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UAE PRESIDENT RECEIVES QATARI PRIME MINISTER

President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan yesterday received Shaikh Mohammad Bin Abdul Rahman Bin Jassim Al Thani, Qatar's Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, at Qasr Al Shati in Abu Dhabi. They underscored the importance of intensifying efforts to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon.

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US: Lebanon ceasefire deal 'within grasp'

LOOTING OF NEARLY 100 AID TRUCKS IN GAZA SENDS FOOD PRICES SOARING

DUBAI
BY STEPHEN N. R.
Senior Associate Editor

Despite escalating tensions and ongoing cross-border attacks, there is growing optimism that the Israel-Hezbollah war may soon come to an end.

During a visit to Beirut yesterday, US Special Envoy Amos Hochstein, raised hopes for a potential truce, saying that peace is "now within our grasp."

Hochstein's remarks follow a series of high-level meetings aimed at brokering a ceasefire, with Lebanon's leadership offering significant backing for the plan.

In his discussions with Lebanese officials, including Hezbollah-allied parliamentary speaker Nabih Berri, who has played a key role in mediating between the warring parties, Hochstein expressed confidence in the opportunity to halt the fighting. "I came back because we have a real opportunity to bring this conflict to an end," Hochstein said at a press conference after the meeting. "It is now within our grasp. As the window is now, I hope the coming days yield a resolute decision."

While diplomatic efforts for a ceasefire gain momentum in Lebanon, there is little optimism in the Gaza Strip. A dire food crisis worsened over the weekend when nearly 100 aid trucks were looted by armed men, further exacerbating shortages in an already devastated region.

The theft of these trucks sent food prices soaring, leaving many without access to essential supplies. SEE ALSO P9

200 CHILDREN DEAD

The UN said yesterday that over 200 children have been killed in Lebanon since Israel escalated attacks targeting Hezbollah in September.

"Despite more than 200 children killed in Lebanon in less than two months, a disconcerting pattern has emerged: their deaths are met with inertia from those able to stop this violence," James Elder, spokesman for the UN children's agency, Unicef, told reporters. **— S.N.R.**

DXB on way to break annual traffic record

Hub is pulling in more point-to-point traffic than 'ever before'

DUBAI
BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN
Chief Reporter

Dubai International (DXB) is on track for record-breaking annual traffic following an impressive performance in the first nine months of the year. By September end, DXB had welcomed 68.6m guests, a growth of 6.3 per cent compared to the same period in 2023.

The momentum from the first half of 2024 carried into Q3, during which DXB managed 23.7m guests. Over 111,300 flights were handled in Q3, propelling the total flight movements (all operations) for the first nine months to 327,700, up 6.4 per cent year-on-year.

More direct traffic

According to Dubai Airports' CEO, Paul Griffiths, the hub is pulling in more point-to-point traffic than 'ever before'. "What's particularly noteworthy is that DXB is seeing more direct traffic — a shift from the long-standing trend where transfer traffic dominated," he said. "This reflects Dubai's evolution into not just a premier tourist destination, but also a globally attractive place to live, work and do business, further underscored by the city's booming real estate market and its rising appeal as a destination for top talent."

India continued to lead as the top destination market, with 8.9 million guests over the nine months. Saudi Arabia followed with 5.6 million guests, marking a 15.2 per cent increase, while the UK accounted for 4.6 million guests, a 4.7 per cent growth year on year. SEE ALSO P5

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