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Day 2 Ecuador beat Qatar Sport Page 1

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With Rihlat Qaredo

# Amir welcomes all; the beautiful game begins

**From Qatar, from an Arab country, I welcome everyone to the FIFA World Cup 2022: Amir**

By Sports Reporter Doha

Qatar's 12-year dream came into life yesterday in a short but sparkling opening ceremony as His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani patronised the occasion as the FIFA World Cup kicked off at the Al Bayt Stadium.

His Highness the Amir, in his address to the 67,372 crowd present at the tent-shaped venue and billions watching on TV, welcomed the world to the football showpiece event, the first to be staged in the Middle East and Arab world.

"From Qatar, from an Arab country, I welcome everyone to the World Cup 2022. We have worked hard, along with many people, to make it one of the most successful tournaments. We have exerted all efforts and invested for the good of all humanity," he said.

"Finally, we have reached the opening day, the day that you have been eagerly waiting for. Starting from this evening, and for a period of twenty-eight days, we will follow, and with us the whole world, God willing, the great football festival, in this spacious ambience for human and civilised communication," the Amir added.

"People of different races, nationalities, faiths and orientations will gather here in Qatar, and around screens on all continents to share the same exciting moments.

"How beautiful it is for people to put aside what divides them in order to celebrate their diversity and what brings them together at the same time.

"I wish all the participating teams a magnificent football performance, high sportsmanship, and a time full of joy, excitement and delight for you all. And let there be days that are inspiring with goodness and hope.

"Welcome and good luck to all."

The opening ceremony, which ran for 30 minutes, was attended by His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, His Highness Personal Representative of the Amir Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Thani, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Khalifa al-Thani, HE Sheikh Jassim bin Khalifa al-Thani, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani, HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, and a number of Sheikhs and ministers.

The opening ceremony was also attended by leaders of friendly countries, heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to the state and senior sports officials.

The opening ceremony amazed the thousands in attendance and billions



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani addresses the opening ceremony of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 yesterday.



His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani greets fans at the opening of the Qatar World Cup yesterday.



Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohamed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud is greeted by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in Doha yesterday.



His Highness the Father Amir, His Highness the Amir, FIFA President Gianni Infantino and other dignitaries at the inaugural programme at Al Bayt Stadium yesterday.

watching around the globe. Narrated by Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman and featuring Jung Kook from Korean supergroup BTS, the ceremony showcased Qatari culture and heritage while highlighting football's ability to unite people from different countries and cultures.

A host of special guests from Qatar took part in the ceremony, including Ghanem al-Muftah, Dana and Fahad al-Kubaisi - and they were joined by hundreds of performers and tournament volunteers.

The ceremony featured eight distinct parts, culminating with giant jerseys from all 32 participating nations, and every mascot in FIFA World Cup history, including the Qatar 2022 version La'eeb, and a huge inflatable emblem.

**How beautiful it is for people to put aside what divides them in order to celebrate their diversity and what brings them together at the same time: Amir**

Conceived as a joyous and contemporary one-of-a-kind spectacle with an important unifying message, the ceremony was produced by Executive Artistic Director, Ahmed al-Baker, CEO of Katara Studios, with support from Creative Director, Marco Balich, and Artistic Director, Anghela Alo.

The ceremony presented a contemporary global show that carried an

## Amir expresses pride in launch of Qatar 2022

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani expressed his pride in the launch of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 yesterday. In a tweet on his official Twitter account, the Amir said after continuous effort and hard work for 12 years, Qatar is proudly witnessing today the launch of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and welcomes guests from all over the world, wishing luck for all the participating teams and enjoyable times for the fans.



with the global culture through seven dazzling performances.

The ceremony symbolically presented two bridges made of light, representing the significance of connecting the people's vastly distanced ideologies through dialogue and understanding to reach coexistence.

One of the highlights was 'To Know One Another', in which legendary actor Morgan Freeman talks with Qatar's Ghanem al-Muftah, who represents the new generations in the region, each of them standing on a lit bridge that expresses different points of view and different opinions. The two sides get engaged in a high level dialogue where misconceptions, that lead to applying double standards and hasty judgments, are corrected through dialogue which refers to the Qur'anic Ayah "O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another".

The two bridges get united by a visual display symbolizing acceptance, respect and coexistence.

Qatar's story with football was told in the sixth performance, entitled 'Dream', through a visual historical narrative that shows how the dream was rooted in the

heart of this country from the beginning, and then culminated in hosting some of the biggest events in the world, including the World Cup.

At the end of the video, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani hands a jersey to His Highness the Father Amir to autograph it as a symbol of legacy.

Footage from this historical video was displayed for the first time, showing His Highness the Father Amir and a group of his friends who have contributed to building this country, playing football.

At the end of the ceremony, the various elements of the ceremony come together: team jerseys, tournament mascots, actors and performers with a selected group of fans from all over the world, reliving the feeling of celebrating the championship in an absolutely unforgettable way in a spectacular wrap-up, for the sky to get lit by a dazzling fireworks show. (With inputs from QNA)

See also Pages 2, 6, 7, 11, 12 Sport Pages 1, 2, 4, 5, 8

## Ecuador win World Cup inaugural match



Qatar's midfielder Karim Boudiaf (L) fights for the ball with Ecuador's midfielder Jose Gifuentes during the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group A football match at the Al Bayt Stadium yesterday. Ecuador won 2-0.

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

**Today's schedule**

**Group B**  
England vs Iran, 4pm  
at Khalifa International Stadium

**Group A**  
Senegal vs Netherlands, 7pm  
at Al Thumama Stadium

**Group B**  
USA vs Wales, 10pm  
at Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium

**Yesterday's result**

**Group A**  
Qatar 0 - Ecuador 2



# Amir participates in FIFA Executive Summit



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani participated yesterday in the Executive Summit of the International Federation of Football Associations (FIFA), chaired by FIFA President Gianni Infantino, at Fairmont Doha Hotel.

At the beginning of the summit, a film recounting

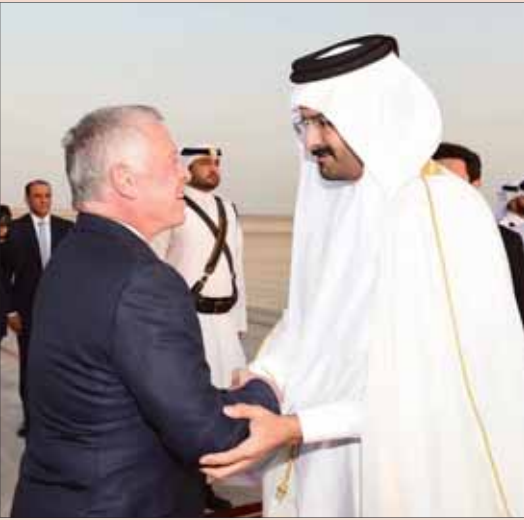
glances of the history of the FIFA World Cup tournaments was shown, after which Infantino delivered a speech where he welcomed the attendees and congratulated Qatar on hosting the tournament.

The Amir delivered a speech in which he welcomed FIFA officials, heads of national football federations and legends of the

game, wishing them success in the work of the summit. After that, the Amir received a souvenir from the FIFA president.

The summit was attended by His Highness Personal Representative of the Amir Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, in addition to several senior officials in the country and national football federations. (QNA)

## Qatar welcomes leaders to FIFA World Cup opening ceremony



His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani led the well-wishers to welcome a number of Arab and Gulf leaders and their accompanying delegations who arrived in Doha yesterday to attend FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 opening ceremony at Al Bayt Stadium. They included Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohamed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, King Abdullah II bin Hussein of Jordan, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Representative of the Kuwaiti Amir Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah. The Jordanian delegation also included Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II and a number of ministers. The delegations were also welcomed, among others, by HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser al-Ali. (QNA)



Senegalese President Macky Sall arrived in Doha yesterday, to attend the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. He and his accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Minister of State Sheikh Fahad bin Faisal al-Thani, and Senegalese ambassador to Qatar Dr Mohamed Habib Diallo. (QNA)



Rwandan President Paul Kagame arrived in Doha yesterday to attend the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The Rwandan delegation were welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Director of the Protocol Department Ibrahim bin Yousef Fakhro, and Rwandan ambassador to Qatar Igor Marara Kayinamura. (QNA)



Oman's Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tarik al-Said, arrived in Doha yesterday to attend the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 opening ceremony at Al Bayt Stadium. The minister and the accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at the Hamad International Airport by HE the President of the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, HE the Minister of State Sheikh Fahad bin Faisal al-Thani and Oman's ambassador to Qatar Najib bin Yahya al-Balushi. (QNA)



Djibouti President Ismail Omar Guelleh arrived in Doha yesterday to attend the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. He and the accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Minister of State Sheikh Fahad bin Faisal al-Thani and Djibouti's ambassador to Qatar Tayeb Dbd Robleh. (QNA)



Venezuela's Vice-President Delcy Rodriguez arrived in Doha yesterday to attend the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 opening ceremony at the Al Bayt Stadium. The vice-president and the accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Director of Department of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ibrahim bin Yousef Fakhro, and Venezuela's ambassador to Qatar Carlos Jose Mata Figueroa. (QNA)



Indian Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar arrived in Doha yesterday to attend the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 opening ceremony. He and his accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Minister of State Sheikh Fahad bin Faisal al-Thani and Indian ambassador to Qatar Dr Deepak Mittal. (QNA)

### Turkish president, Australian minister for sport arrive in Doha

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Doha yesterday to attend the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. Upon his arrival at Hamad International Airport, he and the accompanying delegation were welcomed by HE the

Minister of State Sheikh Fahd bin Faisal al-Thani and Turkish ambassador to Qatar Dr Mustafa Goksu.

● Australian Minister for Sport Anika Wells arrived in Doha, on behalf of the Australian prime minister, to attend the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 opening

ceremony. She and her accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Director of Department of Protocol Ibrahim bin Yousef Fakhro and Australia ambassador to Qatar Jonathan Muir. (QNA)

### Saudi support for Qatar's World Cup hosting efforts

Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohamed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud has directed all the Saudi ministries and governmental institutions to provide any additional support or facilities that their Qatari counterparts may need in support of Qatar's efforts in the hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

In a statement to Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Saudi Minister of Sports Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Faisal said that he will follow the implementation of Prince Mohamed bin Salman's directives. (QNA)





Her Highness Sheikhha Moza and UN chief Guterres at the tent classroom designed by the late Zaha Hadid. Below: Her Highness Sheikhha Moza at the meeting with UN chief Guterres.

PICTURES: AR al-Baker



Her Highness Sheikhha Moza at the EAA's SDG Pavilion. PICTURE: Aisha al-Musallam

### Sheikha Moza and UN chief Guterres tour SDG Pavilion

Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Education Above All Foundation (EAA) and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) advocate, has met UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the Sustainable Development Goals Pavilion in the Al Bidda FIFA Fan Festival.

During their meeting yesterday, they discussed topics of mutual interest, including financing education and reaching the SDG goals.

Her Highness Sheikhha Moza toured the site of the SDG Pavilion, including the tent designed by the late architect Zaha Hadid and a sculpture garden which included various artworks related to the 17 SDG goals. The pavilion will officially open today. - QNA

### Sheikha Moza meets WHO secretary-general



Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Education Above All Foundation and Qatar Foundation, has met World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. During their meeting yesterday, they discussed nutrition of young people, mental health of displaced peoples, and ongoing collaborations between the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) and the WHO. PICTURE: AR al-Baker

### Foreign minister meets European Commission VP

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani has met European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas, who is currently in Doha for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 opening ceremony. During the meeting, they discussed the relations and co-operation between Qatar and the European Union. The meeting yesterday addressed Qatar's efforts in overhauling labour laws and the legislation



enacted to safeguard the rights of labourers. Schinas lauded Qatar's preparations to make the major international football event a success. - QNA

### Qatar 'reaping efforts of years of sound planning and work': DPM

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah has affirmed that the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 represents the result of more than 10 years of sound planning, effort and work. He said in an exclusive statement to the Qatar News Agency

(QNA) that Qatar has worked during the past years to organise a unique edition of the World Cup.

HE Dr al-Attiyah added that the Qatari citizen, with full faith in God and full confidence in the government, was able to see the results of the efforts made during the past years.

He also expressed happiness and pride that the World Cup coincided with the celebration of the National Day of Qatar.

HE Dr al-Attiyah said that the government was able to combine two important events - the National Day (on December 18) and the World Cup - through diligent work and proper planning.



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah

He thanked everyone who contributed to this global event. - QNA

# Qatar stresses use of technology to counter terrorism, financing

QNA  
New Delhi

Qatar has affirmed that modern technology provides unprecedented capabilities to enhance measures taken to combat terrorism and its financing, pointing out that creative and constructive thinking is necessary to find ways to utilise technology for this purpose.

This came in the statement delivered by HE the Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Counter-terrorism and Mediation in Conflict Resolution Dr Mutlaq bin Majed al-Qahtani at the 3rd "No Money for Terror" Minis-

terial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing in New Delhi.

He said that in light of the rapid development of information technology and other technologies, there are increasing threats presented by terrorists using these technologies to fund terrorism, through suspicious financial transactions, including the use of social media to raise funds, and digital wallets to transfer funds.

HE Dr al-Qahtani said that it is important to keep pace with these threats and constantly assess their nature and consequences, as well as address them with an integrated and multidimensional approach.

He said the starting point to facing

these challenges lies in a clear understanding of these risks at the national level, and the promotion of effective regional and international co-operation in accordance with the provisions of international law and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in addition to applying the latest international standards, and participating in international and regional arrangements to eradicate terrorism and its financing.

HE Dr al-Qahtani added that at the national level, the legislative framework for combating terrorism and its financing has been strengthened, through the updating of national laws and regulations in Qatar, as reported in the recent review of the country's

implementation of the recommendations by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

He added that at the international level, Qatar actively participates in the multilateral arrangements concerned with combating the financing of terrorism, including the FATF, the MINI FATF, the Terrorist Financing Targeting Centre (TFTC), the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), the Global Coalition Against Daesh, and the Egmont Group.

HE Dr al-Qahtani said that because Qatar is aware of the centrality of the United Nations' role in co-ordinating and supporting international efforts to combat terrorism and its financ-

### Foreign minister's special envoy meets Indian officials

HE the Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Counter-terrorism and Mediation in Conflict Resolution Dr Mutlaq bin Majed al-Qahtani has met separately with India's Ministry of External Affairs Secretary Ausaf Sayeed and India's ambassador to Afghanistan and Pakistan JP Bhalla, on the sidelines of the 3rd "No Money for Terror" Ministerial Conference on

Counter-Terrorism Financing in New Delhi. During the two meetings, bilateral relations were reviewed, especially in the field of combating money laundering and terrorist financing, in addition to the latest developments in Afghanistan and a number of issues of common interest. - QNA

### Special envoy meets FATF president in New Delhi

HE the Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Counter-terrorism and Mediation in Conflict Resolution Dr Mutlaq bin Majed al-Qahtani has met Financial Action Task Force (FATF) President T Raja Kumar on

the sidelines of the 3rd "No Money for Terror" Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing in New Delhi. During the meeting, they discussed issues of common interest. - QNA

ing, Qatar is one of the most important partners for the international bodies concerned with combating terrorism and its financing, including the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

Incidentally, the CTED concluded in its latest report that Qatar has accumulated experience in this regard and is able to provide technical support to other countries in the context of combating terrorism and combating its financing.

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**TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Tender Committee of QAFAC invites qualified local suppliers to participate in the following Tender in accordance with QAFAC tendering procedures:

No.	Tender No.	Description	Collection Fees Qrs.	Tender Bond Qrs.	Bid Closing Date
1	QTC/111/22	<b>Three (3) Years Contract for Provision of Catering Services at QAFAC Plant, Mesaieed</b>	300/-	350,000/-	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2022

Interested companies are invited to collect the above tender document as follows:

- **Collection Date** : From Monday, 21st November, 2022  
(QAFAC working days from Sunday to Thursday only)
- **Collection Time** : 07:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- **Location** : The Gate, Bay Tower 2, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Bay, QAFAC
- **Tender Fees** : As shown above, (*Non-refundable*) can be paid at QAFAC Doha Office
- **Validity** : Offers must be valid for 120 days from closing date.
- **Bid Bond** : Offers must include a Bid bond issued from a local bank and valid for 120 days from closing date.
- **Authorization** : Tenders will be issued to authorized company personnel with the following :
  1. Official authorization on Company Letter Head,
  2. Proper Identification,
  3. Copy of Company's Commercial Registration.

## NHRC underlines need to raise awareness on climate change

HE the Deputy Chairman of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) Dr Mohamad Saif al-Kuwari has underlined the importance of developing strategic plans to reduce gas emissions and combat climate change, in order to preserve the health and safety of individuals and communities.

He added that a study prepared by Qatar's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) recommends raising awareness among the population to adapt to climate changes, and to protect themselves from the spread of disease by adopting modern means and methods of prevention.

This came during Qatar's participation in the 39th international conference held by the International Organization for Women Empowerment and Capacity Building "Tamkeen" in Kuwait, in co-operation with the National Society for Child Protection and the Regional Network for Social Responsibility, under the umbrella of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

Temperatures on Earth have generally increased by 1.2° Celsius, very close to the 1.5C limit adopted in the Paris Agreement, which has led to changing weather patterns including precipitation in unusual seasons, melting of ice in the two poles, drought and desertification, and abnormal changes that caused natural disasters in many countries of the world.

HE Dr al-Kuwari said that the change in temperature can contribute to the spread of disease through the growth of organisms that transmit pathogens by modifying the rates of their ability to infect, as well as prolong the duration of the disease transmission season.

The conference is aimed at raising awareness of climate change and its effect on the global system, to identify the factors causing climate change in the third millennium, to examine the repercussions of climate change on achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to highlight the efforts of Arab government to combat the impact of climate change. - QNA

مؤسسة قطر  
Qatar Foundation

## INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Bond Value	Tender Fee	Bid Closing Date
QF/2022/PPMD-SS/31435	Provision of Certification Services on Accredited Management Systems for Qatar Foundation on Call-Off Basis for Three (3) Years	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	20 December 2022
QF/2022/PPMD-SL/31472	Supply & Installation of Complete Robotic Solution (Hardware and Software) for Qatar National Library	Not Applicable	QAR 500	22 December 2022
QF/2022/PPMD-SC/31475	Exhibition Booths for QNL at Doha Book Fair 2023	Not Applicable	QAR 500	14 December 2022

Qatar Foundation (QF) Procurement & Program Management Directorate is inviting companies to participate in the above listed public tenders.

**Tender Fee** : Interested bidders shall first deposit the respective non-refundable Tender Fee as mentioned above into the following Qatar Foundation bank account:

Account Name : QATAR FOUNDATION  
Account Number : 0013-024171-001  
Swift Code No : QNBAGQA  
IBAN : QA19 QNBA 0000 0000 0013 0241 7100 1  
Bank Name : Qatar National Bank

**Tender Fee Payment Dates** : From 21 November 2022 until 27 November 2022 between 9:00 AM - 02:00 PM except Friday and Saturday. The tender fees should be paid to QF account before 27 November 2022, 02:00 PM. Tender documents will not be issued if fees are paid after the specified deadline.

Interested bidders shall request the tender document by providing clear copies of the following documents to Qatar Foundation's email [qftenderfee@qf.org.qa](mailto:qftenderfee@qf.org.qa) via a single email.

- 1) Bidder's tender fee receipt clearly highlighting "QF Tender reference number" and "bidder's name".
- 2) Authorization letter on company's letterhead detailing the Commercial Registration number, full name, telephone, and email id of the company's focal point for all tender communications.

QF Tender Committee will verify all the above documents and issue the tender documents via email to all bidders who have fully complied with above requirements.

The commercial bid must be valid for 120 days from bid closing date.

The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for 120 days from the bid closing date.

The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.

Qatar Foundation tendering qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

# Coinciding with International Children's Day

## “Rofaqa” affiliated with Qatar Charity..extended achievements and distinguished quality projects



In conjunction with the upcoming 9th anniversary of the launch of the “Rofaqa” initiative, which coincides with International Children's Day, which falls on the 20th of this November; Qatar Charity continues its efforts in the field of social care and sponsorship of orphans around the world through this initiative, as the number of those sponsored through it has reached more than 190,000.

Orphans benefit from the training activities that are held for them, such as workshops, lectures, and entertainment, trips, camps, competitions, and sports matches that are organized by orphan supervisors or officials of orphanages centers.

Orphans and sponsored families also benefit from seasonal projects and campaigns such as Eid clothing, zakat al-Fitr, aid for winter campaigns,

people with special needs as well. It is also keen to provide food assistance within seasonal projects and periodic educational assistance to them.

### Typical cities and centers

In continuation of its qualitative efforts in social care, which fall within the framework of its “Rofaqa” initiative, Qatar Charity has been keen to establish model cities and multi-service centers for orphaned children and their

Attiyah in Sudan, which is an integrated city for the care of orphans and their families, as it consists of 200 homes for orphan families, two secondary schools, a kindergarten, a mosque, a vocational training center, and artesian wells. As well as Taiba Educational City, which was built on an area of 9 thousand square meters and includes several facilities, the most important of which are a basic education school, a secondary school, and a health center equipped to serve students and their families and the areas surrounding the city, in addition to various administrative facilities, dining

halls, activities, and facilities for sports activities. As well as an internal housing for orphans that can accommodate 500 orphans.

### Awards

Qatar Charity won 4 regional awards for excellence in social care between 2014-2022, and it is also proud of the many success stories that have been achieved through Rofaqa initiative, where many of its sponsors have become ministers, members of parliament or officials Locals, academics, company directors, businessmen, doctors, engineers, sports champions.

Through the Rofaqa initiative, donations can be made to the “Your Sponsorship Makes a Hero” campaign through the Qatar Charity website QCH.QA/champion, or through the Qatar Charity application QCH.QA/APP, as well as by requesting the home collection service through the application, or by calling the hotline at 44290000 or via 27 branches spread across the country and through 97 collection points in commercial complexes.



The launch of Qatar Charity has been associated with orphans in name and activity, as it started as a community volunteer initiative in 1987 under the Qatar Committee for the Orphan Sponsor Project. Its name was changed to Qatar Charity to work in all areas of relief and development work as a non-governmental humanitarian organization since 1992, and the total number of sponsors has reached Qatar Charity since 2006 to 532,220 sponsored.

The number of sponsored persons in 2013 (before the establishment of the Rofaqa initiative) was 28,500 orphans, but now this number has increased under the initiative to 190,243.

### Economic empowerment

and school bags, as the number of beneficiaries in (2019-2022) reached about 8,297,218 people, and the families of orphans and sponsored families also benefited from the number of income-generating projects that were implemented Allocating it to them at the rate of 45,336 projects. The wish of 245,902 orphaned and poor children has been fulfilled through the “My Wish” initiative.

### Guarantees inside Qatar

Qatar Charity attaches great importance to orphans and children of low-income families inside Qatar, as it currently sponsors 870 orphans through the “Future Leaders” program, 11 students, 28 families, and two

surrounding communities, each of which includes multiple facilities such as homes, basic and schools, clinics, internal departments for student housing, mosques, workshops, water wells.

The number of projects implemented by the initiative reached 71 qualitative projects to build, operate and support orphan centers, in addition to 232 multi-service centers that include multiple facilities targeting orphan families with various activities.

Qatar Charity has also established model cities for orphans and poor students, including two cities in Sudan. The first is the model city of Sheikhha Aisha bint Hamad bin Abdullah Al-



## Rofaqa Initiative

### Prolonged Achievements Qualitative Projects

1987	Started as a community initiative under the name of (the Qatar Committee for the Orphan Sponsor Project)	59	countries, including Qatar, where sponsorship was provided since inception
1992	Registered and announced as 'Qatar Charity'	911	sponsored in Qatar
2014	'Rofaqa' initiative founded	532,220	beneficiaries of sponsorship since 2006
190,000	Total number of sponsored persons in 2022	45,336	income-generating projects have been provided to sponsored orphans and families
245,902	Children's wishes were fulfilled through the 'My Wish' initiative	303	Qualitative and service centers for orphans and children
321	Social welfare officers at our offices around the world	2	Model cities for orphans and the poor in Sudan

A Program of قطر الخيرية QATAR CHARITY

رفقاء Rofaqa

# Opening ceremony clearly reflects 'exceptional' organisational skills

HE the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti has said that the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 clearly demonstrated Qatar's exceptional organisational capabilities, and reflected the extent of Qatar's pride in its heritage and culture, and at the same time shows its openness on

different world cultures.

In exclusive remarks to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE Dr al-Sulaiti extended her congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Farther Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the government, and all the people and residents of Qatar on the occasion

of the inauguration of the World Cup.

She said that yesterday's exceptional and dazzling opening ceremony represented the start of the bigger dream that represents a source of pride for all Qataris.

HE Dr al-Sulaiti said that Qatar will continue to achieve success under the leadership of His

Highness the Amir, and proving to the world that Qatar is great by its ambitions and achievements.

On this occasion, she praised the efforts by all state institutions to make a hosting a success.

HE Dr al-Sulaiti said that despite the slander campaigns against Qatar's hosting of the tournament, the country has proven to the world its com-

mitment to promises made, and gave a lesson in the adherence to values and principles, as well as confirming its place as a land of peace and love.

She stressed the importance of this global football event to highlight the civilised and bright image of Qatar, as well as its role in bringing different cultures and peoples together.



HE Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti



HE Dr Ahmed bin Nasser al-Fadhala

HE Dr al-Sulaiti also reiterated her welcome of international fans visiting to attend the World Cup.

In a similar statement to the QNA, HE the Secretary-General of the Shura Council Dr Ahmed bin Nasser al-Fadhala praised the dazzling and special opening ceremony of the World Cup.

He said that football fans will witness more excellence as Qatar

fulfils its promise to provide an exceptional World Cup edition.

HE Dr al-Fadhala said that the presence of fans and visitors from all over the world is a perfect opportunity to highlight the civilised image of Qatar and the hospitality of its people, and refute allegations aimed at undermining the hosting of the tournament. - QNA



## Grand start to a month of great football

Snapshots from the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 opening ceremony at Al Bayt Stadium and fans gathering at the venue yesterday. The ceremony was followed by the opening match between Qatar and Ecuador.

PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam and Agencies



### ANNOUNCEMENT

I, AMEEN MANZOOR MOHAMMED

holder of

INDIAN Passport No. T8261727  
QID No. 30435600340

hereby change my name

from

AMEEN MANZOOR MOHAMMED

to

AMEEN MANSOUR

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

### ANNOUNCEMENT

I, JOHN MBAZIIRA

holder of

Uganda Passport No. B1043080  
QID No. 27580000008

hereby change my name

from

JOHN MBAZIIRA

to

JOHN MBAZIIRA KYEYUNE

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

## Qatar's excellence in organising World Cup refutes allegations: IPU president

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) President Duarte Pacheco has applauded the exceptional hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, affirming that this excellence in preparation and organisation refutes all allegations against Qatar.

In remarks to the Qatar News Agency (QNA) on the sidelines of his attendance at Qatar 2022 opening ceremony yesterday, the IPU official said that Qatar has made tremendous efforts over 12 years, and despite the fact that the organisation process was not easy, Qatar has established an infrastructure in accordance with the highest specifications and standards.

What Qatar has done in this regard, Pacheco said, is distinctive and completely different from the previous editions. It has prepared an integrated infrastructure for this global sporting event,

and has provided modern transportation, ideal accommodation, a security and safety system, and others.

Indeed, he said, this refutes the rumours that were raised from time to time about Qatar's hosting of the World Cup.

The IPU President added that Qatar has always hosted international events in an exemplary manner.

On the opening ceremony, Pacheco said that it "will be in our memories forever. A lot of history. A lot of new technology. Something completely different from the past. It will not be easy for the next organiser to compete with you."

He praised the labour reforms implemented by Qatar to protect the rights of workers, noting that he had noticed Qatar's wonderful dealing with all residents, including expatriate workers, disproving the false information about

violations of workers' rights. What is required, Pacheco said, is to continue these successes and not pay attention to such accusations.

"Qatar has done everything in the best way," he said. "I don't understand some critics, because we didn't find these kinds of criticisms when we have other games."

"Do you believe that human rights and workers' rights were better defended (in previous editions of the World Cup)?" he asked. "I don't believe. So, try not to be hypocritical."

"Word to fans - everyone will enjoy the country, the people, the food, the atmosphere and everyone will understand how friendly Qataris are," he added.

Pacheco described the relations between Shura Council and the IPU as "perfect", noting strong co-operation at all levels.



# Qatar Museums unveils Dadu Gardens

Community space for children and families to host series of activities throughout World Cup starting today

Qatar Museums has unveiled Dadu Gardens, a signature feature of Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar.

Dadu Gardens, open to the public from today, is dedicated to delivering creative and educational activities to members of the community. The Promise, a public art installation by renowned US-based artist KAWS, has been at Dadu Gardens to mark its official opening.

Ministers in attendance at the Dadu Gardens unveiling included HE Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari, Minister of Public Health; HE Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi, Minister of Education and Higher Education; and HE Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, Minister of Social Development and Family.

HE Dr Mohamed al-Sada, president of the Dadu Advisory Committee, said: "Today marks a momentous occasion as we unveil Dadu Gardens - an enriching space for children and families in Qatar to learn and thrive. Dadu Gardens is the first phase of the Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar and a place where children can learn about sustainability, the green economy, healthy habits and the environment. We extend gratitude to the founding family members for their generous contributions. The donor model on which the Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar is based, means that the private sector and members of the community are able to actively contribute to the future success of Qatar and its people."

Representatives of the Dadu

Founding Family donors of QR3.65mn or more to the project were in attendance during the opening ceremony of Dadu Gardens. The Dadu Founding Family members currently include Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Baladna, Baladiya, ConocoPhillips, DAAM, Eni, ExxonMobil, IntesaSanPaolo, Ooredoo, Shell and SLB.

Throughout the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Dadu Gardens invites children and their families to participate in a series of activations centred on the theme of nature and environment, with Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, 321 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum and the National Museum of Qatar coming together to deliver vibrant cultural



programming to engage and educate the local community and visitors to Qatar.

Dadu Gardens showcases Qatar Museums' commitment towards sustainability and is located on grounds that includes programming and event spaces, water features and diverse landscapes, an amphitheatre,

playgrounds and picnic areas. The community space comprises an outdoor kitchen, community garden and permaculture garden with different types of edible landscapes, including a herb garden, vegetable crops and fruit trees. As the first-of-its-kind publicly funded national entity in Qatar, the Dadu, Children's Museum

of Qatar aims to make the local community feel empowered through its collective contributions towards enriching the cultural, environmental and social ecosystems in the country.

Advance booking is required to visit Dadu Gardens. Tickets can be booked online at <https://qm.org.qa/tickets/>

## Minister of Culture meets First Minister of Wales



HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday with the First Minister of Wales in the United Kingdom Mark Drakeford, who is visiting Doha to attend the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. During the meeting aspects of cultural co-operation between the two countries were reviewed. (QNA)

## Qatar has taken extra efforts to organise World Cup: Wales First Minister

By Joseph Varghese  
Staff Reporter

Qatar has taken intense extra efforts to make the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 a great event, noted the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford. He was speaking to the media on the sidelines of the launch of a giant bucket hat installation in Doha yesterday to kick start the opening of the Wales World Cup campaign. "It is the most extraordinary effort any country has made to host a tournament of this global significance. As you drive through the city it is fantastic to see the Welsh flag flying, alongside the other 31 countries and to see the enormous efforts that have gone into to prepare a tournament of this scale and significance," said Drakeford. According to the First Minister, this is one of the very special opportunities for Wales to play on the world stage. He continued: "We are a very small nation with just 3mn people. It will be a great game against a huge country like the US. I take pride in being here, because of the recognition it brings." "We have a saying in Wales about football which is 'dare to dream'. You have to dream to get to a World Country final if you are a small country. The wonderful thing about sport is that once you are here, on your day, any team in this tournament can beat any other team. So you have to go in to the tournament to enjoy it, to be glad to be part of it. If it is your day, you could win any game and you could go beyond the first week and deeper in to the tournament," he explained. The First Minister said that the Welsh delegation is



The bucket hat installation near MIA. PICTURE: Thajudheen

looking forward to more collaborations with Qatar in several fields. "We are here because of the World Cup and because of the Wales team. The meeting I will have with many officials will be about business and investment opportunities and I am spending quite a bit of time on cultural relationships," he said. He pointed out that the representatives of the National Museum of Wales are part of the delegation and will be visiting the museums in Qatar. "I hope to invite some young educators and curators in the museums here to visit Wales next year. So there are many things that we look beyond the tournament itself," he highlighted.

"We have a very particular focus on our young people. Wales is a country with its own language - we speak English today but thousands and thousands of people in Wales would speak the Welsh and describe its history, language, culture, identity and all of those things. We are looking for cultural exchange too. There are young people from Wales here with us - a choir of young people," he added. Page 11

## Katara's diverse activities attract global audience

The festivities at Katara - the Cultural Village Foundation, accompanying the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, have drawn the attention of fans from around the world.

The 12th edition of the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival on the Katara Beach promenade, which runs until December 18, has been witnessing a remarkable turnout. The festival showcases Qatar's pearl-diving legacy and fishing and maritime history.

The festival features 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 pavilions at the festival display the crafts of sailors, pearl-divers and everything related to the manufacture of ships and boats as well as fishing tools.

Besides, there are a number of heritage museums including the Museum of the Late Jassim Al-Mannai, the Abdul Aziz Al-Buhashem Al-Sayed Museum, and the Issa Al-Mulla Museum. Different fishing methods are on display at the festival such as hadra and kargour, which are semi-circular cages made of palm fronds, Yarouk mossadeq nets made of yarn, and a one-piece 'diffar' of spinning nets, and Askar. The museums explain the means of building ships and boats. Meanwhile, on Ibn Al-Reeb Cultural Street, the Katara Handicrafts Exhibition has evoked public interest in the collection of souvenirs and handicrafts. The exhibition displays products by artisans from Qatar and other Arab countries. The expo also has handicrafts such as sadu, hand embroidery, traditional clothes, leather works and paintings of different kinds.

The Tunisian Cultural Days will be continuing its activities until December 18. On Saturday evening, a concert by singers Fadi and Akram at the amphitheatre opposite Building 39 wowed visitors. People also continued to flock to the exhibition of Tunisian handicrafts, which features mosaic paintings, 'marqum' (a kind of rug/carpet), and the famous Tunisian 'shashia'.

As part of Katara's activities accompanying the World Cup, the Abdullah Bin Zaid Centre of the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs screened an advocacy film with virtual reality cameras at the theatre opposite the Postage Stamp Museum.

The Abdullah Bin Zaid Centre is distributing books to introduce Islam in many languages, including Spanish, French, Russian, German, English, Filipino, Urdu and others, and brochures are distributed to teach Arabic to non-native speakers, all for free.

Visitors also enjoyed a special military



show presented by the Military Parades Centre and the Qatar Armed Forces Music Brigade on the waterfront of Katara.

Meanwhile, Katara saw the presence of a

large audience who had come to watch the opening ceremony and match of the World Cup on two large screens installed on the premises.

## FIFA sells out all sponsorship packages for Qatar 2022

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will be backed by a full quota of Partners, Sponsors and Regional Supporters after FIFA sold out all sponsorship tiers and inventory for the football extravaganza.

The line-up includes seven FIFA Partners and seven FIFA World Cup Sponsors, as well as Regional Supporters in each of FIFA's five regions - Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa, North America and South America.

The collaborations span multiple sectors and cover rights packages that range from extensive brand and digital exposure and association through to bespoke offerings designed for specific fan and customer engagement

initiatives. The latest additions to take the final three positions on the Regional Supporter roster are:

■ YouTube: Alongside their regional sponsorship, YouTube Shorts creators will be on the ground capturing amazing behind the scenes content of the FIFA World Cup.

■ Visit Las Vegas: The official destination marketing organisation for Southern Nevada has joined FIFA as a Regional Supporter in North America, promoting Las Vegas as one of the world's most desirable destination for leisure and business travel.

■ Fine Hygienic Holding: the final Regional Supporter to sign will provide disinfectants, cleaning products and hand sanitizer stations across all

tournament locations. This is the perfect collaboration as the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 becomes the first global sports event with 100% capacity for spectators after the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It is fantastic to forge such fruitful collaborations with our valued commercial partners and sponsors for this incredible spectacle - the first-ever FIFA World Cup in the Middle East," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said. "Their support not only contributes towards the successful delivery of this ground-breaking tournament, but it also ensures that essential funds are channelled to our 211 member associations and various worldwide programmes which contribute to the

ongoing development of the game worldwide, helping to make football truly global."

FIFA Chief Business Officer Romy Gai added: "The FIFA World Cup presents our commercial affiliates with unprecedented engagement opportunities. Our partners have already delivered a variety of world-class fan activations and initiatives in the build-up to the event, and we will continue to work hand-in-hand with them so that they can achieve their goals while enhancing the FIFA World Cup experience."

In addition to those who are travelling to Qatar, billions of fans will tune into the action from across the globe, giving commercial affiliates an opportunity to connect with huge audiences.



# Electric bikes pilot launched by talabat in Qatar

The region's leading local tech platform, talabat has launched an electric bikes pilot in Qatar, in collaboration with EV specialists Rotor Mobility, reiterating the company's ongoing commitment to implementing solutions that contribute in building a more sustainable delivery system by reducing emissions.

Using Rotor Mobility's industry leading solutions from Vmoto, the pilot testing includes set-up of a temporary 'hot swap' battery charging station and an application for fleet tracking, allowing talabat to bypass traditional EV range anxiety, a statement said.

The 'smart battery' condition reporting technology as well as automotive industry standard

Canbus and IoT systems make Vmoto the leader in this sector, and a B2B centered partner for delivery service platforms.

Commenting on the announcement, Francisco Miguel De Sousa, managing director of talabat Qatar said: "This pilot test of electric bikes is the perfect next step for us as a brand, towards exploring environmentally-friendly, reliable and affordable delivery operations that support Qatar's National Vision 2030 for a sustainable future. As the demand for on-line and q-commerce services continues to grow, we envision a bright future for electric vehicles in Qatar and recognise our own responsibility in driving this positive change."

Commenting on the project,



Yousef Bazian, founder of ESG Solutions and Rotor Mobility Qatar said: "As our DNA is 100%

electric, we are proud to support talabat on this journey. Using our innovative solutions, talabat

is able to offset emissions and costs while meeting the millage needs of their services. This

puts them firmly ahead, driving the evolution towards a more sustainable and cleaner delivery ecosystem?"

Commenting on the project, Demetrios Melekos, of US Heritage Powersports and Jumla Automotive said: "The opportunity to work with talabat Qatar is a best case scenario that we as the regional manufacturer of Vmoto products could have hoped for. Together we will evaluate the real world application of EV alternatives to petrol powered internal combustion engine vehicles. To have the expertise of the talabat team scrutinising the performance of our vehicles is valuable research and development. Starting in Q1 of 2023 we anticipate production of Vmoto in the Qatar Free Zone."

talabat already implements industry leading sustainability standards, which has further underlined its commitment to creating a positive impact and playing an active role by mapping its yearly carbon footprint in Qatar. The organisation also launched several sustainability focused pilot projects including its autonomous delivery robots "talabot" in Qatar Foundation and Msheireb district, delivery by electric scooters at different events, such as Lusail Outdoor Cinema, as well as exploring Drone Delivery as part of its vision for the future of delivery in the region.

Customers can download the talabat application through the iOS App Store, Google Playstore, and Huawei App Gallery.

# Saudi House opens on Doha Corniche welcoming football fans

● Saudi House to be open from 12pm-12am daily until the end of World Cup

A dedicated pavilion showcasing Saudi Arabia's rich culture and football history has opened on Doha Corniche marking the start of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, a statement said.

Organised by the Saudi Ministry of Sport and Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF), Saudi House will celebrate the Kingdom's traditions, hospitality, and unwavering passion for the beautiful game, the SAFF statement explained.

Spanning the size of more than two football pitches (18,000sq m), it will welcome visitors from 12noon to 12 midnight daily throughout the World Cup.

Overlooking the Arabian Gulf and close to major attractions in Doha's West Bay, fans at Saudi House can watch the World Cup's 64 matches live on a giant LED screen on the 'Falcon Stage'.

Fans of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy entertainment and activities, from live music featuring prominent local artistes to a roster of street shows to unique immersive experiences.

The pavilion will play host to 21 different activities across 10 dedicated areas. 'The Green Pulse' takes fans through a journey of Saudi football's illustrious history, showcasing its most iconic moments, goals and heroes. Visitors from across the globe will get the chance to experience traditional Saudi cuisine as part of the 'Cooking' area. The 'Cultural Zone' presents an opportunity for guests to experience Saudi Arabia's rich culture and diverse folklore from across five diverse regions.

Commenting on the opening of Saudi House, Saudi Arabia Minister of Sport Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Faisal said: "We are extremely pleased to welcome everyone



to Saudi House over the course of this historic edition of the FIFA World Cup. We strongly believe in the power of football to bring people together from different backgrounds and ages, in addition to its power to promote diversity and inclusion. Saudi House presents a perfect opportunity for us to showcase our diverse culture, immense hospitality, traditions and football history to

the world during the biggest show on earth."

"Thanks to our country's transformative Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia is more open to the world than ever, and we want to celebrate the first World Cup in the Middle East to the fullest and share our passion and story with fans from across all corners of the globe," he added.

Saudi fans are expected to

be in full force throughout the tournament thanks to the country's close proximity to the host nation. As many as half a million Saudis and fans from the Middle East region are due to experience the 29-day tournament, with many attending to enjoy a FIFA World Cup for the very first time. Saudi House also presents a hub for fans to gather together and express their support for

the Green Falcons.

The Saudi Arabian national team kick-start their sixth FIFA World Cup campaign against Argentina at the 80,000-seater Lusail Stadium tomorrow before facing-off against Poland at Education City Stadium four days. The Green Falcons then go head-to-head with Mexico in their final group-stage match at Lusail Stadium once again on November 30.

## GCC fans support Qatar

A number of GCC fans have expressed their support for Qatar hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, stressing that it will be an exceptional edition of the tournament and will create a lasting legacy for the region to be proud of for many years to come.

They told local Arabic daily *Al-Arabiya* that they were confident that Qatar will show the world the best-ever edition of the greatest sports event in the world as the country has allocated huge capabilities for this event and made all necessary preparations on a grandiose scale.

They also vociferously denounced the unjustified campaigns launched by some suspicious entities to shame the world event and spoil the fun and entertainment awaiting fans from around the world. They further expressed their belief that such campaigns will never succeed.

Ibrahim al-Qahtani, from Saudi Arabia, pointed out that he has seen firsthand the great capabilities of the country and the massive preparations for the event. He said all GCC citizens support the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and are confident of its resounding success. He also wished success for both the Qatari and Saudi teams.

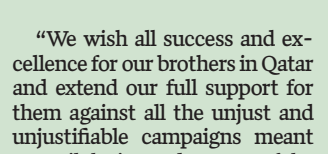
Salem al-Katheri, from Oman, stressed that the organisation of the FIFA World Cup is a great achievement for both Qatar and the Arab world besides the GCC countries and the entire Middle East region. He pointed out that the great preparations that every fans sees in Qatar reflects the massive efforts exerted by the country over the years to produce an exceptional event.



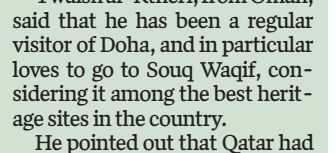
Ibrahim al-Qahtani



Salem al-Katheri



Twaish al-Ktheri



Nasser al-Sanani

"We wish all success and excellence for our brothers in Qatar and extend our full support for them against all the unjust and unjustifiable campaigns meant to spoil the joy and success of the event," he said.

Twaish al-Ktheri, from Oman, said that he has been a regular visitor of Doha, and in particular loves to go to Souq Waqif, considering it among the best heritage sites in the country.

He pointed out that Qatar had allocated massive resources to prepare for the FIFA World Cup, and has managed things impressively. All the campaigns against the country are based on lies and misleading false sources of information, he stressed. He added that he believes Qatar will make history and introduce the world football fans to a new world of entertainment and amazement.

Nasser al-Sanani, from Oman, said Qatar has introduced world fans to a very easy and hassle free travel and entry procedures and the preparations on the ground are amazing and reflect the deep rooted heritage of the place.

## Longtime Qatar resident dies at 64

Longtime Qatar resident Thomas Mathew Kuzhmannil (Raju), 64, died on Friday evening due to a heart attack. He was undergoing treatment at the Hamad General Hospital for pneumonia and cardiac related problems.

Raju was employed in the X-Ray department of Hamad Medical Corporation for more than 40 years and was an active member of the Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Doha.

He is survived by his wife Sumy Mathew and daughter Mekha Susan Mathew.

The funeral will be held later in his native place at the Anchery Christos Mar Thoma Church, Kottayam in Kerala, India.



# Festivities go beyond stadiums

By Joey Aguilar  
Staff Reporter

The excitement over the FIFA World Cup 2022 extended beyond the stadiums and fan zones as football fans created a festive atmosphere at shopping centres, metro stations, and in some open spaces in Doha, a few hours before the start of the first match yesterday.

Colourfully-clad supporters of participating teams, especially Mexicans and Iranians, took their loud chants and cheers to a major mall in Qatar - to the delight of many shoppers and employees. Nationals of different countries, both residents and visitors, found themselves cheering for other teams as they take videos and photos with other fans.

Alfredo from Mexico City, who was with a group of Mexicans at the mall, told Gulf Times that the 2022 edition of the World Cup is amazing, saying "the vibe is great (in Qatar)".

"I want to go to the Corniche, and I also like museums, as well as the library which I saw on Youtube which is very big, I want to go there as well. I plan to go to 10 different matches, I'm very excited about that," he said, expressing optimism that the Mexican football team will reach the quarterfinals.

A similar ecstatic atmosphere could also be seen outside the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre, as well as in a number of metro stations such as Msheireb, Corniche, West Bay Qatar Energy and Al Bidda yesterday, bringing together supporters of Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador and Qatar, among others.

A huge crowd gathered at the FIFA Fan Festival to watch the opening ceremony and the match between Qatar and Ecuador in a live screening.



Fans cheer for their team.

RIGHT: Mall-goers taking pictures with supporters.



BELOW: Mexican and Ecuadorian supporters gather at a mall in Doha. PICTURES: Joey Aguilar







# QC's Rofaqa sponsorship exceeds 190,000 orphans

In conjunction with the upcoming 9th anniversary of the 'Rofaqa' initiative, which coincides with International Children's Day observed on November 20, Qatar Charity (QC) continues its efforts in the field of social care and sponsorship of orphans around the world, with the number of those sponsored exceeding 190,000.

The number of sponsored persons in 2013 (before the establishment of the Rofaqa initiative) was 28,500 orphans, but now this number has increased under the initiative to 190,243.

Orphans benefit from the training activities such as workshops, lectures, and entertainment, trips, camps, competitions, and sports matches organised by supervisors or officials of orphanages centres.

Orphans and sponsored families also benefit from seasonal projects and campaigns such as Eid clothing, Zakat al-Fitr, aid for winter campaigns, and school bags, as the number of beneficiaries in 2019-2022 reached about 8,297,218 people, and the families of orphans and sponsored families also benefited from as many as 45,336 income-generating projects. The wishes of 245,902 orphaned and poor children has been fulfilled through the 'My Wish' initiative.



QC attaches great importance to orphans and children of low-income families inside Qatar, as it currently sponsors 870 orphans (through the 'Future Leaders' programme), 11 students, 28 families, and two people with special needs as well. It also provides them food and periodic educational assistance.

The number of projects implemented by the Rofaqa initiative reached 71, to build, operate and support orphan centres, in addition to 232 multi-service centres that include multiple facilities targeting orphan fam-

ilies with various activities. QC has also established model cities for orphans and poor students, including two cities in Sudan.

The first is the model city of Sheikhha Aisha bint Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah in Sudan, an integrated city for the care of orphans and their families, with 200 homes for orphan families, two secondary schools, a kindergarten, a mosque, a vocational training centre, and artisan wells.

Taiba Educational City was built on an area of 9,000sq m and includes several facilities,



the most important of which are a basic education school, a secondary school, and a health centre equipped to serve students and their families and the surrounding areas, in addition to various administrative facilities, dining halls, activities, and facilities for sports activities and housing for 500 orphans.

QC won four regional awards for excellence in social care between 2014-2022, and it is also proud of the many success stories that have been achieved through Rofaqa initiative, where many of its sponsors have become ministers, mem-

bers of parliament or officials, academics, company directors, businessmen, doctors, engineers and sports champions.

Through the Rofaqa initiative, donations can be made to the "Your Sponsorship Makes a Hero" campaign through the QC website QCH.QA/champion, or through the QC app QCH.QA/APP, as well as by requesting the home collection service through the application, or by calling the hotline at 44290000 or via 27 branches spread across the country and through 97 collection points in commercial complexes.

# Qatar Charity supervises fan zones in IDPs and refugee camps

Qatar Charity (QC) is supervising FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 fan zones in camps housing internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in Jordan, Syria, Sudan, Kenya, Bangladesh, and Somalia, a statement said.

The 'Qatar FIFA 2022 for All: Celebrating Football with Refugees and Displaced people' initiative aims to share the joy of the World Cup with refugees and IDPs living in camps.

The fan zones aim to alleviate the suffering of the refugees and IDPs, give them hope for a better life, restore normalcy to their lives, contribute to building positive relations between refugees and their host communities, and enhance social cohesion through entertainment and cultural programmes.

The fan zones will have live daily broadcasts of the World Cup matches and hold sports and entertainment activities for children and youth, in addition to distributing sportswear, footballs, and meals to the refugees and IDPs, encouraging the families to attend the event, and holding two music concerts and virtual tournaments.

"This initiative aims to share the joy of the Qatar World Cup 2022 with the IDPs, refugees, and vulnerable communities,



Nawaf Abdullah al-Hammadi

and highlight their issues and conditions, based on our belief that sport is the right of everyone, and its role in the peace and development of all communities," said Nawaf Abdullah al-Hammadi, CEO's assistant for International Operations and Programmes at QC.

He also emphasised the importance of sport as more than just a recreational activity for the IDPs and refugees, noting its ability to provide an opportunity for integration, protection, development, growth, and psychological support.

In addition to QC, the initiative is participated in by many bodies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Qatar Fund for Development, the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, the Qatar Red Crescent Society, and beIN Sports.

# Qatar's 'amazing' World Cup preparations hailed

By Santhosh V Perumal  
Business Reporter

Qatar's "amazing" preparations for the World Cup have caught the attention of Portugal fans and business community as they said "campaigns of criticism" against Doha are "very unfair".

"It's been a privilege to see how the country prepared so well to deliver an amazing World Cup 2022," Forum Portugal Qatar chairman Nuno Anahory told *Gulf Times*.

The FIFA World Cup, for which preparations began 12 years ago, got off to a glittering start yesterday at Al Bayt Stadium.

Forum Portugal Qatar has been at the forefront in devising a strategic communication plan for the corporate and fans of Portugal to make the registration easier for the august soccer carnival, which will conclude on December 18.

Travelling to Doha for the last



Nuno Anahory

10 years, Anahory said he had the privilege of following all amazing preparations, new constructions, roads, building stadiums, sports and cultural facilities, with some works done by the Portuguese companies.

"I want to congratulate FIFA for choosing Qatar as the host for this competition. This is a

unique opportunity to gather different cultures, allow people to connect, speak, know more about each other's cultures, and enjoy amazing stadiums on this beautiful Qatar," he said, adding several Portugal fans are waiting in the wings to reach Doha.

Portugal, which is in the H group, has its first match on Thursday (November 24) against Ghana.

"We are very confident that Portugal will make an amazing campaign in this World Cup, we do have outstanding players, and buying a strong and competitive team, of course with an extra motivation from Cristiano Ronaldo," Anahory said.

On the campaigns against Qatar; he said from all the work that Qatar has been doing, and seeing now the readiness of all facilities "we have to say that these campaigns of criticism are very unfair, and I see that those media don't even try to investigate on what is true and what is fake."

# QNB hosts entertainment, football-centric activities as part of World Cup celebrations

QNB continues to "present a rich programme of activities and events" in conjunction with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which officially kicked-off at the iconic Al Bayt Stadium yesterday.

QNB is the 'Official Supporter' of the FIFA World Cup 2022 in the Middle East and Africa. The bank is hosting a series of entertainment and football-centric activities at the Al Bidda Park, Lusail Stadium and Al Bayt Stadium throughout the tournament, which opens its doors daily to thousands of fans from across the globe, providing them with a rich entertainment and sports programme that includes family fun and entertainment for the children. The entertainment activities accompanying the World Cup will continue until the end of the tournament (on December 18) as QNB "promises football fans an amazing experience."

Through its social media channels, QNB organises daily contests that offer to football fans from all countries a unique opportunity to live the enthusiasm and passion of the game by testing their football knowledge through easy football quiz questions, providing the chance for all to win fantastic prizes.

Many followers of the bank's accounts via Instagram won tickets to attend matches of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and other FIFA Football World Cup gifts.

QNB also participates in the FIFA Fan Festival, officially opened at Al Bidda Park on the eve of the first FIFA World Cup in the Middle East and Arab world, to "bring together football fans to endless entertainment in a World Cup atmosphere."

Heba Ali al-Tamimi, general manager (QNB Group Communications), said: "The QNB Group is proud to be part of this historic edition of the FIFA World Cup, from the moment Qatar won the honour of hosting the tournament, up to this historic moment in which the dream came true as Qatar kicks off the first-ever World Cup in the Arab world. "We are keen to enhance the international presence of our brand and share its values that carry a lot of passion and determination in order to provide the best banking experience to our customers."



# BMW models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Alfardan Automobiles, has announced the recall of BMW 740i Saloon, and 760i xDrive Saloon, 2022 model, as an error in light software causes it not to work properly.

The recall campaign comes within the framework of the MoCI's continuous efforts to protect consumers and ensure that dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs.

The MoCI said it will co-ordinate with the dealer to follow

up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out.

The MoCI urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquires and suggestions through the following channels: call centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, Twitter: @MOCIQATAR, Instagram: MOCIQATAR, MoCI mobile app for android and iOS: MOCIQATAR

# Rehabilitated beaches opened across the country

The Ministry of Municipality yesterday opened eight public beaches across the various areas of the country after rehabilitating and developing them in co-operation with the Supervisory Committee for Beautification of Roads and Public Places in Qatar to make them ready to receive the visitors to the country during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

This is part of the Ministry of Municipality's initiative for modern facilities at the beaches following the directives of HE the Minister of Municipality Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie to convert these beaches into tourist and entertainment destinations attractive for visitors of all categories and backgrounds.

The development works covered eight beaches out of 18 beaches in the first phase of the project. These include Al Wakra Family Beach, Al Wakra Public Beach, Simaisma Beach at Al Daayan, Al Kharaj Beach at Al Rayyan, Safa Al Touq Beach, Al Ferkiyah Beach at Al Khor and Al Thakhira, Al Ghariya Beach at Al Shamal, and the Sealine Beach at Al Wakra.

The development works included adding more umbrellas of different types, according to the classification of the beach, corridors and walking tracks to make the beach more easily accessible, lightening systems using solar power, play areas including football and volleyball playgrounds and sand and regular kids play areas, and some kiosks provid-



ing different basic services to the visitors.

The rehabilitated beaches were opened by Hamad Juma al-Mannai, director of Al Shamal Municipality; Jaber Hassan al-Jabir, director of Al Rayyan Municipality; Rashid al-Khayareen

director of Al Daayan Municipality; Abdulla al-Sada, director of Al Khor and Al Thakhira Municipality; Eng Mohamed Hassan al-Nuaimi, director of Al Wakra Municipality; alongside Dr Fayqa Ashkinani, director of Public Relations.



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GULF TIMES

## FIFA World Cup pitchforks Qatar on global centre stage

Qatar is the cynosure of all eyes for the next 28 days with the greatest sporting event on the planet, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, being played out across eight state-of-the-art stadiums. What began as a dream on the evening of December 2, 2010, when it was announced that Qatar won the bid, came to fruition yesterday when the first FIFA World Cup in the Middle East and Arab world kicked off. The world has literally descended on Qatar to enjoy not only the thrilling matches featuring the best players but also an unprecedented array of mesmerising cultural and entertainment activities, another first in the history of the World Cup.

Over the past 12 years, Qatar has grown by leaps and bounds in every sector. Residents who have witnessed the amazing development will vouch for the positive impact brought forth by the changes. World-class facilities including infrastructure, transportation, communication and healthcare have elevated the Qatar experience to enviable heights, all the while staying sustainable to the maximum and facilitating the first carbon-neutral World Cup in line with international efforts to confront climate change. Qatar has succeeded in building sustainable stadiums, including design, construction, energy and water use, as well as installing stations to measure air quality, gas emissions and dust, in addition to organising a mechanism for sorting waste during the stadium construction phase, to reduce the carbon footprint, and to recycle about 80% of the waste generated from the construction.

**What unfolds over the next 28 days is one of the most historic and monumental events of the 21st century, by any yardstick**

The Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) has announced that carbon savings from Qatar's new Al Kharsaah 800MW solar power plant will be used to offset approximately half the emissions generated from the country's hosting of the FIFA World Cup. The project will commit 1.8mn tonnes of carbon savings to Qatar 2022. During its first year of operation, the solar power plant is expected to generate almost 2,000,000MWh, the equivalent energy consumption of approximately 55,000 Qatari households. 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.

According to official Qatar News Agency, Qatar has spent about \$220bn on infrastructure projects, an amount that does not include building stadiums and sports facilities for the World Cup only, but covers all projects, including roads, hotels, sports facilities, health facilities and other expenses that cover all sectors in the country. Officials of the SC as well from the government, have reiterated that the World Cup in Qatar is more than just a sporting event, as hosting the tournament for the first time in the Middle East was a base for launching and accelerating giant projects, a large percentage of which are infrastructure projects, which will also benefit future generations. The spending on infrastructure projects was carefully studied and described by many analysts and economists as a philosophy in the right direction, as the aim is to bring about a qualitative leap in economic and tourism development, and attract more foreign investment.

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 is the first edition of the event to rely entirely on 5G technologies, while the speed of internet data downloads in stadiums will be among the fastest in the history of the tournament. The Qatar edition of the World Cup will also be one of the first tournaments to use the best and latest digital technologies. What unfolds over the next 28 days is one of the most historic and monumental events of the 21st century, by any yardstick.

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# World still failing at pandemic preparedness and response

By Mariana Mazzucato and Alan Donnelly  
Sharm El-Sheikh

The Covid-19 pandemic is one of the deadliest emergencies in modern history, with an excess global death toll of 14.9mn (and still rising). It has pushed an estimated 100mn people into poverty and set back progress toward the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, not least SDG3: health and well-being for all.

Despite the pandemic's massive costs, the G20 and international financial institutions still have not created a pandemic preparedness and response (PPR) framework capable of managing the next global health crisis. In many countries, health spending is being slashed (or kept at an insufficient level) as International Monetary Fund-driven austerity comes back into fashion. By next year, 85% of the world's population will be suffering the effects of reduced investments in public services and public-sector capacity.

Just two and a half years after the start of the pandemic, health is again being framed as a short-term discretionary expenditure, rather than as a long-term investment that is central to economic well-being and resilience. As world leaders have shifted their focus to issues like inflation and food insecurity, they have forgotten that today's economic and financial crises are byproducts of a global health emergency that has yet to be resolved.

Covid-19 is still killing 10,000 people per week, on average, and uneven vaccination rates have created the conditions for a "variant soup" that makes it more difficult to predict and respond to new waves and the next devastating mutation. Covid-19 outbreaks continue to disrupt manufacturing, travel, and access to treatment for other infectious diseases like tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. We have yet to stamp out a pandemic that is undermining decades of progress, let alone equip ourselves for when the next outbreak inevitably occurs.

The World Bank and the World Health Organisation estimate that avoiding another tragedy like Covid-19 can be achieved with an investment in PPR of just \$1.30 per person. And earlier this year, the international community established a multilateral Financial Intermediary Fund to help close the \$10.5bn annual PPR financing gap. Yet the IFI has generated only around \$1.5bn in funding so far. Similarly, in October, the IMF launched a Resilience and Sustainability Trust to help low- and middle-income countries finance urgent health (and climate) needs. Yet RST funds come with the Fund's usual conditionalities regarding fiscal consolidation, which could ultimately undermine the health systems that they are supposed to be strengthening.

These examples are indicative of a larger problem. As the WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All has argued, G20 countries and the international community are still clinging to an outdated "donor-beneficiary" mindset, viewing PPR as a charitable development project rather than as a



**CONCERN:** Covid-19 is still killing 10,000 people per week, on average, and uneven vaccination rates have created the conditions for a "variant soup" that makes it more difficult to predict and respond to new waves and the next devastating mutation.

global common good that is in their own interests.

To be sure, the pandemic, rising debt burdens, climate change, inflation, food insecurity, tightening monetary and financial conditions, and other global problems have severely constrained most low- and middle-income countries' fiscal space. But neither the Bretton Woods institutions nor G20 governments have risen to the challenge of addressing this problem, leaving in place massive barriers to health-related investments just when countries need them most.

Meeting the world's PPR financing needs will require a more holistic, bottom-up approach, with poorer countries creatively leveraging development finance, capital markets, domestic resources, and debt-restructuring tools to create the fiscal space they need to invest in health. Some countries are already showing what this looks like. In Barbados, Prime Minister Mia Mottley's government recently negotiated the inclusion of a new "pandemic clause" in its sovereign bonds, in line with recommendations from the emerging Bridgetown Agenda. Were the WHO to declare another pandemic affecting the region, the clause would automatically defer interest payments for up to several years without negatively affecting the country's credit rating.

To put this in perspective, low- and

middle-income countries paid \$108.2bn to service their debts in 2020, whereas the Covid-19 ACT-Accelerator programme to help those countries received just \$23bn in funding for the 2021-22 fiscal year. By immediately and temporarily reducing these governments' debt burdens in the face of future health emergencies, pandemic clauses would provide the short-term budget flexibility countries need.

As interest rates rise amid a dimming global economic outlook, the IMF warns that more than 60% of low-income countries and over 25% of emerging markets are already in, or at risk of, debt distress. But countries can also use debt-restructuring processes to meet their PPR needs, such as through debt-health swaps, whereby debt relief is conditioned on investment in public health. The Global Fund has already tried this approach on a smaller scale, and it could be scaled up along the lines of Belize's successful debt-for-nature swap. The IMF has promised to create a model for debt-for-nature swaps; it should publicly commit to do the same for health and PPR financing.

The remaining elephant in the room is international tax governance. A global wealth tax could generate the funds needed to tackle PPR financing shortfalls, but no country or multilateral organisation has backed such a proposal. Financing for global public goods

like PPR and climate mitigation must be put at the centre of ongoing conversations about a potential global wealth or financial-transactions tax, and in the implementation of the OECD's new minimum corporate-tax framework. While the tax deal primarily benefits G7 countries, it could easily be tweaked to redistribute more under-collected tax revenue to low- and middle-income countries.

There is no silver bullet for PPR financing. The fight to ensure that national health systems and global public-health institutions are better prepared to confront future pandemics will require a "portfolio approach" with countries cobbling together the necessary investment from a range of sources. With high-income countries still hoarding vaccines and coming up short at global donor events, we should look to low- and middle-income countries for inspiration and guidance on how to generate the fiscal space required to achieve health for all. — Project Syndicate

•Mariana Mazzucato, Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, is Chair of the World Health Organisation's Council on the Economics of Health for All.

•Alan Donnelly, a former member of the European Parliament, is Founder and Convenor of the G20 Health and Development Partnership.

## Australia climate policies don't match its big talk

By Praveen Menon  
Sydney

Australia is talking up its green credentials at the annual UN climate summit, but its policies do not match the portrayal as it continues to support new mining and energy projects, and fuels the crisis through its enormous fossil fuel exports.

A year after his predecessor was slammed as a climate laggard, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's government is touting tougher goals for cutting carbon emissions and a pledge to reduce methane emissions, as nations at the COP27 conference in Egypt sought a global climate deal.

Albanese's climate change minister, Chris Bowen, telling the conference Australia was a "willing climate collaborator", made a pitch to host COP31 in 2026 along with the Pacific island nations.

But Australia, one of the top global exporter of coal and gas, has not committed to ending new projects or halting the expansion of existing ones, and it continues to subsidise fossil fuel development.

At COP27, Canberra did not sign a clean energy transition agreement that calls for an end to all new direct public support for the international fossil-fuel energy sector by year's end, which was supported by peers like Canada, Britain and the United States. "Australia has shown up with the

face that says we are the renewable energy superpower, we're getting into clean energy and clean manufacturing," said Nicki Hutley, economics spokesperson for the Climate Council, an independent Australian nonprofit.

"But if you turn to see the other side of the face it's all about the fossil fuel development and the government's addiction to fossil fuel royalties and revenues," Hutley told Reuters in a phone interview from COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh.

Australia, whose fossil fuel exports have nearly doubled since 2005, does not count in its reduction targets the emissions from the coal and gas its overseas customers burn, known as "Scope 3" emissions.

"Effectively, we are still pouring fossil fuels out to the atmosphere and Australia conveniently doesn't count our scope 3 emissions," Hutley said. Leaders of Pacific nations, among the countries most endangered by rising sea levels, said Australia should end its fossil fuel subsidies if it wants their support to host the next summit, according to media reports.

Asked for comment, Bowen's office referred Reuters to previous statements he has made. The minister told ABC Radio that Australia has received strong support from Pacific nations and other countries for its bid to host COP.

"There's a moral imperative for Australia to act on climate change. And we'll be engaging very strongly and continue to engage in all those

reforms," he told ABC Radio.

Albanese ended nine years of conservative rule in May on a campaign of addressing climate change. Devastating bush fires, floods and other extreme weather events had alarmed Australians, leading to calls for tougher climate policies, largely rebuffed by then-Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

The new centre-left Labour government strengthened Australia's 2030 emissions-reduction target to 43% from Morrison's 26%, aiming for zero net emissions by 2050. By comparison, though, neighbour New Zealand's 2030 target is a 50% cut, the United States 50%-52%, the European Union 55% and Britain 63%.

Albanese joined the pledge to cut global methane emissions by 30% by the end of the decade but says this is a nonbinding "aspirational" goal.

He launched plans to rapidly shift to renewable power and rewire the nation by plugging more renewable power generation into the national grid.

Australia's biggest contribution to the climate crisis is its export of fossil fuels. It is the world's third-largest fossil fuel exporter, trailing only Russia and Saudi Arabia — the top exporter of coking coal, used to make steel; second-largest exporter of thermal coal, used in coal-fired power stations; and the largest exporter of liquefied gas.

More than 100 fossil fuel development continued in various stages as

of December 2021, the council said in a report this month, based on government data. Albanese's government has not pledged to halt any such projects, saying a ban would cause economic risks.

The Australian Council of Superannuation Investors, representing the A\$3.3tn (\$2.2tn) pension funds industry, estimates that only about 20 of the approximately 190 top listed companies it reviewed had targets for all emissions types aligned with the goal of limiting the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"There is clearly a policy gap in Australia that is allowing fossil fuel companies to continue expanding and developing new fossil fuel projects," said Will van de Pol, asset management campaigner at activist investor group Market Forces.

Australia has seen unprecedented climate events in the last few years, including the worst floods and bushfires ever, while Pacific nations are at the frontline of climate emergency amid rising sea levels.

"Australia is particularly exposed to the physical impacts of climate change and we know that with every fraction of a degree of further warming the risks of those physical climate impacts are increased," van de Pol said.

Noting that neighbouring Pacific islands are even more on the climate front lines, he said, "Australia has a responsibility to lead the way in decarbonisation." — Reuters



# Amir holds reception ceremony for leaders participating in World Cup 2022 opening

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani yesterday evening held a reception ceremony for leaders of sisterly and friendly nations, and heads of delegations participating at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 opening ceremony at Al Bayt Stadium.

The reception ceremony was attended by His Highness the Personal Representative of the Amir Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani.

King Abdullah II bin Hussein of Jordan, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also attended the reception.

The ceremony was also attended by Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohamed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, representative of the Kuwaiti Amir Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, Jordanian Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II, UAE Vice-President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed al-Maktoum, Omani Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and Representative of the Sultan Theyazin bin Haitham al-Said, Caretaker Prime Minister of Lebanon Najib Mikati.

The reception was also attended by Senegalese President Macky Sall, Rwandan President Paul Kagame, Liberian President George Weah, Vice-President of Ecuador Alfredo Borrero, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, President of the International Olympic Committee Thomas Bach, Aide to the President of Russia Igor Levitin, Indian Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Venezuelan Vice-President Delcy Eloina Rodriguez.

The ceremony was also attended by FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

His Highness the Amir discussed with Their Majesties, Their Excellencies, and Their Highnesses a number of topics pertaining to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The Amir welcomed them in Qatar, wishing them a good stay and the participating teams well in the competition. (QNA)



## Wales minister launches his country's World Cup campaign with red hat installation

By Joseph Varghese  
Staff Reporter

The First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford, yesterday officially launched the World Cup campaign of his country in Qatar by showcasing a giant bucket hat installation near the Museum of Islamic Art.

This is an important and momentous occasion for Wales as the country is qualifying for the World Cup final round after 64 years since its last appearance in 1958.

British ambassador Jonathan Wilks, Wales' 'Lleisiau Cymru' ambassador, Colin Jackson, alongside Football Association of Wales (FAW) president Steve Williams, vice-president Will Lloyd Williams, CEO Noel Mooney and ambassadors Ian Rush and Jess Fishlock were also in attendance at the launch.

The larger-than-life bucket hat, an iconic symbol for Welsh football representing the team's incredible progress in the game and its fans' passion and spirit, was developed and designed in collaboration with the Football Association of Wales, to celebrate the momentous occasion for the nation.

Drakeford said: "Back in 2016, our manager Chris Coleman challenged the squad and us as a nation to 'Dare to Dream' about what could happen at the European Championship. No one thought we'd get to the semi-final, but we did. That's what's great about football - anything can happen at the World Cup."

The launch of the installation kickstarts the Gyl Cymru Festival at the tournament, a programme of more than 200 events across Cymru and the world as part of a 10-day celebration of creativity to support Wales during the team's campaign in Qatar.

The programme will project Wales' values and secure a positive legacy from the country's first World Cup campaign in 64 years, highlighting the nation's art, culture and music.

Wales' 'Lleisiau Cymru' ambassador Jackson said: "It was really good to be at the launch of the bucket hat today - it's a little slice of Wales that will encourage people to investigate our nation. The support of our First Minister today was also fantastic as we aim to demon-



The First Minister of Wales Mark Drakeford at the red hat installation yesterday. PICTURE: Thajudheen



UK ambassador Jonathan Wilks and other officials at the event

strate the inclusive values of Wales."

Fishlock noted that it was a very proud moment to be at the launch of the Bucket hat. "Now is the time that the world gets to see our great nation, and we get to show who we are to the world," he added.

A Wales Cultural Programme in Doha, which coincides with the Gwyl Cymru festival of culture taking place in Wales and around the world, features cultural events at the UK ambassador's residence; Katara Cultural Village, and the UK Garden on The Corniche.

## Sheikha Jowaher meets consorts of leaders



Her Highness Consort of His Highness the Amir Sheikha Jowaher bint Hamad bin Suhaim al-Thani met with consorts of leaders of sisterly and friendly countries at the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 at Al Bayt Stadium yesterday evening. Her Highness exchanged views with consorts of leaders on several topics, and welcomed them to Qatar, wishing them a good stay. (QNA)

### Al-Thawadi: World Cup opening ceremony football celebration with Arab flavour

HE Secretary-General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy Hassan al-Thawadi underlined that the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 was a football celebration of an Arab flavour on a global platform.

HE al-Thawadi congratulated the people of Qatar, the Arab world and the wise leadership, and believed that Sunday represented an Arab football celebration attended by Arab fans and marked by an Arab flavour on a global platform.

"Today, we are all proud of the launch of the first World Cup in the Arab world. We witnessed the interaction of fans from all over the world, some of them wore Arab and Qatari clothes, which enriches the exchange of cultures. I believe that the great and dazzling success will be carried through the exchange of cultures among the

masses, and will be through highlighting Qatar and the Arab world in general in the most beautiful and splendid manner," he added.

"The first message we sent to the world today is our ability to accomplish the impossible on the ground. Nothing is impossible for us. As for the second message, we address it to every sceptic, telling them that we have actions, not words. I believe that what the world saw today through the World Cup opening ceremony is the best proof and response to these sceptics," HE al-Thawadi stressed. In conclusion, HE Secretary-General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy Hassan al-Thawadi extended thanks to all those working on the World Cup projects, wishing everyone success in the tournament. (QNA)



## Amir opens FIFA World Cup 2022

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani patronised the opening of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 at Al Bayt Stadium yesterday evening.

The opening ceremony was attended by His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, His Highness the Personal Representative of the Amir Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Thani, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Khalifa al-Thani, HE Sheikh Jassim bin Khalifa al-Thani, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani, HE Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, and a number of Sheikhs and ministers.

The ceremony was also attended by leaders of sisterly and friendly countries, heads of delegations and Olympic committees and federations, and heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to Qatar, senior sports officials, and a large crowd of the fans.



## Nearly 3mn World Cup tickets sold, says FIFA

Nearly 3mn World Cup tickets have been sold, FIFA said yesterday, as the governing body's president revealed that the tournament had helped push revenues over the past four years to a record \$7.5bn.

A FIFA spokesman told AFP that 2.95mn tickets had been sold up to opening day yesterday.

The start of the World Cup has led to a surge of interest in the 64 matches over 29 days.

Queues have built up outside the FIFA ticket centre in Doha, with fans reporting long waits to get onto the official online ticket platform.

Qatar has already overtaken Russia 2018, when just over 2.4mn tickets were sold.

The spokesman said that Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Mexico, Britain, the United Arab Emirates, Argentina, France, India and Brazil were the top markets.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino told a conference earlier that the world body's four-year revenues were estimated to hit \$7.5bn by the end of the year.

Revenues are more than \$1bn higher than predicted four years ago.

Infantino told the 211 member associations that the "amazing figures" came "in spite of (the Covid-19 pandemic), in spite of different crises around the world".

He is set to be re-elected unopposed at a congress in March after no rivals came forward in time to force an election.

Infantino said that new rules regulating football agents would be announced this year.

He also said that he wanted to see more games between national teams from different regions and a bigger Club World Cup.

"We have some good ideas," he added. - AFP

## Ghanem al-Muftah shines at World Cup opening, sharing the stage with Hollywood legend

By Shafeeq Alingal  
Staff Reporter

Amidst the glittering celebrations, Qatari youngster Ghanem al-Muftah captivated audience at Al Bayt Stadium during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 opening yesterday. He enthralled the crowd while sharing the stage with Hollywood legend Morgan Freeman.

Al-Muftah, while encouraging dialogue on inclusion and diversity, quoted the Qur'anic verse: "O, people! We created you from a male and a female, and We made you races and tribes, so that you may come to know one another."

"The best among you before Allah is the most righteous. Allah is Knowing and Aware." (Surah Al Hujurat: 13)

Asked by Freeman "how can countries, languages and cultures come together if only one way is accepted", al-Muftah said: "We were raised to believe that we were scattered on this earth as nations and tribes, so we could learn from each other and find beauty and differences."

"With tolerance and respect we can live together," he said while welcoming all to Qatar.

Al-Muftah was born on May 5, 2002 with a rare condition known as Caudal Regression Syndrome (CRS), a disorder that impairs the development of the lower spine.

An inspiration to many, he is exceptional with his ability to overcome obstacles with positivity and leadership.

An active participant and enthusiast in scuba diving, skateboarding, and rock climbing, al-Muftah is currently pursuing his university degree with focus on political sciences.

"Football spans the world, unites nations in their love of the beautiful game. What brings together nations, brings together communities," Freeman said.

The opening ceremony had BTS's Jung Kook and Qatari singer Fahad al-Kubaisi on the stage.

Al-Muftah with Freeman during the opening ceremony yesterday.



## Special supplement on Travel, Tourism & Hospitality



Gulf Times, the largest newspaper in the State of Qatar, will publish a special supplement on "Travel, Tourism & Hospitality" in the first week of December. Relaxation in lockdown sparked revenge travel, propelling tourism growth, while the hospitality industry is also thriving thanks to the upcoming holidays and festive seasons.

The clear-sighted travel leaders know that preparing their organisations for a surge of travelers is also an opportunity to redefine their value propositions and make their offerings distinctive. This will not only reinstall confidence in travel but also increase customer loyalty.

As for Qatar, experts and economists confirmed that hosting FIFA World Cup 2022 by Qatar would evidently enhance the position of the country on the global tourism map as the state of Qatar embraces mega projects and infrastructure, including hotels, luxurious parks and magnificent landscape, in addition to the essential components to be further in a position to host one of the important football events in the world.

In view of this, Gulf Times is eager to publish another special edition of its *Travel, Tourism & Hospitality* that will be distributed along with the newspaper. The special supplement will provide an in-depth analysis of the sector and deliver a perfect marketing platform for industry leaders and service providers in Qatar. The readers of Gulf Times would find this report as an excellent piece to read, reflect and utilize accordingly.

For more details and advertising opportunities, contact: [advr@gulf-times.com](mailto:advr@gulf-times.com), Tel: 444 666 57

## Live it all in Qatar!



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, featuring 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-December 18, from noon until 1am.

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

### ■ 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-6pm.

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

### ■ MDLBEAST Presents: Aravia

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

A magical world that combines music, per-

formance and song - from premiere international talent and rising regional stars.

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

Taking place from November 21-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! Featuring international artists 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.

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