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Sport Page 2

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Mzayen World Cup begins today

Organised by Qatar Camel Mzayen Club, in co-operation with the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC), Mzayen World Cup competition will start today through Dec. 2. Camels participating in the nine-day event are divided into three categories - Al Mughatir, Al Asayel and Al Majaheem. (QNA) Page 8

Japan shock Germany, Spain pulverise Costa Rica

By Rizwan Rehmat
Doha

Former Asian champions Japan yesterday produced a stunning upset by beating four-time World Cup winners Germany 2-1 while European giants Spain hit Costa Rica for seven goals in a one-sided match at Al Thumama Stadium.

Trailing by a goal at the end of the first half, a resilient Japan picked up the pieces in dramatic fashion late in the second half when substitutes Ritsu Doan and Takuma Asano found the net only eight minutes apart in their Group E clash under lights at the iconic Khalifa International Stadium (KIS).

A day before their opening FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 match against Germany, Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu candidly admitted that his players have improved their game looking at German players. A total of eight players in the current squad appear for Bundesliga clubs.

After making five substitutes in their high-paced game against Germany, a delighted Moriyasu once again underlined the presence of his players in Germany.

"We have seven players in the Bundesliga and one in the German second division, but we have many more playing in big leagues in Europe and that has played a big part in our development," Moriyasu said after the intense clash played in front of 42,608 fans at KIS.

"Germany are a great team but I have to say our players stayed calm and patient for most part of the match," he added.

Moriyasu said playing with aggression got them to rally after conceding a goal in the first half scored by Ilkay Gundogan (penalty, 33rd minute).

"We wanted to start playing aggressively, we wanted to dominate the game. But Germany are very strong so we needed to defend persistently and take our chances," Moriyasu said.

Appearing at a World Cup for the seventh successive time, Japan clearly looked the part yesterday.

"It's a big surprise. We saw the Saudi victory over Argentina - the Asian countries are reaching the global standard," Moriyasu said.

Yesterday's loss in the opening clash was a repeat of Russia 2018 when Germany - as defending champions - went down to Mexico before losing to South Korea on way to getting knocked out at the first stage.

Goalkeeper Shuchi Gonda who fought gallantly under the Japan crossbar said his team was inspired by Saudi Arabia's stunning win over Argentina on Tuesday.

"We knew that like Saudi Arabia, if they didn't score any more goals and we kept going until the end, we would get our chances," Gonda said. "Even if I concede one, my job is to make sure I don't concede any more and give us a chance of turning it around," he added.

BIG WIN FOR SPAIN

Also yesterday, Spain - the 2010 World Cup winners - kept the scorers busy as Dani Olmo (11), Asensio (21), Ferran Torres (31-pen and 54), Gavi



Japan's Ritsu Doan scores their first goal in the Group E - Germany v Japan match at Khalifa International Stadium, Doha, yesterday.

(74), Carlos Soler (90), Alvaro Morata (90+2) scored almost at will against hapless Costa Rica.

It was Spain's biggest ever World Cup victory surpassing their 6-1 victory over Bulgaria in 1998. Coached by Luis Enrique, Spain now take on Germany on Nov 27 at Al Bayt Stadium followed by a game against Japan

on Dec 1 at the same venue.

"Our objective is to continuously dominate the play, and for that you have to have the ball," coach Enrique told TVE after the match. "Your opponent gets tired and can't get into it, our pressing was exceptional and the 16 players we used were superb - although we still have room to improve."

CROATIA-MOROCCO DRAW, BELGIUM WIN

In the day's other match, Croatia and Morocco played a goalless draw at Al Thumama Stadium while Belgium edged past Canada 1-0 at Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium.

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FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

Today's schedule

Group G
Switzerland vs Cameroon, 1pm
at Al Janoub Stadium

Group H
Portugal vs Ghana, 7pm
at Stadium 974

Group H
Uruguay vs South Korea, 4pm
at Education City Stadium

Group G
Brazil vs Serbia, 10pm
at Lusail Stadium

Yesterday's results

Group E
Japan 2 Germany 1

Group E
Spain 7 Costa Rica 0

Group F
Morocco 0 Croatia 0

Group F
Belgium 1 Canada 0

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Cabinet hails stunning success of World Cup opening ceremony

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting held yesterday at its seat at the Amiri Diwan.

Following the meeting, HE the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs issued the following statement:

At the outset of the meeting, the Cabinet applauded the outstanding and exceptional success of the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on Sunday, which was patronised by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, and attended by a number of leaders of state and heads of delegations of sisterly and friendly countries.

The Cabinet highlighted the important contents of the Amir's speech when opening the tournament, and the dazzling preparation, organisation and directing of the historic opening ceremony; hailing the ceremony's performances which carried messages of deep meanings, reflected the bright images of the civilisational and cultural heritage of Qatar and the Arab world, and emphasised the human dimension of sport



The opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on Sunday. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

and its influential role in uniting people and spreading a culture of peace, tolerance, mutual respect and acquaintance among nations.

The Cabinet expressed on this historic occasion its pride in the wise policy and directives of His Highness the Amir, thanks to which Qatar was able to accomplish successive achievements; adding that the successful and distinct hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 which dazzled the world, adds a new

and unique chapter in the record of achievements that strengthened the state's position and its active role for the establishment of world peace and consolidation of the principles of understanding and solidarity between countries and peoples.

The Cabinet affirmed that the success of the World Cup opening ceremony, the wide acclaim and follow-up it received from around the world, and the success achieved by the tournament at all levels will remain a source of pride

for Qatar and its people and youth who were behind this achievement with their efforts, thoughts, and hard and continuous work over 12 years in order to create an environment conducive to organising the tournament and achieving the World Cup in all organisational, urban, social and economic aspects, leading to an exceptional World Cup tournament that honours the Arab nation.

Then, the Cabinet considered the topics on the agenda as follows:

The Cabinet approved a draft decree approving the Public Works Authority (Ashghal) agreement for Al Wakra and Al Wukair Sewage Treatment Works project.

This project was proposed in partnership between the public and private sectors.

It also approved a draft decision by the Minister of Communications and Information Technology to specify the correspondence system service fees for the semi-governmental and private sectors.

The Cabinet approved the renewal of the membership of the chairman and members of the Grievance Committee of the Qa-

tar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA). The Grievance Committee at QFMA, which is headed by a chairman, who is a chief of the Court of Appeals, along with two Court of Appeals judges as well as two others having experience in the securities field as its members, is competent to decide on the grievances concerning the penal decisions issued by the QFMA.

It also took the necessary measures to ratify a memorandum of understanding for co-operation in the fields of youth and sports between the governments of Qatar and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay.

The Cabinet then reviewed the following topics and took the appropriate decisions:

1- Draft Amiri decisions to re-organise some public bodies, institutions and government agencies.

2- The outcomes of the 8th meeting of the ministers responsible of Islamic affairs and endowments in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries.

3- A report on the meetings of the opening week of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly. **(QNA)**

FM meets his Belgian counterpart and Costa Rica's 2nd vice-president



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani met yesterday with Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade and the Federal Cultural Institutions Hadja Lahbib, who is visiting the country to attend the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The meeting dealt with reviewing bilateral co-operation, particularly in energy, and Qatar's efforts in the field of human rights, in addition to developments in the Middle East and Afghanistan, and the latest of the nuclear talks. **(QNA)**



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani met yesterday with Costa Rica's Second Vice-President and Minister of Sports, Mary Munive Angermuller, who is visiting the country to attend the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations, especially in the cultural field, and Qatar's distinguished hosting of the World Cup. **(QNA)**

King of Spain arrives in Doha



Spain's King Felipe VI arrived in Doha yesterday to attend FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 matches. The king and his accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser al-Ali, and Spanish ambassador to Qatar Javier Carbajosa Sanchez. **Below:** King Felipe VI and delegation attend Spain-Costa Rica match at Al Thumama Stadium. **(QNA)**



EU: Qatar has made great progress in workers' rights

QNA
Brussels

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell has underscored that Qatar made remarkable progress in workers' rights over the past years.

In a speech delivered on his behalf by European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides before the European Parliament, Borrell praised the reforms and legislation implemented

by Qatar, saying that Qatar was the first Gulf state to abolish the (kafala) sponsorship system and adopt a new law that sets a non-discriminatory minimum wage for workers.

The European official pointed out that Qatar is at the forefront of ensuring strict control over infrastructure projects for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and many other projects.

He pointed out that Qatar's organisation of the World Cup contributed to accelerating the pace of reforming its work system, calling for the need

to continue encouraging it to achieve more progress in this field.

He affirmed the EU's readiness to support and assist Qatar in human rights, indicating that Qatar has always been open and welcoming to co-operation in this field.

Borrell described the session held by the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament last week with HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri as "constructive," explaining that the human rights situation in Qatar was discussed with great openness. **(QNA)**



Josep Borrell

Lebanese minister: World Cup is Arab message of peace to the world

QNA
Beirut

Minister of Youth and Sports in the Lebanese caretaker government George Kallas has praised the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the technical and logistical measures taken by Qatar, and the unprecedented security and administrative organisation internationally in sports; considering this Qatari success a message of peace from the Arabs to the world.

Kallas stressed in an exclusive interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA) that Qatar has distinctively succeeded in hosting this international sporting event, held for the first time in the region, an event covered by all major international media outlets across all the corners of the world.

Kallas added that he had the honour of visiting Qatar as part of an official delegation headed by, Prime Minister of the Leba-



George Kallas

nese caretaker government Najib Mikati, and Minister of Tourism engineer Walid Nassar, to participate in the World Cup opening ceremony.

Kallas said that Qatar has succeeded in being the first Arab country to host the World Cup and dazzling the world, not only by organising the matches, but also the remarkable festivals and artistic events.

He stressed that Qatar has already proven via the opening ceremony and the great World Cup preparations that it is well

able to organise this exceptional event, making it a civilisational gathering that carries a call for peace through sports, and through the politics of building bridges amongst generations, cultures and civilisations, adding that as such, Qatar has proven to the world that Sport is capable of bringing peoples together much more than all political and international summits.

Kallas said that Qatar's hosting of this World Cup in the name of all Arabs is a token of peace and civility, despite all that the Arab world is going through and suffering, stressing that by Qatar and the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC) hosting of the World Cup, they are conveying a message to the world that Arab countries and societies are capable of establishing peace, and building bridges of convergence for sincere dialogue amongst peoples, as well as achieving civilisational accomplishments through sports.

Chia Nation forum to host discussion

Chia Nation's Weekly Forum will discuss 'The Question of Palestine and the Struggle against Normalisation with Israel!' on Nov 26 from 5 p.m - 6 p.m.



Sami Hermez

The event will feature Sami Hermez, an anthropology assistant professor and director of the Liberal Arts Department at Northwestern University Qatar, a statement said. Given that people from all over the world have come to watch the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Chia Nation is sharing the country's unique knowledge and expertise about different topics with guests and providing a forum for discussions, it was explained. This week's discussion will focus on topics such as the origin of the Israeli-Palestinian war, its different aspects, and how it is affecting the world in general. "This will be an excellent chance for the audience to learn more about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ask questions, and engage in various activities while enjoying the tasty and healthy cuisine provided by Chia Nation." Chia Nation is a Coffeehouse in Qatar that delivers healthy and delicious meals, the statement added.

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Shura welcomes visiting parliamentary dignitaries

QNA
Doha

HE the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti met yesterday with several Speakers of parliamentary councils and parliamentary officials, who are visiting the country to attend FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 events.

The meeting included Speaker of the House of Representatives of Djibouti Mohamed Ali Hamad, Vice-Speaker of the Moroccan House of Advisors Fouad Kadiri, Chief of Staff of the House of Advisors of Morocco Zakaria El Hanini, Secretary-General for Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union Fayez al-Shawabkeh and Secretary-General of the Moroccan House of Representatives Najib El Khadi.

At the onset of the meeting, HE the deputy Speaker welcomed the guests of the country wishing them a pleasant stay, expressing her thanks for their participation in this global sporting demonstration, which among its numerous goals, seeks to bring the people together and deepen the bonds of fraternity and friendship.

For their part, the guests expressed their pleasure in participating and their fascination and admiration for the tournament's meticulous organisation, along with the preparations they witnessed on the ground to embrace the tournament, extending their thanks to Qatar government and people - for the warm welcome,



HE the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti with several Speakers of parliamentary councils and officials visiting the country.

good reception and generous hospitality, lauding the renaissance being witnessed by Qatar, wishing the country further success in this hosting.

During the meeting, they discussed a range of topics pertaining to the Arab parliamentary action and ways to strengthen parliamentary relations. The meeting was attended by Badi bin Ali al-Badi, Ahmad bin Ebrahim al-Malki, Khalid bin Abas al-Emadi, Yousef bin Ahmed al-Sada, Mubarak bin Mohamed al-Kuwari, Nasser bin Metrif al-Hemeidi, Nasser bin Hassan al-Kubaisi, members of the Shura Council. On the sidelines of the meeting, the guests toured the building of the Shura Council and Tamim bin Hamad Hall, where they got briefed on the Council's work mechanisms and the state-of-the-art technologies utilised in conducting the works of sessions and committees.

Shura to participate in Arab Parliament meetings

The Shura Council will participate in the meetings of the standing committees of the Arab Parliament, which will begin its work today at the headquarters of the Arab League General Secretariat in Cairo, in preparation for the second session of the third legislative term of the Arab Parliament, due to kick off on Saturday. The Shura Council is represented in the meetings by its members and members of the Arab Parliament - HE Shaikha bint Youssef Hassan al-Jufairi, HE Issa bin Ahmed al-Nasr, HE Salem bin Rashid al-Meraikhi, and HE Hamad bin Abdullah al-Mulla. The second session of the third legislative term of the Arab Parliament will discuss a host of issues related to pan-Arab

co-ordination, ways to boost joint Arab parliamentary action, as well as the most prominent challenges facing joint action and ways to overcome them. The session will also review the reports of the standing committees and take the right decisions including the Palestine Committee on developments in the occupied territories, and to stand up to the continuous violations of the occupation authorities. HE Shura Council member Dr Ahmed bin Hamad al-Mohannadi will participate in the meetings of the high-level parliamentary working group for science and technology in the Arab Parliament, which aims to build bridges of co-operation and co-ordination.

Culture minister meets S Korean counterpart



HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday with the visiting South Korean Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Park Bo-gyoon and his accompanying delegation. The meeting discussed aspects of cultural co-operation between the two countries. (QNA)

AlKhater meets deputy PM of Bosnia and Herzegovina



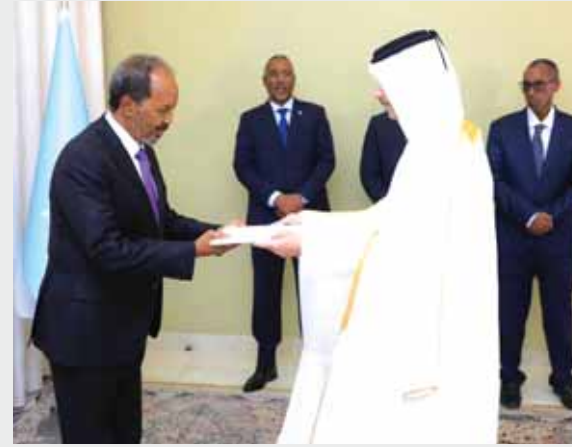
HE the Assistant Foreign Minister Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina Dr Biser Turkovic, who is currently visiting the country. During the meeting, they discussed the relations of bilateral co-operation and several topics of common interest. (QNA)

Ghana president arrives in Doha



Ghana President Nana Akufo-Addo arrived yesterday evening in Doha to attend some of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 matches. He and the accompanying delegation were received upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Director of the Protocol Department Ibrahim bin Yousef Fakhro and Ghana's ambassador to Qatar Mohamed Nouredine Ismail. (QNA)

Qatar's envoy presents credentials



Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud received yesterday the credentials of Dr Abdullah bin Salem al-Nuaimi as Qatar's ambassador to Somalia. The ambassador conveyed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's wishes of good health and happiness to the Somali president, and for the government and people of Somalia continued progress and prosperity. For his part, the president entrusted the ambassador with his greetings to the Amir, wishing His Highness good health and happiness, and Qatar continued progress, development, and prosperity. (QNA)

Doha offers beacon of hope for world, says al-Muraikhi

QNA
Fes, Morocco

Qatar participated in the 9th UN Alliance of Civilisations (UNAOC) Global Forum: 'Towards An Alliance of Peace: Living Together as One Humanity' convened on Nov 22-23 in the Moroccan city of Fes. Qatar was represented in the forum by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi who reaffirmed that Qatar is committed to continuing its co-operation with the Group of Friends of the UNAOC to support the alliance in achieving its supreme goals and in contributing to building bridges among various cultures and communities, as well as enhancing the unity and solidarity among the states and world's peoples.

He extended Qatar's thanks to the Moroccan government, represented by Minister for Foreign Affairs and African Co-operation Nasser Bourita, for hosting the forum.

He also thanked High Representative for the UNAOC Miguel Angel Moratinos and his work team for organising the forum that comes at the appropriate time and requires intensifying the efforts in pursuit of bringing the peoples, civilisations and religions together in the midst of divisions under the echo of hate speech and racism which are unfortunately rampant in the world today.



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi

He added that in spite of that he is pleased to address the forum while his eyes are turned to Doha from where he came holding with him a beacon of hope that was reignited two days ago during the opening ceremony of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 in the presence of millions of peoples with their diverse cultural, religious and racial backgrounds who had celebrated together the launch of this historic event which is being organised for the first time in the Middle East region, and in an Arab and Islamic state to prove to the world that humanity is still intact and is capable of being united despite the differences behind one goal once willingness and appropriate environment are provided.

HE al-Muraikhi asserted that Qatar has offered and will offer during the upcoming weeks a model of how sports is harnessed for the sake of living together as one mankind in an atmosphere of harmony

and balance to achieve development and peace.

He said that he and all people are proud of Doha because it is offering at these moments and over the coming weeks, an opportunity for the peoples of the world to enjoy the Arab hospitality, and openness and get familiarised with the civilised history of the region, along with its rich and ancient culture.

He underlined his confidence that hosting this sporting event by Qatar will leave a valuable and sustainable legacy at the social, humanitarian, economic and environmental levels, whether in Qatar or the region and the entire world.

He reiterated that the Islamic civilisation along with other civilisations has largely contributed and still contributing to human progress, stressing that no one can deny the crucial role of the Arabic and Islamic culture in promoting dialogue and resolving conflicts and disputes, and upholding the values of tolerance, solidarity and peace among peoples, and in combating extremism and intolerance.

He said that Qatar is among the first countries that supported the alliance since its inception as a mechanism that harmonises and translates its policies into encouraging the values of diversity and respect for human rights, mutual respect, intercultural and interfaith understanding and cooperation, prevention of disputes and settling them by peaceful means.

In this regard, HE the Minister of

State for Foreign Affairs pointed to Qatar's hosting of the 4th United Nations Alliance of Civilisations in 2011 and was the key sponsor of the 8th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations that was convened in New York in 2018, in addition to providing generous financial contributions to support the alliance throughout the past years in pursuit of enabling it to achieve its goals.

HE al-Muraikhi noted the recent support provided by Qatar with the value of \$1.5bn for the period 2020-2022 to implement the alliance's programs and projects that are intended to promote sports and education for the sake of achieving peace, combating extremism, religious xenophobia, as well as promoting the role of youth in mediation.

He also pointed to the Qatar Global Award for Dialogue Among Civilisations that was launched in 2018 with the objective of co-opting highly competent elites in pursuit of promoting the values of dialogue and co-existence through the refined scientific research, propagating and enhancing the culture of tolerance and co-existence, including elites that are capable of formulating the awareness and culture of dialogue in accordance with the evolved reality.

He announced that the theme of the 4th session of the award for the years 2022-2023 will be "Science Dialogue: Towards a Civilised Framework for Knowledge Integration". (QNA)



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Qatar Steel Tender Committee is pleased to announce the following tender:

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Amir issues decisions appointing ambassadors

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani issued yesterday Amiri decision No 53 of 2022 appointing Khalid Ali Abdullah Abel as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam. The Amir also issued Amiri decision No 54 of 2022 appointing Hassan Hamza Asad Mohamed Hashim as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Uzbekistan. The decisions are effective starting from their date of issue, and are to be published in the official gazette. (QNA)

LuLu announces winners of first draw of Visa promo

As many as 240 winners of the first draw of LuLu Hypermarket's latest Visa promotion received group match tickets for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, it was announced yesterday.

Three more draws are to follow. The promotion titled 'Shop Your Way to The Goal' was launched by LuLu Hypermarket in collaboration with the Visa to promote the celebration of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, in all its outlets from October 30.

Customers are invited to shop for QR100 or more at LuLu Hypermarket using a Visa Card, which grants them an e-Raffle coupon to win FIFA World Cup packages, tickets, FIFA World Cup themed products

and LuLu gift vouchers. Shoppers can claim a double chance to win the prizes when they make an online purchase through the official website of LuLu Hypermarket.

This promotion is running until December 27. Visa, an official payment technology partner for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, has joined hands with LuLu Hypermarket for this campaign.

The prizes were handed to the customers at the regional headquarters of LuLu Group in Doha by LuLu Hypermarket regional manager Shanavas. "We invite everyone to take part in this promotion and receive plenty of offers available at our hypermarkets and celebrate with us," he said.



The prizes were handed to the customers at the regional headquarters of LuLu Group in Doha by LuLu Hypermarket regional manager Shanavas.

Time to celebrate



Glimpses from the FIFA Fan Festival and the Doha Corniche World Cup celebrations yesterday. PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam



Live it all in Qatar!

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. Until November 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 from the afternoon.

● **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 Aboud Beach 974** Hit the shore at Beach 974, extending from the heart of Doha along Ras Abu Aboud's glistening waterfront. Combine football and beach life, enjoy the water - then kick back and let the beat move your feet! Timings: 9am-6pm. For more details, visit <https://www.qatar2022.qa/en/live-it-all-in-qatar/ras-abu-aboud-beach-974>

qatar2022.qa/en/live-it-all-in-qatar/ras-abu-aboud-beach-974

● **MDLBEAST Presents: Aravia** Step off the pitch and onto the dance floor for 28 Arabian nights. 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 until night with live music, parades and street performances. You'll be captivated by it all! Taking place until December 18, daily from 11am-2am. Access: public (some activities require admission tickets).

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

● **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.

Darb Al Saai all set for QND 2022 celebrations

Darb Al Saai is set to host various cultural, artistic and literary activities as part of Qatar National Day 2022 celebrations under the motto 'Our unity source of our strength' over 24 days, from November 25 - December 18 at Umm Salal Mohamed.

These include a rich collection of diverse events that cover intellectual forums, poetry recitation, theatrical shows and performances, traditional, heritage and folklore events, and multiple visual arts aimed at showing the Qatari culture and original heritage. Accordingly, the Ministry of



Culture has prepared a large collection of events with 4,500 dif-

ferent culture and heritage activities that cover more than 191



main events. Darb Al Saai theatre will have more than 46 different

activities daily, including 24 culture forums, six poetry recita-

tion events, and nine performances with the participation of the Theatre Affairs Centre, Music Affairs Centre, Visual Arts Centre and Qatar Poetry Centre, in addition to Qatar Media Centre, Qatari Forums of Authors, Qatar Photography Centre and all the other centres under the Ministry of Culture.

The Organising Committee of the National Day 2022 celebrations affirmed that all such activities aim at enhancing the participation of all the residents and visitors of Qatar, besides stressing the history of the country and its heritage as part

of celebrating the major sports event - FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Besides the good number of theatrical shows, plays and performances, there will be two plays for family and kids about the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The first play, titled 'FIFA Cup Journey' and the second play, 'Realise Your Dream,' will be at the puppet theatre.

There will be daily workshops for kids on how to make puppets using simple materials available at home. Children will also learn how to paint and decorate the puppets and make them move.

2023 FJ Cruiser 'Final Edition' now available

Abdullah Abdulghani & Bros Co (AAB), the distributor of Toyota vehicles in Qatar, is showcasing the 2023 FJ Cruiser "Final Edition".

The vehicle is available at the main Toyota showroom in Al Abdughani Tower, Old Airport area, and at the Toyota City Center Doha showroom.

With just 1,000 units available worldwide, the "Final Edition" comes with unique features and gives off-road ad-

venturers the opportunity to own a piece of motoring history.

The FJ Cruiser is set to be discontinued in December after more than 15 years as one of the region's most popular SUVs.

"Inspired by almost half a century of tough off-road performance from the legendary FJ40 4x4 utility vehicle, the FJ Cruiser was developed as a capable SUV aimed specifically at drivers looking to push the limits," a press statement noted.

"Launched in 2007, the model was hailed as an instant classic by customers and critics alike, particularly in the Middle East where it has gained an enthusiastic following among off-roaders," the statement said. "The 2023 'Final Edition' adopts a single tone select beige colour for the exterior, upholstery and centre cluster trim, creating a distinctive sense of modernity."

Adding to the vehicle's rugged appeal, a special black coating has been applied extensively throughout the exterior, including the blacked-out grill, bumpers, exterior mirrors, door handles and spare tyre cover.

Seventeen-inch aluminium wheels and side steps are included, and a "Final Edition" badge indicating the vehicle's unique number underlines the limited edition's exclusivity.

The FJ Cruiser rides into the sunset leaving lasting memories of one of the most iconic SUVs in Toyota's rich history.

The vehicle's winning combination of off-road capabilities, style, and performance make it equally at home during desert adventures or everyday activities and provides a comfortable and dependable experience for

drivers and passengers, wherever their journeys may lead, the statement points out.

Although the model will be discontinued, the "excitement of off-road capabilities lives on" with other adventure-ready Toyota vehicles, such as the iconic Land Cruiser, GR Sport Variant, and Prado.

Powered by a DOHC, 4.0-litre V6 engine that incorporates dual independent Variable Valve Timing with intelligence, the 2023 FJ Cruiser is capable of producing 270 horsepower and 380Nm of peak torque.

It is also equipped with a wide range of driver assistant features such as Active Traction Control (A-TRAC), Crawl Control, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) with an off switch, and electronically controlled locking rear differential.

In addition to stellar all-terrain performance, drivers enjoy greater peace of mind thanks to Toyota's world-class safety features.

"The FJ Cruiser's legendary status as one of the most unique Toyota SUVs and proven durability throughout the years will live on in the hearts of its owners and the Toyota family," the statement added.



The 2023 FJ Cruiser 'Final Edition'.



Fans throng Msheireb Downtown Doha to celebrate football.

MDD hosting special events today in support of Qatar team

Amid the excitement across the country in celebration of football, Msheireb Downtown Doha (MDD) is offering special activations today in support of the Qatar national team.

The activations start at 5pm at Msheireb Museums' Al Annabi Village and continue with street parades in the MDD.

Visitors and fans can gather to cheer for the team.

Maryam al-Jassem, manager of PR and Communication at Msheireb Properties, said: "We are excited to share this special event in support of our



Roving parades at Msheireb Downtown Doha.

national team with fans and visitors at the heart of Doha."

"We encourage everyone to come and show their Al Annabi spirit and celebrate the joyous moment together," she said. "This is our way to demonstrate our confidence in our team and to celebrate our nation's success in organising the biggest event in the world."

Located at Msheireb Museums' Heritage Zone, Al Annabi Village is the main celebration area for the Qatar national team.

Visitors and fans can take part in various activities to celebrate special moments.



A view of the venue.



The VIP lounge.

Free access to QetaiFAN Beach Fest from today

QetaiFAN Beach Fest moves full speed ahead with announcement of key updates

main stage will be priced at \$65.

4. Admission to the VIP Area

Access will be priced at \$100 (including complimentary food from 4pm to 1am) or \$200 for the Main Stage Terrace access.

Tickets are available through Q-Tickets at www.q-tickets.com

5. Grand Opening

The festival's formal opening has been announced to take place today (November 24).

Fans will be able to enjoy the live streaming of that day's games (Switzerland vs Cameroon, Uruguay vs Korea Republic, Portugal vs Ghana, and Brazil vs Serbia), followed by the performance of French Montana.

The party continues until 4am.

6. Festival Bus Services

Easy access to the site is provided by all-day bus lines across the city, with the following dedicated shuttle bus services:

- From and to Al Messila (operating from 10am-3am)
- From and to Qatar University (operating from 10am-3am)
- From and to Place Vendome (operating from 10am-5am)
- Return only - to West Bay Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC, operating from 2am-5am)

QetaiFAN Beach Fest BUS TRANSPORT ROUTES

- QetaiFAN Beach Fest → West Bay (DECC)**
(2:00 AM - 5:00 AM)
- Al Messila ↔ QetaiFAN Beach Fest**
(10:00 AM - 3:00 AM)
- Qatar University ↔ QetaiFAN Beach Fest**
(10:00 AM - 3:00 AM)
- Place Vendôme Mall ↔ QetaiFAN Beach Fest**
(10:00 AM - 5:00 PM)

With the FIFA World Cup now well under way, the month-long QetaiFAN Beach Fest in Lusail is moving full speed ahead, welcoming fans from around the world and announcing fresh updates:

1. Safety and Security

Due to "extreme meteorological conditions", access to the General Admissions Area was restricted for four hours on Sunday (November 20), for health and safety reasons to protect all fans, a press statement said.

Once the authorities cleared all safety procedures, the event organisers allowed everyone to enter for free and provided two options to people who had bought a ticket for the event: a refund or re-book for a different day.

2. Free Admission

From today (November 24), the festival will offer free admission to the General Admissions Area - enabling all visitors to enjoy the beach, music, activities and F&B facilities, as well as watch live games on the giant screens.

3. Stage Tickets

Tickets for access to the front stage area during special music performances on the

Katara building bridges of culture and art as Iranian exhibition opens

As part of the activities at Katara - the Cultural Village accompanying the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Katara general manager Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti inaugurated yesterday the Iranian Cultural Exhibition in Hall 12, in the presence of Iran's ambassador to Qatar Hamid Reza Dehghani.

The exhibition will continue until December 18, Qatar National Day.

The Iranian Cultural Exhibition in-

cludes various pieces of art, crafts and handicrafts that highlight the nobility of traditional arts and are famous in various Iranian regions.

These have been made by the skilled hands of Iranian craftsmen, and cover the art of making rosewater, saffron, ring art, copper plates, handmade carpets, traditional textiles, painting and engraving on metal, according to a press statement.

A section is also dedicated to traditional Iranian costumes made of pure silk and embroidered with golden and silver threads, and made over four long years - reflecting its ancient civilisation.

There is also a plastic arts pavilion that showcases the works of Iranian artist Mohamed Khazaei, which combines the authenticity of heritage, the beauty of decoration, the charm of letters, and the sweetness of nature and

the environment, the statement adds.

The exhibition also hosts a range of cultural activities, artistic concerts and accompanying craft workshops, most notably the Iranian music segment presented by an artistic group, which will present musical evenings that reflect the richness of the Iranian artistic culture throughout the exhibition.

"It combines originality and renewal, and represents the cultural diversity that abounds in the various provinces, regions and cities of Iran," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the oud instrument exhibition being held at the Katara Oud Centre, behind the Golden Mosque, is witnessing a great turnout of lovers of this musical instrument with a long history.

The exhibition includes playing of the oud, which is held thrice a day - from 1.30pm-2pm, from 4pm-4.30pm, and from 7pm-7.30pm.

Visitors to the oud exhibition can visit the Oud Museum, where variants of the instrument dating back to different historical eras are exhibited.

There are also other models of oud made in different times, and visitors to the exhibition can see archaeological manuscripts that describe the instrument, its kinds and the best types of wood used in making it.

It is expected that the oud instrument exhibition will host a major lecture in which Dr Majid Nazim, the director of Katara Oud Centre, will talk about the history of the instrument all over the world, as well as the existing schools around the world to play the oud.

The Katara Oud Centre organises courses on playing the oud, and these



Snapshots from the event yesterday.

are highly popular with those interested, the statement added.

On the other hand, the 12th Katara Traditional Dhow Festival continues to present various events and activities, attracting a large audience of different nationalities.

The traditional dishes available at the festival cater to foreign visitors who want to discover traditional Qatari cuisine.

These are in addition to developing an interest - among visitors - in traditional crafts and industries showcased at the participating pavilions - inspired by the maritime heritage.

The distinguished performances of an Omani folk band and the accompanying performances add to the atmosphere of fun and entertainment at the Katara Beach promenade.





Football fans from across the world and Qatar residents throng Souq Waqif round-the-clock. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen



FIFA World Cup fans throng Souq Waqif

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

Cheering fans, cultural events and music performances – the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 fever is gripping every corner at Doha's Souq Waqif.

Thousands flock there spend their evening, strolling through the corridors, with many taking the opportunity to sample Arabian dishes.

One of the top tourism destinations in Doha and a favourite heritage attraction, Souq Waqif has its walls adorned with flags and sporting artistic installations, with big screens installed at various places.

The corridors are decorated with sculptures that reflect the spirit of the World Cup.

"The souq is the place where one can truly sense the World Cup joy the country is now experiencing," a shop owner told *Gulf Times*. "We are witnessing a huge flow of visitors from afternoon to midnight."

Yesterday Souq Waqif hosted cultural programmes by Senegal fans and Afghan community

members who danced in tune to the traditional music.

Souq Waqif is located at the heart of Doha, near tourist spots such as Msheireb Downtown Doha and the Corniche.

The authorities have set up bus services from various parts of Doha to Souq Waqif, while shuttle services are available to various tourism destinations.

There are volunteers and staff to guide members of the public to the nearby Souq Waqif Metro Station, which is always busy with visitors as well as Qatar residents.

Discover Qatar has also opened a counter at Souq Waqif to offer tourism and general information.

Souq Waqif is also hosting heritage events that celebrate and highlight local and Arab heritage, introducing Qatari and Arab customs and traditions.

"We came here since we didn't want to miss the vibe," said Daniel Hervey from the US. "The souq is really enthralling with its features that include the architectural structure and warm hospitality."

Souq Waqif is open 24 hours during the World Cup.



Indian expatriate Arun supports the German team but has nice words for Japanese people.

Qatar 2022 building a bridge of communication between cultures

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Logging and picture-taking with supporters of different participating teams at a tournament like the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 have become a universal language for many football fans.

The opening of the World Cup on November 20 saw many residents and visitors enthusiastically joining supporters of opposing teams in revelries and other activities taking place at various locations in Doha.

Just outside the Sports City metro station yesterday, before the Japan vs Germany match, supporters of both teams – many clad in traditional costumes – had plenty of fun taking pictures together.

"Everyone understands what it means when a stranger hands you his or her phone, joins your group for a picture ... no need for words, and it feels great to see such as a lovely atmosphere," said Filipino expatriate Lydia,

who along with his family, supports the Japanese football team.

Indian expatriate Arun echoed a similar view, saying that such gestures shows that sport, football in particular, builds connections between people who speak different languages.

While he supports the German football team, he only has nice words for the Japanese people, saying: "I love the people from Japan, they are very neat, respectful, and friendly."

His compatriot and fellow German team supporter Jerin Johnny agreed.

Johnny cited the Japanese people's positive traits, such as punctuality, cleanliness and courteousness – traits that other nationalities can learn from.

This was highlighted in a viral video showing Japanese fans cleaning the Al Bayt Stadium after the tournament's opening and first match between Qatar and Ecuador.

"Japan, one of the best cleanest countries I ever seen, and they are very down to earth, very polite," Johnny added.

Miyu from Japan, who spent time taking pictures with both Japanese and German supporters, lauded the organisation of the World Cup in Qatar, in particular the efficient transportation system.

"People are very kind, the metro is very good, Arabic food is tasty, and the tournament is well organised," she said.

Fellow Japanese national Taka, along with a group of friends, also took videos and pictures with supporters – both families and individuals – roaming the venue.

Asked about Qatar's infrastructure, he said that he was overwhelmed.

Taka described the stadiums as "incredible, fashionable and amazing", adding that he plans to visit some of the museums and tourist spots.

Some German supporters, with the German flag painted on their faces, were also seen cheering for Japan, chanting familiar Japanese words such as *komichiwa* (hello) and *arigatou gozaimasu* (thank you).



Indian expatriate Jerin, who supports the German team, finds Japanese people humble and courteous.



Taka and his compatriots with young German supporters.



Both Japanese and German football fans spend time taking videos and pictures. **PICTURES:** Joey Aguilar



Fan zones at different places.



'FIFA Qatar 2022 for All' initiative wins global praise

The 'FIFA Qatar 2022 for All: Sharing the Joy of Refugees and Displaced Persons' initiative launched by Qatar has been praised by governmental and local authorities in many countries where Qatar Charity (QC) is supervising its implementation in co-operation with its partners.

The initiative, launched in conjunction with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, aims to share the joy with refugees and the displaced inside the camps and allow them to watch the matches and enjoy the various World Cup activities in the camps of six countries: Jordan, Bangladesh, Sudan, Somalia, (northern) Syria and Kenya.

Somalia

In the Shbilli camp, the largest camp for the displaced in Somalia, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Sports and Youth in Najal region, Saeed Hassan, shared with the displaced the joy of inaugurating the fans' area. On the sidelines of his participation, he said: "We came here to share the joy of the displaced and refugees watching the World Cup, and I hope that this event will be a starting point for social cohesion and cohesion among the camp's residents," he said adding "holding this great event in Qatar is a source of pride for Muslims and Arabs."

Abdul Karim Adam Hussein, Social Affairs officer at the Municipality of Jarowi, said: "This event contributes to improving the psychological state of the drought-affected displaced peo-



People enjoy the World Cup matches at a fan zone.

ple in the local community, and enhancing social care for them throughout the event, which lasts an entire month."

Syria

In northern Syria, fans' areas at Al-Kaiba camp in the Al-Rai area had a remarkable presence of the displaced, with the participation of the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management co-ordinator (AFAD) for the city of Al-Rai, Niazi Demir, who expressed his thanks to Qatar and QC for this initiative. He said, "This tent has a great impact, as more than 2,000 people live in the camp, who are unable to participate or hold any social event. Thanks to Qatar, and this tent, this camp has become a special place to watch and enjoy the events of the 2022 World Cup."

Bangladesh

At the Bhasan Char camp, more than 6,000 Rohingya refugees, in addition to orphaned children sponsored by Qatar Charity in Bangladesh, enjoyed watching the 2022 FIFA World Cup matches. The opening ceremony of the fans' area in Bhasan Char camp was attended by many camp officials who expressed gratitude to Qatar and QC. Tariq al-Islam, a government official in the camp, said: "The effort of Qatar Charity and other organisations is commendable, and I hope the refugees will enjoy the event."

Darfur, Sudan

In Darfur, the fan zones were inaugurated in a sporting and cultural atmosphere with the participation of the displaced from camps (Abu Shouk, Zam-

zam and Abuja), in the presence of the Minister of Youth and Sports and several government officials in Darfur.

Tajuddin Ibrahim al-TaHER, commissioner for Voluntary Return and Resettlement in the Darfur states, thanked Qatar for the initiative and described the establishment of areas for fans as a brilliant gesture by the organisers. He said it will have a great impact on displaced and citizens of North Darfur.

In addition to Qatar Charity, several entities - the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar Fund for Development, Qatar Red Crescent Society, Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, and beIN Sports - are participating in the organisation of the 'FIFA Qatar 2022 for All: Sharing the Joy of Refugees and Displaced' initiative.

QFFD renews support for 96,000 Syrian refugees

The Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) has provided multi-purpose cash assistance for some 96,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan for two months.

The contribution, totalling \$2.6mn, will enable UNHCR to offer critical cash assistance to more than 13,500 Syrian refugees in Jordan and close to 82,400 in Lebanon to help them afford their most basic needs, such as food, shelter, and medication in October and November.

The assistance is the outcome of an agreement signed by QFFD, the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

Director General at QFFD, Khalifa al-Kuwari, said: "QFFD spares no effort in responding to the ever-growing humanitarian



needs around the world. The onset of winter makes our efforts more crucial to support those in urgent need of assistance. We are proud of our partnership with UNHCR and we believe it is critical that we continue to work together to ensure no one is left behind."

UNHCR Senior Adviser and Representative to the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Countries Khaled Khalifa said: "This timely contribution is providing much-needed hope to the most vulnerable Syrian refugees, es-

pecially as winter has set in.

"We are grateful for the Qatar Fund for Development's continued and unwavering support to UNHCR, and we look forward to further expanding our strong partnership to assist the forcibly displaced around the world."

Qatar has a long history of addressing the needs of those affected by conflicts, especially those forced to flee their countries.

Qatar's pivotal role in supporting UNHCR's programmes has

helped alleviate the suffering of those in most need, with total contributions from the Government of Qatar and Qatari organisations exceeding \$373mn since 2010.

For over a decade, UNHCR has provided life-saving humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon, helping the most vulnerable with a wide array of programmes, including multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA).

UNHCR's MPCA is among the most cost-efficient and successful means of aid delivery since it directly supports the local economy while also granting refugees the freedom and dignity to make their own financial decisions.

Cash assistance is particularly important to refugees during the winter months when expenditures tend to rise as families try to remain warm. (QNA)

Ooredoo customers to experience incredible world of AR during World Cup

Ooredoo has announced an exciting new activation that will see customers win great prizes and get the chance to experience a whole new world with Augmented Reality (AR).

The telco leader has hidden treasures all over Lusail Winter Wonderland, Place Vendôme Mall, and Al Bidda Fan Zone, and designed a fun, interactive activation for customers to enjoy.

The treasures, footballs, must be collected to win prizes. Participants must also find the other treasure stations and complete the challenge to win a bonus prize.

To play the game, customers need simply register via <https://treasurehunt.ooredoonation.com> or the Ooredoo Nation app, then scan the QR code. Once they are registered, they can check the treasure map and guess where the treasure is hidden from the clues. They would then visit the treasure hunt station, scan the QR code and launch the augmented reality camera to collect their treasure. Customers must find and collect all the treasures at each station to win more prizes and to get the clue to find the next station. They can visit all the stations to win as many prizes as they can and successfully complete the Ooredoo



Treasure Hunt to win a bonus prize. Sabah Rabiah al-Kuwari, director, PR at Ooredoo, said: "Augmented reality offers an exciting new experience to our customers, one with which they will become more and more familiar as our strategic digital transformation continues and technology becomes ever more sophisticated. With the world's greatest sporting event only days away, the atmosphere in Doha is already electric, and our awesome game will only make it more so." Ooredoo Treasure Hunt runs until December 15, 2022, and players can initiate the game and complete the journey any time within this game period.

Audi Qatar donates QR100,000 to Qatar Cancer Society

Audi Qatar donated QR100,000 to the Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) in October in honour of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The move is in line with Audi Qatar's corporate social responsibility initiative to raise awareness of the disease in the country, with a percentage of the profits of cars sold during the month donated.

"We are once again honoured to partner with the Qatar Cancer Society," said Ahmed Shariefi, managing director of Audi Qatar.

This marks the fifth year Audi Qatar has been associated with QCS in the fight to raise awareness of the disease in the country.

Audi Qatar also partici-



pated in a gala dinner organised by QCS and supported by providing vehicles to transport guests to and from the event.

"We express our gratitude for the generous donation by Audi

Qatar in the field of charitable and humanitarian work, especially in the health sector, and for the support for the awareness campaign by the Qatar Cancer Society," said Mona Ashkanani, general manager, QCS.

QT, SC launch social media contest

Qatar Tourism (QT) and the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) announced a new, joint social media competition calling upon the country's visitors to share their #UltimateQatarExperience. As Qatar is set to welcome more than 1mn visitors in November and December, the competition encourages tourists to showcase their experiences whilst visiting the country. For a chance to win a \$100,000 prize, visitors simply need to upload pictures and videos to their social media channels, using the @VisitQatar and #UltimateQatarExperience tags.

Three different prize values are open to entrants (\$100,000, \$50,000, and \$30,000), that each include a three-night stay at a 5-star hotel, return flights from Qatar Airways, and two tickets to a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Commenting on the competition, Haya al-Noaimi, marketing and promotions sector at Qatar Tourism, said: "The #UltimateQatarExperience competition will build on the excitement in the air, and which will give the country's millions of visitors this winter a chance to showcase their experience. As we prepare to welcome the world, we look forward to seeing Qatar's abundant natural beauty and host of unforgettable experiences represented in such inventive ways."

Fatma al-Nuaimi, the SC's communications & media executive director, said: "We are pleased to collaborate with Qatar Tourism for this exciting competition, which is sure to attract thousands of entries from the many fans joining us in the coming months. We look forward to seeing the amazing experiences fans enjoy during the tournament." The competition closes on December 2. Winners will be notified via their social media channels and have 48 hours to claim their prize.

World Cup opening ceremony's success 'a vindication of Qatar's great efforts'

Qatari film director and supervisor of the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, CEO of Katara Studios, Ahmed al-Baker, said the success of the opening ceremony of the tournament was the culmination of Qatar's efforts over 12 years in preparation for hosting the global event.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Baker said the grand success of the opening ceremony was an apt response and vivid refutation to the scepticism and smear campaigns unleashed against the capabilities of Qatar and Arabs in general to organise this global event.

Al-Baker said the growing stature of Qatari and Arab culture is a result of the confidence of Qatar's leadership in its youth, in addition to the confidence



Ahmed al-Baker

of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy in the abilities of the Qatari innovative artists, as well as FIFA's support and the efforts by the Arab crews and cadres, along with the Qatari and foreign teams.

He indicated that this confidence was the best appreciation for Qatar's efforts and was a catalyst for the innovation.

Mzayen World Cup looks to promote sport heritage globally

With the aim of spreading sports heritage, promoting sports tourism, and taking pride in the national identity, the Qatar Camel Mzayen Club is organising the Mzayen World Cup, under the slogan 'Desert Dhows'.

The event will be held on the sidelines of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, in co-operation with the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC).

The tournament, which starts today and will continue until December 2, aims to enhance the status of Arabian camels at the local, regional and international levels, support the sport of the ancestors, encourage Qatari and Gulf owners to continue breeding camels, preserve rare breeds and provide an ideal environment for camels.

The nine-day competitions will take place during the morn-

ings at the Labseer Square in Al Shahaniya area. The event is expected to see unprecedented participation by the strongest and best types of local and Gulf camels. The winner of the 2022 Qatar Camel Festival "Jazilat Al Atta" is one of the star participants. The tournament is set to be an exceptional sporting event due to the strength of the camels participating.

The competition is divided into three categories: Al Maghaateer, Al Majahim, and Al Asayel, with three days for each category from the age of Al Haqiq to Al Gel.

The event also aims to promote sports tourism, enhance pride in the national identity, and highlight the status of camels among the people of the Arabian Peninsula, as well as spread the image of popular sports heritage globally. It seeks to introduce World



Cup fans to local sports. With this in mind, the organisers have planned accompanying events such as riding and camels shows, a milking competition, an exhibition of camel collectibles, and other events.

The participating camels will compete for prizes exceeding

QR10mn, and for 45 gold, silver, and bronze cups, with 15 cups for each type, and 45 gold, silver, and bronze medals, with 15 medals for each one.

Participation is limited to the winning camels of the first 10 places in the runs of the Qatar Camel Festival 2022, in addition

to one of the winning camels in three "Al Marsas" runs and a winning camel of the festival.

For the Al Haqiq category, the first place will receive a gold cup, a gold medal, and a cash prize of QR200,000.

The second place winner will receive a silver cup and medal, and a cash prize of QR150,000.

The third place winner will receive a bronze cup and medal, and a cash prize of QR100,000, while places from fourth to 10th will receive cash prizes, and so on for all runs.

The championship is one of the strongest tournaments locally and regionally as it will witness the participation of the best Qatari and Gulf breeds.

The Qatar Camel Mzayen Club has launched a 'Gene bank' project to build a national archive for camels and preserve their breeds, in addition to installing new chips on camels

participating in all festivals and tournaments organised by the club. The project aims to contribute to the preservation of strains and the stability of their genetic fingerprint. The chips help in camel identification during buying and selling. The verification process involves taking blood samples during registration and alignment of the fingerprint, and installation of new chips. The project in its first phase targets 700 camels qualified for the Mzayen World Cup.

The Qatar Camel Mzayen Club has prepared seven events for visitors to the Mzayen World Cup. The activities will be open daily to all visitors, from local audiences to World Cup fans.

The events include the Desert Dhows exhibition, camel parade show, mahaleb competition, the "beit shaar"

and display of camel varieties. Fans can also learn about camels training. Visitors can enjoy Arab hospitality at the "beit shaar", where guests of the tournament will be welcomed with Arabic coffee and popular dishes.

On the sidelines of the tournament, an exhibition of camel collections will be held in co-operation with the Qatar Museums represented by the National Museum of Qatar, the Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al-Thani Museum, the Sheikh Hassan bin Mohamed Al-Thani Museum, and the Mansour Al Ruwaili Museum.

The Mzayen World Cup is being held under the umbrella of the Ministry of Sports and Youth, in partnership with the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, the Ministry of Municipality, and the "Hayatuna" event. (QNA)

Pele's daughter explains how football can change perceptions about culture

Brazilian football legend Pelé's eldest daughter Kely Nascimento-DeLuca spoke about the role of sport in empowering societies and bridging gender gaps, at Generation Amazing Foundation's Goal 22 programme she hosted yesterday.

Addressing the session titled 'The Untapped Power of the Beautiful Game,' she recalled: "After my father joined the New York Cosmo Club, we moved from our home in Brazil to the US, and we discovered that not many people were aware of our culture. But the game of football allowed me to travel the world and take my culture everywhere."

Nascimento-DeLuca highlighted that in today's day and age, with the spread of social media, it is amazing to see how sports can change the way people feel about an entire culture. During her talk, Nascimento-DeLuca also touched upon the issues of gender gap, and how closing it can help in building better societies. According to her, there is a link between sustainable development and



Participants at the event.

sport, and when girls participate in sports, preconceived attitudes about what a girl can do, begin to change. For Nascimento-DeLuca, football is not just a game - it has an incredibly powerful impact on society development. Nascimento-DeLuca stated that the expectations for the FIFA World

Cup Qatar 2022 to be watched by about 5bn viewers around the world indicate the great responsibility of the host country to make the most of this massive event in addressing global and local problems, and to promote development through sport. "This foundation set the bar for what needs to be, I think, a

blueprint to be followed by all host nations. But the question here is how will your nation leverage the power of this beautiful game to address sustainable development goals and to contribute to the fight for the survival of our planet?" Nascimento-DeLuca's message to the youth of the Amazing



Kely Nascimento-DeLuca speaking at the event.

Generation Foundation was to raise their voices. She said: "How wonderful it is to witness in your life the World Cup being held in Qatar and in the Middle East for the first time.

"I believe in your generation as the first truly to wholeheartedly embrace their moral compass and make decisions with it. "You represent 32 countries in the tournament, and this

means that you will witness this tournament being held in your country, so, raise your voice and tell the world about this unique experience and start making the change immeasurable."

Hilton Doha's cheerful football season



Hilton Doha is celebrating FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 with 'exquisite rooms, game streaming, and eight food and beverage venues' to host fans from all over the globe, a statement said yesterday. Shots, Tahitian Village, Trader Vic's, Bab Al Bahr and Society are among the venues to celebrate the season, the statement added.

Mercedes-Benz model recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Nasser bin Khaled Automobiles, has announced the recall of Mercedes-Benz GLC, 2022 model, due to a possible damage in the air bellows of the ball joint of the upper transverse control arm at the front axle that will lead to the ingress of the water particles and dirt.

The recall campaign comes within the framework of the MoCI's continuous efforts to protect consumers and ensure that dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs. The MoCI said that it will co-ordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out.

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

Experts laud Qatar's 'truly accessible FIFA World Cup tournament'

Just days into the world's biggest sporting event, experts from Qatar Foundation (QF) looked at Qatar's goal of hosting the most accessible tournament in history is on track.

A panel discussion yesterday included Mark Dyer, accessibility and inclusivity strategist at the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy who spoke about feedback, the event has received.

"It is not just about going to a match - there are lots of other areas that we needed to provide for," Dyer said. "We've gone beyond looking at what we provide in the stadiums, and that creates a challenge because the more accessible seats we provide in matches, the more demand we create for us and for the rest of the country in terms of accommodation, transportation, and attractions.

"We are seeing a huge number of people with disabilities going to places like the fan festivals, the Corniche, and other areas. So even if you have come over here to experience the matches, you still have places that can offer you calmness and comfort and you still can feel integrated and that you belong to the experience."

With QF supporting the delivery of a truly accessible tournament, experts from the organisation reflected on the accessibility efforts and initiatives that QF has established - from its specialised schools such as Renad Academy and Awsaj Academy, to its Ability Friendly Programme, sensory rooms, audio-descriptive commentary of matches, the Accessibility



Experts at the panel discussion.

Volunteers programme and the Qatar for All accessibility guide.

"What we do as an organisation is unlock potential," said Nihal al-Saleh, programme manager at QF member Earthna, and an accessibility adviser. "With added access, we have added participation, and this is a benefit not only to people with disabilities, but also for the community as we see the transition in the way we talk about accessibility.

"It is a journey, and there will be things that come up with we will address as we go along, but it is not the end of the story. It started before the World Cup,

but will continue to go beyond that for a fully accessible Qatar - and it will make a great case study for the world."

The Education City Stadium hosted its first FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 match on Tuesday, providing an opportunity to reflect on how accessible the experience was for fans attending the game between Denmark and Tunisia.

"We all enjoy football and events in different ways, so it is important to enable people who come from transport hubs and as they come to the metro and parking areas - making sure they can access the stadium in a safe

and comfortable way, whether through tactile areas for those who may need sensory regulation in their way to the stadium, or by checking access from the mobility perspective," said Brooke Reid, manager of engagement and activation at Education City, QF.

The session also heard from Prof Joselia Neves, associate dean for social engagement and access at QF's Hamad Bin Khalifa University, who said: "As we were preparing for this World Cup, we were touching on areas that had not been addressed before. We started teaching and training experts that are now on the ground delivering services?"

Gaia and NYX Doha open in West Bay

Gaia and NYX Doha are now open in Doha's West Bay, offering the essence of Greece with traditional flavours, fresh ingredients, and the simplicity of home cooking, a statement said yesterday.

Gaia's exquisite cuisine is curated by chef Izu Ani and his expert culinary team. Open daily, guests are invited to indulge in a Greek-Mediterranean inspired menu, designed to be shared between friends and family. Gaia's signature Ice Market features an array of fresh fish and seafood delivered daily. As guests enter Gaia's beautiful whitewashed entrance, they are greeted with a welcoming dining area and lounge. The limestone walls and azure-coloured interior furnishings reflect the beauty of modern Greek architecture, whilst the magenta blooms of bougainvillea pay



homage to the bountiful botany of the Cyclades Islands. As guests venture through the restaurant, they will find NYX, a sophisticated and beautiful terrace. The rich and flamboyant

design integrates exquisite red and sapphire velvet textures with gold furniture, detailing and accessories. NYX's elegant terrace evokes the nostalgia of summer nights

on the Cyclades islands, whilst the live DJ creates an elegant and exclusive atmosphere with a blend of vocal, funk and deep house music, mixed with club classics.



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GULF TIMES

COP27 does little for next month's global agenda: nature loss

The UN climate talks in Egypt closed on Sunday with a resolution to address the dual crises of climate change and nature loss, but did little to boost next month's global meeting on biodiversity.

Countries will gather in Montreal in two weeks' time to seek a global deal to protect the world's declining wildlife and degraded ecosystems.

Many environment ministers and campaigners have said the climate talks should underline the importance of protecting nature to help to limit climate change.

But the final deal repeated much of the same language on nature as last year's Glasgow pact, and there was no mention of the upcoming UN biodiversity summit – COP15 – to take place on December 7-19.

The decision “failed to signal the need for (COP15) to be successful, demonstrating the continued unnecessary and outdated walls between the UN climate and biodiversity approaches,” said Brian O'Donnell, director of non-profit organisation Campaign for Nature.

Campaigners are calling for a fully-fledged “Paris Agreement for nature” at COP15 under which countries would set national conservation targets and then report routinely on their progress in meeting them as has happened for carbon emissions following the Paris climate accord.

The world's wildlife crisis is largely driven by habitat loss, with wild spaces turned into agricultural fields and cities, or degraded by pollution

Scientists believe the Earth is experiencing a sixth mass extinction event, with more than one million species at risk of disappearing.

The world's wildlife crisis is largely driven by habitat loss, with wild spaces turned into agricultural fields and cities, or degraded by pollution. But climate change poses an increasing threat as temperatures climb, pushing species out of their comfortable ranges.

The final deal from Sharm El-Sheikh spelt out “the urgent need to address, in a comprehensive and synergetic manner, the interlinked global crises of climate change and biodiversity loss”.

It encouraged parties to “consider, as appropriate, nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches” to climate change. These include strategies such as protecting forests or restoring wetlands to aid the Earth's natural ability to store carbon.

Marco Lambertini, director general of World Wildlife Fund International said nature-based solutions were critical.

“Even by achieving net-zero emissions ... we will not be achieving 1.5C. We need nature on our side,” he said.

China holds the COP15 presidency, although the summit is taking place in Montreal, the seat of the CBD secretariat, after being postponed four times from its original 2020 date in the Chinese city of Kunming.

China and Canada have worked closely on arranging the event and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau plans to attend, while Chinese President Xi Jinping is not expected.

The Chinese foreign ministry on Friday told Reuters that “the Chinese side will at the right moment disclose the attendance situation of Chinese officials”.

Canada's environment minister Steven Guilbeault said his country “had a very constructive and collaborative co-operation with China since the UN asked us to host COP15”. – Reuters



Surveillance technology makes US-Mexico border even deadlier

By Avi Asher-Schapiro
Tucson (Arizona)

Deep in the Arizona desert on the southern US border, a surveillance tower rises more than 150ft into the air, its swivelling cameras taking in the surrounding valley.

With a viewing range of up to 7.5 miles, it can watch over three nearby communities and into the foothills of the Baboquivari mountains, one of the most treacherous paths for migrants crossing from Mexico into the United States.

The newly-installed tower is among the latest additions to the so-called digital border wall that US border enforcement agents say they rely on to safeguard the nearly 2,000 mile frontier.

Humanitarians and academics worry though that the ballooning surveillance apparatus is creating a deathtrap for migrants.

“Out here, surveillance equals death,” said Sam Chambers, a geographer at Arizona State University who studies surveillance infrastructure and migration.

“The more cameras you put up, the more migrants are forced to take longer, riskier routes to avoid them – putting their bodies under stress and their lives in danger,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The growing assemblage of cameras, sensors, drones, and aerial surveillance is especially visible along the Arizona border zone known as the Tucson Sector, one of the busiest and deadliest crossing points for migrants from Mexico.

Since the 1990s, US border forces have attempted to block migrants from crossing into urban areas, Chambers said, with traditional checkpoints gradually superseded by technology

that monitors huge tracts of land.

Chambers builds intricate models that show how camera towers push migrants away from safer, more direct routes to circuitous paths through hard-to-monitor mountainous zones and deserts where scores die from thirst and exposure to extreme weather.

He has calculated that the routes which migrants take to avoid detection often require more water than they can carry and more exertion than the traditional ones – with deadly results.

Using data from the coroner's office, Chambers has mapped how the locations of corpses found in the desert have changed in response to the surveillance push, with more bodies now being uncovered in remote areas outside the towers' range.

“There's simply no humanitarian way to surveil the border,” he said.

As the numbers of people fleeing war, poverty, and environmental disaster reach record highs worldwide, states are increasingly turning to digital technologies to monitor migrant flows and enforce border controls.

According to a Government Accountability Office report, \$743mn was allocated for border surveillance tech from 2017-20 under former president Donald Trump.

While Trump planned to construct a physical border wall, President Joe Biden froze the project on his first day in office and pledged a more “humane” policy.

The Biden administration is voicing support for tech-enabled smart borders that use data analysis and AI to monitor and respond to events, and is directing money into digital surveillance tools.

In July, Biden inked a deal with the Mexican government to funnel more than \$1.5bn into border infrastructure, with much of the funds going to smart technologies.

Biden's 2022 budget proposal

includes \$1bn for both “border infrastructure” and “investments in modern border security technology and assets.”

At the border patrol's Tucson station operations room, agents pull in a staggering amount of intelligence.

There are real-time feeds from hundreds of motion sensors placed on suspected migrant routes, short-range cameras hidden in trees, and images from high-powered camera towers. Cameras even monitor the underground drainage system of the US border town of Nogales for migrants scrambling through the tunnels.

All of this data streaming into the operations room will soon be accessible on agents' smartphones in the field, through an app that is currently being piloted in Arizona.

“This is the proving ground for all sorts of tech,” said Jose Robert Ortiz, a border agent who was recently trained to fly a drone.

Border authorities say that people smugglers are to blame for migrants' deaths, and hi-tech surveillance is necessary to find – and save – people in an increasingly difficult job.

Arrests of undocumented migrants hit a record of over 2mn this year. Known deaths on the United States-Mexico border reached a high of 727 last year, according to data compiled by the UN's International Organisation for Migration.

“(People smugglers) take them up to the mountains and say, ‘Go, this is your best chance! They don't care about human life,’” said John Menell, a spokesperson for Arizona's border patrol force.

“When people get in trouble, we go help them – and the surveillance helps us know where they are,” he said, noting that agents respond to over a dozen calls for help a day.

Paige Corich-Kleim, a spokesperson

with humanitarian group No Mas Muertes, which means No More Deaths, said that the involvement of people smugglers was largely reaction to US border policy.

“By making it harder to cross, migrants had to turn to these groups for help – it used to be a simple journey,” she said.

Agents say it is hard to draw a direct connection between the surveillance tech and an uptick in arrests at the border, but the tools provide “situational awareness” in an environment where law enforcement is outnumbered by migrants seeking to cross.

On one day in September, agents remotely redirected a camera to home in on a group of migrants crossing a mountain ridge after they tripped a motion sensor.

The group was just outside the camera's range, about eight miles away, making the figures slightly blurry on the computer screen. But agents knew the path they were likely to take, and planned to intercept them when they descended the mountain.

Agents estimate they have approximately three days to catch a migrant after they cross into a town on foot or get picked up by a vehicle before they melt into the broader population, what agents call the vanishing line.

“The mission here is to detect, identify, and classify,” said Steven Adkison, deputy chief of border patrol in the Tucson Sector. “Our aim is area dominance.”

In 2021, 225 bodies were found near the Arizona border – the highest number since humanitarian groups started keeping count in the 1990s, and likely a severe undercount, as bodies often languish for years in the desert before they are found.

“Border patrol weaponised the desert,” said Raymond Daukei, an immigrant rights activist and member of the Tohono O'odham Native American people, whose reservation spans the border.

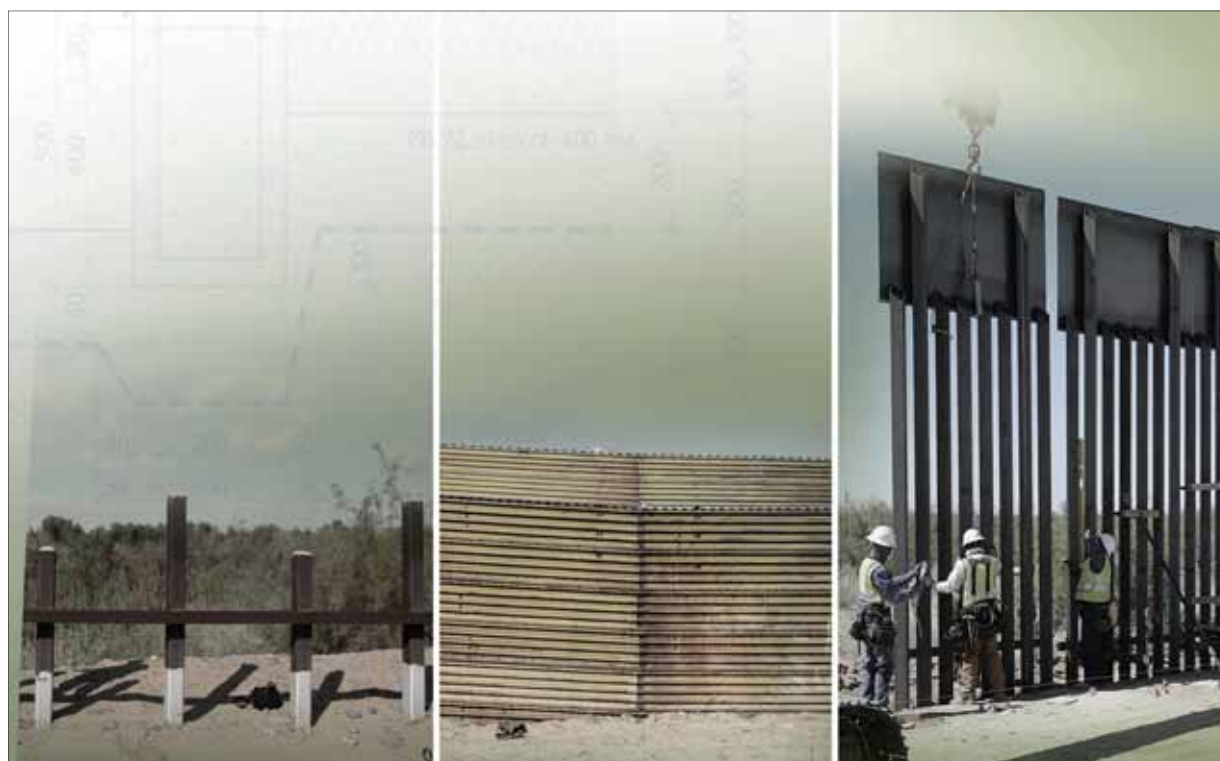
When Daukei was growing up in the 1980s, migrants rarely crossed in the remote reaches of the reservation, but stepped up enforcement in urban areas is funneling more migrants on to the tribe's land, he said.

Tohono O'odham leaders have grudgingly welcomed the new surveillance towers, saying they are necessary to help protect tribal members from the smuggling cartels that increasingly come on to their land.

“There are now people walking around with guns, homes have been broken into ... we are desperate for security,” said Kendall Jose, vice-chairperson of the reservation's Chukot Kuk District, where surveillance towers were recently erected.

The aid groups that have sprung to provide migrants with food, water and medical help doubt that the more surveillance technology will result in a safer border region.

“There's this idea that building a wall is violent and xenophobic but smart tech is not,” said Corich-Kleim of No Mas Muertes. “But really, it has the same effect.” – Thomson Reuters Foundation



EXPENSIVE: According to a Government Accountability Office report, \$743mn was allocated for border surveillance tech from 2017-20 under former president Donald Trump.

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Ukraine N-power plants shut after missile hits

■ Air raid sirens blare around country, 3 killed in Kyiv ■ We're unbreakable, says defiant Zelensky

Reuters
Kyiv

Russia unleashed a missile barrage across Ukraine yesterday, forcing shutdowns of nuclear power plants and killing civilians in Kyiv as Moscow pursued a campaign to plunge Ukrainian cities into darkness and cold with winter setting in.

All of the capital region, where over three million people live, was deprived of power and running water, Kyiv's governor said, as were many other regions where emergency blackouts were necessary to help conserve energy and carry out repairs.

Ukraine sought an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council, said President Volodymyr Zelensky, who was to address it later in the day.

"The murder of civilians and the destruction of civilian infrastructure are acts of terror. Ukraine will continue to demand a decisive response from the world to these crimes," he said in a tweet.

Officials across the border in Moldova said electricity was also lost to more than half of their country, the first time a neighbouring state has reported such extensive damage from

the war in Ukraine triggered by Russia's invasion nine months ago.

Blackouts forced the shutdown of reactors at Ukraine's Pivdenoukrainsk nuclear power plant in the south and the Rivne and Khmelnytskyi plants in the west, all in government-held territory, the state-run nuclear energy firm Energoatom said.

"Currently, they (power units) work in project mode, without generation into the domestic energy system," Energoatom said. Ukraine's largest nuclear complex, at Zaporizhzhia near the front lines in the south, is Russian-controlled and was previously switched off because of shelling that both sides blame on each other.

Air raid sirens blared across Ukraine in a nationwide alert.

Explosions reverberated throughout Kyiv last afternoon as Russian missiles bore down and Ukrainian air defence rockets were fired in efforts to intercept them.

At least three people in a residential block were killed including a 17-year-old girl, with at least 11 wounded, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said.

"I was sitting in my flat and I heard an explosion. My windows in my hall, kitchen and bedroom were thrown open by the blast wave," said Yuriy Akhymenko, 55, who lives in the apartment building across the road

from the one that was hit.

The ensuing power blackout was felt throughout the capital region, its governor said.

Most thermal and hydro-electric power plants were forced to shut down as well, Ukraine's energy ministry said. As a result, it said, the great majority of electricity consumers in areas of the country under Ukrainian control were cut off.

By 6pm, electricity in half of the western city of Lviv had been restored following repairs, its mayor said.

Earlier, Russian missiles hit a maternity hospital in the Zaporizhzhia region overnight, killing a baby, the regional governor said on the Telegram messaging service.

Blasts were also reported in other cities, where further information about casualties was not immediately available.

Ukraine's top military commander, General Valeriy Zaluzhnyi, said air defences shot down 51 of 67 Russian cruise missiles launched yesterday, including 20 of the 30 that targeted Kyiv.

Since October, Russia has openly acknowledged targeting Ukraine's civil power and heating systems with long-range missiles and drones. Moscow says the objective is to weaken Kyiv's ability to fight and push it to negotiate; Ukraine says the



A residential building destroyed by a Russian missile attack in the town of Vyshhorod near Kyiv yesterday. (Reuters)

strikes on infrastructure amount to war crimes, deliberately intended to harm civilians to break the national

will. That will not happen, Zelensky vowed in an earlier video address posted on the Telegram messaging

app. "We'll renew everything and get through all of this because we are an unbreakable people," he said.

Sharif set to pick new army chief

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is likely to pick a new army chief in the next couple of days, two government officials said yesterday, after the military said it had sent a list of six candidates to his office.

This key appointment has never attracted so much jockeying, lobbying and controversy, analysts said, mainly because former prime minister Imran Khan has alleged that the military played a key role in his ouster in a parliamentary vote in April. The military, a powerful institution in Pakistan that often led the country and has often decided who governs it, denies his allegations.

Last week Khan said that even if the military had not been involved it could still have saved his government. Khan has been leading a massive protest campaign since his ouster to demand snap polls.

The new military chief will replace General Qamar Javed Bajwa whose tenure ended on November 29. A statement from Sharif's office said it had received a list of names for the appointment of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Army Staff. It did not say how many names were on the list, but the military said it contained the six most senior lieutenant generals.

"It will be decided no later than in a couple of days," a government official told Reuters. Both Sharif and Khan could have their favourites on the list to ensure the support of a new chief ahead of general elections due next year amid continuing political and economic instability.

6 killed in Walmart Chesapeake shooting

A manager at a Walmart Inc store in Virginia entered a break room and opened fire on fellow employees before turning the gun on himself, an eyewitness said yesterday, leaving a total of seven dead in the latest mass shooting in the United States.

Walmart employee Briana Tyler told ABC's *Good Morning America* that the suspect, who police have not identified, said nothing as he began firing on the workers gathered ahead of their shift late Tuesday.

"I looked up and my manager just opened the door and he just opened fire," Tyler said. "He didn't say a word. He didn't say anything at all." Using a pistol, the suspect also injured at least four people, who were being treated at area hospitals, Chesapeake Police Chief Mark Solesky told a news conference yesterday. He did not disclose a possible motive for the shooting, but said the suspect died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Coming on the heels of the killing of five people at a Colorado Springs nightclub on Saturday, the latest massacre prompted another round of condemnations by public officials and calls by activists for tighter gun control. US President Joe Biden yesterday called the shooting "yet another horrific and senseless act of violence," vowing any federal resources needed to aid in the investigation.

"There are now even more tables across the country that will have empty seats this Thanksgiving," he said in a statement, noting a shooting earlier this month that left three University of Virginia students dead. "We must take greater action."

Employees told media that the shooter was a manager at the cavernous Walmart Supercenter just off Battlefield Boulevard in Chesapeake, a city of about 250,000 people south of Norfolk.

"The Battlefield Walmart just got shot up by one of my managers. He killed a couple of people. By the grace of God I made it out," another employee, Kevin Harper, told CBS. Jessie Wilczewski told WAVY-TV that she hid under a table and the shooter pointed the gun at her and told her to go home.

"It didn't even look real until you could feel



Crime scene tape blocks the parking lot of a Walmart following the shooting. (AFP)

the pow-pow-pow. You can feel it," the store employee said. "I couldn't hear it at first because I guess it was so loud. I could feel it." Tuesday's bloodshed marked the latest spasm of gun violence in the United States, where an average of two mass shootings — defined as an incident killing or injuring four or more people — occur every day, according to GunViolenceArchive.org.

Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin, who was already facing stepped-up calls for policies to address gun violence in the wake of the University of Virginia killings, ordered flags at local, state and federal buildings to be flown at half-staff.

"Heinous acts of violence have no place in our communities," Youngkin wrote on Twitter. It is not the first mass shooting at a Walmart, which has thousands of stores across the United States.

At a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, in August 2019, 23 people were killed in a mass shooting near the US-Mexico border in an act described as domestic terrorism by law enforcement. It was also the deadliest attack on the Hispanic community in modern times, Patrick Wood Crusius, then 21, from Allen, Texas, was arrested in the shooting and he left behind a manifesto with white nationalist and anti-immigrant themes.

Walmart in a statement on Wednesday said it was "shocked" at the violence at the Chesapeake store and it was working closely with law enforcement.

Scottish gov vows independence push despite court setback

Scotland's leader vowed yesterday to turn the next UK general election into a de facto vote on independence, after judges blocked her bid to hold a new referendum without London's approval.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said the ruling by the Supreme Court in London exposed the "myth" that Scotland could voluntarily leave the United Kingdom.

The unanimous ruling torpedoed the Scottish nationalist government's push to hold a second plebiscite next October — nearly a decade after Scots narrowly opted to remain in a pre-Brexit UK.

Sturgeon, who leads the Scottish National Party (SNP), said she respected the ruling, but accused Westminster of showing "contempt" for Scotland's democratic will.

The SNP-led government will now look to use the UK election due by early 2025 as a "de facto referendum" on separating after more than 300 years, Sturgeon told a news conference.

"We must and we will find another democratic, lawful and constitutional means by which the Scottish people can express their will. In my view, that can only be an election," she added. Outside the court, David Simpson, 70, who first voted for the SNP in 1970, said he was still hopeful of achieving independence in the future.

"This is not the end of the road," he told AFP. "There is nothing impossible."

Violent protests at largest iPhone factory in China

AFP
Beijing

Violent protests have broken out around Foxconn's vast iPhone factory in central China, as workers clashed with security personnel over pay and living conditions at the plant.

In videos shared with AFP or circulated on social media, hundreds of workers can be seen marching on a road and confronted by riot police as well as people wearing hazmat suits.

Taiwanese tech giant Foxconn yesterday confirmed the unrest. Footage shared with AFP and captured by a factory worker showed one person lying inert on the ground next to a man in a blood-spattered jacket having his head bound in an apparent effort to staunch a wound.

Another clip shows dozens of hazmat-clad personnel wielding batons and chasing employees, one of whom is knocked to the ground before appearing to be kicked in the head. The worker who shared the videos estimated that around 20 people were injured in the clashes, some of whom were taken to hospital. He requested anonymity to protect his safety. The confrontations broke out after

employees who signed an agreement with the factory to work at least 30 days in return for a one-time payment of ¥3,000 (\$420) suddenly saw the figure slashed to just 30 yuan, he told AFP.

Many workers were also incensed by "chaotic" living conditions, he said, adding that he "had not received any food" from the company since Tuesday. Some Covid-negative staff had also been ordered to work alongside colleagues who once tested positive but were not quarantined, the worker said.

Foxconn said workers had complained about pay and conditions at the plant but denied it had housed new recruits with Covid-positive staff at the Zhengzhou factory, the world's largest producer of iPhones.

"Regarding any violence, the company will continue to communicate with employees and the government to prevent similar incidents from happening again," the firm said in a statement. Apple did not respond to requests for comment.

China's unrelenting zero-Covid policy has caused fatigue and resentment among swaths of the population, some of whom have been locked down for weeks at factories and universities or left unable to travel freely.

New astronauts selected by European Space Agency

AFP
Paris

The European Space Agency (ESA) named five new career astronauts yesterday, as well as the world's first recruit with a disability and 11 other reserve astronauts who will have to wait for their chance to go to space.

Sophie Adenot: The 40-year-old French engineer has flown 3,000 flight hours as a helicopter test pilot.

Her masters at MIT in the United States included work on how to design a centrifuge to help astronauts train for different levels of gravity.

Adenot spent 15 years giving lectures about the importance of science and was awarded the French National Order of Merit in 2022 for being an ambassador for gender equality in science.

Rosemary Coogan: The 31-year-old Briton earned a PhD in astronomy at the University of Sussex in southeast England and has researched extra-terrestrial physics in Germany.

She joined the French space agency CNES earlier this year where she analysed images from the James Webb space telescope, among other projects. "I'm European but from the UK," she

said at the announcement ceremony. Though Britain left the European Union, it remains in the ESA.

Pablo Alvarez Fernandez: The Spanish aerospace engineer, born in 1988, already has experience with one of the ESA's main projects — he served as a mechanical architect on the ExoMars rover for aerospace firm Airbus.

He is fluent in Spanish, English, French and Polish, having done his master's degree at the Warsaw University of Technology.

Raphael Liegeois: The 34-year-old Belgian has studied biomedical engineering and neuroscience in Belgium and France.

The avid hot air balloon pilot also researched brain dynamics in health and disease, the ESA said.

Liegeois taught courses in neuro-engineering and statistics at Switzerland's University of Geneva last year.

In 2017, he spent four months cycling with his wife from Singapore to Belgium, meeting poets along the way.

Marco Sieber: Born in 1989, the Swiss doctor has been working in emergency helicopter rescue as well as being a resident urologist at a hospital in Switzerland.

Before receiving a medical degree at the University of Bern, Sieber was a



European Space Agency General Director Josef Aschbacher poses with members of its new class of astronauts during the European Space Agency Council at Ministerial level (CM22) at the Grand Palais Ephemere in Paris yesterday. (Reuters)

sergeant in the Swiss army, specialising in paratrooper training.

He dreamt of becoming an astronaut as child, he said in an ESA video.

"This fascination never really faded away," he said.

John McFall: The ESA selected McFall, a 41-year-old Paralympian, as history's first ever astronaut recruit with a disability. He will join the agency's "parastronaut feasibility programme".

McFall walks with a prosthesis after his right leg was amputated due to a motorcycle accident when he was 19.

He represented Great Britain at the 2008 Summer Paralympics, winning bronze in the T42 200 metres. McFall earned a degree in medicine and surgery in 2014 and has been working as a trauma and orthopaedic specialist in the south of England, the ESA said.

"I was incredibly excited and proud of myself that I got through the selection process," McFall said. "I'd never thought that being an astronaut was a possibility."

For the first time, the European Space Agency established a reserve pool of 11 astronauts. They were successful during the selection process, the ESA said, but were not able to be recruited yet. If an opportunity comes up, they will start training — but for the moment will stay in their old jobs.

There are six women and five men in the reserve — two from Italy, two from Germany, and one from Spain, Austria, France, Britain, Poland, Sweden and the Czech Republic.

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