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**Sport Page 7**

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## Qataris welcome fans to their majlis

While extending a warm welcome reflecting Qatar's spirit of hospitality, many Qataris have opened their camps and majlis to World Cup fans so as to familiarise them with Arab values, customs, traditions and cultural heritage. Among the new trendsetters are Khaled al-Ajmi and Adel Lary, who have opened the doors of their majlis to football fans from various countries. Talking to Qatar TV, al-Ajmi, who receives guests from 4pm-10pm, said that the initiative is aimed at introducing Qatari hospitality to the visitors. **Page 3**

**FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022**

**Today's schedule**

**Group F**

Canada vs Morocco, 6pm at Al Thumama Stadium

Croatia vs Belgium, 6pm at Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium

**Group E**

Costa Rica vs Germany, 10pm at Al Bayt Stadium

Japan vs Spain, 10pm at Khalifa International Stadium

**Yesterday's results**

**Group D**

Australia 1 Denmark 0  
Tunisia 1 France 0

**Group C**

Argentina 2 Poland 0  
Mexico 2 Saudi Arabia 1

## 37 EV charging units to be installed at Woqod stations

The Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (Kahramaa) and Qatar Fuel (Woqod) signed an agreement yesterday to supply, install and operate 37 charging units for electric vehicles (EV) at Woqod stations distributed over 22 sites in the country.

The agreement was signed by Essa bin Hilal al-Kuwari, President of Kahramaa, and Saad Rashid al-Muhannadi, CEO of Woqod. Ultra-fast and highly efficient, these units can charge cars in less than half an hour.

In a statement on this occasion, Essa al-Kuwari said that the signing of the agreement comes within the many initiatives undertaken by Kahramaa to establish and expand the electric

charging network for cars, in response to the strategy adopted by the Ministry of Transport in this regard.

He explained that the goal of these stations is to encourage people to use electric cars, which will reduce carbon emissions, as the means of transportation in the world in general represent a large proportion of carbon emissions.

This agreement achieves many goals for both parties, in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030 and its commitment to preserving the environment in Qatar to reduce harmful carbon emissions, as part of its plan to achieve comprehensive sustainability, including reducing fuel consumption and switching to sustainable transport. **(QNA)**



The agreement was signed by Essa bin Hilal al-Kuwari, President of Kahramaa, and Saad Rashid al-Muhannadi, CEO of Woqod.

## Tunisia, Saudi win hearts despite exit

- Dismal Denmark crash out of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022
- Argentina, Poland, Australia enter last 16 • Heartbreak for Mexico

Argentina, Poland and Australia qualified for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Round of 16 in contrasting fashion yesterday. While Argentina and Australia won their last group matches, Poland lost but still made it to the knockouts due to a better goal difference than Mexico.

On the other hand, it was heartbreak for Mexico as they bowed out despite winning their match against Saudi Arabia. The Saudis, who had earlier recorded a famous victory against Argentina, put up a fight against Mexico but fell short in the end. It was still a tremendous performance, making the Arab world proud of their heroes.



Argentina's midfielder Alexis Mac Allister (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring his team's first goal against Poland.

Earlier, Tunisia stunned France to register yet another famous Arab performance in the World Cup, while Denmark - a pre-tournament dark horse - ended their campaign with barely a whimper after losing to Australia in their last match. France's loss did not matter as they had already qualified for the last 16.

**MESSI MISS DOESN'T MATTER**

Undeterred by a missed Lionel Messi penalty, Argentina qualified for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Round of 16 in emphatic fashion when they outclassed Poland 2-0 in a Group

C clash at Stadium 974 yesterday. Alexis Mac Allister (46) and Julian Alvarez (67) scored for the South Americans after Messi's spot kick was brilliantly saved by Polish goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny in the 39th minute. Argentina topped the group with six points, while Poland also made it to the knockouts despite the loss as they edged past Mexico on goal difference. **To Page 4 Sport Pages 1-8**

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# Qataris welcome fans in true spirit of hospitality

By Shafeeq Alingal  
Staff Reporter

While extending a warm welcome reflecting Qatar's spirit of hospitality, many Qataris have opened their camps and majlis to the World Cup fans so as to enlighten them on Arab values, customs, traditions and cultural heritage. Among the new trendsetters are Khaled al-Ajmi and Adel Lary, who have opened the doors of their majlis to football fans from various countries.

Talking to Qatar TV, al-Ajmi, who receives guests from 4pm to 10pm, said that the initiative is aimed at introducing Qatari hospitality to the visitors. Al-Ajmi and Lary treat the guests with traditional Karak tea, Qahwa and Qatari sweets while acquainting them with the Qatari traditions and attire.

"The guests enjoy the food, snacks and the Oud perfume," Lary said. The fans, while thanking their Qatari hosts, said that they were pleased to spend the time at the majlis while getting to know the Qatari culture and heritage.

Talking to local Arabic daily *Ar-Rayah*, the Qatari citizens said they are keen to welcome the World Cup fans to their winter camps and majlis to get to know the Qatari people closely. They said the tourists' contact with the Qataris during the tournament will show them on the ground to what extent the Arabs are a great nation and have a great heritage of morals, values, tolerance and acceptance of others.

They noted that coexistence is closer and truer in conveying perceptions than the lies of the Western media while pointing out that the tourists will be surprised by the good reception, Arab magnanimity, generosity and hospitality.



Adel Lary



Khaled al-Ajmi

"They will witness great values that are lost in the whole world except in the Arab nation," they said.

"Our hands are extended with affection for others," said Ghaith al-Kuwari, a resident of Al Shamal. "I have been camping at Al Marroona Beach for 15 years. I welcome families, friends and cousins throughout the camping period for fishing," said the citizen who is ready to host the fans at his winter camp.

"We welcome Qatar's guests to our camps to know us closely, and see our religious rituals, customs and traditions that we cherish, hoping that this will have a positive impact on visitors to Qatar. We cannot change anything in people's thoughts by force, but we can offer kind words, good reception, Arab hospitality, traditions and values that express our civilisational identity," al-Kuwari explained.

Abbas al-Khayat said that the campers are honoured to receive the guests of Qatar. "Welcome to Qatar. Qataris are able to change



Qatari hosts with football fans in a majlis.



Football fans in a Qatari majlis. (Screenshots from Qatar TV)

the wrong stereotype about the Arabs and the Gulf with their morals, good reception and honouring of their guests," he said.

Ali Mohamed Rabia said that the World Cup gives the tourists an opportunity to get acquainted with Arab values, Arab civilisation and Arab heritage closely. "The coexistence is closer and truer in conveying perceptions than the lies of the Western media," he said.

Yousef Rashid al-Mohannadi said: "Our majlis are open to any guest or passerby, and the hospitality is available for all visitors to the country," He pointed out that the masses will see a reality different from what the Western media drew in their minds about Qatar.



"They will see for themselves the Qatar of goodness, the Qatar of love and tolerance, and the Qatar of generosity, morals and values," he added.

# Qatar Tourism preparations extend beyond World Cup

QNA  
Doha

HE the Chairman of Qatar Tourism and Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar al-Baker said that Qatar Tourism prepared for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the world's largest sporting event, and for the post-tournament phase by focusing its efforts to a large extent to offer a distinguished experience for residents and international visitors through its Service Excellence training courses, in addition to digital transformation, and active promotion of Qatar in the global tourism markets as a leading tourist destination.

This is in addition to issuing licences for hotel and tourist facilities, tourism activities, festivals, tourism events and their organising offices.

In an exclusive statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE al-Baker highlighted the launch of 'Qatar Host' programme, the first online tourism training programme in the country that provides professionals with the skills to provide distinguished service to international and local visitors. He also highlighted the "Tourist Guide Training" programme, through which the participants were given practical and appropriate training on the basic skills to work as a tourist guide, and accredited after completing the programme.

He pointed out that Qatar Tourism has issued more than 3,500 licences for Holiday Homes for about 9,500 rooms since the launch of the initiative last year, an addition to the variety of accommodation options that will be available to visitors during the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar. HE al-Baker highlighted the Iconic Limousine initiative within the framework of the tourism sec-



HE Akbar al-Baker

tor development process and enhancing the visitors' experience at every stage of their visit, a competition where many talented nationals and residents sought to produce a distinctive exterior iconic limousine design, that reflects Qatari culture and hospitality in an innovative way.

He stressed that, in terms of digital transformation, Qatar Tourism launched the Visit Qatar application for mobile phones and the Visit Qatar website, which is available in seven languages (English, French, Italian, Arabic, German, Turkish and Spanish). The application allows users to explore Qatar's cultural heritage sites, sporting activities and unique attractions. It also provides 360-degree panoramic views of famous sites and landmarks, along with a feature that allows users to swipe right on a selection of the best tourist spots in Qatar.

Qatar Tourism, in co-operation with its partners, presented a rich calendar of events through its website that includes a variety of activities covering all parts of the country, and includes entertainment options, including theatrical performances, art exhibitions and sports competitions, he said. As part of its efforts to develop tourism in the coun-

try, HE al-Baker said that Qatar Tourism launched the 'Qatar Now' guidebook, a new edition that reviews the tourism scene in Qatar, providing visitors with a comprehensive view of the tourist destinations.

The semi-annual guide, which is available to visitors at every phase of their visit to Qatar, is distributed free of charge in hotels, museums, embassies, Hamad International Airport (HIA), and other most visited destinations. He also highlighted the launch of Experience a World Beyond campaign in 17 countries as the largest promotional campaign in the history of the tourism sector in the State of Qatar.

The campaign represents the most important tourist markets that Qatar targets, in a bid to highlight the archaeological sites and historical monuments, in addition to the best entertainment and adventures places in the country. He reiterated Qatar Tourism's commitment to continue improving the experience of visitors so that they can have an enjoyable and indelible experience. Qatar Tourism seeks to welcome visitors from all over the world to Qatar to enjoy the tournament and explore the unique services and experiences that Qatar offers, he concluded.

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# Arab association slams misleading campaigns directed against Qatar

QNA  
Kuwait

The Association of Secretaries-General of Arab Parliaments has affirmed its rejection of the European Parliament's recent resolution regarding human rights in Qatar within the framework of the country's hosting of the World Cup, stressing

that allegations of human rights violations are based on false and misleading foundations and are not based on real facts.

The association, which is chaired by HE the Secretary-General of the Shura Council Dr Ahmed bin Nasser al-Fadhala, considered the European Parliament's resolution a continuation of the malicious and systematic campaigns directed against Qatar

to question and undermine its right to host the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

In a statement yesterday, the association said that the resolution ignored the successes and achievements made by Qatar over the past years leading to the opening of the World Cup and receiving fans from different cultures in an atmosphere full of enthusiasm and good hospital-

ity. It demanded the European Parliament to investigate with credibility and impartiality and review reports and statement related to the situation of workers and human rights in general in Qatar and not push this file in this malicious campaign or interfere in Qatar's internal affairs.

The association affirmed its support for Qatar and what was issued by the Shura Council in its

last session in response to the inaccuracies contained in the resolution of the European Parliament. The statement added that among these fallacies are the efforts for gender equality, equal opportunities and women's empowerment, a file in which Qatar has made remarkable progress with the testimony of countries and international organisations without the need for evaluation or intervention

from the European Parliament, the statement added. The association expressed its rejection of any interference in the internal affairs of Qatar or any of the Arab countries, calling on the European Parliament to stop this behaviour and respect international conventions and norms and the sovereignty of states in a way that achieves the interest of all and enhances the concept of coexistence. (QNA)



HE Dr Ahmed bin Nasser al-Fadhala

## Al-Muraikhi meets Dutch sports minister



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met yesterday with Minister of Sports of the Netherlands Conny Helder, who is visiting the country to attend FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 events. During the meeting, they discussed the bilateral relations. (QNA)

## Chief of Staff meets British official



HE the Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces Staff Lieutenant-General (Pilot) Salem bin Hamad al-Nablit met yesterday with the visiting UK Defence Senior Adviser to the Middle East and North Africa Air Marshal Martin Sampson. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two sides and means to cement them, in addition to a host of topics of mutual interest. A line up of Qatar Armed Forces senior officers attended the meeting. (QNA)

# Cabinet nod for draft law on child rights

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting held at its seat at the Amiri Diwan yesterday. Following the meeting, HE the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs issued the following statement:

The Cabinet considered the topics on its agenda as follows: The Cabinet approved, in principle, a draft law amending certain provisions of Law No.(12) of 2008 regarding the contribution of certain companies involved in supporting the promotion of sports, cultural, social and charitable activities.

The Cabinet considered the following topics and took the appropriate decisions thereon:

- 1- A draft law for issuing child's rights law.
- 2- Study on the joint and specialised committees.

3- A report of the Grievance Committee of Qatar Financial Markets Authority on the results of its work.

The Committee - established by Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) under the chairmanship of one of the presidents at the Court of Appeal, and the membership of two judges from the Court of Appeal and two experts in the field of securities transactions - is concerned with adjudicating grievances in respect of some resolutions issued by the Authority.

4- The annual reports on the results of the work of the Permanent Committee for Monitoring Fuel Filling and Storage Stations.

The Committee is dedicated to developing general and uniform specifications and standards required for the fuel filling and storage stations in accord-

ance with the general standards of Qatar energy on health, safety and environment; setting the necessary measures to ensure safety regarding general planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of fuel filling and storage stations in a manner that ensures the rehabilitation of the stations to keep pace with the State's cultural development; determining the type of activities permitted within the fuel filling and storage stations; and assessing the existing fuel filling and storage stations and indicate their compatibility with approved regulations and standards.

5- Outcome of the 110th session of the Arab Economic and Social Council at the ministerial level.

6- Outcome of the 12th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). (QNA)



## Amir sends condolences to president of China

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani sent cables of condolences to Chinese President Xi Jinping on the death of former president Jiang Zemin. (QNA)

## Amir sends congratulations to president of Barbados

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to Barbados President Sandra Mason on the anniversary of her country's Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister Mia Mottley. (QNA)

## Shura attends virtual meeting of Internet Governance Forum

The Shura Council participates in a two-day parliamentary meeting organised by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on the subject of 'Addressing cyberthreats: National, regional and international approaches' within the events of Internet Governance Forum 2022 convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The council is represented by member of the Shura Council Dr Ahmed bin Hamad al-Mohannadi in the meeting that was virtually kicked off yesterday via videoconferencing. The parliamentarians discuss several topics related to cybersecurity, extend of the countries' preparation to deal with the cyber threats, along with the regulatory and legislative policies and measures that should be set to maximise the level of cybersecurity and counter cyber crimes. In addition, the meeting addresses the importance of co-operation among the stakeholders to establish more secure cyberspace, as well as discuss the challenges and solutions, and share the viewpoints on setting and executing the policies efficiently and effectively. (QNA)



## Shura participates in preparatory meeting for parliamentary summit against hunger



The Shura Council participated yesterday in the meeting that was held by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in co-operation with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in preparation for the convention of the 2nd Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition, which is scheduled to convene next year. Member of the Shura Council Badi bin Ali al-Badi represented the council in the meeting that was held with video conferencing. During

the meeting, al-Badi highlighted the efforts of Qatar in supporting the agricultural sector, achieving food and water security, establishing a committee to follow up on the execution of food security policies in the public and private sectors, as well as establishing Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI). He laid out a proposal to bolster the role of the international companies that have expertise in agriculture technology and production technologies and increase the partnerships between

the governments and private sector, as this proposal shall be discussed during the summit works in pursuit of achieving the intended goals. The meeting sought to come out with a common vision of the developments and challenges facing the 2nd Parliamentary Summit against Hunger, where the importance of the summit was discussed, in addition to reviewing the findings of the virtual parliamentary dialogues, along with the findings of the relevant courses and surveys. (QNA)

## Qatar participates in Gulf Theatre Festival for People with Disabilities

Qatar's Ministry of Social Development and Family is to participate in the activities of the 6th Gulf Theatre Festival for People with Disabilities, which will be held in Riyadh in conjunction with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities from Dec 3 to 9. The festival aims to enhance the participation of people with disabilities in events and their integration into society, enhance their confidence in their abilities and help them highlight their talents in the theatrical field.

In addition, it is an opportunity for them to present their issues in their own way, within the framework of artistic work and to show their abilities to give and produce, as they have enormous creative energies. The 6th festival is witnessing the Qatari theatrical show 'From the Chair to the Top' directed by Ibrahim Lari, with the participation of a number of actors of persons with disabilities from Qatar.

Theatre is one of the important cultural platforms available to people with disabilities, to express their issues, aspirations, dreams and concerns, and it has cultural, educational, psychological and social importance in serving them, in addition to the entertainment value as well. The Ministry of Social Development and Family is keen to participate periodically in this festival, believing in the importance of theatre as one of the cultural and artistic means to integrate people with disabilities into society, enhance the positive energies and capabilities inherent in this group and use theatre to explode their creative energies. (QNA)

## Mexico beat valiant Saudi, but miss out on last 16

From Page 1

Mexico beat Saudi Arabia 2-1 in World Cup Group C yesterday but fell agonisingly short of reaching the last 16 on goal difference. Quickfire second-half strikes from Henry Martin and Luis Chavez had put Mexico on course to reach the knockout stages and Uriel Antuna also put the ball in the net but the effort was disallowed for offside. The Group C match was held at Lusail Stadium. Saudi Arabia pulled a goal back in stoppage time through Salem al-Dawsari.

### TUNISIA REGISTER FAMOUS WIN

Wahbi Khazri scored the only goal of the game as Tunisia claimed a famous 1-0 win over holders France in a Group D match of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 yesterday, but it was not enough for them to reach the last 16. France coach Didier Deschamps, whose team were already through to the knockout stage, made nine changes but they were a shadow of their usual selves and Khazri punished them in the 58th minute at Education City Stadium. It looked as though Tunisia would be denied their win in the final moments but an Antoine Griezmann goal in stoppage time was

disallowed following a VAR review. This was Tunisia's first win against European opposition at a World Cup and just their third ever in 18 matches at the tournament. However, Australia's 1-0 win in the other Group D match against Denmark denied them progress to the last 16 for the first time.

### AUSTRALIA SEND DENMARK HOME

Australia coach Graham Arnold hailed the Socceroos' "remarkable" achievement after they reached the last 16 of the World Cup for only the second time with a 1-0 win over Denmark in a Group C tie yesterday. Winger Mathew Leckie scored the winner on the hour with a smart run and finish to extinguish Denmark's Qatar hopes at the group stage. Australia, who made the knockout rounds in 2006 when they had Harry Kewell, Tim Cahill and Mark Viduka in their ranks, have now won back-to-back World Cup games for the first time. They progressed to the knockouts behind holders France in Group D. Tunisia was third in the group while Denmark finished last. Argentina will play against Australia (December 3, 10pm) in the Round of 16, while France will take on Poland (December 4, 6pm).

## ARPM Tender Committee announces the following Tender

Tender No.	Subject	Fees QR.	Tender Bond QR.	Closing Date
ARPM/112 -2022/TEN/DOH	Outdoor Car Wash Services at Parking Lots (Underground / Ground level) of Souq Waqif - Doha and Al Bidda Park	1,000	10,000	22.12.2022
ARPM/113 -2022/TEN/DOH	Comprehensive Social Media Handling And Management Of Social Media Activities - Al Bidda Park	500	5,000	29.12.2022

1. Interested parties can collect copies of the tender documents from ARPM Purchasing Department, by sending the deposit slip copy (details can be found below) via email [L.cabral@arpm.com.qa](mailto:L.cabral@arpm.com.qa) or visit our offices during working hours during the period 1<sup>st</sup> November - 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m and after 18<sup>th</sup> December normal working hours 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m (Fri & Sat Closed)

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

- Beneficiary Name: Al-Rayyan Projects Management (ARPM)
- Account No. 0013-022375-004 (Qatar National Bank)

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

3. A tender bond (as stated above), issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and valid for 120 days from the closing date should accompany tenders. **The executed tender bond should be included with the technical offer.**

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

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

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

7. The successful tenderer is required to submit a performance bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar equivalent to 10% of the total contract sum and shall be valid for a period expiring 30 days after contract expiry.

8. Offers should be valid for 90 days commencing from the closing date (as stated above).

9. ARPM has the right to increase or decrease the scope of services by 10% with the same terms and conditions.

10. ARPM is not bound to accept the lowest tender or any other tender and is under no obligation to show any reasons thereof.

11. Bids should be submitted not later than 12:00 noon on the closing date and must be deposited into the Box, provided in the ARPM Purchasing office, located at the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, ARPM, Head office and should be in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman - Tenders Committee, quoting the Tender Number and Subject.

12. Offers arriving thereafter may not be considered.

CHAIRMAN - TENDER COMMITTEE  
TEL: 40341804



Ahmed al-Baker, Fahad al-Kuwari and Mohamed al-Ibrahim discuss the development of La'eeb.

# Qatari trio who helped bring World Cup mascot to life

There are many firsts associated with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. It is the first edition of the tournament to be held in the Middle East and Arab world, the first compact tournament in modern history and the first to have an official soundtrack.

It is also the first FIFA World Cup to have a digital mascot. La'eeb – an Arabic word meaning super-skilled player – was unveiled to the world during the final draw in April. La'eeb hails from the 'mascot-verse' – a world where all previous tournament mascots live – and is known for his youthful spirit; spreading joy and confidence wherever he goes.

La'eeb, who is adventurous, fun and curious, has attended every previous FIFA World Cup tournament and contributed to some of the most famous moments in football history. The Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) spoke to Ahmed al-Baker, Fahad al-Kuwari and Mohamed al-Ibrahim, who worked on La'eeb's launch video, to find out more about the challenge of creating content that appeals to football fans across the globe.

## The vision

Qataris al-Baker, al-Kuwari and al-Ibrahim were excited to develop the launch video for the mascot when they received the initial concept about his character. "It was very exciting to be involved in this project and our objective was to deliver something different to every previous mascot launch," said al-Baker, who has been working as a director and producer for 12 years. "One of our main aims was to present him in a humorous and interactive way while ensuring he appeals to as many people as possible – not just football fans."

Al-Kuwari added: "I am not a huge football lover and during the animation process, I looked at La'eeb from an outsider's point of view. Part of the challenge was creating content that non-football fans would enjoy – and I think La'eeb ended up being liked by everyone due to his uplifting personality."

Writer and director al-Ibrahim worked as a senior content developer on the animation. He said: "I helped



to build on his backstory – not only his origins but information about his home, the 'mascot-verse'. We had to think about his personality traits and motivations – it was a really interesting project."

The creative team also wanted La'eeb to resonate with people long after the tournament – which will conclude with the final at Lusail Stadium on December 18. "It's very important to us that La'eeb stays in the minds of football fans after the World Cup," said al-Kuwari, a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar. "This is one of the reasons we built the mascot-verse, which allows La'eeb to visit mascots from previous tournaments."

## A mascot with a voice

La'eeb's uniqueness extends to his voice. "When we presented our work, FIFA really liked the scripts we had developed for La'eeb," said al-Kuwari, who holds a Master's in film and screen studies from Goldsmiths, University of London. The next challenge was deciding La'eeb's accent and ensuring he would resonate with people in Qatar, the region and beyond. "At first, we wanted La'eeb to speak Arabic with a Qatari accent – however we also wanted him to reach international audiences. In the end, we opted for English – but spoken by a local person – to show La'eeb is Qatari and can connect with people anywhere," said al-Baker. Al-Kuwari added: "As content creators,

it is our responsibility to create narratives true to our culture and heritage, and present them to international audiences."

## New technology

La'eeb's virtual nature meant the creative options were endless and opened the door to utilise the latest digital technology. "From holograms, digital screens and new media, there was plenty of room for creativity and we were able to experiment with different technologies," said al-Baker. Al-Kuwari added: "Our priority was for La'eeb to entertain fans. We wanted to create uplifting and interactive content, so we approached this in the same way we look at cinematic scripts. Getting to know La'eeb is a journey everyone will go through during the tournament. The audience learned about his skills and personality during the draw – and there will be plenty more to find out during the World Cup."

## The power of storytelling

For al-Ibrahim, seeing his creation come to life on a scale of such magnitude represents a dream-turned-reality. He said: "Seeing La'eeb everywhere is testament to the power of storytelling. He is a character that will be remembered by future generations and exposed to billions of people during the World Cup. "This is something every content creator dreams of – and knowing I've contributed is something I'll always be proud of."

## Vodafone, My Book Qatar partner to give football fans offers, discounts

As part of its latest 'We Fan Together' campaign, Vodafone Qatar and My Book Qatar have partnered to launch a range of 'Discover and Save' benefits for international tourists and football fans visiting Qatar. Fans can access these offers via the Vodafone Unlimited Data plus Voice Fan Pack, which gives users unlimited data and thousands of minutes, as well as 22GB GCC Roaming for seven days for \$20.

Customers will be able to get access to hundreds of offers across Qatar. Vodafone Fan SIMs and packs are available at Hamad International Airport, all entry points and hundreds of other locations in Qatar. International tourists and football fans simply need to purchase the Vodafone Unlimited Data plus Voice Fan Pack and use their Vodafone Prepaid number to activate hundreds of discounts and offers across Qatar, which can be redeemed until December 18, 2022.

Customers of the Vodafone Fan Pack will get complimentary access to hundreds of offers and discounts across dining, cafes, fast food, theme parks, entertainment, spas, gyms, salons, and more.

The discounts and offers are provided through the Vodafone My Book 'Discover & Save' application. Diego Camberos, chief operating officer of Vodafone Qatar, commented: "Our partnership with



My Book Qatar is yet another example of how, through our We Fan Together Campaign, we are empowering fans to have the best experience during their time in Qatar over the coming weeks.

"The Vodafone My Book platform features location-based services that allow users to find outlets based on proximity. Outlet searches can be based on malls such as Doha Festival City or Mall of Qatar, or by areas such as The Pearl Qatar or West Bay. Users can also search for dining options based on cuisine and can access a savings calculator that allows them to view the savings that can be claimed for each offer.

"Our team at My Book Qatar is proud to partner with one of the country's most well-known organisations, Vodafone Qatar. Our platform is a 'Discover and Save' platform that aims to help consumers save money through offers

and discounts, through its wide network of over 1,000 outlets across various categories.

"It was the first local Qatari company in the country that allowed customers to redeem offers using their smartphones. Our aim with this latest partnership with Vodafone is to drive the discovery of Qatar-based brands and businesses among international tourists, and provide great value and savings to them over the next few weeks," said Abdullah Soomro, CEO, My Book Qatar.

Users of Vodafone's Unlimited Data plus Voice Fan Pack can use the Vodafone My Book App offers to get high-value discounts on adventure tours, dining and more at merchants located at The Pearl, Katara, Msheireb Downtown, Lusail, and in popular malls.

These include Sealine Beach Resort, 365 Adventures, National Cruise, Discover Arabia, Alghais Diving Centre, Ronautica Middle East, Poseiden Diving Centre, Trampo Extreme, In-land Sea tours, Adventure Room, Société Artisanal Bakery, Maki Restaurant, Rustic Loft, Sugar Café, OCA, Salt, City Centre Rotana Hotel, Magnolia Bakery, Haagen Dazs, Kaldi 850 Coffee, and more.

For more information, download the Vodafone My Book 'Discover and Save' app or visit <https://www.mybookqatar.com/vodafone-mybook-access/>

## Everyone must respect Qatari laws, customs: Barnes

Former England national team player John Barnes said that everyone should respect Qatari laws, customs, traditions, and culture during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. In an article published in the British newspaper 'The Times', Barnes said that Qatar has invited everyone to the World Cup, but demanded everyone to be respectful of their ways, laws and culture, criticising the Western campaigns against Qatar's World Cup. "It's interesting to observe that some of those who are making a lot of noise now have had little to say about

the development of Qatar over the previous 20 years," he added.

Barnes, who played in 79 international matches with the England national team between 1983 and 1995, stressed that the situation in Qatar is better with the development in housing, facilities, and wages. Before the World Cup, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office issued a set of advice and instructions to fans of the England and Wales national teams coming to Qatar to attend the FIFA World Cup matches and asked them to review Qatari laws and



customs to know what they should avoid during their stay and to respect the customs and traditions of the host country. (QNA)

## Heritage collectibles in Souq Waqif draw large fan turnout

QNA  
Doha

Souq Waqif is witnessing a large turnout from the fans of the teams participating in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, to enjoy the festive atmosphere of the market and buy heritage items and souvenirs to document their visit to Qatar.

The market's streets and alleys grew into a daily carnival that brings together various nationalities from worldwide, especially lovers of ancient heritage areas, as they are attracted by antiques and collectibles.

These collectibles include 3D models of Qatar's historical landmarks like towers and castles, Qatari heritage like camels and horses, those relating to majlis, and Islamic household items such as buckets, incense burners, and utensils. There are many other heritage items such as swords, daggers, and rosaries, that introduce international fans to the State of Qatar's history, culture and heritage.

Zayed Awad, owner of a heritage collectibles store in Souq Waqif, told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the World Cup fans are mostly attracted to collectibles and souvenirs on which the name of the State of Qatar is written. These collectibles, for example,



Fans explore heritage items at Souq Waqif.

are models of towers or the lighthouse, and the fans make sure that the name of Qatar is written on these collectibles to remain a life-time memoir of their journey to attend the tournament, he said.

Jamal Abdullah, owner of a shop in Souq Waqif, told QNA that the gutra and Arabic aqel ropes are among the items that top fans' attractions in Souq Waqif, with visitors keen to take photos of themselves while wearing them in the market, during their tours across Qatar, and at stadiums.

Fans of the World Cup teams are

fascinated by old and diverse collectibles in the market, especially perfectly made handicrafts upon which the names of Qatar and Doha are written, he added.

Saber al-Jarboui told QNA that many World Cup fans who come to Souq Waqif are keen to buy 3D models of swords, daggers, camels, lanterns and dishes, all of which are hand-crafted Qatari heritage items. He explained that they all document the life and history of the people of Qatar and the Qatari environment, and fans prefer to keep them.

## CONDOLENCES

The Management & staff of  
**OTC GROUP OF COMPANIES**



express their heartfelt condolences to  
**V.S. Narayanan**  
(Managing Director)  
on the sad demise of his beloved Mother



**VILAMBATH KUNJIKUTTY AMMA (89)**  
w/o Panikkaveetil Velayudhan Nair.  
Passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in Kerala, India.

**Children:** V.S. Narayanan, V. Revindran, V. Ramdas, Vijayalakshmi, Ramadevi, Indira, Syamala, Anitha.  
**In-laws:** Mala, Mini, Asha, Sivasankaran (late), Rajamohan, UKK Nair, P. B. Menon, Rajagopal.

May God rest the departed soul in peace and give fortitude to the bereaved family to bear this great loss.

## Qatar takes part in Arab League water security and management conferences



Qatar's delegation to the 14th Ministerial Council and the 4th Arab Water Conference of the Arab League is led by HE Salem Mubarak al-Shafi.

A delegation from Qatar participated in the 14th session of the Arab Ministerial Water Council, and the 4th Arab Water Conference, which kicked off yesterday at the Arab League General Secretariat headquarters in Egyptian capital Cairo.

The delegation of Qatar to the two events was headed by HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the League of Arab

States Salem Mubarak al-Shafi. Held under the theme *Arab water security for life, development and peace*, the 4th Arab Water Conference is aimed at promoting policies of integration and coherence in the management of the water, agriculture and energy sectors and linking them to technology and innovation.

The two-day conference seeks to strengthen co-operation amongst member nations in the area of trans-boundary waters, in line with the sixth United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG6), the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, and the Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses.

Discussions at the 4th Arab Water Conference will primarily focus on a number of topics that are related to water security and its relation to sustainable development, peace and the management of developments, and the regional and international changes affecting the water sector.

Addressing the Conference on behalf of the Arab League secretary-general, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Media and Communication Sector of the Arab League Ahmed Rashid Khattabi noted the worrying situation of water in the world, where freshwater accounts for only 3% of water supply for more than 8bn people.

He indicated that the Arab world is classified within the poor areas in terms of freshwater sources, containing less than 1% of the surface run-off, and about 2% of the world's total rainfall.

Khattabi stressed on the urgent need to mobilise all capacities and potentials at both the government level, the relevant organisations of civil society and research centres throughout the Arab world.

He said that this is needed to achieve greater co-operation and exchange of national experiences on water conservation. - QNA

### ANNOUNCEMENT

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



Officers and workers of the Ministry of Municipality are working hard to ensure the provision of services.



## Ministry of Municipality steps up efforts

The Ministry of Municipality has been exerting intensive efforts to continue offering its services to the public, including FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 fans, by making the necessary preparations at parks, beaches and other public places. Municipalities across the country have taken the necessary measures to maintain the cleanliness of stadiums and fan zones, and make sure that the food and beverage sold to the public comply with health and safety regulations. Further, an inspection campaign has been carried out to ensure that commercial complexes and shopping centres in Doha abide by the decisions taken with regard to waste segregation at the source. Pictured are initiatives of the ministry and officials and inspectors taking part in them.



Ministry teams are also carrying out inspection campaigns.



## FREE VEHICLE RECALL

وزارة التجارة والصناعة  
Ministry of Commerce and Industry  
الهيئة العامة للغرفة التجارية  
State of Qatar



### Mercedes-Benz A Class, CLA

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## Panda House Park open to public from 9am to 5pm from today

The Ministry of Municipality has announced that the Panda House Park will be open to the public from 9am to 5pm, every day of the week, from today. Ticket booking can be done exclusively through the Oun application. The ministry has invited members of the public to visit Panda House and enjoy watching the two giant pandas - Suhail and Thuraya. Ticket prices, according to the app, are QR50 for adults and QR25 for individuals under 14 years. The Panda House tickets are not refundable and are valid for one day only.

The Ministry of Municipality is pleased to announce that as of December 1<sup>st</sup>, The Panda House Park will be open to the public from 9 am to 5 pm, every day of the week

Currently booking tickets exclusively through the OUN application



albaladiya 184

For more information scan the QR code



## QatarEnergy sets fuel prices for December

QatarEnergy announced yesterday the prices of diesel and gasoline in Qatar for December. The prices of diesel and Super Gasoline 95 remained

unchanged from last month at QR2.05 and QR2.10 a litre, respectively. Premium Gasoline 91 will cost QR1.95 a litre, down from QR2 in November. - QNA



# Thanks to QC, IDPs, refugees and orphans get to enjoy the World Cup

Thanks to the "Qatar FIFA 2022 for All" initiative, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and orphans supported by Qatar Charity (QC) are able to enjoy the World Cup atmosphere.

Amidst a remarkable sporting, cultural and festive atmosphere, the beneficiaries have been watching the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 matches in their camps in several countries through the "Fan Zones" supervised by the QC in co-operation with its partners.

The refugees and IDPs communities expressed their joy with the "Qatar FIFA 2022 for All: Celebrating Football with Refugees and Displaced People" initiative, terming it as a "brilliant gesture" from the organisers.

Thanks to Qatar and the Fan Zones

set up by the QC, it became possible for those in these camps to watch the World Cup matches.

In Somalia's Shabelle camp, 13,000 IDP families are able to watch the World Cup events.

"I did not expect that I would watch the matches so easily," said Hassan Hussein Abdul, 14.

"This giant screen through which we watch the World Cup matches fulfilled my desire, because I am fond of football," said 12-year-old Abdel Fatah Ahmed Mukhtar.

Until now, the child had been unable to watch the matches because of poverty.

In Bangladesh, the students of the QC's two orphan care centres near the capital Dhaka, and 7,000 Rohingya



Refugees in the Bhasan Char Island, watch the World Cup matches at the Fan Zones.

"We have never had such an opportunity before," said Shawn Ahmed, a seven-grade student at an orphan care centre.

"The joy of watching the game together with thousands of spectators is really different," said Mohamed Shams, who has been living in the Rohingya camp for five years.

"This is an atmosphere full of enjoyment. Here thousands of people are watching the game together on the big

Refugees, internally displaced persons and orphans at camps are able to watch the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 thanks to the 'Qatar FIFA 2022 for All' initiative.

screen," said Mohamed Fayzullah, a teenager of the refugee camp. "Everyone is celebrating the goal of their favourite team with loud applause."

In northern Syria, Fouad Obaid Al-Ali, from Al Kaiba camp, said: "There was no place to watch the World Cup matches in the camp."

"However, thanks to the efforts of Qatar and Qatar Charity, we are now watching the matches on a huge screen," he added.



## Metro, Lusail Tram carry 692,024 people on Day 10

Mowasalat (Karwa) yesterday said that a total of 2,927 buses transported 284,837 fans on Tuesday, the 10th day of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The buses, according to a tweet by the Ministry of Transport (MoT), undertook 9,679 trips. A total of 5,509 passengers were transported by the Education City and Msheireb trams on Tuesday, while the number of passengers ferried by the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram on Tuesday stood at 692,024. The MoT also informed that 851 aircraft movements were recorded at Hamad International Airport and Doha International Airport on Tuesday.

## QRCS World Cup initiative in seven crisis-hit countries sees big turnout

The Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) said yesterday that the humanitarian initiative it has launched in seven crisis-hit countries to follow the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has been seeing a big turnout.

The initiative was launched by the QRCS ahead of the start of the World Cup, with support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD), the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC), and beIN Sports, to help those in seven countries experiencing humanitarian crises enjoy the events of the World Cup.

The QRCS established fan zones in co-operation with its partners in more than 40 locations in Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, Bangladesh, and Syria.

In a statement yesterday, the QRCS noted that the fan zones have seen broad participation by football fans watching the tournament matches on giant screens, in addition to participating in sports, entertainment and awareness activities, which the QRCS organises through its offices and missions in the target countries.

QRCS Relief and International Development Division director Dr Mohamed Salah Ibrahim said that the initiative is in line with the humanitarian efforts undertaken by Qatar and humanitarian organisations.

He said that the QRCS is aware of the role played by global sports in alleviating the suffering of vulnerable groups, and contributing to psychological and health support.



Heads of QRCS missions in the seven countries stressed the importance of this humanitarian initiative and the accompanying events, and the opportunities it provides everyone, including children.

## 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. Timings: 4pm-2am.

Join thousands of 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 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 football fans to connect.

**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. Daily shows start 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 you! Timings: 9am-6pm. For more details, visit <https://www.qatar2022.qa/en/live-it-all-in-qatar/ras-abu-aboud-beach-974>

**MDLBEAST Presents: Aravia**

Step off the pitch and onto the dance floor for 28 Arabian nights. A magical world that combines music, performance and song - from top international talent and rising regional stars - 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.

**Areadia 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.

The organisers have announced free entry for women, couples and everyone wearing a national team jersey before 10pm.

Regular tickets are available from \$49 via Tixbox.com

**Daydream Festival**

The Daydream Festival returns to Doha with an unparalleled line-up and a brand-new stage.

The festival will host some of the world's largest Electronic Dance Music (EDM) artists at the Doha Golf Club. The festival opened late last month and continues today, December 2, 6, 10, 14 and 18.

For information and tickets, visit [@tixbox](https://www.tixbox.com)

**Lusail Boulevard**

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

You'll be captivated by it all! Taking place until December 18, daily from 11am-2am.

**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, Lusail.

Admission is free to the General Admissions Area - enabling visitors to enjoy the beach, music, activities, F&B, and watch live football matches on giant screens.

Tickets are needed for access to the front stage area during special music performances and admission to the VIP area.

Tickets are available through Q-Tickets at [www.q-tickets.com](https://www.q-tickets.com)

**Carnevale Quartier, The Pearl Island**

Carnevale Quartier at The Pearl Island's little Venice precinct has been launched.

At the Venice-like festival, visitors get to experience the international flavour of Italy with a roaming parade recreating the spirit of one of the most famous festivals in the world via performances including elaborate masquerade shows, human statues and dazzling floating arts.

The Carnevale Quartier takes place until December 4, from 4pm-9pm daily at the Qanat Quartier Boardwalk.

Visitors can enjoy several other attractions at The Pearl and Gewan islands.

**World Cup activations/celebrations** at Katara - the Cultural Village, Souq Waqif and Msheireb Downtown Doha, plus Katara Traditional Dhow Festival and more.

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

## Naseem launches EmbraceAll campaign



Naseem Healthcare's #EmbraceAll campaign was officially launched by Mohammed Miandad V P, Managing Director of Naseem Healthcare, and Shafi Parambil, honourable MLA, Government of Kerala, India, at Naseem Medical Centre's C-ring road branch.

The campaign, which is a novel initiative started by Naseem, aims to welcome football fans coming to Qatar from across the globe to take part in the FIFA World Cup 2022.

Muhammad Miandad outlined the EmbraceAll campaign's mission during the meeting. "With the global spectacle uniting the entire world, the hour demands that we stand united, accept differences, and be responsible humans, and Naseem, as Qatar's largest private healthcare provider, aspires to embrace diversity," he said.

Shafi Parambil delivered a speech at the ceremony expressing his admiration for the campaign initiative. "The #EmbraceAll campaign by Naseem is a true embodiment

of teamwork. Talent wins games, but teamwork wins championships. After all, Indian football fans make up most of the FIFA fan base, and by working together, we can celebrate the beautiful game while remaining responsible," he stated.

Throughout the FIFA season, the campaign will include a variety of engaging and exciting activities. In order to encourage people to take part in embracing unity, a lot of digital content is posted on Naseem's social media platforms as part of the #EmbraceAll campaign.

The campaign was launched by cutting a World Cup-themed cake decorated with the national flags of the competing nations. A customized Argentina jersey was given to Shafi Parambil as a thank-you gift.

Rishad, Branch Head, Naseem Medical Center, C Ring Branch, Hashim, SM- Finance, Shanavas, GM-Naseem Healthcare, and Rahul Mankootathil, KPCC Secretary, were present at the event.

### Jordanian official visits Darb Al Saai



The Secretary-General of the Jordanian Ministry of Culture, Hazaa al-Barari visited Darb Al Saai in Umm Slal Mohamed. Accompanied by HE Sheikh Ahmed bin Saoud bin Abdulaziz al-Thani, Adviser to the Minister of Culture, the Jordanian official was briefed on the heritage and cultural activities to be held in Darb Al Saai to mark the Qatar National Day. He congratulated Qatar for the atmosphere it has cultivated in celebration of the National Day, which will be held alongside Qatar's hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. (QNA)

### Poetry evening held at Darb Al Saai

Qatar poetry centre "Diwan Al Arab" held a poetry evening at Darb Al Saai within a series of the cultural symposiums associated with the events and celebrations of Qatar National Day, which falls on December 18 every year.

The evening was opened by poets Mubarak al-Khalifa, Zayed bin Cruz and Hadi bin Saif, with a wide range of poems, including patriotic ones. The director of the centre, poet Shabib bin Arar al-Nuaimi, said the centre's participation in the events of the National Day aims to promote the spirit of values, ethics and national identity via literature through the distinguished poems recited by poets, adding that the centre will hold six poetry evenings as well as a symposium that addresses the poem and role of poets in the community with the participation of an elite of senior poets in the community. (QNA)



### Qatar affirms keenness to fulfil obligation as party of Biological Weapons Convention



Within the framework of its efforts to achieve international peace and security, Qatar stressed its keenness on effective participation in international forums concerned with disarmament issues and to join relevant international conventions and treaties, most notably the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS). This was highlighted during a speech by the Assistant Biological Expert at Qatar National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons (NCPW), Sheikh Nouf Ahmed al-Thani, during the 9th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BWC), at the UN headquarters in Geneva. Sheikh Nouf al-Thani said the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development,

Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, as the first multilateral convention aimed at disarmament of biological weapons, represents a vital pillar of the comprehensive disarmament system to achieve an international community where security, stability, peace, and development prevail. She pointed out that Qatar established the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons (NCPW), a permanent committee at the Ministry of Defence. It was established according to the Cabinet's decision of 2004, and is the entity entrusted with implementing the international agreements related to disarmament issues, including weapons of mass destruction (WMD). She indicated that Qatar – as a state party to the convention – fulfils its obligations by not possessing or producing any biological offensive or defensive programmes and not having any research activity to develop, store, or possess any biological or toxin agents. (QNA)

## PHCC screening programmes record achievements

The Primary Health Care Corporation's (PHCC) Breast and Bowel Screening Programme continues to develop and update the services to ensure highest level of quality for the public, it was announced yesterday.

This is in line with the PHCC's main goal of providing the best preventive and curative health services to the population, a statement explained.

Since its launch during the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a significant engagement towards bowel cancer screening home delivery service and it has had an incredible effect on the number of follow ups and screening assessments.

In order to help the programme reach more people in the community, home delivery service of the bowel cancer screening kit has been reactivated via Qatar Post. The service is available for free, through which participants will be able to have a telephone consultation and then the bowel screening kit will be sent to their address by post.

The service will be available for all the targeted participants, in particular those who have previously completed their screenings with the programme either once or more, patients who are unable to physically attend due to far distance or special needs as well as the elderly.

Moving on, during October, the PHCC delivered the breast cancer awareness campaign under the slogan "Symptom free is not disease free - Screen to be sure!"

The slogan was chosen to emphasise the importance of getting the routine screening even if



there is no symptom, as with any disease there is potential presence without any symptoms.

The Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a yearly celebration held worldwide in October. The purpose is to raise awareness about breast cancer and the signs and symptoms associated with it, as when spotted earlier it is easily treatable, and patients can continue to live a healthy life.

Research has also shown that breast cancer is one of the most common cancers among women, therefore the significance of this campaign is extremely heightened. The month-long comprehensive campaign included, print, social media efforts, public engagement awareness activities including lectures and activation health awareness booths.

Doha Festival City was one of the major supporters of the October campaign with awareness booths as well as in-mall advertisement. Health awareness booths were also present at nine different locations within PHCC HQ building, Al Wajbah, Umm

Slal, Mesaimeer, Rawdat Al Khalil, Leabaib, Wakra, Muaitheer, and Al Daayen health centres. The specialists at the booths educated visitors on the importance of breast cancer screening, and registered the women in the target population to be called for the screening.

There were a total of 12 awareness lectures presented to the staff working at companies and schools, including, Al Khansaa Library (Ministry of Culture), Ministry of Finance, QSur, Voltaire School, Wyndham Hotel West Bay, Ghoson Spa, Zekrit Primary School, AlKhalaj AlArabi kindergarten, Khalifa Kindergarten for boys, Shell - Barwa Compound, Elite Medical Center, and Etqan Global Academy. PHCC also had collaboration with social media influencers to remind women about the importance of regular screening.

As part of their efforts to engage the public, the PHCC team also distributed giveaways at screening suites.

The campaign was also supported by Qatar Energy, WISH walkathon and several schools



which distributed giveaways and the health education flyers.

Dr Shaikha Abu Shaikha, director of the screening programmes at PHCC said: "This year we have successfully experienced a high level of engagement from our communities and the partnership across health sectors has been the key to ensuring that we reach our target audience."

Overall, as a result of the October campaign Screen for Life - Breast and Bowel Screening Programme registered a total of 1,305 women who did their mammograms and 1,966 other women scheduled to do their screening.

"It is vital that we always remember that screening saves lives, therefore we must always ensure that we are up to date with our screening to detect the presence of disease at an early stage. When detected at early stages, which will be through the screening, breast cancer survival rate will reach up to 98%" said Dr Shaikha Abu Shaikha.

"As a reminder, if you are between the age of 45 to 69, you



don't have any symptoms related to breast cancer, didn't do your mammogram in the past three months, with a valid QID and health card please contact our call centre 8001112 to book your appointment."

There are four screening suites located at Leabaib, Rawdat Al Khalil, Muaitheer, and Al-Wakra health centres. The fully equipped units have the highest technology mammograms and well-trained clinical staff. For more information, please contact the 'Screen for Life' call centre on 800 1112 or visit the website <https://screenforlife.phcc.qa/>

# FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 extremely safe and secure, say fans

By Joey Aguilar  
Staff Reporter

A part from a well-organised FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, football fans from various countries have lauded the high-level of safety and security in the host nation and the people's warm and friendly reception.

Steven and Mica from Jamaica, who were enjoying their visit at the Msheireb Downtown Doha yesterday, cited what they described as "an extremely safe environment in the country."

"We have so much respect with the country, it's way far from what is shown and published by critics in the media. It is very safe and we are enjoying it here very much," Steven stressed.

Alex R from Argentina echoed the same view, citing the extraordinary safety that is in place in the stadiums and across the country. "Very nice quality of tournament, very safe place, no criminality, well organised, and excellent transportation," Alex said.

However, he suggested there should be more restaurants to



Matthew extends his stay in Doha.



Carlos Dominguez cheering for Mexico.



Alex at Msheireb Downtown Doha. PICTURES: Joey Aguilar

reduce the rush and transportation beyond 3am, so as to make it easy for fans to return to their hotels and homes.

"But otherwise, the World Cup is well organised, Qataris are very nice people, sophisticated, warm, welcoming and willing to spare time to help and assist anybody," added Alex who also attended the last few World Cups.

Qatar has been ranked the safest country in the world by Numbeo from 2020 to 2022 in terms of crime and general safety, while Doha ranks second as the safest city in Numbeo's

Crime Index by City in 2022. Mexican supporter Carlos Dominguez, who also supports the USA team since he lives in Atlanta, said "it's been an amazing experience we feel so safe you can walk in the middle of the night and everybody is so friendly!"

He said in this World Cup, he experienced how politics, race, religion and beliefs have been set aside after Iranian supporters in Qatar helped and brought him home safely the other night after watching the matches.

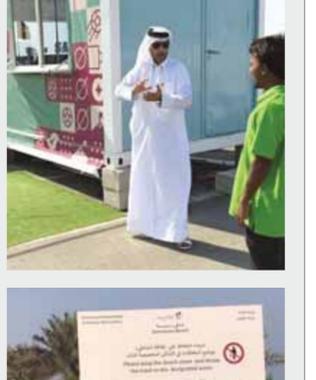
Matthew, a South African who lives in Doha, urged football fans

from various countries to visit Qatar, saying "you wouldn't be disappointed!"

Matthew was supposed to take a vacation back home but decided to extend his stay to experience the World Cup and what it has to offer. Matthew said he witnessed the 2010 World Cup in his home country, and is now experiencing the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

"There are so many things that you can do (here) and there are so many things free as well, it is so warm, it is so welcoming, and all the songs are amazing," he added.

### Ministry of Municipality holds awareness campaigns on waste sorting



The Ministry of Municipality's General Cleanliness Department has carried out various public awareness campaigns over the past week at various key locations across the country including Doha Corniche, the Theatre Park, Souq Waqif, the Bus Station and others. The aim is to urge the public to sort their waste at the source and use the blue containers for recyclable waste in addition to encouraging them to co-operate with the cleaning workers at public places. A number of brochures and booklets were distributed to the public and visitors, besides a QR code with a variety of awareness material on the topic. Different municipalities across the country have continued their awareness efforts to maintain public cleanliness and hygiene. Doha Municipality has carried out an inspection campaign at the Caravans' Village to ensure the health and safety of the food products on display there.



# QNL lines up slew of events to celebrate National Day

**Q**atar National Library will organise several cultural, educational, and artistic community activities this month to celebrate Qatar National Day and World Arabic Language Day, with visitors having the chance to engage in discussions and activities related to Qatar's art, history, culture and language.

The library's art exhibition, "Reesha" is open for visitors till December 31. Under the slogan "We Welcome the World to Qatar 2022," the exhibition showcases children's artwork, inspired by the World Cup stadiums, with audio-descriptive guides and high-contrast raised images also making it accessible for visitors with impaired vision.

On December 3, to celebrate the Qatar-Menasa Year of Culture 2022 and in partnership with

Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, the library will host an exhibition providing a window into the life and work of the Algerian artist, Baya Mahieddine.

The exhibition will showcase a selection of 18 works that are intertwined with Baya's lifelong themes to reveal the fictional and nonfictional elements that continued to resonate throughout Baya's work until the very end. The exhibition is set to run until March 30, 2023.

Continuing on the theme of Baya and again as part of the Qatar-Menasa Year of Culture 2022, the library and in partnership with Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, is organising several painting workshops for adults and children.

The workshops for adults will be held on December 3 and December 17, the workshop for chil-



dren will be held on December 5 and December 7 and finally, a hybrid workshop for children and adults will be held on December 14 and December 19.

On December 8, the library in partnership with L'association Terres d'Orient and the HeRMA laboratory from the University

of Poitiers, invites visitors to attend a day of online lectures and discussions on the topic: "Illicit Circulation and Laundering of National and Oriental Cultural Goods in the World of Art."

The programme will bring together academics and archaeolo-

gists, members of heritage and research institutions, investigators, lawyers, and magistrates as well as representatives of the different ministries involved in the fight against the illicit traffic of cultural property.

This multidisciplinary event will offer a pertinent look at the problem and the weakness of art markets in the face of traffickers.

On December 8 and December 10, the library invites visitors to join in the Qatar National Day celebrations by playing and learning about a selection of fun-filled, traditional Qatari games, and then, on December 14 and December 15, the library will host "Qatari Story Time," for children and families to listen to the most beautiful Qatari stories and learn about Qatari identity and culture.

To celebrate World Arabic Language Day, the library will host several events on learning, preserving and highlighting the beauty of Arabic language.

From December 26-28, the library invites visitors to a workshop that will teach the basics of Arabic to non-native speakers in a number of intensive classes. The workshop is part of the activities for Arabic Language Week, organised by the library in co-operation with the Tomough Initiative, which targets beginner learners of the language.

On December 27, to mark World Arabic Language Day, the library will host a lecture on 'Arabic language an integral part of our culture', and the efforts of Qatar to enhance a sense of belonging to, pride in and preservation of the language.

The lecture will be conducted by Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at Hamad Bin Khalifa University Dr Basma Ahmad Sidqi Dajani.

On December 29, continuing the activities for Arabic Language Week, the library will host a workshop to highlight the beauty of Arabic words and letters, and how they can be used to create artworks.

Finally, the library invites visitors to join a lecture on December 29, that will take them on a unique linguistic journey with Dr Abdul Salam al-Majidi, Professor of Qur'anic Exegesis and Recitations, who will give insight into the language and eloquent diction of the Holy Qur'an.

The library will continue to host a variety of fun and engaging events in-person and online throughout December. (QNA)



Participants who attended the regional training course.

## QNL holds training on antique parchment conservation in Tunisia

**Q**atar National Library's (QNL) Preservation and Conservation Regional Centre for Arab Countries and the Middle East, organised a regional training course on the restoration and conservation of antique parchment.

The six-day course was held in collaboration with the National Laboratory for the Preservation and Conservation of Parchment and Manuscripts (NLPCPM) in Kairouan, Tunisia and Unesco.

Held at the NLPCPM, which contains one of the largest collections of parchments in the world, the course provided participants from a number of Arab countries - including Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon, Kuwait,

Oman, Libya and Algeria - with practical information about the restoration and preservation of ancient parchments, as well as lectures on the development of manuscripts and writing on parchments.

The ancient library of Kairouan, affiliated with the NLPCPM, is notable for having a substantial part of its collection written on parchment. This collection of parchments is one of the largest and best-known in the Arab and Islamic world. It is made up of three integral sections: documents and legal instruments, books on the principles of jurisprudence (the earliest of which go back to 231 AH / 846 CE), and finally, el-

egant copies of the Holy Qur'an written on parchment, whose combined folios number more than 39,000.

QNL, in its role supporting the preservation of documentary heritage in the Arab region, conducts programmes and professional workshops to raise the capabilities and skills of workers in the fields of conservation and preservation. With state-of-the-art laboratories for conservation and restoration and an advanced scientific laboratory equipped with the most important technologies, QNL's experts can conduct studies and research on the components of manuscripts such as dyes, inks and paper.

## Mercedes-Benz models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Nasser Bin Khaled Automobiles, has announced the recall of Mercedes-Benz A Class, and CLA 2019-2020 models, as the electronic transmission control unit software does not correspond with the latest series production configuration, possibly causing the vehicles not to start.

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 has urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquiries 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

## Qatar World Cup 'incomparable, amazing': Indian football official

By Joseph Varghese  
Staff Reporter

**A** senior Indian football coach has lauded the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, describing it as one of the best and most beautiful editions of the tournament so far in its history. He also feels that Spain stands a good chance to win this year's World Cup with lot of promising young players.

"First of all, the compact nature of the tournament has been so convenient for everyone who wants to watch more than one match a day. Moreover, the transportation part has been a huge success. The organising committee truly deserves 100% credit for such fantastic arrangements. It is simply incomparable and amazing," said Bino George, who was the head coach of the Kerala team that won the Santhosh Trophy tournament this year.

Santhosh Trophy is the most coveted interstate football tournament in India.

George, an Indian professional manager and former footballer, is currently the East Bengal assistant coach to Stephen Constan-



Bino George at one of the stadiums during a FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 match.

line for the Indian Super League.

"I understand that all the teams are very happy about their practice facilities and other logistics aspects. All the visitors find no problems in reaching their destinations. Overall everything is smooth and seamless," noted George.

The Indian footballer said that the first round of games has been very exciting and electrifying so far. "I could watch several of the matches. All the games have been excellent which also saw some upsets. Some of

the Asian teams have been very promising. This is a good sign for Asian football and it can be reflected in the coming games in the Asian continent including the next year's Asian Football championship," he said.

George is of the opinion that Spain, Brazil and France have better chances to win the tournament. "I fancy Spain to win the tournament. They are a young talented team and have already shown their potential in the group stage matches. Brazil on the other side is equally good but they did not have any strong opponents in the group stage and so they need to have greater performance in the knockout stages. France is also equally impressive but they are missing some key players," he pointed out.

As for the Indian football scenario, George noted that football is becoming more and more popular in his country but still a lot has to be done to make it world-class. "We need more infrastructure at local and state levels to train the players. We have a lot of young talents but they need to be trained properly with all the necessary skills to compete at the international level. Hopefully, the situation will become better in the coming years," he added.

## Dugong dies after getting caught in fishing net

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's Al Khor Marine Unit under the Marine Protection Department received a report on a dead dugong through the Operations Department and immediately took measures to retrieve the carcass. Later, it turned out that the animal was stuck in a fishing net and died. The ministry has told fishermen to immediately free animals as soon as they spot them in their fishing nets in case the animals are in good health and to report the issue to the Operations Department on 184. The ministry also pointed out that the wildlife in the country is protected according to Law No 19 for 2004 on the Conservation of Wildlife and their Natural Habitats.



## HBKU organises discussion on future prospects for football in Africa

**T**he College of Science and Engineering (CSE) at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) partnered with Katara and the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) Africa yesterday to host a timely discussion on 'Football on the World Stage: What About Africa?'

Influential representatives of African football stakeholders, including the Confederation of African Football (CAF), the media, footballers, academics, and African fans and spectators' associations, focused on the profound impact and multidimensional influence of the FIFA World Cup on the game in Africa.

Over the course of three panel discussions, speakers shed light on the continent's football landscape and its position on the global stage - from the five African

nations participating in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 to Egypt's joint bid with Saudi Arabia and Greece for the 2030 FIFA World Cup.

Opening the event, the first panel set out key aspects of Africa's football history, current challenges, and its contributions to the FIFA World Cup.

It was moderated by Dr Gerard Akindes, Sports Management Adjunct Faculty at Northwestern University in Qatar and New York University, and featured Dr Mitchell Obi, president, AIPS Africa, Dr Luxolo September, head of Broadcasting Services at CAF, Dr Kamilla Swart, associate professor and director of the Master of Science in Sport and Entertainment Management, CSE, and Counsellor Hossam Abdul-Ela, head of the Ahly Fans



Panelists at the event.

Association, Qatar.

The second panel, 'Aspiring Projects: AI Reshaping the Future of Football', highlighted two promising artificial intelligence

(AI) projects developed at CSE and how they may impact the football experience.

Moderated by Dr Kamilla Swart, the first segment fo-

cus on SADA Insight: AI for Sport Media and Events, a newly launched AI and data technology system capable of providing ultrafast, continuous insights on

sentiments and public reactions to mega events based on the content of tweets.

Dr James She, associate professor at CSE and the project lead, discussed its potential use cases. SADA (meaning 'echo'), emerged from his research with Dr Swart and their teams at HBKU.

The second project was the collaborative sports tech start-up, sKora, a data-driven digital sports agent. sKora founders, Dr Jens Schneider, assistant professor at CSE, and Adel Saad, founder and CEO, highlighted its innovative use of data analytics to offer a career path for young players.

The final panel, 'Down Memory Lane: A Retrospective View and Future Prospects', was moderated by Victor Bolorunduro, senior editor at *The Peninsula*, with the participation of Gerard

Akindes and Bill Tchato, former professional Cameroonian football player, as well as Mariama Bukari, a graduate of HBKU's Master of Science in Sports Management and Entertainment programme.

Held at Katara, the event attracted an audience of industry professionals, football organisations and players, sports media, and academics.

Dr Swart said: "From one country representing Africa in 1970 to five in 2022, it is certainly an exciting time and place to have such a discussion during the historical 2022 FIFA World Cup. Our panel discussions created a space for some of the most informed experts to reflect on what the future holds for African football on the global stage, and this is not without its challenges."

## CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

## Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar

editor@gulf-times.com

44350478 (News)

44466404 (Sport)

44466636 (Home delivery)

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## Venezuela talks underpin strong Maduro position

Venezuela's socialist President Nicolas Maduro will enter upcoming talks with the South American country's opposition in a strengthened position that could be bolstered further by a deal to release more than \$3bn in humanitarian funds, analysts said.

Government and opposition delegates met on Saturday in Mexico City after more than a one-year pause, and in renewed negotiations the parties signed a "social agreement" aimed at creating a United Nations-administered humanitarian fund.

US oil company Chevron Corp also received an expanded license on Saturday, allowing it to resume oil production in the Opec nation and bring Venezuelan crude to the United States.

These moves will allow Maduro's administration to argue that it is stabilising the country whose economy has suffered from years of turmoil worsened by US sanctions. The opposition, meanwhile, has struggled to recover from the exile and imprisonment of some of its leaders, as well as internal divisions, according to analysts.

"Politically, Maduro has been strengthening both internally and externally for some time ... the maximum pressure strategy has not worked. Everything (the agreement and license) is happening within that context" of strength, said Crisis Group analyst, Phil Gunson.

In 2019, Washington strengthened oil and financial sanctions on Venezuela as a way to pressure Maduro, whose re-election the year before was widely considered fraudulent. The United States also joined other countries in supporting the opposition leader, Juan Guaido, in an interim government.

### Maduro's willingness to make political concessions looms as a key issue

Maduro, who has retained staunch backing from the military, has managed to circumvent some of the sanctions with the help of allies like Russia, Iran and China. Still, 72% of Venezuelans view his administration negatively, according to an October poll by Datanalysis.

Under pressure from the international community, the government and opposition sat down for talks in August 2021. But

Venezuela suspended the dialogue few days later after Colombian businessman Alex Saab, a close ally of Maduro, was extradited to the United States on money laundering charges.

Maduro had demanded the removal of all sanctions, among other conditions, to resume the talks but ultimately greenlighted them after the Chevron license was granted although most US sanctions remained in place.

The opposition has said it hopes the talks will bring improved guarantees for the upcoming presidential elections, expected to happen in 2023 or 2024.

In the upcoming negotiations, "the government is the strongest actor, but it needs (international) recognition and money," said Benigno Alarcón, director of the Center for Political and Government Studies at Caracas' Andres Bello Catholic University.

The UN administered fund could receive around \$3bn and its use could coincide with the upcoming elections, boosting the government on the economic front even if it has no direct control over how the funds will be spent.

"The economic and social issue will be fundamental for a good result in the elections. As long as the programmes help to strengthen the very delicate social and economic situation, it will obviously help the Maduro government to clean up its image," said economist and professor Leonardo Vera.

With Venezuela's economy showing signs of improvement following the easing of currency controls and dollarisation, poverty has been reduced to 50% from as high as 65% at the height of the crisis, but income inequality has worsened, according to the Survey of Living Conditions, as wages fail to keep up with an annual inflation rate of 155%.

"The government needs funds to spend and to show that they're managing" ahead of the election, said Enderson Sequera, director of local consultancy Politiks. With the agreement, "the government wins, and the opposition's benefits remain to be seen," he added.

The head of the opposition delegation, Gerardo Blyde, said in an interview on Monday that the tough stage of the negotiations, in which political and human rights issues would be addressed, would soon follow.

Maduro's willingness to make political concessions looms as a key issue, given doubts about whether he would actually agree to changes that could hand power over to the opposition, analysts say.

"If Maduro does not make political concessions, any gains in terms of his international standing will be lost," the Crisis Group's Gunson said. — Reuters

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## Restoring nature could depend on how countries help farmers

By Jack Graham  
London

Famous for its lamb, New Zealand's agriculture industry was once so well-subsidised that slaughterhouse workers were said to earn more than airline pilots, recalled William Rolleston, a farmer in South Canterbury and leading advocate for the sector.

A few decades ago, huge subsidies meant vast swathes of the country's marginal land was cleared for grazing, fertiliser was overused, and the sheep population boomed to the point where surplus meat had to be destroyed.

Across New Zealand, the subsidy programmes took a toll on nature, polluting rivers and eroding soils, according to a study by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Then, in 1984, there was "total upheaval", Rolleston said.

In a radical shift, the subsidies were removed or phased out. Farming became more efficient while harmful practices decreased: fertiliser use declined by 50% and many farmers' hillsides were reforested, according to the CBD's report.

While agriculture remains a major source of the country's planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions, New Zealand is still held up by biodiversity campaigners as a "poster child" for reforming subsidies that harm nature and the environment.

The issue is expected to feature at the United Nations COP15 summit — which begins in Montreal, Canada, next week — where countries will try to agree a framework to protect biodiversity.

The latest draft agreement includes a target to reform at least \$500bn of harmful subsidies annually across sectors including agriculture.

Around the world, government subsidies that harm nature amount to at least \$1.8tn each year — equivalent to 2% of global GDP — according to a study published in February by the Business for Nature advocacy group.

It said agricultural subsidies — at \$520bn annually — are the largest drivers of ecosystem destruction, along with those for fossil fuels — at \$640bn — which have a more indirect impact on biodiversity, mainly through climate change.

Concerns are growing over the world's ability to control climate change and halt temperature rise, with a recent World Wildlife Fund (WWF) report showing that nature has absorbed 54% of human-related carbon dioxide emissions over the past decade.

Agricultural subsidies for things like meat production and fertilisers are also considered a threat to long-term food security.

A decrease in fertile soil means 95% of land worldwide could become degraded by 2050, according to the Global Environment Facility, a multilateral fund.

Decision makers are "counting on" subsidy reforms to close the majority of the financing gap for biodiversity protection — estimated at \$700bn



**CONCERN:** Around the world, government subsidies that harm nature amount to at least \$1.8tn each year — equivalent to 2% of global GDP — according to a study published in February by the Business for Nature advocacy group.

each year — said Brian O'Donnell, director of the conservation non-profit Campaign for Nature.

"That is, in my mind, a very risky proposition," O'Donnell said, adding that it will require global political shifts for these funds to be accessed and repurposed. "It means that governments have to truly commit to this rapidly."

The issue has been gaining momentum, including support from the Group of Seven (G7) wealthy nations, reforms to the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies programme, and a World Trade Organisation deal to prohibit harmful fishery subsidies.

However, O'Donnell said there had been several subsidy agreements in the past — including at UN biodiversity talks in 2010 — but overall progress

was "minimal at best".

"Global intentions to reform subsidies often run into domestic hurdles," he said. "The question is ... will we follow through in country-by-country implementation?"

One of the attractions of subsidy reform for governments is that it involves repurposing existing funds rather than having to come up with new money at a time when budgets are stretched.

But these subsidies are complex, consisting of various tools such as payments based on agricultural production, minimum price guarantees for goods, and income support for farmers.

The first thing nations must do is assess and understand the full extent of their subsidies and their impacts on nature, said Martina Fleckenstein,

head of food policy at WWF International.

"We know where we want to go. The challenge is how does it look at the national level?" she said.

Analysts say a major reason reform can be so difficult is that many powerful interests are beneficiaries of subsidies.

Agricultural subsidies tend to disproportionately favour large farms at the expense of small farmers, according to research by the World Resources Institute (WRI) think tank.

"Most of this is around domestic politics and dealing with strong domestic constituencies," said Andrew Deutz, director of policy and finance at conservation group The Nature Conservancy.

He said the politics around agriculture should be different to fossil fuels, though, because subsidies need to be repurposed to incentivise positive practices instead of being pulled out of the sector completely.

"In the agricultural sector, we can envision a world that's free of harmful subsidies, but we certainly want a world that has food in it," Deutz said.

For example, he said the EU's CAP regime has started to funnel incentives towards things like protecting habitats and landscapes.

Whatever new agricultural initiatives are brought in to preserve nature, experts say such changes do not occur overnight — and that those in the agriculture sector will need support to adapt.

"You need to have coping strategies, it's not like silver bullets resolve all the problems," said Helen Ding, a senior economist and subsidies expert at WRI.

Farmers need to be reassured that they can sustain their incomes and support their families while implementing practices which protect nature, she added.

In Costa Rica, for example, she spoke to farmers who were growing organic coffee on a portion of their land alongside conventional production, to insure against fluctuations in yields and the international coffee trade.

In New Zealand, Rolleston said farmers in the 1980s were in favour of the subsidy reforms, but still needed support to adapt their practices.

"For farmers, that was a pretty tough period because it happened very quickly," said Rolleston, a former president of the Federated Farmers advocacy group.

He said the government provided welfare, particularly for those who went out of business — with around 1% of farmers leaving the sector at that time — but emphasised that support from other institutions like banks was also essential.

As countries prepare to discuss harmful subsidies at COP15, Rolleston said high food prices globally could make it easier for farmers to change their practices without losing out.

"The best time to do these reforms is always yesterday, and the second best time is when prices are high enough to be able to manage that transition," he said. — Thomson Reuters Foundation



# SC delivers vast range of facilities to support more than 17,000 media professionals



Fatma al-Nuaimi

More than 17,000 media professionals are covering the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and utilising a vast number of facilities organised by the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC).

The Host Country Media Centre (HCMC) in Msheireb Downtown Doha is the heart of operations and is equipped with work stations, technical support and broadcast studios, along with food and beverage options.

Fatma al-Nuaimi, executive director, Communications & Media, SC, said: "The Host Country Media Centre is a central point for the many thousands of media professionals covering Qatar 2022. Media have everything they need here to report on both the tournament and Qatar as a host country. We are also hosting press conferences on a regular basis and helping tournament stakeholders communicate directly with media."

The HCMC is strategically located in the centre of Doha, a short walk from the Msheireb metro station and connected via shuttle buses to key sites, including stadiums and the FIFA Fan Festival. It is also close to both Souq Waqif and the Doha Corniche - two locations especially popular with the many thousands of fans attending the tournament. In addition to the facilities available at the HCMC, the SC has built studio clusters which are available to broadcasters at Souq Waqif and the Doha Corniche. Built in partnership with



HCMC is equipped with work stations, technical support and broadcast studios, along with food and beverage options.



Host Country Media Centre in Msheireb Downtown Doha is the heartbeat of operations.

the Associated Press, the studios are available 24 hours a day for broadcasters who wish to record live from those venues.

"Our goal was to provide the best services to everyone coming to Qatar for this historic tournament," said al-Nuaimi. "There has been huge interest from media globally - including many social media influencers interested in sharing stories from the first

FIFA World Cup in the Middle East and Arab world."

Bloomberg Linea reporter Alan Souza, from Brazil, said: "The infrastructure is great and the staff here are very polite and friendly, always willing to help us and pass on information. The location is great - we're near restaurants, places to visit and it's really easy to find. Everything we need is here to film, edit and interview. It's

perfect for me." Ayotola Solomon, camera operator for Nigerian outlet Arise News, said: "Coming to Qatar and seeing all this infrastructure is mind-blowing. They have everything we need to make us comfortable. The facility is amazing - great location, great views, nice people, nice culture."

In addition to providing first-rate facilities, the SC is also working closely with stakeholders to

## Media coverage of World Cup Qatar 2022 'largest in history'

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 boasts the largest media coverage in World Cup history with thousands of media professionals and journalists covering the tournament events. A CNBC-Arabiya TV channel report said Qatar does not interfere in media content, and that it has facilitated the media outlets in Qatar to report the World Cup atmosphere to the world.

The *Eye on Qatar* programme's report drove home that the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 had the largest international media coverage in the tournament history. It added that all technical and logistical support was provided to journalists from different countries to facilitate the performance of their mission inside and outside the stadiums. It also noted the tournament's growing interest in digital platforms, while keeping the traditional role of television in broadcasting, analysing matches and airing fan reactions. Another report by the same channel said that volunteers at airports, metro stations and places of residence of World Cup teams, stadiums and fan zones, are always smiling, welcoming and enthusiastic about providing assistance to the World Cup fans, a scene that is repeated in all areas of the events and activities of the tournament.



Photographers take pictures as Argentine superstar Lionel Messi celebrates a goal with teammates during the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group C football match between Argentina and Mexico at the Lusail Stadium.

The humanity unites them despite the difference in cultures, and the sincere desire to make the championship a success, and they are acting as one, the report added. The report hailed the volunteers as a large family of more than 20,000 volunteers, representing 150 countries from all over the world. They were chosen out of half a million requests to volunteer for the tournament through the FIFA platform, in addition to about 10,000 volunteers from outside the FIFA, including 2,000 serving people with special needs. In this context, Programme Manager at QF's Earthna Center for a Sustainable Future, Nihal al-Saleh said the centre co-operated with the Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 to train 247 volunteers on how to help fans with special needs on their journey to the stadiums. (QNA)

# Fans fall in love with Qatar, find Katara a top cultural destination

## Katara Fashion Show begins this evening, to showcase collections of 16 designers from Qatar, Arab region

Katara - the Cultural Village Foundation will open a number of new exhibitions and events today, including the Katara Fashion Show, which will begin at 8pm at the Opera House.

The show titled 'Elegance Inspired by Authenticity' will be held until December 4.

The event is unique in Qatar and reflects Qatari women's passion for heritage and originality, and their innovative and modern designs, according to a press statement. Some 16 fashion designers from Qatar and other Arab countries will participate in the Katara Fashion Show. Each night will be dedicated to designs that blend the spirit of the past and the present with innovative, modern touches. Four designers will be featured on each night.

Meanwhile, Katara's activities accompanying the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 continue to attract thousands of visitors, including citizens, residents, fans and tourists from Qatar, the Gulf region and various countries of the world, belonging to different nationalities and age groups, in an atmosphere that is entertaining while also highlighting key heritage and cultural aspects.

Katara provides an attractive framework that takes visitors into a world of culture, arts and heritage through various exciting and interesting activities, shows and events, the statement notes.

Another key attraction, the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival is witnessing visits by a number of state guests and dignitaries. Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti, general manager of Katara, received Mary Munive Angermuller, Second Vice-President of Costa Rica and Minister of Sports, and accompanied her on a tour of the festival and its pavilions. He gave her a commemora-

### WHAT'S ON OFFER?

Following are some of the highlights of the Katara Fashion Show:

**1. Night 1**  
\* A review of four collections of luxurious fashion inspired by the marine environment  
\* Amal al-Raisi, a designer from Oman; Sarah al-Ansari, a Qatari designer; Iman Ahmed, a rising Emirati designer; and Al-Anoud Jassim, a Qatari designer, will feature on Day 1

**2. Night 2**  
'Al Qumra', inspired by the Bedouin environment, will focus on highlighting the desert Bedouin inscriptions.

**3. Night 3**  
The third night's show is inspired by flowers and plants of the Qatari environment and reflects the spring weather in the Gulf.

**4. Night 4**  
'The Bride' is characterised by a distinctive and charming character, and shows costumes inspired by the night of henna.

tive shield on the occasion of her visit.

The festival is also witnessing an increasing turnout of visitors and World Cup fans. Al-Mahamil, who was among the fans, said: "I got to learn about the old life in Qatar. I am happy to be here and am thinking of visiting Qatar again with my friends because the people here are very nice, contrary to what I heard of before I came here."

Veronique from France said: "This is the first time I am visiting this country and I am amazed by the sports facilities and by the nature of the people. They are all so very friendly and generous. Katara is a very beautiful place where people of different nationalities meet. All fans meet here to learn about the local heritage and culture."

BJ from England says the weather here is pleasant and beautiful. He came to Qatar to watch the matches of England and will return to his country, along with his family, later due to the warm reception he has received. He also praised the beauty of Katara, saying: "This is the third time that I am visiting Katara. It is truly an exceptional place, and I admire this

wonderful mixture between modernity and originality. I was attracted by the community's preservation of its cultural privacy, and at the same time everyone here is friendly and loves other cultures. Wherever we go, we find someone who guides us and welcomes us."

William from the USA said: "I am very impressed with the organisation, arrangement and diversity of events and places. Katara is beautiful and it is an attractive and magical place. I bought some gifts, such as shells and others, because I liked them very much."

Cho from South Korea, a social media influencer, said: "The nature here is different from Korea, and this is what I liked. It is a new, interesting and fun experience."

Christina from Brazil expressed happiness at attending the World Cup and said: "I was very impressed with the marine jewellery made of pearls, and I bought many gifts for my friends and family."

Jose Torrio from Mexico added: "I came to Qatar for 10 days and was impressed by the cultural diversity that exists in Katara."



Visitors from around the world.



Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti with Mary Munive Angermuller.





QATAR

FIFA WORLD CUP  
Qatar 2022

QATAR



## Ministers visit Darb Al Saai

HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Sheikh Dr Faleh bin Nasser bin Ahmed bin Ali al-Thani visited the Darb Al Saai Qatar National Day celebrations at Umm Salal yesterday. Accompanied by HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, he toured the venue and its various sections, and the dignitaries were briefed on the activities and events taking place there. The festivities, meanwhile, continued to attract a large number of people.



## Shooting, archery event enhances Qatari identity

The shooting and archery event during the Darb Al Saai festival, organised by the Qatar Shooting & Archery Association, enhances Qatari identity and revival of the traditional sports. The chairman of the shooting and archery event, Ahmed al-Kuwari, said that programme is intended to revive a traditional sport that played a significant role in the protection of people and in hunting for food. He noted that Qatari athletes have excelled in the sport that is part of the Olympic Games. Al-Kuwari said that the inclusion of archery in the activities of Darb Al Saai contributes to the strengthening of Qatari identity and helps connect children with the heritage of the country. - QNA



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