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## Amir receives phone call from Russian president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received a phone call yesterday evening from Russian President Vladimir Putin. During the phone call, the Russian president congratulated Qatar for hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which kicks off tomorrow, wishing the Qatari team success in the tournament. For his part, the Amir expressed his thanks and appreciation to the president for his congratulations and wishes to Qatar for success in hosting the tournament, praising Russia's co-operation in organising this global event. **(QNA)**

## FIFA bans sale of alcoholic beverages in vicinity of World Cup stadiums

The International Football Federation (FIFA) announced yesterday a ban on the sale of alcoholic beverages to fans in the vicinity of the eight venues of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which begins tomorrow. It said in a statement: "The host country and FIFA will continue to work to ensure that the stadiums and adjacent areas are spaces that provide pleasure and marked by the respect to all audiences and provide a pleasant experience for all." The World Cup competitions will begin tomorrow at Al Bayt Stadium, with the opening match between the Qatari national team and its Ecuadorian counterpart. **(QNA)**

## Gridlocked UN climate talks go into overtime

UN climate talks were extended by a day yesterday in an effort to break a deadlock as nations tussle over funding for developing countries battered by weather disasters and ambition on curbing global warming. Representatives from nearly 200 countries have gathered at the COP27 in Egypt with the aim of driving forward action on climate change.

## COMMUNITY

See Pages 8 & 9

# FIFA Fan Fest, Corniche street celebrations begin today

- 'Welcome to Qatar' ceremony on the Corniche
- Myriam Fares and Maluma will open Live Stage with headline solo performances

It's time to let the party begin, and 'Live it All in Qatar'.

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 fans are in for a treat as two mega entertainment and festive activations will be launched today, just a day before the first match of the tournament between hosts Qatar and Ecuador.

These are the FIFA Fan Festival at Al Bidda Park and the street festival on the Doha Corniche.

Gates will open at 4pm, with the inauguration beginning at 7pm with a live broadcast of the 'Welcome to Qatar' ceremony on the Corniche.

Following that, Lebanese singer Myriam Fares and Colombian star Maluma will open the Live Stage with headline solo performances as well as a world-exclusive duet performance of the official FIFA Fan Festival anthem, 'Tukoh Taka' (featuring Nicki Minaj, Maluma and Fares), which was released yesterday.

The performances by Fares and Maluma will be the first of many by top global music acts and local artistes over the next four weeks, with international award-winning musicians Diplo, Kizz Daniel, Nora Fatehi, Trinidad Cardona and Calvin Harris to be brought to the Live Stage by FIFA Sound.

On opening day, the Fan Festival will be open from 4pm-1am. Hayya Card is mandatory to gain access to the FIFA Fan Festival.

"Fans from all over the world can look forward to 29 days of football, music, culture and lifestyle - a true festival of football," a FIFA statement said.

The FIFA Fan Festival is the per-

fect place to watch FIFA World Cup matches live in a buzzing atmosphere, while also enjoying an exciting football and entertainment programme. Join 40,000 fans and enjoy all 64 FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 matches live on the mega-screens. Also on offer will be unique global and local culinary experiences.

Besides, many sponsor activities, dedicated football exhibitions and an official FIFA Store with licensed FIFA World Cup products await football fans.

A test event held on Nov 16 was a huge success, with the venue witnessing the enthusiastic participation of a large crowd.

The FIFA Fan Festival also houses the Fan Engagement Centre behind the Information Desk. It will provide basic consular services, support for fans who are facilitating fan gatherings, walks and performances, as well as serve as an outlet for fans to raise any concerns in a safe, fan-focused environment. It will also host fan engagement activations with tournament ambassadors and serve as a co-ordination hub for the SC's Fan Leader Network.

More details can be found at <https://www.qatar2022.qa/en/fifa-fan-festival>

Meanwhile, the Corniche will be home to "Qatar's global street carnival along Doha's iconic 6km waterfront", starting today. It covers the stretch from the Museum of Islamic Art to Hotel Park (Sheraton).

The atmosphere along the Corniche will celebrate nations - allowing fans to connect from all around the world. **To Page 4**

## Amir visits International Broadcast Centre, media centre for World Cup



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani yesterday visited the International Broadcast Centre and the main media centre for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, located at Qatar National Convention Centre.

# Over 3.5bn viewers to watch World Cup official broadcast

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) has granted all broadcasting and media rights holders the radio spectrum that enables more than 3.5bn expected viewers to tune in to unique official broadcast coverage of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on television, digital platforms, and public screens.

The tournament's spectrum management service provider, CRA, has engaged with 120 media right holders' licensees and media agencies over the previous few months in addition to 59 of host country broadcasters, other non-right holders' media agencies, press, and photography, a statement said yesterday. Additionally, the CRA assigned more than 2,900 radio frequencies to all parties.

CRA also provided the spectrum requirements of crucial sectors in the country, such as the military, security, commercial, and other sectors; in-turn benefiting the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) and its contractors, Service Providers, commercial affiliates, and broadcasters.

Communications Regulatory Authority  
State of Qatar

هيئة تنظيم الاتصالات  
دولة قطر

CRA has met FIFA's spectrum requirements to enable the use of Football Technology & Innovation, which will play an essential role in managing and analysing the matches. Among these technologies is the semi-automated offside technology, which will be used as a technology adopted by FIFA for the first time in the history of the World Cup to help determine offside cases.

In addition, Video Assistant Referee (VAR) technology will be used for the second time in the history of the World Cup, and Goal-Line Technology (GLT) will be used for the third time ever. Furthermore, the live play and ball tracking technology will be used in the tournament, in addition to

wireless communication technology between referees, all of which require their own radio frequencies that have been assigned by CRA to be used exclusively for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

CRA governs and manage all matters pertaining to the usage of the radio spectrum in Qatar. CRA is the responsible authority for developing a comprehensive spectrum plan for the World Cup in accordance with Decree-Law No 34 of 2006, Promulgating the Telecommunications Law amended by Law No 17 of 2017, and the Telecommunications By-Law. This responsibility comes in the context of the Guarantee provided by the Government of Qatar to FIFA.

## World Cup celebrations get under way at Katara



All aglow and glittering, Katara - the Cultural Village launched yesterday a large number of events ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and running until December 18. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen **Page 12**

## US state secretary Blinken to visit Doha on Nov 21-22

The US Department of State announced yesterday that Secretary of State Antony Blinken will visit Qatar on Nov 21-22 to launch the fifth US-Qatar Strategic Dialogue. The statement said Blinken will meet with senior Qatari officials, including HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani. On this occasion, Blinken will reiterate US appreciation for the long-standing partnership between the United States and Qatar and discuss a range of issues, including security co-operation, trade and investment, climate change, global health, humanitarian assistance, international development, and other issues. The statement pointed out that during his visit to Doha, the US secretary of state will discuss Qatar's important contribution to international sports diplomacy, especially as it hosts the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. **(QNA)**

# World Cup joy for 180,000 refugees

By Shafeeq Alingal  
Staff Reporter

As many as 180,000 refugees in seven countries will cheer for their favourite teams and share the joy while watching the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on big screens, thanks to Qatar Charity (QC) and Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS).

The humanitarian gesture comes as part of the 'FIFA Qatar 2022 for All: Sharing the Joy of Refugees and Displaced People' initiative. In collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Qatar Fund for Development, the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) and beIN SPORTS, the initiative is launched in Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Sudan, Kenya, Bangladesh and Somalia.

Tents set up by QC and QRCS will broadcast games live at various refugee camps in these countries. The aim is to enhance the role of sports in alleviating suffering, promote a culture of peace and social integration, mentally support displaced people and refugees while sharing the joy of the world cup with football fans around the world.

HE the Assistant Foreign Minister Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater, while



HE the Assistant Foreign Minister Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater launching the initiative yesterday.

launching the initiative yesterday at a press conference at the Host Country Media Centre, said that Qatar has always believed in sport as an effective vehicle for nations to unite and cherish peace dialogue and transparency.



Qatar Charity's Nawaf al-Hammadi and QRCS' Dr Mohamed Salah Ibrahim at the press conference. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam

"The fan zones reflect our firm belief in sport's ability to make a positive social change that boosts sustainable," she said.

QC's chief global programmes officer Nawaf al-Hammadi said that the tents are set up in co-operation with the authorities concerned and local agencies. "This is to alleviate the sufferings of refugees and to promote integration, protection and psychological support towards affected communities while enhancing social cohesion," he explained.

QRCS' Relief and International Development Division director Dr Mohamed Salah Ibrahim added that the agency will install large public screens to display the games and hold sports, fun and informative activities for the beneficiaries.





# Qatar airports prepared to deal with flight congestion

**QNA**  
Doha

Both Hamad International Airport (HIA) and Doha International Airport are intensifying their preparations for welcoming the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 fans. The airports are currently witnessing flight influx coming from all over the world to watch the matches of the tournament that will kick off tomorrow.

HIA Chief Operating Officer engineer Badr Mohamed al-Meer confirmed the full readiness of the two airports to receive the influx of visitors and fans of the World Cup.

In his exclusive remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Meer said that the readiness of the two international airports is a result of the early planning to overcome any challenges that might face both airports while receiving air flights during the tournament.

He said that with flight numbers increasing, the air traffic in both airports has now reached about 90 take-offs and landings per hour.

The Acting Director of Air Transport and Airport Affairs Department at the Civil Aviation Authority (QCCA), Mohamed Faleh al-Hajri, stressed that the civil aviation system is ready to deal with the expected vast increase in air traffic that Qatar is going to witness during the World Cup.

In his remarks to QNA, al-Hajri ruled out that the coming period will witness any stumbles with the expected congestion in Qatar's airspace, given the early preparations taken by the state and the concerned authorities to handle the anticipated congestion



tion and at the same time to avoid any complications caused by that congestion.

Al-Hajri said that the past period witnessed extensive preparations that took years and that the authority's Air Navigation Department has completed its preparations with the start of the first phase of the Doha flight information region (FIR/SSR) through which the QCCA will manage air navigation and provide navigational assistance throughout Qatar's airspace.

In a related context, he pointed out that the upgraded airspace project has been completed, which included several improvements that will lead to greater efficiency in air traffic management.

He explained that through the air traffic development project, the capacity was increased to about 100 air traffic per hour, adding that the upcoming and outgoing air routes to Qatar became 17 separate paths, in order to achieve further movement

flow and ensure further safety, as well as increase the aircraft holding areas in air, which are used during peak periods to arrange aircraft during landing, in preparation for the expected increase in traffic during the World Cup.

Al-Hajri noted that the efficiency of take-off and landing operations has increased, adding that the possibility of accommodating three landings and take-offs (simultaneously) has been reached, and an experiment was successfully conducted in the air traffic control simulator to ensure the effectiveness and safety of this system for operation.

He pointed out that an air traffic flow management device, the first of its kind in the Middle East, was installed.

Air traffic controllers and all employees dealing with it were trained to use it efficiently, which helps controllers in arranging the arrival and departure of planes to and from Doha.

Additionally, neighbouring countries have been provided

with a website about the hours of departure from their countries, called SLOT Departure Time, which also contributes to the regularity of air traffic at peak times in preparation for this important event to ensure the provision of highly efficient and distinguished services that fit with the requirements of this major event, which will be an important milestone in the history of the entire region.

He said that aircraft air holding patterns were increased to increase the capacity for take-off and landing operations during the World Cup.

Also, comprehensive development operations such as adopting advanced technologies and modern equipment, increasing the number of air observers, developing the working mechanism, and others have been carried out to provide safety and create a secured and efficient air traffic status.

Al-Hajri promised a unique travel experience for visitors and fans of the World Cup that reflects the levels of distinguished services provided by the civil aviation system in the country.

He said the virtual tower, which is the first of its kind in the Middle East, allows Qatar air control centre at HIA to monitor blind spots, which improves daily air traffic. It also enables the air traffic controller to fully control and monitor the traffic of aircraft and vehicles remotely.

Qatar successfully activated the virtual tower during the first week of September. Al-Hajri stressed that this activation marks the beginning of a very important stage for the civil aviation industry in Qatar, during which the sector will witness remarkable progress.

He said that the authority has completed the final stages of preparations and training, and has held many meetings and co-ordination with all relevant authorities, to ensure the readiness of the civil aviation system and the integration of its activities, and to prepare for that important period in which Qatar will witness large numbers of passengers, and unprecedented air traffic to ensure the safety of all flights, and to provide smoothness and great flexibility in air traffic during the World Cup period.

Al-Hajri indicated that the authority's air navigation department has completed developing and testing the alternative operational emergency plans to ensure that no confusion occurs in air traffic management during the championship, indicating that all these efforts come within a framework to provide a unique travel experience for visitors, and to show the whole world the great development Qatar is witnessing in the civil aviation sector.

## Liberia president arrives



At the invitation of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Liberian President George Weah arrived in Doha yesterday to attend the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 which kicks off tomorrow evening at Al Bayt Stadium. The president and the accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser al-Ali and the charge d'affaires of the Liberian embassy in Doha Ali Sylla. (QNA)

## FM in phone call discussions with US and Dutch officials

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani held a telephone call with US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan. The call dealt with discussing bilateral co-operation, the latest preparations for hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, besides regional and international issues, particularly the repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis and the means to resolve them peacefully.

●HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani received a phone call from the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, Wopke Hoekstra. During the call, they discussed the bilateral relations and the latest preparations to host the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, in addition to the repercussions of the crisis between Russia and Ukraine and ways to resolve it peacefully. (QNA)

## Qatar labour reforms deserve support, says IOM chief

HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri met with the Director-General of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Antonio Vitorino, in the presence of head of the IOM mission in Qatar Iman Younis Erekat.

During the meeting, which was held virtually, all parties reviewed co-operation relations and issues of common interest in the fields of labour, and ways to advance and develop them. Vitorino said that the labour reforms implemented by Qatar during the past years deserve support, in order for the country to reap the benefits of these tangible achievements, noting that these reforms amended a host of issues concerning migrant workers. (QNA)



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- Participants can comment on each post to guess the winner and/ or the team that will qualify for the Round 16.
- Comments will be suspended before the start of the Qatar matches and before the third match of each group.
- For Qatar matches the draw will be made automatically on the second day of the match.
- For the rest of the group league matches, 2 draws will be made (1 for each platform and 1 for all groups).
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- Prizes will be collected after the end of the World Cup.

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# World Cup boosted ability of Qatari cadres to face challenges, difficulties

**QNA**  
Qatar

HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi has said that the organisation of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 demonstrated the ability of Qatari cadres to lead and implement mega projects, overcome challenges and difficulties, appreciating the great role of the residents who participated wholeheartedly in the completion of these projects.

In an exclusive statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE the minister said that the dream has become a reality by holding this global sporting event in Qatar, noting that the state's hosting of the World Cup as the first Arab and Islamic country and the Middle East region to have the honour of organising this world championship, calls for pride and

honour, because it is the fruit of long and diligent work in which all state institutions and those who live on this good land took part.

She added that this tournament is a great opportunity for Qatar students, teachers, parents and society as a whole, to highlight our national identity and our civilised behaviour derived from our true religion in an optimal way, as respecting the guests of Qatar during the tournament is a true embodiment of the noble meanings, our morals, our system of lofty values, our customs and traditions, the tolerance of our true religion, and our culture that is open to the other.

She extended her thanks and appreciation to the educational community, including male and female students, teachers, school administrators and parents, and other partners of the educational process, members of society and



HE Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi

civil institutions, who contributed from the beginning and continue to make the World Cup a success, pointing out that the schedule of events for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 includes many and varied activities that will be implemented through the ministry.

HE the minister indicated that these activities and events

include the participation of a number of public and private schools in the light lantern event on Doha Corniche, the preparation of the countdown post for the tournament, the production of a special video about it, as well as the production of a welcome video in all languages of the participating countries.

It also includes participation in Zeina initiative to beautify educational buildings and institutions, and the organisation of the "Excellence, Creativity" exhibition of artistic drawings for students and teachers in schools, and other events.

She added that she is very proud of the participation of Qatari students, teachers and school leaders and their valuable and creative contributions to innovative artworks, which expressed Qatar culture and heritage, reflected the civilised face of the Qatari society, and had the desired effect.

## Cables of congratulations

### Oman

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman, on the anniversary of his country's National Day.

### Morocco

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to King Mohammed VI of Morocco, on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani also sent a similar cable to Head of Government of Morocco Aziz Akhannouch on the occasion.

### Latvia

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to President of Latvia Egils Levits, on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani also sent a similar cable to Prime Minister of Latvia Krisjanis Karins on the occasion. **(QNA)**

## IOC president arrives in Doha

The President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Dr Thomas Bach, arrived in Doha on Thursday to attend the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 which kicks off tomorrow evening at Al Bayt Stadium. Dr Bach and the accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Secretary-General of Qatar Olympic Committee and Vice-President of the Olympic Council of Asia, Jassim bin Rashid al-Buainain. **(QNA)**



## Chief of Staff inaugurates Apache HQ at Al Udeid Air Base



Under the patronage of HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah, HE the Chief of Staff of the Qatar Armed Forces Staff Lieutenant-General (Pilot) Salem bin Hamad al-Nabit, inaugurated the new headquarters of the Apache (QRA) aircraft at Al Udeid Air Base. The new headquarters is equipped with all modern and advanced equipment and devices that meet the needs of the Apache aircraft, which contributes to the speed of response, immediate take-off and response to any request in a timely manner. The ceremony was attended by HE the Commander of the Amiri Air Force Major General (Pilot) Jassem bin Mohamed al-Mannai, and a number of senior officers in the Armed Forces. **(QNA)**

## Directorate of Environment website flagged off




HE the Chief of Staff of the Qatar Armed Forces Staff Lieutenant-General (Pilot) Salem bin Hamad al-Nabit has inaugurated the website of the Directorate of Environment of the Armed Forces. The website aims to introduce the directorate and its most prominent activities, besides contributing with other authorities in the country to solving environmental issues, and highlighting the role of the armed forces in general in preserving the environment and its natural characteristics. The inauguration was attended by HE the Commander of Qatar Amiri Corps of Engineers (QACE) Major General (Engineer) Issa Ali al-Kubaisi, Brigadier (technician/air) Mohamed Yousef al-Jaida, Director of the Directorate of Environment, and a number of senior officers. **(QNA)**

## Director of Public Security meets US official

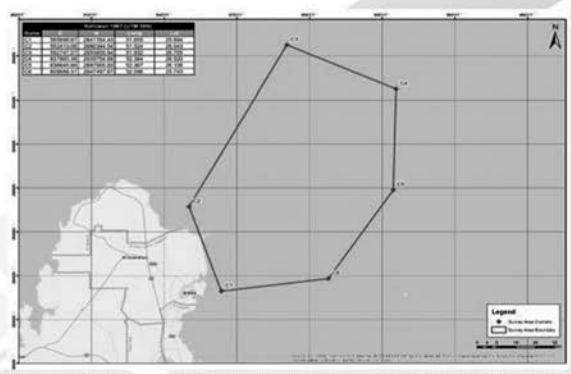


HE the Director of Public Security Staff Major General Saad bin Jassim al-Khulaifi met with Deputy Assistant Secretary and Assistant Director of the US Department of State's Diplomatic Security Andrew Wroblewski who is currently visiting the country. During the meeting, they discussed the existing co-operation aspects between the two countries in the area of security. **(QNA)**



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## First-ever official FIFA Fan Festival Anthem released

● **‘Tukoh Taka’ features Nicki Minaj, Maluma and Myriam Fares**

Music superstars Nicki Minaj, Maluma and Myriam Fares are unleashing ‘Tukoh Taka’, the first-ever official FIFA Fan Festival Anthem, to pump up the atmosphere at the World Cup 2022. FIFA Sound – the game-changing initiative that combines the universal languages of music and football – collaborated with Universal Arabic Music and Republic Records on the release. ‘Tukoh Taka’, which is the latest addition to the tournament’s multi-song Official Soundtrack, will capture the FIFA World Cup spirit by pulsing through the heart of football’s greatest global celebration. From the FIFA Fan Festivals taking place in Doha’s Al Bidda Park and worldwide to the buzz of the stadiums across Qatar, ‘Tukoh Taka’ will set the tone for an unforgettable experience by amplifying three of music’s most iconic voices. Trinidadian-born Minaj, who is based in the US, is known as the ‘queen of hip hop’ after becoming the best-selling female rapper of all time. Maluma is a globally acclaimed Latin Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter from Colombia, while Lebanese singer

Fares has tens of millions of followers across the Middle East and worldwide. With the trio teaming up for an anthem that spans regions and genres to reflect the global reach of the FIFA World Cup and the inclusivity of the game, fans will associate playing ‘Tukoh Taka’ with momentous moments during a true football festival. Maluma and Fares will perform on the opening evening of Doha’s FIFA Fan Festival, which will start to welcome fans from 4pm local time on Saturday, the day before the action kicks off on the pitch with Qatar vs Ecuador. Music executive Wassim ‘Sal’ Slaiby, founder and CEO of Universal Arabic Music, says: “The goal of ‘Tukoh Taka’ was to make a record that celebrates unity, culture and diversity on a global level. A special thank you to Nicki Minaj, Maluma and Myriam Fares for bringing their identity, culture and talent to this song. YALLA SAWAHI!” ‘Tukoh Taka’ is available to download at <https://fifa.lnk.to/TukohTaka>, and fans can watch the music video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rB0bjyt1OD0>

## FIFA Fan Fest celebrations begin today

**From Page 1**

The activation will include 150+ food outlets, live concert stages, ‘Welcome to Qatar’ water and light shows, roaming performances, arts, culture and story-telling, family-friendly entertainment, Bedouin Village and official FIFA merchandise.

The timings are from 12noon until midnight daily, with entertainment shows taking place from 3pm to 11pm.

The waterfront has been decorated with palm frond-shaped lighting poles that reflects the Qatari heritage. Pedestrian underpasses and plazas have been constructed to facilitate the movement of people along the Corniche. To enhance the aesthetics of these underpasses and plazas, sculptures and artworks of various Qatari and resident artists have been installed, as well as cafes set up.

The Doha Corniche has been decorated with 1,440 palm frond-shaped lighting poles in harmony with the sprawling palm trees on the Corniche along with the provision of 655 lighting poles with distinctive features in the central Doha area.

A key part of the celebrations, ‘Welcome to Qatar’ is a must-see for all during the tournament, featuring the Circle of Lights – a shimmering circle suspended above the water that transforms to poetically narrate wonderful stories.

Throughout the afternoon, dancing water fountains will bring the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Official Soundtrack to life. When the sun goes down, a stunning symphony of pyrotechnics, drones and water effects will light up the sky – all set to an original orchestral score.

After the opening day, shows will take place daily at 3pm, 3.30pm,



The Doha Corniche is all set to host World Cup celebrations.

4pm, 4.30pm, 5pm and 5.50pm throughout the tournament.

Visit <https://www.qatar2022.qa/en/live-it-all-in-qatar/the-corniche-for-more-information>.

**How to reach**

- FIFA Fan Festival (only Hayya Card holders allowed)  
Venue: Al Bidda Park  
Nearest metro stations: West Bay Qatar Energy (Red line), Al Bidda (Red and Green lines), Corniche (Red line) – exit only  
Fans can also hop on the Shuttle Bus Loop or a Stadium Express Bus, Park & Ride and be dropped off at designated locations for taxi, Uber and Careem
- More information about timings and other details can be found at <https://www.qatar2022.qa/en/fifa-fan-festival>
- Corniche street celebrations  
Venue: Corniche, from the Museum of Islamic Art to Hotel Park (Sheraton).  
Nearest metro station: Souq Waqif (Gold line), Corniche (Red line) – exit only, West Bay Qatar Energy (Red line), Al Bidda (Red and Green lines)  
Visit <https://www.qatar2022.qa/en/live-it-all-in-qatar/the-corniche-for-more-information> about timings and other details.









QATAR

FIFA WORLD CUP  
Qatar 2022

QATAR



# QCDC annual career guide focuses on organisation of World Cup

The Qatar Career Development Centre (QCDC) has published the 13th issue of its annual *Career Guide* magazine ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Dedicated to showcasing the organisational aspects of the international tournament, the guide features information and interviews focused on the developmental and intellectual legacies that hosting the unique event will have.

Abdullah al-Mansoori, director at the QCDC, a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), discussed the impact of the event on Qatar and its youth.

"Besides the massive construction efforts that were undertaken in preparation for this historic event, we were keen, in this special edition of our magazine, to highlight the legacy that this tournament will leave on the human, economic and social levels, and particularly, its impact on Qatari youth," he said.

"A legacy that is the result of years of inspiring preparation and planning, from which we drew lessons about the art of management and the importance of willpower, to demonstrate what can be achieved by adopting science and knowledge as the foundation for strategic planning and systematic execution," al-Mansoori said.

He also said that Qatar's unique journey will not conclude with the final whistle of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

"This is a new beginning and an important milestone on the road to achieving the Qatar National Vision 2030, which focuses on developing human potential, through wise guidance and appropriate planning," al-Mansoori said. "Therefore, I invite our youth to persist in their efforts and build on this tournament's achievements to en-

sure a prosperous future for our country driven by sustainable development."

The guide features in-depth interviews with prominent figures of Qatari youth who directly contributed to Qatar's World Cup preparations, sharing their experiences and expertise.

The guide also touches upon new and exciting career paths related to the event, such as sustainability, event management and corporate communication.

The FIFA World Cup Volunteers programme is another focus of this year's *Career Guide* – as Qatar's largest volunteer programme, it has drawn more than 20,000 participants, including 15,000 citizens and residents.

Nasser al-Mogaiseeb, volunteer strategy manager at the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC), highlights the importance of volunteering and its role in helping youth develop their skills, enhance their abilities, gain new experiences, and build a professional network, which will reflect on their careers and the competence of Qatar's workforce.

Other interviews contained within the guide include that of SC Secretary-General HE Hassan al-Thawadi, who discusses efforts to ensure that the tournament leaves behind a sustainable legacy that benefits youth in Qatar and across the region for years to come, as well as the event's impact on the labour market and the development of local talent.

English football legend David Beckham, who was also interviewed for the guide, discusses what could be achieved by hosting a world class event for the first time in the Middle East, while offering readers tips to achieve career success in the field of their choice.

The *Career Guide* addresses the active



role that QF has played in preparing for the World Cup, as well as Education City's efforts in preparing to host the event there.

Alexandra Chalat, director of World Cup Legacy at the QF, spoke at length about the co-operation between the QF and the SC, as well as the activations and events that Education City will host throughout the tournament.

Insights into the QCDC's efforts, activities, and events throughout 2022 are also highlighted, as well as advice and tips collected by the QCDC's career guidance and

development experts to help youth choose the career path that best aligns with their skills, qualifications, interests, and the local labour market dynamics.

The magazine is available on the QCDC's interactive app on App Store and Google Play, and on the QCDC's website publications page [CG13\\_EN\\_WEB.pdf \(qcdc.org.qa\)](https://cg13_en_web.pdf(qcdc.org.qa)), which features a digital archive of all the magazine's editions.

A hard copy of the magazine can also be obtained through Education City's distribution platforms.

## Qatar Youth Hostels initiative to introduce important landmarks to public

Qatar Youth Hostels (QYH) has launched an initiative under the theme *This is Qatar*, in conjunction with the country's hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, with the aim of introducing the country's most important landmarks to the tournament fans.

In a press statement, the QYH said that the initiative is based on three phases.

In the first phase, places in Qatar that be visited, including archaeological sites, are publicised on the QYH's social media pages in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and German, including the map of Qatar.

Two blogs have been launched, with the first one introducing seven sites, and the second blog including the map of Doha city showing 11 sites.

The sites were selected on the basis of history and heritage, and include contemporary and landscape sites.

In the second phase is the launch of updated official QYH website at <https://hi-qatar.com/ar/this-qatar/>.

The QYH indicated that the third phase is an activity that will take place during the World Cup.

A link will be activated on the QYH's social media pages to allow registration by those who wish to enjoy free visits to the sites and landmarks promoted within the initiative.

Two visits will be organised each week, to two different sites within and without Doha. – QNA

## Third 'floating hotel' arrives at Doha Port



The *MSC Opera*, the third cruise ship to serve as a "floating hotel" during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, has arrived at Doha Port – providing more accommodation options for fans.

At 275m in length and 32m in width, the 13-deck *MSC Opera* can accommodate 2,150 people with 1,075 rooms that offer a variety of accommodation options, from indoor and sea-view cabins to balcony cabins and suites, Mwani Qatar said in a tweet.

Cruise ships *MSC Poesia* and *MSC World Europa* had arrived at Doha Port earlier. Pictured are the three ships at the port.



Hifz Alnaema has been responsible for the redistribution of 3.8mn meals since 2008.

## Ministry opens new media office

The Ministry of Municipality has launched its new media office at the Public Relations Department at its administrative building at Al Muntazah Area, which will cover and follow up all the activities, events and news of the ministry throughout the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, in addition to preparing the necessary reports and daily news, and sharing with local media.

## Local charity to redistribute unused food at World Cup

What happens with leftover food at a massive international event like the FIFA World Cup?

In Qatar, the tournament organising committee has devised a solution, partnering with local charity Hifz Alnaema to ensure that unused and surplus food is donated for redistribution to workers and other beneficiaries as part of the wider "Food Waste Minimisation" effort.

The Food Waste Minimisation programme was established in the wake of the FIFA Arab Cup 2021, where it was observed that organics, including food, comprised a significant portion of total waste.

To prevent the disposal of otherwise safe, consumable food, it was agreed to work with the local experts at Hifz Alnaema – the first and oldest food bank and food recovery programme in Qatar – which will be responsible for recovering surplus food from 12 venues, including stadiums and fan zones, to be redistributed to recipients in need, FIFA.com reports.

The joint programme is not the first co-operative initiative between Qatar 2022 and Hifz Alnaema, as previously over 1,400 meals were donated and delivered during the FIFA World Cup Draw and Congress in March.

Since operations began at a number of official FIFA World



## 'One Tide' initiative to raise awareness on dangers of waste

In conjunction with the launch of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the Zero Waste Festival events are set to kick off as part of the "One Tide" initiative launched in March by the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC), with the aim of raising the awareness of the community on the importance of reducing waste.

The festival highlights the quantity of waste generated from the daily activities of the community's individuals and their adverse impact on environment, with a special focus on providing the essential tips and advice on waste reduction strategies.

There will be interactive presentations and activities promoting awareness and encouraging adherence to practices that preserve a healthy and safe environment for generations to come.

Organisers of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 have been committed to laying out sustainability initiatives and programmes over the years, with significant strides having been made.

The "One Tide" initiative is a perfect opportunity to consolidate sustainability achievements and highlight the compliance to reduce the impact of the hosting of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on the environment, with the world's eyes starting to turn to Qatar as the date of the historic tournament approaches.

The "One Tides" Zero Waste Festival falls within SC's efforts to lay out a wider programme of events to raise the level of awareness and encourage individuals to take steps that create positive change in the Qatari community, reducing the harmful impacts of waste on the environment.

For example, Torba Farmers Market is poised to roll out a "green" guide to farmers to ensure the best societal and sustainable initiatives in Qatar, along with a list of the pioneering companies in the field of adopting the practices that aim to protect and conserve the environment, including by providing the best recycling services.

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Sustainability Strategy plays an effective role in promoting the positive impact of the tournament, building a sustainable legacy at the level of conserving the environment, contributing to achieving the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, and supporting the UN Sustainable development Goals.

For more than a decade, the SC has been committed to hosting a sustainable edition of the World Cup by observing all aspects of sustainability in the tournament projects, and has devoted the past 12 years to drawing up the plans, carrying out the building and construction works, testing the efficiency of operations, and setting its sights on offering an exceptional experience for all.

Sustainability is considered a critical element in the success of the tournament, and has been a major focus for the tournament since Qatar submitted the file of hosting this event. – QNA

## Hifz Alnaema to redistribute food from 12 stadiums and fan zones as part of the tournament Food Waste Minimisation programme

Cup Sites last month, thousands more meals have been donated.

Jose Retana, sustainability director for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 LLC, said: "The Food Waste Minimisation programme depends on local civilian and social organisations like Hifz Alnaema with the network and resources to not only ensure the safe redistribution of food resources, but also to suggest innovative sustainability solutions for future tournaments and similar global events."

Since 2008, Hifz Alnaema has worked closely with local communities to recover and redistribute meals from hotels, events and restaurants.

Its vision is stated simply as "a waste-free Qatar" and over the years it has expanded their redistribution activities to include clothing, furniture, appliances, electronics and other goods.

To date, Hifz Alnaema has assisted more than 3.76mn beneficiaries and delivered over 3.8mn meals.

"A tournament like the FIFA

World Cup encompasses much more than just football," said Hifz Alnaema executive director Ali Ayed al-Qatani.

"Through the partnerships with local government and community organisations, a comprehensive vision for social, environmental and humanitarian sustainability comes to life, benefiting thousands outside the tournament and having a lasting, transformative effect on the local culture of charity and social cohesion," he added.

In addition to food donation, the Food Waste Minimisation programme also encompasses meal planning and order adaptation to minimise unconsumed meals.

In addition, food from the tournament that is no longer safe for consumption will be composted at stadiums and other venues.

This compost is processed together with pitch grass and other organic material to create fertiliser that is used in farms across Qatar.









# MES hosts mega rally in support of World Cup



MES Indian School organised a mega rally of students and teachers in support of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on Wednesday at its football field. A large turnout of students from KG to XII in the jersey of their favourite teams participated.

## MES in Generation Amazing programme



A group of 20 MES Indian School students have been invited to participate in the Generation Amazing goal 22 programme to celebrate the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The five-day programme running until November 21 under the patronage of Unesco is being organised in partnership with FIFA Foundation, Qatar Foundation, Qatar Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and Qatar Football Association. The programme brings together a network of schools from within Qatar and abroad committed to championing ethical and inclusive sports while nurturing a generation of change-makers and empowering communities. MES is the only Asian expatriate school invited for the event.

## MES students support World Cup



As part of the initiatives to support the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the scouts, guides, cubs and bulbuls of MES Indian School conducted drawing, colouring, painting and slogan writing activities in various categories. About 500 students participated.



## MES student chosen for World Cup task

I bin Shaan (VIII-D) of MES Indian School has been selected to carry the ball for the quarter-final match of the FIFA World Cup

Qatar 2022. A school statement explained that the young footballer is one of the five students from the country to get the honour.

## Solidarity with World Cup



Indian expatriate organisation Qatar Velicham organised a meeting to express solidarity with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The meeting was led by president Haneefa and general secretary Jamsheer P K.

# Indian forums release FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 tribute albums

The Federation of Indian Nurse Qatar (Finq) has released a musical tribute to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. Titled Panenka, the inspirational song was filmed entirely at various locations in Qatar. "It is the first-ever music video which has been composed, written, sung, choreographed and performed by nurses," said an official.

The music video was released in the presence of Indian ambassador Dr Deepak Mittal, his wife Dr Alpana Mittal, Hamad Medical Corporation's acting chief nursing officer Mariam al-Mutawa and other dignitaries.

Panenka is symbolic of a technique used while taking penalty which could be the beginning of victory. Finq president Reena Philip said 'Panenka' is symbolic to the nursing role as the nurses have bounced back post pandemic and are ready to face any uncertainty in ensuring health for all.

The song is also scheduled to be played on the inaugural match day, November 20, at the Asian Town Fan Zone.

Meanwhile, 'Welcome World Cup', a Mappilappattu music album expressing solidarity to the World Cup was launched by Radio Malayalam 98.6 FM CEO Anwar Hussain who handed over a CD to S A M Basheer, presi-



Officials at the launch of Panenka.

dent of KMCC. The organisers claimed that Welcome World Cup is the first Mappilappattu album to celebrate the Qatar World Cup and is sung by Adil Athu and team.

The video by Samar Media is directed by Ameen Jouhar. The lyricist, G P Kunhabdulla Chappuram, is a long time Doha resident and has written hundreds of Mappila songs. "I have lived in this beautiful country for 43 years and this album is my humble dedication to the Qatar World Cup 2022," he said. Mediaplus CEO Dr Amanulla Vadakkangara launched the on-line version of the song. The video album is available with Arabic subtitles.



Launch of 'Welcome World Cup' Mappilappattu album.

## Football Fiesta by KEF



The Keralite Engineers Forum (KEF) recently organised a Football Fiesta to express solidarity with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. KEF president Zakir Hussain inaugurated and secretary Sudheesh presided. The function was marked by various sport events including kids football matches, penalty shootout, bottle challenge and caption contests. Members and families attended. Naufal, Dayan, Farhad, Ajmal, Jiji, Alex, Fairros, Shailaja and Rajni were the key organisers.



## World Cup celebrations organised at PISQ

Pakistan International School Qatar (PISQ) organised FIFA World Cup celebrations on Wednesday. The campus was decorated with Qatari flags, balloons, collages, and placards. The festivities included many cultural, sports and recreational activities designed to celebrate the shared passion for football in light of the World Cup, hosted by Qatar for the first time in the Arab world as well as in the Middle East. The students, faculty and staff celebrated through commemorative speeches, Qatar history quizzes, cultural performances, march past, football and throwball friendly matches, competitive classroom decorations and a variety of traditional activities. The grand opening ceremony was graced by the chief guest, principal Nargis Raza Otho and other officials of PISQ. The principal took the salute at the welcome parade of students of all five wings, in jerseys of their favourite football players. The main attraction was a representation of the participating teams.



## Indian students compete in Tamil speech contest



Students of Indian schools displayed their public speaking skills in Tamil at the annual Dr A P J Abdul Kalam memorial elocution competition organised by the Qatar Tamizhar Sangam (QTS) under the aegis of Indian embassy. A former president of India, Dr Kalam was a passionate teacher and believed that students are the future pillars of building a strong nation. A total of 150 students participated in the final round. The winners, in the order of first, second and third prizes, respectively: Sub juniors - Yakshitha Dilipkumar, Atheequr Rahman (both from MES Indian School), Nithin Jenish (DPS-Monarch), Juniors - Kayalvizhi Krishnamoorthi (Birla Public School), Hannah Madeline (MES), Athithi Guru (DPS-Monarch), Seniors - Padmavarshan Vijayakumar (Birla), Arun Mukhil (MES), Dharshini Nakulan (DPS-MIS). Indian embassy first secretary Xavier Dhanraj was the chief guest.

## MES Indian School bags Tamil elocution championship



MES Indian School bagged the overall championship in Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Memorial Interschool Tamil Elocution Competition conducted by Qatar Tamizhar Sangam. A total of 150 participants from 14 Indian schools competed in various categories. In category one, Yakshitha Dilipkumar won the first prize and Atheequr Rahman the second prize. Hannah Madeline won the second prize in category two. In category three, Arun Mukhil was second. Principal Hameeda Kadar congratulated the winners. Jeyanthi Suresh, co-ordinator, Department of Tamil, co-ordinated the training and participation of the team.

## Robotics lab inaugurated at DPS-Monarch school



A Robotics Lab was inaugurated at DPS-Monarch International School (DPS-Monarch) featuring innovative technologies ranging from Artificial Intelligence, product design to 3D printing, drones, humanoid robots development, mobile app development, Internet of Things, robotics and automation, microcontrollers and sensors on the eve of second-

ary school annual day recently.

Among the highlights was Motaz (Proud and Powerful in Arabic), a sculpture of a humanoid robot made of automobile scrap and e-waste.

Motaz was developed by students Punnoose Kuncheria Purakel, Subbulakshman Prabusankar, Vrind Somani, Radhika Suri, Rakesh Raja, Darshan Venkateshwaran and Rithu Raja under the guidance

of Ashish Tanwar and Nikhil Kulkarni.

In Next Brain Lab, students were exposed to various technologies and national as well as international competitions.

With director Gopi Vardhan's vision, a group of students - Vamsheedharan Sankar Krishnan, Hardik Sukhmandan, Rakesh Raja, Rithu Raja and Darshan Venkateshwaran - have de-

veloped two apps under the guidance of Nikhil Kulkarni. The first app, Next Brain Lab, gives information about the lab like technologies, upcoming events/competitions.

The second app, MoStudy, will be used by teachers and students of grade 10 to share question bank. Teachers can upload the question bank and students have the option to view and download it.

## DPS-MIS holds fourth inter-school MUN

DPS-Modern Indian School (DPS-MIS) held its fourth edition of inter-school Model United Nations (MUN) Conference recently. Vice president Yasir Nainar was the chief guest. The theme was 'Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions' - the 16th Sustainable Development Goal. The event saw active participation of delegates from DeBakey High School, DPS-Monarch International School, Swiss International School and MES Indian School.



## Keralite theatre forum elects new committee



Natakasouhridham, a forum of Keralite theatre lovers in Qatar, have elected its new governing committee at the general body. They are: president - Majeed Symphony; vice-presidents - Muthu ICRC, Jamal Veloor; secretary - Ashique Mahi; joint secretaries - Nimisha Nishad, Navas; treasurer - Krishnakumar; joint treasurers - Pradhosh Kumar, Sajeev Jacob; chief co-ordinator - Iqbal Chettuva; cultural convener - Anvar Babu; joint conveners - Rajesh Rajan, Biju P Mangalam; media and publicity conveners - Majeed Nadhapuram, Mustafa Elathoor; executive members - E M Sudheer, Faisal Arikkaattayil, Raju Podiyam, Mallika Babu, Ashtami Ajith, Bindu Karun, Krishnan Unni, Basheer Chettuva, Rafeeq Mechery and Shafeeq Arakkal. The participants fondly remembered the services of the forum's founder, Malayalam film and theatre artist Sudhakaran and former members Unnikka, Mohammedali, Bava Vadakara, Farooque who have left Qatar for good. Former president Rajesh Rajan presided. Former general secretary Pradhosh Kumar presented the report. Former treasurer Iqbal Chettuva welcomed the gathering and Jamal Veloor proposed a vote of thanks.

## MESIS celebrates Children's Day

MES Indian School (MESIS), Abu Hamour Branch celebrated Children's Day with special events and paid tribute to Jawaharlal Nehru, independent India's first prime minister, who was renowned for his affection for children. Students dressed up as Nehru. Teachers decorated the classrooms and welcomed the students by distributing cards and chocolates.







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**GULF TIMES**

# US midterms dampen Big Pharma hopes for price policy change

The divided US Congress after the November midterm elections undermines pharmaceutical companies who want to weaken a new law that allows the government to negotiate drug prices, Republican strategists, policy experts and pharmaceutical executives say.

Democratic President Joe Biden's signature Inflation Reduction Act, which Democrats passed in August against pharmaceutical industry and Republicans opposition, allows the government's Medicare health programme for people aged 65 and older and people with disabilities to directly negotiate prices for some drugs starting in 2026.

The industry had been hoping a Republican-controlled Congress would change some provisions in the law and that the president could be convinced to signed off on them, eight strategists, experts and executives told Reuters.

Now, with Democrats in control of the Senate and Republicans running the House of Representatives starting in January, the pharmaceutical industry is regrouping for 2023 around a shorter provisions list they say are most problematic as well as turning to other priority areas, sources and experts say.

Drugmakers are launching new medicines at record-high prices this year, a Reuters analysis has found, highlighting their pricing power even after Congress moved to cut the \$500bn-plus annual bill for prescription drugs in the United States.

The law allows the government to choose 10 drugs to negotiate from among the 50 costliest drugs for Medicare.

Some experts say it is highly unlikely the Biden administration would change its signature law.

Biden vowed on the campaign trail to oppose Republican attempts to weaken it.

## Drugmakers are launching new medicines at record-high prices this year

"There are things that I think Republicans are thinking could be changed in the law to make it less onerous," said White, a Republican strategist and former congressional staffer who specialises in health policy.

That aligns with the industry's approach.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, three pharmaceutical executives said they would lobby both Democrats and Republicans to extend the negotiation exemption period for conventional prescription drugs to 13 years from nine years following US Food and Drug Administration approval.

This would be in line with complex biologic drugs, which are made from living cells.

Also among their top asks is a reset, or at least extension, of the negotiation exemption period every time a company proves the drug works for an additional illness and is approved for it by regulators.

They argue companies and shareholders will lose their financial incentive without such a change.

The industry believes the best approach for bipartisan support is to tie the extension request to their work on finding cancer treatments, even if it is an uphill battle.

This would align with Biden's "cancer moonshot" initiative to cut the cancer death rate in half in the next 25 years.

"We're eager to work with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to fix flaws in the law and to drive meaningful change that lowers patients' out-of-pocket costs," said Brian Newell, a spokesperson for Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), the industry's powerful trade association.

Biden is unlikely to weaken his signature domestic achievement, said Larry Levitt, Executive Vice President for Health Policy at the Kaiser Family Foundation.

"I can certainly imagine Republicans pushing for tweaks that would weaken drug pricing negotiation, but I have a tough time seeing President Biden going along with that," said Levitt, a senior health official during the Clinton administration.

Even Republican support for the drug pricing provision is not guaranteed because it is popular with voters across the political spectrum, he said.

"All Republicans voted against drug price negotiation, but they have to tread carefully in any effort to weaken it." – Reuters

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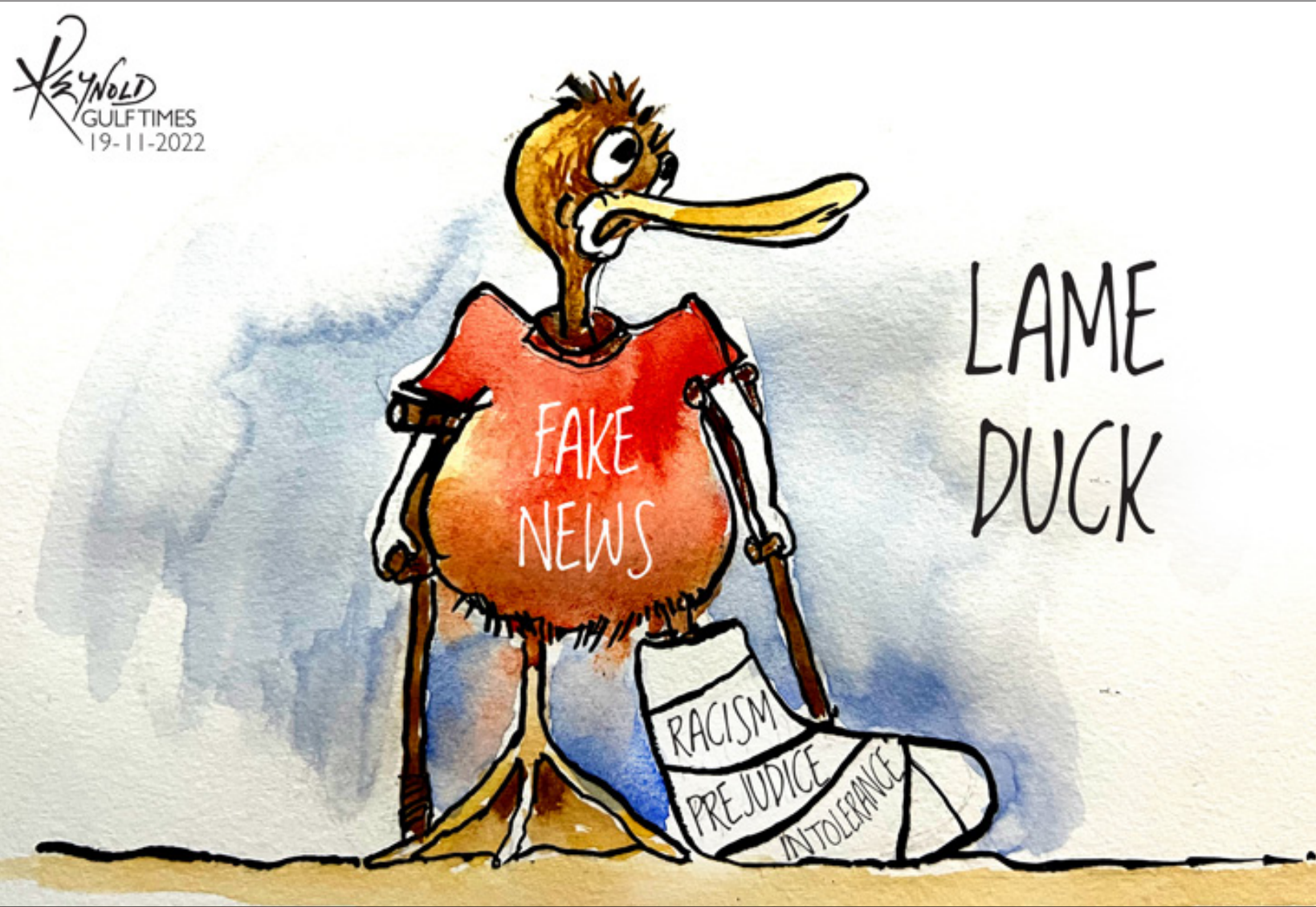
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# Qatar's outstanding efforts to make 2022 World Cup most secure ever

**QNA**  
Doha

Since winning the bid to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup, Qatar has started to mobilise its efforts, employ its experiences and expertise, and strengthen its regional and international co-operation to secure this global event, making it the safest and most secure World Cup edition.

Qatar has inspiring experiences, wisdom and insight in hosting international mega events and activities that require crowd management and achieving the maximum levels of safety and security for participants and visitors from all around the world.

Qatar's recent history includes a long list of organising hundreds of international events, forums, and mega sports events.

One of the biggest sports tournaments organised by Qatar was the 15th Asian Games (XV Asiad) which was described as "the games of a lifetime" given the exceptional success in security and organisation.

The list goes on to include the 2010 IAAF World Indoor Championships in Athletics, the 2011 AFC Asian Cup, the 2015 World Men's Handball Championship, and more than 500 other regional and international sports tournaments organised over the past 15 years.

Qatar's success in securing sporting events is not strange for a country that enjoys political, social, and economic stability as well as a high level of security as affirmed by global indicators that classify Qatar as one of the most secure countries in the world and ranks among the top in societal safety and security according to these indicators.

Talking in numbers, according to Global Peace Index (GPI), Qatar ranked first among the countries of the Middle East and North Africa (Mena), while it ranked 23rd globally among 163 countries included in the report on the level of security, advancing by six places over the previous year, as the safest and most secure state.

Qatar has maintained its high rank in several security indicators contained in the report, including criminality in society, terrorist activity, homicides, safety, and security, organised internal conflicts, and terrorism and political stability.

Qatar also ranked first globally, within the Arab world, and within the Middle East in the Security Index for the year 2022, issued by the worldwide database (Numbeo). All these indicators affirm that extending safety and security is an indispensable priority, a consistent approach no matter the circumstances, and a right for everyone who lives in this country or visiting as a guest.

Based on that, Qatar has placed the safety of all participants of FIFA World Cup Qatar whether teams, fans, or visitors at the top of its main priorities to prepare in advance to secure this event and guarantee full readiness on various logistical, human, and technical levels.

**Securing World Cup**

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

Qatar has inspiring experiences, wisdom and insight in hosting international mega events and activities

**500** Regional and international sports tournaments were organized over the past 15 years.

**Security and Safety of Sports Fans Program**

The program included:

- Stadium safety and security
- Security sense
- Crowd management
- Human rights
- First aid
- Evacuate facilities

**"Watan" joint exercise**

with the participation of all military, civil, organizational, and service authorities in the State along with 13 brotherly and friendly countries.

**The last mile security conference**

Qatar signed several agreements and MoU with different countries and international organizations such as Interpol, the International Centre for Sport Security ISCC

Qatar ranked first the Arab world, and in the Middle East in the Security Index for the year 2022

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To achieve maximum safety and security, FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Safety and Security Operations Committee (SSOC) has launched a bundle of plans, programmes, training and qualification workshops, and joint exercises, to raise the human cadre capabilities, in implementation of the tournament's security strategy.

Among the training programmes designed for governmental and private security, the programme on the security and safety of sports fans which included several training courses on stadium safety and security, security sense, crowd management, human rights, first aid, co-operation with the crowd, in addition to Tournament Policies and Procedures programme which covered facility evacuation simulations and training on how to deal with possible scenarios.

These programmes were conducted in co-operation with specialised experts from the European Police and Europol with 49,000 participants – 32,000 individuals from government security and 17,000 individuals from private security.

In Nov 2021, the SSOC organised the 'Watan' joint exercise to confirm security readiness.

The exercise was conducted with the participation of all military, civil, organisational, and service authorities in the country, each according to its competence along with 13 brotherly and friendly countries.

The "Watan" security exercise was the largest of its kind in terms of the number of participating authorities internally and externally, in addition

to the evolving of its events to combine security, military, organisational, and service aspects.

It also featured the diversification of its various scenarios and gradations based on all kinds of potential internal and external risks during the tournament's organisation.

At the time of the exercise, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) pointed out that the exercise aims to enhance close co-operation with the brotherly and friendly forces participating in it and to ensure the integration of efforts and co-operation to achieve the best security experiences in major sporting events hosted by Qatar.

Qatar signed several agreements and memorandums of understanding with different countries and international organisations such as Interpol, the International Centre for Sport Security ISCC, The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement co-operation Europol) to ensure a smooth exchange of information and expertise in the security domains to strengthen the security of the tournament and leaves a global legacy to be used by countries wishing to host mega sports events.

The Last Mile Security Conference, organised by the SSOC in May 2022, was a testament to Qatar's keenness to follow up the implementation of security plans and strategies in co-operation with regional and international partners, strengthen bilateral co-operation in the security field, and to stand on the final required security preparations.

The conference also witnessed the

signing of an agreement between Qatar and the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) to extend co-operation for (Project Stadia), which was established by Interpol in 2012, with funding and support from Qatar, with the aim of serving countries wishing to host major sporting events.

In addition, a joint declaration on the International Police Co-operation Center also was signed between Qatar and a number of countries participating in the conference.

In the context of international co-operation, as well as achieving the highest levels of security during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Qatar established the International Police Co-operation Center (IPCC) with the launch of the FIFA Club World Cup Qatar 2019.

The IPCC is an operations room managed and supervised by the SSOC, and it has been provided with the latest advanced technological means and the necessary infrastructure for the centre to perform its role and achieve its goals.

Qatar crowned these efforts by hosting the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2021, which offered an opportunity to measure security, logistical, and organisational readiness.

Qatar's security efforts in preparation for the World Cup were praised by the FIFA.

During the "Last Mile" security conference, FIFA's Director of Security Helmut Spahn stressed that the level of integration and partnership that has been achieved with the SSOC reassures that the tournament will be delivered to the highest safety standards.

Spahn stressed that FIFA as the governing body of the game participated in the preparations for the tournament in Qatar, adding that since being established in 2012, the SSOC has been working closely with FIFA.

In a related context, project "Stadia" a Qatari project that started in 2012 in collaboration with Interpol is one of the main projects that took shape after Qatar won the bid to host the FIFA World Cup.

The project aims to help member countries of the Interpol organisation set and implement police and security measures within the framework of preparing for mega sports events.

The 12-year running project contributes to the police and security arrangements for the World Cup, which leaves a sustainable legacy for the world law enforcement mediums.

With wisdom, insight, and multidimensional vision, Qatar continues its security preparations to host the FIFA World Cup.

During the preparations, Qatar managed to shape its philosophy by qualifying its security cadres who will oversee this national mission and establishing regional and international partnerships to benefit from experiences and expertise.

The will of Qatari citizens and residents remains the main front line to secure the tournament so that Qatar once again proves to be the world's safest place and the worthiest to host such a global event.









# World Cup festivities kick off at Katara

All aglow and glittering, Katara – the Cultural Village launched yesterday a large number of events ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and running until December 18.

Katara, described as the centre of world-class culture, arts and entertainment in Qatar, has always been at the forefront when providing art-related education and entertainment to people from all cultures and walks of life and prepared in a huge way to welcome fans and visitors from all over the world during the mega sporting event.

Yesterday, Katara shone like a bright planet from the skies, with colourful domes sporting Arabic calligraphy and lit-up dhows by the Katara Beach, in addition to sports-related activities, music and exhibitions.

The theme and fanfare of football was at the centre of it all.

Al Kass TV have set up a huge and state-of-the-art studio near the Katara Beach to beam the entertainment action live.

Some of the 51 main events will see 300 sub-events (with the participation of 22 countries) in co-operation with a number of ministries and government

and private institutions as visitors flock to Katara.

These events will continue until December 18.

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

**Tunisian Cultural Days** was launched at Katara Amphitheater (Bldg 41) and includes a number of folk arts that embody the Tunisian lyrical heritage.

A puppet show was also presented by the Tunisian school in Qatar at the Ibn al-Rayb Street in Katara.

A **Russian** show, presented by Arabesque Qatar Ballet Studio, included a bouquet of dances that are part of the Russian heritage and folklore.

The Creativity Square at Katara hosted an **Indonesian** musical evening where the Angklung musical instrument (made of two bamboo tubes) was used collectively, creating an atmosphere of rapture and harmony.

The performances of the Indonesian band will continue until November 28 (from 6pm-8pm) at Creativity Square opposite Building 18 & 15, while the Russian band will perform on week-

ends until the end of the FIFA World Cup 2022 from 6pm-8pm at Ibn Al Reeb Street.

Yesterday also saw the opening of a series of art exhibitions, including:

- The Qatari Fine Arts Society Exhibition
- *The Faces of the World* exhibition (relating to the first FIFA World Cup)
- A 2D and 3D exhibition about the solar system, planets and space at the Al Thuraya Planetarium
- Qatari Plastic Art exhibition
- Katara Museum of Traditional Dhow
- Katara International Ceramics Exhibition
- Football, and
- Fine Art and Collectibles.

Among the other major attractions are exhibitions of World Cup postage stamps, Oud history, Iranian culture, sports caricature, and Arabic calligraphy activities.

Many events were also unveiled for children with special needs in co-operation with the Qatar Foundation for Social Work, Katara International Handicraft Market, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation event, Al Dar Cultural Tent, Sports Engineering and the Qatar World Cup with the Qatar Society of Engineers.

To mark the occasion of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Katara has launched 22 books on football published by the Katara Publishing House.

The Katara Football Art & Collection Exhibition also opened inside Building 18.

The legacy of FIFA World Cup is showcased by way of key moments from the last five editions of tournament while blending football and art.

Edutainment is also on offer with puzzle games (by the Qatar Association of Certified Public Accountants), the activities of the Book Centre, activities of the Clock Club, Katara Centre for Arabic Fiction, Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Centre, and Centre for Ara-



Katara – the Cultural Village is all decorated and lit up for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 celebrations launched yesterday.  
**PICTURES:** Thajudheen and supplied



bic Fiction, Kahraman, Sadu Centre, Fashion Centre, Rababah event, Qatar Guests events, and architecture and mosques events.

A Sport Cartoon exhibition features 100 creations, including one that will win the Katara Cartoon Award.

Katara is also holding a number of competitions, including that for plastic art, photography, and golden talent.

A Qatari Traditional Symphony Show also delighted visitors yesterday.

Adding to the already palpable excitement, the 12th Katara Traditional Dhow Festival will be inaugurated today (Saturday) and will continue until December 18.

The festival at the Katara Beach and promenade will have 50 pavilions – including exhibitions of marine heritage collectibles and others for crafts and handicrafts and ship building workshops.



Nine countries – Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Iraq, Yemen, India, Turkey and Tanzania – will be featured at this year's Katara Traditional Dhow Festival.

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will be celebrated at the dhow festival on all days with the hoisting of the flags of the 32 teams.

The flags will then be put on the her-

itage dhows to sail past the Doha Corniche and Qatar's world famous Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) to reach Doha Port by sunset.

The grand and hugely popular festival showcases Qatar's pearl-diving legacy and the rich values of fishing and maritime history – a cultural pride in the hearts of Qataris for several generations.



## Celebrations continue at Souq Waqif

Doha's Souq Waqif continued to throb with excitement and celebrations yesterday, ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which kicks off tomorrow and runs until December 18.

**PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam

