segments of society. Through balanced and moderate religious discourse, the ministry aims to promote a culture of prevention, particularly among young people, while addressing contemporary social challenges from both religious and practical perspectives.

The sermons also called on parents and families to play an active role in preventing drug abuse by maintaining open communication with their children, closely monitoring their well-being, instilling moral values, and cooperating with educational and community institutions to protect young people from addiction and deviant behaviour.

According to the ministry, the campaign reflects an integrated institutional partnership with the Ministry of Interior, aligning awareness messages and expanding preventive efforts through joint participation in educational events and exhibitions.

The collaboration demonstrates the complementary roles of religious and security institutions in safeguarding society against the dangers of narcotics.

Doha Film Institute supports 48 projects from 39 countries in Spring 2026 grants programme

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Doha Film Institute (DFI) has announced the recipients of its 2026 Spring Grants programme, awarding support to 48 film projects from 39 countries as part of its continued commitment to nurturing independent cinema and emerging filmmaking talent from Qatar, the Middle East and around the world.

The latest grants cycle reflects the growing diversity and international reach of the Institute's flagship funding initiative, backing first— and second-time filmmakers globally alongside established directors from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region

working on post-production projects.

This year's recipients include filmmakers from Qatar as well as Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and the UAE. International selections span countries including Canada, Chile, Cuba, France, Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

Chief Executive Officer of Doha Film Institute, Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, said the programme continues to reinforce the role of cinema in preserving culture and amplifying authentic voices.

"In a world that is constantly changing, culture remains one of our most powerful anchors — preserving our memories, shaping our identities and connecting us across generations," she said. She added that the supported filmmakers represent "the storytellers of tomorrow," whose work documents the present, challenges perceptions and creates a lasting cinematic record for future generations.

The Spring 2026 grants cover projects across multiple categories, including feature narratives, documentaries, television series, web series, short films and experimental works at different stages of development, production and post-production.

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Among the Qatari projects selected for development are *Moments We Lived* by Ibrahim Albuainain, a satirical stop-motion series exploring everyday social and cultural life; *Harf Esem: Forced Landing* by Mohammed A Al-Suwaidi, which follows two classmates racing to protect the Arabic language from an alien accidentally erasing its

letters; and *Spooky Saeko* by Alhanoof Mubarak Alnaemi, a mystery centred on childhood trauma and hidden truths.

Qatari productions receiving support in the production category include Qadar by Aisha Al-Khanji, which follows a struggling coffee artisan seeking redemption, and Intuition by Aysha Alabdulla, a story about

a young man confronting fear and self-doubt while pursuing his dream of becoming a chef.

Several projects explore themes of displacement, migration, identity, conflict and resilience. These include *About Love & September Laws*, set during political upheaval in Sudan; *Searching for Nidal*, which examines love and war through personal documentation; and *The Lions of Canaan*, a documentary following the Palestine national football team's pursuit of FIFA World Cup qualification.

The selected films also highlight environmental issues, indigenous heritage, women's empowerment and intergenerational memory.

Ecuador police destroy bomb planted outside ministry

QUITO: Ecuadoran police yesterday conducted a controlled explosion of a bomb planted outside the Ministry of Agriculture shattering windows there.

It was the second time in five days that a bomb has been found in the capital Quito, and comes as Ecuador grapples with rising violence by drug cartels.

On Thursday, a bomb squad deactivated a similar device placed near a courthouse.

“A controlled explosion was carried out to neutralise the device and safeguard the public,” the police said on social media after yesterday’s controlled blast. “We ask the community to remain calm.”

The bomb was placed in an area of northern Quito also close to state media offices and mining control agencies.

Organised crime groups waging war against the state and among themselves have made Ecuador one of the most violent countries in Latin America. — **AFP**

Ebola outbreak in DR Congo spreads to fourth province

KINSHASA: At least one Ebola case has been confirmed in a fourth province in the Democratic Republic of Congo, meaning the country’s entire northeast is now affected by the deadly outbreak, the national laboratory and a health source said yesterday.

The case was detected in Haut-Uele, near the borders with South Sudan and the Central African Republic, involving a person who had travelled from Bunia, in Ituri province. — **AFP**



Rubio meets German Foreign Minister
US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met with German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl at the US State Department in Washington yesterday. The bilateral meeting underscored the close partnership between the United States and Germany, with discussions expected to focus on bilateral relations and key regional and global issues of mutual interest. (AFP)

US commits \$300m in aid for quake-hit Venezuela

WASHINGTON: The United States has pledged more than \$300 million in funding to aid earthquake-hit Venezuela, the State Department said yesterday, up from a previous commitment of \$150m.

“These funds will provide emergency medical care, food assistance, water and sanitation, shelter, protection, and logistics,” the department said in a statement.

The money is being directed through partner organisations including Samaritan’s Purse, Catholic Relief Services, the International Organisation for Migration, the World Food Programme and the Red Cross, the statement said.

Washington has also deployed four urban

search-and-rescue teams to Venezuela that are made up of more than 300 first responders and almost two dozen search dogs, the statement added.

Devastating back-to-back 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes struck near Venezuela’s Caribbean coast last week, collapsing buildings, damaging the country’s main airport and leaving at least 1,450 people dead.

The US assistance for Venezuela comes as ties between Washington and Caracas have warmed in recent months after American forces captured former president Nicolas Maduro in January and the Trump administration began working with an interim government led by Delcy Rodriguez. — **AFP**

Israeli forces kill Palestinian teen in West Bank

RAMALLAH: Israeli forces fatally shot a 15-year-old Palestinian teenager during a raid in the occupied West Bank yesterday, the Palestinian health ministry said, as violence surges in the Israeli-occupied territory.

“The child Amir Ahmad Jawad Jaber, 15 years old, was martyred after being shot in the head and once in the chest by occupation soldiers during their raid in the Umm Al-Sharayit neighbourhood in Al-Bireh” near the West Bank city of Ramallah, the ministry said.

There was no immediate response from the Israeli military when asked by AFP about the incident.

The Palestinian Red Crescent had earlier said its

Israeli soldiers or settlers killed 71 Palestinians in the West Bank in 2026, says a data.

teams were transporting to hospital and trying to resuscitate a 15-year-old who was shot in the head with live ammunition during a raid in the Umm Al-Sharayit area.

Dozens of mourners gathered at the Palestine Medical Complex as grieving relatives wept over the teenager’s body.

“Today, we witnessed a clear-cut execution in broad daylight,” Laila Ghannam, governor of Ramallah and Al-Bireh, told **AFP**.

“This is a disgrace to

all institutions who claim to uphold democracy and human rights.

“When it comes to our cause, they see nothing. They allow this occupation to escalate its campaign of terror every single day not only across Palestine, but throughout the entire region.”

Since the start of the Gaza war in October 2023, violence has escalated in the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967.

Israeli soldiers or settlers have killed at least 1,085 Palestinians in the West Bank since October 2023, including both fighters and civilians, according to an **AFP** tally based on Palestinian health ministry data, which says 71 people were killed in 2026. — **AFP**

Poland signs contract to acquire Swedish submarines

WARSAW: Poland yesterday signed a \$4.8bn contract with Sweden to purchase three Saab submarines intended to strengthen its defence capabilities in the face of a growing Russian threat.

“Poland is acquiring three A-26 type, fifth-generation submarines, the most modern ones,” Polish defence minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz said following the signing ceremony in the Polish Baltic port city of Gdynia.

He added that the submarines Poland is set to obtain are “designed to operate in the Baltic Sea, capable of putting their capabilities at the service of both the navy and special forces”.

The contract -- signed by Prime Ministers Donald Tusk and Ulf Kristersson -- includes an armaments package as well

as a training and support programme, worth roughly 47 billion Swedish kronor (\$4.8 billion), the Saab group specified in a press release.

The first submarine delivery is planned for 2031, and the last one is set to arrive in 2038.

In the meantime, Sweden will lend Poland a modernised A-17 type vessel, operational as of next year, in order to train its sailors.

Poland’s submarine procurement programme, named Orka (Orca), is among the most urgent projects of the Polish navy, which currently has only a single obsolete submarine, built in 1985 in the USSR.

The agreement also provides for industrial exchanges, as well as a logistics package, operational support, preparation of the necessary infrastructure, and the acquisition

Poland is acquiring three A-26 type, fifth-generation submarines, the most modern ones,” Polish defence minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz said.

by Sweden of a rescue vessel built in Polish shipyards.

Described as a “historic milestone” for both countries by Kristersson, the contract is set to create 7,000 jobs in Poland and “a significant number” in Sweden, according to Stockholm.

The choice of the Saab as submarine supplier had been announced in November by Warsaw, ruling out other bids from Germany, Spain, Italy, South Korea, and the French company Naval Group. — **AFP**

Burnham pledges radical devolution of UK govt if PM

LONDON: The frontrunner to become Britain’s next prime minister, Andy Burnham, vowed in a speech yesterday to “bring about the biggest rebalancing of power our country has seen” if he succeeds Keir Starmer.

Burnham, currently the only candidate to replace Starmer as Labour leader and prime minister, pledged to devolve greater powers to regional mayors, including the northwestern city of Manchester where until recently he was in charge.

“I am going to give Britain the circuit breaker it needs,” Burnham told an invited audience in Manchester, pledging to put power “in the hands of the people and places who can use it best”.

“We need a new determination to raise living standards of every single person in this land,” he added in the keynote speech.

“And we must accept that to do that, to fix the economy and the country, we need to change politics and we need to do it now.”

Unsurprisingly, opposition leaders criticised the speech.

“He doesn’t have a plan beyond telling mayors to go and sort it out,” said Kemi Badenoch, leader of the main opposition Conservatives.

Robert Jenrick of the hard-right Reform UK party, which has led national opinion polls for more than a year, said the

British public wanted “radical change now”.

“People can’t wait 10 years,” he told GB News, after Burnham promised “a 10-year mission to raise living standards across the land”.

Delivering his speech from a Manchester museum, he described Britain as “one of the most over-centralised countries in the world”.

Starmer announced his resignation last Monday. And if no challenger comes forward in the Labour leadership contest, Burnham could be prime minister as early as mid-July.

Burnham would inherit a British economy that ruling centre-left Labour vowed to revitalise when it won power in July 2024 after 14 years in opposition.

After a tough 18 months, growth showed signs of picking up until the Middle East war hindered progress and pushed up inflation.

Burnham used his speech to pledge fiscal discipline and to reduce the country’s ballooning welfare bill, having already sought to calm markets by committing to the government’s current borrowing limits.

He proposed the creation of a “No. 10 North” to coordinate the devolution a play on words on the UK prime minister’s address at 10 Downing Street.

“We will create a more streamlined

state with a clearer purpose: to power up all parts of the country and put a laser-like focus on growth and regeneration,” he said.

“The change will be driven through the prime minister’s office in an extended operation, based here in Manchester.”

He vowed that office would “oversee the biggest council house building programme since the post-war period”.

However, he did not set out how that would be funded, amid squeezed public finances in the UK.

Coining the phrase “Manchesterism”, which he defines as business-friendly socialism, Burnham has railed against trickle-down economics and neo-liberalism.

Among his more defined economic beliefs is greater “public control” over services like transport, water and energy, though he was vague yesterday on whether this meant full renationalisation of utilities.

Under Starmer, UK railway operators were gradually re-entering public hands.

Burnham has positioned himself as a champion for small businesses and proposed cutting business rates for pubs and music venues.

“I will back our scientists, technologists, entrepreneurs, and creatives, as I have done here (in Manchester), and show how Britain will be the innovation nation



Labour MP and challenger for Leader of the Labour party, Andy Burnham, delivers a speech in Manchester, England, yesterday. (AFP)

of the next decade,” he said yesterday.

Rain Newton-Smith, head of British employers’ lobby group, the CBI, said “business leaders will be encouraged by efforts to use the levers of devolution to spread prosperity across the country”.

In the days since Starmer resigned, speculation has been rife among UK media and businesses about who Burnham will appoint as finance minister.

Rachel Reeves has served as chancellor of the exchequer since Labour returned to power almost two years ago but reportedly faces the axe if Burnham takes office. — **AFP**

Five shot dead at German youth welfare site, two suspects arrested

BERLIN: Five people were shot dead at a youth welfare facility in Germany yesterday and the suspected gunman was arrested, police said, in one of the country’s deadliest shootings in years.

Police in bulletproof vests and several ambulances were seen at the cordoned-off site in the northern city of Stade, west of Hamburg, in the wake of the gun rampage.

“Homicides involving multiple victims occurred at a youth welfare facility” in the city, police said about the shooting at a centre also believed to house mother-and-child residential groups.

“Five people were fatally injured and additional individuals sustained injuries,” police said.

The suspected gunman and a second alleged perpetrator were arrested, police said, adding that there was no longer any danger to the public.

Both suspects arrested were aged over 21, Spiegel Online reported, and the five people shot dead were also all adults, media reports said.

N24 television cited witnesses as saying that police deployed to the building after an emergency call and spotted two suspects who were attempting to flee in a car.

Police then opened fire and brought the vehicle to a halt before arresting the two, according to the report.

As news emerged of the shooting, police confirmed that a major operation was under way in Stade, a city of about 50,000 people on the Elbe river, 50 kilometres (30 miles) west of Hamburg.

Images in local media showed a large contingent of police and ambulances gathered on a cobble-stoned street while two helicopters hovered overhead.

“We ask you to leave the area and give it a wide berth for your own safety,” police said in an earlier post on X. — **AFP**

Venezuela search teams scramble as hope fades of finding quake survivors

CARACAS: Hopes were fading yesterday of finding survivors more than four days after powerful twin earthquakes struck Venezuela, as residents grow increasingly frustrated with the government’s response to the disaster that has killed at least 1,450 people and left tens of thousands unaccounted for.

French and American rescue teams found a man and his teen son alive under the rubble on Sunday in Caraballeda, a town about 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Caracas, AFP journalists saw. The rescue offered a glimmer of hope in an ongoing tragedy that has shaken a country already mired in an economic crisis, but that hope dwindled as the critical 72-hour window for rescuing trapped victims passed.

Millions more people were feared to lack sanitation and other basic needs after one of Latin America’s most devastating earthquake disasters.

Some 774 buildings were



Rescue workers trying to find a way inside a damaged building in, Venezuela, yesterday. (AFP)

badly damaged in back-to-back quakes of magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 that struck on Wednesday evening, including 189 buildings that have totally collapsed, National Assembly President Jorge Rodriguez said on Sunday.

In the coastal town of Tucacas, rescuers were digging for people trapped in the pancaked layers and rubble of a col-

lapsed building complex.

Luis Salas, told that “the hardest part was when we felt hope in the tunnels we went into crawling, clearing debris, working with all our heart, with great faith and when we reached our targets, we found them lifeless.” Experts say the first 72 hours after natural disasters is the window for rescuing the living. — **AFP**

Malaysia extends long-missing flight MH370 search deal to 2027

KUALA LUMPUR: The search for missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 will be extended for another year, Malaysia said yesterday, more than a decade after the plane disappeared.

The Boeing 777 carrying 239 people vanished from radar screens on March 8, 2014, while en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing in one of aviation’s greatest enduring mysteries.

Two-thirds of the passengers were Chinese, and the rest included Malaysians, Indonesians and Australians, as well as Indian, American, Dutch and French nationals.

Despite the largest search in aviation history, the plane has not been found.

Malaysian Transport Minister Anthony Loke said yesterday the extension will run until June 30, 2027, and maintains all terms and conditions of the existing agreement with exploration firm Ocean Infinity.

This includes a “no find, no fee” principle, meaning Ocean

Infinity will only be paid \$70 million if the wreckage is located.

“This decision is a manifestation of the government’s continuous and unwavering commitment to provide a closure for the next of kin of the passengers aboard flight MH370,” Loke said in a statement.

“The approval of this extension aims to allow the remaining search area of 7,428.54 square kilometres (2,868 square miles), to be fully completed by the company,” he added.

The extension, Loke said, also took into account new commercial commitments received by Ocean Infinity that required its primary search assets to be temporarily redeployed to another location.

“The redeployment and rescheduling of these assets can only be conducted between November 2026 and April 2027, during the calm sea season, to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the search,” he said. — **AFP**