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FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

Lewandowski misses penalty

Sport Page 8

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UPGRADE YOUR WORLD

Saudi stun Messi’s Argentina in one of the greatest victories

By Sahar Bidappa
Doha

Saudi Arabia sent the Arab world into a frenzy with a stunning comeback victory over tournament contenders Argentina at the FIFA World Cup Qatar at the imposing Lusail Stadium yesterday.

Superstar Lionel Messi and the thousands of Argentina fans were left shell-shocked as second-half goals from Saleh al-Shehri and Salem al-Dawsari helped Saudi to a 2-1 win in their Group C match in front of a record 88,012 audience.

It was a brave and brilliant performance from Saudi – ranked 51 in the world to Argentina’s third – as they silenced critics who have questioned the football culture in the Middle East. The Green Falcons’ victory yesterday will rank as one of the biggest upsets in World Cup history along with England’s loss to the United States in 1950 and West Germany losing to Algeria in 1982.

According to an analysis by Nielsen Gracenate, Saudi stood just 8.7% of registering a victory against two-time champions Argentina. But yesterday, they ripped the predictions to pieces with a heroic second-half show that kept their chance of reaching the last 16 for the first time since 1994 World Cup.

King Salman bin Abdulaziz declared a public holiday in Saudi Arabia today to mark the achievement, a feather in



Saudi Arabia's midfielder Salem al-Dawsari celebrates scoring his team's second goal during the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group C match against Argentina at the Lusail Stadium yesterday.

the cap of Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman, who recommended the royal order, the state media said.

Messi, playing his fifth and most likely last World Cup, stroked home an early penalty to give Argentina the lead in the 10th minute. But he was kept at bay by Saudi defenders for the rest of the half.

Saudi then re-emerged with attacking intent in the second half as al-Shehri equalised in the 48th minute

before al-Dawsari's rocket gave them an unimaginable lead. Unlike Argentina's squad, which boasts players from top leagues in the world, the Saudi side is made up entirely of domestic players.

Yesterday, Saudi XI had nine players from Al Hilal, with some lion-hearted performances from goalkeeper Mohamed al-Owais and Hassan al-Tam-bakti.

Saudi's coach Herve Renard said the "stars were aligned" for his team. "We made history for football," he added. "It will stay forever, this is most important. But we also have to think about looking forward. We still have two difficult games before us."

Goal-scorer al-Shehri said the team had never doubted they could topple the two-time champions. "We don't care about the other team, if you believe in yourself you can achieve anything," he said.

Messi, who in Qatar is gunning for his only trophy missing from his illustrious career, called the result a "heavy blow" to his team. The 2021 Copa America champions Argentina had come into the match on a 36-match unbeaten streak. "It's a very heavy blow, a defeat that hurts, but we must continue to have confidence in ourselves," said Messi. "This group is not going to give up. We will try to beat Mexico."

Argentina coach Lucas Scaloni insisted his team had not taken their opponents lightly. "What comes ahead is to rise up, to face Mexico," he said.

"They will be tough, as everyone is at the World Cup. Now we need to win two games to move on. Of course this is difficult, but regardless of the result today, we would anyway try to win all the games."

Later, Poland played out a goalless draw with Mexico in the other Group C match, with Robert Lewandowski missing a second-half penalty. The Barcelona striker was denied a maiden World Cup goal when his 58th-minute spot-kick was saved by veteran goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa.

Meanwhile, Olivier Giroud became France's joint all-time top scorer when his double helped the holders start the defence of their World Cup title in style with a 4-1 comeback Group D win against Australia yesterday.

Giroud found the net before and after the break to take his tally to 51 goals, matching Thierry Henry's mark, either side of a Kylian Mbappe goal after Adrien Rabiot had levelled following Craig Goodwin's shock early opener.

Les Bleus are the first defending champions to win their opening match since Brazil in 2006, which has already put them in good position to advance from the group phase, something Italy in 2010, Spain in 2014 and Germany in 2018 failed to do.

Denmark drew 0-0 with Tunisia in the other match in Group D, with talisman Christian Eriksen appearing in his first match in a major tournament since suffering a cardiac arrest during the European Championship last year.

Saudi king declares holiday after win

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud of Saudi Arabia has declared a national holiday after the football team's stunning World Cup win yesterday over Argentina, state media reported. The 86-year-old monarch ordered that "Wednesday be a holiday for all employees in the public and private sectors, as well as male and female students at all educational levels", the Al-Ekhbariya channel said on Twitter.

Amir meets US secretary of state



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has met with Secretary of State of the friendly United States of America Antony Blinken, at Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium. The meeting discussed the strategic relations between the two countries and aspects of promoting them in various fields. (QNA)

5th Qatar-US Strategic Dialogue explores ways to strengthen relations

● Qatar, US sign letter of intent on World Cup legacy



A session of the Fifth Qatar-US Strategic Dialogue in Doha. Supplied picture

The Fifth Qatar-US Strategic Dialogue began yesterday in Doha where HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed current political issues while contemplating ways to strengthen co-operation between the two countries.

The opening session addressed several regional and international issues, especially the developments in Palestine and the negotiations to return to the joint action plan, Russian-Ukrainian crisis, energy and food security, co-operation in the human rights field, and several issues of common interest.

At a press conference, HE Sheikh Mohamed said that the two parties discussed the developments in the Iranian nuclear agreement, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan and the Palestinian issue. "We discussed several issues," HE the Minister said while thanking the US for its support to Qatar in hosting the World Cup.

"We are partnering in the region and abroad to resolve differences, end conflicts and deepen economic relations," Blinken said, adding the current stage is the peak of US-Qatar relations. "We meet at what is a high point of the five decade-long diplomatic relationship between our countries on every issue that matters to our nations. Our collaboration, fair to say, is deeper and our people are the better off for it. We're also deepening economic ties from civil aviation to renewable energy. Qatari and American businessmen and innovators are creating new opportunities for people in both of our countries. Qatar has provided economic assistance to the Palestinian people, helped pay the salaries of security forces in Lebanon, and

brokered peace in Chad," he noted.

HE the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the US Secretary of State signed a letter of intent between the government Qatar and the US government on the World Cup Legacy (2022-2026).

Under it, both parties announced their intention to exchange World Cup knowledge and the drawn conclusions and build on the success of Qatar in making the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 accessible for persons with disabilities and apply the learned lessons in future tournaments, including the FIFA World Cup 2026 that will be held in the US, and find places that allow more inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities.

Both parties also affirmed their intention to increase technical exchange and exchange of knowledge to combat human trafficking, including those with regards to sporting events, and work together to introduce and implement fair employment practices to protect migrant workers, exchange knowledge in the field of the labour protection, and establish a joint work group to develop specific steps to enhance the current letter of intent.

● HE Sheikh Mohamed also met with Blinken on the sidelines of the Fifth Qatar-US Strategic Dialogue.

During the meeting, they discussed the close relations between the two countries, international issues of common concern, especially the developments of the negotiations to return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with the United States, the situation in the Palestinian territories, Iraq and Lebanon, and the repercussions of the crisis between Russia and Ukraine and ways to resolve it peacefully, in addition to several issues of common interest. (With inputs from QNA) **Page 2**

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

Today's schedule

Group F

Morocco vs Croatia, 1pm at Al Bayt Stadium

Group E

Germany vs Japan, 4pm Khalifa International Stadium

Group E

Spain vs Costa Rica, 7pm at Al Thumama Stadium

Group F

Belgium vs Canada, 10pm at Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium

Yesterday's results

Group C

Saudi Arabia 2 Argentina 1

Group C

Mexico 0 Poland 0

Group D

Denmark 0 Tunisia 0

Group D

France 4 Australia 1

Doha Metro, a melting pot of cultures

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

The world has descended on Doha, as thousands of fans reach the country everyday bringing along various cultures and languages and the Doha Metro has taken the central stage of cultural exchange.

With the Doha Metro being the major transportation option for the football fans and visitors to reach the stadiums as well as other major locations in the country, it has turned out to be a melting pot of cultures.

At every Metro station, thousands of fans from various countries can be seen moving around, mingling together and going to various places as they start their daily routine from morning. Many of them come in groups and move along while many others could be singles or couples. Several of them exchange their phone numbers and make sure to meet every day at a given time and the metro stations are the main rendezvous point for them.



Football fans from various countries at a Doha Metro station.

Croatian fan Tomislav who reached alone a few days back said that he has made friends with many Qataris and other residents as well as several other nationalities. "This is my first time in Qatar. I met many Qataris who were very nice to me. They told me about the country and its heritage.

I also met several tourists who have come here to support their teams. I met an American who has invited me for the next World Cup offering all the assistance for the visit. I am sure I will be visiting all the three countries hosting the Next World Cup in 2026," he said. **To Page 2**



QATAR



FM: Qatar sees US ties as key strategic partnership

QNA
Doha

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani has stressed that Qatar looks to its relations with the United States as one of its major strategic partnerships, which extends to political, security, defence, and economic and developmental fields.

In a joint press conference with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on the sidelines of the fifth US-Qatar Strategic Dialogue, currently held in Doha, HE Sheikh Mohamed considered this round of the dialogue as an important platform in strengthening those relations that enjoy stable and solid foundations and multifaceted partnership.

He said that the US-Qatar Strategic Dialogue represented an opportunity to address several issues ranging from regional issues and today's global challenges, discuss the latest development concerning the nuclear deal, the developments in Iraq, Lebanon, and Libya, and the Palestinian cause that Qatar sees as its central cause; in addition to joint efforts in Afghanistan.

HE Sheikh Mohamed pointed out that this round of dialogue discussed co-operation in responding to global challenges, especially the challenges of energy, food security, and other developmental challenges that the world faces today.

He said that Qatar and the US share the same point of view regarding these issues, and they look forward to working together among the team works that will resume the talks between the concerned institutions in both countries.

He added that Qatar always looks forward to strengthening its co-operation with the US, and always having an open dialogue and a relationship based on transparency and mutual trust between the two countries.



HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani and Antony Blinken holding a joint press conference in Doha yesterday. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

HE Sheikh Mohamed praised the co-operation shown by the US with its various institutions in support of hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

He extended his thanks for all the efforts, especially those of the US security and cybersecurity institutions, for the support they provided to Qatar in favour of hosting this tournament, pointing out that this is seen as a part of the cooperation that extends beyond the multiple partnerships between the two countries.

Responding to the media attack on Qatar, HE Sheikh Mohamed said that Qatar, when it was awarded the honour to host FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, was determined to have multi-faceted tasks to attain its organisation that impressed the entire world.

He said that many people think that the World Cup was the main reason behind the reforms that have been made in the recent years, however, Qatar sees the World Cup as merely a catalyst for that process.

He stressed that change is an ongoing process, unconnected to a specific event or stage, noting in this regard that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's vision is a transformational one for Qatar in terms of keeping pace with developments taking place around the world.

He confirmed that the human rights

issue in Qatar is the state's responsibility toward its people and everyone who lives on the land of Qatar, stressing that the country has been decisive on this matter, pointing out that the reforms adopted are intended to serve this objective.

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs said that some media institutions did not take the reforms that have been made by Qatar into consideration, but they came out with a pre-judgment even without visiting Qatar or engaging in a conversation with the state's officials, even though Qatar always opens its doors to everyone and has been engaging in dialogue since the start of these attacks.

He added that Qatar cannot alter the opinions of those who want to compromise its reputation to attain their goals or other intentions, adding that such goals have nothing to do with Qatar, however, the vast majority of people and football masses when they came to Doha were surprised by the success of the preparations.

HE Sheikh Mohamed also pointed out that Qatar and the Qatari people are always generous and welcome all people.

He pointed to the joy in the eyes of people by hosting this event, including the happiness of the masses and the joy at their participation and their enjoyment of trying something new that has

not been tried before.

He noted the existence of a work programme through which Qatar and the US have teamed up to build the capacities among the various institutions and the law enforcement agencies, in addition to learning and utilising the expertise available in the US, pointing out that there are points of agreement and points of disagreement, because such matters are usually appropriate in the society in which they are applied.

He conveyed a message to the media and public opinion that Qatar welcomes all people and its doors remain open, calling for the importance of focusing on football and everything that happens on the pitch, adding that those who would like to launch pre-judgments solely for achieving other goals, will only have a temporary impact, but ultimately the reality on the ground will prevail to talk about itself.

He looked forward to making the tournament in Qatar a station for the convergence of peoples, cultures and all civilisations to enjoy the atmospheres provided by Qatar in Doha, as well as the hospitality experience of the Qatari people and the residents on the land of Qatar.

For his part, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Qatar has outdone the United States in hosting this amazing and detailed dialogue, just like it did in terms of entertainment.

He added that bilateral relations are at the peak point of the 50-year diplomatic relations and that co-operation is now stronger than ever before, the result of which is that the US and Qatari peoples are now in a better situation.

Blinken also said that the security relationship with Qatar is the most powerful one, highlighted by the fact that Qatar hosts one of the largest US military bases in the region, noting that it serves as an anchor for regional security and stability.

He pointed out that US President Joe Biden designated Qatar as a major non-Nato Ally last March.

He also said that this was followed several months later by delivering F-15 aircraft to Qatar Amiri Air Force to augment its defensive capabilities and made the armies amenable to interoperability.

Blinken affirmed that the US and Qatar are engaging in the region and outside the region to bolster stability, defuse tensions and end the conflicts, noting that Qatar had provided vital economic aid to the Palestinian people, helped pay the salaries of the security forces in Lebanon and has been a mediator in the peace agreement between the Chadian transitional government and the opposition groups, adding that Qatar is constantly working to heal the regional rifts which is essential in addressing the common challenges facing the US and its partners.



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani met yesterday with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on the sidelines of the Fifth Qatar-US Strategic Dialogue currently taking place in Doha. During the meeting, they discussed the close relations between the two countries in all fields, international issues of common concern, especially the developments of the negotiations to return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with the US, the situation in the Palestinian territories, Iraq and Lebanon, and the repercussions of the crisis between Russia and Ukraine and ways to resolve it peacefully, in addition to several issues of common interest. Blinken praised the distinguished organisation of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. **(QNA)**



HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani and Anthony Blinken signing a letter of intent between the governments of Qatar and the US on the World Cup Legacy. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

Qatar and US sign letter of intent on World Cup Legacy

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken participated yesterday in launching the fifth US-Qatar Strategic Dialogue.

The opening session addressed several regional and international issues, especially the situation developments in Palestine and the negotiations to return to the joint action plan, Russian-Ukrainian crisis developments, energy and food security, co-operation in the human rights field, and several issues of common interest.

HE Sheikh Mohamed and Blinken signed a letter of intent between the governments of Qatar and the United States on the World Cup Legacy (2022-2026). Under the letter of intent, both parties announced their intention to exchange World

Cup knowledge and the drawn conclusions and build on the success of Qatar in making the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 accessible for persons with disabilities and apply the learned lessons in future tournaments, including the FIFA World Cup 2026 that will be held in the US, and find places that allow more inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities.

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PHCC raises awareness on asthma

As asthma is one of the most prevalent lung diseases, especially among children, the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) is offering advice for asthmatic patients on how to prevent and treat asthma attacks.

This disorder is most likely caused by internal genetic (inherited) factors and external factors people are exposed to throughout their life.

Dr Mohamed Raslan, family physician at PHCC's Umm Slal Health Centre, said external factors include inhalation of air polluted with dust, dust mites on carpets or rugs, pollen, or pet dander, as well as inhalation of smoke or fumes, perfumes, and other respiratory irritants. Further, cold weather is a common asthma trigger that can lead to an asthma attack.

Asthma symptoms vary from person to person. Its signs and symptoms include a minor but continuous cough that increases at night and may lead to trouble sleeping for children with asthma, as well as chest tightness or pain, shortness of breath, wheezing when exhaling, especially in children. The condition may worsen to become



in stable and develop speaking difficulties, which is one of the most severe signs of an asthma attack.

As colds and viral infections are among the most common causes of asthma flare-ups, Dr Raslan advised asthmatic patients to get the seasonal flu vaccine on yearly basis, in particular, before winter comes. He also advised asthmatic patients to avoid exercising in extreme cold air, and if necessary for adults, they may exercise in closed halls or on treadmills.

Dr Raslan recommended wearing appropriate clothes when going outside that fully cover the entire body, including the head, neck, mouth and

nose. The clothes should be with several layers that do not cause sweating and give appropriate warmth. This would isolate the body from the cold surrounding it, thus preventing possible asthma attacks.

Dr Raslan said washing hands for 20 seconds with soap and water is one of the best ways to avoid getting viral infections, noting that parents should change their children's clothes as soon as they come back from public parks, places or gardens, to prevent any contact with respiratory irritants.

Parents should consult their family doctor about any medicines needed when going outside to treat their children quickly and effectively if case asthma attacks occur after exercising, as there are hand-held inhalers that can be carried anywhere, he added.

He noted that some medications may lead to an asthma attack or may not help improve it, such as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or aspirin for some people, in addition to some blood pressure medications that cause coughing.

Doha Metro, a melting pot of cultures

From Page 1

Hailing from the Croatian capital, Tomislav also noted that he was impressed by the culture of the host country which is very unique. "Being my first visit to Qatar, I am learning a lot about various customs in the country through frequent visits to the shops, museums and other culturally important locations which are very different from my country. This has been an eye opener and realisation for me," he added.

Cultural exchange is a major element of the metro travel itself. People from different countries travel in groups and they start greeting others in their own fashion. They also start singing and dancing in the metro and invite others also to join in their festivities. This continues as different nationals join the party and enjoying the interactions and festivities.

Qatar residents also are happy to join the party and make sure that they make more international friends.

This is also a learning experience for many fans who have attended previous editions of the World Cup. "As we are all moving together we learn more about other people, their countries and their traditions and culture. I find this experience very unique as I had travelled to Russia for the World Cup in 2018. Since more people are moving together here, there are more interactions and therefore more cultural exchange," added an Argentine fan.

Invoking the festive spirit of the FIFA World Cup HYATT PLAZA SHOPPING MALL Launched Family Games Competition

"Hyatt Plaza Shopping mall aims to make it a time to remember for the entirety of the community in Qatar and beyond," stated Feroz Moideen, CEO – Qatar Central Markets Company (QCMC) "We implore everybody to Come out and celebrate with special family-focused activities for all age groups and spectacularly entertaining showcases and unbelievable giveaways." Hyatt Plaza Mall is on a mission to bring joy and merriment to all locals, residents and visitors during the FIFA WORLD CUP 2022, and these initiatives are precisely why they remain the Number 1 family shopping and recreational destination of choice in Qatar.



CEO Feroz Moideen

To commemorate the long-awaited and joyous event, Hyatt Plaza transformed itself into what can only be described as an installation that is like no other, and it is a true testament to Hyatt Plaza's flair for creating unforgettable experiences. Other Decorative installations celebrate Qatar's rich heritage and tradition, and aim not only to impress, but to also educate the visitors who will descend upon Qatar. Inside the Mall, the interior also reflects the FIFA World Cup Fever, as multiple decorative, sports installations have been installed to reflect Hyatt Plaza's commitment to support Qatar's historic turn as host of the grand event, and to allow visitors to revel in the spirit of the festivities at all times.



Hyatt Plaza Shopping Mall has outdone itself this time as they seek to provide not only shopping experiences during the tournament, but also quality recreational activities for everyone to enjoy in the weeks ahead. Lined up are a host of all-ages sports activities that are organized in partnership with Jungle Zone, in association with Qatar Youth Center, such as skee-ball tournaments, Subsoccer matches, Foosball competitions, Arcade game stations, Interactive-screen football matches, as well as a VR gaming station. A special stage will be erected inside the mall to host entertaining and fun family activities, and competitions. Winners will be rewarded with invaluable giveaways, courtesy of Kiddie Zone, Qatar Optics, ELC, Chilis, Nandos, Ala Turka, Momento, Cute Cut Salon and Wrap It. A kids' workshop will take place every 30 minutes, and will feature painting time, face, pottery and t-shirt painting activities, as well. Hyatt Plaza retailers and restaurants are also eager to ring in the joyous festivities and to help shoppers get into the FIFA World Cup spirit, by aptly decorating their outlets and spreading the merriment.



Highlighting all the efforts Hyatt Plaza has made to ensure visitors are able to create long-lasting memories, Hyatt Plaza's CEO, Feroz Moideen, said: "Make it a family affair and bring your kids with you to have a memorable family day while ticking off your shopping list. Invite your friends as well and have an epic shopping and entertainment experience. These sports activities will be waiting for you to be enjoyed daily for a period of one month. Visit them now. There is definitely a lot of great entertainment coming your way in Hyatt Plaza Shopping Mall in the upcoming weeks. It's time to join in on all the fun and excitement!"



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Dignitaries seen off at departure



Venezuelan Executive Vice-President Dr Delcy Eloi Rodríguez Gomez and Ecuador's Vice-President Alfredo Borrero left Doha yesterday after attending the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on Sunday at Al Bayt Stadium. The two countries' vice-presidents and their accompanying delegations were seen off at Hamad International Airport by HE the Director of Protocol Department Ibrahim bin Yousef Fakhro. Venezuelan ambassador to Qatar Carlos Jose Mata Figueroa was also present to see off Gomez. **(QNA)**

Dy Speaker of Shura Council meets UNOCT top official



HE the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti met yesterday the visiting Deputy Director of the UN Office on Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), Mauro Miedico. The meeting reviewed a number of issues related to the UNOCT's efforts to combat terrorism, as well as ways to enhance co-operation between the two sides. **(QNA)**

PM congratulates Lebanese counterpart

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to Lebanon's Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. **(QNA)**

Qatar's November grant distribution to Gaza families begins today

HE the Chairman of Qatar's Gaza Reconstruction Committee ambassador Mohamed al-Emadi announced that the committee, in co-operation with Qatar Fund for Development, will start today the disbursement of the November batch of cash assistance to families in need in the Gaza Strip. HE al-Emadi stated that the cash assistance will be provided to about 100,000 poor families in the governorates of the Gaza Strip, at a rate of \$100 per family. He pointed out that the distribution process will take place through the United Nations and the distribution centres it has identified in the governorates, which are more than 300 centres and shops. **(QNA)**

Qatari Forum for Authors launches 'Sports Excerpts'

QNA
Doha

The Qatari Forum for Authors launched the 'Sports Excerpts' event in conjunction with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The event sheds light on the most important sports books in the Qatari library.

The first session hosted writer Ali Youssef al-Mahmoud, who reviewed the content of his book *Qatar and Sports* issued in 2021.

Al-Mahmoud said that the book deals with the country's interest in sports

and the extent of its impact on other interrelated aspects of life, pointing out that sport is not just a game of physical activity, but has become science and culture, and it is intertwined with health, education, and tourism.

The opinion of HE Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiah was reviewed in the book, where he said that Qatar National Vision 2030 reflects the extent of attention that the state attaches to comprehensive development issues, and the development of the sports sector is among its top priorities, because sport is the train of

development. Also, included in the book is a statement by HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser al-Ali, who confirmed the growing awareness of sports and its lofty goals.

The author of the book touched on the importance of the National Sport Day, which reminds everyone of the importance of sport, pointing out that Qatar has become a destination for sports and has opened bridges of communication between different cultures on its land through the sporting events that it hosts and organises.

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Major supermarkets and hypermarkets in Qatar have stocked, as well as added, various food products and offerings that cater to the needs of football fans from different countries.

"We have enough stocks of food items, including bottled water, different juices and carbonated drinks, mainly from countries such as the UK, Italy, and the US where we have offices," LuLu Group International regional manager Shanavas P M told Gulf Times.

LuLu worked closely with Qatar authorities to determine the specific needs, as well as dietary preferences, of fans and tourists coming to Qatar for the FIFA World Cup 2022, Gulf Times had reported earlier. It is learnt that the demand of international foods and beverages has increased since the start of the tournament, which opened on November 20.

Safari Mall also added more food items on its shelves, providing an array of selections for local and international visitors, according to procurement manager Rajesh Nair.

He disclosed that Safari is also offering ready-to-eat 'easy meals' for customers, including for ve-



LuLu stores have enough stock of food and beverage items catering to the needs of football fans. (Supplied picture)

gans and vegetarians, at a nominal cost. Another major hypermarket in Doha, meanwhile, added more food products such as refried beans, guacamole and sour cream (Mexican); Japanese sweet sauce, organic Tahini, and sushi rice (Japanese); and vegetable rice sprinkles, organic brown rice and barley tea (Korean).

Vision Food Trading general manager Jewan Park noted a demand surge in a wide range of Korean products in Qatar since the start of the World Cup, especially popular foods and drinks such as Kimchi and citron tea. Vision Food is a major distributor of Korean



A number of hypermarkets offer Japanese products.



Supermarkets see high demand for Korean products in Qatar.



Mexican food products on display at a supermarket in Doha.

PICTURES: Joey Aguilar

products in the country. He said Korean products and food, now widely available in Qatar, includ-

ing other outlets and at the Doha Metro, are not only popular among Korean visitors but also to different nationalities. "These are fast-moving items now," he added. Park added that even Korean restaurants in Qatar have been attracting a large number of residents and football fans since the start of the tournament.

World Cup opens a window to Arab culture: al-Hanzab

HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) Dr Nasser bin Hamad al-Hanzab underlined that Qatar's hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 represents an exceptional opportunity for the world with all its cultural and civilisational spectrums to meet in Doha and get acquainted with the authentic Arab culture.

In a special ceremony held for the first time at Unesco headquarters on the occasion of the launch of the World Cup, HE al-Hanzab outlined the determination of Qatar years ago, and before winning the honour of organising the World Cup on Dec 2, 2010, to harness all pos-

sibilities for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 to be a model for the convergence of all the different cultures, which represent the people of the world.

He said that Qatar believes that global sports, such as the World Cup, play a fundamental role in promoting constructive cultural dialogue between peoples, acceptance of the dialogue, and cultural convergence as a civilised way of life.

He stressed that the world is in dire need of dialogue, more than ever before, especially in light of the current global conditions, which calls for accepting each other without any prejudices that may cast a shadow on human-

ity. He pointed to the Arab region's cultural and civilisational richness, which represents the legacy of the successive civilisations in the Arab region thousands of years ago. Also, Qatar's Permanent Representative to Unesco noted that such tournaments are an opportunity for all those coming from all over the world to get acquainted with the Islamic civilisation and the ancient Arab culture, rooted in the metropolis and the desert, pointing to the direct interest that Unesco attaches to the sport.

Several leaders and employees of Unesco and ambassadors of the member states of the international organisation attended the ceremony. **(QNA)**

QDB supports successful training of ophthalmologists in conflict areas

The 'Women in Conflict Areas' initiative, led by Qatar Development Bank (QDB), carried out a successful simulation of ophthalmic surgery and nursing techniques through the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital. A group of female ophthalmologists, who receive humanitarian support from Qatar, conducted the simulation on board the plane under the supervision of QDB, and in co-operation with Qatar Charity, over a one-week period in November.

The simulation is the hospital's first international training program since the Covid-19 pandemic. It aimed at providing appropriate training for women who usually cannot access training opportunities, so that they can support more people within their communities.

Participants from 7 countries, namely: Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Somalia, Syria and Yemen, joined the training program, with the aim of obtaining in-depth simulation training on eye surgery techniques by volunteers, employees and specialists of Orbis.

The training project is part of the new initiative launched by Qatar Development Bank on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September, in an effort to empower women in conflict-affected societies and motivate them to confront crises.

Libyan ophthalmic surgeon Dr Israa al-Nayhoum commended the training week, saying that it was concentrated and rich in information, and was provided by expert volunteers who shared the experience they have gained over years. She expressed pleasure with this opportunity especially since the trainees in this course do not have access to the same equipment and techniques, neither such simulation.

Consultant ophthalmologist and Orbis volunteer Dr Samita Mulani said that the training was attended by participants from areas where conflict can suppress their ability to learn. Over the course of a week, the young women discussed their personal and professional challenges, and the group became a promising family that supports and guides each other, she noted.

She added that many parties have worked together to implement this program, noting that Qatari executives, Qatar Airways, and Hamad International Airport provided the necessary support for the plane - Flying Eye Hospital - which is the only internationally accredited teaching hospital for ophthalmology.

SALE

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Watches, Gifts & Accessories 20 November 2022 to 19th December 2022

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Salwa Road, near The Centre
Tel: 4442 4626

Invitation for Public Tender

The Bids and Tenders Committee announces the following tender:

Tender Ref. No.	Description	Fee	Bank Guarantee	Bid Closing
KH/TC/004/2022	DESIGN, CONSULTANCY, INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND DISMANTLING OF KATARA INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE BEAUTY FESTIVAL 2023	QAR 3,000	QAR 300,000	Wednesday 07 th of December 2022 at 12:00 P.M

- Tender documents for the above invitation can be obtained as per the following:
Receipt of deposit tender worth - non-refundable calculates PE (0003-129427-001) Rayan Bank (KATARA Hills Company) on that codifies the receipt No. tender and the name of the company.
IBAN: QA36MAFR000000000003129427001
- The Tender documents will be issued only to the tenderers who have valid commercial registration.
- Tenderer must issue an authorized letter with the company letterhead to the personnel nominated to collect the tender documents.
- The mandatory **Site Visit is scheduled on Monday 28th of November 2022 @ 11:00 am** – Meeting place – Katara Hills Office at the cultural village foundation KATARA – Ground Floor, Building No. 15 – Secretary of Tender Committee.
- Collection date: from **Thursday 17th of November to Wednesday 07th of December, 7:00 am to 12:00 pm**
- The Bid **Closing Date & Time will be on Wednesday the 07th of December 2022** until 12:00 pm and any offer arriving thereafter will not be considered.
- Offer must be valid for 120 days from the Bid Closing date.
- The bidder's offer must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (**tender bond**) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for a period of at least 45 calendar days after the expiry of the Tender validity. Manager cheque can be provided in lieu of tender bond.
- The Original tender bond must be attached with the Technical Offer.
- The successful tenderer shall submit a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the contract sum as per the specimen provided in the tender document.
- Tender should be submitted in Technical Offer and Commercial Offer format together in one sealed and waxed envelopes each marked with the relevant Tender Title, Tender Number and Bid Closing Date addressed to the Chairman of Tender Committee.
- Tender must be deposited in the tender box located at Katara Hills office at KATARA Secretary of Tender Committee Office on or before prescribed time and date.
- Any tender not in accordance with the conditions stated above will be rejected.
- For inquiries please contact by Email: : tender@katarahills.qa

Chairman of Tender Committee
Katara Hills Company

Reminder

Reminder for holders of Al Rabeh Certificates issued by Ahli Bank (QPSC) since more than 10 years and remain unclaimed.

All Al Rabeh Certificates holders are kindly requested to visit any Ahlibank branch to update their profile within a month from the date of this reminder. Al Rabeh certificates not claimed by customers within this period will be redeemed and the certificates value will be transferred to the General Authority for Minors Affairs according to the laws and regulations issued in this regard.

ahlibank.com.qa 4420 5222

While ensuring smooth transportation of fans from the airports and Abu Samra border, Mowasalat (Karwa) continues to extend its exemplary service for the flawless organisation of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Karwa tweeted that operations were carried successfully with more than 2,300 buses transporting about 123,000 fans during the second day of the tournament. The company has deployed vehicles to cater to fans arriving at Doha International Airport (DIA) and Hamad International Airport (HIA).

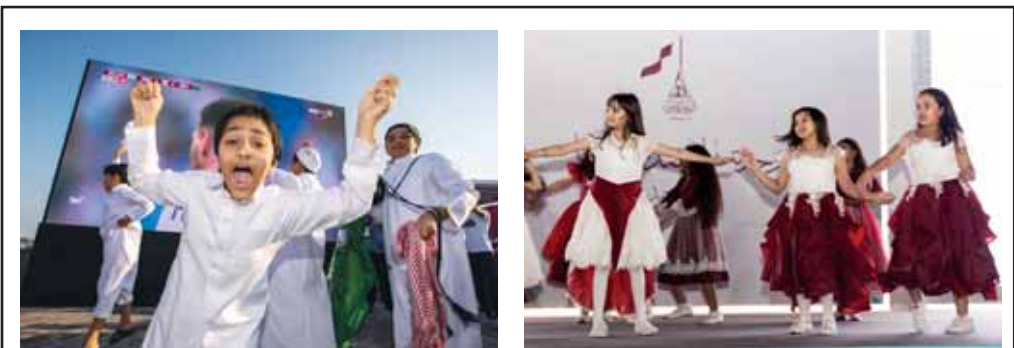
Bus services to stadiums and other tourism places are available from the airports while Karwa has deployed an optimum number of taxis and limousines at the airports. Karwa yesterday transported fans from Saudi Arabia, from Abu Samra border to Doha and Lusail Stadium where the Saudi national team faced Argentina in the first Group C match of the tournament.

Karwa has intensified its operational preparations for the World Cup while mobilising its fleet with specialised technical teams to ensure a comfortable and smooth transportation experience for the tournament. About 4,000 buses will be operated during the tournament, of which about 3,000 are dedicated to transporting fans, including more than 800 fully electric buses that operate with zero carbon emissions.



A collage of items related to the 1966 World Cup. It includes a red football jersey, a black and white photograph of the trophy presentation, a yellow World Cup 1966 England football, and various newspaper clippings and postcards.

For more details contact 44426038



Katara thronged by football, dhow festival fans

Visitors and football fans at Katara – the Cultural Village celebrated yesterday an exceptional evening of thrill and delight sparked by the historic victory of Saudi Arabia over Argentina at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

At another area of Katara, the Omani Folklore Troupe participating in the 12th edition of the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival entertained audiences through performances embodying the nobility and beauty of Omani folk arts and heritage.

The festival's audience enjoyed the band's performance, which was marked by a mix of singing and dancing intertwined with drums in a heritage atmosphere.

The performances reflected the richness of the Gulf and Omani maritime history and the lyrical heritage.

The Dhow Festival was also visited by a number of dignitaries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Bisera Turkovic.

The numerous Katara events and exhibitions, also celebrating the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, are witnessing a great turnout.

The calligraphers' booths located behind Building 5 attract a large number of visitors of Arab and foreign nationalities.

Artists are drawing paintings with the names of visitors in various types of Arabic calligraphy in addition to sand paintings.

Calligrapher Mohamed Ibrahim said: "I present various paintings and different works according to people's request, and focus on the use of black and white colours. We hope that our participation in these events will be an opportunity to know Arabic calligraphy, which is one of the most prominent characteristics Arab-Islamic culture and Identity."

The henna corner at the square opposite the Katara main fountain saw a great turnout as well, especially foreigners who expressed their interest in learning about the Arab culture and heritage in all its details.

The corridors of Katara also witnessed groups of football fans of different nationalities, each carrying the flag of their country, enthusiastically chanting slogans.

Children continued to enjoy the activities of the Katara Library for Arabic Novel (courtyard of Building No 47), where they indulge in drawing, colouring and handcraft activities supervised by specialists.

There were performances by a group of children on the waterfront, organised by the Ministry of Social Development and Family.

As part of the street arts activities, the audience also interacted with music performed by one of the Arab bands.



Qatar Museums opens exhibition of renowned artist Yayoi Kusama

The grounds of the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) have been transformed with an expansive outdoor exhibition, *My Soul Blooms Forever*, showcasing the artworks of celebrated Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama.

The exhibition, which includes several large-scale artworks that have never been shown in the region, explores the artist's fascination with the natural world through epic sculptural installations of colourful, fantastically scaled plants and iconic polka-dotted pumpkins sculptures.

My Soul Blooms Forever, on view at MIA Park until March 1, 2023, marks the 10th anniversary of Qatar's Years of Culture programme and is a legacy of the Qatar-Japan Year of Culture celebrated in 2012.

The artworks have been installed as part of Qatar Creates, the year-round national cultural movement that curates, promotes, and celebrates the diversity of cultural activities in Qatar, during which Qatar Museums (QM) has installed more than 40 additional public artworks by celebrated Qatari, regional, and international artists throughout Doha and the nation.

The exhibition is presented with the exclusive sponsorship support of Louis Vuitton.

"The grounds of the Museum of Islamic Art have become a favourite outdoor gathering place in Doha, marked by an array of public artworks that range from playful to iconic," said QM Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

"With these new installations by Yayoi Kusama – one of the world's most visionary artists – the MIA Park has been magically transformed for the people we are welcoming from around the world for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022," she added.

The highlights include:



The exhibition explores Yayoi Kusama's fascination with the natural world through epic sculptural installations.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, CHRISTINE SODUSTA YARE
holder of
PHILIPPINES Passport No. P5089962A
QID No. 28360811103
hereby change my name
from
CHRISTINE SODUSTA YARE
to
CHRISTINE SODUSTA SAMONTANES

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, MARUJA ANDAMEN GUALAL
holder of
PHILIPPINES Passport No. P4803363B
QID No. 28360813582
hereby change my name
from
MARUJA ANDAMEN GUALAL
to
MARUJA GUALAL AL EMADI

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, ANALYN BENTILLO BERMEJO
holder of
PHILIPPINES Passport No. P7235348B
QID No. 29360803983
hereby change my name
from
ANALYN BENTILLO BERMEJO
to
ANALYN BERMEJO BAJA

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Travellers keen on new destinations: MSC Cruises boss

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

While every country and region is unique in its own way, the Mena (Middle East and North Africa) region, including Qatar, is home to impeccable hospitality, vibrant cultures, rich histories, and diverse landscapes that make them coveted tourism destinations, according to MSC Cruises chief executive Gianni Onorato.

"The global travel and tourism industry is finally seeing its long-awaited post-pandemic recovery coming through, and the GCC is an important part of that," he told *Gulf Times*.

Onorato said that travellers are looking forward to discovering new destinations and re-exploring new ones within the region, including Qatar.

As such, he noted that MSC is witnessing a significant number of bookings from Italy, the UK and Germany to the GCC and wider Middle East.

The *MSC World Europa*, *MSC Poesia* and *MSC Opera* are currently docked at the Doha Port to provide a unique and curated hospitality experience for fans throughout the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The three vessels have a total passenger capacity of more than 12,000 combined: 6,782 for the *Europa*, 3,605 for the *Poesia*, and 2150 for the *Opera*.

"At MSC Cruises, we pride ourselves on being the leading cruise tourism brand in the region, and look forward to expanding our partnerships with local stakeholders to ensure that the world can continue to explore

the Mena region and immerse itself in all that it has to offer," Onorato said.

About the trends in the cruise industry such as the use of technology on-board, new destinations, Instagram travel, Gen Z impact, weather, and eco-friendly cruise travel, he said: "I think that some things haven't changed."

"For example, passengers continue to expect premium, impeccable hospitality," he continued. "Having said that, our post-pandemic reality means that things like contactless technology have become a key feature of any travel experience, allowing passengers to move throughout ships with reduced contact through doors or when buying items."

"Combined with apps, they streamline the booking process for onboard services and activities, providing a more convenient option for passengers," Onorato added.

He said that MSC Cruises offers guests an enriching, immersive and safe cruise experience inspired by European heritage, where they can enjoy international dining, world-class entertainment, award-winning family programmes and the very latest, user-friendly technology on board.

He stressed that MSC Cruises is also committed to environmental stewardship, highlighting the importance of being eco-friendly in travel and tourism as the world battles with climate change.

Onorato said that MSC Cruises operates one of the most modern fleets in the world, with the aim of minimising its environmental impact.

The *MSC World Europa*, which recently had its naming ceremony in Doha, is the world's



MSC Cruises chief executive Gianni Onorato.

largest LNG (liquefied natural gas)-powered ship – with up to 25% less carbon emissions and significantly reduced local pollutants compared to standard marine fuels.

"The Future of Cruising is our new class of trailblazing ships that set new standards of luxury, innovation and sustainability," he said.

"The *MSC World Europa* is the first in her class, and has already broken capacity and size records, setting new standards of what luxurious cruising means, and is our most sustainable and futuristic cruise ship to date," Onorato added.

This state-of-the-art vessel, he said, is powered by cleaner fuel, and with green technology integrated throughout the ship – "a statement of our commitment to protecting the sea and our planet as a whole".

"We have clear goals that we are working towards – our aim is to achieve a 40% reduction in carbon emissions intensity by 2030 against 2008 baseline, and net-zero emissions by 2050," he added.

"These will be achieved by our ongoing research and investment in eco-friendly fuel, waste management and decarbonisation technologies," Onorato said.

The MSC Cruises chief lauded and congratulated Qatar and its people for taking on the challenge to host one of the World's biggest events – the FIFA World Cup 2022.

"It is no easy feat, and we have no doubt in our mind that they will put on a great show," Onorato said. "To the people making their way to Qatar, be prepared to be welcomed with open arms and unforgettable experiences."



Snapshots of the exhibition.

'Tree of Dreams' welcomes visitors to Al Sikka Festival

The "CONMEBOL – Tree of Dreams" exhibition, organised by the federation for soccer in South America in collaboration with Msheireb Properties, is welcoming visitors and football fans from all around the world.

The exhibition documents the history and achievements of football in South America.

"CONMEBOL – Tree of Dreams" is located in Sikkat Al-Wadi at Msheireb Downtown Doha and is one of the many activations of the Al Sikka International Festival, which features shows, exhibitions and events that add a cultural aspect to football.

"CONMEBOL – Tree of Dreams" features three experiences: "Player Gallery", "Player Experience", and "Best Tournaments".

It reflects the roots of South American football, from the Maracana to the potrero pitches of the barrios,



and encapsulates a distinct South American spirit in football found nowhere else.

Explore a tree inspired by the roots of soccer in the South American region.

From the Maracana stadium to the popular neighbourhood playgrounds, the tree provides life to the barrios that surround it, connecting South American football's past, present and future.

The experience displays images and information about the best players from the continent, including legends Pele and Maradona.

Fans have the opportunity to capture memorable photos of trophies and cups that the states of the federation have won, and also show their skills in a dedicated playing area.

"CONMEBOL – Tree of Dreams" opens from 9am until midnight during the World Cup.



The Kulagas enjoying the World Cup festivities.

Polish family praises Qatar's smooth handling of World Cup

By Santhosh V Perumal
Business Reporter

A Polish family heaped praise on Qatar for the smooth handling of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, in particular the Hayya card system, and urged fans coming from across the world to take a deeper dive into Qatar's nature and culture.

"My feedback about Hayya is positive; it is easy to acquire and use, both online and in the physical form, and my friends didn't experience any problems," said Qatar-Poland Business Council vice-chairman Pawel Kulaga.

Returning to Qatar from a business trip on the opening day, the situation at the Hamad International Airport (HIA) and in the Doha Metro seemed well-managed, said Kulaga, who hopes to see Poland meet Croatia in the final, which will be played on December 18.

As many as 10,000 Polish fans are reportedly in Qatar to cheer for their national team, which is in Group C.

His wife Anna said the fan zones that Qatar has made for the World Cup offered more attractions.

"We live in Lusail Marina area next to the promenade, where I usually walk with our sons in the morning," she said, adding the city has been made beautiful and up to global expectations.

About the criticisms levelled against Qatar, Kulaga indicated that those would diminish over time.

"I hope Qatar will show the world how friendly and interesting a country it is, and the citizens and expats will be proud of what they achieved together," he said, adding that it was not easy with all the construction work (during the construction phase), but the outcome is "amazing".

"Doha and the other cities are looking beautiful, and I'm happy all of this will stay after the event to be enjoyed by residents of Qatar," he said.

Highlighting that 10 years ago Poland organised the UEFA European Football Championship along with Ukraine, Kulaga said that it was a great struggle too, and not everything worked as planned, but eventually, it was a great success for both nations, and for the most part memories of the event were positive.

"The Middle East and Arabia itself are fascinating places, so I would encourage fans coming to watch football, to take a deeper dive into Qatar's nature and culture, to plan a visit to the inland sea, Zekreet or Old Souq Al Wakra, which personally are my favourite spots in the country," he said.

Asked to predict the 2022 World Cup winner, Kulaga said: "Poland has Robert Lewandowski, so everything is possible. I'd like to watch the final match between Poland and Croatia, the country where I like to spend holidays, and which plays some really good football."

BMW models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Alfardan Automobiles, has announced the recall of BMW 735i Saloon, and 740i Saloon, 2022 model, as the steering column does not meet the quality standards, which makes it difficult to interchange.

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

Kaspersky shares threat landscape insights and predictions for 2023



Kaspersky has shared the evolution of the digital threat landscape in the Middle East, Turkey and Africa (META) region and worldwide during its annual Cyber Security Weekend – META, which took place in Jordan. Kaspersky experts discussed various topics and threats specifically facing enterprises, businesses and industrial organizations and shared threat predictions for the upcoming year.

A special focus was made on security for emerging technologies, such as robotics, IoT, and critical industry-specific threats – these technologies should be addressed through a secure by design approach such as Kaspersky’s Cyber Immunity.

“Today’s hyper-connected world requires us to reconsider the way we do cybersecurity. We need to shift toward a more reliable approach – one with no room for error. This is why we’re working on developing Cyber Immune products with “innate” protection against cyberthreats. Most attacks on the Cyber Immune systems are ineffective. It’s through events like this one in Jordan that we’re able to share our innovations and educate our audience about a safer and more resilient digital world where Cyber Immunity is the new norm,” said Eugene Kaspersky, CEO of Kaspersky.

During the event, experts shared the latest threat statistics from the region. According to Kaspersky Security Network statistics, about every third user in the META region was affected by online and offline threats in January-September 2022.



SIGINT-delivered malware. One of the most potent attack vectors imaginable, which uses servers in key positions of the internet backbone, allowing man-on-the-side attacks, may come back stronger next year

- Mail servers become priority targets. Mail servers harbor key intelligence, making them valuable to APT actors, and have the biggest attack surface imaginable. The market leaders in this industry have already faced exploitation of critical vulnerabilities, and 2023 will be the year of 0-days for all major email programs.
- APT targeting turns toward satellite technologies, producers and operators. There is evidence of APTs being capable of attacking satellites, with the Viasat incident as an example. It is likely that APT threat actors will increasingly turn their attention to the manipulation of, and interference with, satellite technologies in the future, making the security of these technologies ever more important.
- Hack-and-leak is the new black. The new form of hybrid conflict that unfurled in 2022 involved a large number of hack-and-leak operations. These will persist in the coming year with APT actors leaking data about competing threat groups or disseminating information.



on-the-side attacks, may come back stronger next year. While these attacks are extremely hard to spot, Kaspersky researchers believe they will become more widespread and will lead to more discoveries.

- The rise of destructive attacks. Given the current political climate, Kaspersky experts foresee a record number of disruptive and destructive cyberattacks, affecting both the government sector and key industries. It is likely that a portion of them will not be easily traceable to cyberattacks and will look like random accidents. The rest will take the form of pseudo-ransomware attacks or hacktivist operations to provide plausible deniability for their real authors. High-profile cyberattacks against civilian infrastructure, such as energy grids or public broadcasting, may also become targets, as well as underwater cables and fiber distribution hubs, which are challenging to defend.



According to Kaspersky Security Network statistics, about every third user in the META region was affected by online and offline threats in January-September 2022

2023 predictions
Kaspersky researchers believe the likelihood of the next WannaCry happening in 2023 is high. One potential reason for an event like this occurring is that the most sophisticated threat actors in the world are likely to possess at least one suitable exploit, and current global tensions greatly increase the chance that a ShadowBrokers-style hack-and-leak could take place. Major shifts will be reflected in new types of targets and attack scenarios too, as experts believe next year, we may see bold attackers become adept at mixing physical and cyber intrusions, employing drones for proximity hacking.

Other advanced threat predictions for 2023 include:
• SIGINT-delivered malware. One of the most potent attack vectors imaginable, which uses servers in key positions of the internet backbone, allowing man-



100 Seconds FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 mobile game launched

The all-new 100 Seconds FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 mobile trivia game has been launched for both Android and iOS devices. The game has been released by Numbase, licensed by FIFA in a first-of-its-kind co-operation. The 100 Seconds FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 mobile trivia game requires users to answer 10 questions only in 100 seconds and win an instant prize. The game allows fans to collect points for a chance to win a weekly prize as well. The game is initially knowledge-based, but with a major emphasis on FIFA, the brand, the tournaments and more, as a game is for everyone, whether a football enthusiast or not. "We want to build a gaming platform that engages, not only fans of the sports but a global audience with a FIFA story that evolves throughout the tournament, and continues beyond it. The game highly rewards gamers and fans to keep them coming for more", says Numbase' founder and CEO Ayman Z Jomaa. Numbase is a telecommunications and software House, with a Blockchain development division operating in the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia. The company is specialised in mobile value-added services, digital communications and customer engagement solutions with a



diverse portfolio of products and services offered to mobile network operators and businesses across various industries in the world. 100 Seconds FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 App rules include: It is open to individuals who are at least above 12 years. To enter and play the game, users have to choose their monthly subscription package. Packages available include: \$9.99 monthly = 50 tickets; \$24.99 every three months = 150 tickets; and \$99.99



yearly = 720 tickets. Each ticket allows a user to play a game of 10 questions. Once you start playing, each question has a 10 seconds timer. If the player misses it, the answer will be considered wrong. For every correct answer, 20 points will be added to the user's balance. For every wrong answer, five points will be added to the user's balance. Additional tickets are available in the store: 20 for \$5, 50 for \$10, and 150 for \$25. The app is launched in English, German, Spanish, Arabic and more



languages will follow. 100 Seconds FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 offers users a wide collection of multiple choice or arrange questions, which are updated continuously covering all sorts of topics such as general knowledge, technology, sports, cultural, movies, geography, history and others. During the World Cup, the questions will focus on FIFA, the brand, the tournaments, the players, teams and other related topics. The app rewards winners with cash prizes.



The instant prize is \$100 and the weekly prize \$5,000. Accordingly, the app requires phone numbers to verify and protect accounts, especially when cashing out the prize. It is available worldwide; users can access and play it no matter where they are. The prize money is always in USD, and winners can redeem their reward through Paypal accounts within up to 15 working days. Accordingly, users are required to set up a PayPal account to cash out the prizes.

Classic cars show at historic sites



Qatar Museums and the Seaside Group are participating in the second part of the exhibition, 'A Look at the Qatar Motor Museum Project', a display of exceptional racing cars at the Barzan Heritage Towers site in Umm Salal Mohamed, until December 20, to encourage visitors to explore heritage sites in Qatar.

This is in addition to another show in Msheireb Downtown Doha during the same period, in co-operation with Sealine Sports Club (Mawater) and Audi Qatar, in conjunction with the activities of the exhibition, recently launched under the auspices of the Seaside Group in front of Al Zubarah Castle.



It will be held until December 19, in order to make World Cup fans aware of the archaeological sites and attract car enthusiasts, reported local Arabic daily Arrayah.

The exhibition focuses on



visitors a unique opportunity to learn about the car culture in Qatar, private museums, car collectors, sports car clubs and the Qatari motorsport champions.

Participating in this exhibition are a number of Qatari dignitaries, car collectors, and racing clubs, including HE Sheikh Joan bin Hamad al-Thani, HE Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad al-Thani, Salem Saeed al-Muhannadi, Omar Hussein Alfardan, Volkswagen Group, Audi Qatar, Sealine Circuit Sports Club "Motors", Qatar Club for Motor and Motorcycle Racing, Letbelah Museum, and Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum.

QF'S Education City to screen World Cup matches

Football fans from Qatar and around the world are being invited to watch the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 action unfold at Qatar Foundation's (QF) Education City – as it hosts free family-friendly screenings of the tournament's matches.

Throughout the four-week sporting showpiece, Education City – home to one of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 stadiums – will be open for everyone to enjoy a range of events and activities, and its popular green space Oxygen Park will house a big screen showing 22 games live, starting with four matches on November 25 and including semi-finals and final.

Qatar's group games against Senegal (November 25) and the Netherlands (November 29) will be among the matches screened at Education City, with activities being provided for families to enjoy alongside the football, and food and beverage outlets available. Those attending the screenings do not need to have a Hayya card.

From November 25, games will be shown at Oxygen Park on every match day during the



FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 except on days when the Education City Stadium is hosting games. The full schedule, and guidance on how to access Education City to watch the match screenings – with visitors being advised to use public transport – can be found at www.qf.org.qa/wc-screenings

During the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, through its campaign it's Only Football if it's For All, QF will

be offering an array of festivals, activations, and fun for the local, regional, and global community at Education City, all designed with accessibility in mind. These include the second edition of QF's D'resha Performing Arts Festival, which takes place from December 11-17 at Oxygen Park under the theme of Travel and Adventure and will showcase the richness and vibrancy of Arab culture to the world.

Medical team at Naseem Medical Centre saves Kenyan mother and her baby



Dr Reshma Joy, Specialist Gynecologist and the Nursing Team from Naseem Medical Centre- C-ring road saved the life of a 27-year-old Kenyan mother and her baby at the Centre. The woman reached Naseem Medical Centre with an abdomen pain and she was immediately taken to the OPD of Dr Reshma. While consulting, the patient got severe abdomen pain and the doctor asked her to lay down on the examination table. The doctor assessed the situation and immediately called the ambulance as it was an emergency labor situation. However, due to the urgency of the situation, the doctor could not wait for the ambulance to arrive and took the labor on the OPD table itself.



The patient could not be even shifted to the emergency room. Dr Reshma and the nursing team saved mother and her baby even without anaesthesia, without an operating theatre, and without a labor room. Later, both mother and baby were taken in an ambulance to Hamad Hospital at Al Rayyan. Both mother and baby are doing good now.

Along with Dr Reshma, Nurses Sujamol (Head Nurse) Priya Varghese, Shemy Ashim, Nishana Sudheer and Anju Augustine assisted in this act of life saving.

Mohammed Miandad VP, managing director of Naseem Healthcare, honoured the lifesaving act of Dr Reshma and the nursing team. He said, "Naseem Healthcare is proud to have such medical team who acts faster to save life of the people."

Beautification committee completes development of eight beaches



The Supervisory Committee of Beautification of Roads and Public Places in Qatar has completed the development and maintenance works of eight beaches. A statement from the Public Works Authority (Ashghal) yesterday explained this is the first phase of developing and maintaining 18 beaches in co-operation with the Ministry of Municipality, Engineer Mohamed Arqoub al-Khaldi, Supervisory Committee chairman, said the committee accords great importance to the projects of developing and maintaining beaches, especially since Qatar is a coastal state bordered by the sea on three sides. Engineer Hessa al-Kaabi, projects design manager in the committee, said that the beaches have several sport and entertainment facilities for visitors of all ages. "This is to enrich the beach goers' experience, as they can participate in many activities in one place," she said. Engineer Maryam al-Mannai, projects design manager in the committee, said that the committee is keen to provide services and facilities while easing access for all including the elderly and physically challenged people. "Beaches have been equipped with paths that connect all facilities to each other," she added.



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GULF TIMES

Trade barriers weigh on global economy on top of war fallout

Trade policy barriers and regulatory differences make up the largest component of trade costs when low-income economies trade with each other, according to the International Monetary Fund.

A trade barrier refers to any regulation or policy that restricts international trade, especially tariffs, quotas and licences.

The rise of trade barriers against China and other countries over the past year could cost the global economy \$1.4tn, on top of the severe damage being done by the war in Ukraine, the head of the IMF has said.

“What I am hoping to see is some reversals in policy blocks towards China and globally,” Kristalina Georgieva said in a Bloomberg Television interview on Saturday. “The world is going to lose 1.5% of gross domestic product just because of division that may split us into two trading blocs. This is \$1.4tn.”

For Asia, the potential loss could be twice as bad, or more than 3% of GDP, because the region is more integrated into the global value chain, Georgieva said.

US firms had \$90bn directly invested in China at the end of 2020, and despite all the talk of decoupling, added another \$2.5bn in 2021, according to data compiled by China’s commerce ministry.

The actual total is likely even higher, because some businesses are thought by analysts to route some investments through Hong Kong, or via tax havens like the Cayman and Virgin Islands.

US firms had an estimated \$90bn directly invested in China at the end of 2020

US tech supply chains in China rely on firms from Taiwan and elsewhere as well as domestic Chinese firms, increasing the level of dependence further.

As dollar appreciation in double-digits so far this year is continuing to cause headaches across emerging markets, investors flock to safe havens amid signs that much of the global economy could be headed toward recession.

The IMF last month cut its forecast for global growth next year to 2.7%, far below the 3.8% it was predicting in January. It sees a 25% probability that growth will be less than 2%.

IMF calculations show that about one-third of the world economy will have at least two consecutive quarters of contraction this year and next, and that the lost output through 2026 will be \$4tn.

Global merchandise trade will slow next year as “multiple shocks” ranging from Russia’s war in Ukraine, high energy costs in Europe and US monetary policy tightening raise manufacturing costs and squeeze households, the World Trade Organisation said in October.

The Geneva-based institution said it expects trade growth to fall sharply in 2023 to 1%, compared with its previous forecast of 3.4%.

The WTO forecasts – which are in line with IMF and OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) projections – mark a major deceleration from last year’s 9.7% growth in global trade.

Geopolitical tensions have raised the prospect that strategic competition and national security concerns may trump the shared economic benefits of global trade.

Inter-dependencies between economies mean that such a prospect would be very costly, especially for Asia, according to the IMF.

For example, about half of the imports in the US and a third in Europe come from Asia. In turn, Asian countries account for almost half of global demand for key commodities.

Rolling back damaging trade restrictions and reducing uncertainty via clear communication of policy objectives should be a priority for policymakers.

Most importantly, engagement and dialogue between countries will be key to avoiding the most harmful trade fragmentation crises.

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Post-war reconstruction is a good investment

Ultimately, Ukraine’s long-run success will depend on its allies’ commitment to its economic recovery

By Nancy Qian
Chicago

Nine months after Russia invaded their country, Ukrainians are seizing back their territory and giving their people hope of a military victory. But when it comes to long-term peace and prosperity, a military victory would be only the end of the first phase. The next phase – reconstruction – will be much longer and harder, and it will require continued, extensive economic support from the country’s friends and allies.

The Ukrainian economy is expected to have contracted by one-third in 2022. The war has kept people from their homes and normal jobs, some 13mn civilians have been displaced, and 700,000 Ukrainians (mostly young men) have left the labour force to serve in the armed forces. Factories and homes have been destroyed, and the Kyiv School of Economics estimates that Ukraine’s infrastructure losses total \$115bn.

Some of these problems will be resolved naturally whenever the war ends, but most will not be. Many of the displaced will not have homes or jobs, and the wholesale reconstruction of

housing, schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure needed to begin economic recovery will bring massive costs. Ukrainian economists estimate that restoring the lost infrastructure will cost at least \$200bn – and the longer the war lasts, the larger the bill will be.

Given that these amounts are equivalent to Ukraine’s pre-war GDP, Ukrainians cannot be expected to pay for reconstruction on their own. Ukraine’s European neighbours will need to make a major financial commitment to help rebuild its economy. Fortunately, doing so will serve their own interests. Economic instability in the region is a breeding ground for political instability. An unstable Ukraine cannot be a strong ally.

American leaders recognised as much in the post-World War II era, when the Marshall Plan channelled around \$130bn (in 2010 dollars) to facilitate European reconstruction. As in Ukraine today, infrastructure across the continent (railways, electric utilities, port facilities, roads, bridges, and airports) had suffered severe damage from aerial bombardment, and disruptions to agricultural production and transportation meant that many people were at high risk of famine.

The Marshall Plan had two aims: European economic recovery and containment of the Soviet Union.

Europe’s economic stabilisation was seen as a prerequisite to building stable institutions that would promote income growth and entrench liberal democracy.

The plan was largely successful. In Italy, it stimulated growth and fostered industrial development through the rapid construction of infrastructure, creating the conditions for the robust economic expansion of the post-war decades. In Germany, it led to new industrial policies and reinvigorated growth. And across Western Europe, it played a crucial role in restoring financial stability, driving economic liberalisation, and (moderately) alleviating resource shortages.

By the 1960s, all 17 countries that accepted aid – Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, West Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom – had rebounded economically and become stable liberal democracies.

The Marshall Plan offers several important lessons for today. First, large cash injections for rebuilding infrastructure can deliver big payoffs. On average, Marshall Plan transfers from 1948 to 1952 represented less than 3% of GDP in the receiving countries. But, because the financial injections were frontloaded, they helped stimulate

sustainable growth. For example, Italy received aid equivalent to 11.5% of its GDP in 1948.

Second, though a meaningful aid and reconstruction package for Ukraine will be expensive, it is entirely feasible. In 1948, US GDP was 3.5 times greater than that of France, Germany, and Italy combined. Today, the GDP of EU countries is more than 85 times larger than that of Ukraine.

Of course, there are important differences between Western Europe after WWII and Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus today. The Marshall Plan recipients were among the world’s most advanced economies at the time, whereas the former Soviet republics suffered from fundamental, systemic problems even before the war. In 13 of the 30 years from 1990 to 2020, Ukraine recorded negative GDP growth. These starting conditions suggest that economic stabilisation will take much longer than it did in post-WWII Europe. But that is all the more reason to start planning now for a massive injection of aid.

Third, it sometimes pays to be generous toward former enemies as well as friends. The Marshall Plan allocated large sums to the countries that had fought against the US during the war. It was understood that ongoing stability in Allied countries would require stability in the broader neighbourhood. France, which was partly ruled by the Vichy government, received the largest share (20.8%), followed by West Germany (10.9%), and Italy (10.6%). The implication for today is that under the appropriate political and strategic conditions, investing in the Russian and Belarusian economies could have long-run geopolitical benefit. This is still affordable in comparison to the Marshall Plan, because the European Union’s GDP is more than eight times larger than that of Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus combined.

Regardless of whether the West gives aid to Ukraine or also includes Russia and Belarus, the full costs of recovery will exceed the direct costs caused by the war. Altogether, the Marshall Plan represented 5% of America’s 1948 GDP. If EU countries were to commit 5% of their combined GDP to post-war reconstruction, they could fund an \$870bn aid package. American contributions can further increase the aid package.

Ultimately, Ukraine’s long-run success will depend on its allies’ commitment to its economic recovery. Without sustained economic support and thoughtful implementation, any peace that is achieved by a military victory will most likely be fleeting. – Project Syndicate

● Nancy Qian, Professor of Managerial Economics and Decision Sciences at Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management, is a co-director of Northwestern University’s Global Poverty Research Lab and the Founding Director of China Econ Lab.



Ukrainian servicemen fire towards Russian positions on the frontline of the Donetsk region on Monday amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. (AFP)

Don't like Musk? Tech firms woo ex-Twitter staff

Reuters
London

Put off by Elon Musk's muscular management style? Move to us! That's the pitch being used by talent-starved technology firms trying to lure thousands of former Twitter Inc employees laid off by the social media company under its new owner. Twitter has fired top executives and enforced steep job cuts with little warning following Musk's tumultuous takeover of the social media platform. About half of the workforce —

around 3,700 employees — has been laid off.

Hundreds more are reported to have quit as a result of his sweeping reforms. On Monday, the head of French operations was the latest senior manager to leave.

Spying opportunity, some companies are now trying to pick up experienced engineering talent by appealing to their disdain for the methods of the world's richest person.

Katie Burke, chief people officer at US software company Hubspot, blasted Musk over reports he had fired a group of employees that had criti-

cised him on the company's internal Slack channels. Reuters was not able to verify the reports.

"As a leader, getting criticised is part of your job," she wrote in a LinkedIn post. "Great leaders recognise debate and disagreement makes you better and is part of the process. If you want a place where you can disagree (in a kind, clear manner of course) with people, HubSpot is hiring." By late on Monday, Burke's post had earned more than 35,000 positive reactions on LinkedIn.

Twitter and Musk did not respond to requests for comment.

Other companies are taking a similar approach to Hubspot.

Amanda Richardson, CEO of recruitment software startup CoderPad, published an open letter to Twitter leavers.

Citing Musk's initial ban on remote-working, Richardson described Musk's takeover as a "s*** show" which had been "terribly frustrating, depressing and demotivating".

"At CoderPad, we believe your skills say it all. Not where you sit. Not if you sleep at work. Not working 7 days a week for 18 hours a day."

Other big US tech firms including

Meta and Amazon have also laid off thousands of staff in recent weeks due to the uncertain economic environment.

But the public criticism of Musk highlights strong demand in parts of the industry for highly skilled digital workers.

A recent report from market analysis firm Gartner found high attrition rates and a spate of digitalisation efforts across business and government had created a “hyper-competitive” market for technical talent.

Mass job cuts and public resignations at Twitter have prompted wor-

ries the firm is shedding vital staff and fears the social media "town square" could face technical troubles.

Michael Weening, CEO of US cloud and software company Calix, described recent events at Twitter as "disturbing," and promised new recruits they would enjoy a corporate culture that "starts with our team members" in a similar LinkedIn post.

"From our perspective this is a great opportunity, as people who would not speak to us before are disillusioned and looking," Weening told Reuters. "The toxic culture has people saying, 'No more.'"

Germany seeks suspended sentence for ex-Nazi camp secretary

AFP
Itzehoe

German prosecutors yesterday demanded a suspended sentence for a 97-year-old former Nazi concentration camp secretary in what they described as one of the country's last trials over the Holocaust.

Public prosecutor Maxi Wantzen told a court in the northern town of Itzehoe that Irmgard Furchner was guilty of complicity in the "cruel and malicious murder" of more than 10,000 people at the Stutthof camp in occupied Poland.

She asked the judges to hand down a two-year suspended sentence, the longest possible without jail time.

"This trial is of outstanding historical importance," Wantzen said, adding that it was "potentially, due to the passage of time, the last of its kind".

The first woman to be tried in Germany for Nazi-era crimes in decades, Furchner sat impassively in a wheelchair in the courtroom, wearing a red beret and jacket.

The court requested that media images of the defendant be blurred to protect her privacy.

A photograph showing rescue workers in orange and blue gear working in a collapsed structure, likely a tunnel or underground passage. The workers are surrounded by debris and structural elements, with one worker in the foreground wearing a yellow helmet and another in a blue helmet. The scene is dimly lit, emphasizing the confined and hazardous environment.

Rescue workers carry the body of a victim in Cianjur yesterday following the earthquake. (AFP)

Indonesia quake toll reaches 268

Reuters
Cianjur

An earthquake that struck Indonesia's West Java killed at least 268 people, many of them children, with 151 still missing, disaster relief officials said yesterday, as rescuers searched the rubble of destroyed buildings for survivors.

The shallow 5.6-magnitude quake struck in Indonesia's most populous province on Monday afternoon, causing significant damage to the town of Cianjur, about 75km southeast of the capital, Jakarta, and burying at least one village under a landslide. Disaster agency chief Suharyanto told reporters that more than 1,000 people had been injured, 58,000 displaced and 22,000 houses damaged.

Landslides and rough terrain hampered rescue efforts yesterday, said Henri Alfandi, head

of National Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas).

"The challenge is the affected area is spread out... On top of that, the roads in these villages are damaged," Alfiandi told reporters.

Many of the victims were children who had been at school at the time the quake hit, he said.

While strong earthquakes of magnitude 6 or 7 are relatively common in Indonesia, often off-shore where fault lines run, Monday's quake of a lower magnitude had such deadly consequences because it struck on land at a relatively shallow depth. Officials said many of the dead were killed when poorly constructed buildings collapsed, with the president calling for reconstruction efforts to include earthquake-proof housing.

President Joko Widodo travelled to Cianjur yesterday to encourage rescuers.

"My instruction is to prioritize evacuating victims that are still trapped under rubble," he said.

Survivors had gathered overnight in a Cianjur hospital parking lot. Some of the injured were treated in tents, others were hooked up to intravenous drips on the pavement as medical workers stitched up patients under torch light.

"Everything collapsed beneath me and I was crushed beneath this child," Cucu, a 48-year-old resident, told Reuters.

"Two of my kids survived. I dug them up ... Two others I brought here, and one is still missing," she said through tears.

"Many bodies are lying in the hospital grounds, it's very crowded," said her relative, Hesti. In one area, some victims held cardboard signs asking for food and shelter, with emergency supplies seemingly yet to reach them.

Iran starts enriching uranium to 60% purity at Fordow plant

Iran has begun enriching uranium to 60% purity at its underground Fordow nuclear site, the government's nuclear chief said yesterday, a move that may irk Western powers pushing Tehran to roll back its nuclear work by reviving a 2015 pact.

Iran is already enriching uranium to up to 60% purity elsewhere, well below the roughly 90% needed for weapons-grade material but above the 20% it produced before the agreement with major powers to cap enrichment at 3.67%.

"We had said that Iran will seriously react to

any resolution and political pressure ... that is why Iran has started enriching uranium to 60% purity from Monday at the Fordow site," said Mohammad Esfami, according to Iranian media. The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) 35-nation Board of Governors on Thursday passed a resolution ordering Iran to co-operate urgently with the IAEA investigation into uranium traces found at three undeclared sites. Iran had said the move could impact its "constructive relations" with the agency, the nuclear watchdog of the United Nations.

The semi-official ISNA news agency reported Iran had informed the agency in a letter about the decision to use "IR-6 advanced centrifuges to produce 60% enriched uranium" at Fordow, a site buried inside a mountain.

The 2015 nuclear pact between Iran and six world powers lets Iran use only first-generation IR-1 centrifuges but, as the deal unravelled after then-President Donald Trump ditched it in 2018, Tehran has installed cascades of more efficient advanced centrifuges, such as the IR-2m, IR-4 and IR-6. It has also resumed enrichment at

Fordow, which was barred under the deal. U.S. officials said they were aware of reports Iran was enriching to 60% at Fordow but declined to confirm them, repeating their preference to use diplomacy to curb Iran's nuclear programme but saying all options – code for possible military action – were available to US President Joe Biden. In June, Reuters reported that Tehran was enhancing its uranium enrichment further by preparing to use IR-6 centrifuges, which can easily switch between enrichment levels, at the Fordow site.

Boat carrying hundreds of migrants docks after rescue

AFP m
Athens sa

A boat believed to be carrying hundreds of migrants was safely towed to the Greek island of Crete yesterday after a dramatic rescue complicated by near gale-force winds, the coastguard said.

The asylum seekers "were towed to port, they have yet to disembark", a coastguard spokeswoman told AFP.

The fishing boat docked in the small Cretan port of Palaiochora. State TV ERT showed footage of the rusty vessel, crammed with people.

No information was immediately available on their nationalities.

The coastguard had earlier said up to 500 people were believed to be on board, based on the distress call they sent after

midnight on Monday whilst sailing south of Crete.

ERT put the number on board at 430.

A Greek navy frigate, two cargo ships, a tanker and two Italian fishing boats were dispatched to lend assistance to the vessel that was adrift in winds of over 30km an hour, the coastguard said.

Because of bolstered patrols by the Greek coastguard and EU border agency Frontex in the Aegean Sea, migrant smugglers are increasingly employing the longer and more perilous route south of Crete, Greek officials say.

"Eighty percent of flows from Turkey go straight to Italy", Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi told Skai TV last week.

Last month, one of the sailboats believed to have 95 people on board sank at the island of Kythira, south of the Pelopon-

ese peninsula.

The boat went down beneath a huge vertical cliff. At least eight people died and survivors – mainly from Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan – were hauled to safety with ropes and a construction crane in a frantic pre-dawn operation.

Greece, Italy and Spain are among the countries used by people fleeing Africa and the Middle East in search of safety and better lives in the European Union.

The Greek coastguard has said it has rescued about 1,500 people in the first eight months of the year, compared with less than 600 last year.

Dozens more have perished in sinkings over the last month.

The International Organisation for Migration has recorded nearly 2,000 migrants killed and missing in the Mediterranean Sea this year.



Migrants stand onboard a fishing boat at the port of Paleochora, following a rescue operation off the island of Crete, Greece yesterday. **(Reuters)**

36 killed in Chinese factory fire

A fire at a factory in the Chinese city of Anyang in Henan province has killed 36 people, with two others injured, state media reported yesterday.

The fire broke out at Kaixinda Trading Co Ltd in the Wenfeng District, or "High-tech Zone", in Anyang City, the report said.

The fire started Monday afternoon and fire teams sent 63 vehicles to the scene, according to local media.

The fire was controlled by 8pm local time and completely extinguished at 11pm. By yesterday morning 36 people were reported dead and two were sent to the hospital for treatment with minor injuries, CCTV reported.

Two people are missing, according to the report.

Psychological counsellors were on the scene for families of the victims, according to a government statement.



Mexican fans ‘paint the town green’

By **Joey Aguilar**
Staff Reporter

A huge number of Mexican supporters “painted the town green” yesterday, revelling at various locations in Doha and on their way to the 974 Stadium for the Mexico-Poland match.

Different metro stations witnessed high-spirited Mexican football fans – mostly garbed in green and donning the Mexican sombrero – converging at the Msheireb station singing and dancing while boarding the trains.

With a portable speaker, a group of Mexicans also entertained the crowd outside the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), creating a festive atmosphere that attracted numerous spectators.

“This is my first time here. I am enjoying (my stay) here in Doha. I like the city, it is very good, very beautiful,” said Enrique from Mexico, adding that he plans to visit the different touristic places in Qatar, such as Souq Waqif.

It is estimated that the number of Mexican football fans who will be travelling to Qatar for the prestigious tournament could exceed 80,000.

It will be the largest presence of Mexicans in



Mexican supporters entertain the crowd outside the DECC yesterday. **PICTURES:** Joey Aguilar



Doha Metro stations witnessed Mexicans singing and dancing while disembarking.

a Middle Eastern country in history, it is learnt.

The unveiling of a number of Mexican sculptures gifted to Qatar at Katara – the Cultural Village on Monday marked the start of the caravan of the Mexican football fans for the FIFA World Cup 2022 in the country. The Mexican-Qatari Centre was also inaugurated on Saturday (No-

vember 19) by Katara general manager Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti and Mexico's Foreign Affairs Secretary Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon. Besides a health clinic, the Centre features a cultural events office, and security and passport clearance offices for Mexican fans supporting their national team.



Football fans from across the world are having a great time at the FIFA Fan Festival at Al Bidda Park and Doha Corniche, enjoying entertainment and cultural events organised as part of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen and supplied



Accompanying the on-field action of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 is a dazzling array of entertainment and leisure activations.

Here are some highlights:

- **FIFA Fan Festival: Al Bidda Park**, daily until December 18. November 21-29: 11am-2am; November 30-December 18: 4pm-2am. Join 40,000 fans and enjoy all 64 FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 matches live on the mega-screens. See global music acts and local artists take to the stage in a true celebration and vibrant festival of culture. Entry only for Hayya card holders.
- **Corniche celebrations** Qatar's global street carnival along Doha's iconic 6km waterfront, from the Museum of Islamic Art to Hotel Park. Taking place daily until December 18, from noon until midnight (entertainment from 3-11pm). The atmosphere along the Corniche

will celebrate nations – allowing fans to connect from all around the world.

- **Welcome to Qatar: Corniche** Welcome to Qatar is a must-see for all during the tournament, 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 until December 18 from noon until 1am. Head to Lusail South Promenade and join the festivity, fun and football. Access: entry fee and ticketed activations.
- **Ras Abu About Beach 974** Hit the shore at Beach 974, extending from the heart of Doha along Ras Abu About's glistening waterfront. Combine football and beach life,

Live it all in Qatar!



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-](https://www.qatar2022.qa/en/live-it-all-in-qatar/ras-abu-about-beach-974)

- A magical world that combines music, performance 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 until 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 un-

- til 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).
 - **World Cup activations at Katara – the Cultural Village**, Katara Traditional Dhow Festival, World Cup festivities at Msheireb, and more
- Please refer to <https://www.qatar2022.qa/en/live-it-all-in-qatar> for more information.