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Dr. Anees Ali Psychiatry

DATE AND TIME

1st DECEMBER 2022
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM & 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

3rd DECEMBER 2022
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM & 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

4th DECEMBER 2022
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM & 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

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UPGRADE YOUR WORLD

Argentina set up last-8 clash with Netherlands

● **Messi scores on 1,000th career appearance, surpasses Maradona’s World Cup total**

Powerhouses Argentina and the Netherlands set up a rollicking FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 quarter-final clash following victories over Australia and the US, respectively, in the Round of 16 yesterday.

The two teams will vie for a spot in the last four at Lusail Stadium on December 9.

In the second of the two Round of 16 matches yesterday, Lionel Messi scored on his 1,000th career appearance in Argentina’s 2-1 win over Australia to surpass his great predecessor Diego Maradona’s tournament total.

Seeking a first World Cup at his fifth attempt, the mesmerising Messi curled the ball low past goalkeeper Mat Ryan from inside the area in the 35th minute to send the legions of Argentine fans into delirium at the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium.

Julian Alvarez bagged Argentina’s second from close range in the 57th minute after fatal hesitation from Ryan with the ball at his feet following a backpass.

Australia, who did superbly to reach the last 16 and are ranked 35 places below the double World Cup winners, defended valiantly with the towering Harry Souttar prominent. They set up a nervy



Lionel Messi celebrates after the match against Australia.

end after Craig Goodwin’s shot was deflected into the net off Enzo Fernandez for an own goal in the 77th minute.

The 35-year-old Messi’s goal was his third in the Qatar tournament and his ninth at World Cups, one more than Maradona.

Earlier, the Netherlands’ full-backs proved the difference as veteran Daley Blind and hard-running Denzel Dumfries turned in decisive performances at Khalifa International Stadium to help

secure a 3-1 win over the US in yesterday’s opening match of the World Cup knockout stages.

Dumfries netted and had two assists while Blind scored, too, as the Dutch saw off a brief spell of US resistance to ensure the victory.

Striker Memphis Depay got the first goal as the Netherlands advanced to a seventh World Cup quarter-final.

A comfortable 2-0 half-time lead was halved in the 76th minute as the Americans finally

made a breakthrough, even if scorer Haji Wright seemed to know little about the ball hitting his heel and then looping into the corner of the net.

However, any hopes they had of staging a comeback were ended five minutes later as Dumfries sealed his man-of-the-match performance by ghosting in at the back post and side-footing a volley into the net to restore the two-goal advantage.

The Dutch deserved the win but again there will be questions about whether they are serious World Cup contenders – something coach Louis van Gaal keeps insisting they are, although he was quick to admit yesterday’s showing could have been a lot better.

“We also lost a lot of ball possession, and it is not acceptable at a World Cup, especially if you are playing a top-level team,” he said.

Van Gaal’s side did, though, offer some glimpses of classy potential, no more so than with a series of 20 passes that set up their 10th minute opener – finished off by Depay smartly hitting home a cut-back pass from Dumfries. (Agencies)

Don’t go to stadiums without tickets, says security committee

The Safety & Security Operations Committee (SSOC) of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has advised people not to travel to stadiums hosting World Cup matches without valid tickets. “All attendees at FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 matches are required to hold the appropriate ticket. Please do not travel to stadiums without holding a valid match ticket,” the SSOC said in a statement yesterday. “Instances of fans attempting to gain access to stadiums without holding the correct ticket are taken seriously by our security teams and will be dealt with accordingly,” the statement noted.



The Netherlands’ Denzel Dumfries celebrates scoring their third goal against the US.



Christian Pulisic and Cristian Roldan of the US look dejected after the match against the Netherlands.

Amir meets Turkmenistan president



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday at Khalifa International Stadium with Turkmenistan President Serdar Berdimuhamedov and the accompanying delegation, who are visiting Qatar to attend a part of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 matches. President Berdimuhamedov congratulated the Amir on the occasion of the tournament, lauding the good organisation and wishing the participating teams success. The meeting also reviewed bilateral relations and means to bolster them, besides topics of mutual interest. (QNA)

Qatar 2022 continues to create new records

After 13 days and 48 matches, the first edition of the FIFA World Cup to be hosted in the Middle East and Arab world has presented an array of facts and figures, starting with a cumulative stadium attendance of 2.45mn spectators. That equals an average of 96% occupancy and is higher than the corresponding 2.17mn figure for the 2018 edition.

The highest attendance in the history of the FIFA World Cup since the 1994 final was seen at Lusail Stadium, where 88,966 fans witnessed the Argentina vs Mexico match.

On the pitch, the FIFA World Cup has faithfully reflected football’s increased competitiveness, as for the first time ever, teams from all continents have advanced to the round of 16. Likewise, three teams from the AFC (Australia, Japan and Korea Republic) have reached the knockout stages – a competition record for the Asian confederation, which previously only had two, in 2002 and 2010. Equally remarkably, for the second time, two African teams (Senegal and Morocco) have reached the knockout stages – the last occasion being in 2014.

History was also made by Stéphanie Frappart, who not only became the first woman to officiate a FIFA World Cup match, but also, together with Neuza Back and Karen

More than 1mn visitors at FIFA Fan Festival

The FIFA Fan Festival in Doha has welcomed more than 1mn fans since it opened its door on November 19 – one day before the World Cup kicked off, FIFA has announced. To celebrate 1mn visitors at the venue, FIFA has given away two tickets to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 final at Lusail Stadium on December 18. Football fan Haytham Mokhtar is the one millionth visitor to the FIFA Fan Festival and the lucky recipient of match tickets to the final, as well as an official match ball signed by legends of the game, “I still cannot believe that I am so lucky to be the one millionth guest at the FIFA Fan Festival. **Page 12**

Díaz Medina, formed the first all-female trio to take charge. Against Ghana, Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo achieved another incredible milestone by becoming the first player to score at five editions of the tournament. **To Page 12**

Pele ‘stable’

Doctors treating Brazilian football legend Pele yesterday said the 82-year-old remained “stable” after developing a respiratory infection with his condition not having deteriorated over the last 24 hours. Pele, who was hospitalised this week amid ongoing cancer treatments, “has had a good response to care without any worsening in the clinical picture in the last 24 hours”, doctors at Sao Paulo’s Albert Einstein Hospital said in a statement. **Sport Page 8**

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

Today’s schedule

Round of 16

France vs Poland, 6pm
at Al Thumama Stadium

England vs Senegal, 10pm
at Al Bayt Stadium

Yesterday’s results

Round of 16

Netherlands 3 USA 1
Argentina 2 Australia 1

Female World Cup fans feel safer in Qatar

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has multiple successes since its launch on November 20 and one of the outstanding results is that it is the first edition of the tournament that changed bad habits associated with soccer games, especially those targeting women, and have changed a range of ideas and stereotypes that have long been associated with the world’s largest sporting event.

A report by British newspaper *The Times* quoted a group of female fans who accompanied their country’s team to Doha to support the “Three Lions”, as saying that they were not harassed, describing the Qatar World Cup stadiums as more suitable for women to watch matches than in their own country.

Under the ‘Her Game Too’ campaign, British citizen Ellie Mollosos, 19, is leading a broad campaign in her country to make the stadiums more welcoming to women because of the harassment they experience during matches.

She pointed out that before she came to Qatar to support her country’s national team, she had asked her father to accompany her to Doha. However, in a statement to the British newspaper,



Referee Stephanie Frappart, assistant referees Neuza Back and Karen Diaz and fourth official Said Martinez react after the Costa Rica vs Germany match at Al Bayt Stadium.

she admitted that she “did not need to disturb her father, because the World Cup stadiums in Qatar are different than in her country, there were no cynical chants or gender discrimination of any kind”.

The report considered that Qatar’s stadiums provided a more favourable environment for women than in England, and Mollosos – a student from Nottingham – said: “I did not suffer from any of the harassment I experi-

enced in England,” adding that “it was a great environment when I tried it”.

Mollosos said: “I’ve got to say coming here has been a real shock to my system. There have been no catcalls, wolf whistles or sexism of any kind.” She added: “I felt incredibly safe. I’ve not had any catcalling or any of the strange comments that you would perhaps get in England sometimes. They’ve just been incredibly hospitable.”

Mollosos’s 49-year-old father and a



Female fans at the Netherlands vs USA match at Khalifa International Stadium yesterday.

teacher explained that he had come to Qatar to care for his daughter but admitted that he had discovered that he did not need to do so because of what he found in this country.

English fan Joe Glover, 47, who has attended World Cup tournaments since the 2010 South African edition, has not hid her fascination with a distinct version of the World Cup at all levels in Qatar, describing the general atmosphere here as less nervous, “eve-

ryone is wearing their elected colours, and without any trouble”.

Besides the cheerleaders’ testimony, the British newspaper report quoted former English player Lianne Sanderson, 34, and the presenter of “Talk Sport” programme, praising the organisational atmosphere of the Qatar World Cup.

In the same context, a senior British police officer considered that the absence of riots in Qatar during the World Cup competition is evidence that the British Government should not ease restrictions on alcohol in football stadiums, adding that the United Kingdom could learn from the experience in Qatar.

Chief Constable Mark Roberts, in charge of the UK’s Football Police, said the atmosphere in Qatar was “friendly”, like last summer’s Women’s Euro 2022 finals.

It seems that female fans in the Arabic edition of the World Cup noticed not only the difference in the stands, but also inside the stadium, as Stephanie Frappart (38 years) became the first woman to referee in a men’s World Cup match, one between Germany and Costa Rica. (QNA)



Turkmenistan president arrives in Doha



Turkmenistan President Serdar Berdimuhamedov arrived in Doha yesterday to attend part of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 matches. He and the accompanying delegation were received upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Minister of State Sheikh Fahd bin Faisal al-Thani. (QNA)

World Cup boosts food, beverage sales in fan zones, other places

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has significantly boosted sales of about 400 food and beverage outlets (kiosks) in the areas surrounding the stadiums and fan zones that host cultural and entertainment events, with an expected increase in turnout of 1.2mn fans by the end of the tournament. Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), several managers of these projects estimated that the turnout during the World Cup first week surged by 80% to record levels compared to the days preceding the tournament launch on Nov 20, with the positive impact and momentum.

In August, the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy and Aspire Katara Hospitality company announced the availability of hundreds of food and beverage outlets for rent in many locations in the country, including the areas surrounding the stadiums that host the World Cup matches, the Doha Corniche's 6km stretch, and other places that witnesses fans' entertainment activities.

Entrepreneurs in the food and beverage sectors benefited from these investment opportunities, as they confirmed that the influx of tourists and fans of international teams to Qatar has revived their sales of various types of food and beverages to almost double compared to the pre-tournament period, especially since some visitors have a great passion to know Qatari and Arab cuisines, exploring local food with all its components, in addition to buying handicrafts of the traditional nature of the Qatari people.

The outlets are distributed in about nine areas for fans zones and inside the stadiums, taking into account the size of the area, its breadth, and the density of the fans' presence in it.

There are two types of outlets, the first contains food and drinks, while the second contains gifts, souvenirs, and heritage and historical items.

Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed, who runs an outlet for selling drinks and juices on the Doha Corniche, said that turnout reached record levels of about 80% during the first week of the World Cup, pointing out that they start working from 11am until 12 midnight, emphasising that the project is feasible from an economic point of view and that work is proceeding smoothly to meet the needs of visitors.

He said that the shops and commercial outlets are in line with the State's directions and strategy aimed at hosting the first carbon-neutral edition of the World Cup, as all shops committed to using paper cups and utensils that can be recycled, which reinforces the country's plans to establish global standards in preserving the environment, to serve as a role model in the major world championships, in addition to building a sustainable legacy that benefits future generations.



Busy eateries at Souq Waqif. PICTURES: Thajudheen



The momentum of the tournament has made a positive impact in Qatar, benefiting food and beverage outlets, according to Qatar Tourism, which allowed visitors to taste a variety of food and beverages in the country, and Qatari cuisine is the most famous, which derives its characteristics from Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, as a result of the diversity of 100 communities living in the State.

Osama Saeed, a visitor to Qatar, said that it is easy to find the original cuisines of most of the countries of the region in the restaurants hosted by Souq Waqif or other commercial centres, pointing to the diversity of restaurants and the availability of oriental, Arabic, Western, Chinese, Japanese and many other cuisines that suit all cultures and tastes.

The World Cup has provided the impetus to all sectors of the Qatari economy, including the tourism and hospitality sector, especially with the increase in visitors to the country and the increase in the population of Qatar to more than 3mn people, and in conjunction with the State's plans to triple the number of tourists in the country, to reach 7mn tourists annually by 2030. (QNA)

Checks at Rawdat Al Khail Park eateries

The Doha Municipality has carried out checks at food and beverage outlets at Rawdat Al Khail Park. This is in order to ensure compliance with the rules pertaining to food consumption and hygiene. Rawdat Al Khail Park

was rehabilitated and opened earlier this year ahead of the World Cup and it has witnessed a remarkable turnout of visitors. The park features many public facilities, including a pedestrian path.

Health inspection campaign



Umm Salal Municipality's health control section has carried out an inspection campaign at the Central Market there for three days to ensure compliance with the ministerial decision on regulating the use of plastic bags and the ban on single-use plastic bags. Besides, the campaign aimed at raising awareness about food health and safety regulations and standards.

Supporting teachers a top priority in all education systems, says official

HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi, reviewed teachers' new roles in the context of developing the structure and curricula of education and in light of modern approaches in teaching and learning strategies based on digital technologies, and addressed the competencies and skills necessary to successfully perform these roles.

Dr al-Nuaimi stressed the strong impact of teachers' role in education and in improving its quality as they play a crucial role in the success of reform and



HE Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi

change initiatives in the education sector, pointing out that the goal of preparing professionally qualified, well-trained, and supported teachers re-

mains a top priority in all educational systems.

His remarks came as he participated in the third educational conference 'Innovative education for a changing era', organised by the Arab Centre for Educational Research for the Gulf States, under the umbrella of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States in Manama, and his management of the fourth plenary session entitled 'Teacher preparation: competencies and new roles'.

He pointed out that issues related to their preparation and training programmes, their working conditions, and the perception of their

new roles, in the context of virtual and blended education, remain a source of concern for those concerned with education.

Assistant dean for teacher education at the national institute of education at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Dr P Ling, spoke at the session on empowering teachers to be future-ready, curriculum, teaching methods and technologies, along with the participation of Director General of the Unesco Regional Center for Quality and Excellence in Education in Saudi Arabia Dr Abdulrahman bin Ibrahim al-Mudaires. (QNA)



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Umm Salal Municipality's health control section has carried out an inspection campaign at the Central Market there for three days to ensure compliance with the ministerial decision on regulating the use of plastic bags and the ban on single-use plastic bags. Besides, the campaign aimed at raising awareness about food health and safety regulations and standards.



Katara Dhow Festival, concerts and performances reflect culture, heritage

Visitors to Katara have praised the activities accompanying the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, being presented by the Cultural Village Foundation until December 18.

The visitors have expressed admiration for the diverse and rich cultural, arts and entertainment events that showcase the culture and heritage of Qatar and the region and narrate a deeply-rooted history.

On Thursday evening, the Katara amphitheatre hosted a concert of elegant melodies by Kuwaiti artiste Hammoud al-Khader.

It was attended by a large audience of fans. At the same time, the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival continued to receive lovers of maritime heritage of various nationalities.

The festival's activities attract thousands of spectators and visitors who are keen to explore the pavilions on Katara Beach and attend the diverse and enjoyable cultural, artistic and heritage events, presenting to the World Cup guests the ancient culture of Qatar, its great maritime heritage, and coexistence with a reality that narrates the glories of the

The visitors have expressed admiration for the diverse and rich cultural, arts and entertainment events that showcase the culture and heritage of Qatar

era of pearl diving, fishing and sea voyages, a press statement notes.

Heritage museums participating in the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival - Museum of the late Jassim al-Mannai, the Abdul Aziz al-Buhashim al-Sayed Museum, and the Isa al-Mulla Museum - attract lovers of old collectibles and fishing tools and means that tell exciting stories about fishing trips and pearl diving, to shed light on their sacrifices and voyages.

Meanwhile, the Iranian cultural exhibition at Katara (Hall 12), which is being held in co-operation with the Iranian embassy in Doha, is witnessing a

remarkable turnout of visitors.

The ring art suite (wood inlays) draws the interest of art lovers because of its beauty, accuracy and creativity.

It is based on inlaying the brightest wooden pieces with geometric shapes of small and delicate triangles of mosaics next to each other and by using ivory, gold, silver, copper, aluminium.

The audience expressed admiration for this ancient art, which is rooted in the depth of the diverse Iranian culture. The exquisite pieces of art are considered among the best souvenirs to be acquired.

The artistic performances yesterday at Katara also continued to witness large audiences of different groups, nationalities and ages.

The 'World Wonders Balloon Tour', in addition to the Bosnian folklore show presented by the Bosnian embassy in co-operation with Katara, are among the key attractions.

The highly appreciated Katara Fashion Show saw designers using traditional fabrics with designs inspired by the aesthetics of Qatari heritage along with innovations and modern touches.



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QF amplifies Palestinian voices and culture during World Cup

The culture, achievements and inspiring stories of Palestine and its people are being spotlighted by Qatar Foundation as the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 showcases the Arab world to the wider world.

A series of events and performances hosted by Qatar Foundation (QF) during December will amplify Palestinian voices, starting with a storytelling and poetry event by activist Muna El Kurd at 2pm tomorrow at the Cinema Hall in Multaqa (Education City Student Centre).

El Kurd – who gained international attention in 2021 when she and her brother were detained by Israeli authorities during protests against the forced displacement of Palestinian families from their homes in Jerusalem’s Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood – will share her own story and recite her mother’s poems at the

event, which will take place during GOALS, an exhibition where storytellers are providing their perspectives on the FIFA World Cup, football in Qatar, community and culture.

And Palestinian performers will be centre stage at QF’s D’reesha Performing Arts Festival, which is being held at Oxygen Park and Al Khater House in Education City from December 11-17 under the theme of ‘Travel and Adventure’ and will bring the local, regional, and international community together to celebrate creativity, Arab culture and heritage, and the Arabic language.

On December 12 at 6.45pm, Palestinian singer and producer Dalal Abu Amneh, who is also a neuroscientist, will, for the first time, combine her love of music and science into a single performance, while on December 13 and 14, from 3-4pm each day,

D’reesha attendees will be treated to performances from Banat Al Quds, a choir and instrumental ensemble comprising 38 young women whose family roots lie in Al-Quds.

Meanwhile, from 3.30-3.40pm on December 15, 13-year-old Palestinian rapper Abdulrahman AlShanti – better known as MC Abdul – will perform at D’reesha, with the teenage artist from Gaza demonstrating how he uses his music to spread a message of peace and unity; and at 5pm on 17 December, a Poetry Majlis will be held at Al Khater House, discussing topics relevant to Palestine and the Arab world through poetry and welcoming poets Rawdah AlHaji, Anas AlDoghmem and Dalal alBaroud.

More details about the D’reesha Performing Arts Festival, including where and how to buy tickets, can be found at

www.org.qa/events/dreesha-performing-arts-festival

QF production Doha Debates is also holding a December 15 townhall event focusing on the lived reality of Palestinian national identity, and exploring it beyond a purely theoretical approach, with Palestinian activist Ahd Tamimi; Dr Tariq Dana, assistant professor of conflict and humanitarian studies at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies; and Palestinian American actress and comedian Maysoon Zayid. The event will be moderated by Palestinian-American journalist Dena Takruri, of Al Jazeera Media Network, with a number of Palestinian students and youth participating in the on-stage discussion.

During the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the Doha Debates Portal has been part of the FIFA Fan Festival in Doha, connecting fans and visitors with people



in locations including Gaza with the aim of sparking dialogue on key global issues.



Muna El Kurd

For more information about QF events and activities focused on Palestine during the FIFA

World Cup Qatar 2022, visit www.qf.org.qa/world-cup/palestine

Tunisian, Syrian cultures on show

The Ministry of Culture organised the Tunisian Community Day as part of the “Cultural Diversity of Communities” activities held on the sidelines of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The day was marked by a rich programme reflecting the cultural diversity that characterises Tunisia.

The Tunisian community’s celebration, which was hosted by the Al Sulaiti House in Al Hitmi area near the Qatar National Museum, included lyrical performances by the students of the Tunisian School in Doha, Tunisian classical, folk, heritage and folklore arts, and a show on Tunisian traditional dress in several states.

The Ministry of Culture also

hosted a similar event for the Syrian community, which included a rich programme reflecting the cultural diversity that characterises Syria.

The charge d’affaires at the Syrian embassy in Doha, Dr Bilal Turkiya, expressed his thanks to Qatar for what it provides to Syria and its people in various humanitarian, cultural and development fields.

He commended the Ministry of Culture’s efforts for providing this opportunity and others to show the Syrian culture and rich heritage, especially in light of this beautiful atmosphere full of World Cup competitions, which reap success and praise from everyone. (QNA)



Praise for success of Qatar World Cup

Observers abroad and at home continue to praise the success of Qatar in presenting an exceptional edition of the FIFA World Cup, stressing that the tournament is taking place in unparalleled festive circumstances and atmosphere.

Christoph Ehrhart, correspondent of the German newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, wrote in an article about the extent of the strategic mistake that his country made in terms of not investing in the World Cup, to strengthen its relationship and trust with Qatar and other Gulf countries, stressing that Doha has succeeded in achieving an important goal in organising the World Cup, which is to transform its World Cup into the World Cup for all Arabs.

He explained that this “Arab” version of the World Cup brought together Arabs, today, in one line rejecting “German arrogance in particular and Western in general” in dealing selectively with the human rights file.

He described what the German interior minister made, regarding the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, as “damaging the relationship between the two countries, and did not contrib-

ute, near or far, to achieving its intended purpose,” saying, that “the leadership will reorient its political compass after the World Cup.”

Donata Hopfen, CEO of the German Bundesliga, said: “It is the largest football tournament in the world, and at the end of the day we always have to remember that it is about sport, and sport should be at its centre. We are here to play football. I am very happy, because now we focus on the sport side.”

Andrew Spalding, a law professor at the University of Richmond in the US, said that Qatar acted completely differently from previous host countries, noting what has been achieved in Qatar in terms of amendments to labour laws, as well as its relations with important international bodies such as the International Labor Organisation.

Spalding said, in a report published by the German website Deutsche Welle, “If we want to make sport more in compliance with human rights, we must learn from what is happening so that we can develop such events,” considering that the progress that has been made by Qatar has been “ignored”. (QNA)

Qatari embassies hold World Cup celebration

A number of Qatar’s diplomatic missions abroad continue to organise activities to celebrate the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

In New York, the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations and the Qatari consulate held a party on the occasion. HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the European headquarters of the UN in Geneva Dr Hind bint Abdul Rahman al-Muftah said in her speech that Qatar has hosted many major sporting events over the past decade, which enabled it to show what it can offer the world, in addition to its commitment to development, sustainable development, social inclusion, community values, and mutual respect towards people of different cultures and nations.

She stressed Qatar’s belief in the power of sport and the strengthening of unified universal values around the world.

HE Dr Hind highlighted the many challenges that Qatar faced and was able to overcome, saying that this is the beauty of the World Cup, bringing people of all backgrounds together to enjoy the most popular sport in the world.

She stressed that Qatar relies on the great potential of this event to promote values and principles such as equality, tolerance, co-operation and solidarity, and for it to be a great opportunity to promote better

understanding and respect for diverse traditions and cultures, which is the true essence of organising huge sporting events, such as the World Cup, in different parts of the world.

She expressed her true pride in this achievement and thanked all citizens and residents who spared no effort to turn this dream into a reality.

During the ceremony, a competition for attendees was organised, where they had to provide answers to general sports questions, with some being about sports in Qatar. The competition also included prizes for the winners, with some of the prizes being provided by Qatar Airways.

The Permanent Mission of Qatar, in co-operation with the UN Office in Geneva, organised a fan zone for UN staff and representatives of diplomatic missions and international and regional organisations to watch World Cup matches.

In Beijing, the Qatari embassy held a party which was attended by ambassador Mohamed bin Abdullah al-Dehaimi, as well as a number of senior Chinese officials, ambassadors of Arab and foreign states, in addition to a number of businessmen, media professionals, and heads of major Chinese companies operating in Qatar.

The attendees expressed their wishes for a successful World Cup, signing the tournaments mural.

On the sidelines of the celebration, an art exhibition for major Chinese artists’ painting was held, whose paintings were specifically made for the World Cup 2022.

The exhibition also includes 3D models of World Cup stadiums, as well as a special corner for picture taking, in addition to Qatari cultural and heritage displays in the heritage tent, which includes 3D models of falcons, oryxes and traditional Qatari garments.

In Belgium, the Qatari embassy ceremony was attended by ambassador to the kingdom and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg Khalid bin Fahad al-Hajri, as well as Ministry of Sports and Youth representatives, in addition to a number of members of parliament in Belgium and ambassadors.

The Qatari embassy in Kigali, Rwanda, held a party on the occasion of the World Cup.

The ceremony was attended by ambassador Misfer bin Faisal al-Shahwani, the embassy staff, and a number of heads and representatives of diplomatic missions.

In Tirana, Albania, the embassy of Qatar organised a ceremony to celebrate the World Cup 2022.

It was attended by ambassador Ali bin Hamad al-Marri and a number of heads and members of the diplomatic corps. The embassy also set up a special area



for fans to watch the World Cup matches in Skanderbeg Square in Tirana.

In Singapore, the Qatari embassy held a party which was attended by ambassador Saoud bin Jassim al-Jufairi, as well as a number of officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and government agencies in Singapore, heads and members of diplomatic missions, as well as prominent figures in Singaporean society.

In Pretoria, South Africa, the Qatari embassy held a party which was attended by ambassador Tariq Ali Faraj al-Ansari, together with a number of heads and members of diplomatic missions, and prominent personalities in South Africa. (QNA)



Friday, Dec. 2, 2022

Public Transport Buses

Passengers: 268,274

Trips: 8,956



QATAR



FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar 2022

QATAR

Culture minister tours Darb Al Saai



HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, Chairman of the Organising Committee of the National Day Celebrations, toured an arts exhibition at Darb Al Saai yesterday. He also met some of the artists there and listened to detailed presentations about their paintings, Arabic calligraphy, Islamic decoration, and pottery.



Oman minister at Darb Al Saai

Omani Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Saud Hamoud al-Habsi during his visit to Darb Al Saai.



No stranger to learning

Children are taking part in various activities held at Darb Al Saai, aimed at encouraging them to read and write, and enrich their knowledge and skills, with various books that cover topics such as the history of Qatar, Qatar National Day, and the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.



Qatar Scientific Club presents interactive shows at Darb Al Saai

QNA
Doha

The Qatar Scientific Club (QSC) is participating in this year's Darb Al Saai activities held to celebrate the National Day.

The club will present a series of interactive scientific shows.

In a statement to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), QSC managing director Sheikh Ali bin Salman al-Thani said that the club, in co-operation with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), will offer a range of shows and experiences combining learning and fun, such as dry ice shows, air cannon, liquid nitrogen shows, and some shows for the ignition triangle, in addition to cultural competitions of a scientific nature that have received interaction and approval from the public.

He said that the club will also participate in the events accompanying the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, especially in the "D'reesha of Invention and Innovation", which will be held under the supervision and organisation of the Qatar Foundation (QF) from December 11-17, where it will present a number of events, such as scientific competitions, interactive scientific experiments, a meeting with an innovator, an exhibition on the inventions of Muslim scholars, the building World Cup stadiums, and the building Islamic and engineering heritage landmarks.

The QSC will also participate in events accompanying the World Cup, which will be held in Kahramaa Awareness Park, starting from tomorrow (December 5) until the National Day.

Sheikh Ali added that the occasion of the National Day and its commemoration, in Darb Al Saai or in various places in the country, is a commemoration of the founding of Qatar by Sheikh Jassim bin Mohamed bin Thani.

He said that the National Day represents an opportunity to introduce the works of the founders who endured hardships and paid a heavy price to achieve the unity of their nation.

The National Day also emphasises the identity of the state and its history, and embodies the ide-



The QSC will offer a range of shows at Darb Al Saai.



als and hopes upon which the state was built, in addition to promoting loyalty, solidarity, unity and pride in the Qatari national identity.

Qatar is making everyone happy with impressive World Cup, says Dominican artist

Dominican plastic artist Jerson Jimenez has said that Qatar has succeeded in organising an impressive FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

In a statement to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), he said that he is very happy that Qatar achieved what it promised.

"I lived in Europe, and came to Doha to prepare for my exhibition. I have witnessed and (experienced) some (criticism against) Qatar's organisation of the World Cup, especially in Germany, where some people raised issues unrelated to sports, which lacked logic," Jimenez said.

"Everyone supported Qatar, because it did what it did for the whole world, and I saw how happy everyone was with this wonderful organisation, and I warmly congratulate all those who worked to achieve this great success," he added.

This came on the sidelines of his

exhibition "Faces of the World", which was organised by Katara - Cultural Village Foundation in co-operation with the Dominican embassy in Qatar.

It features 25 artistic portraits of the most prominent soccer stars in the world.

On the relationship between art and sports, Jimenez said that the connection lies in the artist and athlete always striving to set an example, and to take effort to be the best in art and sports.

He recounted that when he was a child in the Dominican Republic, he used to practice Olympic gymnastics, and has been practising drawing since he was 12 years old, and now sport and art are inseparable in his exhibition in Doha.

Regarding his style of drawing, Jimenez told the QNA that he chose to depict feelings, not appearance, in his portraits of football stars, instead of the traditional method of drawing faces. - QNA

Symposium highlights Qatari women's role in society

A cultural symposium, held on Friday evening as part of the Darb Al Saai activities, highlighted the role of Qatari women and their significant contributions to the development of various aspects in society.

Director of the Mohamed Bin Hamad Al-Thani Centre for Muslim Contributions to Civilisation at the Hamad Bin Khalifa University's College of Islamic Studies, Dr Aisha Yousef al-Mannai, Qatari Forum for Authors director-general Dr Aisha Jassim al-Kuwari, and journalist Hessa al-Suwaidi participated in the symposium which was held under the title of *Qatari Women ... Great Roles and Achievements in Society*.

The symposium was moderated by journalist Ahmed al-Saadi.

The participants spoke about the roles played by Qatari women in various fields, associated with their adherence to Islamic culture, as well as Qatari customs and traditions.

Dr al-Mannai said that Qatari women make great contributions to society because of their broad Islamic culture, adding that Qatari women are keen to adhere to the customs and traditions of their society, just as they are keen



Dr al-Mannai, Dr al-Kuwari, and al-Suwaidi.

to raise their children while keeping to these virtues.

She explained that women have been peers to Qatari men for a long time, contributing to the growth of women's role in different spheres, under the constitution that gave men and women equal rights and duties, and stressed that Qatari women have preserved their identity despite entering various fields.

Dr al-Kuwari drew attention to the success of Qatari women within and without the country, presenting many examples in this regard, and noted the presence of Qatari women writers who participate in introducing Qatari culture in various fields of creativity, and assuming responsibility for cultural affairs like men.

Al-Suwaidi emphasised the ability

of the Qatari female intellectuals, who are proud of their beliefs and heritage, to courageously work and open up with various cultures in light of the "deep-rooted and solidly founded constants".

She said that women can be ambassadors of local culture through opening up to the other world, in service of the work they do in entrepreneurship, culture or media. - QNA

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GULF TIMES

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 sets new benchmark for future hosts

As FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 entered the Round of 16, the great sporting spectacle on earth has set new benchmarks for future hosts.

Qatar's investment in state-of-the-art sport stadiums and advanced facilities has ensured that players and fans have world class experience during the World Cup.

The compact nature of the tournament in Qatar means everything is close by – whether it is a stadium, training site or tourist attraction. While fans immerse themselves in the action, players are able to totally focus on football as there is no requirement for travel between matches.

This year's tournament is the 22nd edition of international football's showpiece event – and the first to take place in the Middle East.

Qatar is hosting the most compact edition of FIFA World Cup in modern history. All eight stadiums are within one hour's drive of central Doha, meaning fans and players will always be in the thick of the action.

And uniquely in modern times, fans have had the chance to attend more than one match a day in the preliminary stages of the tournament.

Qatar is hosting an outstanding edition of the FIFA World Cup – one that will leave an important legacy for our country, the Middle East and globally

Doha Metro has already become an “instant hit” with thousands of football fans from abroad and those residing in Qatar. Excellent crowd management has ensured that football fans have a safe and smooth travel experience.

Also, the world class facility is being provided to Hayya

card holders, absolutely free.

Many football fans who spoke to Gulf Times were all praise for Qatar, for its excellent event and crowd management.

Since starting operations in 2019, Doha Metro's state-of-the-art driverless system was specifically designed and built to handle large numbers of passengers and major events. Doha Metro underwent significant tests during several large events held previously.

As many as 110 trains are now operating 21 hours a day and more than 10,000 staff are manning the Doha Metro. From three cars, the Red Line is now running with six cars.

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has clearly raised excitement around the world.

After the first round of FIFA World Cup group stage matches were completed, official figures released by FIFA showed that the average overall match attendance in stadiums across Qatar stands at an impressive 94% compared to stadium capacities for the event.

With all 32 nations having taken to the field – and more than 3mn tickets sold for the tournament – the strong attendance figures also follow the recent news that the preliminary comparable television viewing figures are up in nations across the world from the previous FIFA World Cup edition.

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has become a sporting spectacle to remember for everyone who has already made it and will make it to Qatar – as well as the billions glued to their TVs and smartphones around the world.

For decades, hosting the World Cup was a distant dream – but now it has become a reality. Qatar's hard work has indeed come to fruition and the country is now hosting an outstanding edition of the FIFA World Cup – one that will leave an important legacy for our country, the Middle East and globally.

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Messi takes on Ronaldo in fan coin World Cup

The broader crypto market malaise is partly to blame for price drops, according to researchers who said the flighty assets were wilting as investors shunned risk

By Medha Singh and Lisa Pauline Mattackal
Bengaluru

The market for fan tokens, a volatile cocktail of crypto and sport, is heating up.

Interest in this niche breed of cryptocurrencies, typically linked to sports teams like Barcelona or Brazil, has been charged up by the football World Cup which began on November 20.

Average daily trading volumes for these tokens have risen to around \$300mn in November from \$32mn the month before, according to Kaiko, a Paris-based crypto data firm.

“So we have 10-fold increase in volume which is huge for these tokens,” said research analyst Dessislava Aubert.

For some buyers, these token offer the chance to engage with their side and gain perks such as the chance to win prizes and vote on songs played at matches. For others, the tradeable coins provide a new investment opportunity.

It's a brave investor who'd seek to divine any sensible link between erratic coin prices and real-world events, though.

The token of Lionel Messi's Argentina side slumped 25% to \$5.26 following the team's shock defeat by Saudi Arabia in their opening World Cup game. Yet it has dropped

a further 22% since the team's subsequent victory over Mexico brought fan relief.

The coin of Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal rallied 119% to \$7 in the 10 days leading up to the tournament but then proceeded to lose almost half its value even though it was unbeaten and top of its group heading into its clash with Uruguay, which it won to reach the knock-out stage.

Similarly in club football, Arsenal's token has fallen 12.5% since the start of the season to \$1.68 despite their glittering run to the top of the English Premier League.

The broader crypto market malaise is partly to blame for price drops, according to researchers who said the flighty assets were wilting as investors shunned risk.

The overall market cap for fan coins jumped to \$401mn on the opening weekend of the World Cup, from \$256mn about 10 days earlier, according to data from CoinGecko, but it has since fallen back below \$300mn.

Siddharth Jaiswal, founder and CEO of Sportzchain, which mainly issues tokens for the Asian market, said people shouldn't buy the coins primarily to make money.

“The cherry on the cake is that it's a tool, available on the blockchain that can be easily traded in the future, so there is a financial connotation attached to it,” he added.

“But the first perception should

never be that you're buying the fan token from a profit-generating standpoint.”

Brooding Bitcoin

Socios, which is promoted by Messi, is the biggest player in this slice of the crypto industry. It facilitates trading of most fan coins, describing buying such tokens as joining a loyalty scheme with exclusive benefits and prizes.

Some of the world's biggest football clubs have launched tokens supported by Socios including Paris Saint-Germain, Manchester City, Inter Milan and Atletico Madrid, as well as the Portuguese and Argentinian national teams, with market caps of tokens ranging from about \$7mn to \$21mn.

Trading volumes for the Socios-linked token Chilliz, which users buy in order to trade with their team tokens, hit a seven-month high in early November ahead of the World Cup but have since retreated 40% from that peak.

When looking at the breakdown of trading in the Chilliz token by fiat currency, the Korean won dominates with its total fiat volume exceeding 87% in early November followed by Turkey's lira, according to data from Kaiko.

The growth spurt in fan tokens comes at a time of tumult in the crypto market, which is reeling from the collapse of major exchange FTX

earlier this month. Bitcoin is brooding near two-year lows at around \$16,245.

While the FTX fiasco has raised serious questions about the lack of regulation in digital assets, fan coins – which some issuers say fall under the utility token category – remain a grey area.

“Tokens which do not offer sufficient utility could face some regulatory scrutiny, because this would infer that the token is an investment into the club,” said Marcus Sotiriou, analyst at digital asset broker GlobalBlock.

“However, if the token offers exclusive benefits and focuses on the utility it provides to its fans, then I do not think there will be regulatory issues.”

Socios said it believed in regulation to give fans trust and transparency.

In August, Britain's advertising watchdog upheld a ruling against Arsenal over two adverts about fan tokens posted on the club's website and Facebook that it deemed were misleading and irresponsible, although the club denied this.

Markus Thielen, head of research at digital assets platform Matrixport, said interest in these tokens among soccer fans could be short-lived.

“Companies and teams that are selling those tokens must now offer more value at regular intervals, otherwise users will lose interest after the World Cup quite quickly.”

— Reuters

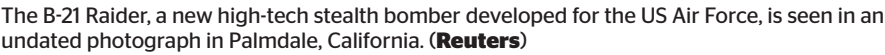


IN THE FRAME: Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (left) and Argentina's Lionel Messi. (AFP, Reuters)

AFP
Palmdale

He hailed its range — “no other long-range

"The B-21 is much fancier than its predecessors — truly modern. Not only is it dual-capable (unlike the B-2), which means it can launch nuclear or conventionally armed missiles, it can launch long- and short-range missiles," Nelson said.



Air Force spokesperson Ann Stefanek told AFP the aircraft is “provisioned for the possibility,

They “flew more than 650 miles to strike distant enemy targets, and the Doolittle Raiders, as they came to be known, showed the strength and the reach of American air power,” he said.

AFP
Athens

"It is possible that a mutually beneficial solution can be found. The Parthenon Sculptures can be reunited and at the same time the concerns of the British Museum can be taken into account," ANAMPA news agency reported.

In March 2021, the then UK prime minister Boris Johnson told *Ta Nea* he understood the “strength of feeling of the Greek people” on the issue.

towns such as Bucha and Irpin, Borodyanka and Gostomel were severely hit by Russian bombardment after Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

AFP
Johannesburg

Police carrying out a patrol in Nowshera, a district of northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province which borders Afghanistan, came under fire yesterday evening, a regional police deputy



“The president has with humility and with great care and commitment accepted that call to continue being of service to his

On Monday the TTP announced an end to a months-long ceasefire, claiming a suicide attack in the southern Pakistani city of Quetta two days later, which killed four people and wounded more than 30.

The report will be examined by parliament tomorrow.

AFP
Washington

“The modern Internet business model consists of building an audi-

His audience, he claimed, can survive various doomsday scenarios with other products that his store can supply – storable food, body armour and even components for homemade guns.

Last month, the *Washington Post* reported that Jones had transferred millions of dollars out of Free Speech Systems to firms that he or his family



Families of the victims in the 2012 shooting in Sandy Hooks Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, have alleged that Jones was trying to hide his wealth to avoid paying the damages. A jury in Connecticut

InfoWars sales data presented dur-

“This creates an entire world of Alex Jones polarising the global discourse, sowing fear and anger for clicks and cash. Until this changes, we’ll simply go from one Alex Jones to the next and little will change.”



QATAR



FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar 2022

QATAR



A show at Katara.

Live it all in Qatar!

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

Here are some highlights:

☞ **FIFA Fan Festival: Al Bidda Park**, daily until December 18. Timings: 4pm-2am. Gates close for last entry at midnight. Join thousands of fans and enjoy FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 matches live on the mega-screens. See global music acts and local artistes take to the stage in a true celebration and vibrant festival of culture. Entry only for Hayya card holders.

☞ **Corniche celebrations**
Qatar's global street carnival along Doha's iconic 6km waterfront, from the Museum of Islamic Art to Hotel Park. Taking place daily until December 18, from noon until midnight (entertainment from 3-11pm). The atmosphere along the Corniche will celebrate nations – allowing football fans to connect from all around the world.

☞ **Welcome to Qatar: Corniche**
Welcome to Qatar is a must-see for all during the tournament, featuring the Circle of Lights – a shimmering circle suspended above the water that transforms to poetically narrate wonderful stories. Daily shows start from 4pm.

☞ **Hayya Fan Zone**
A celebration of the beautiful game at Lusail South Promenade, open until December 18 from noon until 1am. Head to Lusail South Promenade and join the festivity, fun and football. Access: entry fee and ticketed activations. Hayya Card holders are eligible for discounted tickets if you purchase your ticket upon entry.

☞ **Ras Abu Aboud Beach 974**
Hit the shore at Beach 974, extending from the heart of Doha along Ras Abu Aboud's glistening waterfront. Combine football and beach life, enjoy the water – then kick back and let the beat move your feet! Closed on December 5. For timings and more details, visit <https://www.qatar2022.qa/en/live-it-all-in-qatar/ras-abu-aboud-beach-974>

☞ **MDLBEAST Presents: Aravia**
Step off the pitch and onto the dance floor for 28 Arabian nights. A magical world that combines music, performance and song – from top international talent and rising regional stars – inspired by the colours and shapes of Arab culture, blending rave with Arabia. Taking place until December 18 from 8pm-2am. Located next to Al Wakra Metro Station, 12 minutes from Doha. Access: Event admission ticket required. 20% discount on your first ticket and 50% for any other ticket you purchase within the same order when using promo code Hayya50. This offer is valid on all ticket categories until the last day of the festival, on a limited number of tickets. Visit <https://aravia.mdlbeast.com/en> for ticket details.

☞ **Arcadia Music Festival**
This world-renowned event will mesmerise you late into the night – as the energy of this one-of-a-kind experience takes over! Featuring international artistes and DJs, extraordinary sculpted stages with a fire-breathing spider, and much more. Open until December 19, daily from 6pm-3am, at Ras Bu Fontas. The organisers have announced free entry for women, couples and everyone wearing a national team jersey before 10pm. Regular tickets are available from \$49 via Tixbox.com

☞ **Daydream Festival**
The Daydream Festival returns to Doha with an unparalleled line-up and a brand-new stage. The festival will host some of the world's largest Electronic Dance Music (EDM) artistes at the Doha Golf Club. The festival opened late last month and continues on December 6, 10, 14 and 18. For more information and tickets, visit <https://www.tixbox.com/en/events/?page=0&size=12>

☞ **Lusail Boulevard**
Live entertainment lights up the boulevard! The modern city of Lusail is brought to life from morning to night with live music, parades and street performances. You'll be captivated by it all! Taking place until December 18, daily from 11am-2am.

☞ **QetaiFAN Beach Fest**
Be entertained day and night! Enjoy concerts, special performances, giant screen live matches, water activities and a Floating Aqua Park – all at one of the largest entertainment venues in Qatar! Open until December 18 in Qetaifan Island North, Lusail. Admission is free to the General Admissions Area – enabling all visitors to enjoy the beach, music, activities and F&B facilities, as well as watch live football matches on the giant screens. Tickets are needed for access to the front stage area during special music performances and admission to the VIP area. Tickets are available through Q-Tickets at www.q-tickets.com

☞ **Qarnevale Quartier, The Pearl Island**
Qarnevale Quartier at The Pearl Island's little Venice precinct has been launched. At the Venice-like festival, visitors will get to experience the international flavour of Italy with a roaming parade recreating the spirit of one of the most famous festivals in the world via performances including elaborate masquerade shows, human statues and dazzling floating arts. The Qarnevale Quartier takes place until today, from 4pm-9pm, at the Qanat Quartier Boardwalk. Visitors can enjoy several other attractions at The Pearl and Ge-wan islands.

☞ **World Cup activations/celebrations** at Katara – the Cultural Village, Souq Waqif and Msheireb Downtown Doha, plus Katara Traditional Dhow Festival and more. Please refer to <https://www.qatar2022.qa/en/live-it-all-in-qatar> for more information.



Marking the one millionth visitor milestone.

FIFA Fan Festival at Al Bidda Park draws more than 1mn fans

■ Milestone of 1mn visitors achieved after 14 days of football, music and entertainment
■ Football fan Haytham Mokhtar gifted two tickets to World Cup final
■ Official FIFA Fan Festival anthem *Tukoh Taka* was number one music video on YouTube

The FIFA Fan Festival in Doha has welcomed more than 1mn fans since it opened its door on November 19 – one day before the World Cup kicked off, FIFA has announced.

To celebrate 1mn visitors at the venue, FIFA has given away two tickets to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 final at Lusail Stadium on December 18.

Football fan Haytham Mokhtar is the one millionth visitor to the FIFA Fan Festival and the lucky recipient of match tickets to the final, as well as an official match ball signed by legends of the game.

"I still cannot believe that I am so lucky to be the one millionth guest at the FIFA Fan Festival," he said. "Sara and I were coming here to have a good time, and shortly after I was standing on the main stage in front of thousands of people with a football signed by Cafu and Ronald de Boer, and with tickets to the final."

"It is just unbelievable," a thrilled Mokhtar shared.

Mokhtar and his best friend Sara, originally from Egypt, now live in Qatar, and though disappointed that their home nation failed to make it to the finals this year, he knows what match-up he wants to see in person at Lusail Stadium on Dec 18.

"Apart from my team, Egypt, I also cheer for Brazil," Mokhtar said. "But, this time, I wish for a Argentina vs Portugal final so that the two great legends, Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, can play against each other in a World Cup final."

After spending the day at the FIFA Fan Festival, he commented: "My best FIFA Fan Festival highlight so far has been the FIFA Museum. I enjoyed seeing the outstanding collection of World Cup shirts dating back to the first tournament."

"In general, there is a great atmosphere, with many people from all over the world, and so many different activities and music," Mokhtar added.

Fans from every nation are descending on Al Bidda Park, situated within walking distance of Doha's waterfront, to meet, have fun and celebrate their passion for the beautiful game.

The 145,000sq m and 40,000-capacity venue has welcomed an average of 70,000 visitors per day.

The FIFA Fan Festival screens every FIFA World Cup game on giant screens and provides free entertainment with some of the most famous names from music scenes around the world.

The multi-national and multi-cultural



Haytham Mokhtar and Sara.



Marking the one millionth visitor milestone with Haytham Mokhtar.

festival of football is the perfect place for bringing fans together.

A first-time visitor from England spoke of his impressions of the venue, "seeing all the other nationalities come together is awesome"

"There's a really good party atmosphere and everyone's friendly, having a good time," he said.

The festival is open every day, from 4pm-2am, catering to every fan – from avid or casual football enthusiasts to lovers of music, food and culture – with its unique football and entertainment programme featuring local and international artistes such as Diplo, Kizz Daniel, Nora Fatehi, Trinidad Cardona and Calvin Harris.

In addition, for the first time ever, FIFA Fan Festival has an official anthem, *Tukoh Taka* by music stars Nicki Minaj, Maluma and Myriam Fares.

FIFA Sound – the game-changing initiative that combines the universal languages of music and football – collaborated with Universal Arabic Music and Republic Records on the hit song.

The week of its release, the record debuted as #1 iTunes song in the US as well as #1 on the YouTube list of global top music videos.

Tukoh Taka is available to download at <https://fifa.lnk.to/TukohTaka>, and fans can watch the music video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rb0bjyt1OD0&feature=youtu.be>

Qatar 2022 continuing to create new records

From Page 1

Many matches have attracted the best audiences of the year in their respective countries, with England vs US becoming the most watched men's football match on US television ever.

"The outcome of the group stage shows the extent to which more countries have acquired the tools to compete at the highest level," said FIFA's chief of Global Football Development Arsene Wenger.

"This is the result of better preparation and analysis of the opponents, which is also a reflection of a more equal access to technology," he said. "It is very much in line with FIFA's efforts to increase football's competitiveness on a global scale."

A world gathering in Doha
As the group stage wrapped up last night, the FIFA Fan Festival welcomed its one millionth visitor (**see lead story on this page**).

Besides the official tournament venues, Doha's seaside promenade – the Corniche – has attracted more than 2mn people since the start of the tournament, with the traditional Souq Waqif market becoming another hotspot for fans from around the world.

Uruguayan and Korean fans can be proud of having reached a mighty 131 decibels at their match at Education City Stadium – a noise akin to that heard at a live rock concert.

The most compact FIFA World Cup since the inaugural edition in 1930 is also benefiting fans, teams and media representatives, with the option of attending several matches and entertainment



activities per day, while operations continue to run smoothly.

During the group stage, the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram networks notched up 9.19mn trips, with a daily average of 707,032 passengers.

The two international airports are comfortably accommodating the influx of fans and teams – so

far, 2mn Hayya (Fan ID) applications have been received, with fans from Saudi Arabia, India, the US, the United Kingdom and Mexico at the top of the list for tournament attendance to date.

In spite of the unprecedented condensed footprint, with 24 teams staying within a 10km radius of each other, players and

officials have also smoothly transferred 3,321 times in and around Doha.

"It's been a fantastic World Cup, with groundbreaking figures and memorable moments both on and off the pitch," said FIFA World Cup chief operating officer Colin Smith. "Fans are having an amazing time in Doha,

and the whole world is following with excitement on TV as new records are set every day."

"What some saw as a challenge, we saw as an opportunity," he said. "Teams, media and spectators are enjoying more matches, more festivals, more football, more fun – the compact footprint is comfortably addressing the influx of visitors through state-of-the-art infrastructure and thorough operational plans."

"Together with the host country, we are constantly monitoring and addressing any situation that arises, but the figures already achieved and the fans celebrating together in a joyful and peaceful way throughout this group stage speak for themselves – we are on track to deliver a successful and unforgettable FIFA World Cup," Smith added.

Sixteen matches remain and the hosts fully intend the global party to continue in and around Doha.

"The fans who have joined us in Qatar for the tournament are enjoying a carnival atmosphere," added FIFA World Cup Qatar chief executive Nasser al-Khater.

"The cultural exchange through football has been heartwarming for everyone," he said. "We are now looking forward to the exciting knockout rounds and welcoming thousands of more fans from across the globe as they support their favourite teams all the way through to the final at the majestic Lusail Stadium on December 18."

For a full overview of the group-stage facts and figures, go to <https://digitalhub.fifa.com/m/588f70e99a18a29f/original/FIFA-World-Cup-2022-Group-Stage-by-the-numbers.pdf>