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**DATE AND TIME**

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9:00 AM - 1:00 PM & 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

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**Day 13**

**Ronaldo uncertain for Korea match**

**Sport Page 2**

**FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022**



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With Rihlat Doreedo



**Qatar citizens to have visa-free entry to Schengen countries**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday welcomed the ratification by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the European Parliament to exempt Qatar citizens from entry visa to Schengen countries without conditions. Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majed bin Mohamed al-Ansari said the matter now need not be presented for deliberations in the European Parliament for approval. **Page 4**

**FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022**

**Today's schedule**

**Group H**

**Ghana vs Uruguay, 6pm**  
at Al Janoub Stadium

**Portugal vs South Korea, 6pm**  
at Education City Stadium

**Group G**

**Brazil vs Cameroon, 10pm**  
at Lusail Stadium

**Serbia vs Switzerland, 10pm**  
at Stadium 974

**Yesterday's results**

**Group F**

**Croatia 0 vs Belgium 0**

**Morocco 2 vs Canada 1**

**Group E**

**Germany 4 vs Costa Rica 2**

**Japan 2 vs Spain 1**

**Morocco, Japan roar into last 16, Germans go home**

• World No. 2 Belgium's campaign ends with a whimper • Spain, Croatia make it through • History made as female referees officiate men's WC match

On a day when history was made as a men's FIFA World Cup match was for the first time officiated by an all-female refereeing team, Morocco scripted their own history yesterday when they became the only Arab team - and the

second African team so far - to make it to the last 16. This is the first time Morocco have entered the knockout stages of the tournament since 1986, and their second till date. The stellar Moroccan show leads

a series of memorable performances by Arab teams at the World Cup, with Saudi Arabia and Tunisia winning the hearts of millions despite making an exit.

Senegal are the other African team to have qualified for the last 16 so far, with Ghana and Cameroon set to play their last matches today.

Japan made Asia proud when they topped their group to qualify for the last 16, another remarkable feat.

On the other hand, yesterday saw more misery for European powerhouses as Germany and Belgium crashed out of the World Cup. Earlier, Denmark had failed to qualify for the next round after a series of dismal performances.

Spain and Croatia, though, went through to the next round though they failed to impress in their clashes yesterday.

Morocco will play against Spain in the Round of 16 while Japan will take on Croatia.

Meanwhile, France's Stephanie Frappart, 38, led the first all-female refereeing team in a men's World Cup in the Germany-Costa Rica game at Al Bayt Stadium alongside assistants Neuza Back from Brazil and Mexico's Karen Diaz. **To Page 3**



Morocco's players celebrate winning the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group F football match between Canada and Morocco at the Al Thumama Stadium in Doha yesterday.

**Amir receives message from Morocco king**



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received a verbal message from King Mohamed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco related to bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries, and aspects of their growth and development. The message was conveyed by Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Co-operation and Moroccan Expatriates of Morocco Nasser Bourita when the Amir met him at Al Thumama Stadium yesterday. **(QNA)**

**Record TV viewership for Qatar 2022 matches**

The 2022 World Cup in Qatar is continuing to engage TV audiences around the world with record-breaking numbers across multiple markets, FIFA has said. In Asia, the group game between Japan and Costa Rica on November 27 drew an average audience of 36.37mn viewers. This surpassed the audience of their incredible comeback against Germany in their tournament opener by over 10mn and was 74% higher than the average domestic group stage audience during the FIFA World Cup in 2018. On November 24 in Korea Republic, 11.14mn people watched their tournament opener against Uruguay. The broadcast saw a 97% increase in TV audience compared to the average for group stage matches at the FIFA World Cup in Brazil in 2014; 18% higher than at Russia 2018. Fans in Europe have also been tuning in for the second round of group stage matches in great numbers. **To Page 2**





"BEAUTY LIES IN THE DETAILS OF THE GRANDEST STRUCTURES, AND THE FINEST."

ORA'ÏTO. CREATOR OF SHAPES. WEARS THE VACHERON CONSTANTIN TRADITIONNELLE.

**VACHERON CONSTANTIN** GENEVE

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## Croatian president arrives in Doha



President of Croatia Zoran Milanovic arrived yesterday in Doha to attend part of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 matches. The president and the accompanying delegation were received upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser al-Ali and ambassador of Croatia to Qatar Drago Lovric. (QNA)

## Amir sends cables of congratulations to president of Romania

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to President of Romania Klaus Iohannis on the occasion of his country's National Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani also sent a similar cable to Prime Minister of Romania Nicolae Ciuca on the occasion. (QNA)

## Qatar condemns attack on school in Afghanistan

Qatar has expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the bombing that targeted a school in Samangan province, northern Afghanistan and resulted in deaths and injuries. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's firm stance of rejecting violence and terrorism, regardless of the motives and reasons. The ministry expressed Qatar's condolences to the families of the victims as well as to the government and people of Afghanistan, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. (QNA)

## Sheikha Hind visits World Cup Qatar activities at Education City



HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, Vice-Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation (QF), visited the GOALS exhibition at Education City as it continues to tell the story of the FIFA World Cup through the eyes and words of those who are experiencing it themselves. The exhibition is a collection of stories, images, and videos created by people living, working, and studying in Qatar, and is showcased at QF partner university Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar. Following the exhibition visit, HE Sheikha Hind explored the Fan Experience activations on offer at Education City. The activations, which are held on Education City Stadium FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 match days - three hours before and two hours after games - include a variety of multisensory experiences, educational activities, and cultural performances that showcase the heritage of Qatar and the wider region.

## British Council, Katara sign agreement to promote UK-Qatar cultural relations

British Council Qatar has signed a letter of collaboration with Katara - the Cultural Village Foundation to celebrate the closing of the seventh edition of the UK Festival, which was themed around *Sport for Good* and took place from November 23-29. The letter states both countries' commitment to deepening cultural relations through:

- Strategic joint programmes and events across different cultural fields

- Facilitating exchange visits and mutual participation in festivals between the two countries, and

- Promoting opportunities for Qatari nationals to undertake cultural and educational opportunities in the United Kingdom.

This year's festival, which was attended by more than 25,000 people, brought to life the UK's vibrant cultural scene in Qatar, facilitating exchanges between UK and Qatari artists, and young people. As part of the festival, a variety of different artists put on performances and collaborative activities to showcase the *Sport For Good* theme, including:

- Radio Selector - showcasing diversity in the UK's music scene

- Parkour shows - award-winning Parkour artists ran live shows to motivate people to use sport for good by spending less time indoors and more time outside moving

- Illustration project - Tim Vyner, a renowned UK-based illustrator collaborated with Qatari artist Kholood al-Ali to draw live illustrations of everything around him, capturing the energy of young leaders participating in the festival in addition to the Qatari culture and heritage

- Mural creation - young people and communities from around the world worked in collaboration with UK and Qatari artists on murals highlighting the importance of diversity and inclusion in sport

- Photography shooting stars exhibition - 10 young people were trained by two world-class photographers to take photos of live events at the World Cup, with their top picks on display at an exhibition visible to all festival goers.

"It is a real pleasure to be here in Qatar and see the activities



Snapshots from the UK Festival.



over the last weeks come together in these great works of arts that embody all that British Council stands for, collaboration and cultural exchange that can help create more inclusive societies and provide young people lasting skills to take into other parts of their lives." British Council chief executive Scott McDonald reflected.

"I would like to deeply thank GREAT for supporting this event, as well as all other partners and in specific, Katara - the Cultural Village Foundation," he said. "The newly signed Letter of Collaboration will further enhance the cultural exchange between both nations."

"It has been another great edition of the UK Festival with so many cultural highlights that have brought the UK and Qatar communities even closer and explored how you can use different arts forms to connect communities, young and old," Katara general manager Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti said. "I am delighted to grow our relationship with the British Council Qatar and together work on deepening and enrich-

ing our countries' culture and arts sectors."

"I am delighted to be here in Qatar, celebrating UK and Qatari creativity and diversity," said GREAT campaign director Andrew Pike. "It's great to see all the different activities taking place and how we've engaged different audiences around the *Sport for Good* theme."

"We were able to increase awareness of UK culture and build a cultural bridge between Qatar and the UK through arts, music and sports! I would like to thank the British Council and Katara for working alongside us to make this happen," he added. "I look forward to a rich and long-lasting collaboration with Qatar."

The UK Festival is a partnership between the British Council and the GREAT campaign, and supported by many partner organisations and initiatives: the British embassy in Qatar, Katara, Education Above All, ILoveQatar.net, QBS Radio, Street Child United, the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, and the Welsh government.

## International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian people



Qatar participated in the official ceremony of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People that was held in office of the United Nations in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. Ambassador of Qatar to Kenya Jabor bin Ali al-Dosari represented Qatar in the ceremony. (QNA)

## Qatar reiterates solidarity with Palestinian people

QNA  
New York

Qatar reiterated its commitment to continue with its solidarity with the fraternal Palestinian people, who continue their just struggle to reclaim their land, sanctities, and inalienable rights that are supported by all international and humanitarian laws and principles.

This came in the statement, delivered by HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations ambassador Sheikhha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani, during the UN 77th session of the General Assembly to discuss the "the question of Palestine."

HE Sheikhha Alya emphasised that the right of self-determination comes at the forefront of those rights to ensure the establishment of an independent, sustainable, and viable Palestinian state on the borders of 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on the two-state solution, Arab Peace Initiative, and in implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy.

She stressed the need to end the Israeli occupation of all the occupied Arab land, including the occupied Syrian Golan and the occupied Lebanese territories, clarifying that this is the way to achieve sustainable settlement of the Palestine cause and that peace and stability in the Middle East will not be achieved without it.

HE Sheikhha Alya reiterated Qatar's strong condemnation of the repeated attacks on the Al-



HE Sheikhha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani

Aqsa Mosque by the occupation forces as well as Israeli settlers who were supported by those forces. She also reiterated that these attacks are considered a flagrant violation of international law and a provocation of all Muslims' feelings and stressed that any attempts to alternate the historical and legal status of the Islamic and Christian sacred places in the occupied East Jerusalem, divide Al-Aqsa Mosque according to time and space, and tighten the freedom of Muslims' prayers in Al-Aqsa Mosque, are void attempts under the international law and the relevant UN resolutions.

HE Sheikhha Alya pointed out that Qatar welcomes the Australian government's announcement to revoke the recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. She said that the decision - the Australian government decision - is consistent with international consensus and resolutions of international legitimacy, supports international efforts to achieve peace, and enhances the chances of the two-state solution.

The Permanent Representative indicated that Qatar joins the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in calling for a credible, transparent, and without-delay international investigation into the assassination of the Aljazeera channel journalist Shireen Abu Akleh.

In that regard, she reiterated the emphasis that Qatar considers that crime as a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law (IHL) and blatant aggression on freedom of the press. She also noted the humanitarian, relief, and developmental role carried out by Qatar in the Gaza Strip, which is under siege.

HE Sheikhha Alya pointed out that this support contributed to enhancing the electric power supply for the strip, providing liquidity and cash assistance for families in need, and providing job and education opportunities, in addition to the long-term projects of reconstruction, the building of infrastructure and residential buildings, strength-

## HE Sheikhha Alya reiterated Qatar's strong condemnation of the repeated attacks on the Al-Aqsa Mosque by the occupation forces as well as Israeli settlers who were supported by those forces

ening of health, education, manufacture, and agriculture sectors.

She referred to Qatar's support for the Palestinian reconciliation, pointing out that Qatar welcomed the signing of the Declaration of Algiers by the Palestinian factions emanating from the "reunification conference to achieve Palestinian national unity," considering it as a positive step in the national unity's road, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

HE Sheikhha Alya reiterated the importance of implementing the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly under the item "Question of Palestine," in which the State of Qatar participates in pre-sentencing annually. She stressed Qatar's appreciation to the UN Division for Palestinian Rights and the special media seminar organised by the UN Department for Global Communications regarding the Palestinian cause.

## Record TV viewership for Qatar 2022 matches

From Page 1

On November 28, 65% of people watching TV in Spain saw La Roja take on Germany in one of the most anticipated games of the tournament so far. 11.9mn was the combined audience across coverage on La1 and Gol Mundial, exceeding the audience of any group stage game for the FIFA World Cup in 2018.

Incredibly, over three quarters (76.6%) of all people watching TV in the Netherlands witnessed Cody Gakpo's wonder strike in their 1-1 draw with Ecuador. This was the highest TV audience in the country in 2022 and greater than any match during the FIFA World Cup in 2018.

In France, Les Bleus' encounter with Denmark was broadcast on TF1. Averaging an audience of 11.6mn viewers, the programme audience peaked in the closing minutes of the match as 14.56mn watched Kylian Mbappe score a late winner. This was the highest peak of the tournament in France so far, beating 14mn viewers during France's opening match against Australia.

Portugal's match with Uruguay on November 28 was the highest TV audience in Portugal for a FIFA World Cup match

ever. In total, 5.35mn viewers in Portugal watched at least one minute of coverage as the team progressed to the knockout stages. The coverage held an audience share of 69.5% as A Selecao got their second win in as many games at the tournament. Over 80% of the Portuguese TV landscape has now watched at least one minute of the tournament's coverage.

In addition, interest in the beautiful game in the United States continues to grow with new records continuously being broken.

The English-language coverage of USA's encounter with England on November 25 was the most watched men's football match on US television ever, with a peak audience of 19.65mn viewers on Fox. NBC-Universal's Spanish-language coverage of the match on Telemundo was the second-most watched FIFA World Cup Group Stage match featuring a United States team in Spanish-language history.

The following day, as Argentina and Mexico met in a crucial Group C tie, the Telemundo broadcast in the US was the most-watched FIFA World Cup Group Stage match in Spanish-language history in the country,

and the second largest of any stage, ever.

Meanwhile, in Mexico, coverage of the same match delivered a national audience of 20.96mn viewers. The combined share across three channels broadcasting the game was 67.9%. This was higher than the top combined rating in the territory for any match of the FIFA World Cup in 2018.

In addition, the average audience in Canada for their make-or-break tie with Croatia was 4.33mn, with a share of 68.4%. This was 17% higher than Canada's opening match and 12% higher than the top combined audience in the territory for the 2018 tournament.

Passion for the game in South America knows no bounds with fans as engaged as ever.

In Argentina, the average audience for the two-time winners of the FIFA World Cup in their pivotal match with Mexico was 8.48mn; delivering an amazing audience share of 81.3%. The programme audience was the highest of the tournament so far in the country and 5% higher than both their first match against Saudi Arabia, and the average audience for their group stage matches during the FIFA World Cup 2018.



**Official**

**Qatar's ambassador presents credentials**

Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of Sudan Lt Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan received yesterday the credentials of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Qatar to Sudan Mohamed Ibrahim Tajer al-Sada. The ambassador conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council, and to the government and people of Sudan continued progress and prosperity. For his part, the chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council conveyed his greetings to the Amir, and Qatar continued progress, development and prosperity. **(QNA)**

**Ministers tour Darb Al Saai**



HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Sheikh Dr Faleh bin Nasser bin Ahmed bin Ali al-Thani and HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad paid a visit yesterday to the permanent headquarters of Darb Al Saai in Umm Salal Mohamed area accompanied by HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, who is also Chairman of the Organising Committee for Qatar National Day (QND) 2022, through which they were briefed on the National Day events, which falls on December 18 of each year, and is held this year under the slogan 'Our Unity Source of Our Strength'. During the visit, the ministers were familiarised with the most prominent participations held on the occasion of the

National Day, including the 'Al Rawda' pavilion which includes an event with the same designation for Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) in Darb Al Saai which organises many events and activities, along with various competitions that specifically target different age groups in pursuit of spreading environmental awareness, including the most important services offered by MoECC to the public. This year's event was divided into four sections that include wild trees and plants, along with other sections that include the Arabian oryx, gazelles, ostriches, houbara bustards, and rabbits. HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change lauded the events in Darb Al Saai and the efforts made by the Organising Committee, commending the

meticulous organisation and the excellent showcases aimed at demonstrating numerous aspects of Qatari history, heritage and values to be introduced to the Qatari people and visitors of Darb Al Saai. The tour also included a visit to the pavilion of productive families in the Darb Al Saai market, where HE al-Misnad was introduced to the activities of the shops participating in the market. HE the Minister of Social Development and Family praised Darb Al Saai events and the efforts of the Organising Committee to show aspects of Qatari history, heritage and values to the children and visitors of Darb Al Saai events, which coincide this year with Qatar hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. **(QNA)**



**Qatari citizens exempted from entry visa to Schengen nations**

**QNA**  
Brussels

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the European Parliament approved yesterday to exempt the citizens of Qatar from the entry visa to Schengen countries without conditions.

Such a step is considered the last one from the part of the European Parliament that shall be followed by deliberations in a tripartite committee representing the Council of the European Union, the Commission and the Parliament to further set the text of Schengen visa exemption agreement between the two parties prior to being signed and implemented. Ambassador of Qatar to the European Union and Nato Abdulaziz bin Ahmed al-Malki welcomed this approval describing it as a fundamental step toward the finalisation of the exemption file.

He underlined that the vote comes in the context of the commitment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar to care for



HE Dr Majed bin Mohamed al-Ansari

the interests of citizens abroad and expedite their travels to all world countries. HE the Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majed bin Mohamed al-Ansari underlined that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed the ratification made by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the European Parliament to exempt the citizens of Qatar from the entry visa to Schengen countries without conditions.

**The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament approved to exempt the citizens of Qatar form the entry visa to Schengen countries without conditions**

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Dr al-Ansari indicated that the ratification of the exemption came as a result of the constant efforts made by Qatar's mission to European Union and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure its unfettered passage, expressing Qatar's happiness for the ratification of the exemption with the majority of 42 votes in LIBE. He noted that LIBE's approval for the exemption included that it does not need to be presented in general deliberations session of the European Parliament, in order to be a final approval from the European Parliament.

He clarified that the next step includes the start of deliberations in a tripartite commission representing the Council of the European Union, the Commission and the Parliament to formulate the text of the Schengen

visa exemption agreement between Qatar and European Union in preparation for its signature and implementation by the two parties, indicating that it is difficult to set a time limit for these steps, however, the thing that can be confirmed is that the essential steps have been completed.

In his statement to QNA, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the ministry's follow-up to all stages of the issuance of the exemption underscores its keenness to overcome the difficulties faced by the Qatari citizens and expedite their travel procedures abroad, emphasising that the ministry will spare no effort to sign further agreements that put the Qatari passport among the most powerful international passports in commensurate with the global and diplomatic position of the country.

**Dy Speaker meets parliamentary officials**



HE the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti met yesterday with President of the National Assembly of Armenia Alen Simonyan, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan Muhammad Qasim Khan Suri, Secretary-General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) Shura Council Said Moqaddam and Head of the Libyan House of Representatives' Office Abdullah al-Masry al-Fadil, who are currently visiting the country. During the meeting, they reviewed a number of issues pertaining to the parliamentary action, and ways to promote the parliamentary relations. The parliamentarians expressed their happiness at visiting Qatar, lauding the comprehensive renaissance being witnessed by the country in various fields. They also expressed their admiration for the excellent organisation of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. **(QNA)**

**Shura committee discusses draft law**



The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the Shura Council held a meeting under the chairmanship of HE Chairman of the Committee Ahmad bin Hitmi al-Hitmi. During the meeting, the committee discussed a draft law on combating the concealment of non-Qatari practice of commercial, economic and professional activities in violation of the law, and decided to proceed with its study of the draft at its upcoming meeting. **(QNA)**

**Shura Council takes part in symposium on disarmament**

The Shura Council participated yesterday in a virtual international parliamentary symposium on disarmament, organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in co-operation with the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament network (PNND), World Future Council (WFC) and Youth Inclusion Network (YIN). In the symposium, the Shura Council was represented by member of the Council Mohamed bin Fahad al-Musallam. The symposium addressed the importance and role of parliamentary work to ensure equal participation of both genders, sustainability in disarmament initiatives, and the role of women's leadership in this field. This symposium comes within a series of international parliamentary events, to follow up the launch of the publication of 'Securing Our Common Future', which is an agenda for disarmament launched by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in 2018. **(QNA)**



**Stadium-to-Stadium bus service allows fans to watch two matches on same day**

Mowasalat (Karwa) has transported 24,321 fans through its Stadium-to-Stadium shuttle service. A first in the history of the FIFA World Cup, the service allows fans to enjoy two matches on the same day, the company said, adding in a video message that the initiative involves some 580 buses.



Karwa has mobilised its fleet with specialised technical teams to ensure a comfortable and smooth transportation experience during the tournament. Fans from around the world lauded the initiative.

Overall, about 4,000 buses are being operated during the tournament, of which some 3,000 are dedicated to transporting fans, including more than 800 fully electric buses that operate with zero carbon emissions. Meanwhile, a total of 3,168 buses were used to transport 284,851 fans on the 11th day of the tournament - Wednesday. The buses made 9,663 trips.

According to figures released by the Ministry of Transport (MoT), a total of 8,646 passengers were transported by the Ed-



ucation City and Msheireb trams, while the number of people ferried by the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram on the same day stood at 761,635.

The MoT also said 948 aircraft movements were recorded at Hamad International Airport and Doha International Airport on Wednesday.

**Qatar 2022: Morocco, Japan roar into last 16, Germans and Belgians go home**

From Page 1

**MAGNIFICENT MOROCCO CRUISE PAST CANADA**

Hakim Ziyech and Youssef En-Nesyri each scored a first-half goal to lead Morocco to a 2-1 victory over Canada yesterday in a Group F match of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 at Al Thumama Stadium.

Ziyech's blast opened the scoring in the fourth minute and En-Nesyri converted a long free from Achraf Hakimi to double the advantage in the 23rd.

Morocco overcame Nayef Aguerd's own goal in the 40th minute and fended off six corner kicks from Canada to finish with seven points to win the group and advance for the second time.

**CROATIA SURVIVE, BELGIUM SENT PACKING**

Croatia reached the last 16 of the World Cup after a ten-

sion-filled 0-0 draw with Belgium yesterday that ensured the last hurrah of the Belgian 'golden generation' ended in a dismal group-stage exit.

Roberto Martinez's side, ranked second in the world and semi-finalists four years ago, needed a win at Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium to keep their hopes alive but could not break down the Croats.

Substitute Romelu Lukaku fluffed four golden chances to break the deadlock as Belgium cast off the shackles in the second half, although Croatia had their own opportunities to find a winner.

Morocco topped Group F, followed by Croatia, Belgium and Canada.

**JAPAN STUN SPAIN, BUT BOTH QUALIFY**

Ritsu Doan and Ao Tanaka earned Japan a stunning 2-1 victory over Spain 2-1 in a World Cup Group E match at Kha-

lifa International Stadium yesterday as both teams reached the last 16.

Striker Alvaro Morata put Spain ahead in the 12th minute when he headed home Cesar Azpilicueta's cross for his third goal in three World Cup games.

Japan levelled three minutes into the second half through winger Doan who slotted home from just outside the penalty area and midfielder Tanaka scored the winner in the 51st minute, the goal confirmed after a lengthy VAR check.

This was the second come-from-behind victory for Japan against European heavyweights, having beaten Germany earlier in similar fashion.

Japan finished on top of Group E, followed by Spain, Germany and Costa Rica.

**GERMANY CRASH OUT DESPITE WIN**

Germany were knocked out of the World Cup in the group

stage for a second consecutive time despite a 4-2 win over Costa Rica at Al Bayt Stadium yesterday after the four-time champions were consigned to third in Group E following Japan's victory over Spain.

Costa Rica deployed a five-man backline but Germany still found a way through in the 10th minute when David Raum floated in a cross that was headed home by Serge Gnabry, who restarted the game quickly fearing goal difference being a factor.

But after learning that Japan were leading Spain in the other group game, Germany let their guard down and Costa Rica scored twice with Yeltsin Tejeda arriving late to score the first before Juan Pablo Vargas bundled a second over the line.

Germany's Kai Havertz grabbed a brace after coming on as a substitute to seal the three points before Niclas Füllkrug added a fourth late in the game but the final results left Japan at the top of the group while Spain finished second.

## UNICRI, UNOCT and ICSS organise first National Focal Points Regional Forum for Africa



The first National Focal Points (NFPs) Regional Forum for Africa took place in Dakar.

The International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS) and its partners, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), along with representatives of Senegal, joined forces to host the first National Focal Points (NFPs) Regional Forum for Africa.

The event, which took place in Dakar on November 30 and December 1, was aimed at being a reference event in Africa to engage high-level policymakers, stakeholders and youth in terms of major sporting events (MSEs) and to build resilience to violent extremism.

The forum was organised within the

framework of the multi-year Global Programme on the Security Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism (Global Sports Programme), an initiative supported by Qatar, China and South Korea as donors.

The Global Programme is aimed at strengthening the protection of MSE through enhanced international co-operation and sustainable security approaches while promoting the values of sport as a powerful means to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism.

During the two-day event, partners introduced the Global Sports Programme and the Global Guide on the Security of Major Sporting Events: Promoting Sus-

tainable Security & Legacies produced by the Global Programme.

The forum was an opportunity to overview Global Sports Programme's security outputs and national perspectives on sport for preventing violent extremism.

It also provided an e-training and practical group exercise to help participants understand in greater depth how to identify challenges on major sport events safety and security and prevention of extremism using the values of sport as elaborated by the Global Sports Programme, paving the way for future integrated workshops and training for African countries.

"This forum, which kicks start a new partnership with African countries, of-

fers a unique opportunity in supporting them to build national capacities in terms of sport security and the use of sport to prevent violent extremism," said ICSS Sport Public Policy director Diogo Guia. "The Global Programme is gaining pace as more and more to provide assistance in this field to many countries such as Cameroun, Costa Rica, El Salvador and the Maldives."

"We reaffirm our strong commitment to continuing to provide technical assistance and enhance policy co-ordination and practical co-operation towards making instruments of security of major sporting events and the use of sport to combat extremism more inclusive," he said.

## SC delivers cutting edge broadcast network for Qatar 2022 coverage

The state-of-the-art broadcast network delivered by the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) is helping media to screen the FIFA World Cup in 4K resolution for the first time.

The 1TB bandwidth network connects eight stadiums, 33 Team Base Camps and two studio clusters with the International Broadcast Centre (IBC), located at the Qatar National Conven-

tion Centre (QNCC), where live feeds are transmitted globally to billions of viewers.

"We have developed infrastructure that allows broadcasters to beam their pictures safely, quickly and in the highest resolution ever achieved at a FIFA World Cup," SC ICT (information and communications technology) Event Operations executive director said Maryam al-Muftah.

"We worked with cutting-edge technology and collaborated diligently with stakeholders to ensure fans across the world can enjoy this historic tournament in a quality never seen before in history," she said.

As well as providing an extensive high-speed fibre optic network, the SC is offering a range of services to FIFA's Media Rights Licensees, including high-speed broadband connectivity



and dedicated facilities to help them reach their audiences.

In addition, the SC has built a dynamic Internet Protocol TV network to allow media to broadcast live from all tournament venues.

The SC has also developed IT (information technology) and broadcasting infrastructure at all tournament venues, including high-speed Internet, display screens and other audiovisual

equipment needed to screen the tournament.

"The IT infrastructure we have developed reflects our commitment to host a tournament that leverages the latest technological innovations," said al-Muftah. "We have worked incredibly hard to deliver a high-quality, reliable and uninterrupted feed."

The entire network is being supported by several satellites at the IBC

that are also capable of transmitting the same high-quality feed to broadcasters around the world.

"Our work will leave a tremendous legacy for the country," said al-Muftah. "Thanks to this experience, we have built local capacity and skills to provide a similar service in future - all of which can rely on an extensive fibre optic network delivering outstanding quality for broadcasters."

## QT unveils special edition FIFA World Cup Qatar Now guidebook

The second edition of Qatar Tourism (QT)'s biannual *Qatar Now* guidebook offers readers a comprehensive rundown of the abundant sights, events, and attractions across the country during the ongoing FIFA World Cup tournament.

From desert dune bashing to enjoying live musical entertainment, the special edition issue of the guidebook showcases the variety of experiences available to visitors during FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and explores the country's heritage and culture.

The free glossy publication aims to redefine visitors' expectations of Qatar as an international tourist destination.

*Qatar Now*, which debuted earlier this year, is available at various traveller touchpoints across the country, including hotels, museums, and Hamad International Airport (HIA).

The guidebook offers a deep dive into events taking place during the tournament, including major music festivals (Aravia by MDLBeast, until December 18), fashion shows (Qatar Fashion United by CR Runway on December 16), and beach activations (West Bay Beach Experience, until March 31).

In addition to interesting FIFA World Cup-related facts and figures, the issue has an extensive guide to



the tournament's eight stadiums, including details about their intricate design and impressive sustainability credentials.

Some of the tournament's most significant personalities are interviewed at length, including FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 ambassador David Beckham and local comedian Hamad al-Amari.

Both share their tips for a perfect Qatar visit, which are sure to help every kind of traveller build their itineraries.

Food and art are extensively covered in this edition.

Local chefs and food bloggers give their views on the best dishes and dining experiences that the country has to offer, while selected local artists share their guide to Qatar's booming art scene and its most arresting architecture.

*Qatar Now*'s editorial content aims to inspire current and future visitors to the country, and forms part of the QT's strategy to attract 6mn visitors by 2030.

The English version of the second *Qatar Now* edition is available at key visitor touchpoints around the country and can be downloaded from the website <https://visitqatar.com/intl-en/qatar-now>

## Travel Book of Culture on Qatar's masterpieces

Qatar Museums (QM) has announced the arrival of its *Travel Book of Culture*, created by celebrated French artist Lapin as part of the Qatar-France 2020 Year of Culture.

The book is available to purchase now at all IN-Q locations and on the IN-Q online store.

*Travel Book of Culture* is an illustrated travel sketchbook created over the course of three weeks as Lapin explored the peninsula and sketched people and places along his journey.

He ate traditional dishes such as *madrouba*, tasted Arabic coffee in majlis, admired the outstanding architecture of the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ), and visited places like the souq, West Bay, and Katara.

Throughout his journey, Lapin captured landmarks in the desert, including the heritage site of Al Zubarah and Richard Serra's sculptures in Zekreet.

This travel book features all the wonders of Qatar.

"I take great pleasure in sharing this beautiful book and the many stories it tells with readers in Qatar and around the world," said Director of Cultural Diplomacy Aisha al-Attijah. "We have seen, especially during this FIFA World Cup, how powerful cultural connections can be in breaking down tropes and stereotypes to let our human instinct for connection shine through."

"We are thankful to Lapin for this wonderful testament to the joy of exploring other cultures," she said.

Lapin is a French artist living in Barcelona. Lapin has participated in the Urban Sketchers community since its founding and was nominated official air and space painter for the French army in 2019. - QNA



The Corniche street festival is among the various activations visitors can enjoy during the World Cup. PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

## Non-ticketed World Cup fans welcome from today

Qatar will welcome non-ticketed FIFA World Cup fans from today, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has said.

This was announced earlier and the MoI issued yesterday a reminder on social media, besides listing the conditions that have to be met to avail of the facility.

Since November 1, only people with the Hayya Card and match tickets, accompanied by three guests, had been allowed to enter the country.

The ticket requirement will be eased

from today at the end of the group stage, enabling non-ticketed fans to enter the country and enjoy the unique tournament atmosphere.

The MoI has listed the conditions for non-ticketed fans to avail of the facility.

- These are:
  - Get a Hayya Card
  - Make a hotel reservation.
  - Visit [qatar2022.qa/book](https://qatar2022.qa/book) for hotel booking
  - Pay a fee of QR500.
- As explained at a press conference ear-

lier, non-ticketed fans can apply for their Hayya cards to enter Qatar through the Hayya platform (<https://hayya.qatar2022.qa/>) or "Hayya to Qatar 2022" mobile application according to the listed requirements.

There is a QR500 entry fee for children aged 12 and over.

Under-12s will not be charged, the press conference was told.

A variety of accommodation options can be found at <https://www.qatar2022.qa/book>



## Fish nets seized

Officers of the Marine Protection Department and the Al Shamal Unit of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) have seized fishing nets at the coral reef site at Al Shamal. The nets, according to an official statement from the MoECC, were confiscated, a fine issued against the violators, and the case referred for prosecution.

Net fishing is prohibited near islands and coral reefs, which are breeding grounds for marine life. "Net fishing exposes these breeding grounds to destruction and threatens their continuation causing a depletion of fish stocks, thus negatively affecting food security," the statement said. The ministry urged fishermen to adhere to environmental laws and conditions and not to use illegal fishing nets or fish in prohibited areas.





## FIFA festivities



Activities and event related to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 continue at The Pearl Island. PICTURES: Thajudheen

## Tunisia's victory marks another proud World Cup moment for Arab fans

Tunisians celebrated a historic but bittersweet World Cup victory over France on Wednesday as they defeated their former colonial power but still crashed out of a tournament marked by a remarkable string of Arab wins over soccer powerhouses.

Car horns sounded in Tunis after the final whistle in Tunisia's 1-0 win as fans savoured the moment even though their side did not make it through to the last 16 of the Qatar World Cup, the first in an Arab country. The victory marked another proud World Cup moment for Arab fans still celebrating Saudi Arabia's historic win over Argentina and Morocco's defeat of Belgium - victories applauded across the Arab region despite its deep political divisions.

"The victory over France was wonderful and had a special taste...Arab football regained its dignity from the former colonialists countries," said Narredine ben Salem, sitting in the Tunis cafe where he watched the match.

As the game ended, dozens of people ran into the central Habib Bourguiba Avenue, often the site of political protests, waving flags and cheering. In the official fan zone in Tunis, about 2,000 fans had been cheering through the game, many in Tunisian national soccer shirts or with their faces painted. When France appeared to have equalised with seconds remaining they fell eerily quiet, only to erupt into a huge cheer and dancing when the goal was disallowed for offside.

"It was a beautiful victory and a convincing performance, but in the end it was very harsh to be knocked out...I am very sad...We hope that Saudi Arabia will make us happy," Ben Salem said, reflecting hopes that Saudi Arabia would make to the next round, but that did not happen as the Saudis lost 1-2 to Mexico. In Qatar, Saudi fans celebrated Tunisia's win, another show of the pan-Arab unity that has been a feature of the tournament, said Abeer Awaisa, a Tunisian fan in Qatar.

"We didn't expect (Tunisia to defeat France) because France is a strong team but we were better and we played very well," Awaisa said. Many Tunisians watched Saudi Arabia's decisive match against Mexico later on Wednesday. Speaking ahead of the Tunisian match, Saudi fan Abdullah al-Rasaesi said: "This is a World Cup for all



Tunisia fans celebrate during the match at the fan zone in Tunis.



Tunisia fans inside Education City Stadium before the match on Wednesday.

Arabs, not just Qatar, and as you can see there is a big Arab celebration and hopefully it will be crowned with an Arab success."

While he was expecting a strong performance from Morocco, he said Saudi Arabia "honestly surprised us in the match with Argentina, it raised the bar high". Morocco supporter Khalim Farouki, 25, in Doha, said: "There is a big solidarity between us, Morocco, Tunisia, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. We support each other." Some Arab leaders attending the World Cup have echoed the sense of pan-Arab solidarity during matches. (Reuters)

# 'World Cup has given good exposure to Qatar's artists'

Qatari artist Abdulaziz Yousef, also known as Tamsa 7 (which means crocodile in Arabic), talks about his latest work 'People From The World', a goalpost he created in collaboration with Qatar Tourism for its 'Posts of Qatar' initiative.

'Posts of Qatar' showcases 10 distinctive goalpost art installations that frame some of the most iconic landmarks and Insta-worthy spots across the country.

Each installation has been created by an individual artist or a pair of artists, with two goalposts designed by artists from Qatar and the remaining eight by artists from nations that have previously won the tournament: England, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil.

Yousef, also a storyboard illustrator, began his career in 2013 as a comic artist. He holds a double major Bachelor of Finance and Marketing degree and has also studied arts in the US. His projects selections include characters design for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' 'Diplomatic Kid



Abdulaziz Yousef

project" as well as character design and plot for "Bader" a Qatari anime series.

Yousef also created "Saham" the Jeem Cup Mascot winning a bronze International Promax awards for the short film "Yahoota" (2020). Yousef says he has been very busy ahead of the World Cup, given his involvement in 12 multiple projects that vary between art galleries, apps, corporate gifts, public arts, campaigns and murals.

The Qatari artist describes

his new artwork (and the entire initiative) as public art. "We need such projects especially during World Cup to create the tourism attraction needed to enhance the experience of visitors to Qatar."

Asked what inspired him to create a unique artwork such as 'Countries of the World' at Flag Plaza and what message does it convey to the public, Yousef said the work is a direct representation of the celebration of the World Cup. It conveys that Qatar welcomes everybody.

"Arts are very important soft power to shift paradigm of the region, and Qatar is amongst the leading countries applying such strategy. Qatar's art scene is rich and variable and interesting and the FIFA World Cup has given good exposure to the artists," said the artist who is interested in exploring stone as a monument around the city sometime and somewhere.

Yousef's message for aspiring artists in Qatar is: "Keep trying and keep doing what you are doing you must insist on shining and making your own mark!"

## Wanda, Qatar Foundation empower youth at FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

At the opening match of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, as part of the Wanda Flagbearer programme, three young Qatari residents along with three aspiring young Chinese footballers walked onto the pitch carrying the FIFA flag. They are part of a long-term partnership between Wanda and Qatar Foundation (QF) to empower and celebrate youth achievement.

The Qatari youth - Jana Abu Afsa, Raja Dinhash, and Wasam al-Rawi - were selected to participate after winning an Arabic poetry competition as part of the buildup to QF's forthcoming D'reesha Performing Arts Festival, which takes place from December 11-17 at QF's Education City.

Noora bint Hamad bin Aqeel al-Nabet a seven-year-old participant in the Activists in Action environmental initiative led by students at QF's Qatar Academy Doha, had the special experience of cheering the Qatar national team onto the pitch ahead of their FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 match against Senegal, as part



Wanda Guests during the World Cup match between Qatar and Ecuador at Al Bayt Stadium.

of the Wanda Player Warm Up Tunnel Experience. Noora was rewarded for her work in combating plastic waste and encouraging recycling by being invited to participate as part of Wanda's partnership with QF.

Youth ambassadors from QF's Ability Friendly programme had the opportunity to attend the England football team's final training session ahead of their

game with USA, at the invitation of Wanda. The young people - Yaman Hemmoudeh, Layan al-Qassabi, Thani Faisal al-Thani, and Robert Rosca - were selected after volunteering for the Ability Friendly Programme, and got to cheer on the team of football icons. They also had a surprise when England manager Gareth Southgate presented them with team jerseys.



Abdulaziz Yousef's 'People From The World' at Flag Plaza. (Supplied picture)

## MoPH teams up with UNAIDS, WHO to raise awareness about ending HIV

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) is teaming up with UNAIDS and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to seize the opportunity of World AIDS Day to call on people from all walks of life to learn more about HIV and AIDS and how it can be stopped.

"HIV is a highly transmittable disease that can be easily diagnosed and effectively treated and that can be stopped from spreading with early diagnosis and treatment. HIV testing is one of the key requirements for an effective response to end HIV and AIDS", said Dr Abdullatif al-Khal, director of Qatar's Clinical AIDS programme at MoPH.

As part of its national strategy aimed at combating HIV and AIDS, MoPH and its healthcare partners, namely Hamad Medical Corporation and Primary Health Care Corporation, offer those diagnosed with HIV infection the latest and most effective medi-

cal care and treatment free of charge to help them live a healthy life and to break the chain of transmission of infection.

This comes in addition to providing high-quality counselling and diagnostic services. Recognising the importance of addressing stigma and discrimination in the fight against HIV, Dr al-Khal said: "The Ministry of Public Health and its partners are committed to spreading awareness about HIV and AIDS and are working to reduce stigma and societal discrimination against persons living with the disease. People who are at risk of infection are more likely to seek testing and medical care if they don't feel stigmatised."

"We know that, today, HIV is fully preventable and liveable, and we are willing to put all the required efforts and resources towards the goal of ending HIV by 2030", said Sheikh Dr Mohamed al-Thani, director of Public Health Department at MoPH. "This is a top priority

at the core of our commitment towards the people of Qatar."

Dr Shereen El Feki, UNAIDS regional director for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) noted: "HIV is a neglected disease in many countries in the Mena region, because of persistent inequalities which are both a mirror and a motor of the epidemic. More political commitment, increased investment and a concerted push against stigma and discrimination are needed for Mena to stop HIV in its tracks."

According to the latest findings from UNAIDS, an estimated 180,000 people were living with HIV in the Middle East and North Africa in 2021. With 14,000 people newly infected with HIV last year alone, the region has seen a 33% rise in new infections since 2010.

"The Mena region is now home to the second highest rise in new HIV infections over the past decade and has the lowest rates of testing and treatment in the world," added, El Feki.

## Henry Jacques celebrates 50 Les Brumes



Haute Parfumerie Henry Jacques has revealed that its collection of Les Brumes fragrances is now complete, with its entire range of 50 Les Classiques fragrances on offer in the unique "Splash & Spray" version.

"Reinventing heritage, Les Brumes offer a lighter expression of the traditional Essences at the very heart of the maison, bridging the spirit of high perfumery and modern-day living," a press statement noted.

All 50 Les Brumes are presented in "stunning crystalline glass flacons topped with an innovative and highly technical spray, an in-house creation that dispenses a delicate, airy yet highly intense cloud of fragrance".

"Thanks to interchangeable tops, one can personalise their experience according to their mood - two rituals in one highly contemporary showcase: an enveloping mist of a Spray, or a gentle Splash on the skin," the statement said.

A playful entry into the world of Haute Parfumerie, Les Brumes are a perfect gift for the upcoming festive season, for those with a passion for fragrance and an appreciation for savoir-faire.

Like the more traditional Essences, Les Brumes allow wearers to build their own perfume wardrobe, to compose their own signature, or imprint - in a more light-hearted way.

Les Brumes offer a glimpse into the Henry Jacques' Art-de-Vivre, a treasure trove of endless choices and a bountiful journey: the most precious and exclusive ingredients, rare and perfect - from the intricate Les Exceptions masterpieces, the innovative Clic-Clac solid perfumes, and the pinnacle of Haute Parfumerie, Les Sur-Mesures, or Bespoke.

The 50 Les Brumes are now available at Henry Jacques boutiques in the Middle East: Galeries Lafayette Doha, the Dubai Mall Fashion Avenue extension, and the Galleria Mall - Abu Dhabi.



From the collection.



## Hayya Fan Zone a big draw

The Hayya Fan Zone at Lusail South Promenade is offering plenty of festivity and fun as part of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 experience.

The 3,500-capacity venue sports mega screens showing all the matches, in addition to offering open ice skating, and *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty* ice ballet shows, among others.

PICTURES: Shemeer Rasheed



## Now is All



A gigantic banner with the slogan for the ongoing FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, 'Now is All', is seen covering the ceiling of the Host Country Media Centre (HCMC), operated by the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, in Msheireb Downtown Doha. The HCMC, open 24/7, is supporting more than 17,000 media professionals cover the tournament, which runs until December 18. PICTURE: Gulf Times news editor Bonnie James.

## GU-Q takes World Cup fever to Washington, DC

Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) brought a range of student athlete activities, academic lectures, and World Cup kick-off celebrations to Georgetown University in Washington, DC, aimed at strengthening the bonds between both campuses.

The week-long series of events included the DC-Doha Dialogue initiative for GU-Q student athletes, who learned about the community development initiatives of a local NGO, visited sporting facilities in DC, and cheered at a Washington Wizards NBA basketball game. And at a sit-down meeting with executive director Fatima al-Dosari of the Qatar America Institute for Culture, they learned about the non-profit's work in strengthening cultural understanding between the two nations.

Dialogue participants were also invited to a special lunch hosted by GU-Q dean, Dr Safwan Masri. "Breaking bread with GU-Q students and alumni taking part in the DC-Doha Dialogue and their Georgetown University peers was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy an excellent meal while building and strengthening connections within our GU-Q community and across



both of our campuses," noted, dean Masri.

While in DC, the dean offered opening remarks at lectures featuring GU-Q and international sports scholars covering Qatar's historic role as host of the World Cup and the experiences of being both sports scholars and sports enthusiasts. The dean also hosted an exciting and widely-attended FIFA World Cup kick-off party and invited everyone to attend match viewings organised on the

DC campus in the weeks ahead.

International Politics major, Abdul Hannan, who travelled to DC as part of the initiative, said meeting local athletes and sports and civil society advocates will have a lasting impact. "I felt inspired by their work ethic, passion, and perseverance in their respective fields. I hope to create a structure within our Track and Field Club at GU-Q that promotes and cultivates similar values in our students in Education City," Hannan added.

On a tour of Georgetown's historic campus, 40-year veteran of the university, John Q Pierce, shared Georgetown's role in a newly independent US, saying that the founders of both the US and Qatar "had an insight that if you were going to have a successful country you needed educated citizens."

He also drew parallels between the highest ideals of the university and its international character, "which is very significant in relation to what we do in Qatar."



## How many Laws of the Game are there in soccer?



N11. The International Football Association Board (IFAB) is the body that determines the Laws of the Game of association football. IFAB was founded in 1886 and has since acted as the "guardian" of the internationally used Laws. How many 'Laws of the Game' are there, as per IFAB?

N12. In 2006, Ivory Coast veteran star Didier Drogba intervened in the country's civil war, imploring both sides to lay down their arms and negotiate. The apparent success of his speech led to a certain expression, named after him, and it means a combination of good timing, speed and grace under pressure. Which word is it?

N13. Which former football player is co-owner of soccer club Inter Miami?

N14. Which country, despite not getting qualified for the European Championship initially, got a lucky wild card entry as Yugoslavia had to pull out, and ended up becoming the champion?

N15. It can be claimed that the 2018 World Cup was held in both Europe and Asia. A Russian city, considered to be part of Asia, hosted some matches. Name this city.

N16. Savrola: A Tale of the Revolution in Laurania is the only major fictional work of a Nobel Laureate in Literature, otherwise known in a completely different field. He is also one of the only eight people to receive honorary citizenship of the US. Identify him.

N17. The 'Lights Off' movement involves practitioners of which sports turning off store signs to save energy?

N18. Idlewild was the name of which US airport before it was renamed in 1963?

N19. What is the significance of the Ima Mar-

ket, also known as the Nupi Keithel (English: Women's Market) or the Khwairamband Keithel (English: Khwairamband Market), a market in the middle of Imphal in the Indian state of Manipur?

N10. Identify the match from the image below? It was later commemorated with a plaque outside the stadium with the words 'Partido del Siglo'.

### Answers

N11. Seventeen.

N12. Drogbaicé.

N13. David Beckham.

N14. Denmark at the 1992 UEFA European Football Championship hosted by Sweden.

N15. Ekaterinburg.

N16. Winston Churchill.

N17. Parkour, a sport that consists of running, climbing and jumping over urban obstacles. Groups of young athletes practising Parkour have been swinging around big French cities switching off wasteful shop signs at night, in a bid to fight light pollution and save energy.

N18. John F. Kennedy International Airport, colloquially referred to as JFK Airport, Kennedy Airport, New York-JFK, or simply JFK. The facility opened in 1948 as New York International Airport and was commonly known as Idlewild Airport after the Idlewild Beach Golf Course that it displaced.

N19. It is believed to be the largest, and only, all-women's market in Asia. Inside the market, male shopkeepers and vendors are not allowed to sell anything.

N10. Italy vs West Germany at the 1970 FIFA World Cup in Mexico. Also known as the 'Game of the Century'. In the image, Beckenbauer was left with a broken collarbone and dislocated shoulder after a nasty foul. But, with the Germans having used all their substitutes, he carried on with his arm in a sling the entire 120 minutes like a champ refusing to leave the field.



## Tribe N1.yays

In which 20th century novel would you find the suburbs of West Egg and East Egg? The *Great Gatsby* by American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald. West Egg is home to the nouveau riche, or "New Money." East Egg residents come from generations of familial wealth.

(Saiful Islam, Tourist, Dhaka)

Do you have some interesting bytes to share? And, does your vibe attract you to the 'Tribe N1.yays!' Every week one question from readers will be featured here. Please do send it to us at infotainment.factree@gmail.com. And, please do mention the school/college/company (or just 'home-sweet-home').

## COMMENT

**Manila 'needs to find ways to exploit South China Sea oil'**

The Philippines must find a way to explore for oil and gas in the South China Sea even without a deal with China, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said yesterday, emphasising his country's right to exploit energy reserves in the contested waterway. "That's a big thing for us, that is why we need to fight (for what is ours) and take advantage if there really is oil there," Marcos told reporters. Talks over joint energy exploration between Manila and Beijing in the South China Sea had been terminated, the previous government said in June, citing constitutional constraints and issues of sovereignty. The Chinese embassy in Manila did not respond to a request for comment.

## CRIME

**Hackers dump Australian health data online**

The hackers leaking stolen Australian health records to the dark web yesterday appeared to end their extortion attempt by dumping a final batch of data online and declaring: "Case closed." In November the hackers demanded health insurer Medibank pay US\$9.7m to keep the records off the Internet — or one dollar for each of the company's impacted customers. Medibank refused to pay at the urging of the federal government. Yesterday the hackers said they had posted the last of the data online, deliberately coinciding with International Computer Security Day. "Happy Cyber Security Day," they wrote. "Added folder full. Case closed."

## REALTY

**UK house prices post record slide**

British house prices tumbled 1.4% in November compared with October, the biggest monthly drop since June 2020 and the clearest sign yet that the housing market is cooling rapidly, data from mortgage lender Nationwide showed yesterday. A Reuters poll of economists had pointed to a fall of 0.3%, following a 0.9% drop in October. In annual terms, house price growth slowed to 4.4% in November from 7.2% in October, Nationwide said. Other gauges of house prices have also pointed to a slowdown underway. Nationwide said the fallout from the September economic agenda of former prime minister Liz Truss continued to reverberate through the housing market.

## POLLUTION

**Rickshaws around Delhi to run on cleaner fuel**

India is to ban the use of diesel autorickshaws in areas around the capital Delhi, expanding restrictions introduced in the city itself to tackle some of the worst city air quality in the world. No new diesel-powered rickshaws will be registered in the areas surrounding the capital in the states of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan from January 1, a government body said in a statement published yesterday. From 2027, only autorickshaws with compressed natural gas or electricity will be allowed to operate in the region, the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas said.

## DECISION

**Sri Lanka ends resort blackouts to woo tourists**

Sri Lanka yesterday said it was reorganising its blackout-prone electricity grid to guarantee power to tourist resorts, in an effort to lure back foreign travellers after a bruising economic crisis. Months of food, petrol and pharmaceutical shortages brought widespread misery to the island nation this year, along with power cuts that reached 13 hours a day at their worst. The energy ministry announced that designated tourist areas would be exempt from national blackouts still in force for 2.5 hours each night. Those areas include Sri Lanka's lush southern coastal beaches and the hill region around Ella, home to nature reserves famed for their elephant herds.

## China flays visit by UK lawmakers to Taiwan

Reuters  
London

China yesterday accused a committee of British lawmakers visiting Taiwan of "gross interference" in China's internal affairs and threatened a forceful response to anything that undermines Chinese interests.

The Chinese embassy in Britain issued a statement responding to the ongoing visit to Taiwan by British parliament's foreign affairs committee, calling it a "flagrant violation" of the one-China principle.

China claims the self-ruled, democratic island of Taiwan as its own territory, part of its "one China" policy.

Taiwan's government rejects China's sovereignty claims.

"The Chinese side urges the UK side to abide by its commitment, stop any actions that violate the one-China principle, and stop interfering in China's internal affairs," the spokesperson said in a statement posted on Twitter. "Moves of the UK side that undermine China's interests will be met with forceful responses from the Chinese side."

The spokesperson said the visit sent the wrong signal to those who want Taiwan to be independent.

The committee met with Taiwan's Premier Su Tseng-chang yesterday and is due to see President Tsai Ing-Wen today.

The visit is part of the committee's work examining a shift in British foreign policy towards the Indo-Pacific region, which the government has identified as an economic and diplomatic priority since leaving the European Union.

The committee is a parliamentary body, separate from government and made up of elected lawmakers from a range of parties. It scrutinises government policy but does not have statutory powers. During their meeting with Su, the committee's chair, Alicia Kearns, invited him to visit the British parliament "to see more of our people and our culture and our communities and how we seek to represent our communities in parliament."

## Tribute to former China president



People queue up to pay tribute to former Chinese president Jiang Zemin, after he died aged 96, outside China's Liaison Office, in Hong Kong, China, yesterday. Jiang died on Wednesday of leukaemia and multiple organ failure.

# China govt set to ease Covid curbs after week of historic protests

Reuters  
Hong Kong/Beijing

China is set to announce an easing of its Covid-19 quarantine protocols in the coming days and a reduction in mass testing, sources said, a marked shift in policy after anger over the world's toughest curbs fuelled widespread protests.

Cases nationwide remain near record highs but the changes come as some cities have been lifting their lockdowns in recent days, and a top official said the ability of the virus to cause disease was weakening.

Health authorities announcing the easing in their areas have not mentioned the protests — the biggest show of civil disobedience in China for years — which ranged from candle-lit vigils in Beijing to street clashes with police in Guangzhou.

The measures due to be unveiled include a reduction in the use of mass testing and regular nucleic acid tests as well as moves to allow positive cases and close contacts to isolate at home under certain conditions, the sources familiar with the matter said.

That is a far cry from earlier protocols that led to public frustrations as entire communities were locked down, sometimes for weeks, after even just one positive case.

The frustration boiled over last week in demonstrations of public defiance unprecedented in mainland China since President Xi Jinping took power in 2012.

The unrest comes as the economy is set to enter a new era of much slower growth than seen in decades.

Shanghai train commuters yesterday night reported wirelessly receiving an unsolicited docu-

ment onto their phones saying that life in China would only get better if there was a full lifting of lockdown and that Xi step down — an apparently new tactic amid a heavy police presence in some cities ahead of the weekend.

Less than 24 hours after violent protests in Guangzhou on Tuesday, authorities in at least seven districts of the sprawling manufacturing hub, said they were lifting temporary lockdowns.

One district said it would allow schools, restaurants and businesses including cinemas to re-open.

Cities including Chongqing and Zhengzhou also announced easings.

The sense of official momentum towards a landmark shift built yesterday as Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan, who oversees Covid efforts, told a meeting of frontline experts that the Omicron variant was weakening in its ability to cause disease, allowing China to improve prevention efforts.

"After nearly three years fighting against the epidemic, our country's medical and healthcare system has withstood the test," she said in remarks published by the official Xinhua news agency.

"The vaccination rate of the entire population exceeds 90% and public health awareness and quality has been improved significantly," she said.

State media reported Sun saying a day earlier that China was facing a "new situation" in its response to Covid, and urged further "optimisation" of testing, treatment and quarantine policies.

The mention of weakening Covid pathogenicity contrasts with previous messages from a usually hawkish Sun about the deadliness of the virus.

"Sun's (earlier) speech, in addi-

tion to the notable easing of Covid control measures in Guangzhou yesterday, sends yet another strong signal that the zero-Covid policy will end within the next few months," analysts at Nomura said in a research note.

"These two events perhaps point to the beginning of the end of zero-Covid."

In the capital, Beijing, some communities have begun preparing for changes. One community in the east of the city held an online poll this week on the possibility of positive cases isolating at home, residents said. "I certainly welcome the decision by our residential community to run this vote regardless of the outcome," said resident Tom Simpson, managing director for China at the China-Britain Business Council. He said his main concern was being forced to go into a quarantine facility, where "conditions can be grim to say the least".

Prominent nationalist commentator Hu Xijin said in a social media post on Wednesday that many asymptomatic carriers of coronavirus in Beijing were already quarantining at home.

Expectations have grown around the world that China, while still trying to contain infections, could look to re-open its borders at some point next year once it achieves better vaccination rates among its hesitant elderly.

Health experts warn of widespread illness and death if Covid is let loose before vaccination is ramped up.

Chinese stocks and markets around the world dipped initially after the weekend protests in Shanghai, Beijing and other cities, but later recovered on hopes that public pressure could lead to a new approach by authorities.

# Modi's party expected to win as Gujarat votes

Reuters  
Ahmedabad, India

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat began voting yesterday with his Hindu nationalist party expected to win a seventh straight term, but an unexpected slip could herald a tighter contest in national polls due by 2024.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has not lost in the western industrial state since 1995 and Modi served as its chief minister for nearly 13 years before becoming prime minister in 2014 after trouncing the Congress party.

Opinion polls conducted in the lead-up to the Gujarat polls projected the BJP to comfortably retain power in the state.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which was formed only a decade ago and has claimed power in Delhi and the state of Punjab, is set to become one of the main opposition parties in Gujarat at the expense of Congress.

Early yesterday, voters in Su-

rat, the state's second largest city and a diamond cutting and polishing hub, lined up to cast their ballot in the first of the two-phase election.



The BJP has not lost in the western industrial state since 1995 and Modi served as its chief minister for nearly 13 years

The city is expected to witness a three-way contest with Congress and AAP also looking to make inroads in the BJP bastion.

The second phase of voting is on Monday and results are due on December 8.

In the last state election five years ago, the BJP won 99 seats in

the 182-member assembly while Congress got 77.

The BJP is expected to win between 131 to 139 seats this time, ABP-CVoter projected in November. The Congress could win 31 to 39 seats while the Aam Aadmi Party could bag up to 15.

According to India TV-Matrise opinion poll, also conducted in November, the BJP may win up to 119 seats.

Modi remains popular in many parts of the country despite criticism of inflation and unemployment, and his party also expects to emerge victorious in state assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh in the north, which were held last month with results to be declared on December 8.

AAP has promised voters subsidies on electricity and other bills in their bid to become the main challenger to the BJP.

The Congress, on the other hand, launched a cross-country march in September against what it calls "hate and division", hoping to revive its fortunes and regain some popularity.

## Royals in Massachusetts



Britain's Prince William and Catherine, Princess of Wales, greet Henry Dynov-Teixeira (8) during their visit to Greentown Labs in Somerville, Massachusetts, US, yesterday.

## PM Modi calls for end to war as India takes G20 presidency

India opened its G20 presidency yesterday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling for an end to war, implicitly rebuking longstanding ally Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. New Delhi and Moscow have ties dating back to the Cold War, and Russia remains by far India's biggest arms supplier. India has shied away from explicit condemnations of Russia over the war despite its economy being stung by the soaring oil and commodities prices that followed. Modi has pressed Russian President Vladimir Putin to end the conflict, including at a face-to-face meeting on the sidelines of a major regional summit in September.

He reiterated that call in an article outlining India's ambitions for the G20 forum — of which Russia is a member — released by the government and published by the Telegraph newspaper in Britain.

"Today, we do not need to fight for our survival — our era need not be one of war. Indeed, it must not be one!" Modi wrote. The invasion of Ukraine, a country known as the

"breadbasket of Europe", has periodically disrupted grain shipments and raised the spectre of a global food crisis. Modi said India would "seek to depoliticise the global supply of food, fertilisers and medical products, so that geo-political tensions do not lead to humanitarian crises".

"As in our own families, those whose needs are the greatest must always be our first concern."

New Delhi has long walked a tightrope in its relations with the West and Moscow — and the Russian invasion of Ukraine has highlighted the difficulty of that balancing act. It has repeatedly brushed off calls from Washington to condemn Moscow, despite pursuing greater security ties with the US. Putin visited New Delhi last year, bear-hugging Modi and hailing India as a "great power" as the two men bolstered military and energy ties. The Asian giant of 1.4bn people is also a major consumer of Russian oil, ramping up discounted purchases in the wake of a Western embargo.



# Biden, Macron close ranks on Russia, China

AFP  
Washington

US President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron emerged from White House talks yesterday pledging to close ranks in helping Ukraine defend itself from Russia and in facing the “challenge” posed by China.

The leaders issued a joint statement following Oval Office talks during Macron’s state visit, which Biden said demonstrated their countries’ “unwavering” alliance.

They “outlined a shared vision to strengthen security and increase prosperity worldwide, combat climate change, build greater resilience to its effects, and advance democratic values,” the statement said.

The two reaffirmed “support for Ukraine’s defence of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, including the provision of political, security, humanitarian, and economic assistance to Ukraine for as long as it takes.”

“They also reiterate their steadfast resolve to hold Russia to account for widely documented atrocities and war crimes,” the statement added.

On China, they said “the United States and France will continue to co-ordinate on our concerns regarding China’s challenge to the rules-based international order, including respect for human rights, and to work together with China on important global issues like climate change.”

They also expressed “respect for

the Iranian people, in particular women and youth, who are bravely protesting to gain the freedom to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms, which Iran itself has subscribed to and is violating.”

Despite tensions over transatlantic trade, Macron took pains to emphasise their countries’ deep historic ties and the current partnership in confronting Russia’s Ukraine invasion. “We need to become brothers in arms once more,” Macron said as he was welcomed to the White House.

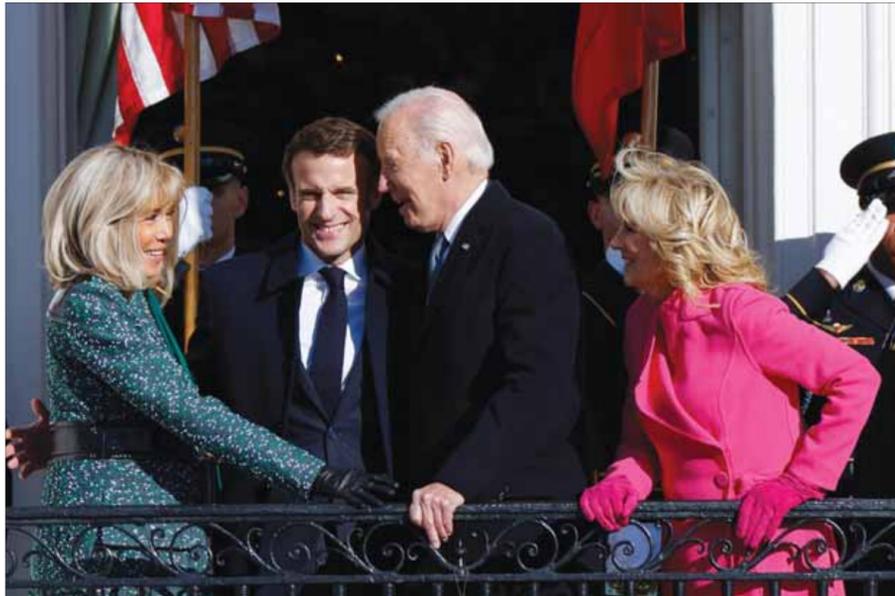
Service members from the marines, army, air force and even a detachment of soldiers in 18th-century Revolutionary War garb paraded in front of the White House. Artillery fired off a 21-gun salute, sending puffs of white smoke into the clear, chilly December sky.

Standing on a red-carpeted podium with Macron, Biden said “France is our oldest ally, our unwavering partner in freedom’s cause.”

The visit certainly symbolised how Washington and Paris have buried last year’s bitter spat over the way Australia pulled out of a French submarine deal in favour of acquiring US nuclear subs instead.

However, Macron has made clear, in unusually blunt language, that he wants to confront Biden over the issue of trade.

On his first day of the visit Wednesday, when he toured Nasa headquarters, Arlington National Cemetery and met US lawmakers, the French leader surprised his hosts with a bitter attack on Biden’s signature policy



Brigitte Macron, wife of French President Emmanuel Macron, talks with US President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden as they gather on the Truman Balcony after an official State Arrival Ceremony on the South Lawn at the White House in Washington yesterday. (Reuters)

to boost the US green economy, saying it would “kill” European jobs.

The legislation, called the Inflation Reduction Act or IRA, is set to pour billions of dollars into environmentally friendly industries, with strong

backing for US-based manufacturers. The White House touts the IRA as a groundbreaking effort to reignite US manufacturing and promote renewable technologies, while breaking Chinese dominance in the field.

However, European Union governments are crying foul, threatening to launch a trade war by subsidising their own green economy sector.

Macron told Biden it is “extremely important precisely to have close co-

ordination” as the US and EU forge ahead in the booming green economy.

Working towards a carbon neutral economy means “creating a lot of jobs, which means investing a lot in our economies, and we have to synchronise our action,” he said.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre insisted that US advances in clean energy will help Europeans too, saying: “This is not a zero-sum game.”

And in their joint statement, Biden and Macron pledged that a US-European Union task force would aim to further strengthen their “partnership on clean energy and climate through mutually beneficial ways.”

Aside from the trade dispute fireworks, most of the visit revolves around kindling the long, if often slightly prickly US-French diplomatic friendship.

The state dinner at the White House will return grand-scale entertainment to Washington in a way not seen since the Covid-19 pandemic shut down the capital’s typically busy schmoozing scene.

Grammy-award-winning American musician Jon Batiste will perform at the banquet, which the White House said will kick off with butter-poached Maine lobster, paired with caviar, delicate squash ravioli and tarragon sauce.

The main course features beef and triple-cooked butter potatoes, before leading to the cheese course of award-winning US brands, and finally orange chiffon cake, roasted pears with citrus sauce and creme fraiche ice cream.

## Ramaphosa’s future in the balance over ‘Farmgate’ scandal

Reuters  
Cape Town

Cyril Ramaphosa’s future as South African president hung in the balance yesterday, as his office said it was about to make an announcement a day after a panel report found preliminary evidence he may have committed serious misconduct.

The inquiry centred on the alleged theft of millions of dollars of cash from the millionaire president’s Phala Phala game farm in 2020, which came to light in June and has been dubbed the “Farmgate” scandal.

The theft has raised questions about how Ramaphosa, who came to power on the promise to fight graft, acquired the money and whether he declared it.

The president has denied any wrongdoing and has not been charged with any crimes.

The rand fell more than 4% against the dollar before paring losses, and South Africa’s sovereign dollar bonds dropped sharply on speculation Ramaphosa would leave his post.

The country’s biggest opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, has called for an early election and the report has plunged the governing African National Congress (ANC) into crisis.

It also threatens Ramaphosa’s efforts to rekindle investor confidence in Africa’s most industrialised economy, after a decade of corruption scandals under former president Jacob Zuma.

The ANC said its executive committee would meet to discuss the panel report today morning, delaying an earlier plan to meet yesterday.

Asked by Reuters about a local media report that Ramaphosa was due to address the nation yesterday, Ramaphosa’s spokesman Vincent Magwenya said: “An announcement is imminent. ... I can’t confirm the date and time, we will advise.”

South Africa’s foreign minister Naledi Pandor called the panel’s report “a very troubling moment” in an interview at the Reuters NEXT conference, and two cabinet ministers called for Ramaphosa to resign.

A spokesperson for elite police unit the Hawks said its investigation into the theft at Ramaphosa’s farm was continuing, while the central bank said it did not comment on exchange control investigations.



UNDER FIRE: Cyril Ramaphosa.

The ANC is set to hold an elective conference later this month that will decide if Ramaphosa gets to run for a second term on the ANC ticket at a 2024 election.

“I think the president has to step aside now and answer to the case,” Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Zuma’s ex-wife, who narrowly lost the ANC’s 2017 leadership contest to Ramaphosa, wrote on Twitter late on Wednesday.

Tourism Minister Lindwe Sisulu, who has campaigned to be elected ANC leader this month, wrote: “CR MUST RESIGN NOW!”

Ramaphosa delayed a scheduled appearance in parliament to answer questions from lawmakers yesterday, asking the chairperson of parliament’s upper house for time to “carefully consider ... the next course of action to be taken,” a statement from parliament said.

The panel’s recommendations are not binding on parliament, which is set to debate the report on December 6 and where the ANC holds a majority of seats.

If lawmakers decide to forge ahead with an impeachment process, the next stage would be the creation of an impeachment committee with far greater powers – including that of subpoena – than the panel of experts appointed by the speaker.

That committee would have the power to recommend Ramaphosa be removed from office, a decision which parliament would then have to take.

## Ukraine, Russia swap 50 in prisoner exchange

Russia’s Defence Ministry and the head of Ukraine’s presidential administration said the two countries had swapped 50 service personnel yesterday in the latest prisoner exchange between the two sides.

Earlier yesterday, the top Russian-installed official in Ukraine’s partly-occupied Donetsk region said Moscow and Kyiv would each hand over 50 prisoners of war. Andriy Yermak, head of Ukraine’s presidential administration, reported the release of 50 “protectors of Ukraine” and said that the exchanges of prisoners of war would continue “until the liberation of the last Ukrainian”. “The defenders of Mariupol and Azovstal have returned, also those captured ... in the battles in the Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia directions,” Yermak wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

## \$21,000 dropped in street, returned in Switzerland

When an elderly man suddenly realised that he was missing more than \$20,000 in cash just withdrawn from a Swiss bank, he assumed he had been robbed. Instead, a couple found the wad of notes, stuffed into an envelope and dropped in the street, and went to his home to return the cash in full, police said yesterday. Officers said the man, who is mute, went to the bank in the small town of Martigny in southern Switzerland and withdrew CHF20,000 (\$21,260). When he got home, he realised that his envelope was missing. Assuming that he must have been pickpocketed on the way home, he went to the police to report the money stolen. It turned out, however, that he was not the victim of foul play, but had simply dropped the envelope as he got into his car, parked outside the bank.

## Spanish premier, US embassy targeted in wave of letter bombs

AFP  
Madrid

Spanish police were investigating yesterday a series of letter bombs sent to targets including the prime minister and the US embassy, similar to one which went off at the Ukrainian embassy, hurting a staff member.

The interior ministry revealed that an envelope with “pyrotechnic material” had arrived at Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez’s official residence on November 24. It was destroyed in a controlled explosion.

Spain’s High court meanwhile announced it had broadened an initial investigation over the Ukraine embassy letter bomb to cover the all the other incidents.

Both announcements came a day after the security officer at Ukraine’s embassy in Madrid suffered a light injury to one hand while opening a letter bomb addressed to the Ukrainian ambassador, an incident that prompted Kyiv to boost security at its embassies worldwide.

That letter, like the others discovered, arrived by regular mail.

Later in the evening, a second “suspicious postal shipment” was intercepted at the headquarters of military equipment firm Instalaza in the northeastern city of Zaragoza, the interior ministry said.

Instalaza makes the grenade launchers that Spain donates to Ukraine.

Then yesterday morning letter bombs arrived and at the defence ministry; and at an air



Spanish police stand guard near the US embassy in Madrid yesterday after they have received a letter bomb, similar to one which went off at the Ukrainian embassy. (AFP)

base in Torrejon de Ardoz, just outside Madrid, from where weapons donated by Spain are sent to Ukraine.

“The characteristics of the envelopes, as well as their content, are similar in the five cases,” Spain’s Secretary of State of Security, Rafael Perez, told journalists.

“There are signs that indicate that the letters came from Spanish territory, but I insist we must be prudent... we are at the beginning of the investigation.”

A few hours after he spoke the interior ministry said another letter “with similar characteristics as the others” had been intercepted at the US embassy in Madrid.

Ukraine’s ambassador to Spain, Serhii Pohoreltsev, appeared to blame Russia for the letter bomb at its embassy.

“We are well aware of the terrorist methods of the aggressor country,” he said during an interview late Wednesday

with Spanish public television. “Russia’s methods and attacks require us to be ready for any kind of incident, provocation or attack,” he added.

But in a statement yesterday, Russia’s embassy in Spain said: “Any threat or terrorist act, especially those that target a diplomatic mission, is to be totally condemned.”

The letter to the defence ministry was addressed to Defence Minister Margarita Robles. The one sent to the air base was meant for a European Union satellite centre located there.

That centre supports the bloc’s foreign and security policy by gathering information from satellite imagery, according to its website.

After scanning the envelope that arrived at the air base by X-ray, security officers determined it contained “a mechanism”, the ministry statement said. Police were still analysing the envelope.

## Disasters cost the world \$268bn in 2022: Swiss Re

Natural and man-made catastrophes have caused \$268bn of economic losses so far in 2022, chiefly driven by Hurricane Ian and other extreme weather disasters, reinsurance giant Swiss Re estimated yesterday. Insured losses covered \$122bn – less than half – of the total economic losses to date this year, said the Zurich-based group, which acts as an insurer for insurers.

“Hurricane Ian and other extreme weather events such as the winter storms in Europe, flooding in Australia and South Africa as well as hailstorms in France and in the United States resulted in an estimated \$115bn of natural catastrophe insured losses this year to date,” Swiss Re said in a

statement. There were \$7bn of insured losses from man-made disasters. It is the second consecutive year in which total insured losses from natural catastrophes topped \$100bn, with the figure hitting \$121bn last year. “Urban development, wealth accumulation in disaster-prone areas, inflation and climate change are key factors at play, turning extreme weather into ever rising natural catastrophe losses,” explained Martin Bertogg, Swiss Re’s head of catastrophe perils. “When Hurricane Andrew struck 30 years ago, a \$20bn loss event had never occurred before; now there have been seven such hurricanes in just the past six years.”

Hurricane Ian is by far the largest loss-causing event in 2022, with an estimated insured loss of \$50-65bn, said Swiss Re. It estimated that Hurricane Ian caused the second-costliest insured loss ever, after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Ian, a category four hurricane, caused more than 150 deaths, almost all in Florida, where it made landfall on September 28. One of the most powerful storms ever to hit the United States, it flattened whole neighbourhoods and knocked out power for millions of people. Storm surges and immense downpours left even inland neighbourhoods submerged. “This highlights the threat potential

of a single hurricane hitting a densely populated coastline,” Swiss Re said. The reinsurer added that so-called secondary natural disasters such as floods and hailstorms – as opposed to major disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes – caused more than \$50bn of insured losses. The storms in Europe in February prompted estimated insured losses of over \$3.7bn, putting winter storms back on the insurance industry’s agenda, Swiss Re said. France experienced the most severe hailstorms ever observed in the European spring and summer, with insured market losses reaching an estimated €5bn (\$5.3bn), said Swiss Re.

## World court urges Chile, Bolivia to co-operate on Silala river

Judges at the World Court yesterday ruled that Chile and Bolivia now agreed on previous points of dispute over access to the waters of the Silala river and that they would not need to rule on Chile’s claims before the court. The judges urged the South American neighbours to work together on issues surrounding the frontier river, which runs through one of the driest places on Earth, as such a “shared resource can only be protected through co-operation”. Chile had asked the court to rule that the Silala river, which runs through the Atacama Desert, was an international waterway. Judges said yesterday that during the hearings it became clear that the states did not fundamentally disagree on the designation of the river or the fact that Chile should have access to its waters. Bolivia and Chile cut off diplomatic ties decades ago. They have brought their long-running rivalry to the The Hague court before. In 2018, the court ruled in Chile’s favour in a case brought by Bolivia seeking that Chile enter into negotiations over granting land-locked Bolivia a corridor to the sea. The court, formally known as the International Court of Justice, is the United Nations’ court for resolving disputes between states.

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## GULF TIMES

## The birth of a new international order

We are witnessing an unprecedented confluence of major and minor crises. From the Covid-19 pandemic, surging energy prices, and the return of inflation in developed and developing economies, to fractured supply chains, Russia's criminal war in Ukraine, and climate change, many of these crises are signs not just of decay but of a new world order being born.

As the remnants of the twentieth century's bipolar order finally disappear, a new global pentarchy is coming to the fore. The United States and China – this century's two military, technological, and economic superpowers – will be the dominant players, but Europe, Japan, and India will exercise meaningful influence over large swaths of the planet.

A big question mark hangs over Russia, because its future status, capacities, and strategic posture will depend on the outcome of its reckless war of aggression. Under President Vladimir Putin, Russia has clung desperately to the past, seeking to recreate the twentieth or even the late nineteenth century. But with its catastrophically misguided effort to destroy Ukraine, it ultimately is destroying itself.

A Russian military defeat in Ukraine is already a certainty – a matter of when, not if. But it is still far too early to foretell the likely consequences. Will Putin's regime survive, or will Russia's defeat usher in another phase of internal decay and disintegration. Until that question is resolved, we cannot yet know whether Russia will try to maintain its old claim to hegemony in Eastern Europe and much of Eurasia.

If the Kremlin is forced to abandon that claim, its role as a world power would probably be over. To be sure, even a decrepit, humiliated Russia, rather than going into geopolitical hibernation, would most likely remain a major source of instability in the new world order, and especially on the European continent. But it is now clear that Russia's massive nuclear arsenal is no longer sufficient to secure its geopolitical status in the twenty-first century. Its economy is being decisively weakened as the rest of the world moves to phase out fossil fuels – the backbone of the Russian economy.

### The US midterms and the Bali summit offer cause for optimism at an otherwise fraught moment

Whereas Russia poses new risks because of its fragility and decay, China will do so by dint of its increasing wealth and might. Owing to the massive wave of globalisation that began in the early 2000s, China managed to lift itself out of poverty and position itself to achieve high-income status. And with the 2008 financial crisis partly discrediting the West, China has been able to expand its own global leadership role and present itself as a global superpower alongside the US.

Unlike the Soviet Union during the Cold War, however, China has not made the mistake of focusing solely on its military power. On the contrary, its global rise reflects its embrace of integration into US- and Western-dominated world markets by serving as the world's "extended workbench," while investing heavily in competing with the West on the technological and scientific frontiers. The Chinese certainly have not held back on military investment, but they have not allowed spending on defence and security to crowd out everything else. The defining difference between China and Russia today is that, unlike Putin, the Chinese leadership has been living in the twenty-first century for quite some time.

The recent G20 summit in Bali laid bare this fundamental difference of outlook and purpose. Whereas Russia found itself diplomatically isolated, China was central to all the discussions and the shaping of the final communiqué. Though they have not adopted the Western line on the Ukraine crisis, large countries such as China and India used the occasion to distance themselves noticeably from the Kremlin, decrying its war policy and nuclear threats. If the in-person talks between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping help to deflate Sino-American tensions, the Bali summit will have opened the door to reshaping international relations in the twenty-first century.

The outcome of the US midterm election offers yet another reason for hope, as the widely anticipated Republican "red wave" failed to materialise. The GOP failed to take the Senate and only barely secured a majority in the House of Representatives. As in 2018 and 2020, former president Donald Trump once again held his party back. Most Americans do not want a return to his "America first" isolationist policies.

Together, the US midterms and the Bali summit offer cause for optimism at an otherwise fraught moment. But we will need much more progress toward global co-operation. — Project Syndicate

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## Western charges baseless, unfair to Qatar's vision and hard work



By Yasser M Dhouib

Football has been a unifying force across time and space, bringing together fans from all over the world to share a common love. It strengthens ties among nations and promotes co-operative growth on a global scale. Every four years, the FIFA World Cup has been instrumental in the development of infrastructure and the advancement of foreign policy goals for countries that have hosted it.

Qatar is no different. The country, now led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, has been working hard to host the World Cup and transformed Qatar into a modern society and raised its standards of living. It is a historic event that the world's most watched sporting competition is held in the Middle East for the first time. However, the hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 in Doha has been hampered by unprecedented smear campaigns pretending to defend human rights, some of which have been addressed while some of the criticism were simply ignored.

The false figure quoted by *The Guardian* in 2021 claiming that 6,500 migrant workers died in Qatar since the World Cup works started, and for which it apologised later, was discredited. Every work-related death is tragic, but the figures reported by certain media outlets went viral and were accepted as the truth, and have been overall unfair to Qatar's vision and hard work. According to official figures, the overall death rate in Qatar

is 0.3 per 1,000 people.

Nonetheless, the country acted on the demands of human rights organisations. It hosted an office of ILO in Doha, legislated a guaranteed minimum wage, enacted health and safety regulations for workers, eliminated the workers' sponsorship system, and enacted a law permitting foreign worker mobility. Qatar officials announced that "any fan, of any gender, orientation, religion, race...they'll all be welcome."

This response is the result of the country's young and thriving leadership, which aspires to become a global leader while preserving the values and culture of its people. The influence of a younger generation of Qatari leaders can be seen in the country's ability to bring the World Cup to the Middle East, its resilience to a three plus years' embargo, its international soft diplomacy in times of crisis, and its leadership in economic sectors such as global air transport. These young leaders are deeply committed to their country's cultural and religious

values. For instance, 27 year-old Qatari representative Essa Abdullah al-Malki was elected as the UN's youngest diplomat in history at the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

The truth is that Qatar has been subjected to unreasonable slander and criticism. The international community did not hurl any reproach when Russia hosted the World Cup in 2018. The attempts to tarnish Qatar's success are exaggerated, and went beyond simply holding the country accountable. While there is no room for human rights concerns, the World Cup has never been meant to dilute or wash away global cultures; rather, it is meant to celebrate them.

● Yasser M Dhouib serves as the executive director of *The Canadian-Qatari Business Forum (CQBF)* and as a consultant for Canadian foreign trade in the Gulf region. Yasser is also a member of the *Canadian Observatory for Freedoms and Rights*. Fellow of the *Mackenzie-Papineau Think Tank*.

## Spirited Morocco to fly the flag for Arab fans

By Mark Gleeson  
Doha

Morocco's red-clad army of fans added an extra decibel or two to the last bars of the national anthem before kick-off, sounding a deafening warning to Canada as they willed their team to victory in their Group F game yesterday and top spot in the standings.

It was a spine-tingling start to yet another match where Moroccan supporters, many of whom live and work in Qatar, packed out the stadium and nearly raised the roof, handing their side a distinct advantage.

An early goal added to the clamour as the North Africans quickly set about beating Canada and securing their place in the next round, finishing ahead of 2018 World Cup runners-up Croatia and eliminating the highly fancied Belgium who are second in the FIFA rankings.

If ever there was a side at this World Cup with a veritable 12th man, it is the Moroccans whose level of play at the tournament has been raised a notch or two by the vociferous support.

It carried them through a fatigue-filled second half against Canada at the Al Thumama Stadium and was certainly the decisive factor last Sunday when they beat Belgium to set up their unexpected progress to the last-16.

With 20 minutes left against Belgium, and the score still 0-0, Morocco were visibly tiring, the ferocity of the tussle taking its toll on players who rarely play in matches of such intensity.

The din of a concerned crowd transformed into a tumultuous racket when Abdelhamid Sabiri's free kick



Moroccan fans celebrate in Souq Waqif after their team qualified for the knockout stages by beating Canada yesterday.

caught out Thibaut Courtois at his near post and captain Romain Saïss added a slight touch to see Morocco into the lead.

The supporters' enthusiasm injected a second wind into the players' legs – so much so that they were able to see off Belgium's desperate efforts to get back into the game and go on and add a second goal for a famous victory.

"There is no doubt they played a huge role in lifting us," said Morocco's

key attacker Hakim Ziyech after that match. That continued against Canada yesterday and Morocco will certainly need it for their next match on Tuesday.

That the Moroccan anthem is sung with such passion at a footballing arena is no coincidence. The 'Hymne Cherifien' has a special connection with the World Cup. After its independence, Morocco did not have lyrics for the national anthem but when

it qualified for the first time for the 1970 finals, their king commissioned words to go with the music.

"Let's go brothers. Heading for grandeur," are among the final lines.

Morocco will now also be able to count on unbridled support from across the region in this first World Cup hosted by an Arab nation.

Hosts Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia are all out, leaving the Moroccans to fly the flag.

# Islam stands the test of history

**M**uslims claim that Islam is the eternal religion. Any claim of this kind invites people to judge its validity on historical grounds. If latter day history testifies to its claim, it stands endorsed, otherwise it must be rejected. Marxism in the 20th century CE is a clear-cut example of historical rejection.

According to his concept of historical determinism, Karl Marx held that modern industrial Capitalism bore within it the seeds of its own destruction. He further observed that according to its own inherent laws, its antithesis would emerge which would destroy it whereupon a new synthesis would come into being. But, quite contrary to his prediction, industrial Capitalism has not only survived, but is making great progress. Historical events have thus buried Marxist theory.

Then there is the case of Adolph Hitler who made grandiose claims that Germans were the "master race" and were destined to rule over all of Europe. The rout of Hitler and his Nazi party at the end of World War II put paid to all such theorising.

But the case of Islam is quite different. Even after a period of more than 1,400 years, Islam has suffered no erosion of its validity. The well known British historian, Edward Gibbon, describes the rise and expansion of Islam as "one of the most memorable revolutions which has impressed a new and lasting character on the nations of the globe."

An Indian historian, M N Roy, has observed: "Muhammad must be recognised as by far the greatest of all prophets, before or after him." He goes on to say that "the expansion of Islam is the most miraculous of all miracles." (*The Historical Role of Islam*, pp. 4-5)

The American writer, Michael Hart, in his book, *The 100* has made

a selection of the 100 most influential persons in history, who have achieved the most outstanding success in this world. Right at the top of this list is the Prophet Muhammad, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam* (may Allah exalt his mention), of whom the author writes: "He was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both religious and secular levels."

The great success that Prophet Muhammad, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, had predicted for his mission at the very outset came true. This success came in spite of the stiff opposition which Prophet Muhammad, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, faced right from the beginning, both from within his own family and from the outside world. This was in 610 CE, the year when he first started receiving divine revelations. At this stage he felt totally helpless. But then, in this adverse situation, he received a revelation from Allah, which says (what means): "They want to extinguish Allah's light with their mouths. But Allah will perfect His light, even though the unbelievers may detest it. It is He who has sent His Messenger with guidance and the Religion of Truth, so that he may exalt it over all religions, much as the pagans may dislike it." [Qur'an 61:8-9]

At the very beginning of his prophetic career, the Qur'an declared that Prophet Muhammad, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, would certainly succeed in his mission. All his opponents, however powerful they might be, would ultimately be defeated. (This is pointed out at several places in the Qur'an in different wording). In history we find numerous personalities who began their work with towering claims, but none of them achieved the success they envisioned. Throughout human history, Prophet Muhammad, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, is the only exception to this



rule, in that his predictions were fulfilled to the fullest extent.

Through the efforts of the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, and his companions, a unique event took place: starting from scratch, they succeeded in extending their influence to the entire populated world of that age. During this brief period, they not only conquered Arabia but also succeeded in crushing the two great empires of their time - the Roman and the Sassanid empires. This exceptional phase in history has been almost universally acknowledged by historians.

The Qur'an was revealed prior to the modern age of knowledge, yet over 1,400 years ago at the time of its

revelation, the Qur'an declared that the proof of its divine origin lay in its being in complete accordance with historical facts and its consistency with contemporary discoveries and those that might be made in future times. Advances may be made in human knowledge, but they will never contradict Qur'anic statements. To a remarkable degree, latter day history has testified to this. While many statements contained in all the ancient books have been at loggerheads with the latest scientific discoveries, the Qur'an is unique in steering clear of all such contradiction.

As the Qur'an says (which means): "Do they not ponder on the Qur'an?"

Had it been from other than Allah, they would surely have found therein much discrepancy." [Qur'an 4:82]. (The word "discrepancy" here means inconsistency, that is, a Qur'anic statement not agreeing with eternal knowledge).

Much has been written on this aspect of the Qur'an in modern times. The French scientist, Maurice Bucaille, has shown in detail in his book, *The Bible, The Qur'an and Modern Science*, how the statements contained in the Qur'an are astonishingly in exact accordance with the discoveries of modern science. This shows that the Qur'an perfectly comes up to the scientific standards.

This development of human knowledge in favour of Qur'anic contents is no mere accident. It is another historical proof that the Qur'an is a Book revealed by the Creator of the Universe, Whose Knowledge is not bound by the limitations of space and time. Hence we find in the Qur'an a unique prediction to this effect (what means): "We will soon show them Our signs in the Universe and in their own souls, until they clearly see that it is the truth." [Qur'an 41:53]

After completing his comparative study of the Qur'an and modern science, Maurice Bucaille comes to this conclusion:

"In view of the level of knowledge in Muhammad's day, it is inconceivable that many of the statements in the Qur'an which are connected with science could have been the work of a man. It is moreover, perfectly legitimate, not only to regard the Qur'an as the expression of a Revelation, but also to award it a very special place, on account of the guarantee of authenticity it provides and the presence in it of scientific statements which, when studied today, appear as a challenge to explanation in human terms." (p. 252)

To sum up, there is no other scripture that, having challenged all of mankind to disprove its authenticity as the Qur'an did, finally gained total rational support for its supernatural origin and veracity, even from its most bitter opponents. And there is no other historic figure whose future success was as uncertain as that of the Prophet Muhammad, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, who was finally crowned with such supreme success.

Article source: <http://www.islamweb.net/emainpage/>



# Islam is not a new message

**S**ince the creation of man, there have been many Divine messages and Prophets, may Allah exalt their mention, sent by God to humankind. Numerous messages were revealed to many Prophets, who were sent to different nations at different times. However, all these messages, from the first to the last, contained the same in essence. They all called people to worship only The One True God and to do righteous deeds. Allah, Most Exalted, Says (what means): "Truly, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam..." [Qur'an 3:19]

According to the verse above and other verses in the Qur'an, the message that all Prophets called people to was Islam. Since there is only One True God, the message of God must also be One.

However, this message varies in general laws, codes of life and worship (but not in the essential beliefs) according to the diversity of nations, times, conditions, customs and cultures. Every form of this message was sent to a particular nation for a particular time, except the last message revealed to Prophet Muhammad, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam* (may Allah exalt his mention), which was sent to all people and all nations till the Day of Judgment.

Allah Almighty, informs us in the Holy Qur'an that many Prophets uttered the word 'Islam' or 'Muslim' such as Noah (Noah), Ibraaheem (Ab-

raham), Ismaa'eel (Ishmael), Yooosuf (Joseph), Moosaa (Moses), may Allah exalt their mention.

Allah, The Most High, tells us about Noah when he warned his people of disbelief saying (what means): "But if you turn away (from accepting my doctrine of Islamic Monotheism, i.e. to worship none but Allah), then no reward have I asked of you, my reward is only from Allah, and I have been commanded to be of the Muslims." [Qur'an 10:72]

Ibraaheem and Yaaqoob (Jacob), may Allah exalt their mention, enjoined Islam upon their sons. Allah Almighty Says (what means): "And this (submission to Allah, Islam) was enjoined by Abraham upon his sons and by Jacob (saying) 'O my sons! Allah has chosen for you the (true) religion, then die not except while you are Muslims.'" [Qur'an 2:132]

Ibraaheem and Ismaa'eel, may Allah exalt their mention, invoked their Lord when they were raising the foundations of the house, the Ka'aba at Makkah, (what means): "Our Lord! And make us Muslims (in submission) to You and from our descendants a Muslim nation (in submission) to You..." [Qur'an 2:128]. Allah Says in the Qur'an (what means): "(Solomon said): 'Be not haughty with me but come to me in submission (as Muslims).'" [Qur'an 27:31]

When 'Eesaa (Jesus), may Allah exalt his mention, came to know of his people's disbelief, he said to them (what

means): "...Who will be my helpers in Allah's Cause?" The disciples said: "We are the helpers of Allah; we believe in Allah, and bear witness that we are Muslims (i.e. we submit to Allah)." [Qur'an 3:52]

The last of Allah's prophets, Muhammad, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, was sent to present Allah's revelation in its final form and for the last time. This was necessary because the message delivered by the previous Prophets and Messengers, may Allah exalt their mention, had been corrupted or distorted by their followers.

Allah took it upon Himself to guard the last message (i.e. the Qur'an and hence Islam) from corruption. He says in the Qur'an (what means): "Verily, it is We Who have sent down the message (i.e. the Qur'an) and surely, We will be its guardian." [Qur'an 15:9]

This message is called Islam, which means submission to the will of the only True God, Allah. In this way, all nations are invited to Islam and Allah will not accept any religion from them except Islam.

Allah Says (what means): "And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted from him, and he, in the Hereafter, will be among the losers." [Qur'an 3:85]

The verse mentioned above makes it clear that when we say there is only one religion, it is meant that there is only one true religion. Allah Almighty, mentions the belief and religions of the polytheists in the Holy Qur'an

(which means): "Say: 'O disbelievers, I worship not that which you worship. Nor will you worship that which I worship. And I shall not worship that you which are worshipping. Nor will you worship that which I worship. For you is your religion, and for me is my religion (Islamic Monotheism).'" [Qur'an 109:1-4]

To conclude, Islam is the religion, which was given to Aadam, may Allah exalt his mention, the first man and the first prophet of Allah, and it was the religion of all the prophets sent by Allah to humankind. The name of God's religion -- Islam -- was not decided upon by later generations of man. It was chosen by Allah Himself and clearly mentioned in His final revelation to man. In Islam it is obligatory to have belief in all Messengers, may Allah exalt their mention and their messages in the original forms revealed by Allah. Surely, it is the only way, which can lead people to success in this life and to Paradise in the Hereafter.

Allah's Messenger, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, said: "By Him (Allah) in Whose Hand Muhammad's soul is, there is none from among the Jews and Christians who hears about me and then dies without believing in the Message (i.e. Islam) with which I have been sent, but he will be from the dwellers of the (Hell) fire." [Muslim]

Article source: <http://www.islamweb.net/emainpage/>

# Integrity of the individual in Islam

**T**here are two concepts in Islam that, among others, define our understanding of integrity; its meaning and method of attainment. These are purity and wholeness. We find that the Islamic definition of integrity resembles the scientific and natural interpretations of the word more than the philosophical or theoretical understanding; insofar that it refers less to the consistency with which human behaviour is aligned to a given moral or ethical dogma, and more to the extent to which human behaviour is brought into agreement with intrinsic human nature.

**Purity:**  
The Islamic understanding of purity, unarguably, bases itself on the concept of the *fitrah* (natural disposition of the human being). Prophet Muhammad, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam* (may Allah exalt his mention), referring to this natural state of the human being, said: "Every newborn child is born in a state

of *fitrah*. Then his parents make him a Jew, a Christian or a Magian, just as an animal is born intact. Do you observe any among them that are maimed (at birth)?" [Ahmad].

All creatures, then, including human beings, are born in a state of innate purity; any subsequent defilement of that natural condition results from a variety of social influences and manipulations. It is significant that in the above hadith, the impurity that develops, or that is to a degree inflicted, is likened to an actual injury or deformity -- it is a disfiguration of the natural state of the human being.

Integrity in Islam refers to the restoration and maintenance of that natural and primal state of purity. Allah says (what means): "Set your face to the deen (religion of Islam) in sincerity which is Allah's *fitrah* upon which He created mankind. There is no changing in the creation of Allah. That is the right deen but most people know not." [Qur'an 30:30]. When we talk of integrity, we generally refer (at

least in part) to the realisation of that nature which is literally integral to our being; of being true to our intrinsic qualities and character.

**Wholeness:**  
It is fair to say that completeness is a theme of Islam. Prophet Muhammad, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, frequently employed metaphors to explain the message with which he was sent, that invoked imagery of incomplete or unfinished things being brought to completion. For instance, he, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, said: "My likeness and the likeness of the Prophets before me is the likeness of a person who built a house and made it complete and beautiful, except the place of a brick in a corner. So people began to go around it and wonder at it and say, 'Why has not this brick been placed?' He said, 'I am that brick and I am the last of the Prophets'" [Muslim]. The imagery of cohesion here reinforces the words of Allah Almighty, in the Noble Qur'an announcing the

**Integrity in Islam has to do with the consistency of the individual with his or her innate purpose; the totality of the individual's life being kept in alignment with their intrinsic function. It is not merely the dogmatism of adherence to a relatively arbitrary code of conduct and behaviour, but the preservation of the individual's purity and authenticity**

final perfection of His Revelation to mankind, (what means): "This day I have perfected My favour upon you and have chosen for you Islam as your religion." [Qur'an 5:3]

Similarly, this aspect of wholeness is emphasised in varying contexts; regarding, for example the singularity of the entire Muslim *Ummah* (Nation) as one body, and so on. This emphasis on holistic consistency enlightens the second component of integrity in Islam.

Maintaining the purity of the *fitrah* becomes a complex and challenging process as we age, and our duties,

relationships, psychological and emotional development become more sophisticated and varied. We must take care to ensure that the intricate self of adulthood does not become partially or wholly alienated from the natural, simpler purity present in childhood. This requires a comprehensive alignment of all areas of life; private and public behaviour, social relationships, habits, disciplines, etc, with a system based upon the *fitrah*. That is, the quintessential purity of the *fitrah* must be realised in the totality of one's being through adherence to the detailed guidance of Islam.

Rather than a simple adherence to a particular ethical and moral code, as mentioned, integrity in Islam indicates the fullest manifestation of human essence. The wholeness is achieved by bringing human attributes and faculties in agreement with human function and purpose. In the same way that we would refer to a perfectly shaped, smooth, circular wheel as having integrity, so Muslim integrity has to do

with the extent to which the individual is actualising in totality his or her attributes and capabilities, in accordance with the purpose for which he or she has been endowed with them: the worship of Allah.

Integrity in Islam has to do with the consistency of the individual with his or her innate purpose; the totality of the individual's life being kept in alignment with their intrinsic function. It is not merely the dogmatism of adherence to a relatively arbitrary code of conduct and behaviour, but the preservation of the individual's purity and authenticity. Whereas the philosophical definition of integrity would take violation of a given code of ethics as what invalidates one's integrity; in Islam, the violation of integrity constitutes an alienation from one's nature with drastic and profound consequences that ultimately invalidate one's very life.

Article source: <http://www.islamweb.net/emainpage/>

## Fans of Team Morocco celebrate



Moroccan fans celebrate their team's entry to the Round of 16 in the ongoing FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 at Doha's Souq Waqif yesterday. Morocco beat Canada 2-1. PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam



# Exhibitions, museum and fashion show at Katara delight audiences

## Heritage and sport exhibitions, museum and fashion show inaugurated at Katara

Katara - Cultural Village Foundation continues its activities associated with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, with Katara general manager Prof Khaled bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti inaugurating a number of exhibitions.

The "Faces of the World" exhibition is being held in co-operation with the Dominican embassy, while the "Batik Heritage" exhibition is being hosted in co-operation with the embassy of Indonesia.

Another attraction, the Katara Traditional Dhows Museum, includes models of ships used by ancestors in Qatar and the Gulf region for their fishing trips, pearl diving, transport of goods, trade and travel, in addition to diving tools, boats and various means used by boatmen and sailors in the past, as well as boating and diving tools used by sailors on trips.

The museum is also a valuable opportunity for the public to see the ancient means and equipment used by deep sea divers to extract oysters and pearls, in addition to discovering diving activities such as rowing, raising the traditional sail, splitting oysters, and knowing the types of pearls, a press statement notes.

On the occasion, Prof al-Sulaiti said: "We are pleased to open these important and beautiful exhibitions as part of Katara's festive programme related to our country's hosting of the World Cup."



"We have co-operated with more than 22 embassies accredited to the country besides a number of friendly countries to enhance opportunities for dialogue between cultures and peoples," he said. "These distinguished exhibitions are evidence of the high level of cultural partnership between Katara and these embassies, which enhances the horizons of continuous cultural co-operation, whether during or after the World Cup."

Dominican Republic's ambassador to Qatar George Hazim praised Katara's efforts and its great co-operation in holding cultural events that introduce people to each other.

Indonesia's ambassador to Qatar Radwan Hassan said: "This is a great opportunity for the public to learn about the heritage of Indonesia, and we extend our thanks to Katara - the Cultural Village for this opportunity, and wish Qatar more success for this dazzling FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022."

The exhibition - "Faces of the World" - by Jerson Jimenez in Building 47, Hall 2, includes 25 paintings of the most important football players of the Qatar 2022 World Cup, about which the artist said: "This is my second participation at Katara, and I am pleased to present this exhibition on this major global occasion; I chose faces to



Snapshots from the exhibitions at Katara.

say something through them."

"The psychological expressions and feelings that I see on the players' faces during matches leave a deep impression on spectators," he said.

The "Batik Heritage" exhibition includes artwork and textiles that vary in ideas, including a work where the idea deals with FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Qatar by collecting Qatari cultural identity and football symbols.

A work titled *Mountain of Shadow Puppets* symbolises human life and its various stages, and life in an Indonesian village, while other works highlight different ideas.

The "World Wonders Balloon Tour Show" was launched yesterday continues on December 2 and 3 with two performances a day - the first at 5pm and the second at 7pm, at Al-Hikma Square.

The "Katara Fashion Show", which began yesterday, will continue to present Qatari fashion in a modern spirit.

The second night of the event today will present a show titled *Al-Qamra*, inspired by the Bedouin environment and focusing on the Bedouin desert patterns by women designers Noura al-Hajri, Haya al-Nuaimi and Loulan al-Jassem from Qatar, and Rasha al-Shehri and Bayan al-Majjaji from Saudi Arabia.

# Generation Amazing Youth Festival 2022 concludes

The Generation Amazing Foundation, a FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 social and human legacy initiative, has concluded its fourth annual youth festival and the second phase of its Goal 22 international school-exchange programme.

The Generation Amazing Youth Festival 2022 served as the in-person phase of the year-long Goal 22 project and brought

## More than 300 youths learn key life skills on sidelines of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

together more than 300 international students in Doha to teach them football for development practices that emphasise and advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through workshops and activities, exploring topics such as sports diplomacy, sustainability, diversity and inclusion, leadership, mental health and more.

Goal 22 began in October with virtual sessions and will continue in 2023.

The youth involved represented each of the 32 competing nations at Qatar 2022, and will be tasked with sharing the knowledge gained in their schools and communities.

The festival kicked off on November 17 with a celebration of Generation Amazing impacting 10m people across the globe and becoming a foundation.

Special remarks were made to more than 600 guests by Generation Amazing Foundation Chairman and Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) Secretary-General HE Hassan al-Thawadi, FIFA President Gianni Infantino, Generation Amazing Executive Director Nasser al-Khori, Generation Amazing Ambassador David Beckham, and Hollywood actor Ryan Reynolds, co-owner of Wrexham FC.

The keynote was delivered by Syrian-American composer Malek Jandali, founder of "Pianos for Peace".

It featured the premiere of sports docuseries *Chasing Dreams* - which was supported by Generation Amazing - and a surprise performance from The Triplets Ghetto Kids.

"Our aim is to help people develop crucial global citizenship skills while supporting capacity-building through the power of football," said al-Khori. "We want to offer much more than technical support to bring about social change to disadvantaged and marginalised communities."

"This requires educational and theoretical understanding in addition to cultural awareness

and exposure that is best gained through peer-to-peer interaction, and we're very proud to provide that in an unprecedented way, adding and contributing to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 legacy through our Goal 22 programme," he added.

"The Generation Amazing Youth Festival, in particular, provides an opportunity for many young adults, and even their educators and our invited delivery facilitators, to be introduced to innovative sport for development frameworks, gain insight into their opportunities and challenges, and learn about new perspectives and cultures while expanding their own potential," the Generation Amazing executive director said.

"We developed the Goal 22 programme so that participants gain exposure that is tangible and expansive outside what can be attained on the pitch or in a classroom, while establishing and reinforcing the universal values adopted by the UN, such as fair play, living together, enhancing understanding between peoples and cultures, and promoting the values of tolerance and respect," al-Khori said.

Since 2019, Generation Amazing has hosted its youth festival on the sidelines of major sporting events, such as the FIFA Club World Cup and FIFA Arab Cup.

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Special remarks were made to more than 600 guests during the event.



The youth involved represented each of the 32 competing nations at Qatar 2022.

This year's festival included workshops and panels organised and facilitated by more than 30 partner organisations.

There were discussions on women in sport, creating positive impact through sport, sustainability, climate change and inclusive leadership through sport, among others.

As part of the festival programme, youth participated in an inclusive football activation called the "All-In Tournament" - a mini World Cup - and had the opportunity to celebrate cross-cultural interaction and diversity at the closing cultural ceremony.

In addition to local and international musical acts and performances, students performed their own pieces to showcase their cultures and traditions.

On the last day of the festival, officials and delegates from Qatar, Canada, Mexico and the US attended to observe and participate in an inclusive football activation aimed to recognise the

success of the festival and share knowledge about key learnings with the next hosts of the FIFA World Cup.

The delegation of high-level officials included Qatar Foundation (QF) Vice-Chairperson and Chief Executive HE Sheikh Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, HE al-Thawadi, HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser al-Ali, Canada's Minister of International Development Harjit Sajjan, Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Affairs Marcelo Ebrard, and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Festival strategic partners included the Ministry of Sports and Youth, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Qatar Football Association, the QF, Qatar Museums, FIFA Foundation, and Unesco.

Sponsors included Qatar Airways, Visit Qatar, the Qatar Fund for Development, Qetaifan Projects, QLM Insurance, SDIsports, and Hublot.