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'An opportunity to learn about Qatari culture'

Ambassador of the European Union to Qatar Dr Cristian Tudor, affirmed that the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which will kick-off Sunday, is an opportunity for the world to learn about the culture and hospitality of the people of Qatar. He added in a video published on Twitter that the tournament, which is being held for the first time in an Arab country, will prove to the world that sport is a global language that brings people from different cultures together under the banner of football.

Infantino gets another term as FIFA president

FIFA President Gianni Infantino will serve another four-year term at the helm of world soccer's governing body after emerging as the only candidate for the next election in March. Infantino, who has received widespread backing from confederations and national associations, was the only name submitted by the Wednesday deadline, FIFA said yesterday.

Senegal's Mane ruled out of World Cup

Senegal star Sadio Mane has lost his race to be fit for the 2022 World Cup and has been withdrawn from their squad, the country's football federation announced vesterday. Mane was voted second in the Ballon d'Or last month behind Karim Benzema and the 30-year old Bavern Munich forward will be sorely missed by the African shin injury playing for Bayern earlier this month but was named in the World Cup squad in the hope he could regain fitness.

21 killed, many hurt in Gaza Strip fire

At least 21 people were killed and many others injured when a fire broke out in a building where residents attended a party in the Gaza Strip, health and civil emergency officials said yesterday. Footage circulated on social media and witnesses said the whole residential building caught fire in the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza Strip, sending flames and

Don't politicise sport: Macron

French President Emmanuel Macron called for non-politicisation of sports, considering that such behaviour is a "very bad idea."

He added it was "a very bad idea to politicise sport", while noting that Paris will host the Olympic Games

The French national team, defending its title, will participate in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which will start Sunday until Dec.18. France's national football team arrived in Doha Wednesday evening to participate in the World Cup. The French team will go through the last preparations in Doha before playing the first match with the Australian team on Nov. 22. The French president made the remarks to reporters upon his arrival in Bangkok to participate in the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC).

Meanwhile, French ambassador to Qatar Jean-Baptiste Faivre said that the FIFA World Cup Oatar 2022 will be a big and influential event in the region and worldwide, highlighting that it is the first of its kind in the Arab region and the Middle East. To Page 6

COMMUNITY

See Pages: 8 & 9

PM inaugurates Panda House; public viewing 10am to 6pm



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani inaugurated yesterday Panda House in Al Khor. HE Sheikh Khalid was briefed on all the facilities available to visitors, particularly FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 guests, the official Qatar News Agency reported. HE the Prime Minister was also briefed on sustainability and the technology used to provide a suitable environment to the pandas, in line with the Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS), in addition to the standards adopted to conserve energy and the environment. HE the Prime Minister was accompanied by a number of ministers, the Chinese ambassador to Qatar, and ranking officials from the Ministry of Municipality and the Public Works Authority (Ashghal). Meanwhile, the Ministry of Municipality has invited the public to visit Panda House and enjoy watching the two giant pandas - Suhail and Thuraya. Qatar became the first country in the Middle East to have giant pandas, and the 20th in the world, when Suhail and Thurava arrived in the country in October. They will now be available for public viewing after the conclusion of the quarantine period. Visiting hours at Panda House will be open from 10am to 6pm. Currently, tickets can be booked only through the Oun application. Ticket prices, according to the app, are QR50 for adults and QR25 for individuals under 14 years. The ticket is not refundable and is valid for one day only.



Two days left for World Cup kick-off

ust two days remain for the FIFA World Cup Oatar 2022 – the first to be held in the Middle East and Arab world - as the whole of Qatar eagerly awaits Sunday's kick-off when hosts take on Ecuador in the opening game at Al Bayt Stadium.

Heavyweights landed for the mega event, with Germany, Argentina and Poland being the latest teams to touch down in Qatar yesterday.

With today and tomorrow being a weekend, people from all walks of life in Qatar are stepping out to check all the arrangements for the football carnival. Fans from all around the world too have started pouring in to Qatar as the country braces up to host the most compact and unique World Cup ever.

Argentina captain Lionel Messi was greeted with Indian drums as the diehard fans waited for the superstar's arrival. Members of the Argentina Fans in



Poland's Robert Lewandowski arrives in Doha for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Qatar club, who claim more than 5,000 members, brought drums decorated with "Leo" Messi's portrait to the team base at Qatar University.

Over the next two days the remaining teams will reach Oatar, with perennial favourites Brazil's arrival awaited with bated breath. Sport Page 1

Qatar World Cup will be best-ever: Ronaldo

Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo said that he is ready to represent his national team at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. Ronaldo said in remarks reported by the FIFA website that Qatar will host the best World Cup ever, thanks to the preparations that were announced and the compact nature of the competition as a result of the close distance between the stadiums. The five-time golden ball winner said that he is looking forward to a good World Cup with his national team that makes the Portuguese fans happy. He added that there are many factors that will help Portugal play at its best, particularly that the players are showing the desire to give their best. He said the Qatar tournament was unique in terms of being the first one that takes place in the winter and in a new region, stressing that competition will be strong between all the participating teams.

Overflow areas for passengers departing Doha begin operation



Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive HE Akbar al-Baker, FIFA President Gianni Infantino, HIA chief operating officer Badr Mohamed al-Meer and other dignitaries at the opening ceremony yesterday. PICTURE: Thajudheen

By Pratap John Business Edito

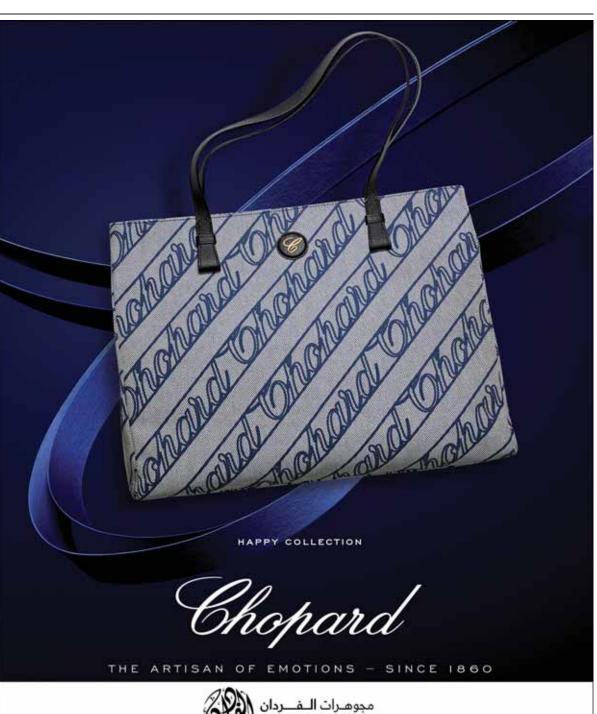
The 'Passenger Overflow Areas' at Hamad International Airport (HIA) and Doha International Airport (DIA), curated for all departing passengers, commenced operations yesterday.

Both the facilities, the first of their kind in the world, will be available to departing passengers round-the clock until December 31. Oatar Airways Group Chief Executive HE Akbar al-Baker told a media event yesterday.

While the Passenger Overflow Area at HIA has the capacity to accommodate 24,000 passengers a day, that at DIA will be able to handle 12,000 de-

parting passengers a day. Set to offer fans "extended memorable experiences and seamless connectivity" throughout both airports, the passenger overflow areas will only be accessible for passengers arriving at HIA and DIA more than four hours and up to eight hours prior to their scheduled departure flight time - regardless of the airlines in which passengers are flying with.

Addressing the media, HIA chief operating officer Badr Mohamed al-Meer said: "The commencement of the passenger overflow area at both HIA and DIA will offer our visitors a remarkable chance to experience the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 at dedicated premises. Curated for all departing passengers, the overflow area is part of MATAR's initial airport operations plan set to improve overall flow at both airports and accommodate thousands of visitors at any given time throughout the tournament." To Page 6





OATAR

Transport minister reviews preparations of air navigation facilities to host World Cup



HE the Minister of Transport Jassim Seif Ahmed al-Sulaiti toured air navigation facilities and inspected Qatar Civil Aviation Authority's preparations for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 yesterday. The minister inspected work at Hamad International Airport's Control Towera facility highly equipped with advanced air navigation technologies that keep pace with universal standards. HIA is poised for excellent services during the tournament as aircraft movement is expected to exceed 1,400 a day. He also inspected work at Qatar Air Traffic Control Centre, which is considered the most advanced in the Middle East. Its virtual tower is second-to-none in the region equipped with sophisticated technologies that allow air controllers to manage aircraft and vehicle ground movement and monitor it remotely. The centre also features a technologically equipped 360-degree 3D simulator room, all the facilities necessary for operational services, a search and rescue service, aeronautical information service and a communication, navigation & surveillance (CNS) office. HE al-Sulaiti's next stop was at the Firefighting and Rescue Department. One of its major functions is assessing aircraft ground movement around the clock in the approach, landing, ramp and parking areas of an aerodrome and develop preliminary actions to respond to any emergency (QNA)







event yesterday as HIA chief operating officer Badr Mohamed al-Meer looks on. PICTURE: Thajudheen

Qatar Airways, HIA and DIA ready to welcome World Cup visitors: al-Baker

By Pratap John Business Editor

atar Airways and the country's two airports Hamad International and Dona International — are all ready to welcome the more than a million visitors over the next one month to watch the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Group Chief Executive HE Akbar al-Baker said vesterday.

Addressing a media event at the 'Passenger Overflow Area' at HIA last night, al-Baker said the facility is the first one of its kind for the biggest football event in the world.

The passenger overflow areas at both HIA and DIA will be operating for 24 hours a day, seven days a week (until December 31) - and will include a variety of food and beverage options, retail stores, gaming areas, football pitches for children, quiet areas, luggage storage, a lost and found desk, flight information screen, a free WI-FI activation area and

The passenger overflow area does not include check-in service desks, so travellers can either check-in online while at The passenger overflow areas at both HIA and DIA will be operating for 24 hours a day, seven days a week (until December 31)

the premises or visit the checkin halls at HIA or DIA. The passenger overflow area at DIA will be able to welcome up to 12,000 departing passengers per day. On the other hand, HIA has the capacity to accommodate 24,000 passengers a day.

"All our airports will be crowded over the next month because of the millions of visitors and VIPs who will be arriving in Doha to watch the World Cup. Next month, our airports will get busier as we are expecting many fans from countries that qualify for the Round of 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals and

final," al-Baker said. "The passenger overflow areas will allow fans to experience the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 until the very end of their journey in Qatar. It will allow travellers to utilise their waiting time prior to their flights by enioying exciting activities, which includes shopping, resting and watching football matches," he

Qatar participates in meeting of **GCC** ministers of transport

Oatar has participated in the meeting of the Committee of the GCC Ministers of Transport with a delegation chaired by HE the Minister of Transport Jassim Seif Ahmed al-Sulaiti. The meeting was held via videoconferencing. The participants reviewed the latest updates regarding the GCC Railways Authority, its organisational structure and work during the coming year. They also discussed progress on the GCC railway project and the set date to carry out and operate the project. as well as several topics relative to the land transportation strategy of the GCC, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). and other related topics. (QNA)

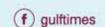


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Generation Amazing officially announced a foundation

By Joseph Varghese Staff Reporter

The Generation Amazing (GA) will be a foundation and continue to unlock human potential, announced HE Hassan al-Thawadi, Secretary-General of Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC), at the opening ceremony of the Fourth Annual Youth Festival 2022 of GA yesterday.

"Generation Amazing is now officially a foundation that will continue to empower and unlock human potential and will cement its role as a centre for youth excellence and leadership around the world for many years to come," he explained.

The inaugural ceremony of Festival 2022 was attended by HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani. Vice-Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation; HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad al-Thani: Gianni Infantino. president, FIFA, and a number of other dignitaries. "We have



Gianni Infantino

reached 1mn young people across the world since the inception of Generation Amazing, a promise and key goal we made during our bid. And as we look to the future as a foundation, we pledge to expand this reach and number even further. This time last year, Generation Amazing was proud to support the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to host the first match for the Afghan women's team since their evacuation from Kabul delivering a coach, a coaching certification programme and providing a safe space for them



Some of the youth ambassadors at the opening ceremony of the Fourth Annual Youth Festival 2022 of GA. PICTURES: Shaji

to thrive. That is the essence of Generation Amazing," al-Thawai explained.

"Now, in 31 days, when we host the final match at Lusail Stadium and when the last ball is kicked and the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 champion is crowned, that will be the final day of World Cup 2022. It will serve as a launch pad for Generation Amazing legacy. Your inspiring stories will continue to be written over the coming years and decades," continued, the SC official.

The youth festival is the firstever sport for development and cultural exchange programme of



A performance by the famous Ghetto Kids dance group at the opening ceremony.

its kind to take place ahead of a FIFA World Cup. More than 300 students selected from local and international schools to represent 32 countries, have travelled to Qatar to take part in a weeklong festival comprising of football for development, workshops and activities.

Speaking on the occasion, Infantino said that GA is not just programme but an amazing one. "Generation Amazing is exactly the kind of projects we want to see all over the world to be taken from Qatar. You are all an amazing generation, everyone of you from all over the world, from the 32 participating countries, as well as from other countries. You have already been part of the Generation Amazing programme from Brazil to Haiti to Lebanon to India to Philippines among others. There are many more countries, of course to come and to follow, to combine football, education, passion, future and



HE Hassan al-Thawadi

hope," he noted. Syrian American pianist and composer Malek Jandali delivered the keynote address at the event and famous British footballer David Beckham gave a video message. Several of the youth ambassadors of the GA programme presented their experiences that enabled them to be better individuals and help the communities in their respective countries. The programme also saw several performances by participating students.

Carrefour Friday's 'unbeatable deals' announced

arrefour Qatar has announced that its shopping extravaganza, Carrefour Friday, will run until November 29. The campaign underlines Carrefour Qatar's commitment to delivering exceptional value through unrivalled deals, a statement said yesterday.

"For the upcoming holiday season, Carrefour Friday customers will have the opportunity to purchase a range of qual-

success of these events. (QNA)

Sudan confirms

FIFA World Cup

support, assistance

for Qatar in hosting

The Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and on behalf of the

government of Sudan, underlined its support and assistance for

Qatar in hosting FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, pointing out that

such a major global sporting event is organised for the first time in the

Arab region. In a statement, the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

lauded the level of preparations, arrangements and distinguished ef-

In addition, the statement condemned the malicious smear and

cating that Qatar's hosting of this vital global event is a privilege for

the host nation and all Arab countries, affirming that the government

of Sudan is fully ready to support Qatar in all fields required for the

igns that target Qatar's hosting of this event, indi

forts made by Qatar to have a successful football World Cup.

ity items at discounted prices through exceptional promotions.

"These include further discounts, weekly super sales across different brands, as well as across a wide array of categories including groceries, electronics, home appliances and health/beauty products. "Carrefour Friday offers will be available both online www.carrefourqatar.com, and through the MAF Carrefour Qatar App, as well as across all

its stores in Qatar. "Carrefour is keen on creating seamless shopping experiences for its customers through exceptional services such as Free Delivery, Home Delivery and 60 Minutes Delivery and convenient payment options with credit and debit cards and Cash on Delivery. "Shoppers can maximise savings and receive up to 10% My Club points when they shop online in selected categories," the statement added.

Qatar welcomes extension of grain exports agreement through Black Sea

Qatar has welcomed the extension of the grain export agreement through the Black Sea for 120 additional days, hoping that such an extension would help avoid food crisis and reduce the grain prices globally. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the full appreciation of Oatar for the efforts of the United Nations and Turkey in extending the agreement. which facilitates the unfettered food without hurdles and contributes to bolstering and ensuring global food security.

QT offers over 9,500 rooms for World Cup

By Joey Aguilar

atar Tourism (QT), in collaboration with booking platforms Expedia, Airand Booking.com, has issued licences to more than 3,500 properties under its Holiday Homes initiative, offering over 9,500 rooms for the FIFA World Cup 2022 visitors.

Launched in 2021, Holiday Homes aims to add more accommodation options and promotes a safe, as well as an enjoyable experience, for visitors. "We are looking forward to an amazing tournament, to an amazing experience for every visitor that is coming to Qatar," QT chief operating officer Berthold Trenkel told

a media roundtable vesterday. According to QT, sun and sea merous offerings and familyfriendly beach club experiences such as all-day dining, purposebuilt fan zone, culinary grab & go services and live entertainment, among others, at three newlyopened beaches at West Bay: B12 Beach Club, Doha Sands and West Bay Beach.

In addition, QT's Service Excellence focused segment witnessed the revamping of its call centre, setting up more than 60 information centres and over 10 virtual concierges, and the



QT chief operating officer Berthold Trenkel at the media roundtable yesterday. PICTURES: Thajudheen

training of thousands of frontline service professionals under its Oatar Host programme. "I'm pleased to say that leading up to the major event... we got 550nced tour country. We have the right level of language expertise. We needed to make sure that we have plenty of German-speaking, Italianspeaking tour guides, and so on," Denisa Spinkova from the Tourism Marketing and Promotion

Sector said. OT also partnered with Vodafone for an SMS campaign to welcome visitors, encouraging them to use of the mobile app and get information about Oatar's curated experiences and events. The app is live in eight

languages. Visitqatar.com features "Shaheen" - a visitor chatbot that allows real-time conversation with a customer service agent on the ground.

we have managed to cover all main visitor touch points. Anyone who is starting to plan their travels to those who actually arrive in the country and until the moment they leave, we have them covered with information and inspiration and everything they need to know," Iris Wagner from the Tourism Marketing and Promotion Sector said. Oatar Tourism added that around 500,000 copies of Qatar Now guidebook and 1mn copies of Qatar Map (pocket fold), featur-



Iris Wagner



Denisa Spinkova

ing key tourism sites and event information during the tournament, will be printed and distributed at key locations. Digital versions can be viewed through Qatar Airways, digital kiosks, and Visit Qatar app.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to ride 40 newly renovated Dhow boats, supported by new pontoons built by QT's partner at Ashghal.

Caretaker PM of Lebanon meets Qatar's envoy



Caretaker Prime Minister of Lebanon Najib Mikati met ambassador of Qatar to Lebanon Ibrahim bin Abdulaziz al-Sahlawi. During the meeting, they discussed the bilateral co-operation. (QNA)

FIFA players partake in challenge to encourage children to exercise

IFA and the World Health Organization (WHO) in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Qatar and the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC) launched the #BringTheMoves challenge, encouraging players at the FIFA World Cup 2022 to meet the celebration challenges presented to them on social media by fans across the globe and encourage youngsters to #BeActive.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said on this event: "We know the negative impact on children's health a lack of exercise can have. and football can use the significant platform of this FIFA World Cup to spread that message in this exciting and engaging way.

"This challenge not only unites

children with their heroes but utilises the most digital-ever World Cup to send the message that we all need to be active and drives awareness also for parents that children need 60 minutes of physical exercise a day. At the moment, that is not the case for 80% of adolescents around the world," he added.

One former player who celebrated hundreds of goals in an illustrious career is former Cote dIvoire striker Didier Drogba. who is now a WHO Goodwill Ambassador. "Being active provides many benefits to everyone, especially for children while they are growing and developing physically, mentally and socially," said Drogba. "Being active is good for your body and your mind - mental and physical health."

Goalkeeper Alisson Becker, who is also a WHO Goodwill Ambassador and will be coming to Qatar with Brazil, knows the importance of being in peak condition. He wants to use the focus on the FIFA World Cup to encourage youngsters to #BringTheMoves and get more active.

"I support the Bring the Moves challenge because I really believe kids have to be active," said the Liverpool goalkeeper. "They need to be active for the good of their future as they are growing up. I can see that we, football players, can be an inspiration for them as well. So, if we can have fun with them and make them move their bodies a little bit, were going to be happy." (QNA)



The Qatari embassy in France organised an artistic workshop to mark the International Day of Islamic Art within the framework of the cultural co-operation between the Arab World Institute in Paris and the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha.

The workshop was attended by ambassador of Qatar to

France Sheikh Ali bin Jassim al-Thani and President of Arab World Institute Jack Lang. The exhibition - 'A treasure of gold.. The dinar is in all countries' was organised by the Arab World Institute.

Students of a Parisian school participated in the exhibition, and were shown a unique golden coin collection, which indicates the originality of coinage in the Arab and Islamic worlds, and the aspects it reflects in Islamic art, with its aesthetics,

elegance, and the high craftsmanship of artists. During their tour in the exhibition, the students got familiarised with the steps of coinage and forms of artistic expression, both ancient and contemporary, in the field of Islamic art and human civilisation. In his remark on this occasion, Sheikh Ali bin Jassim al-Thani underlined the keenness of Qatar to mark this international day to promote the cultural diversity and equality among all cultures in

pursuit of finding an exit for the Islamic art from the borders of the countries in which it was originated to be a bridge of communication between the peoples and civilisations.

In addition, he underscored the constant co-operation between the Oatari and French cultural institutions which embody the richness and diversity of the relations between the two countries and contribute to deepening them in a wide range

QATAR

Qatar Airways dedicates song to fans

Qatar Airways FIFA World Cup anthem recorded by internationally acclaimed singer Cheb Khaled and superstar DJ Rodge, called C.H.A.M.P.I.O.N.S., has been released on the airline's official YouTube chan-

It will be played onboard flights arriving in Qatar.

The uplifting lyrics are in English, French and Arabic, and its catchy melody reflects the passion of all fans uniting across the globe in this shared experience, a press statement notes.

The release coincides with the opening of complimentary pre-departure waiting areas for all passengers flying through Hamad International Airport (HIA) and Doha International Airport (DIA) until December 31.

Named Passenger Overflow Areas (POAs), each has been built to provide fans with dedicated facilities, to complete their FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

At both POAs, passengers can safely stow baggage, enjoy a taste of the best international cuisine, or relax in com-



C.H.A.M.P.I.O.N.S performed live at one of the POAs for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 football fans.

fort and style while soaking up a football themed atmosphere.

In addition, the larger of the two overflow areas, at the HIA, includes a virtual reality gaming zone - a world

There are also soft play areas for children and huge screens to show football highlights.

Oatar Airways is all about offering global passengers the best experiences the industry has to offer," said Oatar Airways Group Chief Executive HE Akbar al-Baker. "Passenger Overflow Areas will accommodate thousands of fans at any given time at our world class airports."

"We're dedicating the song, C.H.A.M.P.I.O.N.S., to those fans and to people everywhere, and we think it captures the excitement that the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 represents to this country and region," he said.

Fans travelling to the world's greatest football show can find more information about the journey and the specially themed services on offer by reading the Oatar Airways travel guide: https://www.qatarairways.com/en/ FIFA-world-cup/travel-guide.html



Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive HE Akbar al-Baker with FIFA President Gianni Infantino.



FIFA+ and Hisense to engage World Cup fans

FIFA World Cup Daily, by Hisense brings celebrities, creators, influencers and legends together to recap the day's play

☐ IFA+ has announced the launch of FIFA World Cup Daily, by Hisense, produced every day from the FIFA Fan Festival in Doha's Al Bidda Park, bringing celebrities, creators, influencers and legends together to recap the day's play.

To celebrate the FIFA World Cup's global appeal, the show will take a groundbreaking global and local approach to programming, supplementing the matches and reports with original content from 32 creators, one from each competing country, a press statement notes.

The show will be helmed by a team of experienced broadcasters led by Caroline De Moraes (Eurosport and BBC), Michael "Timbsy" Timbs (COPA90), and Rachel Stringer, former presenter for EA Sports FIFA Global Series.

With each episode running 25 minutes, the show will also make ensive archive, inginighting some and unforgettable moments from past tournaments; feature on-set live and pre-recorded challenges that will engage even casual football watchers; and give viewers an insider's view of the FIFA Fan Park in Doha's Al Bidda Park.

FIFA director of Strategy, Digital and FIFA+, Charlotte Burr, said: "FIFA+ is all about creating new experiences for fans, and the FIFA World Cup Daily, by Hisense will certainly provide that."

"With it being broadcast directly from the FIFA Fan Festival in Doha, and combining local content with global analysis, it'll create a full fan-view of the tournament while engaging and entertaining everyone watching at home," she said. "It's an exciting step change as we engage with our commercial affiliates on original content."

The show is presented by Hisense, an Official Sponsor of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, and continues the brand's long-term relation-

 ${}^{\prime\prime}$ We at Hisense are huge football fans, and we know two things are true," said Alex Zhu, vice-president of Hisense Group and president

"First, football fans can't get enough of the FIFA World Cup, which is why we're delighted to bring our consumers the best, most comprehensive, and easiest access to FIFA World Cup programming," he said.

"And second, football fans want content that feels unique to them, to their countries, to their teams, to their culture," Zhu added. "Having creators from all over the world help us capture these magical moments will help Hisense deliver its viewers the ultimate FIFA World Cup experience."

CMC chairman appreciates all efforts towards making World Cup a success

Central Municipal Council (CMC) chairman Mohamed bin Hamoud al-Shafi has highly appreciated the country's achievements in completing all preparations ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 He further appreciated the efforts by the various entities and authorities with the private sector to show the country at its best to produce the best tournament in the history of the FIFA World Cup. Al-Shafi said he expects this edition to be exceptional in all positive respects, and that he considers this as a historic achievement that has also helped develop the country's public facilities, services and infrastructure according the highest global standards. He expressed his belief that the country is fully ready to receive huge numbers of fans and visitors from around the world.

QU-YSC launches 3rd NSPP

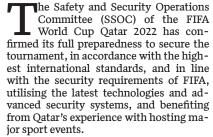
The Qatar University Centre for Young Scientists (QU-YSC) has announced the launch of the 3rd cycle of the National Science Promotion Programme (NSPP) 2022 in collaboration with the Office of the Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies (VPRGS). The programme aligns with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV 2030) and intends to cultivate and consolidate the researcher's identity among the youths of Oatar.

The NSPP is launched primarily for high school students, to help them refine their research skills, and familiarise them with the significance and methodology of scientific research.

The call for applications for participation in the 3rd cycle of the NSPP will commence in December.

The programme calls for research proposals from various scientific colleges (i.e., the colleges and research centres at Qatar University). Each research team consists of one research mentor from QU, a research assistant from QU-YSC, and two high school students. - QNA

SSOC all set to ensure security at Qatar 2022



This came in a report issued by the SSOC in which it shed light on the most important security preparations that have been completed, and the role of the security agencies that have started assuming their duties.

All the security authorities and the SSOC work in co-ordination and co-operation, the report said, with the aim of providing all means of security and maintaining the safety of the fans, players and sions participating in the tournament.

The SSOC further affirmed that it will spare no effort to secure the World Cup, stating that the foreseen success of the tournament would be a continuation of the Qatar's successive successes in hosting major sporting events and in the successful early preparations for the champi-

The SSOC also affirmed its keenness to efficiently implement plans to effectively and positively manage and respond to any incident related to the tournament, noting that these efforts stem from the Ministry







in accordance with the highest international standards.

of Interior (MoI)'s strategy (2018-2022) to securing Qatar 2022.

The tournament security strategy aims to achieve comprehensive security relying on local, regional and international partnerships as well as co-ordination between the concerned authorities in the country, with an emphasis on preventative security, exchange of information in law enassessment and

The strategy further aims to highlight the role of the media in delivering messages on various platforms, including on social networks.

The security plans take into consideration the nature of sports competition and the fans' entertainment.

The SSOC said the tasks of the security units cover securing the teams, fans, venues, means of transportation, and maintaining cyber security and safeguarding information infrastructure and communication systems.

The committee stressed that all security units will be in their allocated positions before the kickoff of the first matches of the tournament, whether on the roads leading to stadiums, at the gates or adjacent areas, or within the venues to ensure safety, security, and crowd control.

The SSOC indicated that the fans' entry

gates will be opened three hours before any called on fans not to be late t avoid crowding and to ensure their comfort in the smooth access to their seats. The committee said that security personnel will handle the security and verifi-

cation of security passes and match tick-The SSOC will also use electronic

gates and inspection devices for bags and banned materials in stadiums.

The committee affirms its confidence in fans' co-operation with the security personnel, by adhering to the security measures and their co-operation during the exit and entry to the stadium.

The SSOC pointed out that there are assistance teams of private security and volunteers who will provide required guidance to help fans whenever needed.

The committee reiterated that it would utilise the best technological means to implement its security operations, reflecting the advanced level and expertise that Oatar has obtained to organise mega sports

The SSOC stressed that Qatar's hosting of this global football event represents an accumulation of expertise for the security sectors involved in securing mega sports events, which include the use of advanced technological systems to, such as drones and robots, secure sports facilities.

The committee has been keen to employ security technology in sports security, learning from the experiences of leading countries in this field, as well as through partnerships with international institutions and organisations led by Interpol, in addition to FIFA.

Zeeenah beautifies Qatar via community participation

QNA

The Zeeenah initiative stands out as a promoter of community participation in organising an exceptional edition of the World Cup that will remain memorable in the minds of everyone, based on a vision that brings together all members and institutions of the community, and a belief in their role and participation in celebrating Qatar and its hosting of the FIFA World Cup 2022,

The initiative that works to beautify and decorate the facades of workplaces, schools, universities and real estate, in addition to squares, roads and other public services, was launched in June by the Public Works Authority (Ashghal) in cooperation with the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC), the Ministry of Municipality, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Culture, Qatar Museums (QM), and the Central Municipal Council (CMC).

Zeeenah seeks to highlight the festive manifestations in various parts of the country in preparation for hosting the World Cup and encourage govern-



ment and private entities, municipalities and community members to express their celebration, in addition to marketing the big event, in line with Qatar's efforts to provide the best festive image to welcome

The initiative contributes to highlighting and raising Oatar's image before visitors, which is the responsibility of various government institutions, citizens and

The initiative is comprised of two main axes: the first is the participation of all individuals, citizens and residents, to decorate their facilities or residential units, and the second is a competition for three categories in the country to decorate its facilities in a way that reflects the sport-

Participants in the initiative will be able

to apply in different categories, including government and private entities, schools, universities, kindergartens, and municipalities, while the winners of the first three places for schools and kindergartens for each of the following age groups (kindergarten, primary, preparatory, and secondary) will receive financial prizes.

For citizens and residents, they can contribute by decorating their homes, with photos of their participation in this event to be displayed through dedicated platforms and electronic certificates, and their contributions documented as a legacy of this event.

For government, private entities and municipalities, they will be honoured with certificates and commemorative shields, and their contributions will be documented as a legacy of this event.

Initial ideas and contributions to the initiative started arriving in July and August.

The final image was received after implementation in October, and the implementation of the works completed, with the final image delivered, by the end of the

Entries by citizens and residents for participation were accepted until Thurs-

The organisers of the initiative set conditions for the decoration of the facades of buildings, fences, external areas and all facilities, through the implementation of artwork, drawings, cosmetic lighting and other decorative works, as the use the logos of the World Cup, or logos representing famous brands, is prohibited.

The jury, which will evaluate the contributions and participations in the initiative, includes members from each of the participating entities: Ashghal, the SC, the Ministry of Municipality, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Culture, the QM, and the CMC.

The suitability of the participating models will be assessed against the competition criteria, and the winners will be

Names of three winners of the 2nd edition of the Katara cartoon competition announced

Katara - The Cultural Village Foundation has announced the names of three winners of the 2nd Katara Prize for Cartoon Competition, out of 404 contestants who

submitted 1,005 entries. The competition was from October 5 to November 25, with

the theme being sports and football. First place winner was Evan David from the Czech Republic, with a prize of \$5,000.

The second place went to Amar Salem Dawoud from Iraq with a prize of \$4,000. The third place went to Khathar Hassan Habib from Egypt,

with a prize of \$3,000.

As part of Katara's activities accompanying the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, an exhibition of sports caricatures will be

It will include the most beautiful 50 submissions to the 2nd

Katara Prize for Cartoon Competition. The first edition of the competition was launched during the period from June 20 to August 15, 2020, and was themed on the experience of work and distance education during the height of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19)

It saw the participation of 506 contestants from 48 counties, including 17 Arab countries. - QNA



Qatari Diar unveils Al Nehem above **Lusail Boulevard**

7ith just two days to go for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 kickoff, Qatari Diar unveiled a 30m long sculpture by renowned artist Marco Balich as a tribute to Qatar's endangered marine spe-

The installation, Al Nehem, symbolises the country's commitment to the conservation and preservation of their natural environment, a press statement

Qatar's warm, clean water waters are home to one of the world's last colonies of whale sharks, part of the unique ecosystem of marine life which calls Oatar home

Suspended 20m above Lusail Plaza between the four Lusail Towers designed by Norman Foster's architectural firm Foster + Partners, the aluminium and steel whale shark sculpture is brought to life with lights and music with a bespoke composition by celebrated maestro Rob-

erto Cacciapaglia. Qatari Diar's flagship project, Lusail City, was launched in December 2005 and is now ready to welcome the 1.5mn visitors expected to visit the country during the FIFA World Cup Qatar

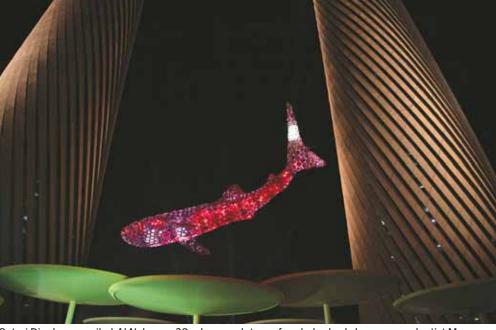
2022. In addition to the Lusail Boulevard, which offers visitors the highest standard experience of food, culture and shopping, Lusail is now also home to landmark hotels such as the new Waldorf Astoria, and Raffles and Fairmont hotels, occupied by FIFA during the World Cup.

As a centre for shopping and entertainment, Lusail also boasts the impressive Place Vendôme and Al Maha Island, featuring an outdoor funfair and numerous restaurants.

Looking ahead, the city will also be home to an aquapark on Qetaifan Island inspired by the oil and gas industry which is due to open in 2023.

"The whale shark is one of Qatar's most iconic creatures, and with visitors from all over the world expected to visit Lusail during the tournament, our hope is that the sculpture will help raise the profile of this endangered species so collectively we advocate to ensure their survival," said Oatari Diar chief executive Abdullah al-Attivah.

Qatar is home to one of the largest whale sharks' pods in the world, with its northern coastal waters providing the perfect



Qatari Diar has unveiled AI Nehem, a 30m long sculpture of a whale shark, by renowned artist Marco Balich, above Lusail Plaza.

habitat for the marine mammal to gather to feed close to the sur-

Qatar is one of the only places where visitors can swim with and experience these friendly and docile creatures up close, through a unique and responsible tour experience with Dis-

Tours can be booked online for

2023 onwards at https://www. discovergatar.ga/

Al Nehem whale shark installation in Lusail is another incredible addition to Qatar's landscape of outdoor art.

Other recent installations of public art in Oatar that raise awareness of the region's natural environment and the collective ambition to protect the planet

include Ahmed al-Bahrani's Dugong Family sculpture on the beach in Al Ruwais, Olafur Eliasson's Shadows Travelling on the Sea of the Day at Al Zubara, Mohamed al-Ateeq's Acacia Tree Seed at the Post Office, and Jeff Koons's monumental Dugong, which now sits proudly in Al Masrah Park overlooking the

New batch of Qatari real estate **brokers obtains** licence

new batch of licensed Qatari real estate brokers took the legal oath before the Real Estate Brokers Affairs Committee at the Ministry of Justice, including 34 mediators between individuals and real estate brokerage companies, which raises the number of brokers licensed and registered with the Real Estate Brokerage Department since the new law came into force

to 564. The licensing of this new batch comes in the context of the Ministry of Justices activation of Law No 22 of 2017 on regulating real estate brokerage, in the framework of the executive procedures for the provisions of the law and in pushing real estate brokerage work towards an established and organised legal environment.

The assistant undersecretary for Real Estate Registration and Documentation Affairs and chairperson of the Real Estate Brokers Affairs Committee, Saeed Abdullah al-Suwaidi, welcomed the new batch of licensed bro-

He stressed the ministry's keenness to advance the real estate brokerage profession, citing HE the Minister of Justice Masoud bin Mohamed al-Ameri's emphasis on the development of the legal profession in line with the objectives of the Qatar

National Vision 2030. Al-Suwaidi stressed the need to deal with licensed brokers to protect the rights of different parties, to avoid legal violations resulting from carrying out work

without a licence. The licensing of this batch came after the completion of the specific regulatory procedures under the provisions of the law, which include interviewing applicants for the profession's work, inspecting their offices, ensuring requirements for practising the profession, and participating in specialised training courses at the Legal and Ju-

dicial Studies Centre (CLJS). The Real Estate Brokerage Department receives and sorts the applications and organises the required training courses to ensure real estate brokers fulfil all the professional and legal requirements.

Discover Qatar launches kiosks to assist visitors



iscover Oatar, the destination management company of Qatar Airways, has launched kiosks in Soug Wagif and Katara – the Cultural Village, as well as concierge desks at Barwa Madinatna and 12 hotels throughout Doha.

Operating throughout the tournament, the kiosks and hotel concierge desks invite FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 fans to book their own curated tours and services, including stadium transfers, to all 64 matches.

Discover Qatar aims to connect the world by sharing Qatar's cultural experiences that make this tournament the global event that

The connection to sport and culture goes hand-in-hand, and these curated tours will highlight Qatar's deep connection to foot-

"Qatar is a country with a rich culture and history. I welcome those coming in for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 to use these

Left: Discover Qatar kiosk at Souq Waqif.

Below: A Discover Qatar tour.



services to their advantage and discover the beauty that Qatar has to offer," said Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive HE Akbar al-Baker. "Whether fans are here to connect with Qatar's diverse ecosystems or learn about our proud history, I guarantee that visitors will leave with a better sense of who we are and what our country offers in addition to the world's greatest sporting event."

Discover Qatar's tours include "Discover the Dunes and Inland Sea", "Discover Souq Waqif", "Discover Katara Village", "Discover Quest Theme Park", "Discover Desert Falls Water & Adventure Park", "Discover the Mangroves of Qatar", the popular "Discover Doha" city tour, and the following recently launched activities and services.

Packages for the recently opened Fuwairit Kite Beach (FKB) Resort, the new world-class attraction for kitesports northeast of Doha, are also available.

FKB offers kitesurfing lessons for different levels from beginner to advance kiters with resort access and equipment hire. Packages start from \$30.

For more information, visit https://www. discoverqatar.qa/play-all-day/overview Tiki Taka Beach Club by Ritz-Carlton

Sharq Village, provides guests with access to an infinity pool and to the beach, including live performances from some of the best international DIs. This all-inclusive package is priced at

information, visit https: www.discoverqatar.qa/discover-tiki-takabeach-club-by-the-ritz-carlton-sharqvillage/overview

With the Discover the Dunes and Bedouin tour, Discover Qatar offers a lifetime journey for FIFA World Cup guests to enjoy watching the matches while experiencing the traditional Qatari entertainment at the Bedouin Camp at Sealine. The tour package includes transporta-

at Msheireb metro station in an air-con-

ditioned coach, an off-road desert drive

through the dramatic sand dunes of Sealine,

tion from the designated pick-up point

Opening hours

Opening hours for the kiosk and hotel desks will be as follows:

Kiosk at Souq Waqif: 24 hours daily

Fisher Kiosk at Katara: 2.30pm-11.59pm ☞ Barwa Madinatna: 9am-7.30pm, Saturday

to Sunday; and 10am-8.30pm on Friday Doha's hotel concierge desks: 9am-7.30pm, Saturday to Sunday; and

10am-8.30pm on Friday

sand boarding, and a traditional henna tat-The night ends with a 5-star gourmet

Middle Eastern dinner before the transfer back to the drop-off location. Discover the Dunes and Bedouin tour

start from \$695 per person. For more information, visit https://www. discoverqatar.qa/discover-the-dunes-anda-bedouin-camp-world-cup-tour/over-

Discover Qatar is also operating Return Stadium Transfers for all FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 games, providing a convenient and direct way to get to and from the stadi-

Coaches operate from two designated pick-up points: Doha Port and Souq Waqif. Visitors can book with a special price of \$50 per return, and visitors who are looking

for a more luxurious experience can book a

private vehicle with drivers for 10 h With the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 now four days away, Qatar is expected to host 1.5mn tourists throughout the duration of

the tournament. The 32-team sporting event kicks-off on November 20 when host team Qatar takes

on Ecuador at Al Bayt Stadium. The month-long tournament concludes on December 18 at Lusail Stadium for the FIFA World Cup final.

For more information, guests can visit https://www.discoverqatar.qa/world-cuptours/ to take advantage of Discover Qatar latest tours and transport services.

Katara lines up grand events to celebrate World Cup

Traditional Dhow Festival begins tomorrow

large number of grand activities will kick off at Katara – the Cultural Village Foundation today in celebration of the Middle East and Arab world's first FIFA World Cup.

Katara, which is already specially lit up and decked up for the occasion, is now set to enthral visitors from all over the globe with various events and activities - covering the areas of art, dance, music, painting, folklore and the performing arts.

The foundation will be providing an exhaustive feast of activities to visitors with events representing diverse cultures," a press statement noted. "A total of 51 main events and 300 sub-events will see the participation of 22 countries."

These events will continue until December 18.

These are divided into five main branches: festivals, parties, exhibitions, live performances, and various events.

There will be a series of art exhibitions

opening today, including: O The Faces of the World (related to the

- first FIFA World Cup) O Solar Exhibition presented by the embassy of El Salvador
- O Qatari Plastic Art Exhibition O Katara Museum of Traditional Dhow O Katara International Ceramics Exhi-
- bition, O Football, and
- Fine Art and Collectibles.
- There will also be the opening of World Cup postage stamp exhibition, Oud history exhibition, Iranian cultural exhibition,

sports caricature exhibition, Arabic calligraphy activities, activities for children with special needs in co-operation with the Qatar Foundation for Social Work, Katara International Handicraft Market, a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation event, Al Dar Cultural Tent, and Sports Engineering and Qatar World Cup with the Qatar Society of Engineers, the statement

The festive programme includes a number of concerts, including that of Maher al-Zein, Hammoud al-Khidr, Thamer Ashour, Ahmed Saad, Aseel Hamim, DJ Aseel, Saud Jassim, Elissa, and Adam, as well as artistes from Argentina, Britain and other places.

The audience can enjoy a variety of shows, such as Balloons Wonderland, a musical show for sustainable development, good health for all (Education Above All), and the planetarium Pleiades shows, in addition to a traditional musical performance by Qatari musician Hamed al-

Various other activities of the Street Art Festival will also take place in and around the Cultural Village.

The opening day of Katara events ahead of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will also see 22 books about the World Cup being launched by Katara Publishing House. Further, visitors can enjoy various other

activities, including: O Puzzle games (by the Qatar Association of Certified Public Accountants)

O Activities of the Book Centre



O Activities of the Clock Club

O Activities of the Katara Centre for **Arabic Fiction**

O Activities of the Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Centre and Centre for Arabic Fiction, and

O Activities by Kahraman, Sadu Centre,

Fashion Pleiades, Rababah event, Qatar Guests events, architecture and mosques events, and induction panels. The Katara Amphitheatre will host a number of lectures by Mustafa Hosni,

Omar Suleiman, Noman Ali Khan and Ahmed al-Shugairi, Shattered Legend (six speakers), gifts event on Ibn al-Rayb Street, and other events by a number of centres and associations.

Katara will also have a number of competitions, such as the plastic art, photography, and Katara Golden Talent competi-

Meanwhile, the 12th edition of the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival will be inaugurated tomorrow, and will continue until December 18.

The festival at the Katara Beach and promenade will include 50 pavilions including exhibitions of marine heritage collectibles and others for crafts and

handicrafts. Nine countries - Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Iraq, Yemen, India, Turkiye and Tanzania - will be featuring at this year's dhow festival.

German fans to be here in big numbers: journalist

By Tawfik Lamari Staff Reporter

s many as 30,000 German fans are expected in Qatar ⊾for the World Cup, German journalist and sports analyst Carsten Voss told a live Qatar TV programme yesterday.

"Yes, certainly the role of the German fans is very important in supporting the German team and provide them with the morale (boost) to go far in this championship, and to achieve a great performance," he said.

Voss, who recounted his experience of working with one of the



Carsten Voss

German teams in Aspire Academy, described it as an amazing place in the world of sport.

He added that what he liked most about Oatar is the hospital-

Port Fish market inaugurated

The Port Fish market has been inaugurated at the Old Doha port, giving consumers a modern and sophisticated shopping experience for their daily needs of fresh fish at an easily accessible place within Doha.

The new market currently works from 4pm-10pm, but after the conclusion of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, its working hours will start from early morning.

Local Arabic daily Arrayah reported that the entity that undertook the construction of the place was keen to decorate the building to give it a 5-star look

Materials used are humidity-resistant and enduring while being easy to clean, bacteria-resistant and odour-resistant. Further, the market is equipped with an efficient cooling system

with adequate ventilation to divert odour from fish processing and cleaning works. It has ten outlets for selling fish distributed across the place.

QATAR

From Paris to Doha, fan duo ride 7,000km to support The Blues

By Shafeeq Alingal

Staff Reporter

iding 7,000km seemed to be a crazy idea for Mehdi Balamissa and Gabriel Martin when they set off on August 20 on their journey to Doha from Stade de France in Saint-Denis in Saint Denis, in the northern suburbs of Paris.

"The journey was never easy, and we faced many challenges as amateur cyclists," Martin told Gulf Times at Lusail Metro station premises, where the duo were given a reception while marking the culmination of the three-month long trip. "Yet we could reach Doha on time."

They departed Paris with 20kg of luggage each, and carrying the French flag, the French national team shirt, and some necessary supplies.

"The biggest challenge was that we had to cover 100-120km a day while keeping mentally and physically fit," Martin said.

The duo covered Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria, Turkiye, Cyprus, Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Their story goes back to a year ago, when they met in Italy while the French national team was competing in the European Nations League.

Driven by the passion and love for adventure, Martin and Balamissa made the initial plans from Italy. Balamissa said that they are proud to achieve their goal and will cheer for The Blues while exploring Qa-

tar on their bicycles. He said that their journey has been recorded through video and photos on Instagram to inspire others to follow their dreams and embark on new adventures.

Martin said that their journey was aimed at carrying the message of environmental protection and sustainability.

"We are planning big in Doha. We will ride on our bicycles while covering the tourism destinations. We will also support our national team in stadiums,"



The French cyclist duo Gabriel Martin and Mehdi Balamissa are all smiles at the reception in Lusail vesterday, accompanied by French ambassador Jean-Baptiste Faivre and members of Oatar Cycling Federation, PICTURE: Thaiudheen

chances in the World Cup.

The reception was attended by France's am-

he said, adding that the French team has great bassador to Qatar Jean-Baptiste Faivre. Members of the Qatar Cycling Federation accompanied the duo to the function.

Don't politicise sport: Macron

From Page 1

He told the Qatar News Agency (QNA) in Doha that his country supports its friend Qatar in making this event a success, highlighting France's full commitment to support Qatari organisations in all fields.

Faivre added that the two sides had an effective co-operation during the 2006 Asian Games, especially in the security, defence, culture, and social participation fields among oth-

The ambassador said that he is impressed with the infrastructure built for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and the eight stadiums that will host the matches.

He also said he is impressed with the huge leap in the state's transportation sector, particularly Doha Metro and Lusail Tram.

a wonderful display of French-Qatari co-operation in hosting

the World Cup. He cited Accor's operating of 25,000 hotel rooms to welcome guests during the competition

as another example. Faivre wished the Qatar team well during the competition, and expressed his hope that champi-

ons France can defend the title. He expects French fans and visitors to enjoy a wonderful stay in Qatar.

He noted that the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 is a big turning point for Qatar, adding that the authorities implemented many reforms in the field of labour protection, in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which established a regional office in Doha in 2017, and expressed his hope that these reforms will continue.

Overflow areas for passengers departing Doha begin operation

From Page 1

MATAR is Qatar Company for Airport Operation and Management.

On the expected number of visitors arriving at both the airports during the tournament, al-Meer commented: "We are expecting to receive approximately 44,000 arriving passengers a day and upwards of around 900 aircrafts move-

Departing passengers can access the overflow area at the HIA by taking a shuttle bus from the airport's metro station. Similarly, they can return to the HIA terminal using the shuttle service.

To access the overflow area at the DIA, passengers can either take a taxi (or Uber) to the facility or use public transportation to the "Al Matar Al Qadeem" metro sta-

Passengers from the DIA's passenger overflow area can walk to the departures terminal, he said.



Performers on stage at the opening ceremony of the 'Passenger Overflow Area' yesterday.

"I want to thank the teams that have worked so hard to deliver solutions that no previous tournaments had and invite

our passengers to experience what we had prepared for the departure journeys,"

FIFA president Gianni Infantino and other dignitaries were present at the opening ceremony that followed.

Travel-weary Saudi superfan awaits World Cup at 'home'

or the past two decades, criss-crossed the globe to cheer on the Saudi national football team, leading crowds in poetic chants that have made him a social media star.

This year's World Cup in neighbouring Qatar, by contrast, has the feel of a home game: Doha is a mere two-hour flight from his base in Jeddah, on the Red Sea coast.

The close proximity has Turkistani dreaming of a ferocious turnout by football-mad Saudis, the kind of support that he says could help the Green Falcons break out of the group stage for the first time in nearly three

"The Saudi national team is considered to be playing on its land, playing among its fans," the 37-year-old engineer told AFP. "Having the World Cup in Qatar is like having it in Saudi



Bader Turkistani seen in the Saudi Red Sea city of Jeddah recently.

Arabia. A simple border separates us ... we will be present in very large numbers and fill the stadiums with 50,000 to 60,000

On a recent afternoon, wearing a white-and-green scarf over his traditional white thobe, Turkistani gave a preview of some of the chants he hopes will propel the Green Falcons to

"This is the green of Saudi," he sang into an electronic megaphone, as a friend pounded a drum made of animal hide. "Oh Saudi, we have come?

The stands of the Jeddah stadium behind him were empty, but he is certain that the scene will be completely different once play gets underway.

"50,000 fans will repeat this chant behind me in Qatar, instead of only 5,000 fans in Russia," he said, adding: "This enthusiasm is transmitted to the players ... we hope that we, as fans, will bring out the players' best energy.

In total, Turkistani estimates he has watched more than 100 international matches played by the Green Falcons over the years. most of them documented in a bulging photo album he eagerly shows off to visitors.

tion for the prestigious Jeddahbased Saudi club Al-Ahly. Beyond its high cost, the hobby can be trying in other ways:

while on the road, Turkistani has struggled with language barriers, fiercely cold weather and unfamiliar foreign food.

"In Qatar, all these things will be very convenient for us," he

Saudi officials are putting on 240 weekly flights linking the kingdom to Qatar, up from six normally, and easing overland travel during the tournament, Tourism Minister Ahmed al-

Khateeb told AFP last month. At an event last week marking the World Cup trophy's stop in Saudi Arabia, İbrahim Alkassim, secretary-general of the national football association, told AFP that Saudi turnout would be high enough "to exceed half the

capacity of the stadium in each match".

Once Saudi fans are on Oatari soil, Turkistani will be ready for them, having stocked up on tic blowhorns, drums and balloons to distribute.

He sees it as an opportunity to showcase the unique elements of Saudi fan culture that he considers "a cultural heritage" and that have earned him nearly 280,000 followers on Twitter.

As for the Green Falcons' chances, Turkistani is well aware they face a tough fight in group play against the likes of Argentina, Mexico and Poland.

However, he is confident the squad will profit from what he describes as home-field advantage, and he expects the other competing Arab countries host Qatar, Tunisia and Morocco to benefit as well.

"The Saudi and Gulf fans will support the Arab teams," he said. "This makes me expect the Arab teams will surprise everyone and go far at this World Cup."

Telecoms sector helping to make **Qatar 2022** a success: minister

QNA

E the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohamed bin Ali al-Mannai has stated that since Qatar won the bid to host the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the country's telecommunications sector has developed plans and implemented national projects that contribute to supporting efforts to provide the best services to participants

In an interview with the Qatar News Agency, the minister added that Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), in partnership with telecommunications providers, has worked to develop and expand the infrastructure of communications networks to improve efficiency and absorptive capacity.

Furthermore, the networks of government and sports agencies, especially stadiums, have been strengthened with high-speed fibre optic networks, to provide the best services during the World Cup.

HE al-Mannai pointed out that the ministry has also developed the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA)'s ability to monitor and manage the frequency spectrum, by developing systems that identify and reduce any source of interference on frequencies and satellite broad-

As per the requirements of FIFA, an automatic detection system for unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) was built, to enable the authority to monitor drones to protect communications networks from unauthorised radio emissions.

As for the media coverage, the minister indicated that the CRA partnered with various entities to provide satellite communicaternational media institutions to broadcast events live all around the world.

HE al-Mannai noted that the ministry has also empowered cloud computing and emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT) and data science to develop applications and platforms aimed at improving the operational efficiency of vital sectors in the country.

The minister said that in order to provide the best services, the Qatar Government Contact Centre, operating under the MCIT, will handle all the fans inquiries regarding the "Hayya" platform and programme during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 that have to do with housing, transportation, tickets and other matters of interest to participants and fans.

Swiss envoy launches Club Suisse Doha



Club Suisse Doha is located at the Mina District, Doha Port.

By Joey Aguilar Staff Reporter

¬he Swiss embassy in Qatar, in cooperation with partners from the private sector, launched the Club Suisse Doha (CSD) initiative yesterday at the Doha Port's Mina District, in line with the Swiss National Football team's participation in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Swiss ambassador Edgar Doerig led the club's inauguration, highlighting the strong bilateral relations between Qatar and Switzerland, including trade and investments, politics and culture

The club, he said, serves as a platform to bring Switzerland closer to Qataris, residents, and international visitors, giving them the opportunity to discover the different aspects of Swiss

Aside from Swiss sculpture artist David Pflugi's unique works at the CSD, the envoy also cited a number of permanent and temporary installations in Doha by Swiss artists, including Urs Fischer's Teddy Bear at Hamad International Airport, Pflugi's work at 3-2-



Swiss ambassador Edgar Doerig interacting with sculpture artist David Pflugi at the CSD yesterday.

1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum, and Ugo Rondinone's Doha Mountains near 974 Stadium.

According to the embassy, the club is open to the public and serves as a meeting point for Swiss, residents and international guests where they can "experience Switzerland in its diversity and a rich cultural programme".

The event is also aimed at promoting sustainable tourism and share Switzerland's passion for sports and football. Some of the activities at the CSD

include watching the football matches live on TV in a unique Swiss atmosphere, savouring a variety of Swiss cuisines, live shows by Swiss and Qatari musicians, Art atelier showcasing Pflugi and other Swiss artists, organising chocolate workshops, welcoming special events in collaboration with Swiss companies, temporary exhibitions on

sustainability and human rights, and exchanging ideas and networking. Pflugi's The Victory Works at the CSD

features stunning objects described as "priceless artefacts" and "true monuments" - both in complexity and size which have been signed by football legends: Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldinho, Fernando Torres, Lionel Messi, Luka

Modrik, and Kylian Mbappe, among

World Cup a catalyst of green practices and tourism: Municipality Minister

By Shafeeq Alingal Staff Reporter

While reiterating that Qatar is fully prepared to host the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie said that the tournament will boost the country in several aspects.

The minister, while talking to belN Sports, said Oatar is ready to organise an exceptional version of the most important sports tournaments that's expected to be attended and followed by millions of spectators, including fans, visitors and viewers around the globe.

"The huge preparations and great achievements at the level of infrastructure were achieved with an ambitious vision and vigorous follow-up by the wise leadership, which set plans and harnessed all capabilities and support to reach this high readiness. Qatar loves challenges and has great experience in organising major tournaments over the past decades. And we look

forward to organising a distinguished version that will remain in the memory of the world, and we have great enthusiasm to raise the name of Qatar and make a positive impact on the world level. The World Cup projects are an economic, social and environmental legacy for the people of the country. The large real estate stock will be a mainstay for the advancement of the tourism sector," the minister said. He noted that the green spaces in Oatar had doubled during the past 12 years after

Qatar won the World Cup bid. "We have launched great initiatives and the number of public parks in the country doubled from 56 in 2010 to 148 with an increase of 250%. Furjan parks and new residential cities were built with green spaces. The green areas in Qatar have doubled from 2.5mn sq m in 2010 to 43mn sq m with a 16 fold increase in green spaces," he explained.

'We were keen to pay attention to the quality of the trees. We focused on local trees for their alignment with the geographical nature and their low consump-



HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie

tion of water. Also we invested a lot in environmental sustainability solutions in the establishment of these gardens. As much as 70% of our gardens are irrigated with treated water while using the latest



techniques. This helped save 80% of the water allocated to irrigate gardens and green spaces. We have been keen to provide advanced services and facilities in gardens and green spaces with suitable floors for children, advanced pedestrian and bicycle paths and fitness stations,' he said.

HE the Minister explained that parks

adding that the country owns a large real estate stock

"We have a large number of hotels that have recently opened and this will certainly be a mainstay for the tourism sector Today we are talking about food and beverage outlets and the hospitality sector, which in turn will enhance the services of the tourism sector. These will have a tourism, economic and developmental return that will bring benefits to the country in the future." the minister said.

HE al-Subaie also pointed out that Oatar has pledged that the tournament will be environment-friendly and carbon-neutral. noting that steps are taken to reduce carbon emission during the tournament. "We expect the tournament to generate 800 tonnes of waste per day. As much as 60% of this waste will be recycled and used again. The remaining 40% will be food residues and other non-recyclable things that will be converted into fertilisers. All of this comes within the framework of preserving natural resources and preserving the environment," he added.

Education City Stadium to offer accessible and inclusive viewing experience

ccessibility and inclusivity are at the core of the Education City Stadium, with the facility housing a number of features that will ensure all members of the community an unforgettable and immersive FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 experience.

And one these features is its sensory room, which has been designed to accommodate those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), as well as people with sensory access requirements.

Located in one of the venue's exclusive viewing skyboxes, Skybox 1, it is the result of a group effort between FIFA, Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, Qatar Foundation (QF), the Qatar Institute for Speech and Hearing and the Sensory Souk.

The room is for individuals who find the stadium environment too stimulating or overwhelming. It is designed to help regulate the surroundings for people with ASD, while still allowing them to enjoy the matches. It houses interactive games, fidget toys, and a limited number of noise cancelling headphones, as well as catering facilities.

Nihal al-Saleh, programme manager, Earthna Centre for a Sustainable Future, a member ing the stadium as accessible as possible. "At the end of the day,



EC Stadium provides accessibility.

it's about ensuring that promises are delivered, and Qatar is working on delivering the most accessible tournament.

"I think the most important

thing is the legacy of sports in Qatar - to be a country that is a champion of sports as well as a champion of human beings who are achieving their potential in any chosen field. Most people relate to sports as something that includes able bodied people, but it's much more than that. We have a responsibility to ensure the perception shifts to normalising sports across all abilities and for access to all functions within the sports industry to be for everyone," she

Other services provided within Education City Stadium include trained volunteers during game days who will help spectators with special needs wayfinding signage is in place to ensure the spectators journey is

simple and clear. The accessibility stands have tactile paving for the visually impaired, as well as high-visibility coloured strips that act as guides. The concession stands also feature lower counters for easier access, including for wheelchair users.

In the lead up to the tournament, changes were made based on accessibility audits, which took into account feedback from members of the inclusion community in Qatar. These audits helped ensure features such as toilets designed for inclusive wheelchair access, including motorised vehicles, were up to the required standard.

"It was extremely heartwarming to see how quickly several of these changes were implemented prior to the FIFA Arab Cup 2021. This shows the dedication of the organisations involved and how much of a priority accessibility is for the teams who have worked on this project," al-Saleh said.

Karwa to deploy 4,000 buses and 18,000 staff for World Cup transport needs

witnessed new elements such as the air-

conditioned walkway and other sustain-

able solutions including the use of solar

development of infrastructure not only for

a championship. We are building a legacy

tally, through World Cup projects," he said,

for the people of this country to benefit

economically, socially and environmen-

energy. "Qatar has witnessed a great

ith 4,000 buses and a well established transport network and team, Mowasalat (Karwa) is all set to serve Qatar's road transport needs during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

An official statement from Karwa noted that the team of around 18,000 employees from 90 different nationalities has joined to welcome millions of guests for the biggest sporting event in the world.

Mowasalat CEO Fahad al-Qahtani urged fans to avail of Qatar's highly developed and modern public transport system and make it "your preferred mode of travel".

"We started preparing for Qatar 2022 years ago, in line with the vision of the Ministry of Transport, to offer our customers a technologically advanced and emission-neutral public transport network. Qatar is the first host nation to connect the entire country and all the stadiums with one of the largest road transport networks - a first in the

"Qatar 2022 fans will experience a seamless and efficient road transport service. By implementing technical innovation at every stage, we are ensuring that we adapt to the fast-evolving global transportation sector while offering fans and visitors to Qatar safe and sustainable transportation options," al-Qahtani

Qatar's comprehensive road transport service provider is all geared up to serve football lovers with 4,000 buses and a lifting capacity of more than 700 passengers per day, providing scheduled daily public and tournament services for stadiums, fan zones, metro stations, airports and other major sites.

Over three months, the readi-



Fahad Al-Qahtani

ness of the entire road transport network for the 3,000 tournament buses was repeatedly tested on the ground by mirroring the highest ridership days during Qatar 2022. This entire operation, thus, constituted a mammoth and intricate operational integration of over 12,000 bus deployments, and involved 16,000 individual driver duties and 22,000 passengers.

The objective of these test drives was to stress test the road network with a bus volume comduring the World Cup.

The exercise also tested the connections with the major depots and operation hubs for Qatar 2022, the efficacy of the lastmile support network, as well as the management of the pedestrian zones.

With the deployment of such a massive workforce, and given the complexity of the entire operation, this was a first-of-its-kind

exercise in the country. In order to ensure maximum safety for passengers and drivers, Mowasalat (Karwa) organised the first-ever firefighting training exercises in Qatar for electric vehicles with lithium-ion batteries. The firefighting training exercises significantly enhanced internal capacity of the team to

master the latest disaster management techniques, specifically relating to possible adversities associated with electric vehicles.

In addition to several features to enhance safety and optimise operation process, a Bus Operation Center to monitor the routes, and a vehicle health tracker to ensure the buses are in good condition at all times have been deployed.

The company has also inducted a fleet of 900 electric buses in line with its vision of implementing a carbon-minimum network. A lot of the electric buses are maintained and charged at the Lusail depot, the world's largest electric bus charging station, and a Guinness Record holder, with 478 electric charging points.

In collaboration with Qatar Tourism (QT), Mowasalat (Karwa) trained the Karwa Taxi drivers and Doha Limousine chauffeurs, in over 30 training workshops, in global best transportation practices and familiarised them with important national landmarks and places of tourist interest to provide a world-class public transport experience.

In order to address customer queries and provide regular updates, the Mowasalat (Karwa) call centre will be operational roundthe-clock and provide quick as-

sistance to tourists and fans. For smooth operations, the call centre workforce has been increased to avoid any lapse in customer service.

Making commuting easier, each Karwa bus stop is equipped with digital route maps, which can be easily downloaded by scanning the QR code.

Visiting fans can get acquainted with the routes and destinations by simply downloading the Karwa bus application to use the journey planner.

Mowasalat (Karwa), keepng in line with its comm to social sustainability and the community, has special accessible vehicles for the differentlyabled. The fans can easily book accessible vehicles through the

Karwa Taxi application. For the benefit of the local and visiting fans, all the buses and taxis are equipped with highspeed Wi-Fi so that fans can stay connected to the world. A number of the tournament buses are equipped with ramps and specially equipped areas to fa-

cilitate wheelchairs. Both local and international fans will enjoy easy payment options on all taxis and limousines with Visa and Mastercard, and with local and international wallets such as Google and Ap-

DFI to present family-friendly and football-inspired films at Heenat Salma Farm

ilm lovers are in for a visual treat at the idyllic Heenat Salma Farm from November 24 to December 16, as the Doha Film Institute (DFI) brings a selection of inspiring works from around the world for the Doha Film Experience.

Against a backdrop of the natural beauty, audiences will enjoy classics, family dramas and football-inspired movies alongside a range of cuisine made from the farm's home-grown produce.

In a press statement, DFI CEO Fatma Hassan Alremaihi said: "The fantastic selection of movies specially curated for family friendly screenings will truly bring the world of film to Heenat Salma Farm as part of the Doha Film Experience. Guests will enjoy a cosy film experience under the stars, set against the backdrop of the farm's lush foliage bringing them closer to Qatar's natural surroundings.

"From compelling films from the Arab world to stories inspired by the spirit and passion for football, the programme will particularly delight visitors from across the world who will be celebrating the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 with us and provide for a truly unique cultural experience."

Among the selection of films to be screened at Heenat Salma Farm are the following: Theeb (Jordan, UK, Qatar, UAE/2014) by Naji Abu Nowar; the multiple award-winning film was also nominated for the Academy Awards in the Best Foreign Language Film, November 24 at 7pm.

Bekas (Sweden, Finland/2012), directed by Karzan Kader, November 25 at 7pm; The neorealist classic, Bicycle Thieves (Italy/1948) by Vittorio De Sica, November 26 at 7pm; Iranian director Majid Majidi's Children of Heaven (Iran/1997), December

Supported by the DFI, Freedom Fields (Libya, UK, Netherlands, US, Qatar, Lebanon, Canada/2018), directed by Naziha Arebi, December 2 at 7pm; a must-watch for family audiences, the live-action adaptation of Disney's animated classic, Beauty and the Beast (US/1991, directed by Bill Condon, De-

cember 3 at 7pm. The winner of the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize at the Berlin International Film Festival, Offside (Iran/2006) by Jafar Panahi, December 7



Freedom Fields Film Still



Theeb



at 7pm; The legendary Charlie Chaplin's Modern Times (US/1936), December 11 at 7pm; Nadia (France/2021) by Anissa Bonnefont, a powerful documentary that shares the incredible story of Nadia Nadim, December 12 at 7pm.

Wajib (Palestine, France, Germany, Colombia, Norway, Qatar, UAE/2017) by Annemarie Jacir, December 15 at 7pm; The inspiring film Captains of Zaatari (Egypt/2021) by Ali El Arabi, December 16 at 7pm.

Sidra Medicine's research to help establish National Diabetes Registry

Researches at Sidra Medicine may conducted comprehensive esearchers and clinicians at Sidra Medicine have studies related to the epidemiology, genetic landscape and causes of diabetes in Qatar.

The studies will pave the way for the implementation of present and future therapies including precision medicine solutions to address different forms of diabetes affecting children and young people.

One of the studies, published in The Journal of Diabetes Investigation and funded by the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) was the first comprehensive study related to the incidence and prevalence of diabetes mellitus in Qatar.

Prof Khalid Hussain, division chief of endocrinology at Sidra Medicine said: "The global burden of diabetes mellitus is rapidly increasing, with an estimated average increase of 3% to 4% in prevalence every year. This study is the first of its kind in the Mena region to systematically



Dr Ammira Akil.

recruit every child with diabetes mellitus in Qatar, from birth to 18 years, and accurately classify the underlying biochemical and genetic causes in each child. It found a high incidence and prevalence of both type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes in children in Qatar; with Qatar having the fourth highest incidence of type 1 diabetes mellitus in children after Finland, Sweden, Saudi Arabia."

"The data collected from the study will form the basis for es-



Prof Khalid Hussain.

tablishing the national diabetes registry for children in Qatar. It will provide a platform for undertaking further studies that will aim at understanding why diabetes is so common. This signifies Sidra Medicine's commitment to enhancing present treatment as well as the development of precision medicine strategies and solutions to help children with all types of diabetes in Qa-

tar," continued, Prof Hussain. Another study in collaboration

with Qatar Genome Programme (QGP) and Qatar Biobank also funded by QNRF, aims to develop the best Polygenic Risk Score algorithm to predict and prevent type 2 diabetes complications in diabetic patients.

Dr Ammira al-Shabeeb Akil. principal investigator and the head of the diabetes prevention research team at Sidra Medicine said: "The clinical implications of the study will allow the early identification and follow-up of patients with type 2 diabetes who are at risk of developing complications.

"This will enable targeted intervention including primary prevention for such patients. Not only will this have a substantial impact on the management of type 2 diabetes patients, it will also have a significant impact on healthcare costs by not over-treating patients at low risk while preventing complications in those susceptible to developing costly complications such as kidney haemodialysis."

مرود المعاملة

PBD delegation from Qatar holds meeting at ICC

elegates from the Indian community in Qatar for the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 (PBD 2023), to be hosted by the government of India at Indore, Madhya Pradesh, from January 8 to January 10, recently came together at a meeting at the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) in Doha.

Indian ambassador Dr Deepak Mittal, who presided over the meeting, said the PBD is a unique opportunity for Pravasis (members of the Indian diaspora) from Qatar and all over the world to reconnect with their roots. Indian embassy first secretary (consular & community affairs) Xavier Dhanraj, Pravasi Bharatiya Samman winners Hassan Chougule and Dr Mohan Thomas and Indian Commu-

nity Benevolent Forum president Vinod Nair were present.

ICC president P N Baburajan said over 250 delegates from Qatar are expected to attend PBD 2023. The meeting was coordinated and conducted by ICC general secretary Krishna Kumar Bandhakavi, vice president Subramanya Hebbagelu, past general secretary Seenu Pillai and North Indians' Association

president Rajneesh Shastri.
January 9 commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915. To mark this day, the tradition of celebrating PBD started in 2003. The theme of the 17th PBD convention 2023 is: 'Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal! Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to inaugurate the event.



Cetaaq Professionals' Super Cup 2022 held

he 'Cetaaq Professionals' Super Cup 2022', a Sevens football tournament organised over two days recently among 15 professional colleges by the Qatar Chapter of the Alumni Association of College of Engineering, Thiruvanathapuram (Cetaaq), concluded with Al Ameen Engineering College winning the trophy and cash prize.

In the first-of-its-kind tournament, held to show solidarity with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the second and third places were won by TKM Engineering College, Kollam, and MES Engineering College, Kuttipuram, respectively.





Qatar Football Association (QFA) representative, Abdul Aziz Vallil, was the chief guest at the inaugural event.

Indian Sports Centre president Dr Mohan Thomas was the guest of honour. Community leader K M Varghese offered felicitations. Cetaaq chairman Thomas K G spoke. General secretary Fairs Ibrahim welcomed the gathering and tournament convener Nikhil

Dev proposed a vote of thanks.

In the closing ceremony, former FIFA referee C Sethumadhavan was the chief guest and Indian Business and Professionals Council president Jaffar Us Sadiq was the guest of honour. A band performance by the Argentina Fans Association members, variety competitions and fun events for families made the event a colourful carnival.

Malarwadi hosts FIFA World Cup quiz



Malarwadi Rayyan Zone hosted a FIFA World Cup quiz competition for children up to 13 years of age. Adil Mansoor (Rayyan Zone), Tamim Anas (Doha Zone) and Adam Naushad (Rayyan Zone) bagged the first, second and third positions respectively. Ihsan Ahmad (Wakrah Zone), Mohamed Swalih (Tumama Zone), Aseen Jafar, Muad Shihab (both Madina Khalifa Zone) and Mohamed Rihan (Rayyan Zone) were awarded incentive prizes. More than 120 children from five zones participated in the preliminary round and eight qualified for the final round.

Indian expat forum supports Team Qatar

Kasaragod District Committee participated in a grand event at **Lusail Boulevard** recently to show their support for Team Qatar in the FIFA World Cup Oatar 2022. Hundreds of people participated in the rally to the of Daf Mutt, a unique art form of



MESIS begins sports meet

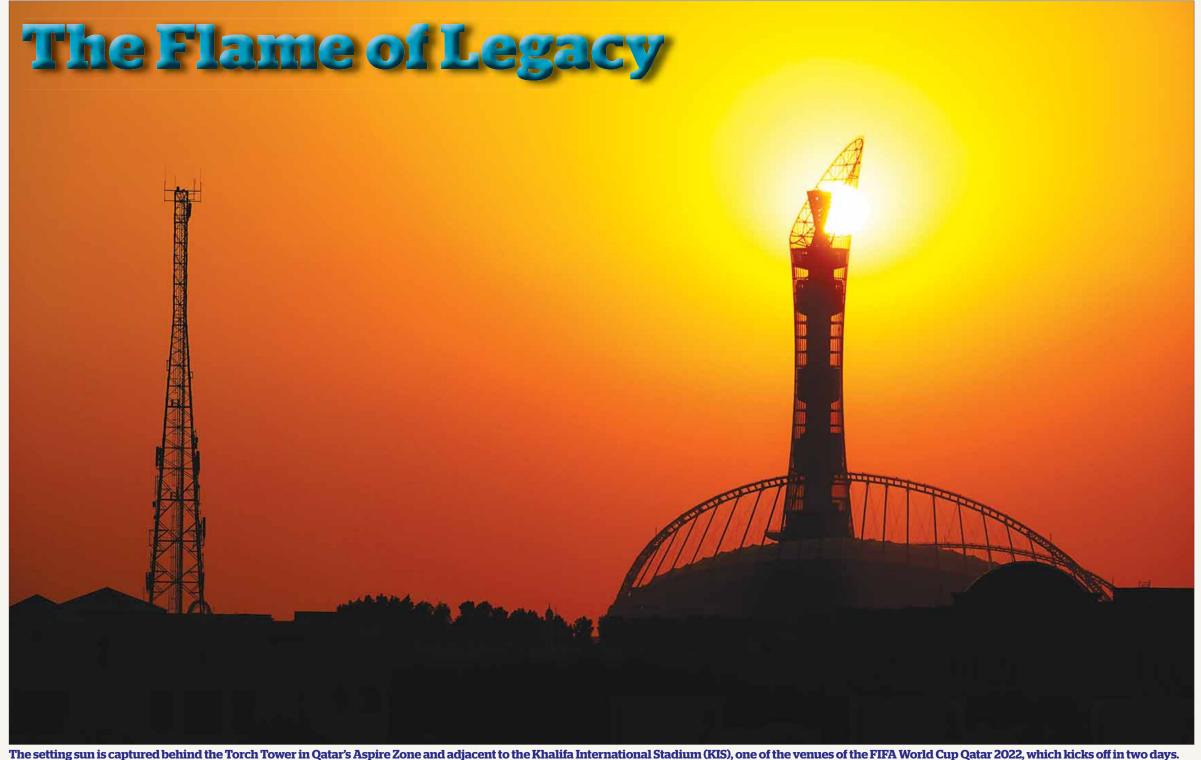
MES Indian School, Abu Hamour Branch, held an inter-house football championship in the first segment of the annual sports meet - Infinito 2022. In the junior category Sapphire won the trophy and Topaz in the senior category. Individual trophies were awarded to: Senior - Best player - Abdul Halim -(Topaz), best goalkeeper - Asim Naveed (Topaz); junior - best player - Mohamed Hashir (Sapphire), best goalkeeper -Johan Reji (Ruby). Basketball, badminton, table tennis and chess competitions will also be held as part of the sports meet. which will conclude with the athletics championship on January 28, 2023.





MES celebrates Children's Day

MES Indian School marked Children's Day on November 14, an occasion that commemorates the birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India who was also fondly remembered as 'Chacha Nehru' for his love for children. The events highlighted the importance of giving care, love, and affection to children. Section-wise special assemblies were conducted. School director (cultural, cocurricular activities) M C Mohamed was the chief guest. Principal Hameeda Kadar spoke. Children gave speeches. Special assemblies were followed by a march past led by the school Scouts. While some students dressed up as Chachaii others wore the traditional Qatari dress. Competitions such as collagemaking, drawing and painting, talking time, poster designing, fancy dress and essay writing were conducted.



Incidentally, the Torch Tower held aloft the flame of the Doha Asian Games 2006, which took place from December 1 to 15. PICTURE: Gulf Times news editor Bonnie James

PEF hosts seminar on current, future technologies in Qatar

akistan Engineers Forum (PEF) Qatar, in co-ordination with Cytellect Commuganised a seminar for engineers and technology professionals at the auditorium of TNG School Secondary Campus, Al Wakra. The theme was to discuss current and future technology trends in Qatar and the region in relevance to the FIFA World Cup 2022.

The seminar commenced with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an by Shaheer Bakali, cofounder of Cytellect. National anthems of Qatar and Pakistan were played. PEF member Fahad Ismail moderated the event. Ahmad Javaid, founder of Cytellect, explained it is a noncommercial, non-religious, and non-political knowledge-sharing community. The prime focus is on the CxOs to nurture fresh talent and train juniors to be able to contribute to the community to reduce the technology talent deficit

Imran Chowdhury, global head of Digital Privacy from Al Jazeera, presented the importance of preventive measures to protect sensitive information from privacy breaches. He elaborated on the principles and accountabilities for digital privacy management systems and elaborated on the key components of effective privacy measures such as consent management, data subject rights, and the lawful basis for processing Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

Dr Mohamed Ali Malik, head of Information Security Assurance from the Media Industry, presented the personality traits of a cyber leader. He emphasised the need for leaders to have a stronger understanding of business as compared to the underlying technology infrastructure in order to effectively protect the business's critical assets from cyber breaches. He felt cyber leaders should hold the mindset of cyber resilience and be an enabler to the business. He called for cyber leaders to improvise their competency level to be able to mitigate the risks of emerging technologies.

A discussion, moderated by Noor Hassan, co-



Riyaz Bakali

hury, Ishtiaque Hussain (CEO, UTI Cybersecurity, Cloud and IT), Javaid and Farhan Khan (vice president, Global Sales & Business Development). They highlighted how technology has evolved right from the industrial revolution era when the transition to new manufacturing processes in Great Britain, Continental Europe, and the US took place.

Significant technological developments such as steam power, mechanisation, integrated circuits, and electronics that took place up to the Information Age. The panellists informed that by 2025, as many as 100bn devices would be connected to the Internet -15 times more than the Earth's human population. Therefore, technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), 5G, Cloud Computing/ Security & Cybersecurity are to be foreseen to evolve rapidly in the

The panellists then touched upon how technology was an integral component in preparations for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The panellists also dwelt on the implementation of a semi-automated referee offside technology feature, involving 12 cameras installed on the



Ahmad Javaid

monitoring every player in real-time. Therefore, any foul would immediately be captured with the help of this technology in place.

They highlighted technologies such as cloud computing, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Internet of Things and drone technology and pointed out the skillset deficit being encountered in them. The emphasis was on upgrading one's profile from traditional roles such as a system specialist or a network engineer to the latest in-demand roles including threat intelligence specialist and AI implementer among others.

The panel discussion was concluded by Noor Hassan highlighting the final takeaways. Abdul Khalid, from the Pakistan embassy, appreciated the efforts of PEF and Cytellect and emphasised the need to have more efforts in grooming future leaders in the technology field.

PEF president Riyaz Bakali thanked the guest speakers and participants. He appreciated the efforts of the team to organise the seminar and the valuable insights that experts shared during the presentation and panel discussion. The event concluded with an award-giving cer-

football fields operating at 50 frames per second founder of Cytellect, had as panellists Chowd-

The 'soccer' story



NI1. Where does the word 'soccer' come from? NI2. Conceived by sports writer Gabriel Hanot, which award was first given to Stanley Matthews of England in 1956?

NI3. Name the only person to have played both World Cup Football and World Cup Cricket

NI4. Which former Dutch footballer started a sports underwear company named Under Jeans, after retiring? NI5. Yesterday marked the 153rd anniversary

of the Suez Canal, one of the most important

transit routes in history. As the Suez Canal neared completion in 1869, French sculptor Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi tried to convince Ferdinand de Lesseps and the Egyptian government to let him build a sculpture called "Egypt Bringing Light to Asia" at its Mediterranean entrance. Bartholdi envisioned a 90-foottall statue of a woman clothed in Egyptian peasant robes and holding a massive torch, which would also serve as a lighthouse to guide ships into the canal. The project never

materialised, but Bartholdi continued pitching

it until he finally unveiled a massive sculpture

years later. How do we know it? NI6. In 1961, he became the first American to travel into space, just 23 days after the historic flight of Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space. Less than 10 years later, he once again became the centre of attention when he lived every golfer's dream to strike golf balls from the moon's surface which travelled miles and miles. The world celebrated his 99th birth an-

niversary today. Name him. NI7. Mickey Mouse made his big-screen debut in Steamboat Willie on November 18, 1928. He was also the first cartoon character to ever speak. It was in the 1929 film The Karnival Kid. What were his first words?

NI8. Which was the first instance of night rac-

ing at Formula 1? NI9. This game is called 'Chutes and Lawyers' and one of the characters is Clarence Darrow a tiny figurine carrying a briefcase. The objective of the game is to slide down a chute and then work your way up through the appellate system. Which theoretical physicist and Nobel Prize winner is the inventor of the game? NI10. Below is the photograph of Passive Resisters Soccer Club team, taken a long time ago. Which world leader (circled) can be seen

NI1. The British invented the word 'soccer' in the 1890s - it's originally an abbreviation of the word "association", as in "assoc." For the most of the 20th century, the sport was known interchangeably as soccer and football. NI2. The Ballon d'Or ("Golden Ball"), an annual football award presented by French news magazine France Football. Between 2010 and 2015, an agreement was made with FIFA, and the award was temporarily merged with the FIFA World Player of the Year and known as the FIFA Ballon d'Or. The partnership ended in 2016, and the award reverted to the Ballon d'Or, while FIFA also reverted to its own separate annual award The Best FIFA Men's Player. NI3. Sir Vivian Richards. He played football for Antigua in 1974 World Cup qualifiers.



NI5. Officially called "Liberty Enlightening the World," the monument has since become better known as the 'Statue of Liberty'. Its original idea was for a lighthouse at the entrance to the Suez Canal

NI6. Alan Shepard. NI7. "Hot dogs!"

NI8. The 2008 Singapore Grand Prix, followed by the twilight Abu Dhabi GP a year later. NI9. Shelton Cooper from The Big Bang

Mahatma Gandhi. As the undisputed leader of non-violent resistance to the apartheid regime of the time, Gandhi helped establish three football clubs, with the same name, at the beginning of the last century, in Durban, Pretoria and Johannesburg.

Tribe NI.yays

Which character in a play by William Shakespeare is described as 'the milk of human kind-

Macbeth I Macbeth Act 1 Scene 5.

(David Ruiz, Tourist, Amsterdam)

Do you have some interesting bytes to share? And, does your vibe attract you to the 'Tribe NI.yays!' Every week one question from readers will be featured here. Please do send it to us at infotainment.factree@gmail.com. And, please do mention the school/college/company (or just home-sweet-home').

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Poland stray missile hit casts spotlight on Nato air defence gaps

Poland had started to bolster its air defences long before a stray missile landed just inside its border on Tuesday, but a robust shield for the skies along Nato's eastern flank is still a long way off after decades of neglect following the Cold War.

The missile that hit Poland appears to have been fired by Ukraine's air defences rather than a Russian strike, Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg said on Wednesday.

But while it may have been a technical error that can happen in any conflict, the incident underlines the urgent need for Nato to plug gaps in its defences because even mistakes like this could lead to a dangerous escalation.

"It was only a question of time for such an accident to happen," an air defence expert from a Nato country, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters. "It could also have been a stray Russian missile flying the wrong way, due to a technical or human error." While more advanced Western air defence missiles are designed

to destroy themselves if they miss their target, older Soviet missiles do not have such a mechanism, the military source said. "If they miss their target, they simply fly on until they have

burned up all fuel — and then plunge down," he said, adding that the older missiles also had a higher error rate. Ground-based air defence systems such as Raytheon's Patriot are

built to intercept incoming missiles. But after the Cold War, many Nato allies scaled down the number of air defence units to reflect the assessment that they would, from now on, only have to deal with a limited missile threat coming from

The implementation of new systems is slow and they could still take vears to become fully operational

countries such as Iran.

This perception changed drastically with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which sent Nato allies scrambling to increase stocks of ammunition and tackle air defence system shortfalls.

Germany had 36 Patriot units when it was Nato's frontline state during the Cold War and even then it

relied on support from Nato allies. Today, the German forces are down to 12 Patriot units, two of which are deployed to Slovakia. "It used to be a real belt of air defence systems, and this is what

people have in mind if the speak of protecting Nato's eastern flank," the military expert said. "But we are far away from such a scenario." Realising the need to plug the gap, more than a dozen Nato allies led by Germany in October kicked off an initiative to jointly procure air defence systems for several layers of threats, eyeing Israel's Arrow 3, Patriot and the German IRIS-T among other systems.

The initiative comes as Ukraine, under heavy Russian attacks, desperately needs more air defence units, potentially exacerbating existing shortfalls in Western nations that are handing Kyiv some of

Poland, which together with the three Baltic states builds Nato's new eastern frontier, has invested for years in bolstering its air defence capabilities which still partly rely on Soviet-era systems like the OSA and Kub air defence missiles.

"In the next decade, we are talking about Poland having a really state-of-the-art and very large air defence system," Marek Swierczynski, a defence analyst for Polish think tank Polityka

The implementation of these systems is slow, however, and they could still take years to become fully operational.

Poland has received additional support from Washington in recent months, but these systems, such as Patriot fire units stationed in Rzeszow, are not reactive and far-reaching enough to monitor every single gap in protection on the eastern flank, Swierczynski said.

However, even more air defence systems could not guarantee that

another stray missile like the one on Tuesday is intercepted. "This is the paradox: no matter how much money you spend on such an air defence system, you will never build something that is 100% impenetrable, so to speak, so there is always the possibility of such a situation arising," Swierczynski said. – Reuters

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Hosting the FIFA World Cup 2022: Impact on Qatar and the region

n December 2, 2010, Qatar won the bid for hosting the 2022 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup, becoming the first country in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region to host this tournament. Ever since, the country has launched several mega projects, ramping up its infrastructure capacity, amid wide controversy about migrant workers' rights. With two days left before the start of the tournament, scheduled for November 20 through December 18, 2022, experts from the Middle East Council on Global Affairs reflect below on the various dimensions of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Hosting a World Cup Amid Real Wars and Culture Wars

Tarik M. Yousef

On November 20, the FIFA World Cup 2022 will kick off in Qatar, marking a first for an Arab nation and a country of its size to host the globally significant event. The games are also taking place at a moment of acute geopolitical disorder as the economic repercussions and political tensions of the War in Ukraine reverberate internationally. Oatar has invested massive financial resources and undertaken significant policy reforms over the past decade to organise a world-class tournament, while addressing the concerns of domestic and international stakeholders. Yet, as with past international sports events of this magnitude, there has been a significant uptick in controversial news coverage about Qatar in the Western press as the start date draws closer. Some of this coverage focuses on questions about the host country's record on human rights and treatment of migrant workers who constitute close to 80% of its population. Policymakers in Qatar should appreciate the important role of these critical perspectives for public accountability and future reforms. After all, this will not be the last major sports tournament to be organised in the country.

Unfortunately, some of the media coverage has been blatantly misleading and full of racist undertones. This serves neither the rights of migrant workers nor the spirit of international sports. Observers in Qatar and other Arab countries should accept the reality that any healthy debate on public policy in Qatar or anywhere else will increasingly take place in a global context of culture wars, media manipulation, and digital disinformation by paid-for influence campaigns. As a result, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will generate the unity, joy, and celebration anticipated around the world, while at the same time highlighting current divisions, polarisation, and xenophobia in societies, especially in advanced democracies.

An Opportunity for Qatar and the **Wider Region**

Ranj Alaaldin

The World Cup takes place in Qatar against the backdrop of a challenging and tumultuous geopolitical environment in the Middle East. Between 2017 and 2021, neighbouring countries imposed a blockade on Qatar, prompting wider geopolitical turbulence. Relatively unscathed from these crises, however, Qatar has spent this period carving out a stronger relationship with the international community, particularly in global finance and trade. The country's vast gas reserves and focus on diplomatic mediation have helped it become an instrumental small-state actor. Oatar has leveraged its gas reserves to address shortfalls in global energy supplies following the Russia-Ukraine war. It has also mediated between the US and the Taliban to secure Western evacuations from Afghanistan.

These episodes in the country's foreign policy indicate a marked capacity for power projection, even amid dramatic and rapid changes in the emerging international order. It is, therefore, up to Qatar to determine how and whether the World Cup will build on these significant foreign policy wins. Hosting the World Cup is a historic moment for the country and the Arab world. But it can also present an opportunity for Doha to use the power of sports to secure benefits for the region at large. The Middle East has been characterised by intense enmity, rivalry, and proxy wars over the past decade. Now, however, a spirit of warming appears to have set in, with renewed interest in regional dialogues



and bilateral rapprochement. Football transcends linguistic, national, and cultural divides, and Qatar has an opportunity to use the power of sports diplomacy to cultivate further peace and stability.

The World Cup Induces Labour Law **Reform, But the Journey Is Not Over Yet Nejla Ben Mimoune**

With only days until the start of the FIFA World Cup, hosted for the first time by an Arab country, controversy persists regarding the treatment of migrant workers in Qatar. Since it won the bid to host the tournament in 2010, the country has initiated several mega projects in preparation for the event, including the construction of cutting-edge sports venues, luxurious hotels, and stateof-the-art transportation infrastructure. With hundreds of thousands of foreign workers brought in to implement these projects, various international organisations and Western countries have criticised Qatar for the mistreatment of migrant workers.

As a result, Qatar embarked on a reform journey that started by establishing a technical co-operation programme with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 2017 and setting up an ILO project office in Doha a few months afterward. Since then, the country has announced several amendments to its labour law, including abolishing the Kafala (sponsorship) system that exists across the Gulf region. Qatar has also introduced a minimum wage law and created a wage protection system to monitor compliance. In addition, it has defined maximum daily work hours and introduced measures to protect workers from heat stress.

Through this process, Qatar has made significant strides in reforming its labour market and protecting migrant worker rights. However, challenges in the implementation of the legal framework and monitoring of ongoing practices persist, Qatar is strengthening its protection mechanisms and facilitating access to the justice system - advances Qatar is already working on in conjunction with the ILO.

The Regional Benefits of the World Cup **Exceed Economic Gains**

Faozi al-Goidi

Hosting the FIFA World Cup holds many benefits that will not only serve the host country but the rest of the Mena region, as well. With global attention focused on Qatar, there is a unique opportunity to alter the stereotypical image of the Arab world, introduce people to Arab culture, and promote an image of co-existence and tolerance. This was the case for South Korea, which hosted the World Cup in partnership with Japan in 2002. That opportunity allowed Korea to promote its culture, which later spread across the globe. Additionally, Qatar's success in organising the World Cup may pave the way for hosting and organising other international events in the region, such as the Olympic Games, as Qatar is going to host the Asian Games 2030.

On the political front, the World Cup could contribute to improving intra-Gulf relations that have been strained in recent years. This would also parallel the remarkable improvement of relations between Korea, Japan, and China following the 2002 games. So far, the run-up to the World Cup in Qatar is already benefiting the economies of its neighbours, and revenues in the hospitality, aviation, and tourism services sectors are all anticipated to increase during the month-long event. An intensive

schedule of shuttle flights has been organised between Doha and other cities in the Gulf and the broader region. In the hospitality sector, Saudi Arabia expects an increase of 106% in its hotel occupancy rate, with other countries not far behind. Saudi Arabia is allowing Hayya card World Cup fans to perform minor pilgrimage on this occasion also. The UAE has already postponed the Dubai Marathon due to hotels reaching full booking capacity for the World Cup. Even Iran hopes to increase the influx of tourists during the World Cup period.

Mohamed Salah, Islamophobia, and the World Cup

Adel Abdel Ghafar

Since the Egyptian footballer Mohamed Salah moved to Liverpool Football Club, he has been credited with a reduction in Islamophobia and racism, not only in the city of Liverpool but in the UK at large. A paper by Stanford University and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich) found that Salah's presence on the Liverpool team has coincided with a significant drop in hate crimes and a decrease in instances of Islamophobic rhetoric on social media platforms. Dubbed the "Salah effect," the finding highlight how exposure to Muslim sports stars can reduce prejudice more broadly towards Muslims. Indeed, the chant by Liverpool fans - "If he scores, I'll be Muslim too!" — is quite unprecedented in English and European football, which has a long history of exhibiting racism toward players with ethnic origins from outside the continent. The recent ban by some French cities on the screening of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 in public venues to protest abuses in Qatar is arguably hypocritical, given rising racism, increasing abuse of French Muslims, and growing Islamophobia there. The French footballer of Algerian descent, Karim Benzema, described it best when he said: "If I score I am French. If I don't, I am Arab."

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has the potential to build on the "Salah effect" and show fans and the world how a Muslim country can successfully host a World Cup, demystify Muslims, and contribute to efforts to fight Islamophobia worldwide.

Building on and Sustaining Qatar's World Cup Legacy

Nader S. Kabbani

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 provides a unique occasion for Qatar to present itself on the world stage. The country will, henceforth, forever be associated with the most-watched sporting event on the planet. Indeed, 2022 will provide a unique World Cup experience, as all games are within an hour's drive of one another. Qatar has also leveraged the World Cup as an opportunity to develop its core infrastructure and key economic sectors. During the event, Doha hopes to showcase its state-ofthe-art transportation systems, world-class tourism and culinary experiences, thriving arts and culture scenes, and its warm and generous hospitality. Other countries that have hosted the World Cup have witnessed a permanent stream in tourism and other economic activities. Qatar should expect the same.

The challenge for Qatar, and the question on everyone's mind, is how the country will leverage its massive economic investments to sustain economic growth after the event. The increase in capacity that was created to host the World Cup, and welcome over 1.5mn visitors to the country, can only be sustained by encouraging new economic activity and effectively utilising what Qatar has already built. This will require Qatar to attract foreign direct investment and support the development and growth of small and medium size enterprises. Fortunately, Qatar has been investing heavily in its human capital. It boasts among the strongest postsecondary education systems and research institutions in the region. These are the building blocks of a competitive, diversified economy. In the end, Qatar must unleash the full potential of its human, physical, and social capital to diversify its economy and welcome in a new era of prosperity and sustainable growth.

(This article is published by the Middle East Council on Global Affairs as part of the Council Views blog series that brings together experts' insights on headline issues facing the Middle East and North Africa region.)

Human rights in an Islamic state

slam, as represented in the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad, sallallaahu ʻalaihi wa sallam, laid down human rights centuries before they were known to the modern world. The following are some of these rights:

1. The Security of Life and

Property:
In the address which the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, delivered on the occasion of the Farewell Haj, he said: "Your lives and properties are forbidden to one another till you meet your Lord on the Day of Resurrection." The Prophet has also said about the Thimmis (the non-Muslim citizens of the Muslim state): "One who kills a man under covenant (i.e., Thimmi) will not even smell the fragrance of Paradise."

2. The Protection of Honour: The Holy Qur'an lays down this right, stating: "O you who have believed! Let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them; nor let women ridicule [other] women; perhaps they may be better than them. And do not insult one another and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames. Wretched is the name [i.e. mention] of disobedience after [one's] faith. And whoever does not repent - then it is those who are the wrongdoers. O you who have believed! Avoid much [negative] assumption. Indeed, some assumption is sin. And do not spy or backbite each other. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his brother when dead? You would detest it. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Accepting of repentance and Merciful." [Qur'an: 49:11-12]

3. Sanctity and Security of **Private Life:**

The Qur'an has laid down the injunction stating: "...And do not spy or backbite each other ... " [Qur'an: 49:12] "O you who have believed! Do not enter houses other than your own houses until you ascertain welcome and greet their inhabitants..." [Qur'an: 24:27]

4. The Security of Personal Freedom:

Islam has laid down the principle that no citizen can be imprisoned unless his guilt has been proven in an open court. To arrest a man only on the basis of suspicion and to throw him into a prison without proper court proceedings and without providing him a reasonable opportunity to produce his defence is not permissible in Islam.

5. The Right to Protest against Tyranny:

Amongst the rights that Islam has conferred on human beings is the right to protest against a government's tyranny. Referring to it Allah, He says: "Allah does not like the public mention of evil except by one who has been wronged..." [Qur'an: 4:148]

In Islam, all power and authority belongs to Allah Alone; man is only delegated a part of that power which becomes a trust. Everyone who becomes the recipient of such a power has to be accountable before his people, for whose sake he will be called upon to use these powers. This was acknowledged by Abu Bakr, radhiallah 'anhu, who said in his very first address: "Co-operate with me when I am right but correct me when I commit error. Obey me so long as I follow the commandments of Allah and His Prophet, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, but turn away from me when I deviate."

6. Freedom of Expression: Islam gives the right of freedom of thought and expression to all citizens of the Islamic state on the condition that it should be used for the propagation of virtue and truth, and not for spreading evil and wickedness. The Islamic concept of freedom of expression is much superior to the one prevalent in the West. Under no circumstances would Islam allow the propagation of evil and wickedness. It also does not give anybody the right to use abusive or offensive language in the name of criticism. It was the



practice of the Muslims to enquire from the noble Prophet, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, whether a certain matter or a divine injunction had been revealed to him. If he said that he had received no divine injunction, the Muslims freely expressed their opinion on the matter.

7. Freedom of Association: Islam has also given people the right to freedom of association and formation of parties or organisations. This right is also subject to certain general rules.

8. Freedom of Conscience and **Conviction:**

Islam has laid down the injunction; Allah says: "There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion..." [Qur'an: 2:256] On the

contrary, totalitarian societies absolutely deprive the individuals of their freedom. Indeed this undue exaltation of the State authority postulates a sort of slave-like servitude on the part of man. At one time slavery meant total control of man over man - now that type of slavery has been legally abolished, but in its place totalitarian societies impose a similar sort of control over individuals.

9. Protection of Religious Senti-

Along with the freedoms of conviction and conscience, Islam has given the right to the individual that his religious sentiments will be given due respect, and nothing will be said or done which may encroach upon his right.

10. Protection from Arbitrary

Imprisonment:

Islam also recognises the right of the individual that he will not be arrested or imprisoned for the offences of others. The Qur'an has laid down this principle clearly as in the saying of Allah: "...And no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another ... " [Qur'an: 6:164]

11. The Right to Basic Necessities of Life:

Islam recognised the right of the needy people, that help and assistance be provided to them. Allah says: "And in their wealth there is acknowledged right for the needy and the destitute." [Qur'an: 70:24-25]

12. Equality Before Law: Islam gives its citizens the right to absolute and complete equality in the 13. Rulers are not Above the

Law: A woman belonging to a noble

family was arrested in connection with theft. The case was brought to the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, and it was recommended that she might be spared the punishment for theft. The Prophet replied: "The nations that lived before you were destroyed by Allah because they punished the common man for his offences and let their dignitaries go unpunished for their crimes; I swear by Him Who holds my life in His hand that even if Fatimah, the daughter of Muhammad, had committed this crime, I would have amputated her hand."

14. The Right to Participate in **Affairs of the State:**

Allah says: "...And their affair is [conducted] through consultation among themselves..." [Qur'an: 42:38] The chapter or the legislative assembly has no other meaning, except that the executive head of the government and the members of the assembly should be elected by free and independent choice of the people.

Lastly, it is to be made clear that Islam tries to achieve the abovementioned human rights and many others, not only by providing certain legal safeguards, but also by inviting humankind to transcend the lower level of animal-like existence to be able to go beyond the ties fostered by the kinship of blood, racial superiority, linguistic arrogance and economic privileges. It invites humankind to move on to a plane of existence where, because of his inner excellence, man can realise the ideal of the universal brotherhood.

Article source: http://www.islamweb.



The Oneness of Divinity

tion for the secret of existence? The theory currently in vogue says that all existence is accidental and haphazard. In our opinion, only two ideologies remain in the realm of the probable. We can attribute life and universe to chance, and therefore, existence is meaningless. Alternatively, there is meaning of such magnitude to , that, largely, it es

When we observe the orderly movements of the stars and planets, the regularity of the seasons, the uniformity and control of the law of nature over matter, energy and life, we realise that everything in the universe is knit into a single harmonious system.

Anyone who looks at this great phenomenon and comes to the conclusion that it evolved on its own or by accident, must question his reasoning. Even an old watch, which has a simple mechanism of pullevs implies that there must be a watchmaker.

Albert Einstein, the most famous scientist of modern times, tells us: "Everyone who is seriously involved in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that a Spirit is manifest in the Law of the Universe, without concluding that there must be Divine intent

behind it all. Speaking for myself, I can only say that the grandeur of the Cosmos serves to confirm my belief in the certainty of the Creator." In the most quotable quote, he said about the emergence of the universe by chance: "God does not play dice."

In fact, throughout history, humankind as a whole has never denied the existence of a Creator. However, culand associated a mass of mythology

There is a Force in action to keep everything in order. In nature, there is a Creator who has created the most charming scenery. Believers recognise this Creator and call Him Allaah or God. He is not a man, because no man can create another man. He is not an animal, or a plant. He is not an idol or a statue because these things cannot create themselves or anything else. Neither is He the Sun or the Moon or a machine or a star, but the Maker and Keeper of all. The Maker of anything is greater than the thing He has created. The more complex a thing is, the more complex it's Creator.

The Holy Qur'an says (what means): "Ask of them: 'Who is the Sustainer of the heavens and the earth?' If they

hesitate, say: 'Allah'. Then ask: 'Then why do you take for protectors, instead of Him, other deities who have no power to benefit or avert harm from themselves?' Say: 'Are the blind equal to those who see?' Or do they assign to Allah partners who have created anything as He has created, so that the creation seemed to them similar? Say: 'Allaah is the Creator of all things. He is

What is the true nature of the Creator? He certainly cannot be like the created things, for then He would be limited and corruptible like them. Only a Being possessing Absolute Knowledge, Power and Authority and the ability to keep Himself eternally alive, can give life and sustain life and be the Creator of the Universe and its

The question that now arises is: 'Could there be more than one Absolute Creator?" If, for instance, there were two creators and they disagreed over the creation of something, then, either one would have to overcome the other, in which case the defeated one would not have been absolutely powerful. Or they would neutralise each other, in which case both would have been limited in power. Even if we as-

sume they both agreed on everything, still they could not both be absolutely powerful, because the action of one would then depend on the condition that the other does not interfere.

Once again, the Qur'an tells us (what means): "He to Whom the Dominion over the heavens and the earth belongs. has begotten no son and has no partner in his kingdom, for it is He who creates accordance with His own design. And yet some choose to worship, instead of Him, imaginary deities that cannot create anything but are themselves created, which can neither avert harm nor help even themselves, and which have no power over life or death nor power to resurrect." [Qur'an 25: 2-3]

The Oneness of Allah is the foundation of belief. Islam rests upon Tawheed: "Laa ilaaha illallaah" -there is None worthy of worship except Allah, none worthy of praise, there is no god except Him, no one. Throughout the Qur'an, the refrain runs on and on: laa ilaaha illaa Allaah, laa ilaaha illaa huwa, Allaahu laa ilaaha illa huwa, Allaahu ahad...which means that Allah is One, the only One.

Islam is the religion in which the first deadly sin is fabricating partners



unto God. It is the only sin that will not be forgiven. The Our'an reiterates. not once but twice in the same chapter (what means): "Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with Him; but He forgives anything else to whom he pleases; to set up partners with Allah is to devise a sin most heinous indeed." [Qur'an 4: 48, 116]

Article source: http://www.islamweb. net/emainpage/

Words of wisdom

•The best knowledge is that which benefits, and Allah only causes knowledge to benefit a person when he acts upon it once having learnt it and He does not cause it to benefit the person that leaves it after having

•Knowledge without action is like a

•You are now in the preliminary world, in front of you are two places of abode, out of which you must live in one of. You have not been given assurance of protection, causing you to feel safe. Nor have you been granted acquittal, causing you to slacken.

•Ibn Mas'ood, radiallahu 'anhu, said: "Learn, learn, and once you have learned, act." [isnaad hasan].

• Abu Hurairah, radiallahu 'anhu, said: "The example of knowledge not acted upon is that of a treasure none of which is spent in the way of Allah the Mighty and Majestic." •Az-Zuhree said: "The people will

never be pleased with the statement of a scholar who does not act, nor of a person who acts but has no knowledge." [hasan] Whoever sought knowledge,

intending the knowledge alone (i.e. without action) would not benefit by it. Yet whoever sought knowledge intending to act upon it, would benefit, even by a little knowledge.

•Knowledge rests upon action, action rests upon sincerity, and sincerity to Allah brings about understanding of Allah the Mighty and Majestic.

 Whoever seeks knowledge in order to act upon it will be humbled by his knowledge but whoever seeks it for other than that, will be increased by it in arrogance.

•The time will soon come, if you live long, that knowledge will become a source of beautification, just as a person beautifies himself with a garment."

•If Allah grants you knowledge, in return worship Him and do not make your goal merely narrating to the

•The scholar remains ignorant with regard to what he has learned until he acts according to it, and only then does he become a true scholar.

 Act upon your knowledge O man, and you will profit, for knowledge does not benefit unless one is proficient in action. Knowledge is a beauty, the taqwaa of Allah being its ornation, and the pious are busy with the knowledge they possess. Learn, and then act, as much as you are able to, and do not let amusement nor arguing distract you. Teach the people and always intend to benefit them, and beware! Beware of weariness befalling you.

[From the book Iqtidaa-ul-'Ilmil-'Amal (The Need Knowledge Has of Action) by al-Khateeb al-Baghdaadee]

Islam – a comprehensive way of life

o understand the essence of Islam is to understand the very essence of humanity. More than a religion, Islam is a complete and comprehensive way of life leading to a balanced way of living. Islam brings civilisation and happiness to man. Islamic principles and teachings can provide realistic, fair and objective solutions to the prevention of individual, familial, social and international problems which are threatening the existence of human communities throughout the world.

A spiritual belief that does not deal with social behaviour, economic relations and international organisations is as erroneous as the social doctrine that does not consider spiritual belief, morality and behaviour. Such social doctrines are abortive attempts, incapable of total human guidance or of achieving any coherence or accord among human beings.

Both the individual and the society are in dire need of a belief that accommodates and directs all their vital activities towards construction and growth. When the individual and society adopt such a belief and apply it to life, humanity can accomplish seemingly miraculous achievements which can only occur when man unites himself with the Eternal Power that channels his personality -potential in the right direction. History has shown that Islam is unique in its ability to provide guidance for the entire range of human activity. It does not separate spiritual and secular life as unrelated entities.

Islam integrates all domains of human life, just like the different systems in the human body integrate to provide a complete human being. If one system does not work properly, it has got to affect the whole body. Likewise, Islam proposes systems of laws that integrate all parts of human society to bring happiness and peace to all its members.

There is no other way or system that urges the active worship of Allah in its general and most comprehensive sense other than Islam. Fox example, Islam teaches that Muslims should fast for a month every year (i.e. Ramadan) in order to acquire piety and selfdiscipline and to develop awareness of the needs and problems of others who are starving or are in desperate need of food. Such an awareness of the needs of others is not enough on its own. Therefore, Zakat (obligatory charity) is prescribed to be distributed among the segments of society that are in need of individual and communal assistance.

A very important universal concept in Islam is "Ummah" (Nation). Ummah transcends all limitations implied by the term 'nation' by encompassing all

people regardless of race, colour, or sex. Allah emphasised this great Islamic principle in the verse (which means);

"Mankind was [of] one religion [before their deviation]; then Allah sent the prophets as bringers of good tidings and warners and sent down with them the Scripture in truth to judge between the people concerning that in which they differed. And none differed over it [i.e. Scripture] except those who were given it-after the clear proofs came to them-out of jealous animosity among themselves. And Allah guided those who believed to the truth concerning that over which they had differed, by His permission. And Allah guides whom He wills to a straight path." [Qur'an 2:2 13]

Moreover, Islam has a unique understanding for the concept of Ummah. Ummah is the field for knowledge, ethics, government and positivism. Ummah in Islam is a system in which people integrate, even if they belong to different belief systems. It is a system of universal justice and peace that accommodates evervone who believes in freedom of thinking and in calling people to the truth-whether they are individuals or communities.

The Prophet Muhammad, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, proposed a constitution for the city of Madinah during the first days of his emigration from Makkah. He, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, included the rights of both Jews and Christians, thereby safeguarding their freedom and beliefs. History has never known a constitution that represented minorities as this constitution of the Islamic state

Ummah as an Islamic concept will, Allah willing, bring the advent of universal peace as well as an internal social system. Ummah is the fieldground for civilisation to take place. Such an Ummah can be integrated and united, if it derives its doctrines, constitutions, morals, values and the whole perspective of life from the same united source: belief in the only true Allah. This is known as the concept of Tawheed (Monotheism)

Islam provides a complete and comprehensive way of life. Islam creates harmony in the mind, the soul and the body in a marvellous way. The need for Islam emerges from the humanity's search for a constitution that provides guidance and satisfaction in all spheres of life. It is a code of life that is not limited to partial needs, but rather a way of life that penetrates all barriers to interact with people's needs in this life and beyond. It is a way of life where there is no discrimination between

what is sacred and what is secular. Islam is unique among the religions and civilisations the world has known. In contrast to the other religions of $% \left\{ 1\right\} =\left\{ 1$ the world, Islam defines religion itself as the very business of life, the very matter of space-time, the very process of history, and the gift of Allah. Therefore, all these work together to constitute them. Islam is a divine guidance wherein

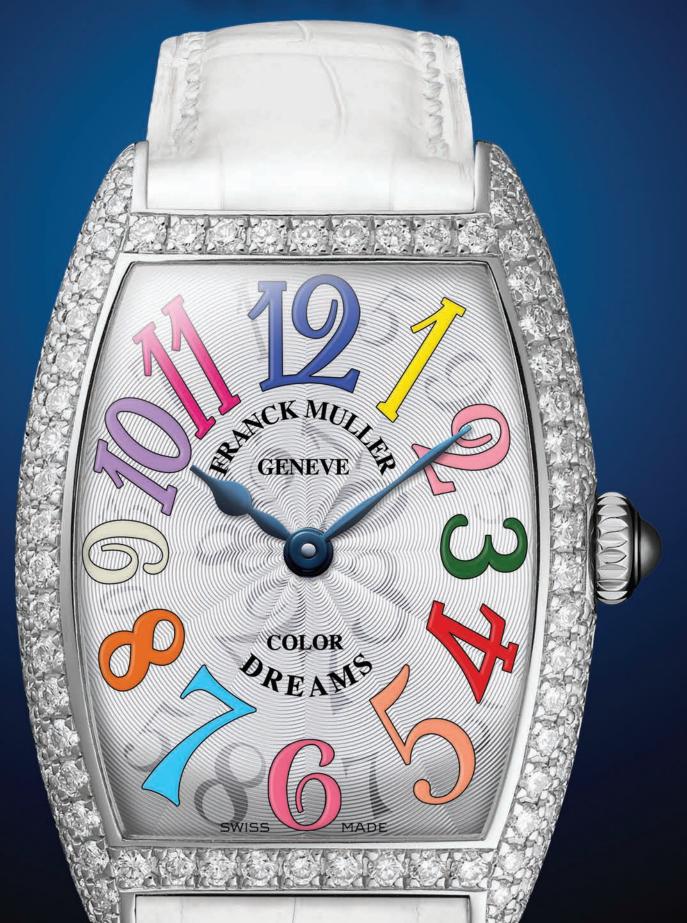
humans of all nations, colours and tongues feel linked to a Supreme Power and Justice. Its teachings are kept intact and authentic. It is the only way to happiness, dignity, and universal peace. Islam is so unique in its method for solving the problems of humanity. I can say with confidence that the twenty first century will be the century of Islam. The everlasting miracle of Islam, THE QUR'AN, is a standing challenge to the intellect of all peoples at all times. In Islam's four abiding principles - equality, tolerance, promotion of science, and solution to the world's problems - its universality asserts itself. It calls to all mankind, if only mankind will listen.

Then do they not reflect upon the Our'an? If it had been from [any] other than Allah, they would have found within it much contradiction." [Our'an

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