The world comes to Qatar. Don't forget to spread the word about our delicious food and beautiful land. Let us welcome the World Cup.





IMPORT | EXPORT | TRANSPORT | EQUIPMENT | WAREHOUSE | CUSTOMS CLEARANCE | WORKFORCE INSURANCE

FOR BUSINESS INQUIRIES +974 6685 9790

• ISO 9001:2015 ISO/IEC 27001:2013 Certified www.redlogik.com • A Digital Logistics Company









OOPEOO WATCH THE WORLD CUP WITH OOREDOO ONE Installation on us and 25% off for 4 months





SUNDAY vol. XXXXIII No. 12468

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

November 20, 2022 Rabia II 26, 1444 AH

Best ever FIFA World Cup kicks off in Qatar today

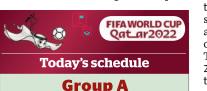
Amir to inaugurate opening ceremony

By Sahan Bidappa

welve years after it won the bid to host the FIFA World Cup 2022, Qatar's moment to shine is finally here. Over the next 29 days, Qatar's gleaming, eight magnificent architectural venues and world-class infrastructure will welcome fans from all parts of the world for the football extravaganza.

Fittingly, it will be Qatar players who will walk into the Al Bayt Stadium – a 60,000-seat venue meant to resemble a tent historically used by nomadic people in Qatar - to take on Ecuador in the opening game. Before that, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will declare the tournament open after the opening ceremony, which promises to be both spectacular and a mix of entertainment and display of Qatar's rich cultural heritage. A number of heads of state and heads of delegations of brotherly and friendly countries will be present.

A dazzling opening ceremony will mark the start of the mega event. Spec-



Qatar vs Ecuador

at Al Bayt Stadium (7pm)

A sea of humanity at the FIFA Fan Festival which opened yesterday in Doha, ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 kick-off today. PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam tators are encouraged to take their seats at 5.30pm, as the show will begin at 5.40pm, while the Qatar-Ecuador opening clash will take place at 7pm.

The Al Bayt Stadium gates will open at 2pm as the organisers urged fans to reach the venue early to avoid congestion.

The 30-minute opening show will be full of surprises, with the main act featuring a performance of Dreamers by Kook of BTS and Qatari singer Fahad al-Kubaisi.

The celebrations, however, have already begun weeks ahead with the residents and fans from outside the country flocking Qatar's important landmarks as they wait for the tournament to kick-start.

Organisers say that 2.9mn of the 3.1mn tickets have been sold, with a

FIFA chief blasts 'hypocrisy' of Western nations

FIFA president Gianni Infantino blasted the "hypocrisy" of Western critics of Qatar's human rights record yesterday, making a passionate defence of the World Cup in the Gulf state on the eve of the kick-off. Infantino, speaking at his opening press conference of the tournament in Doha, had harsh words for critics of Qatar. "This moral lesson-giving - one-sided - is just hypocrisy," said the global football supremo. "Doha is ready, Qatar is ready and of course it will be the best World Cup ever. I am European. For what we have been doing for 3,000 years around the world, we should be apologising for the next 3,000 years before giving moral lessons," he said. "I don't want to give you any lessons of life, but what is going on here is



Infantino addresses the press









THE CLASSIC WATCH OF REFERENCE

It is the epitome of timeless style and elegance. With its emblematic date display featuring a Cyclops lens, its appeal has spanned eras. Over the years, it has continued to evolve by integrating the latest Rolex technology, while remaining one of the purest expressions of the Oyster Perpetual collection. The Datejust.

#Perpetual



OYSTER PERPETUAL

OFFICIAL ROLEX RETAILER









PM visits Qasr Al Hukum



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani paid a visit yesterday to Qasr Al Hukum at the Amiri Diwan. HE the Prime Minister started the visit from the visitor centre in Msheireb and then toured Qasr Al Hukum, during which he learned about the development phases of the palace houses. He listened to explanation about each phase, which tells the history of the rulers of Qatar and the stages of development of Qasr Al Hukum. (QNA)

Dignitaries arrive in Doha





Caretaker PM of Lebanon Najib Mikati arrived in Doha yesterday to attend the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which takes place today at Al Bayt Stadium. Mikati and the accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Minister of State Sheikh Fahd bin Faisal al-Thani, and the charge d'affaires at Lebanese embassy in Qatar Farah Berri. President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas also arrived in Doha yesterday to attend the opening ceremony. Vice-President of Ecuador Alfredo Borrero was welcomed in Doha yesterday. Borrero and the

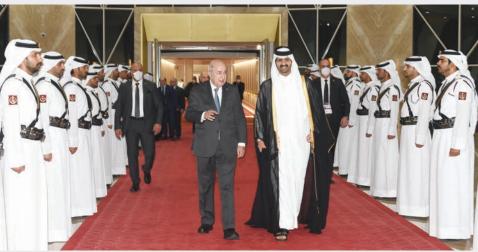




accompanying delegation were received at Hamad International Airport by HE the Director of Protocol Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ibrahim bin Yousef Fakhro, and ambassador of Ecuador to Qatar Pascual del Cioppo. Also, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres arrived in Doha to attend the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup. Upon his arrival at Hamad International Airport, Guterres and the accompanying delegation were

welcomed by HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani, HE the Director of the Protocol Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ibrahim bin Youssef Fakhro, and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) Representative for the Gulf States and Yemen and Director of the Unesco Regional Office in Doha, Salah El Din Zaki Khaled. (QNA)

Deputy Amir leads well-wishers to welcome Algerian president



His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani led well-wishers to welcome Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune and the accompanying delegation who arrived yesterday evening in Doha to attend the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 today at Al Bayt Stadium. HE the Minister of State Sheikh Fahad bin Faisal al-Thani, Qatar's ambassador to Algeria Abdulaziz Ali al-Naama, and Algerian ambassador to Qatar Mustafa Boutoura were also present to welcome the Algerian guests. (QNA)

PM visits media centre of FIFA **World Cup, Lusail and Corniche**





HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani visited yesterday the media centre covering the activities of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 in Msheireb. HE the Prime Minister was briefed on the various facilities provided by the centre to channels and various means of communication and media, including broadcasting studios, meeting and conference rooms, and work offices to facilitate their work during the tournament coverage. Also, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior visited several places designated for the events accompanying the tournament, such as the Doha Corniche and Lusail Boulevard, where he was briefed on some of the activities of a number of brotherly and friendly countries participating in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 in those places. He was accompanied during the visit by a number of senior officials. (QNA)









SPEEDMASTER '57
Co-Axial Master Chronometer

A CLASSIC ICON RETURNS

With its unique Broad Arrow hands and tachymeter scale on the bezel, the Speedmaster '57 is emblematic of the first, revolutionary Speedmaster that was launched in 1957. For the latest update, OMEGA has lifted the vintage spirit to another level, with slimmer styling, extraordinary colour, and a Co-Axial Master Chronometer engine that takes precision to the next gear. This enduring watch is a front seat companion for George Clooney, and represents the original, timeless look of the Speedmaster line.





Audi Qatar donates QR 100,000 to the Qatar Cancer Society

- Audi Qatar contributes to the fight against breast cancer in the country
- Funds donated to Qatar Cancer Society to come from percentage of cars sold in the month of October by Audi Qatar

udi Qatar has donated Cancer Society during the month of October in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

QR 100,000 to the Qatar to partner with the Qatar Cancer Society," said Ahmed Shariefi, Managing Director of Audi Qatar. "Our goal is to continue to

"We are once again honored raise awareness of the disease in the country.

> Audi Qatar also participated in a Gala dinner organized by the Qatar Cancer Society and supported by



The move is in line with Audi Qatar's corporate social responsibility initiative to raise awareness of the disease in the country, with a percentage of the profits of cars sold this October donated to the organization to assist in finding a cure.

contribute to finding a cure for the disease and providing even the smallest possible joy to those experiencing and affected by the hardships of this disease."

This marks the fifth year Audi Qatar has been associated with the Qatar Cancer Society in the fight to providing vehicles to transport guests to and from the event.

"We express our gratitude for the generous donation by Audi Qatar in the field of charitable and humanitarian work, especially in thehealth sector, and for the support for the awareness campaign by the Qatar Cancer Society", said Mrs. Mona Ashkanani, General Manager of Qatar Cancer Society.

"Working with our partners, such as Audi, will make the mission to prevent and curb the burden of cancer in Qatar an easier one by educating the community and support, empowering and advocating for the people living with cancer, and engaging professional development and scientific research in the field of cancer, pointing out that since its inception in 1997, Qatar Cancer Society has strived not to have a single patient on the waiting list for

support", added Mrs. Ashkanani.

The Oatar Cancer Society aims to make Qatar a leader in cancer prevention and seeks methods to control the disease in the country. Through its work it also supports, empowers and advocates for individuals living with cancer, in addition to engaging in professional development and cancer research.

To learn more about Audi Qatar's donation to the Qatar Cancer Society, please visit www. audi-gatar.com.



CONTEST RULES:

- All employees of Gulf Publishing and Printing Company as well as sponsoring companies are not allowed to participate in this contest.
- The contest is on social media platforms Facebook Instagram and Twitter.
- Participants can comment on each post to guess the winner and/ or the team that will qualify for the Round 16. Comments will be suspended before the start of the Qatar matches and before the third
- match of each group.
- For Qatar matches the draw will be made automatically on the second day of the match. For the rest of the group league matches, 2 draws will be made
- (1 for each platform and 1 for all groups).
- 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.

For further info. call: Gulftimes - C-Ring Road - Tel.: 44466614 - digital.advr@raya.com







Guess who will win





QATAR × ECUADOR

Comment on our social media posts to participate and get a chance to win exciting In-kind prizes















Qatar has seen significant expansion in green spaces: al-Subaie

FIFA WORLD CUP

E the Minister of Municipality Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie underlined that all sectors and municipalities affiliated with the ministry are geared to support the state's hosting of the FIFA World Cup, and to contribute, alongside various concerned authorities in the country, to the success of this major global event that is being held for the first time in the Middle East.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE the minister said that the Ministry of Municipality had co-ordinated early with the

Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) and other authorities to prepare the general plans related to the role of the ministry in the World Cup activities - the most importantly were providing 110 specialised equipment, 6,295 plastic containers of different types and sizes, 1,676 temporary and permanent employment, 311 vehicles (equipment and cars), and 3 emergency mobile transfer stations for waste collection next to the World Cup stadiums - for general cleaning and recycling services. HE the minister added that work over the past period focused on completing all parks before the start of the World Cup, which included the parks of East Ras Abu Abboud, Umm El Seneem, Rawdet Al Khail, Al Khor, and the Panda Park. HE al-Subaie added that work is currently underway to complete Dahl Al Hamam Park, Barzan Olympic Park, and Al Wakra Park. In addition, the planting of 1mn trees was approached in co-operation with many government agencies and civil society. He said to QNA that there has been a significant iump in the number of public parks in Qatar, as the number increased to 148 parks in 2022, after it was 56 parks in 2010, with an increase of 164%. Moreover, green spaces increased to more than 43mn sq m in 2022, after it was about 2.616mn sq m in 2010.

The per capita share of green space increased by about 16



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

times, as it rose to about 16sq m in the current year compared to less than 1sq m in 2010.

He said that the ministry increased its inventory of all tools and supplies for the municipal

affairs sector, and increased the number of inspectors and the number of inspection tours for public control, in addition to increasing the number of inspectors (23 additional inspectors) and the number of inspection tours for health control of food

Eight operating rooms have been activated in different municipalities to keep pace with activities World Cup to ensure the appropriate flow of technical services and public services through the various municipali-

In addition, a plan has been drawn up to establish, equip and operate an operations centre to enhance the level of cybersecurity. With regard to cosmetic works, HE the Minister of Municipality confirmed that the ministry has maintained 300 buildings, demolished 287 properties that need demolition works, carried out beautification works of nearly 23km of building facades, installed 85 kiosks and 370 units of temporary bathrooms, and rehabilitate 8 free public beaches as a first stage, to be activated in November.

He noted that the ministry, in partnership with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, worked to provide food security needs, and opened the quarries of Hamad Port and Ruwais Port to accommodate a larger number of consignments. He added that the

Short distances

ministry prepared the suitable sites for stadiums, fan areas and training areas, explaining that, in co-operation and co-ordination with the concerned authorities in the country, governmental land has been allocated for the benefit of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy to meet the requirements and needs of the World Cup, which includes uses sports, and non-sports uses such as transportation sites, fan villages, accommodation, housing, and others.

HE the Minister of Municipality expressed his pride in hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, wishing success for the tournament to be the best in the history

Workers' conditions in Qatar better than those of immigrants in Europe: Infantino

QNA

IFA President Gianni Infantino has expressed his confidence that the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which kicks off today, will be the best in the history of the World Cup. In a press conference held vesterday at Qatar National Convention Centre, Infantino said that the International Federation and Qatar want to present an exceptional tournament, which will make the world feel proud of football, stressing that Qatar has prepared optimally for the event. He added: "We welcome everyone to the World Cup.

We would like to emphasise that Qatar welcomes everyone regardless of their race, religion, orientation or beliefs. This is the official opinion of Qatar and FIFA, and fans from all over the world will live in Qatar an ideal experience," adding that "Qatar has properly prepared to welcome everyone, and we feel the great happiness shown by those who are here from the fans to attend the

World Cup." The president of the International Federation spoke about the criticisms levelled at FIFA and Qatar during the last period regarding many matters, considering that these criticisms are unfair and do not contain facts, stressing that FIFA does not succumb to pressure and does not act on the criticisms practised by some media outlets.

He continued that regarding the world does not see the great progress and clear development that Qatar has achieved in this field.

It is true that it took time, just as it happened in Europe earlier.

It took Switzerland, for decades to become a role model on labour rights or human rights in general. Oatar has changed many laws and regulations in order to address some of the problems related to the workers issue Infantino said: "We have been taught many lessons from Europeans and the Western world. I am European. For what we have been doing for 3,000 years around the world, we should be apologising for the next 3,000 years before giving moral les-

"If Europe really care about the destiny of these people, they can create legal channels - like Qatar did – where a number of these workers can come to Europe to work. Give them some future, some hope.

"I have difficulties understanding the criticism. We have to invest in helping these people, in education and to give them a better future and more hope. We should all edu-

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, RAZIA SULTANA

holder of

INDIAN Passport No. K9727444

QID No. 28735661061

hereby change my name

from

RAZIA SULTANA

RAZIA SULTANA ZUBER AHMED

Any objection, please contact

THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR

NATIONALITY AFFAIRS

within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

■ FIFA president speaks out against hypocrisy of 'one-sided' moral lessons

■ 2022 World Cup will be best ever ■ FIFA World Cup **Qatar 2022 Legacy Fund launch** announced

cate ourselves, many things are not perfect but reform and change takes

'This one-sided moral lesson is just hypocrisy. I wonder why no one recognises the progress made here since 2016. There have been discussions with the director-general of the International Labour Organisation directly, who also confirmed the progress that has been made regarding the workers file, and there is a monitoring system as well, as it suffices to say that a permanent office of the International Labour Organisation is here in Qatar," he added.

Regarding the demands for financial compensation for the workers, Infantino said: "Qatar is a sovereign state, and a state that operates in an institutional manner, and therefore there are legal frameworks for any matter that may happen. Qatar has established a fund to support workers, and an amount of no less than ers on the form of compensation, the equation of wage differences, and all things confirm the great keenness to

give workers their full rights." The president of the International Football Association (FIFA) announced the launch of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Legacy Fund, where there will be a wide scope for investment by everyone in this fund. which will be concerned with education in the world in the first place, especially the education of children in order to build a better future for

He pointed out that FIFA signed an agreement with India, where there are 25mn children in the early stages of education to support them and provide an ideal educational ex-

He thanked Qatar for its contribution to this fund, which will also work in co-ordination with the International Labour Organisation in order to pay great attention to workers to improve their lives. In the press conference, Infantino criticised the way many Western media outlets deal with Qatar, pointing out



FIFA President Gianni Infantino

"Qatar has established a fund to support workers, and an amount of no less than \$350mn has been allocated to workers on the form of compensation, the equation of wage differences, and all things confirm the great keenness to give workers their full rights"

that everyone is present in Qatar for the success of the most prominent football event that takes place once every four years.

He said that he is sure that the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will be the best version, and he is proud of everyone who worked hard to make

He pointed out that the criticisms levelled at Qatar were unfair. He added that the Europeans should apologise to the people before giving lessons. Many European institutions work in Qatar and make financial profits, and the criticisms levelled are unfair, and Europe is unable to provide the support Qatar provided in the workers issue. Infantino pointed out that working circumstances in Oatar are superior

to those for European immigrants. He said that many international institutions have recognised that labour rights standards in Qatar are similar to labour rights standards in Europe, and that "there will be a permanent headquarters for workers in Qatar affiliated with the International Labour Organisation, which is a great progress in this

context? The FIFA president went on saying: "As FIFA president I have to focus on football, but I had to clarify many things. Let the participants in the tournament focus on football and the fans to enjoy the event that only occurs once every four years."

He explained that all the decisions taken regarding the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 came in partnership between Qatar and the International Football Association

He pointed out that many people invest more in the FIFA World editions, and that FIFA profits increased from television broadcasting during Qatar's hosting of the World Cup, as broadcasting rights for the 22nd edition of the World Cup increased by \$200mn compared to previous tournaments. In another context, Infantino

praised the decision to raise the participating teams in the World Cup to 48 teams, starting from the next edition in the year 2026, and said that it is in the interest of football. Infantino concluded his statements by saying that the World Cup will be the last with the participation of 32 teams, and it will be exceptional for many considerations, the most important of which is the shortening of distances, which was not present in previous editions, in addition to the fact that the playing conditions are excellent and everything will provide distinguished levels, adding that the fans that will accompany the event, a total of about one and a half million fans, will remain in the same area during the tournament period without the need to move to another city.

between stadiums unique to World Cup Qatar 2022 **QNA**

E the Minister of Sports and Youth Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser al-Ali has said that Qatar 2022 is set to be a unique World Cup edition in the FIFA history, highlighting the state's unique preparations for this mega-event. Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE the minister said that Qatar's World Cup preparations offered eco-friendly facilities and events, and provided fans with a variety of options to put their plans according to their desires and interests.

He said that the World Cup, the first-ever global event to be held in the Arab region, will be a first-of-its-kind tournament in terms of short distances between stadiums, which enables fans to watch more than one match per day. In parallel with the Ministry of Sports and Youth's preparations for the tournament, there were a variety of events and activities, on the sidelines of the championship, that provide fans with recreational and educational options.

These events, for example, include the 'We All Have Responsibility' campaign inaugurated on Oct 10, 2022. This three-week campaign included decorating all regions nationwide in preparation for the global tournament, he energies towards offering societal and national projects that provide new prospects of societal action, in addition to developing the responsibility sense of youth, extending communication bridges with the state institutions to further care for and decorate their vicinities.

HE the minister added that the ministry will also launch "Our Life" event, a youth and sporting activity comprising five events in the



HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser al-Ali

areas of hunting, fishing, pearl diving, Sealine camping and camel racing. This event is set to kick off outside Doha on Nov 21 and run

As part of the ministry's efforts to showcase Qatar's unique identity, he highlighted the World Cup-associated "Mzayen World Cup" event, to be launched under the slogan 'Desert Dhows' to introduce peoples and World Cup fans to Qatari sports, civilisation, customs and traditions.

This event will be held in Al Wakra Old Soug in a bid to immortalise a historic era when Al Wakra beach used to serve as a harbour for then moved by camels across the country.

All youths are invited to benefit from the events and activities on the sidelines of the World Cup 2022, and to present to the world an image that befits their country, he said, voicing hopes that all guests coming to Qatar will have an enjoyable experience amid a festive atmosphere that reflects the bright image of the Arab culture.

ARPM Tender Committee announces the following Tender

Tender No.	Subject	Fees QR.	Tender Bond QR.	Closing Date
ARPM/111	Provision of Staff Housing for	1,000	10,000	15.01.2023
	AL Rayyan Group Entities for			
-2022/TEN/DOH	(2) Two Years			

- 1. Interested parties can collect copies of the tender documents from ARPM Purchasing Department, by sending the deposit slip copy (details can be found below) via email <u>L.cabral@arpm.com.qa</u> or visit our offices during working hours during the period 20th November – 18th December 2022 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m and after 18th December normal working hours 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m (Fri & Sat Closed)
- A payment of a non-refundable document's fees should be deposited in cash to:
 - o Beneficiary Name: Al-Rayyan Projects Management (ARPM) 0013-022375-004 (Qatar National Bank) o Account No.

And the original / scanned deposit receipt should be submitted upon receiving of the tender documents

- A tender bond (as stated above), issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and valid for 120 days from the closing date should accompany tenders. The executed tender bond should be included with the technical offer.
- All tenderers MUST collect their original bonds from ARPM Purchasing department upon expiry of the Tender Bond, unless alternative instructions are issued by ARPM
- Proposal to be submitted in sealed envelopes as per the RFP requirements in both HARD COPY & SOFT COPY
- Copies of valid Company Commercial Registration, Computer Card & Authorization Letter must be submitted in order to collect the tender documents
- The successful tenderer is required to submit a performance bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar equivalent to 10% of the total contract sum and shall be valid for a period expiring 30 days after contract expiry
- Offers should be valid for 120 days commencing from the closing date (as stated above).
- ARPM has the right to increase or decrease the scope of services by 15% with the same terms and conditions
- 10. ARPM is not bound to accept the lowest tender or any other tender and is under no obligation to show any reasons
- 11. Bids should be submitted not later than 12:00 noon on the closing date and must be deposited into the Box, provided in the ARPM Purchasing office, located at the 9th Floor, ARPM, Head office and should be in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman - Tenders Committee, quoting the Tender Number and Subject
- 12. Offers arriving thereafter may not be considered.

Turkish media praise Qatar

have praised the efforts of Oatar for hosting the FIFA World Cup, stressing their country's great support, expecting success for this global event that takes place for the first time in an Arab Islamic country. Head of the Communications Department of the Presidency of Turkiye Fahrettin Altun congratulated Qatar, noting the co-operation between the former adviser to the Turkish president, said that whoever travels to Oatar to watch the FIFA World Cup Oatar 2022 will have the full opportunity to get

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, MOHAMMED ISRSHAD MOHAMMED GAUSE

holder of

Indian Passport No. P0076699 QID No. 28835610104

hereby change my name

from

MOHAMMED ISRSHAD MOHAMMED GAUSE

to

MOHAMMED IRSHAD MOHAMMED GAUSE

Any objection, please contact THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR **NATIONALITY AFFAIRS** within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

Several Turkish officials and media professionals

Qatar and Turkiye in securing the tournament. Yasin Aktay, acquainted with a model of an Islamic country with all its culture, values, and customs (QNA)

CHAIRMAN – TENDER COMMITTEE

TEL: 40341804

Aspire launches 'Heart of the Game' to join World Cup fever



he Aspire Zone Foundation has joined the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 celebrations, launching yesterday the "Heart of the Game" with a host of activities at Aspire Pavilion in Aspire Park.

To be run until December 18, daily from 3pm-11pm, the activities are for families.

The "Heart of the Game" features 10 sports events for all communities, seven theatrical performances, and a sports exhibition

on Qatar's football journey from 1960 to 2022. The activities are "Foot Golf", "Target Wall", "Connect 4 – Kick and Aim", "4 In a Line", "Skee Ball", "Foosball", "Foot Pool", VR

games, "Sub Soccer", and "Jump like Ronaldo".

There will be Tanoura Dance with two performances daily – except on weekends, African, Philippines and Bollywood dances with two shows each on weekends, Mascots Parade with two shows daily – except on weekends, Football Juggler with two shows daily, and Traditional Ardha with two shows on Qatar National Day.

The event encompasses the Aspire Zone Foundation pavilion, which highlights its continuing role in raising the quality of sports in Qatar, as well as community health awareness by Aspetar that includes an education zone, a medical check-up zone, and a "physically active" zone.

Raffles, Fairmont make debut in Qatar

- Hotels officially open for FIFA guests and VIP delegation
- Restaurants open to public by reservation only

he ultra-luxury Raffles
Doha and luxury Fairmont
Doha – which herald the
entry of the Raffles Hotels & Resorts and Fairmont Hotels & Resorts brands to Qatar –are now
open exclusively for FIFA World
Cup Qatar 2022 guests and VIP
delegation.

The dual-branded five-star properties, housed within Katara towers, have welcomed their first guests while supporting the nation's historic FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 by delivering exemplary service and truly exceptional experiences in both hotels, a statement said.

Seven outstanding food and beverage outlets and restaurants have opened to the public, four located within Raffles Doha and three in Fairmont Doha. Through advanced reservation only, nonstay guests can now book to enjoy next-generation gastronomic experiences at Raffles Doha's Alba, the first overseas outpost for the celebrated restaurant by threestar Michelin chef Enrico Crippa; L'Artisan, which celebrates the art of modern dining for breakfast, lunch and dinner; Blue Cigar, a lounge which boasts 6,000 literary classics including some first edition classics as well as bespoke cigar collection; as well as Malaki Lounge, which spans the atrium lounge and ground floor and the perfect venue for afternoon tea.

Diners can head to Fairmont Doha to savour the progressive Indian cuisine at Masala Library, the concept by restaurateur, television host, and author Jiggs Kalra, and Latin American cuisine of Vaya, a vibrant restaurant with open kitchens and interactive service stations and where south American inspired dishes and drinks are prepared table-side. Guests can also choose to visit Dôme, a stylish chic Tea lounge,





the perfect place for afternoon tea and French-inspired bites and sips.

Raffles Doha, an opulent 132-key ultra-luxury property and Qatar's only all-suite hotel, offers an awe-inspiring suite experience and décor, paired with views of the Doha skyline. Each suite experience is enhanced with personalised butler service, bespoke amenities including an exclusive scent from Frederic

Malle, a gallery wall with a collection of curated books and an in-suite boutique. Raffles Doha furthermore features the marvellous Katara Hall, a dazzling space at the heart of the hotel which set new aspirations for lavish events, with 22m high ceilings, making it the largest ballroom with daylight in the country. The hotel also has advanced beauty and well-being offers with nine spa and fitness suites, each equipped with their





own state of the art treatment rooms and some offering private outdoor terraces and plunge pools

The luxurious Fairmont Doha contains 270 rooms, 92 suites, four themed suites and one presidential suite, all inspired by the interiors of luxury yachts along with an exclusive lifestyle hotel floor, Fairmont Gold, which is a privileged hotel-within-a-hotel experience. Featuring gold mo-

saic wall tiling and rich wood panelling, the rooms present an outstanding visual spectacle, spacious layout and incorporation of elements inspired by Qatari design, which boast a separate guest bathroom and a large furnished terrace offering panoramic coastline views.

Raffles Doha and Fairmont Doha will welcome guest room reservations post-FIFA World Cup 2022, the statement added.

Three cruise ships fully booked for first week of World Cup



'MSC Opera'.

The three cruise ships that have arrived in Doha to serve as 'floating hotels' are fully booked in the first week of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, according to MSC Cruises

'MSC Opera' arrived in Doha on Friday, joining 'MSC World Europa' and 'MSC Poesia' at the port to offer a luxurious hospitality experience to fans of the World

'MSC Opera', a modern 'floating hotel', offers luxurious services to World Cup fans with a variety of room options ranging from traditional cabins overlooking the sea to rooms with balconies and luxury suites, in addition to multiple dining possibilities and programmes and entertainment for all ages. At 275m in length and 32m in width, the 13-deck MSC Opera can accommodate nearly 2,679 people with 1.075 rooms.

'Floating hotels' are among the several facilities

provided by Qatar for fans of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, offering multiple booking and accommodation options throughout the tournament, including apartments, villas, fan villages and usual hotels. HE the Chairman of Qatar Tourism and Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar al-Baker affirmed in statements that offering accommodation and recreational services on board floating hotels reflects the strenuous efforts exerted to organise the best World Cup in history.

According to the estimates of MSC Cruises, owner of the three 'floating hotels' that will serve the tournament, the total capacity of the three cruise ships is around 10,000 beds, and reservations for the first week of the World Cup have reached 100%. The cooperation between Qatar and MSC Cruises dates back to 2016, when Doha welcomed the Group's first giant cruise ship, 'MSC Fantasia'. (QNA)

Giant Screen at MIA showcases Qatar's best attractions

Qatar Museums (QM) is showcasing the best of Qatar through a giant screen installed on the grounds of the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA). The screen, called The Skyline, is located at one of Doha's busiest intersections and is Qatar's largest digital screen. A QM statement yesterday explained that the digital showcase is made possible through a collaboration with Elan Decaux, the joint venture between the Elan Group, the entertainment and media market leader in Qatar, and JCDecaux, the number one outdoor advertising company worldwide.

Ahmad Musa al-Namla, CEO of Qatar Museums, said: "With so many events taking place alongside a major sporting event, FIFA world Cup Qatar 2022, we can now showcase to all



A panoramic photograph of the MIA is seen displayed on the giant screen.

2022, we can now showcase to all residents and visitors the best of what Qatar has to offer through The Skyline screen."

Elan Decaux managing director, Omar El Shaarani, said: "We are delighted to have signed this partnership with QM and IN-Q Enterprises, expanding our presence in Doha thanks to a state-of-the-art digital asset."

IHOP opens new franchise Location in the Gulf Mall

New restaurant invites guests to Come Hungry, Leave Happy



HOP® celebrated the opening of its next franchise location in Doha on 13 November. Located at the Gulf Mall on Al Shammal Road this new restaurant serves up the brand's World-Famous Buttermilk Pancakes and familiar comfort foods all day long, leaving guests with a smile on their face. Since 1958, IHOP has been the place where people connect over breakfast, enjoy study breaks, grab a bite before or after sporting events, and so much more. IHOP has seen millions of smiles over the years in their restaurants and continues to be a space to enjoy special moments with family and friends.

To further commemorate its arrival in the Gulf Mall in Gharaffa area, Eagles Landing International Restaurants invites guests in for an affordable, everyday dining experience with warm and friendly service. Guests of all ages can enjoy a wide variety of breakfast, lunch and dinner items, including IHOP's World-Famous Pancakes, Breakfast Combos, Omelettes, Burgers, and more for dine-in, takeout, and

delivery.

"We are thrilled to bring IHOP back to Qatar at the Gulf Mall to serve the brand's familiar favorites to members of our community," said Mohamed Makawi, CEO of Eagles Landing International Restaurants, an IHOP franchisee. "IHOP's casual atmosphere, beautifully designed interior and exterior, and family-friendly fare will be a welcomed addition to the area and a space for guests of all ages to come together."

The new restaurant – located at Al Gharafa AL Rayan, Gulf Mall, GATE 7, Doha, Qatar – is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily from 10 AM until 12 AM.







HE Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari along with other dignitaries at the start of Walk the Talk Doha yesterday. PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam

Walk the Talk Doha debuts ahead of FIFA World Cup

By Joseph Varghese Staff Reporter

The first Walk the Talk Doha: Health for all Challenge was held with the participation of more than 3,500 people from different walks of life yesterday, a day ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and World Health Organisation (WHO), in collaboration with FIFA and the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC), organised the initiative for the first time in Qatar to promote healthy living.

HE the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari led the event and was joined by WHO director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, SC secretary-general HE Hassan al-Thawadi, FIFA secretary-general Fatma Samour and WHO regional director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Ahmed al-Mandhari.

A host of elite athletes were Mutaz Essa Barshim, Qatar's double Olympic gold medal high jump champion; Fares Ibrahim, Qatar's Olympic gold medal weightlifting champion; and Didier Drogba, WHO Sport for Health Ambassador and former FIFA World Cup footballer.

HE Dr al-Kuwari told the opening ceremony: "Regular



Participants walk through Doha Corniche during Walk the Talk Doha.

exercise and activity, including walking, not only support good physical health, but also our mental health and well-being. I am delighted to have partnered with WHO, FIFA and SC to bring the Walk the Talk initiative to Doha for the first time."

HE the minister affirmed the readiness of the health sector to local and visiting fans during FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 at various event sites, fan areas, matches and other relevant sites. The National Healthcare Incident Command Centre is in

Walk the Talk Doha was organised as part of the Sport for Health partnership between MoPH, WHO, FIFA and SC. The event began at Al Bidda Park and offered participants the choice of two routes, 3km or 5km, taking in key Doha landmarks, including the Corniche area and the FIFA World Cup countdown clock. ed by a range of organisations: Al Bidda Park and the Private Engineering Office; the UHC Partnership; 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum; Qatar Tennis Federation; Qatar Rugby Federation; Qatar Cancer Society; Qatar Olympic Committee; and Weill Cornell Medicine - Oatar's

constant co-ordination with the various authorities in the country, in anticipation of any potential emergency. Sahtak Awalan. **Estithmar Holding opens 'Katara Hills' resort**

SC secretary-general euphoric about World Cup kick-off

By Joseph Varghese Staff Reporter

't is super exciting as the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 kick-off takes place tonight, the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) secretary-general HE Hassan al-Thawadi said vesterday. "Everybody asks what my feelings are and I can't describe it. Honestly, it is very difficult to describe," he told Gulf Times in reply to a question. Al-Thawadi was interacting with the media



HE Hassan al-Thawadi

FIFA WORLD CUP Qat_ar2022

> on the sidelines Walk the Talk Doha, organised by the Ministry of Education in partnership with WHO, FIFA and SC, "I am full of excitement, stress, anxi-

ety, happiness and euphoria. I am all of them put together. I am waiting for the kick-off and more can be said once it is done," said a delighted al-Tha-

The SC official pointed out that Walk the Talk Doha is part of an initiative that SC has worked out through a partnership. "We have a partnership with the Ministry of Public Health,WHO and FIFA to promote healthy lifestyle utilising the World Cup through a number of initiatives. We have made enough commitments and this is one of them- promoting healthy life style," he noted. "Human legacy is one of the most important factors for us. This partnership realises the human legacy part of the World Cup 2022. This World Cup is probably the healthiest World Cup," continued, the official.

From experience, I can say that walking is one of the healthiest lifestyles that anyone can promote. So there is no doubt that it is a healthy initiative and the launch of it a day before the World Cup is a great beginning," al-Thawadi added.

Qatar World Cup will be the healthiest so far: WHO chief

By Joseph Varghese

IFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will be the healthi-est World Current est World Cup so far, the World Health Organisation (WHO) director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebrevesus stated yesterday. "With several initiatives such as no smoking and no drinking at the World Cup stadiums as well as healthy food in the stadium will help people to follow the idea of healthy lifestyle," he told the opening ceremony of Walk the Talk Doha event.

"Five billion people are



Dr Tedros Adhanom

watching football throughout the world on different platforms. This is probably the most popular sport. So, we use these platforms to pass messages about healthy living. Through our partnership

and through media advertisements, we hope to reach out to such a large number of people about the need for healthy lifestyle," he continued.

Dr Ghebreyesus said this is the first Walk the Talk being held in Qatar but hoped there will be many more in the com-

"This World Cup has become an opportunity for FIFA and WHO to try an agreement by partnering with the Ministry of Public Health Qatar. We signed an agreement in October 2019 to work on sports and health as both the topics are

It is already more than three

years now. This is a partnership not just for Walk the Talk but the first initiative to work on sports and health as a unit. They go along together.

This is the first World Cup where we will be working on sports and health together and it will be something that we experience in coming World

Cups too," he explained. "WHO is very excited to partner with FIFA and the Government of Qatar. This World Cup is a pathfinder in sports and health joint initiative and this will help billions of people around the world to follow healthy lifestyle," added Dr Ghebreyesus.

Maserati Qatar hosts launch of Muneera al-Dosari's collection

lfardan Sports Motors, the official authorised importer of Maserati in Qatar, hosted the launch of Muneera al-Dosari's new capsule limited-edition luxury collection, '2nty 2nty 2,' at Maserati's showroom recently.

Gills Manjulakshmi, the New York Fashion Week director for Mena Designers, curated the new collection inspired by the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. Sports fabrics, cuts derived from Maserati seats, and colours inspired by both the Italian brand's iconic models and the FIFA World Cup 2022 football make the luxury collection

a perfect fit for everyday wear. An array of local and expatriate public figures, Qatari sports celebthusiasts attended the '2nty 2nty 2' event organised jointly by the first Qatari jumpsuit abaya sportswear brand VIBE by Muneera in co-operation with Maserati Qatar. The launch ceremony for the '2nty 2nty 2' collection featured a series of speakers on sports, lifestyle, and women's empowerment.

Speakers included Qatar national team skeet shooter and champion Reem al-Sharshani: Al Kass Sports Channel journalist Rasha Bargouthi; clinical dietician Dr Rewa Refai; Oatar's No



1 tennis player Mubaraka Alnaimi: UN-SDG leader and youth adviser for HE the Minister of Sports and Youth, Khadeja Albuhaliqa; and 'VIBE by Muneera' founder and

Charly Dagher, general manager of Maserati Qatar, said: "We are very happy to host the launch of VIBE by Muneera's latest capsule collection at our showroom. Maserati's iconic models inspired the limited-edition luxury collection and featured cuts from their seats.

The collaboration between Maserati Oatar and the first Oatari jumpsuit abava sportswear brand further demonstrates Alfardan Sports Motors' commitment to empowering Qatari women and



local brands by showing how the luxury Italian brand and lifestyle sportswear share similar traits and values." All Maserati lineup models, including the Ghibli, Quattroporte, Levante and MC20, are available at the Italian brand's

showroom in The Pearl Island's Medina

Centrale - Oatar's unscale leisure destination that is home to luxurious living quarters, entertainment facilities, award-winning marinas and serene beaches.

Karwa to operate massive bus fleet to serve World Cup fans

7ith the imminent start of the FIFA World Cup Oatar 2022, Mowasalat (Karwa) has intensified its operational preparations for the World Cup, mobilizing its fleet and specialized technical teams to ensure a comfortable and smooth transportation experience for the World

The company said that about 4,000 buses will be operated during the tournament, of which about 3,000 are dedicated to transporting fans, including more than 800 fully electric buses that operate with zero carbon emissions.

This is in line with modern, comfortable and environmentally friendly transportation solutions, establishing Karwa as a real legacy that keeps pace with the sustainable development projects that the State of Qatar seeks for the post-tournament. In response to Qatar News Agency (QNA) questions, Mowasalat (Karwa), added that transportation services during the World Cup period include transportation to and from Metro stations and tournament stadiums, transportation to and from "park and move" stops, and transportation service from the main residences in and to Doha, in addition to the shuttle bus service dedicated to linking Hamad and Doha International Airports with the stadiums and central Doha, as well as the express bus service to

the stadiums, which will provide fans with transportation between all venues for sporting events.

The company explained that in addition to Karwa fleet, metrolink services will operate in 43 tracks to serve 23 metro stations, to transport passengers to and from metro stations as usual and according to service request rates, noting that there are approximately 248 buses dedicated to metrolink services, including 90 electric zero-emission buses, and will operate all days of the week, taking into account flexibility and meeting transportation services for fans and guests of Oatar, which will enhance Karwa's position as a convenient national carrier that provides easy and disciplined transportation services.

Mowasalat pointed out that in order to provide more opportunities for fans and visitors to Qatar and meet their needs, it has allocated a round-the-clock transportation service from Abu Samra border crossing to Al Messila Station in central Doha, in addition to the readiness of more than 76 bus stations dedicated to the event, in central Doha and the Corniche. The second and third ring road, next to the tournament buses in the centre of the country, which will operate normally as usual to serve the fans with ease from any of the main bus centres.

In the same context, the Chief Executive Officer of Operations at Mowasalat Ahmed Hassan al-Obaidly, said in a press conference held by the organisers of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, that hundreds of buses will be operated, and that 25% of them will be environmentally friendly and fully electric, with a legacy in transforming transportation into an environmentally friendly system. He referred to the development and operation of the public transport network from four in the morning to eleven in the evening, in addition to metrolink services, and metroexpress services from six in the morning to 12 in the afternoon, in addition to thousands of buses that will operate throughout the day and on different tracks throughout the tournament. He explained that in addition to

all this, there are more than 3,000 taxis and limousines that will be ready to serve fans, and are stationed at Hamad International Airport, Doha International Airport and vital places in the country. He added that Karwa Company has completed its readiness to provide fast and safe transportation services, having employed and trained thousands of drivers, technicians and support staff, as well as administrative and technical staff, to play a major role in providing transportation services with the specifications and standards required and envisaged by these unique and distinguished services.



Brazilian cheer leader Paulo Magnanisilva Anderson at Doha's Souq Waqif. PICTURE: Tawfik Lamari

Brazilian fans laud Qatari hospitality

By Tawfik Lamari Staff Reporter

A Brazilian cheer leader, Paulo Magnanisilva Anderson, has expressed his joy over Doha's welcoming atmosphere and the Qatari hospitality. "Everything is well organised from our arrival at the amazing Hamad International Airport, to our accommodations, and free transport. I love the Corniche and the international fans here," he told Gulf Times. "I travel wherever Brazil plays. I attended the last World Cup in Russia, we did not win, but this time we are here to be in the final match and we would like very much to win the cup. I have with me six replicas of the trophy, of gilded copper, which Brazilian fans will hold high to motivate our players and cheer them to the songs 'Ohare garden', 'Samba Di Janeiro,' and 'What is Love' (Haddaway song)," he said. A number of Brazilian fans were seen at Souq Waqif on Friday night, rooting for their national team.

Estithmar Holding has announced the opening of its resort 'Katara Hills', the latest tourism project in partnership with Katara - the Cultural Village. The project takes a further step forward at the luxury hospitality industry and will further participate towards the development of Qatar's tourism sector in Oatar, besides enhancing the services offered during the 2022 FIFA World Cup which begins today. The resort was opened by Katara general manager Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti and Estithmar Holding Company vice-chairman Ramez al-Khayyat. "This project is complementing the other sustainable tourist and cultural projects of Katara," Prof al-Sulaiti said while explaining that the project will give its guests an exceptional experience of luxury and entertainment in harmony with the green nature

The guests will also have excellent opportunities to

of Katara Hills.



enjoy a variety of events and cultural, art and sports programme hosted by Katara year-round. Katara Hills project was accomplished within just four months and enhances the concept of sustainable luxurious cultural tourism in Qatar. Al-Khayyat said: "Katara Hills is a distinguished tourist project that keeps pace with the various achievements of the country, and present visitors during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and beyond with the best in the

He stressed that Estithmar

its development projects as part of responding to Qatar National Vision 2030 and supporting the local economy. The Katara Hills project has its unique architectural design in harmony with the environment, and features 15 luxury villas with designed inspired by the Scandinavian style. Each villa has a private swimming pool while maintaining the full privacy of the tenants. All necessary services and utilities are available, plus a dedicated guest service team.

Holding will continue launching

Amazfit introduces new smartwatches in Qatar

mazfit, a leading global smart wearables brand of Zepp Health, has launched the fourth generation of its GTR and GTS series smartwatches in Qatar with the collaboration of official distributor Intertec Group.

The new watches feature the industryleading circularly-polarised GPS antenna technology that enables high-precision positioning, advanced sports features, and large HD AMOLED displays - all packed into stylish designs.

"Being one of the largest smartphones and smart products distributors in Oatar, Intertec Group is delighted to present Amazfit GTR 4 and GTS 4 to the Qatar market at an attractive price of QR729," said Intertec Group chief operating officer Asraf N K. "Customers can also avail attractive free gifts for their first purchases from us."

Featuring upgraded sports and health features, the Amazfit GTR 4 and GTS 4 smartwatches are embedded with 150+ sports modes and advanced fitness features to track data of activities.

The new series automatically recognises eight sports modes and integrates a new advanced "Track Run" mode and newly added "Golf Swing" mode.

Users can sync their workout data to the Strava and adidas Running apps soon. The watches have smart recognition of 15 strength training exercises and pro-

vides performance data like VO2 Max after any workout is completed.

amazfit 0

Amazfit

GTR 4 &

Both GTR 4 and GTS 4 devices are the industry's first smartwatches to include dual-band circularly-polarised GPS antenna technology, bringing high positioning signal strength even in complex environments.

The newly upgraded GPS technology supports five satellite systems, and allows wearers to track their movements in real-

The new self-developed BioTracker 4.0 PPG optical sensor is enhanced to 2LED and collects 33% more data than the previous generation.

The Amazfit devices can monitor heart

rate, blood-oxygen saturation and stress levels 24/7, and can quickly test these three metrics - plus breathing rate - in only 45 seconds with a single touch,

The watches also provide a large number of additional health features, including improved sleep monitoring.

thanks to the One-tap Measuring func-

The Amazfit GTR 4's battery can last for 14 days with typical usage, while the GTS 4's battery can last more than one

The watches have the Alexa Voice Assistant built-in for online voice commands, music storage and stand-alone music playback hands-free workouts, built-in speaker, ability to broadcast real-time sports mode data such as heart rate, workout duration and distance, and hydration reminders via the speaker or the user's Bluetooth headphones.

The Amazfit GTR 4 blends a high-end design that includes an industry-leading anti-glare glass bezel cover, metallic middle frame, sports car-inspired classic crown, more than 200 watch faces with matching always-on designs, including 30+ animated and four new interactive watch faces.

It comes in three colours - Superspeed Black, Vintage Brown Leather, and Racetrack Grev.

The Amazfit GTS 4 adopts a slim and light 9.9mm and 27g structure, with an aluminium alloy middle frame, and gemstone-style navigation crown.

The device also features a 1.75" HD AMOLED display and a 72.8% screen-tobody ratio and 341ppi.

The screen of the watch can be visible anytime with the always-on display, and there are more than 150 watch faces to choose from.

The smartwatch is available in three colours - Infinite Black, Autumn Brown, and Rosebud Pink.

Amazfit GTS 4 and GTR 4 now available in Qatar and specially made available in LuLu, Jarir Bookstore, Jazp, Starlink, Al Anees, and other retail channels.

Qatar is a model for others to emulate: Indian businessman

s the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 is set to kick Aoff at Al Bayt Stadium today, prominent Doha-based Indian businessman C V Rappai reminisces the day the country won the bid to host the world's most popular sporting

"The whole nation erupted in joy when it was announced that Qatar will be hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup," he re-



C V Rappai: There is a lot to learn from Qatar and its people. And I am proud that I live in this great nation.

"The excitement was visible across the country," Rappai said. "And what followed was 12 years of hard work to create worldclass facilities and infrastructure required to host a successful World Cup and receive millions of fans to the country.

"Truly, we can say with pride that Qatar delivered everything on time and had shown to the world what hard work, determination and passion can achieve," he said at his office overlooking the runway of the Doha International Airport.

"When dawn breaks on November 20, it is like a dream come true," he said. "I remember Gulf Times calling me and publishing my comments on December 2, 2010 following Qatar's World Cup

"At that time I said the historic event would transform Qatar and its economy," he continued. "And it certainly did."

"After 12 years of waiting, the historic moment is here. For 12 years, we have been dreaming, thinking and talking about the World Cup, and that dream is now being fulfilled," Rappai said. "The entire country, its government, businesses, organisations and people were fully focused on this great event?

"Our own business planning was tailored to this, and we are happy to participate in the celebrations along with all the people in Qatar." he added. "Qatar is today creating history, which only few countries can achieve."

"When Qatar was awarded the hosting rights, there was talk about how this small country would organise such a huge global event; but Qatar has proved everyone wrong," Rappai remarked.

"The world-class infrastructure, stadiums and all facilities related to the World Cup were built in record time and made operational well ahead of the event," he pointed out.

Rappai, who is the director and chief executive of Video Home & Jumbo Electronics, noted that Qatar is leaving a legacy that future generations will be immensely proud of.

"Qatar and Doha have become a model for others to emulate," he said. "Today, the whole world is focused on Qatar."

"Qatar is the most mentioned country in the global media now. Twelve years ago, many wondered how many of us would be here to witness this historic event," Rappai stated. "But my gut feeling was that I would be here to witness history, and for me, it is a realisation of my own dream and wish."

"We must admire the vision and determination of the rulers of this great country, which made all this possible," he added. "There

is a lot to learn from Qatar and its people." "And I am proud that I live in this great nation."

EAA launches 'Scoring 4 the Goals' campaign during World Cup 2022

By Joseph Varghese

The Education Above All (EAA) Foundation is launching the "Scoring 4 the Goals" campaign on the sidelines of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, as part of its work to help

(SDGs) by 2030. The opening ceremony will be held tomorrow, followed by several programmes.

achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The details were announced at a press conference yesterday by Sheikh Mubarak bin Nasser al-Thani from the EAA and Maleiha Malik, the executive director of the PEIC (Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict) Programme at the EAA.

"We have over 20 programmes and events that will take place on the sidelines of the World Cup 2022," Sheikh Mubarak said. "As we celebrate the top football teams at the World Cup, we invite you #ActNow and join a global dream team to build a better world together."

"Today, more than ever, we need to unite to make the UN SDGs a reality, and make the world a

better place," he added. He explained that the "Scoring 4 the Goals" campaign highlights the EAA's commitment to throughout the World Cup, including world leaders, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, SDG advocates, global campaigners,

and football fans. "The campaign will run from November 21 through December 17, and include numerous activations, held in collaboration with the EAA's partners, such as opening and closing ceremonies with world leaders, a dialogue between the presidents of Ghana and Portugal on education, 'Cycling 4 Recycling' and a walk to raise awareness

for the SDGs," Sheikh Mubarak said.

He noted that the EAA will be present in its SDG Moments pavilion, designed by Zaha Hadid Architects for displaced populations.

"The structure is unique ... an architecture can transform into a classroom, a community hub or a medical facility at low cost," Sheikh Mubarak stated. "The same tents are already being used as school in refugee communities in Turkiye and Pakistan."

According to the EAA official, a "Scoring 4 the Goals" permanent exhibition will take place in the FIFA Fan Festival as well as a digital campaign with films, animations, clips and testimonials on the importance of the SDGs and how they can be implemented.

"It will include an immersive art exhibit which will allow fans to learn more about the SDGs and the importance of achieving them, 'More Sustainability, Less Waste," he added.

"The 'Scoring 4 the Goals' campaign will provide material on the United Nation's 'AWorld in support of Act Now' app, which allows users to track the impact of their choices on sustainable development," Sheikh Mubarak pointed out. The PEIC's Malik said that the EAA is making

sure that quality education is provided to everyone, especially in the conflict zones, as the foun-4, which is the key to unlocking all SDGs. SDG4 focuses on quality education and the

provision of equal and inclusive education and lifelong learning for all.

"SDG 4 remains at the centre of our mission, but the EAA is also committed to realising all of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals," she said. "We believe that only through quality education can we create improve conditions across other sectors for sustainable and equitable human

Sheikh Mubarak and Malik at the press conference yesterday.

GREAT programme spotlighting fashion and creativity launches UK pavilion at World Cup

The UK pavilion, The Garden of GREAT, opened yesterday for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, with an ish designer Foday Dumbuya of Labrum London with fashion and creative start-ups from the region to meet guests including David Beckham, who attended in his role as Ambassadorial President of the British Fashion Council (BFC).

Created by the UK Government's GREAT campaign, the garden celebrates British creativity and diversity, inviting visitors to see a different side of the United Kingdom through a series of immersive installations, showcasing UK music, design, fashion and food, a statement from the British embassy said.

The garden aims to inspire international audiences to visit, study, invest and trade with the



The launch event saw British designer Foday Dumbuya and BFC envoy David Beckham in attendance

At the launch event, Beckham spoke in conversation with Dumbuya and young Qatari designers about empowerment through creativity and the opportunities for cultural exchange between Qatar and the UK.

During Beckham's four years in the role with the BFC, he has been a part of raising the profiles of British fashion talent in a global arena and shining a light on

emerging talent coming through many education and sponsorship programmes.

Visitors to The Garden of GREAT can experience the very best of the UK - from ice cream crafted by Michelin-starred chef Vineet Bhatia to flowers scented by Jo Malone, and murals by Wing Lo, street artist of Europe's tallest painted artwork.

"This garden is a great state-

ment of what the UK stands for in the 21st century," said British ambassador Jonathan Wilks. "Reflecting our diversity both ativity of our designers, artists, engineers and technologists."

"I invite everybody in Doha during the World Cup to visit us on the Corniche near the Museum of Islamic Art and, as our motto goes, to 'See Things Differently," he said. The Garden of GREAT will

host cultural performances and activities as part of the British Council's annual UK Festival which explores the theme Sport

for Good. The festival runs from November 23-29 and looks to bring to life the strong and ongoing relationship between the UK and Qatar through a range of cultural events and activities, including music, art and photography, the statement added.

New solar power plant to help Qatar deliver carbon-neutral tournament

Al Kharsaah to offset about half the emissions generated by Qatar 2022

he Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) has announced that carbon savings from Qatar's new 800MW solar power plant will be used to offset approximately half the emissions generated from the country's hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar

The Al Kharsaah Solar PV Independent Power Producer Project will commit 1.8mn tonnes of carbon savings to Qatar 2022.

The plant opened in October and will help to considerably reduce Qatar's carbon footprint. The project covers 10sq km -

pitches. During its first year of operation, it is expected to generate almost 2,000,000MWh, the equivalent energy consumption of approximately 55,000 house-

the equivalent of 1,400 football

A report published in 2021 estimated that Qatar 2022 would generate about 3.6mn tonnes of carbon emissions.

Data will be collected during the tournament to update the carbon inventory report and adjust the offsetting strategy accordingly.

While about 50% of the emissions will be compensated by savings from the solar power plant, the SC will source an additional 1.5mn tonnes through carbon-offsetting projects approved by the Global Carbon Council. The SC, in collaboration with

FIFA and Q22, has prioritised climate action over the past 12 years, as detailed in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Sustainability Strategy. Tournament organisers have committed to delivering a car-

bon-neutral event - helped by a comprehensive range of initiatives, including free public transport for fans and officials, no domestic flights, green building practices, extensive recycling and composting, and electric vehicles.

"Delivering a carbon-neutral FIFA World Cup is a countrywide effort," said SC directorgeneral Yasir al-Jamal. "We are proud of the vast number of projects implemented to help Qatar achieve this goal, from wide-ranging green building practices, including the development of Stadium 974, the first fully-demountable stadium in FIFA World Cup history, to projects related to recycling, composting and the use of

green vehicles." "The announcement today that carbon savings generated from the Al Kharsaah solar power plant will help offset the emissions of hosting the first



Bodour al-Meer

FIFA World Cup in the Middle East and Arab world highlights Qatar's commitment to environmental sustainability and setting a benchmark for future mega-event hosts," he said.

Qatar 2022 organisers will include all unavoidable carbon emissions in their inventory including flights taken by fans, players, officials and media.

carbon-reduction strategy has encompassed every area of tournament preparation," said SC executive director (Sustainability) Bodour al-Meer. "Delivering the first carbon-neutral FIFA World Cup in history will be a major achievement and help to promote the environmental agenda in Qatar, the region and glo-

"We thank our various stakeholders for their unwavering support and commitment in achieving this goal," she added.

bally."



sheireb Downtown Doha (MDD) is set to receive visitors from around the world, taking them on a journey of the world through various events and activations throughout the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, including daily street parades in the evening and shows along the streets.

The slogan of the campaign, Your world in a Downtown, is a message to all visitors to come to discover Qatari culture and heritage in all aspects of the smart, sustainable city.

The various events organised with several partners engage families and guests from all cultural backgrounds, bringing them together as the nation celebrates the World Cup.

"We are excited to welcome fans from all over the world to the heart of Doha to enjoy Qatar's true heritage and culture in worldclass facilities," said Msheireb Properties public relations and communications manager Maryam al-Jassem. "We are confident that these immersive and comprehensive



Street parades on the streets of the MDD



Each zone hosts engaging activities and exhibitions honouring various artistes and

activations will enhance visitors' experience

during their stay in Doha." "There are many activations throughout our sustainable and smart city that will guide visitors on their journey in exploring their

world in a Downtown," she said. Msheireb Downtown Doha will feature three zones for fans and media, with each zone having activities and exhibitions hon-

ouring various artistes and athletes. Fans have the opportunity to watch the World Cup matches in the Barahat Zone (by reservation only) and enjoy a private experience with family and friends, march to support their favourite team, visit cultural and art exhibitions, or enjoy the entertainment facilities and watch the latest movies in the Novo cinemas located at the first floor of

Msheireb Galleria. A wide selection of local and international restaurants and cafes are ready to serve the fans with their culinary offerings.

CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

- P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
- editor@gulf-times.com
- 44350478 (News),
- 44466404 (Sport),
- 44466636 (Home delivery)
- **44350474**
- facebook.com/gulftimes
- twitter.com/gulftimes_Qatar

GULF @ TIMES

Climate crisis requires urgent global action on mitigation and adaptation

As the impacts of climate change hit harder, a new realism is dawning about our changed circumstances. Increasingly, the world is recognising that climate change isn't just a future problem from which we must protect our children. It is a problem from which we must protect ourselves today.

According to the World Economic Forum, we need to fight climate change by cutting our emissions to fight further increases in warming and protecting ourselves from climate change's increasing effects.

Adaptation and mitigation should be pursued, as UN Secretary-General António Guterres said, "with equal force and urgency." Over 1C of warming has already happened, and warming over 1.5C is very likely. We are nowhere near ready for the impacts this will bring.

Recently, the COP27 launched the Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda – the first ever comprehensive global action plan rallying governments and non-state actors behind 30 adaptation goals for a resilient world by 2030.

This framework signals a growing expectation that business, alongside other actors (countries, cities, investors, civil society), take action to adapt to the acute hazards now facing us.

Adaptation is a crucial part of the fight against climate change. It is necessary to protect people around the world from the climate change that's already in process, and it also brings huge opportunities to help the nearly 8bn people transition to a more sustainable and secure way of life.

Globally, \$1.8tn of investment into adaptation efforts could generate \$7.1tn in total net benefits by 2030

For example, transitioning to climate-resilient farming practices could increase yields by 17% without increasing land use, WEF points out as it outlined three key actions business can take to help tackle climate change.

Adaptation will spur the expansion of industries, such as water conservation, heat-resistant infrastructure, and drought-resistant agricultures, supporting prosperity and security for billions of people as we build a climate-resilient world.

Adaptation is good for business. It can help companies expand their business footprint, achieve efficiency gains, innovate for the future, and enhance long-term sustainability. In addition, business adaptation is good for the society of which business is an inseparable part. Business thrives when society thrives.

Smart companies are acting now to adapt to a climate that is changing before our eyes. The more energetically business dedicates itself to adaptation, the more society as a whole is helped to adapt and benefit.

Some business leaders view adaptation as a corporate social responsibility initiative rather than a business imperative as part of the overall execution strategy and risk management. We encourage these executives to recognise that all companies can be affected by climate change. Even business leaders who may believe their companies have little exposure to climate change have no reason for complacency.

The effort of adaptation is worth it. Globally, \$1.8tn of investment into adaptation efforts could generate \$7.1tn in total net benefits by 2030.

Insurers reckon that a dollar spent on adaptation – strengthening flood and wind defences, for example – saves five in reconstruction. Best of all, of course, proactive adaptation opens up opportunities to build a more sustainable world.

Clearly, the climate crisis requires urgent global action on mitigation and adaptation.

To Advertise

advr@gulf-times.com

Display

• 44466621 **=** 44418811

Classified

44466609 = 44418811

Subscription

circulation@gulf-times.com

© 2022 Gulf Times. All rights reserved



'World Cup a beacon of light to inspire future generations'

HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani highlights the ministry's contribution to the event's success

QNA Doha

E the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani has stressed his ministry's collaboration with all concerned agencies in the country to produce a historic and exceptional World Cup edition.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), the minister said the success of the first-ever World Cup in the Middle East and the Arab world will reflect Qatar's civilisational, economic and cultural development and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

He said this unique World Cup edition will be a bright sign and a solid historical legacy for all citizens and residents in Qatar, and that it will inspire the World Cup fans and future generations.

Highlighting the ministry's efforts to contribute to the success of this global event, he pointed to the ministry's cooperation and co-ordination with various government agencies and private sectors to accelerate the launch of integrated initiatives and programmes in line with the provisions of Law No 10 of 2021 regarding measures to host the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

He said the ministry defined the mechanisms for the World Cup events and ways to facilitate procedures for entry visas, recruitment permits, work permits, and company registration.

The procedures also included tax and customs exemptions for some categories according to the limits determined by the minister of finance and government regulations.

These parties included the FIFA and its affiliated organisations, continental federations, national football associations, companies, the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) and FIFA entities, suppliers of goods and contractors of its works, contractors of service providers, FIFA business partners, broadcasters, their employees and foreign nationals participating in activities.

In conjunction with these measures, the ministry co-operated with the concerned authorities to draft Law No 11 of 2021 on the protection of trademarks, copyrights and related rights of the FIFA, according to which the Industrial Property Protection Office, or the Office for the Protection of Copyright and Neighbouring Rights at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, registers FIFA trademarks, audio recordings, performing artists, and FIFA radio programmes.

In this regard, the ministry registered more than 500 FIFA-related trademarks until June 2022, according to Law No 9 of 2002 on trademarks, trade names,



Industry Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani

geographical indications, and industrial designs and templates.

The ministry also registered nearly 180 other FIFA-related trademarks, under Law No. (11) of 2021. Hence, FIFA granted the rights to use its trademark to about 27 companies and commercial partners.

The minister highlighted the ministry's workshops aimed at supporting intellectual property rights and providing the necessary protection for major international brands, and discussing ways to guarantee fair competition and prevent illegal abuses such as unauthorised promotional activities, and combating the sale of counterfeit goods and FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022-linked products without the consensus of the concerned authorities, and the unauthorised use of trademarks and designs affiliated with FIFA and the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The workshops also discussed the tasks of judicial officers in the vicinity of stadiums during World Cup matches, ways to protect the trademarks and intellectual property rights of FIFA and the tournament sponsors, the World Cup designs and the rights of companies authorised to sell World Cup-related products, as well as mechanisms for identifying officially licensed products, and reviewing the in-stadium brand protection program during the tournament.

As part of its efforts to ensure readiness for effective dealing with investors and auditors during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, he affirmed the Ministry's keenness, through the Single Window Services (SWS) and all supporting administrative units, to secure the necessary coordination with the concerned authorities to complete the auditors' transactions.

He highlighted the role of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Services Center to facilitate procedures for commercial licencing and the establishment of companies concerned with working on World Cup projects, providing general trademark registration services and its contribution to accelerating transactions involving the various sectors of the ministry.

This centre provided 23 services in the industrial sector to back industrial projects and provide important investment incentives and benefits to support the industrial sector through various transactions.

In the commercial sector, it provided a single place to facilitate obtaining the necessary licences and registrations, support and assist investors in the planning and registration procedures and licenses for their commercial projects, in addition to diverse and fast services that meet all the needs of investors and customers.

In the consumer sector, it launched 28 exclusive and distinctive services, and issued the necessary licenses for sales and offers.

Commenting on the ministry's readiness to meet the various needs of the local market during the tournament, the minister stressed the ministry's preparedness to deal with the expected increase in demand for consumption in the local market at very high rates amid expectations to receive large numbers of fans and visitors.

The ministry took the necessary measures to set up, renew and gradually increase inventory of food, supply and consumer commodities within the framework of the ministry-run strategic inventory management and control system.

He highlighted the co-ordination with various concerned authorities and parties, particularly Al Meera Consumer Goods Company as a strategic partner to contribute to the success of this important event.

Under this co-ordination, the retail giant will secure sufficient stocks of products in high demand during the tournament, such as oils, rice, breakfast meals and foods, canned food, eggs, drinking water, detergents and paper products, etc.

He stressed that many Qatari strategic companies completed their stocks of commodities like frozen poultry, eggs, frozen meat, bottled water, vegetables and fruits, at a time when the whole world faces huge challenges in the production

and availability of foodstuffs, high prices of inputs and the continued supply chains disruptions and other obstacles and challenges which Qatar managed to reign in.

He also stressed the key role played by the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Food Security Emergencies Follow-up Centre, which aims to respond quickly to any shortages in foodstuff and consumer goods and overcome any difficulties or challenges facing the parties participating in the tournament.

He highlighted the package of laws introduced to boost foreign investments as part of the state's keenness to provide foreign investors with the opportunity to participate in the implementation of economic projects, especially those related to the activities of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The ministry is also intensifying its efforts to promote and attract foreign investments, with the ministry giving priority to investment requests submitted by foreign companies through the "Invest in Qatar" centre, and facilitates their procedures, whether for the Ministry or the relevant government agencies.

He added that the "1000 Opportunities" initiative represents a true nucleus for linking investment opportunities with foreign supplying companies, and opening a communication channel between them and local companies to benefit from the localisation of some industries, whether in supply chains or contracting for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 projects.

The minister pointed out that a number of local and foreign companies submitted about 700 requests during the past six months, and that a number of local companies signed procurement contracts with more than QR600mm.

At the same time, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry made great efforts to support Qatari industries and expand and diversify their fields, in order to achieve self-sufficiency, by launching several initiatives aimed at urging Qatari industrial establishments to raise their production capacity of national goods in order to meet the needs of consumers during the World Cup activities and in a manner that supports the arrival of national goods and products to the largest number of sales outlets in the country, he said

The minister added that about 50% of the on-display items were allocated for Qatari products, and that coordination was made with more than 30 governmental and semi-governmental agencies to give priority to national products and increase their purchases.

He said the remarkable turnout for investment in non-traditional sectors, particularly the industrial sector, proves the success of the state's plans to support and enhance the contribution of national companies to achieving self-sufficiency for the State, with about 835 factories currently operating in the country.

The industrial facilities established in 2022 brought the total number of locally-made products to about 1142 products, he said, reiterating co-operation with all concerned authorities to reach the best preparations for the first-ever World Cup in the Middle East and the Arab world. (QNA)



How FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 can create an economic legacy

Professor at Qatar Foundation partner university highlights how being the centre of the world's attention opens up opportunities for diversification and investments

By Noor Al-rawi

ith the first FIFA World Cup in the Arab world kicking off, many economic sectors in the country have seen massive changes in the build up to the tournament, including Qatar's real estate market, which is experiencing a rapid transformation that has resulted in prices being increasingly volatile, according to Dr Agustín Indaco, Assistant Teaching Professor of Economics at Qatar Foundation partner university Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q).

"Part of this is due to the increasing supply of homes and apartment buildings evidenced by the rapid expansion of areas such as Lusail and Msheireb. But this volatility in the real estate market has also been exacerbated by the World Cup."

"The country expected to receive roughly 1mn visitors during the event which obviously results in an increased demand for hospitality and accommodation that seeps into the rental part of the real estate market. Given this surge in demand during the World Cup, many residents have experienced increasing rents in the past few months. But overall demand is expected to decrease after the World Cup,

which should bring prices down. "Nevertheless, we will likely not experience a sharp drop in prices because many landlords have tried to secure the pre-World Cup increase in demand by enforcing longer term contracts i.e. offering contracts for



Dr Agustín Indaco

two-years instead of one. The decrease in overall rent following the World Cup will be grad-

And while football fans have been monitoring their favourite teams' movement in Doha, excitedly cheering their side, and enjoying the atmosphere and activities around the tournament, the business community in Qatar and the region is focusing on the economic legacy that the mega sporting event will create in various fields, including the renewable energy sector, and the investment, infrastructure, and real estate markets.

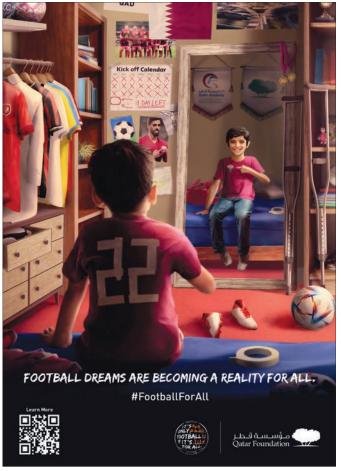
"The World Cup is by far the most popular sporting event in the world. Hosting the World Cup has made Qatar the focus of attention for many people around the world," Dr Indaco

"For example, an estimated 3.5bn people watched the 2018 World Cup in Russia , that is pretty much half of the world's

population. A successful World Cup, operationally and in terms of logistics, can bring a growing interest in the international business community to seek investment opportunities in the country. Given the extent to which Qatar has grown and developed over the last several years, especially in terms of infrastructure and diversifying its economy, we may look back at the World Cup as the defining moment in which the country uncovered a lot of the potential it

Speaking about the economic potential of the tournament, and based on Qatar's position on the international economic stage as a natural gas exporter, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will leave a legacy for the State of Qatar in the field of renewable energy, according to Dr Indaco.

"Over the course of history, societies have tended to use these large international events to showcase different aspects



of human progress and technological advancements. The fact that the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will be the most sustainable tournament to-date marks a huge milestone for the country and the region.

"As we stated before, the eyes of the world have been on Qatar, so any and every positive

aspect in the implementation of the World Cup will be extremely beneficial and will have auspicious ripple effects for the country. Particularly in the case of Qatar, a country known for its vast natural gas resources, an environmentally-friendly World Cup has a much deeper meaning. It will represent an even



stronger testament to the kind of technological progress made in developing cleaner technologies and will also reinforce the effort Qatar is making in being a pioneer in our global push for cleaner energy."

QF has a range of exciting programmes and events happening across Education City campus,

البلاستيك الثمير

including exhibitions, a cultural festival, and special fan experiences before matches at the EC stadiums.

To explore their upcoming events, how to reach Education City, and the schedule of matches happening visit: https:// www.qf.org.qa/education-city-

QF's Education City brought together youth advocate at Generation Amazing's GOAL 22

■Youth advocate warned of a future where climate change forces football indoors ■ Climate change, football, and sustainability discussed at Generation Amazing workshop in QF's Education City

By Noor Al-rawi

▼n line with Qatar's national vision 2030 Qatar Foundation Lis committed to empowering young leaders in Qatar, across the region and the world, through its various programmes and initiatives, OF believes in the power of sports to transform communities.

Generation Amazing's GOAL 22, the first international school exchange programme alongside the FIFA World Cup brought together several students at Qatar Foundation's Education City to explore and understand the relationship between sustainability and football.

Delivered by Barney Weston, Co-Director of Football for Future, the interactive workshop was titled "Climate Change, Sustainability and Football". During the session, which featured representatives from more than 10 countries, the students learned about sustainability in the context of football and how climate change threatens it as a sport, the primary two issues being flooding and extreme heat.

When discussing ways in which climate change can impact football in the future, the students highlighted that communities, particularly ones that are not financially stable, would be the hardest hit.

They told the event that football has "brought people together and created communities and friendships", but that if flooding means fields are no longer suitable to play on, it will mean "one less chance for people to connect" and have a knock-on effect on the physical and

mental well-being of communities. Baha Darsa, a student from Palestine said: "If the world doesn't take



action quickly enough, I fear a future where it will only be possible to play football indoors and not under clear blue skies like most of us know it now.

With the students all being football players as well as fans, they were asked to think of how they could be more environmentally responsible as football supporters. Ideas ranged from using sustainable choices when travelling, such as taking the train instead of flying, even if it means a longer journey time. Other students raised issues such as adopting sustainable clothing and avoiding single-use items.

For Weston and Football for Future, workshops like these serve as excellent opportunities to plant the seeds of sustainability in the minds of young people.

"It's about using football as a tool to start conversations around sustainability and getting youngsters to make more environmentally





sustainable choices. If they get it, they will then go on and have these conversations with their friends and families, and that can propel serious change," said Weston.

GOAL 22 is the Generation Amazing Foundation's flagship sport for development international exchange

programme, bringing together young leaders from across the world for a series of virtual and physical work-

Generation Amazing Foundation strives to continue using sports as a tool for lasting social change beyond





Katara Traditional Dhow Festival sets sail

O His Highness the Father Amir visits festival **O World Cup festivities continue**

is Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani inaugurated yesterday the 12th edition of the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival, organised by Katara - the Cultural Village Foundation on the Katara waterfront.

He was accompanied by HE Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al-Thani, former Prime Minister and former Minister of Foreign Affairs.

His Highness the Father Amir was received by Katara general manager Prof Khaled bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti.

His Highness Sheikh Hamad flagged off the journey of the flags of the 32 nations participating in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, aboard heritage dhow boats to sail past the Doha Corniche and Qatar's world-famous Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) on to Doha Port.

He also toured some of the pavilions of the participating countries.

His Highness the Father Amir was briefed on the activities of the festival and its heritage activities, marine competitions and folklore performances, Katara said in a press statement. 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 Oataris for generations. The festival includes 50 pavilions -

including exhibitions of marine heritage collectibles and others for crafts and handicrafts known as 43 handicrafts, and ship building workshops from nine countries: Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Iraq, Yemen, India, Turkiye and Tanzania.

The dhow festival will remain open on all days until Qatar National Day (December 18).

"The 12th edition of the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival is an exceptional and landmark occasion, as it coincides with Qatar's historic hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup," said Prof al-Sulaiti.

"The distinctive and celebrated festival will be a window for all visitors from around the world to learn about Qatar's and Gulf nations' strong con-



nection with the sea and the richness of the maritime heritage and history," he said. "The festival will further add to extending the bridge of communication between cultures and peoples."

On its opening day, the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival saw a large audience of different age groups and nationalities, who followed a variety of folkloric paintings presented by a group of girls, in addition to performances by the Omani Al-Ardah band and representative paintings inspired by the lives of the people of the sea, such as farewell to the Yazwa and deep sea divers when they started their diving journey, represented through songs

The various sections of the festival extend over the entire Katara Beach, evoking the ancient form of Al Furjan and offer a variety of traditional products related to traditional crafts and industries associated with the sea.

Mexican-Qatari Centre inaugu-

Within the programme of its activities accompanying the FIFA World

Cup Qatar 2022, Prof al-Sulaiti inaugurated the Mexican-Qatari Centre in the presence of Mexico's Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon.

Left: His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad

bin Khalifa al-Thani and other dignitaries at Katara.

Inauguration of the Mexican-Qatari Centre.

The centre includes a health clinic in addition to a security office, passport clearance office and a cultural events office, to cater to Mexican visitors to Qatar supporting the Mexican football team at the World Cup.

Katara aims to co-ordinate with various authorities and institutions in the country in everything related to the World Cup, including providing various services needed by the fans. Katara continued to amaze with its

activities accompanying Qatar 2022. The Thuraya Planetarium received visitors for a second day, with five daily

An exhibition of fine arts, football and collectibles (supervised by the Qatar Photography Centre of the Ministry of Culture) attracted a wide audience of those who are interested in art and football.

Algeria, Morocco, Sudan, Qatar and Lebanon are all represented.

Qatar's footballing history has been brought alive in the second hall, where drawings of the most important moments and pictures have been chosen by Rashid Muftah al-Sulaiti, editorin-chief of Al-Saqr magazine.

A third hall displays sports gear belonging to previous World Cups, which are t-shirts worn by players in previous World Cup tournaments, old publications that covered the World Cup in previous tournaments, as well as medals, footballs and tickets, all of which belong to different historical

eras related to the World Cup. Katara will continue with its festive activities until December 18.



South Korean star and Qatari singer Fahad al-Kubaisi to perform Dreamers.

World Cup opening ceremony to feature **Jung Kook** of BTS

sparkling opening ceremony inside the Bedouin-tent inspired Al Bayt Stadium will invite the world to come together in Qatar as the FIFA World Cup kicks off today for the first time in the Middle East and Arab world.

The 30-minute show will be full of surprises, with the main act featuring a performance of Dreamers - another hit single on the FIFA World Cup Official Soundtrack – by celebrated South Korean pop star Jung Kook of BTS and Qatari singer Fahad al-Kubaisi.

The theme of the opening ceremony is a gathering for all mankind, bridging differences through humanity, respect and inclusion.

"Football allows us to come together as one tribe and the earth is the tent in which we all live," FIFA said in a statement.

The seven-act programme will be led by world class talents that interlace Qatari tradition with worldwide culture and will include tributes to the 32 competing teams, previous FIFA World Cup hosts and event volunteers. Along with hundreds of performers, FIFA World

Cup ambassador Ghanim al-Muftah and Qatari singer Dana will encourage dialogue on inclusion and diversity.

Spectators at the stadium and TV viewers are encouraged to take their seats at 5.30pm local time, as this unmissable show will begin at 5.40pm.

At 7pm local time, hosts Qatar will take the pitch against Ecuador for the much-anticipated opening match of the FIFA World Cup 2022.

Revelry peaks as FIFA Fan Festival is inaugurated

By Joey Aquilar Staff Reporter

spectacular fireworks display, drone show and live performances by renowned singers and entertainers at the Doha Corniche yesterday marked the official opening of the FIFA Fan Festival.

The celebration, with Qatari comedian Hamad al-Amari as presenter, featured a "Welcome to Qatar" ceremony for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and enthralled a large number of football fans in Qatar and from around the world last night.

The event was attended by FIFA and host country officials, along with FIFA Legends, who raised the FIFA World Cup 2022 Winners' Trophy on stage, gracing a special occasion that marks the start of the prestigious tournament with the first match between Qatar and Ecuador today at Al Bayt Stadium.

Famous Lebanese singer Myriam Fares and Colombian star Maluma, as well as local and other international musicians and performers, took to the stage and entertained the crowd. Many supporters of participating football

teams revelled at the FIFA Fan Festival, singing and dancing as they roamed the venue while others took part in games and activities.



FIFA Legends on stage. PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam

"Look at the crowd, this is awesome and then the music, it's incredible," said Armado from Mexico, who was with other compatriots

Visitors will enjoy an array of live performances and entertainment, including different activations and offerings, at the FIFA Fan Festival throughout the tournament. Screening of live football matches on the

mega-screens will also be held at the venue, in addition to a large variety of local and international cuisines and beverages available in a



Various football activities attract young enthusiasts.



Armando from Mexico

family-friendly environment.

The pedestrianised Doha Corniche will feature daily musical festivals, cultural activities, street fairs, and various entertainment shows.

Its 6km stretch from the Sheraton Grand Doha Hotel to the Museum of Islamic Art Park has become the largest theatre in the world for live performances.

Football fans can also experience riding newly refurbished dhows, docked along the Corniche area, it is learnt.

According to organisers, commuters can

reach the FIFA Fan Festival via Doha Metro's West Bay Qatar Energy (Red line), Al Bidda (Red and Green lines), and Corniche (Red line exit only) stations.

Apart from taxi, Uber and Careem, organisers noted that fans can also get to these venues by taking a shuttle bus loop or a stadium express bus for free by showing their Hayya cards. The FIFA Fan Festival will be open today

(November 20) from 4pm-2am; from 11am-2am between November 21-29; and from 4pm-2am between November 30 and December 18.

Live it all in Qatar!

action of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will be a dazzling array of entertainment and leisure

activations. Here are some highlights: ■ FIFA Fan Festival: Al Bidda

Park, daily until December 18. November 20: 4pm-2am; November 21-29: 11am-2am; November 30-December 18: 4pm-2am.

Join 40,000 fans and enjoy all 64 FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 matches live on the mega-screens. See global music acts and local

artistes take to the stage in a true celebration and vibrant festival of

Entry only for Hayya card hold-

■ Corniche celebrations

Qatar's global street carnival along Doha's iconic 6km waterfront, from the Museum of Islamic Art to Hotel Park.

Taking place daily until December 18, from noon until midnight (entertainment from 3-11pm).

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

■ Welcome to Qatar: Cor-

Welcome to Qatar is a must-see for all during the tournament, feamering circle suspended above the water that transforms to poetically narrate wonderful stories.

Shows take place daily at 3pm, 3.30pm, 4pm, 5pm and 5.30pm.

■ Hayya Fan Zone

A grand celebration of the beautiful game at Lusail South Promenade, open from November 20 to December 18, from noon until lam.

Head to Lusail South Promenade and join the festivity, fun and football.

Access: entry fee and ticketed ac-

tivations. ■ Ras Abu Aboud Beach 974 Hit the shore at Beach 974, extending from the heart of Doha

along Ras Abu Aboud's glistening waterfront. Combine football and beach life, enjoy the water - then kick back and let the beat move your feet! Tim-

ings: 9am to 6pm. For more details, visit https:// www.qatar2022.qa/en/live-itall-in-qatar/ras-abu-aboud-

Step off the pitch and onto the dancefloor for 28 Aravian nights. A magical world that combines music, performance and song -

from premiere international talent

■ MDLBEAST Presents: Ara-



A snapshot from the launch of the Corniche street festival yesterday. PICTURE: Thajudheen

and rising regional stars.

All inspired by the colours and shapes of Arab culture, blending rave with Arabia.

Taking place from November 21 to December 18, from 8pm-2am. Located next to Al Wakra metro station, 12 minutes from Doha.

Access: Event admission ticket

required. ■ Arcadia Music Festival

This world-renowned event will mesmerise you late into the night as the energy of this one-of-akind experience takes over! Featuring international artistes and DJs, extraordinary sculpted stages with a fire-breathing spider, and much

Open until December 19, daily from 6pm-3am, at Ras Bu Fontas. **■** Lusail Boulevard

Live entertainment lights up the boulevard! The modern city of Lusail is brought to life from morning until night with live music, parades and street performances.

You'll be captivated by it all! Taking place until December 18, daily from 11am-2am. Access: public (some activities

require admission tickets).

■ QetaiFAN Beach Fest

Be entertained day and night! Enjoy concerts, special performances, giant screen live matches, water activities and a Floating Aqua Park all at one of the largest entertainment venues in Qatar! Open until December 18 in Qetaifan Island North.

Event admission ticket required and ticketed activations (free entry for guests staying at Fan Village Qetaifan Island North).

Please refer to https://www.qatar2022.qa/en/live-it-all-in-qatar for more information.

