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FIFAWORLD CUP OOTedoo"



CLAIM YOUR 2022 GIFT 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 Oatari 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 cooperation 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

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

t's time to let the party begin, and 'Live it All in Qatar'.

with headline solo performances

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 the official FIFA Fan Festival an them, '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-lam. 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

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 expe-

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

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 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.gatar2022.ga/en/fifa-fan-festival

Meanwhile, the Corniche will be home to "Oatar'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

Amir visits International Broadcast Centre, media centre for World Cup

2022 MB | 2022 MINUTES | 2022 SMS



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

he 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 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 vesterday. 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.

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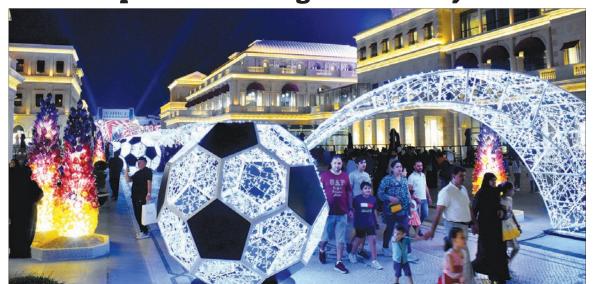
Regulatory Authority | الاتـصـالات دولــة قـطــر | State of Qatar

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 player 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

s 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.

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

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

QATAR , , ,



Qatar airports prepared to deal with flight congestion

QNA

oth 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 conges-



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

Al-Hajri said that the past 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 OCCA 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 manage-

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 Oatar 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 takeoffs (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, 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.

neighbouring Additionally, 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-Hairi 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 coordination 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 Migrationm (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 Oatar 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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- match of each group. For Qatar matches the draw will be made automatically on the second day of the match.

Comments will be suspended before the start of the Qatar matches and before the third

- For the rest of the group league matches, 2 draws will be made (1 for each platform and 1 for all groups).
- Winners will be announced on our social media platforms.
- The contestant can participate more than once.

Prizes will be collected after the end of the World Cup.

















***MoreThanAGame media campaign launched**

he #MoreThanAGame media campaign was launched yesterday with a roundtable discussion, as part of Generation Amazing Foundation's annual Youth Festival. Community leaders were able to share their stories of how sport positively changed their lives with more than 100 youth training to be future practitioners in the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) and promotion of peace.

Featuring professional footballer Dr Nadia Nadim, the event was organised by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Global Sports Programme and co-hosted by the Generation Amazing (GA) Foundation on the margins of the Goal 2022 festival.

The panel launched the programme's #MoreThanAGame media campaign and fielded questions from 120 young people representing the 32 nations participating in the FIFA World

Cup Qatar 2022. The campaign is a key initiative of UNOCT's Global Sports Programme and its co-implementing partners, the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations (UNAOC), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS).

The campaign aims to promote the potential of sport as a force for good by highlighting the stories of professional athletes and inspiring young people from around the globe during major sporting events.

It also includes "Golden Ticket" events where exemplary young people have the opportunity to join a professional athlete in a conversation to share how sports improved their lives.

GA, the human and social legacy programme of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, has positively impacted more than 1mn people globally since



From the panel discussion.

its launch during Qatar's bid to host the FIFA World Cup. In his opening remarks, Mauro Miedico, deputy director, UNCCT and chief, Special Projects and Innovation Branch of UNOCT expressed appreciation for Qatar's generous support of the Global Sports Programme.

CEO, ICSS, said: "Our campaign complements three years of work to inspire the advancement of global and national poli-Montanari. cies to secure sport and promote

its values as a strategy to prevent violent extremism and in support of law enforcement agencies, organizers, and civil society."

Nasser al-Khori, executive director, GA Foundation said: "Generation Amazing Foundations' mission is to inspire and provide life-changing opportunities for underserved youth from all over the world through the power of football."

During the panel discussion moderated by Miedico, Dr Nadim told personal anecdotes on how sport helped her overcome the difficulties of her childhood to become a world-renowned star on the pitch as well a medical doctor in the time she spent without her kit on.

Dr Nadim was joined in a panel discussion by one young beneficiary of sport based PVE programming, Kelsey (23) of the Irish Football Association Foundation as well as a young sportbased PVE programme practitioner, Caroline (30) of Local Youth Corner Cameroon.

Kelsey explained her challenging upbringing in her home community and speak about how the power of sport was able to completely turn her life around. Caroline, noted similarly that by developing teamwork and communication skills, we are able to not only succeed on the pitch but also promote peace and positivity within our own communities."

Miguel Angel Moratinos, High Representative - UNAOC said: "We hope this campaign will inspire many young people around the world." Antonia Marie De Meo, director, UNICRI, said: 'Sports are a uniting force. They build trust, promote inclusivity and encourage respect for diver-

"Our work shows that these values are essential to counter radicalisation and violent extremism in communities at risk."

Clean environment, sustainable legacy: Qatar dazzles with first carbon-neutral World Cup

QNA Qatar

s part of its strategy to host the first carbonneutral edition of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Qatar is establishing global standards in environmental conservation, which will serve as a model in major international tournaments, in addition to building a sustainable legacy that will benefit future generations.

A carbon-neutral tournament means achieving a balance in the carbon emissions resulting from vehicles exhausts, energy-generating processes and ensuring that the percentage of carbon in the air does not increase in order to avoid the occurrence or exacerbation of many environmental problems such as global warming and climate change that may cause countless environmental

disasters. In its strategy to organise the first carbon-neutral edition. Oatar relies on the level of sustainability for stadiums acincluding design, construction, energy and water use, as well as air quality, gas emissions and dust in all World Cup stadiums. The strategy included organising a mechanism for sorting waste during the construction phase of the stadiums, to reduce the carbon footprint, which resulted in the recycling of about 80% of the waste resulting from the construction of the World Cup stadiums, as well as water conservation, waste and carbon emissions management, use of renewable energy whenever possible, environmental protection, and urban connectivity.

On its way to host the largest sporting event in the history of the Middle East and the Arab world, Qatar worked on making its mark in renewable energy and focusing on any commitment or action in reducing carbon emissions, on scientific basis and accurate research results in all infrastructure projects related to the tournament, in addition to the eight stadium projects designated to host the World Cup competitions.

While preparing for the race to organise the largest sporting succeeded in implementing many effective programs and plans to reduce carbon emis-



The Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, the body responsible for delivering the infrastructure projects necessary for Oatar to host the World Cup, stresses that sustainability has been from the beginning, a major focus of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

sions that are harmful to health Doha at the end of 2021, repre- of sustainability and environunparalleled local and international approval and support. The FIFA Arab Cup hosted by

improve preparations for hosting the World Cup, as the main features emerged in the field

continued to build on and enhance them so that the World Cup would leave a sustainable legacy for future generations.

The Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC), the body responsible for delivering the infrastructure projects necessary for Qatar to host the World Cup, stresses that sustainability has been, from the beginning, a major focus of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, as it co-operated in January 2020, with the International Football Association (FIFA) to develop the Charter for Sustainable Resources for the World Cup, which sets out the minimum standards that suppliers and tournament sponsors must adhere to, in addition to adhering to strict environmental stand-

The SC has pledged on many occasions to host a carbon-neutral edition of the World Cup, by applying best construction practices that will positively affect the climate legacy of Oatar and the region, design and build stadiums, training sites, and transportation infrastructure in accordance with sustainable

building standards. Qatar 2022 stadiums have received praise for their sustainable designs, how they are built, and their daily management.

Engineer Abdulrahman al-Muftah, Sustainability and Environment Specialist at the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, noted that Qatar seeks to reach what is known as "carbon neutrality" during hosting the World Cup by achieving four main goals, which are raising the level of awareness of individuals and key partners and involving them in efforts to achieve this goal, knowing the carbon stock resulting from the activities related to the tournament, identifying the most important sources of carbon emissions and international standards to reduce these emissions, and conducting a carbon budget by investing in green and environmentally friendly projects.

Al-Muftah explained that the World Cup will witness a large turnout of fans to use public transportation, especially the Doha Metro network, pointing out that the advanced transport network, including trams and a fleet of energy-efficient buses. will play an important role in redition to the electric buses that will be used during the tourna-



The Qatar 2022 Contact Centre responds to an array of concerns round-the-clock. **PICTURES:** Ram Chand



Khalid Aliumaily speaks to iournalists vesterday at the Oatar 2022 Contact Centre.

Contact Centre receives more than 500,000 calls, 300,000 e-mails from World Cup fans

By Joey Aguilar

The Qatar 2022 Contact Centre has so far received more than 500,000 calls and 300,000 e-mails from football fans, mostly related to Hayya card inquiries, since opening in March and recorded a 94% satisfaction rate, centre director Khalid Aljumaily has said. Operated by the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the Contact Centre assists fans through different channels and eight languages, such as Arabic, English, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Chinese, and Hindi/Urdu, in addition to having up to 750 agents being in service and in different shifts 24/7, he explained.

Aljumaily was addressing a press briefing yesterday during a

The SC official noted that apart from the main team in **Qatar, the Contact Centre also operates international** offices in India, Oman, Jordan, Kosovo, and Columbia for language support

media tour of the Contact Centre, located at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Al Nasr Tower B at West Bay.

The SC official noted that apart from the main team in Qatar, the Contact Centre also operates international offices in India, Oman, Jordan, Kosovo, and Columbia for language support. "For example, we have a Columbia office for Spanish, as well as Portuguese: Kosovo for German, Spanish and Portuguese because it's in central Europe; we have the Indian site for English and Hindi/ Urdu; while Jordan, Oman, and Qatar for Arabic and English languages," he said.

As Qatar receives a huge

number of football fans from various parts of the world (with different time zones), Aljumaily said the centre's international offices will enable them to work more efficiently and cover more hours based on their shifts.

Besides WhatsApp calls, messages, and emails, he said they also deployed different channels to assist fans, in addition to having an official chatbot where people can interact and send their inquiries. "If the problem was not solved at that stage, then that inquiry can be redirected to our contact centre," Aljumaily said.

From Hayya and ticket purchases-related concerns, he said, he expects interactions to shift to accommodation, transportation,

and activations such as fan zones, and other general matters related to fans, the tournament, and Qa-

"For example, there is no match today, they can just simply call the Contact Centre and say 'I would like to do some activities what do you recommend today; so that's also being taken into consideration and will be addressed," Aljumaily said. He noted that Contact Centre agents underwent a series of training, from soft skills (how to handle a call, how to respond) and core training to specialised training.

These include troubleshooting a number of technical issues that fans might encounter, as well as data correction. According to Aljumaily, the Contact Centre in Doha also deploys supervisors to different locations to oversee the entire operation round-the-

'Noticeable drop in temperature' from today: Met



It's set to get cooler in Qatar as the Met department has said a "noticeable drop in temperature" - by about 3-6C - is expected in the country from today until the middle of the week due to the influence of northwesterly winds. The the maximum temperature is expected to range between 25C and 31C (daytime) and the minimum between 15C and 22C (night) during this period, the department has said in a tweet. PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

La Francophonie preparatory meeting



Qatar took part yesterday in the first ministerial preparatory meeting of the 18th Summit of La Francophonie that will convene in Tunisia on Nov 19-20. HE the Minister of State Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari chaired the Qatari delegation participating in the meeting, with the participation of Qatar's ambassador in Paris Sheikh Ali bin Jassim al-Thani, along with Qatar's ambassador to Tunisia Saad bin Nasser al-Hamidi. The summit convenes in Dierba Island of Tunisia to discus "Connectivity in digital diversity as a vector of development and solidarity in the Francophone space". Oatar has been a participating member in the 'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie' since Oct 2012, and its membership in the organisation was approved during the summit in Kinshasa. (QNA)

QATAR

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

QNA

E 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

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

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 Qatar 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)**

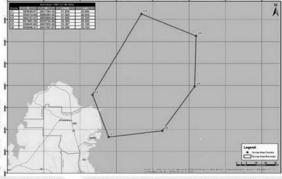
QATARGAS

Public Announcement

To all Ships, Fishermen and Mariners

Environmental Sampling and ROV Survey Works Offshore Offshore Activities of Halul 61 vessel for the NFS – Offshore Pipeline & Post-Drilling & Completions Project from 15 th Sept 2022 to 15th Nov 2022.

Pursuant to and under directives from the Department of Marine Regulations, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen that Qatargas Operating Company Limited (Qatargas) intends to undertake Environmental Sampling and ROV Survey works in the area bound by the coordinates shown in the diagram below.



. All Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen are expected to keep clear of the locations during the operations.

Qatargas takes no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to outside parties in association with this operation, following publication of this notice.

Any further inquiries should be addressed to: Tel. +974 44738250

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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 gamechanging 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 Awardwinning singer-songwriter from

Colombia, while Lebanese singer

Fares has tens of millions of followers across the Middle East and worldwide

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 vou to Nicki Minai. Maluma and Myriam Fares for bringing their identity, culture and talent to this song. YALLA SAWAH!" '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=rbObjyt1ODO

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, familyfriendly entertainment, Bedouin Village and official FIFA merchan-

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.

 $\label{thm:prop:matter} 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

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.

Minister inspects preparations in Corniche area



HE the Minister of Municipality Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie conducted an inspection tour of the Corniche area to check the preparations there for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 activations and its readiness in terms of providing various services to the public. Oatar's 'global street carnival' will be hosted on the Corniche from today until December 18 as part of the celebrations. HE the Minister directed the officials concerned to intensify efforts and enhance the services provided by the Ministry of Municipality, especially in the areas of general hygiene and health control of foodstuffs, in coordination and co-operation with the relevant authorities. This will be done to work as one team and contribute to making the events a success, and highlighting the aesthetic and civilised image of Qatar, the ministry said in a statement. HE Dr al-Subaie was accompanied by a number of officials of the ministry and representatives of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy.





ACTA chairman says Qatar will organise exceptional event

E the Chairman of the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA), Hamad bin Nasser al-Misnad (pictured), affirmed that Qatar's hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, for the first time in the Middle East, confirms the confidence that Qatar enjoys and the capabilities it possesses in organising a successful tournament.

He said, in an exclusive statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), that hosting the tournament in Qatar, as the first Middle Eastern and Arab country to host this major sporting event, will make the World Cup exceptional and unique by all standards.

He pointed out that the coincidence of the activities of the World Cup with the country's celebrations of its National Day is an opportunity to celebrate all the achievements, progress and prosperity it has achieved. He added that the National Day cel-



ebration this year will be special, given that the fans of the world will be present in Qatar to enjoy the World Cup, and therefore they will be dear guests celebrating this National Day.

He noted the tremendous efforts made by the wise leadership of Qatar in organising and hosting the World Cup at this high and great standards, and what government agencies and everyone who contributed to this organisation achieved, especially the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, who made great efforts to make this global event a success. (QNA)

'Understanding the legacy has helped me tell the story of Qatar's World Cup'

The Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) recently spoke to Fatma al-Nuaimi, executive director, Communications & Media, who joined the SC from ICT Qatar in 2012. This comes as part of the 'Making History' series, which focuses on the work of Oatari employees who have played a key role in the SC's journey.

Tell us about your background and growing up in

I come from a football family. My dad - Ali al-Nuaimi - was an ambassador and a big football fan. My uncle was one of the founding members of Qatar Sports Club. The moment people see my name, they automatically know I'm a Qatar Sports Club fan.

Where did you go to univer-

rations growing up? studied English language and literature at Qatar University. I also did my Masters there. Growing up, I was inspired by my dad, so international relations and languages interested me. However, technology was my main interest. It's everywhere and you can see how it's improving people's lives. One event that inspired me when I was younger was the Asian Games in Doha.

I attended the opening and followed all the news about it. I was too young to be part of the workforce but I wished I was involved. I felt it was a missed opportunity - I wish I had volunteered or done something to support it. However, it inspired me to volunteer for future sporting events. I met people through volunteering at sporting events who I now work with at the SC. Like everyone, I never thought the World Cup would be hosted here - so it feels like we have been given a golden opportunity to work on something even bigger than the Asian Games.

Tell us about your career.

I started my career with ICT Oatar in 2007. At the time, Qatar was booming and a lot of entities were being established as the country was looking to move with the information security team, specifically communications and outreach. At this time, technology was being adapted for different sectors, like health and education. Our work helped to open up the market and establish a whole new ecosystem. Later I worked in the ICT and society

department. One person who inspired me was HE Hessa al-Jaber, the former Minister for Information Communications & Technology. She made sure we - as fresh graduates were involved in everything. If there was a board meeting or strategy session, she would have young people there to see how decisions are made. She wanted us to understand every part of the business. She helped us all understand the bigger picture.

Where were you when Qatar won the bid to host the World Cup and how did you

We had a family gathering and were all watching TV. I cried after the announcement. I had feelings of pride and happiness. I was also thinking of my dad, who had passed away earlier that year. I wished I could tell my dad we had won the bid. Winning was a dream. I knew it was something big. Even if we didn't win, the it was still an achievement. But winning was amazing. It was unimaginable for so many people.

How keen were you to be involved in the delivery of the tournament?

Very keen. I remember at that time. Oatar was also bidding to host the 2020 Olympics and there was a competition run by the bid committee to design a website for Doha 2020. You had



Fatma al-Nuaimi

to come up with ideas, functionality, innovation. My friend and I partnered up and we managed to win. There were more than 2,000 applications from across the region and the final was at Katara. with HE Sheikha Al Mayassa on the jury. That gave us both a bit and got to engage with the bid team. Qatar didn't win the bid in the end but that experience was so valuable. After we won, a colleague at the SC called me and asked me to come for an interview for the Legacy department.

Tell us about your career with the SC.

I was involved in social and human legacy projects when I joined. I worked on the Josoor

Institute project and was involved in setting it up. I helped to develop the Challenge 22 innovation competition - which was similar to the competition I won with my friend. There, I had been on the receiver side, so I knew how we could work with I was also involved in strategy before moving to Communications. Now, I have a much wider scope: digital, content, media relations, community engagement, ambassadors and much

Working in legacy - from the stage where our ideas were only on paper - has helped me a lot in my current role. Knowing the strategy makes the projects easier to communicate about.

That's been the great bridge between my roles at the SC.

What are your favourite memories of your time at the

There are so many – it's hard to pick one. A few days ago, we had a meeting with the whole team and it was wonderful to see everyone all ready for the tournament. When I look back over the last 10 years, no matter how beautiful our stadiums are or the other facilities, it all comes down to people. And seeing everyone there - like-minded and with the same spirit - I could see we are heading in the right direction. It was a proud moment and emotional because it is the final chapter. I could see everyone is unified. Everyone at the SC is like a second family to me. I always try to have close connections to

How will you feel when the opening match kicks off at Al **Bayt Stadium?**

I will feel it's real - and at that moment I'll try and catch my breath. Right now, we're just waiting for the fans to come and enjoy themselves. Everything is ready - and when the tournament finally kicks off, I will be emotional. I'm sure I will be proud too.

And what about the final at Lusail Stadium - how will you feel when the trophy is lifted on December 18?

I'll be filled with pride but at the same time I won't be able to believe it's the end. We've been working on the same project for the last 10 years and there will be mixed emotions. Delivering a World Cup is not a normal business. It's 24/7, it's demanding, there's pressure. I'm not sure how I'll go back to a quiet life.

What's next for you - in 2023 and beyond?

I think I'll have a holiday first and then focus on telling the story of Qatar 2022. As a communications team, we will have a lot of work to do. We need to look at the sustainability of the event, the economic impact and narrate the story of how the World Cup will There will still be plenty of work for us to do next year.

For me, I love to be involved in transformational projects. Qatar has changed so much in recent years. So many things have opened. People will see the fan experience and entertainment options during the World Cup, and these things will continue to enhance the community and quality of life in Qatar. It's crucial we keep working hard to develop our country.

One Million Trees initiative: Qatar's contribution to reduce carbon emissions

QNA Doha

ut of Qatar's compliance with the international commitments stipulated in the Paris Agreement regarding reducing carbon emissions, and given the importance of trees in the ecosystem and its implications for human health and the quality of life, as well as boosting its initiatives in the field of mitigating the impacts of climate change and environmental sustainability efforts, the Ministry of Municipality launched Plant One Million Trees initiative in which Qatar seeks to plant 1mn trees by 2030.

The initiative aims to enhance biodiversity, utilise treated water in irrigation, improve air quality, increase green space, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The initiative is open for all society members, institutions, governmental agencies, the private sector, corporates, schools, educational institutions, youth centres, sports clubs, and all citizens and residents, as registration is made with financial or in-kind support or by practical participation.

The initiative focuses on planting tree seedlings from the local Qatari environment, including Sidr, Ghaf, Samar, and others. These tree seedlings are to be planted in various locations

chosen for this purpose, such as the main road axes, Doha ring roads, Al Majd Road, Al Shamal Road, Al Khor Coastal Road, industrial cities, sites of sewage treatment plants and units, rainwater collection sites, cities and municipalities entrances, public parks, schools, residential complexes, and other sites.

The initiative constitutes a significant opportunity to coordinate regional and international efforts to achieve a list of environmental goals, notably enhancing biodiversity in the Middle East through increasing and preserving the green cover and combating desertification which will contribute to the growth of multiple ecosystems and combating climate change.

Qatar has made environmental development and preservation one of the main pillars of Qatar National Vision 2030. Qatar also submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which is in line with the pioneering and ambitious role that Oatar pursues in mitigating climate change and promoting sustainable development. Out of its commitment to international co-operation and considering the devastating impacts of climate change, Qatar set up its National Climate Change Action Plan 2030 (NCCAP), which identifies 36 mitigation



Qatar has made environmental development and preservation, one of the main pillars of Oatar National Vision 2030.

measures and over 300 adaptation measures.

The National Climate Change Action Plan is based on the intense involvement of key stakeholders across all sectors, including energy, water, transport, industry, construction, agriculture, education, and scientific research. The 2019 UN Climate Action Summit, held at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York City in Sept 2019, came up with nine main tracks. The coalition on track nine, related to Climate Finance and Carbon Pricing, is led by Qatar in alliance with France and Jamaica. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani planted a Sidra tree to mark the inauguration of the Children's Museum "Dadu" garden project of Qatar Museums. Amir planted the 600,000th tree as part of the initiative to reflect his sponsorship serves Qatari and Arab values and instils in children the spirit of originality, patience, and giving.

of these initiatives, which aim to create an environment that pre-His Highness the Amir's patronage of the initiative constituted a motivation for all individuals and institutions to participate in this project that was inaugurated on the sidelines of Qatar's first International Environmental Exhibition (EnviroteQ) and the seventh edition of Qatar International Agricultural Exhibition (AgriteQ2019) as part of Qatar's efforts to maintain a healthy environment through improving air quality, increasing green spaces,

and their implications for human health and the quality of life.

The inauguration of the "Dadu" garden project, one of the maior landmarks of the Children Museum of Qatar, is seen as a significant sign of Qatar's vision that focuses on a greener and more sustainable future. This vision shaped the foundation of the active and influential roles that Qatar has been playing in international efforts to combat climate change. In addition, Qatar is heartily committed to sustainability as the national campaign to plant 10mn trees is still ongoing, as well as the preparations to host "the most environmentally friendly" tournament throughout the history of the World Cup.

Qatar's interest in environmental development and preservation stems from the fact that it constitutes one of the main pillars of Qatar National Vision 2030, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which made Qatar strengthens its numerous initiatives by launching its National Climate Change Action Plan 2030. The project of planting 1mn trees is set to be completed before FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, as the initiative aims to promote Qatar's role in Paris Agreement related to climate change.

The initiative came as a contribution from the Climate Change department at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, as beautification receives a great attention from the state. Beautification in desert climate countries is not an easy task, as sustaining a perfect climate for trees to grow and ensure their durability is a laborious job. Many questions often arise from members of society on the slow process of afforestation as well as picking certain areas and streets rather than others.

The afforestation process requires certain elements to guarantee its persistence, on top of which comes the availability of water, which the Public Works Authority (Ashghal) is keen to provide its new street projects with treated water networks.

For its part, Ashghal tries to speed up the process of providing the projects with irrigation networks so that the beautification authority can proceed with afforestation works. Local trees such as Ghaf, Sidra, and low-water trees are the first choice during afforestation works to tackle the issue of water scarcity.

The Ministry of Municipality is keen on using the best irrigation networks in the Gulf region, which provide the plants' needs without any water waste.

Through a centralised control room at Public Parks Department, all parks and streets are irrigated, in addition to following some programmes that allow reducing the used amount of water without affecting the growth of plants. The Ministry of Municipality focuses on planting shade trees in parks to reduce carbon emissions and increase oxygen levels in the air. The ministry also maintains the diversification of the trees planted.

Among the achievements made by the One Million Trees initiative was the announcement made by the Supervisory Committee of Beautification of Roads and Public Places in Qatar of achieving a new Guinness World Record title for Most Nationalities Planting Trees Simultaneously, adding this achievement to the list of world records achieved in Oatar.

Official Adjudicators at Guinness World Records, Alan Pixsley and Louise Toms, stated that the total number of nationalities that participated during the treeplanting event is 66, during a tree-planting event organised by the committee on Saturday 9 October 2021 on Dukhan Road.

The event is part of the "Qatar Beautification and Our Kids Planting Trees" campaign to "Plant Million Trees", launched in 2019 in coordination with the Ministry of Municipality.

Participants from each nationality planted one tree for five continuous minutes, following specific steps that were documented by cameras installed on site in order to evaluate the planting process and its compliance with the guidelines of Guinness World Records. (QNA)

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

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.

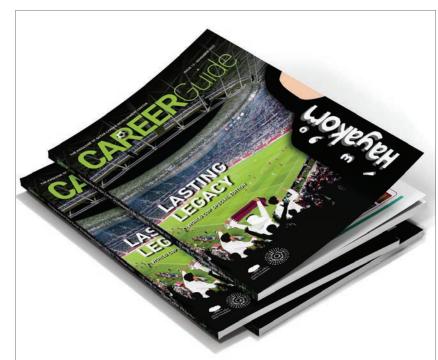
The FIFA World Cup Volunteers programme is another focus of this year's Career Guide – as Qatar's largest volunteer programme, it has drawn more than 20,000 participants, including 15,000 citizens and residents.

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), 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.

One Tide Initiative AJABAT ALIJA ACENCY FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 March 2022 The Initiative was launched by the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) in cooperation with Seven Clean Seas Goals Goals Bringing together main initiatives of sustainability in Ostar Addressing hazards of waste and its harmful effects on the environment Spoorting practices that contribute to protecting the environment THANK THANK YOU Raising environmental awareness among community members to reduce the use of plastics Treduce the use of plastics Zero Waste Festival Plastics Credit System A system to fund the removal of plastic waste daily and its environmental impact Gives tips and guidance on how to minimise waste through a piethora of engaging displays and activities aimed at encouraging the public to become more conscientious 70 % of waste from Al Bayt Stadium was recycled during FIFA Arab Cup 2021 Ottantives/Agency © Chaptor Otta, Spoils (L. Jacquis)

'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**

Qatar Youth Hostels initiative to introduce important landmarks

atar 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.

to public

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 <u>MSC Opera</u>, 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 <u>MSC Opera</u> 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

hat 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

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

eals.
"A tournament like the FIFA

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

"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

ACE shuts major sports piracy ring in Morocco

The Alliance for Creativity and Entertainment (ACE), the world's leading coalition dedicated to protecting the legal ecosystem for creative content, announced yesterday the successful shutdown of a major sports piracy operation in Mo-

Before they were shut down on November 11, the streaming websites carried live soccer matches free of charge, a statement said.

The domains livekoora.online and yallashoot-new.tv drew 20.6mn monthly visits in October 2022.

The piracy operation primarily drew content from international sports broadcaster beIN Sports, which joined the ACE in April and supported the successful action in Mo-

The shutdown of a major sports piracy ring took place just nine days before the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 is scheduled to start tomorrow (Sunday), with FIFA anticipating an audience of 5bn viewers.

"The successful ACE action in Morocco is





a direct result of our enhanced focus on the growing threat that live sports piracy poses to consumers, sports leagues and their fans," said Jan van Voorn, executive vice-president and global content protection chief for the Motion Picture Association and head of the

"Working with our member beIN Sports, we have sent a clear message to piracy operators around the world, including anyone planning to steal content from the upcoming World Cup games, that we will find you and shut you down," he said.

The ACE has dramatically enhanced its

focus this year on the growing threat largescale piracy operations pose to live sports broadcasters.

According to a recent study from Synamedia/Ampere, addressing global sports piracy could amount to an additional \$28bn of annual revenue for the industry.

The ACE's comprehensive approach to reducing piracy, which includes criminal referrals, litigation, and direct communications among other tactics, has positioned the coalition and its partners to move swiftly into reducing piracy of live sports broadcasts globally, the statement added.



Angela Leiva

DJ Maphorisa

Argentinian singer, top DJs added to QetaiFAN Beach Fest line-up

etaiFAN Beach Fest has confirmed three additional artistes for the much-awaited festival experience on the beachfront at Qetanan Island North in Lusail.

The artistes are DJ Maphorisa, who will perform on November 23; Angela Leiva (November

28); and DJ Rodge (December 11). Running from November 19 to December 18



DJ Rodge

throughout the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the beach festival of "music, football, food and fun" will operate daily from 10am until 4am.

Broadcasting World Cup games on giant screens, the event will offer daily passes and promise unique performances per day, many featuring top-tier artistes and more than 50 DIs.

Among the stars already confirmed for the festival are French Montana (November 24), Mariah Angeliq (November 26), Dimelo Flow (November 27 to December 1), JQuiles (November 29), Ryan Castro (November 30), Oxlade (December 7), Alex Sensation (December 8), ChocQuibTown (December 9), CeeLo Green (December 10), and CKAY (December 11) - with even more artistes still to be announced in the coming days.

Tickets are now on sale at www.q-tickets.com/

Early birds can avail of a price of \$65.

Fans 'having good time in Qatar'

atar is a good place to celebrate the World Cup while exploring the tourism destinations, French fan David Mundo has said. e are keen to watch The Blues' matches while cheering for them," he said. "My friends are set to go to Qatar to support our national team. The fans are here not only to watch the matches. Exploring Qatar is on the top of our do list."

During the group stage, France will take on Australia on November 22 at Al Janoub Stadium, while the second match is scheduled against Denr 26 at Stadium 974 The last match is against Tunisia at Education

City Stadium on November 30. Mundo said that France will make it into the fi-

nal even though it will be tough.

"We are worried that some of the players are injured. Still, we have high chances to win the tournament," he added.



'I get emotional just thinking about the opening match'

Ecuador fan Maria Fernanda Iglesias expects 5,000 of her compatriots to attend the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

cuador will be in the spotlight from the start of this ■ year's FIFA World Cup, as they face host nation Qatar in the opening match at Al Bayt Stadium on November 20.

La Tricolour fans are sure to travel in numbers for the occasion - and they will be joined by Doha-based Ecuadorian, Maria Fernanda Iglesias.

The 36-year-old has lived in Qatar since 2016 and works in public relations for Qatar Tour-

Originally from Quito, Fernanda Iglesias, who lives at The Pearl Island with her husband Alvaro and children Agustin and Samuel, expects Ecuador fans to be noisy and passionate during international football's show-

piece event. The Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy spoke to

Maria. ■ What can fans expect when they arrive in Qatar for

the tournament? First of all, Qatar is very compact, so you will have the chance to visit all eight World Cup sta-

The Doha Metro will make it easy to get around.

Visitors will also learn that Oatari people are very friendly and open-minded.

The World Cup is an opportunity to engage with people from

■ What are the best places

everywhere.

to visit in Qatar? The first place to start is Souq Waqif. I've been to similar markets around the world - but this place has something for every-

would also recommend Msheireb. The museums are also great

and showcase the rich aspects of Qatari culture. The Pearl and Lusail are very

modern. I would also recommend Katara - the Cultural Village.

■ What advice would you give to Ecuador fans who will visit Qatar for the World

The best advice I can offer is to have fun and enjoy the expe-

This is going to be a big party

for everyone who attends. Fans back home have asked me many questions - mainly about dress codes and how to

get around. Many are asking about the opening day, as they arrive on November 20 and want to head straight to Al Bayt Stadium for

the match. I have been informed there will be a special line of entry for Ecuador fans who arrive on the opening day, so they can make it to the stadium on time.

■ What can we expect from Ecuador fans in Qatar?

We love to show our colours and passion for football. We are all very proud of our team. You will see us at the stadiums

and also at the many entertainment sites around the country. I'm expecting around 5,000

Ecuador fans to travel to Qatar for the tournament



Maria Fernanda Iglesias

■ The eyes of the world will be on Al Bayt Stadium for the opening match between Qatar and Ecuador. How proud will you feel when that match kicks off?

As someone living here in Qatar with my family, and seeing my national team playing Qatar in that opening match, it will be a moment of unity. I get emotional just thinking

about what that night at Al Bayt Stadium will be like. For all Ecuadorians, that day

will be the best party we could

We're going to have fun.

■ Ecuador will play their next two group matches at Khalifa International Stadium. How much are vou looking forward to sampling the atmosphere against the Netherlands and Senegal?

Ecuador fans will do everything to support our team in those games.

I cannot imagine how powerful fans can be for a national team, so that is why we want to deliver these emotions.

As we play in yellow, we will be very bright and visible in the stadium.

I also know that our friends in the local Latin American community will be cheering for Ecuador in these games - and we are delighted to have their sup-

■ This will be Ecuador's fourth appearance at a FIFA World Cup. How do you think La Tricolour will fare at Qatar 2022?

This is going to be the first World Cup with this young national team, and we have been waiting for the past eight years to see our team return to this big competition.

I was in Germany in September to see Ecuador play a tough Japan team and I was excited.

I saw an Ecuadorian team that will need to be organised here in Qatar, but I think we can make history on the opening day and in this World Cup.



UDST and Qatar Armed Forces Strategic Studies Centre sign MoU

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) and the Qatar Armed Forces Strategic Studies Centre (QAFSSC) have signed a three-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) for co-operation on education, training, and research and consultancy.

UDST president Dr Salem Al-Naemi and QAF-SSC commander S/Major-General (DR/Air) Rashed Hamad al-Naemi signed the MoU at a ceremony at the UDST in the presence of senior officials from both institutions.

The agreement is expected to lay the foundation for future collaboration on projects and initiatives in the areas of professional training, UDST students' internships, and research and studies in the relevant fields of both institutions.

A key part of the agreement is to develop a form of experts exchange between both institutions, and support of joint conferences, seminars, and work-

Commenting on the event, UDST president Dr

Al-Naemi said: "It is an important opportunity to be collaborating with the Qatar Armed Forces Strategic Studies Centre."

"This agreement demonstrates the UDST's commitment in partnering with top-notch institutions that can add value to our academic path and foster an environment for growth and development in different field," he said.

"We are confident that this partnership will achieve great results and will become a testament to our dedication to support our country and Qatar National Vision 2030," he added.

S/Major-General (DR-Air) al-Naemi described the agreement as an "important milestone in establishing co-operation between both prominent institutions in the areas of professional development

(upskilling), research and education". "This MoU sets a process to enhance experience exchange and develop collaborative projects that drive innovation and serve the country and the community at large," he said.

PHCC's dietetics programme shows significant success

he Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC)'s dietetic programme has enabled overweight and obese adults reduce their body mass index (BMI) by up to 10%, according to a study published in the American Journal of Lifestyle

The study further reported that the median time for weight reduction was 3.2 years, with women showing earlier sig-nificant weight loss than men, a PHCC statement explained.

The patients with 3-5 visits had earlier significant weight reduction than those with less than three visits and more than five

Greater weight reduction was seen in those with chronic diseases and who had constant follow up visits in the dietetic clinic during the study period.

Obesity is a worldwide epidemic and one of the risk factors for many diseases including heart disease, diabetes mellitus, kidney disease and cancer, it was explained.

Reducing body weight is the first line of treatment in most of these diseases.



Dr Mohamed Tanveer Alam

The Oatar Biobank annual report in 2022 said that more than 70% of the population in Qatar is either overweight or obese.

The high rates of bariatric surgery carried out in Qatar is also cases per year carried out at Hamad Medical Corporation.

The healthcare cost of obesity and diabetes is very high.

Approximately QR2bn are spent annually on the treatment of diabetes, and this is expected to rise to QR4.9bn in the next 15 vears.

obesity, the PHCC provides dietetics services through trained dietitians.

The study was led by Dr Mo-

To tackle the rising rates of



Dr Shaiitha Thekke Veettil

hamed Tanveer Alam, consultant family physician from Airport Health Centre.

"The study results are encouraging and show significant improvement in the management of trition therapy through involvement and guidance in the community dietetic clinics," he said.

Dr Shajitha Thekke Veettil from the PHCC's department of clinical research and a member of the research team said: "Given the effectiveness of the PHCC's dietetics programme, it should be more widely considered as an operative strategy to prevent expensive diabetic and cardiovascular events, mainly in high-risk patients."



Qatar-based Tawfeeq Holidays wins big on the world stage

eading Qatar-based travel management company Tawfeeq Holidays has won two Ititles in the annual World Travel Awards (WTA) held in Muscat.

"World's Leading Cultural Destination Management Company" and "World's Leading Independent Destination Management Company" are the titles won by Tawfeeq Holidays, it was revealed in a statement yesterday.

Tawfeeq Holidays had already bagged four regional titles at the WTA Middle East held in Lon-

"These titles, awarded by a global voting audience, highlight travellers' faith in Tawfeeq Holidays," said Tawfeeq Holidays chief executive Re-

han Ali Sved. "Tawfeeq Holidays prides itself on its dedicated, multicultural team that works tirelessly to offer full-fledged visa support, premium deals

at luxury hotels, creative adventure pursuits,

all-inclusive product packages as well as MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) solutions," he said.

"The awards we won are a global recognition of the efforts of all our employees," Ali Syed added. "It is also a reflection of the trust and belief that our stakeholders, customers, partners, and principals put in us."

"We are extremely honoured and excited to recognised on this esteemed platform and motivated to deliver nothing but the best to our cus-

tomers," the official concluded. WTA founder Graham Cooke echoed these

sentiments in his speech at the festivities. "You have been recognised by our global voting audience as the leaders of tourism excellence," he said. "I know that your commitment to becoming the very best will in turn serve to drive up standards across the industry and will raise the collective benchmark."

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 changemakers 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

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 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

he 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 Alpna 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 Anvar 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 Chalappuram, 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 online version of the song. The video album is available with Arabic subtitles.



Launch of 'Welcome World Cup' Mapplilapattu 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, Fairoos, 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 Abdulkalam 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 32 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



Robotics Lab was inaugurated at DPSMonarch 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, Subbhulakshman studen Prabusankar, Vrind Somani, Radhika Suri, Rakesh Raja, Sukhna Darshan Venkateshwaran and Rithu Raja under the guidance Wenkat

of Ashish Tanwar and Nikhil Kulkarni.

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

With director Gopi Vardhan's vision, a group of students - Vamsheedharan Sankarakrishnan, Hardik Sukhnandan, 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 quest. 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 Podiyan, 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





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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

Drugmakers are launching new medicines at record-high prices

to weaken it.

this year

The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

Even so, Republicans will "chip away" at the drug price negotiation provision and its implementation, said Joel White, founder and president of Horizon Government Affairs.

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

QNA

ince 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.



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.

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 cooperation 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 Oatar 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

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

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.

POLITICS

Jeffries launches bid to lead US House Democrats

US lawmaker Hakeem Jeffries yesterday launched to become Democratic leader in the House of Representatives, a day after the chamber's Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, announced she was stepping down from their party leadership role. Jeffries, 52, would be the first Black House Democratic leader, representing both the party's diverse voter base and a new generation of leadership. Jeffries announced his bid in a letter released by his office, saying: "I write to humbly ask for your support for the position of House Democratic Leader as we once again prepare to meet the moment." Jeffries satisfies the demand of many House Democrats that younger blood replace the 82-year-old Pelosi.

FALLOUT

Twitter exodus begins after Musk ultimatum

Employee departures multiplied at Twitter after an ultimatum from new owner Elon Musk, who demanded staff choose between being "extremely hardcore" and working long hours, or losing their jobs. "I may be #exceptional, but gosh darn it, I'm just not #hardcore," tweeted one former employee, Andrea Horst, whose LinkedIn profile still reads "Supply Chain & Capacity Management (Survivor) @Twitter." She added the hashtag "#lovewhereyouworked," as did many other employees announcing their choice. Musk, also the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, has come under fire for radical changes at the social media company, which he bought for \$44bn late last month.

TRAGEDY Bus plunge kills 20

in southern Pakistan

At least 20 people were killed, including 11 children, when a minibus crashed into a deep and waterlogged ditch in southern Pakistan, police said yesterday. The bus "fell into a water-filled ditch on a road swept away by floods this summer", a Sindh province police official said. "The driver could not see the diversion sign on the road and so the van plunged into a 25-foot ditch" near the town of Sehwan Sharif. The official said the children killed were between two and eight years old, likely sitting on their parents' laps when they were fatally injured. A further 14 people were injured in the accident. According to World Health Organisation estimates, more than 27,000 people were killed on Pakistan's roads in 2018.

Ranatunga ordered to pay over cricket feud

Sri Lanka's World Cup-winning captain Arjuna Ranatunga has been ordered to pay \$70,000 in a defamation case arising from a long-running feud over control of the island nation's cash-rich cricket board. Ranatunga has been locked in a bitter battle with Thilanga Sumathipala, a four-time president of Sri Lanka Cricket, and the pair have regularly traded accusations of graft and matchfixing. The civil court judgement dates back to an incident in 2003, when Ranatunga said that his arch-rival was corrupt and unfit to helm the sport's national peak body. "My family and friends and people who believed in me are so happy and relieved," Sumathipala said yesterday.

World's oldest pupil dies in Kenya aged 99

The world's oldest primary school student, Priscilla Sitieni, whose resolve to acquire an education in her 90s inspired a French film and won praise from Unesco, has died in Kenya aged 99, local media reported. Her grandson, Sammy Chepsiror, told The Standard newspaper that Gogo Priscilla (Granny Priscilla), as she was fondly known, died at home after developing a chest complication. "Gogo has been in good health and attending her classes until three days to her demise when she developed chest pains, which forced her out of school," he told the newspaper. "We are thankful for the 100 years of her life. She made all of us proud," he added.

Russia accuses Ukraine of executing 10 prisoners of war

AFP

Russia yesterday accused Kyiv of executing several surrendering soldiers in what Moscow said constituted a "war crime," the latest allegation of abuse after months of fighting in Ukraine.

Moscow's claims come after the UN this week published a report saying prisoners of war on both sides had been subjected to torture and ill-treatment.

"No one will be able to paint the deliberate and methodical murder of more than ten restrained Russian soldiers... who were shot in the head, as a 'tragic exception,'" the Russian defence ministry said.

Its statement refers to videos circulating on Russian-language social media that purport to show the bodies of Russian servicemen who had surrendered to Ukrainian troops and were then killed.

One video shows soldiers apparently surrendering to several military personnel in camouflage and wearing yellow armbands.

The soldiers who are giving

themselves up lie down on the ground in the debris-filled backyard of a house.

The video abruptly cuts off as shots are heard.

Another video filmed from above shows the bodies of around a dozen people surrounded by apparent blood stains.

AFP has not independently confirmed the videos and the Russian defence ministry did not say when the footage was shot.

Russia's Human Rights Council said the alleged executions took place in Makiivka, a village in the eastern Lugansk region of Ukraine, which the Ukrainian army said it recaptured this

"We will ask for a reaction and an investigation from the international community," Human Rights Council chairman Valeriy Fadeyev said on social media.

The defence ministry claimed that the videos represent "new evidence of a massacre of un-

armed Russian prisoners of war by Ukrainian military personnel."

It added that this "brutal murder" was not "the first and not the only war crime" committed by Ukrainian forces.

Meanwhile, Ukraine yesterday said almost half of its power infrastructure was in need of repair after weeks of Russian attacks that have disrupted electricity supplies to millions as temperatures plunge.

The assessment by Prime Minister Denys Shmygal of the widespread damage to Ukraine's grid comes after weeks of sustained Russian attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

"On November 15 alone, Russia fired about 100 missiles at Ukrainian cities. Nearly half of our energy system has been disabled," Shmygal said, appealing to European allies for support.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told the nation on Thursday that some 10mn people were suffering blackouts as a result.

But the Russian defence ministry said yesterday it was only targeting military-linked facilities, and said a series of longrange and precision strikes the day before had "hit exactly the designated objects".

Earlier Russia said it was strengthening positions in Crimea, which Kyiv's forces are battling towards

Moscow annexed Crimea in 2014 after nationwide pro-democracy demonstrations led to the ouster of Ukraine's former Kremlin-friendly president.

Moscow used the peninsula, which hosts several important Russian military bases, as a launching pad for its February. "Fortification work is being carried out...with the aim of guaranteeing the security of all Crimeans," the Moscow-aligned governor of territory, Sergei Ak-

syonov, said.

His announcement comes as Ukraine forces are pushing a counter-offensive in the south towards Crimea and last week reclaimed Kherson, the capital of the region that borders Crimea.

India's first privately built space rocket lifts off

FIFA WORLD CUP



India's first privately developed rocket Vikram-S lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, an island off the coast of southern Andhra Pradesh state. The half-tonne Vikram-S rocket launched before midday local time and travelled in an arc, live footage from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) showed. The launch is another milestone in the country's push to become a major space power. The rocket, developed by local startup Skyroot Aerospace, reached a peak altitude of 90km, below the internationally recognised 100km Karman line that separates Earth from outer space. "It is indeed a new beginning, a new dawn... in the journey of India's space programme," science minister Jitendra Singh said after the launch.

US, others at Apec summit slam N Korea missile test

Reuters

S Vice President Kamala Harris called an emergency gathering of several allies on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific economic summit, emerging with leaders of five other nations to condemn North Korea after it test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Harris met with leaders from Australia, Japan, South Korea, Canada and New Zealand on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting after North Korea carried out the missile test, just hours before the summit opened in the Thai capital.

"This conduct by North Korea most recently is a brazen violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions," she said. "It destabilises security in the region, and unnecessarily raises tensions. The weapon tested yesterday was a "longer range missile...that can hit many, many countries", a senior US administration official said later in

The US is also in regular contact with China on the North Korean

missile launch issue, the official said. "We do think that Beijing has a role to play," the US official said, adding that the United Nations Security Council should meet and discuss the issue.

The White House later said the missile launched by North Korea and thought to have the possible range to cross the Pacific did not threaten the US.

"As concerning as this launch was, we did not deem it a threat to homeland," said White House national security spokesman John Kirby.

However, Kirby expressed strong concern about

Pyongyang's surge in test launches of short and longrange missiles that have the potential to carry nuclear warheads.

"Every single time they launch, they learn. That's concerning. Even if the launch is a failure or only partially successful, they still learn," Kirby told reporters. "That's destabilising, not just to the peninsula but to

the region itself," he said.

The US has repeatedly offered talks with North Korea over its denuclearising the Korean peninsula without preconditions,

Still, Kirby added, the United States as well as South Korea and Japan were "working very hard to make sure we have in place adequate defensive capabilities. Japanese officials said landed

Japanese officials said landed just 200km off Japan and had sufficient range to reach the US mainland.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who is in Bangkok for the Apec meeting, told reporters North Korea had "repeated its provocations with unprecedented frequency". The Apec gathering is the third summit in the region in the past week

India proposes new data privacy law

Reuters New Delhi

India yesterday proposed a new data privacy law that will allow companies to transfer some users' data abroad, while giving the federal government powers to exempt state agencies from the law in the interests of national security.

The proposed law would be the latest regulation that could impact how tech giants such as Facebook and Google process and transfer data in India's fast-growing digital market.

It comes after India in August withdrew a 2019 privacy bill that had alarmed companies by proposing stringent restrictions on cross-border data flows.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has been tightening regulation for the sector, which executives say has increased the compliance burden

for companies, and soured trade ties with the US.

India has defended stricter regulations citing the need to safeguard users' interests in a country that has more than 760mn internet users.

The latest privacy bill, however, relaxed certain stringent norms on cross-border transfers proposed earlier, with the government saying it could specify countries to which entities managing data can transfer personal data of users.

Supratim Chakraborty, a partner specialising in data privacy at law firm Khaitan & Co, said the proposal would bring relief for big technology companies that need to transfer user data abroad where they maintain their servers.

"It will be a relief as there will be a certain list of whitelisted countries. So if US is one of them, it will ease a lot of stress for big companies as they could transfer user data there," Chakraborty said. The new bill also proposes financial penalties of up to Rs2.5bn (\$30mn) if someone is found breaching the provisions of the law.

The federal government would have powers to exempt state agencies from provisions of the bill "in the interests of sovereignty and integrity of India" and to maintain public order, said the draft proposal, which is open for public consultation until December 17.

Indian privacy advocates had said such provisions could allow the government to abuse access.

In its statement yesterday, the government said it acknowledged that "national and public interest is at times greater than

the interest of an individual".

India considered global best practices and reviewed data legislation in Singapore, Australia, and European Union, while making the new proposal, it said.

15 die in Iraq blast



Fifteen people died and around a dozen were injured in northern Iraq when a fuel tank exploded, causing a building to collapse, authorities said yesterday as search operations ended. Provincial governor Haval Abu Bakr provided the final toll for Thursday evening's blast in Sulaimaniyah, and declared a day of mourning in the province. "Most of the victims are women and children," Abu Bakr said, adding that "there are no more bodies under the rubble of the house". Authorities said the three-story building collapsed after a leak from a liquefied petroleum gas tank used for heating triggered a blast.

Digital currencies being used to fund terror: Modi

AFP New Delhi

pigital currencies need more regulation to stamp out funding for terror operations, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday at a major international forum to combat financing of extremist groups. India has laboured to rein in cryptocurrency transactions after years of phenomenal growth, backed by burgeoning local trading platforms and

glitzy celebrity endorsements.

Modi last year said that bitcoin presented a risk to younger
generations and could "spoil
our youth" if it ended up "in the

wrong hands".
Yesterday, he went further and told delegates at the Conference on Countering Financing of Terrorism that "private currencies"

posed a grave security risk.

"New kinds of technology are being used for terror funding and recruitment. Challenges from the dark net, private currencies and more are emerging," Modi said.

"There is a need for a uniform understanding for new finance technologies," he added. "From a uniform understanding, a unified system of checks and balances and regulation can emerge."

Delegates from dozens of

countries are in the capital New Delhi for the two-day conference, which follows a special session of the UN's Counter Terrorism Committee held in India last month. Cryptocurrencies have been

Cryptocurrencies have been under the scrutiny of Indian regulators since first entering the local market nearly a decade ago, with a surge in fraudulent transactions leading to a central bank ban in 2018.

India's Supreme Court lifted the restrictions two years later and the market surged, growing by nearly 650% in the year to June 2021 — second only to Vietnam, according to research by Chainalysis. The government also proposed banning "all private cryptocurrencies", but ultimately held back and later taxed profits from "private currencies"





Katara - the Cultural Village is all decorated and lit up for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 celebrations launched

PICTURES: Thajudheen and

World Cup festivities kick off at Katara

ll 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 Decem-

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

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

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 weekends until the end of the FIFA World Cup 2022 from 6pm-8pm at Ibn Al

series of art exhibitions, including:

O The Qatari Fine Arts Society Ex-

(relating to the first FIFA World Cup)

O A 2D and 3D exhibition about the solar system, planets and space at the

Dhow

O Football, and

• Fine Art and Collectibles.

are exhibitions of World Cup postage stamps, Oud history, Iranian culture, sports caricature, and Arabic calligraphy activities.

Qatar World Cup with the Qatar ety of Engineers.

books on football published by the Katara Publishing House.

Exhibition also opened inside Building

The legacy of FIFA World Cup is showcased by way of key moments from the last five editions of tourna-

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-

O The Faces of the World exhibition

Al Thuraya Planetarium O Qatari Plastic Art exhibition

O Katara International Ceramics Ex-

Among the other major attractions

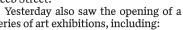
for children with special needs in cooperation with the Qatar Foundation for Social Work, Katara International Handicraft Market, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation event, Al Dar Cultural Tent, Sports Engineering and the

To mark the occasion of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Katara has launched 22

The Katara Football Art & Collection

ment while blending football and art.

Reeb Street.



O Katara Museum of Traditional

hibition

Many events were also unveiled

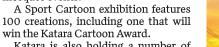
win the Katara Cartoon Award. Katara is also holding a number of

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 work-

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





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

The flags will then be put on the her-

itage dhows to sail past the Doha Corniche and Oatar'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 genera-





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

