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Day 1

Qatar's moment to shine - Sport Page 1

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

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SUNDAY Vol. XXXVIII No. 12468

November 20, 2022

Rabia II 26, 1444 AH

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

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Best ever FIFA World Cup kicks off in Qatar today

Amir to inaugurate opening ceremony

By Sahar Bidappa
Doha

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

Today's schedule

Group A

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 celebrated South Korean pop star Jung 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 sell-out crowd expected today.

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 profoundly, profoundly unjust. This one-sided moral lesson is just hypocrisy," he added. **Page 6**

Infantino addresses the press conference.

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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 Youssef 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 Sheikhha 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)**



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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

Audi Qatar has donated QR 100,000 to the Qatar Cancer Society during the month of October in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. “We are once again honored to partner with the Qatar Cancer Society,” said Ahmed Sharief, Managing Director of Audi Qatar. “Our goal is to continue to

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 the health 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 Qatar 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-qatar.com.



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

QNA
Doha

HE 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 Se-

neem, 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 jump 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 facilities.

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 municipalities.

In addition, a plan has been drawn up to establish, equip and operate an operations centre to enhance the level of cyber-

security. 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

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 of the World Cup.

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

QNA
Doha

FIFA 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 yesterday 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 rights of workers, it is unfair that 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. Qatar 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 lessons."

"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-

■ 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 time.

"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 \$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."

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 peoples.

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 experience.

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 this global football event a success.

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 Qatar 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."

Short distances between stadiums unique to World Cup Qatar 2022

QNA
Doha

HE 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 noted. This campaign seeks to direct youth 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, Sea-line camping and camel racing. This event is set to kick off outside Doha on Nov 21 and run through Dec 18.

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 Souq in a bid to immortalise a historic era when Al Wakra beach used to serve as a harbour for ships carrying varieties of goods, which were 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 AL Rayyan Group Entities for (2) Two Years	1,000	10,000	15.01.2023

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 L.cabral@arpm.com.qa 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)

2. A payment of a non-refundable document's fees should be deposited in cash to:

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

3. 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.**

4. All tenderers MUST collect their original bonds from ARPM - Purchasing department upon expiry of the Tender Bond, unless alternative instructions are issued by ARPM.

5. Proposal to be submitted in sealed envelopes as per the RFP requirements in both HARD COPY & SOFT COPY on CD or USB.

6. Copies of valid **Company Commercial Registration, Computer Card & Authorization Letter** must be submitted in order to collect the tender documents.

7. 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.

8. Offers should be valid for 120 days commencing from the closing date (as stated above).

9. 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 thereof.

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.

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TEL: 40341804

Turkish media praise Qatar

Several Turkish officials and media professionals have praised the efforts of Qatar 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 Türkiye Fahrettin Altun congratulated Qatar, noting the co-operation between Qatar and Türkiye in securing the tournament. Yasin Aktay, the former adviser to the Turkish president, said that whoever travels to Qatar to watch the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will have the full opportunity to get acquainted with a model of an Islamic country with all its culture, values, and customs. **(QNA)**

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A photograph of a modern, brightly lit restaurant interior. The space features wooden tables and chairs in vibrant colors like teal, yellow, and blue. The ceiling is decorated with colorful balloons (red, white, blue) and streamers. The walls are white with some framed pictures and a large screen displaying a sunset. The overall atmosphere is cheerful and contemporary.



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 also in attendance, including 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 provide all medical services 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 constant co-ordination with the various authorities in the country, in anticipation of any potential emergency.

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. Walk the Talk Doha was supported 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 - Qatar's Sahtak Awalan.

SC secretary-general euphoric about World Cup kick-off

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

It is super exciting as the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 kick-off takes place to night, the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) secretary-general HE Hassan al-Thawadi said yesterday. "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

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, anxiety,

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-Thawadi.

The SC official pointed out that Walk the Talk Doha is part of an initiative that SC has worked out through 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
Staff Reporter

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will be the healthiest World Cup so far, the World Health Organisation (WHO) director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus 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 Ghebreyesus

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 coming years.

"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 linked. 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

Alfardan 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 celebrities and Maserati owners and enthusiasts 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 dietitian Dr Rewa Refai; Qatar's No



Snapshots from the event.

1 tennis player Mubarak Alnaimi; UN-SDG leader and youth adviser for HE the Minister of Sports and Youth, Khadeja Alubuhaiqa; and 'VIBE by Muneera' founder and designer Muneera al-Dosari.

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 Qatar and the first Qatari jumpsuit abaya 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 - Qatar's upscale leisure destination that is home to luxurious living quarters, entertainment facilities, award-winning marinas and serene beaches.

Estithmar Holding opens 'Katara Hills' resort



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 Qatar, 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 of Katara Hills. The guests will also have excellent opportunities to



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 field." He stressed that Estithmar

Holding will continue launching 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.

Karwa to operate massive bus fleet to serve World Cup fans

With the imminent start of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 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 Cup fans.

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 Qatar, 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 metro-express 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 Magnanilva Anderson at Doha's Souq Waqif.
PICTURE: Tawfik Lamari

Brazilian fans laud Qatari hospitality

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

A Brazilian cheer leader, Paulo Magnanilva 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.



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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.

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.

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



‘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

HE 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 co-operation 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,



HE the Minister of Commerce and 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 co-ordination 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 QR600mn.

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 co-ordination 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)**



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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

With 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 gradual."

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 said.

“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 has to offer."

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,

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-world-cup>

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

In line with Qatar's national vision 2030 Qatar Foundation is committed to empowering young leaders in Qatar, across the region and the world, through its various programmes and initiatives, QF 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

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 workshops.

Generation Amazing Foundation strives to continue using sports as a tool for lasting social change beyond 2022.





QATAR

FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar 2022

QATAR



Katara Traditional Dhow Festival sets sail

- His Highness the Father Amir visits festival
- World Cup festivities continue

His 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 perform-

ances, 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 Qataris 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, Turkey 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-



Inauguration of the Mexican-Qatari Centre.

Left: His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and other dignitaries at Katara.

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 fare-

well 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 inaugurated

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.

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 shows.

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 Muflih al-Sulaiti, editor-in-chief of *Al-Sagor* 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

A 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 Aguilar
Staff Reporter

A 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



Various football activities attract young enthusiasts.



Armando from Mexico

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

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

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 dhow, 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!

Accompanying the on-field 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 artists take to the stage in a true celebration and vibrant festival of culture.

Entry only for Hayya card holders.

■ **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: Corniche.**

Welcome to Qatar is a must-see for all during the tournament, fea-

turing the Circle of Lights – a shimmering 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 1am.

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

Access: entry fee and ticketed activations.

■ **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! Timings: 9am to 6pm.

For more details, visit <https://www.qatar2022.qa/en/live-it-all-in-qatar/ras-abu-aboud-beach-974>

■ **MDLBEAST Presents: Arabia**

Step off the pitch and onto the dancefloor for 28 Arabian nights.

A magical world that combines music, performance and song – from premiere international talent



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-a-kind experience takes over! Featur-

ing international artistes and DJs,

extraordinary sculpted stages with a fire-breathing spider, and much more.

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.

Today's **GULF TIMES** includes a 60-pages A5 handbook on **FIFA WORLD CUP QATAR 2022 SCHEDULE**

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