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PM meets ILO director-general



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani met yesterday with Director-General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Gilbert Houngbo and the accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to the country. During the meeting, they discussed the co-operation relations between Qatar and the ILO, especially in areas of labour, and a number of issues of mutual interest. (QNA) Page 2

Winners will be team with best wide players: Wenger

The group stages of the World Cup saw a staggering 83% rise since the last tournament in goals scored in open play that came from the flanks, a trend Arsene Wenger believes will determine who wins the competition.

Discussing a technical analysis of the first round by world governing body FIFA, Wenger, who heads its global football development, said there was a trend of defences protecting the centre of the final third, meaning teams were forced to go down the left and right channels to create chances.

"The teams block the centre of the



pitch, so they open more on the flanks... it means the best teams who have the best wide players have the best chance to win the World Cup," Wenger said in a presentation in Qatar yesterday.

Juergen Klinsmann, who is a member of the FIFA Technical Study Group, said the pattern of packing the defence was also impacting the number of attempts to shoot on goal from outside the area.

"It's really difficult for teams to break through the middle," he said. "Defensive and midfield lines are so close together there's no chance to pull the trigger."

That defensive pattern also led to a 33% reduction since the 2018 World Cup in Russia in the number of "take-ons", or players in possession of the ball running at defenders and beating them, while many were being forced out wide.

Klinsmann said the data showed this favouring South American teams far more than Europeans.

"It's their way of doing things. It's the love for the street football games still... the kids take on each other, one against one. So it's not surprising that they're leading on this," he said.

France and England in last 8

• The two European teams will clash on Dec 10 • Mbappe shines as Giroud becomes France's record scorer

France will take on England in the quarter-finals of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 after registering convincing victories in the Round of 16 yesterday.

The defending champions cruised to a 3-1 victory over Poland in the first match of the day, followed by England's 3-0 win over African champions Senegal. The two teams will now meet in what promises to be a delightful encounter at Al Bayt Stadium on December 10, Saturday (10pm).

At Al Thumama Stadium yesterday, Kylian Mbappe was in another league yet again, oozing class throughout, while the ever-reliable Olivier Giroud netted a record goal to send France into the World Cup quarter-finals.

Les Bleus scored on the stroke of halftime as Giroud became their all-time record scorer with 52 goals before Mbappe's late screamers sealed Poland's fate and put the 23-year-old alone at the top of the scoring chart with five goals and two assists.

Poland, in the knockout stage for the first time since 1986 and looking for a first quarter-final appearance since 1982, had a huge chance in the first half but the France midfield did a great job of cutting the feeding line to Robert Lewandowski, who reduced the arrears with a twice-taken, last-second penalty.

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England's Jordan Henderson celebrates scoring their first goal with teammates.

Mbappe now has nine World Cup goals to his name, as many as Argentina's 35-year-old Lionel Messi, and became the first player to reach that mark before his 24th birthday.

It helped Mbappe erase painful memories from last year's European championship, when he missed the decisive penalty that sent Switzerland into the last eight after a shootout following a 3-3 draw.



World Cup from captain Harry Kane as they progressed to the quarter-finals.

England had initially looked sluggish against Senegal's pacy forwards, in the two nations' first ever encounter, with a wonderful one-handed save by Jordan Pickford stopping Boulaye Dia from giving the African side a shock lead.

But Jordan Henderson settled England's nerves in the 38th minute, stroking the ball home after being played in by Jude Bellingham at the end of a lovely passing move.

Kane struck a ferocious shot past goalkeeper Edouard Mendy with the last kick of the first half, leaving him one goal behind Wayne Rooney's record of 53 goals for England.

Nippy winger Bukayo Saka bagged the third with a neat chip over Mendy after a cross by Phil Foden in the 57th minute.

England's goalfest in Qatar - 12 so far - equals their previous best World Cup total at Russia 2018 when they made the semi-finals. They scored 11 in winning the world title in 1966.

On Saturday, Argentina and the Netherlands had won their respective last-16 matches to set up a quarter-final clash at Lusail Stadium on December 9, Friday. **Sport Pages 1-8**

Qatar hosting incredible World Cup: British PM

British PM Rishi Sunak yesterday praised Qatar for hosting an 'incredible World Cup' in a tweet. PM Sunak tweeted: "Hats off to Qatar for hosting an incredible World Cup so far." He added: "The group stages will be remembered as one of the all-time greats."

The British PM also wished for England in his tweet. He said: "Come on @England keep the dream alive" England beat Senegal 3-0, Qatar is hosting the first-ever FIFA World Cup edition in the Middle East where 32 teams converged in Doha eyeing the game's biggest title.

The tournament, which is using eight venues including seven brand new stadiums, has attracted packed crowds for all of the matches played until yesterday.

More than 1m fans have visited Al Bidda Park Fan festival alone in the first two weeks of the November 20-Decemebr 18 tournament.

Dignitaries tour Darb Al Saai



HE the Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, prominent Qatari entrepreneur Hussain Alfardan, noted Qatari poet and diplomat Dr Hassan Ali Hussein al-Nama, HE Issa al-Kuwari and Gulf Times Editor-in-Chief Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka tour Darb Al Saai at Umm Salal Mohamed yesterday. **Page 9**

Sheikha Al Mayassa opens TotalEnergies Playground

Qatar Museums Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani inaugurated yesterday the TotalEnergies Playground located at the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ), which offers a distinguished experience for families to explore the history of energy in Qatar through purposeful play.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Chairman and CEO of TotalEnergies Patrick Pouyanne, along with a host of senior personalities.

The playground comes under the patronage of TotalEnergies within the partnership framework between TotalEnergies and Qatar Museums designed by Taylor Cullity Lethlean (TCL) and constructed by the Public Works Authority (Ashghal).

Designed to offer full educational experience, visitors from all age groups can get familiarised at the playground with the various energy sources in Qatar ranging from oil, gas and lique-



HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and Patrick Pouyanne with other officials and children at the inauguration of the TotalEnergies Playground. (Supplied picture)

fied natural gas (LNG) to renewable energies and electricity. The concept of sustainability is also addressed through numerous topics, such as carbon sequestration and storage, polymer recycling and traffic safety.

HE Sheikha Al Mayassa said the playground is one of many playgrounds that have been constructed across Qatar, in pursuit of helping the community and visitors enjoy with their families and friends, interacting with nature and enjoy times, where visitors are also introduced to the rich heritage of Qatar. She expressed appreciation for the partnership forged between Qatar and TotalEnergies.

Pouyanne said he is proud of the partnership between TotalEnergies and QM, especially with this distinguished project provided to the Qatari children which combines education and entertainment in a superb environment, pointing out that energy along with culture are

considered a crucial part of the history of Qatar.

Abdulla Mohsen, Deputy V-P - HR, Communications & CSR at TotalEnergies, pointed out in his statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the playground has been constructed for the sake of finding a platform for the families, citizens and residents to simultaneously undertake the educational, recreational and cultural role and have a glimpse of energy, noting that through this playground the children will discover that it is different from the remaining playgrounds and other parks.

Senior project engineer at Ashghal Aisha al-Sada said the playground has been designed by the Australian company TCL and constructed by the local contracting company GET, and owing to the excellence and the details involved in every part of the playing field, Ashghal was able to complete it in a timely manner. **To Page 2**



QMC boss meets Saudi and Kuwait ministers, GCC chief



HE the Chairman of Qatar Media Corporation (QMC) Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani met Saudi Minister of Commerce and Acting Minister of Media Dr Majid bin Abdullah al-Qasabi, Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Baddah al-Mutairi, and GCC Secretary-General Dr Nayef Falah Mubarak al-Hajraf during their visit to Doha to attend FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 events.

The meeting, which was attended by HE the QMC Chief Executive Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Thani bin Khalid

al-Thani, touched on the unique FIFA World Cup edition presented by Qatar, and the tournament's enormous positive impact on the region and effective role in altering the pervasive negative stereotype, in addition to a myriad of fruitful discussions on the tournament and the atmospheres accompanying the event.

The Saudi minister underlined that Qatar has dazzled the world by its success in this great gathering, and lauded the efforts made by the Qatar government to present an exceptional edition of the World Cup.

The GCC secretary-general said

that Qatar 2022 represents a point of convergence that gathered the Gulf media, and hailed the great and enormous efforts by Qatar to host the tournament and the whole world.

HE Sheikh Abdulaziz thanked the ministers for their role in supporting the tournament.

The GCC ministers toured a part of Lusail heritage village, the distinguished project with its authentic architectural design that includes images of Qatari cultural history created by Qatari and foreign innovators, in addition to several various facilities.

- QNA



12,963 aircraft movements recorded during first fortnight of World Cup

Qatar recorded 12,963 aircraft movements until the end of the second week of the FIFA World Cup, at Hamad International Airport (HIA) and Doha International Airport (DIA), the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority tweeted yesterday.

The two airports recorded 797 air movements on December 3, the 14th day of the World Cup, the Ministry of Transport (MoT) announced in a related tweet.

Meanwhile, a total of 205,664 passengers were transported by MoT

asalat (Karwa) the same day, using 2,053 buses and involving 9,651 trips.

Also on December 3, a total of 585,161 passengers took the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram while the Education City and Msheireb trams carried a total of 8,547 passengers.

Al Jasra club organising heritage show for World Cup fans

Al Jasra Cultural and Social Club is organising an exhibition of model homes with items related to Qatari heritage as part of events associated with the World Cup. The models represent aspects of the daily life, whether in terms of preparing food or drink, such as Arabic coffee, in addition to ancient kitchen appliances.

The exhibition showcases items such as the old radio, sewing tools, handicraft, ornaments, and traditional clothes, as well as items made from palm fronds.

The exhibition will run until December 18. The club also sports a special square for the public to watch the football matches on big display screens. - QNA

PHCC underscores efforts to help persons with disabilities obtain quality services

The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) has said that it is committed to empowering persons with disabilities, through the designing of organised health services that best suit them, in addition to providing them with the essential support based on their needs.

Dr Sadriya al-Kohji, the assistant medical director for children and adolescent services at the PHCC and national lead for Healthy Children and Adolescents Strategies, said that one of the PHCC's most essential initiatives entails the provision of health services in a conducive environment for persons with disabilities in the health centres.

She explained that friendly environments have been provided in the rooms of outpatient departments, dental clinics, family medicine clinic,

maternal and child healthcare clinics, child health clinics, Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) clinics, and eye clinics in 10 health centres.

The PHCC adopted the fast track service for all age groups of persons with disabilities, to facilitate and accelerate the process of obtaining medical counselling, along with the primary healthcare services for persons with disabilities, and providing the essential support upon their visit to the health centre by a team from the "Hayyak" customer service and the medical crew, she said.

The fast track service is of utmost importance for the PHCC, with the work crew trained on the methods of reaching out to the patients with visual impairment, in addition to training crew from the PHCC and Hamad Medical Corporation on sign language. - QNA

Dr al-Kohji indicated that one of the most essential services offered by the PHCC in this framework is the early detection of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) by local and international experts through various training courses.

She cited EarlyBird, a training programme dedicated to the guardians of the children diagnosed with ASD, and aimed at improving and developing the relations between parents and the child, in addition to facilitating the methods of communication between them and children diagnosed with ASD, especially in the domestic environment.

The PHCC participated in the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) which falls on December 3 each year, and aimed at increasing awareness of persons with disabilities. - QNA

MDD capturing the hearts of visitors with modernity, authenticity

As the excitement fills up the air at Msheireb Downtown Doha (MDD) with the launch of World Cup activations, a number of fans from across the world have expressed admiration for the smart and sustainable city and the unique experience it offers them.

"Msheireb is the beating heart of Doha," said Mortada al-Saffar from Saudi Arabia. "I'm impressed by the authentic heritage mixed with modernity in buildings. It's the perfect place to enjoy a wonderful World Cup vibe."

The MDD prides itself on connecting Qatar's past and present while using sustainable technology to represent the future that the nation is heading towards.

International tourists visiting the



Pablo Rodriguez from Argentina and friends.

Right: A Japanese fan at the MDD.

MDD for the first time are amazed by the unique architecture and accessibility within the city.

"The atmosphere of the city is amazing," said Brazilian fan Natasha Barasanan when asked about her experience. "You can see and hear people from all over the world everywhere."

"It's so beautiful at night with all the lights," she said. "We were very impressed by the building designs that reflect the Qatari culture."

"It's very easy to get around and the directions are very clear," Barasanan

added. "People are enjoying (themselves) ... we are enjoying (ourselves) too."

Heidi Carlos from Mexico commented on how easy it is to move around the city on foot, as there are a lot of maps and volunteers to help.

The tram is a sustainable approach to transportation within the city and its distinct design captures attention.

"I've noticed that Msheireb is a smart city," Pablo Rodriguez from Argentina commented. "It is always clean and ready to receive visitors. There's so much happening in the city, it's different every day."

The MDD's World Cup activations and events can be found in all areas of the district, ranging from exhibitions to cheer zones.



Natasha Barasanan from Brazil and a friend.

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Croatian PM arrives



Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic arrived in Doha yesterday to attend part of the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar matches. Plenkovic and his accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE Director of the Protocol Department Ibrahim bin Yousef Fakhro and Croatian ambassador to Qatar Drago Lovric. **(QNA)**

'Success of tournament a boon for GCC and Arab world'



Oman Human Rights Committee chairman Sheikh Abdullah bin Shuwain al-Hosni has said that the success of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 is a boon for the entire region, the people of GCC states and the entire Arab world.

During his visit to Human Rights and Football Exhibition organised by the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) in the new garden of Sheraton Hotel, al-Hosni said that he congratulates Qatar for the success in organising the World Cup.

He noted the messages relayed by the exhibition, which is about connecting sports with human rights values through expressive paintings, in conjunction with the major global event hosted by Qatar.

The official noted that the exhibition's paintings convey the fundamental message

that sport is the right for all, and expressed appreciation to the NHRC for this excellent effort.

He said that the Oman Human Rights Committee supports the work of the NHRC, adding that a team from Oman is helping in the organisation of the World Cup.

The exhibition is an artistic and cultural platform contributing to the promotion of human rights, and respect for the human diversity and humanitarian co-existence as one of the aims of sport.

The paintings embody the principles of human rights in the practice of sports in general, and football in particular, and convey numerous messages concerning the rights of fans and their responsibilities, such as renouncing racism in stadiums and propagating the culture of tolerance and peace. **(QNA)**

Food outlets inspected



Officers of Al Khor and Al Thakhira Municipality's Health Control Section have carried out an inspection campaign on food outlets around the Panda House and Al Khor Park to ensure the safety of food products and that the workers abide by standard health and safety regulations for food preparation.

Qatar shares experience in securing World Cup with host countries for 2026 edition

The Security and Safety Operations Committee (SSOC) of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has begun the security "monitoring" programme in co-operation with the tournament organisers and the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol), Project Stadia.

The five-day programme comes within the framework of the SSOC's international co-operation strategy with the countries that will host the 2026 World Cup (Canada, Mexico and the US), with the aim of transferring Qatari expertise in securing the World Cup, and informing the participants of the security preparations made by Qatar, and the most prominent security strategies used in the tournament.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ali Mohamed al-Ali, the executive director of the Of-

fice of the chairman of the SSOC and head of the Planning and Follow-up Unit of the committee, presented the stages of security preparations to secure the World Cup, starting with the decision to form the committee and its units and the terms of reference of each unit, and planning for the implementation of the tasks and the subsequent procedures.

He also reviewed the mechanism and procedures for the work of the security teams responsible for securing the tournament, the training, equipment and courses that were carried out during the previous years, and the most prominent projects and security scenarios that were implemented, as well as the co-ordination mechanisms between the security authorities and other related topics. **(QNA)**



Over 84,000 Wain app users during first stage of World Cup

Since the release of the new version of the Qatar Mobility Innovations Centre's Wain Application – customised to support the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 – the Wain user base has expanded significantly, indicating that the local app has become a reliable choice for fans and residents alike.

Wain has established itself as the leading local navigation services application, providing immense value to users through newly introduced key features, a statement said.

Some of the key usage highlights for Wain in the first phase of the tournament (November 20 to December 2) include:

■ More than 84,000 active users of Wain

■ Number of daily downloads increased by a factor of 30 times

■ November 28 was the most active day by Wain users

■ The new stadiums micro-app was the most-used feature by Wain users, with Lusail Stadium the most viewed with over 23% of views, followed by Al Bayt Stadium (20%) and Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium (13%).

As the leading local mobile navigation services application in Qatar, Wain introduced many features which proved popular with local users and visitors, helping them reach different stadia and consume rich localised content.

These key features include:

■ Provide real time info about parking availability at main parking

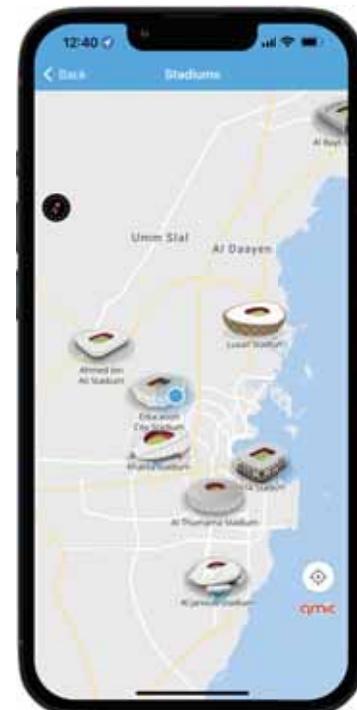
lots of all eight stadiums and three main park and ride locations

■ Smart navigation capabilities to provide best routes to reach parking based on the ticket type and taking into account road closure and parking availability info.

■ The "Stadium Parking Assistant" feature, whereby Wain automatically stores information on where the car is parked and guiding the user to their car after the game by using Augmented Reality for iOS users and by using a map display for Android users

■ Personalised content and event info based on user preferences, with hundreds of events included

■ Ability to deliver personalised notifications.



Wain is expected to continue its efforts to ensure the success of this historic event in Qatar, and other major events in the upcoming years, establishing itself as the local reliable choice for all users, the statement added.

CRA records unprecedented figures in spectrum management for radio applications, equipment

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) has issued more than 25,000 authorisations for radio applications and equipment allowing the host country, the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), FIFA contractors, FIFA commercial affiliates, and broadcasters to possess and use such radio applications and equipment at the official venues of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 to broadcast, facilitate, and plan operational and logistical operations of the tournament.

The number of authorisations issued by the CRA is unprecedented in the history of the tournament and confirms the high level of international interest in this tournament and its appeal to a wide range of parties, a statement said.

It also emphasises the effective role played by the radio applications and equipment in supporting the operations of all FIFA-affiliated parties.

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 is mainly characterised by a wide range of radio applications and a significant number of radio equipment

gathered within a limited area.

Therefore, the CRA, the tournament's spectrum management service provider and the responsible authority for managing, assigning, licensing, and monitoring the use of the radio spectrum in Qatar, took into account not to allow any radio equipment to be used in the official venues unless it is registered on the e-spectrum portal and tested and tagged by the CRA.

The number of entities that have registered on the portal has reached more than 300, with more than 20,000 radio equipment having undergone spectrum testing procedures and obtaining the required tag, which enabled licensees to use them at the tournament's official venues.

Since the middle of this year, the CRA has started receiving requests from parties related to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 to ensure the timely allocation of radio frequencies and the issuance of the necessary authorisations as well as to ensure the compliance of users of those radio applications and equipment with the technical conditions and parameters issued by the CRA.



Silatech, EAA organise high-level event on SDGs

Silatech has organised a high-level event in co-operation with the Education Above All Foundation (EAA), within the framework of the campaign supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – "Scoring 4 the Goals" – in the FIFA Fan Festival at Al Bidda Park.

The event was attended by International Labour Organisation Secretary-General Gilbert Houngbo, and a number of heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Qatar. "With start-ups accounting for some 50% of newly created jobs, youth-led enterprises can be a driver of job creation for young people and foster innovation," said Houngbo.

He stressed the importance of developing the entrepreneurial skills that the labour market needs among young people, adding that special attention should be given to the dynamics of gender differentiation, and that there is an important component of promoting youth entrepreneurship is skills development and training, as well as enabling an entrepreneurial environment.

Areej al-Masry, a member of the Youth Advisory Council (formed by Silatech, Education Above All and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights), stressed the importance of working to involve young people in decision-making, as well as enabling them to contribute effectively to the renaissance of their societies.

He referred to the need to strengthen partnerships between international institutions, governmental organisations, and civil work organisations to work on providing job opportunities for young people, and to provide the necessary tools such as training and facilitate their access to capital so that they can establish their entrepreneurial businesses and live in dignity.

The "Scoring 4 the Goals" event will continue within the FIFA Fan Festival in Al Bidda Park until December 17.

The event includes conferences and seminars related to the SDGs. **(QNA)**



Qatar participates in 3rd Coast Guard Global Summit

Qatar participated in the Third Coast Guard Global Summit, organised by the Japan Coast Guard, via videoconferencing. The online symposium witnessed the participation of 36 countries and organisations. Qatar was represented at the summit by Colonel Fahd Ali al-Hajri, the head of the Maritime Training Centre at the Ministry of Interior's General Administration of Coasts and Borders Security. The summit discussed topics and issues of concern to coast guard forces worldwide, including response to natural disasters at sea and enhancing areas of co-operation between countries to better deal with related challenges. **(QNA)**

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		Start Date	End Date					
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Title of Tender: MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR SCANIA FIRE TRUCKS IN RAS LAFFAN AND MESAIEED INDUSTRIAL CITIES								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location : To be advised if required								
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : To be advised if required								
2.	LT22109200	05.12.2022	11.12.2022	26.12.2022	38,000.00	QAR	200.00	QAR
Title of Tender: DCS TO APMS INTERFACE IN COMMON SEAWATER FACILITY OF RLIC								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location : To be advised if required								
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : To be advised if required								

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World Cup unites families, friends, acquaintances

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Qatar, currently is a great manifestation of the FIFA slogan 'Football unites the World' – truly and literally. The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has brought together families, friends and acquaintances with tens of thousands visiting the country.

These include former residents who have been away from their families and friends. For Anoop John Alocious, it was a sweet homecoming as he was away from his parents for almost three years. Born and brought up in Qatar, he is currently based in Melbourne as he completed his study and started working there. Since he had left for Australia sometime before the Covid-19 pandemic, this was his longest stint away from his family.

Anoop, a football enthusiast right from his early childhood, told *Gulf Times*: "I had been away from my parents for such a long time for the first time in my life. After I completed my graduation, I got placed in a firm and started working there. It was not possible for me to get leave from the firm. Then I decided that come what may – I must be in Qatar at the time the World Cup starts."

Having arrived in Qatar in the last week of November, Anoop plans to return immediately after the World Cup. He has already watched several matches and plans to attend many more. It was a much-awaited reunion for him and his parents who are working in QatarEnergy and



Anoop John with his parents at Doha Port.



Biju John with some of his visiting friends in front of Lusail Stadium.



Ravi Jose Thanickal with Argentine fans at Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium.

every moment with the hope that Argentina will lift the cup in this edition," he noted.

Biju John, general manager at the Mediterranean Shipping Company, is another ardent football fan and during this World Cup he is hosting a number of his friends and neighbours from his village in India.

"It is a great occasion to look back into my past as I started watching World Cup on television in 1986. So the journey that started some 36 years back is completing a full cycle in Doha with the action happening with my presence for several matches. I could also bring several of my friends and family members here through 'Host a Fan' platform and it is a great feeling and emotional fulfilment," said John.

Several others point out that they are in touch with many of their friends whom they had not met for a long time, sometimes beyond a decade.

He also noted that the World Cup and related activities has rekindled his passion for writing and he has started penning some football experiences through social media platforms.

Social media is abuzz with several stories of such reunions and renewal of friendship during this World Cup. A Sri Lankan national, Chandana said that he was meeting his brother after seven years as both of them are in two different countries and due to various reasons could not meet each other. But the World Cup has brought them together.

Several others point out that they are in touch with many of their friends whom they had not met for a long time, sometimes beyond a decade.

Giant bouquet gets a makeover



The gardens section at Al Wakrah Municipality has carried out the necessary maintenance works for the giant bouquets of roses placed at Katara – Cultural Village. About 1,130 flowers were replaced with fresh ones. The municipality also carried out an inspection tour at both Al Wakrah Public Beach and Al Wakrah Family Beach to follow up the progress of work and ensure that all the necessary services are provided to the visitors following the reopening of the facilities.



Invitation to Tender

In accordance with the following conditions:

Tender / Auction Number	Subject	Tender / Auction Document Fees (Non-refundable)	Tender / Auction Bond	Tender/Auction Offer	Closing Date
OPMC/TD/2022/30	Supply of Dewatering Screen (DS-65) for SWSP for Qatar Primary Materials Company ("Supplies")	1000 QAR	100,000 QAR	Two Bids (Technical & Commercial)	12 Dec 2022 10:00 AM

1. Tender Documents can be collected from our head office located at Al-Saad, Suhaim bin Hamad St., Qatar First Bank Building, 10th Floor (Sunday: Thursday) between 08:00 to 13:00.
2. Bids are to be submitted in two sealed (in red wax) envelopes (Technical & Commercial) and addressed to Tenders and Auction Committee, Tender reference number and subject are to be clearly written on the envelope, provided that the last date for submitting bids is one o'clock in the afternoon on the closing day. Any bids submitted after this date will not be accepted.
3. Tender Documents will be released only after delivery of Deposit Slip Stamped by Commercial Bank along with Authorization Letter to the delegated person signed by authorized person as per Computer ID, Copy of commercial Registration (CR), Business License and Computer ID.
4. Tender Fees are nonrefundable and can be transferred online to Account of Qatar Primary Material Company- Bank A/C (4050-651111-006) at Commercial Bank of Qatar. For IBAN, send email for tender department email. Tender reference number and subject are to be written on the deposit slip.
5. Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee/ Manager Cheque) must be valid for 120 days after closing date and must be submitted in separate & sealed envelope along with technical bid and a photocopy is to be attached with commercial bid. Bids without tender bond will be rejected.
6. Bids must be valid for 90 days after closing date and are to be submitted in two copies (Original & Duplicate).
7. Any queries relating to the Tender Documents must only be raised in writing, preferably by email, to the address specified in the respective Tender Document. Any response issued by Qatar Primary Material Company will be in the form of a question and answer and will be distributed to all Tenderers without revealing the identity of the originator of the query(ies) in the Form of Tender Bulletins. Queries must be received at the address specified in the respective ITT Documentation at least five (5) calendar days prior to the tender closing date. Any queries received after such date will be ignored.
8. The amount of the Performance Bond to be provided by the awarded bidder is (10% of the contract value) and its validity period; must remain valid under the contract implementation period and the guarantee period according to the terms of the tender.
9. The Technical Bids shall be opened within one week from the closing date.
10. Qatar Primary Material Company has the right, during the contract period, to request an increase or decrease in the amounts of the items, works or services by a percentage not exceeding (20%) of the contract value with the same conditions and prices, provided that the increase is of the same type of contracted items, works or services.
11. Qatar Primary Material Company's tendering terms and conditions apply.

For further Inquiry, please send your queries at Fax Number: 44479559 or email to tender@qpmc.qa or visit Qatar Primary Material Company website @ www.qpmc.qa

Ibn Ajayan Projects keeps its services flying high

Ibn Ajayan Projects, a leading facility and property management company in Qatar, has set their services to the highest level, contributing to Qatar's commitment to provide expat labour communities to live in harmony and experience the greatest levels of both comfort and convenience.



Mohamed Mahdi Ajayan Al-Ahbab, Chairman

where thousands of migrant workers are watching the historic FIFA World Cup 2022. The fan zone allows workers to enjoy the World Cup atmosphere just a short walk from their accommodation. In addition to the live streaming of matches, the fan zone is also a melting pot for live entertainment, free Wi-Fi, food and beverage options."

Ibn Ajayan Projects continues their best to emphasize and value workers' efforts for taking a big part in building the country and making the World Cup an historic event, while staying on course of Qatar's National Vision 2030.

"We are sharpening our strategy to be one of the most valuable and most innovative companies based in Qatar. We are keen to create enormous value for our customers and will always try to contribute to Qatar's promising future," Al-Ahbab added.

Founded in 2010, Ibn Ajayan Projects has grown into one of the leading facility management companies in the State of Qatar with a wide array of maintenance and operation services. The company operates in a range of sectors including commercial, residential and recreational. With a portfolio that includes some prestigious projects in Qatar, Ibn Ajayan Projects partners with Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Interior, community organizations, etc., to provide expat labour workers in Qatar with a variety of entertaining and informative activities on a regular basis.

"We are eager to plan various programmes and events for labourers post-World Cup as well. In terms of future plans, we are considering expanding within Qatar and perhaps outside as well," Al-Ahbab concluded.



FREE VEHICLE RECALL

وزارة التجارة والصناعة
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
State of Qatar



Kia Sorento, Carnival

Manufacturing Year

2015



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FBQ Museum opens Car Museum

Under the patronage of HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, the Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani (FBQ) Museum held the opening of its new designated Car Museum on Saturday.

Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, Sheikh Mohamed bin Faisal al-Thani and Sheikh Khalid bin Faisal al-Thani, together with dignitaries attended the opening.

The FBQ Car Museum is an extension of the Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum, a cultural landmark at Al Samriya Estate in Al Shahaniya.

The Car Museum welcomes visitors to view around 300 classic cars and then take in the museum's treasure trove of 30,000 unique exhibits of Islamic art, Qatar heritage, international artefacts, carpets, jewellery and textiles.

In the Car Museum, visitors can experience a multi-faceted journey through the history of over 120 years of motorised development, revealing and reflecting human's needs to advance technology to shorten distances and connect people across the Arabian peninsula and Qatar.

The exhibits include exquisite



HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani and other dignitaries at the opening of the FBQ Car Museum.

PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam

classic car models of the 1900s onwards, from the legendary 1908 Studebaker and 1924 Ford T Roadster models to a 1958 Cadillac and 1968 Ford Mustang. Classic models of cars and trucks, sports cars, convertibles and limousines, make up the unique collection.

Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani recalled that he always had a passion for cars, collecting truly iconic models over the years. "This interest quickly turned into a hobby for me which has now produced this significant collection of different classic cars. As it attracted

the attention of the public and generated more and more interest, this prompted me to open an exhibition of my own collection of cars," he said.

"I am particularly proud that the opening of this year's exhibition coincided with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which

gives us a greater opportunity to showcase these distinctive pieces to Qatar's guests from all over the world.

The new automobile museum reflects my journey of acquiring these classic motors as the automotive industry evolved and tells the story of its history at the same time. Some of the cars offered in this collection are my own cars, those of my father, Sheikh Qassim al-Thani and those of other Qatari families and international celebrities," he noted.

The Car Museum is divided

into eight zones, from 1900 up to the 1980s, each one exhibiting some of the most famous and sought-after models of the era.

These include a 1951 Chrysler and Buick of the same year, a 1955 Pontiac, a 1937 Peugeot, Roadster and even a 1940 army tank.

The Car Museum is being offered as part of the Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum tour, priced at QR50 for adults and free for kids under 12.

Mona El Helbawi, group general manager at Al Rayyan Investment in Education and Sports Cluster, said the new FBQ

Car Museum is continuing the heritage that HE Sheikh Faisal established, and is the first of its kind in the Middle East.

The FBQ Museum was established 25 years ago and the Car Museum is one of many new developments including a new extension opening soon. There are over 1,000 cars in the collection, but only 300 cars are being displayed for the opening.

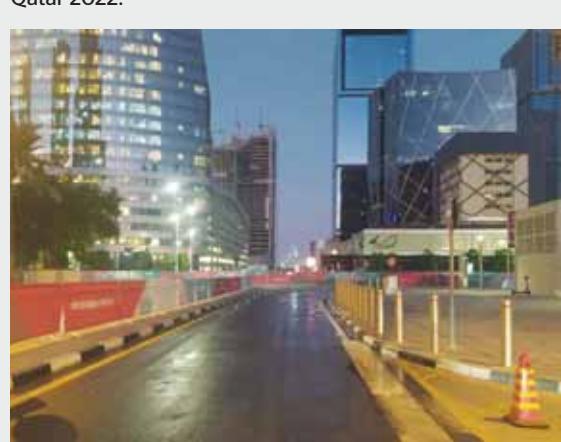
One of Qatar's leading entrepreneurs, Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani is regarded as a key player in promoting the heritage and culture of Qatar.



Al Bidda Street cleaned



The General Cleanliness Department has swept and cleaned an 8km stretch of Al Bidda Street, one of the many busy areas during the ongoing FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.



QRCS distributes 1,500 hygiene kits to workers

Qatar Red Crescent Society's (QRCS) Volunteering and Local Development Division, under strict preventive measures, distributed 1,500 hygiene kits to workers, in co-operation with the Ministry of Municipality's Mechanical Equipment Department, the Ministry of Labour (MoL), and the Public Works Authority (Ashghal).

The gesture was part of the Your Health Is a Priority initiative, under the Stand Together workers' welfare programme, to promote health awareness among workers, enhance their social integration, and urge them to maintain personal hygiene at all times.

This is one of the humanitarian and awareness-raising initiatives implemented by QRCS during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, in recognition of the tremendous efforts made by expatriate workers.

Muna Fadel al-Sulaiti, director of Volunteering and Local Development Division at QRCS, praised the partnership with MoL, the Ministry of Municipality, and Ashghal, saying: "They are key partners in our projects and initiatives in favour of workers. Through its humanitarian

projects, QRCS seeks to promote a spirit of social solidarity, take care of the workers who build the country, and show gratitude for their great dedication."

Al-Sulaiti added: "This multi-lateral initiative is a joint humanitarian move to encourage workers to pay attention to their personal hygiene and sanitisation, which will pay off for themselves and for society as a whole. Expatriate workers are a top priority on our

local development agenda, especially in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic, which required everyone to continue to observe preventive measures. It is our duty as a humanitarian and development organisation to spread awareness among the public, reach out to vulnerable groups, and advise them to practice personal hygiene, as a major protection against diseases, particularly among the crowds".



Workers receive hygiene kits from QRCS and its partners.



Noora Issa al-Fadala, head of Community Development at QRCS, stated: "This humanitarian initiative embodies QRCS' social responsibility strategy and builds closer relations with NGOs and vulnerable groups. It is one of many social care services provided by QRCS for workers throughout the year, under its Stand Together development programme, which has significant and long-term

health, social, and psychological impacts on the beneficiaries."

Stand Together is a social and humanitarian programme designed to help workers in Qatar, better their lifestyle, and make them more socially integrated. To that end, QRCS has a wide range of welfare initiatives to meet the basic needs of workers, which will reflect on their performance and social harmony.

Qatar Charity opens Islamic centre in Nigeria

Qatar Charity inaugurated the Al-Noor Islamic Centre in Nigeria in the presence of several Nigerian officials, Qatar Charity officials, and the Qatari philanthropist who donated to establish the centre.

The centre that was inaugurated is considered one of the most important Islamic centres in Okene city of Nigeria.

It includes a mosque, a school for teaching and memorising the Holy Qur'an, library, water well, additional places of ablution, umbrellas, air conditioners, and furniture.

The number of beneficiaries from the centre is

expected to reach roughly 2,300 people thanks to the expansion works, allowing them to perform congregational prayers and hold religious awareness lectures.

It also helps, through the Qur'an teaching school, teach children and young adults the Holy Qur'an and the provisions of its recitation in attractive ways making the centre a beacon of faith and education in the region.

In addition to the deep well, the centre has a tank with a capacity of 15,000 litres, and it has been connected to the neighbourhood for the benefit of the residents living in the vicinity of the centre. (QNA)



ANNOUNCEMENT

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NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.



Safari 10, 20, 30 promotion starts today

The 10, 20, 30 promotion starts today at Safari, a leading hypermarket chain in Doha.

The promotion will cover fruits, vegetables, fish, meat, bakery, hot food, other food products, cosmetics, household items, ready-made items, footwear, electronics, computer accessories, daily consumables, food grains and textiles, etc, offering prices of QR10, QR20 and QR30 to customers. For instance, Sadia Chicken Griller (1400gm) will be available for QR10, Snake and Take Juice Blender for QR10, Sunsilk Shampoo (350ml x 2 pieces) for QR20, smartwatch for QR20, Pinar Full Cream Milk (1 litre x 4 pieces) for QR20, Lipton Yellow Label Tea (450g Twin Pack) for QR30, Solingen Knife Set for QR30, and

ALM 3530 Heavy Dry Iron for QR30, among others, are some of the main attractions, a press statement notes. The Safari Bakery and Hot Food section is also offering a wide variety of delicacies under this promotion. Western, South Indian, North Indian, Arabic, Chinese and various other kinds of dishes will be available with combo offers besides dishes like chicken dum biryani, chicken majboos, donuts, etc. The deli section has fresh jams along with cheese items like Rumi cheese, Baladi feta plain cheese, red cheddar cheese, beef mortadella, lemon pickle, etc, for QR10, 20 and 30. Different types of juices, drinking water, chicken parts, chicken nuggets, ice-cream in different flavours and many other food products, including

milk and related items, will be available in the frozen section for QR10, 20 and 30. Besides, a variety of snacks and other food products will be on offer in the grocery section. Similarly, along with a variety of multipurpose products in the household section, the cosmetics section will offer products of leading brands for products such as perfume, body spray, make-up set, soap, facewash, body lotion, etc. In the stationery section, various school and office items will be available, including Faber-Castell and Maped school kits. Similarly, a range of products will be on offer in the toys and sports section for QR10, 20 and 30. Safari has a huge collection of high-quality denim jackets, kidswear,



The promotion covers a wide range of products.

footwear, ladies' bags and newborn wear for QR10, 20 and 30. In the

electronics category, this 10, 20, 30 promotion is offering huge discounts

and has lined up different electronic devices such as emergency lights, trimmers, torches, calculators, headsets, smartwatches, etc.

Safari's new hypermarket, which opened in Barwa Village - Al Wakrah recently, has received an extremely enthusiastic response from customers, the statement points out, adding that Safari will open another new hypermarket on Industrial Area Street 16 by mid-December. In addition, Safari is giving customers the opportunity to win five Nissan Patrol 2022 vehicles through its latest mega promotion, 'Safari Win 5 Nissan Patrol Car Promotion'. By purchasing products worth QR50, customers will be eligible to get a raffle coupon for participating in this mega promotion.

Mazda's tailor-made amazing offers

To coincide with the biggest show in Qatar which has kicked off a grand celebration, National Car Company, the sole agent for Mazda in Qatar, has announced a special offer package for the entire 2023 range of sedans and SUVs.

The special seasonal offer includes free comprehensive insurance for one year, two years or 30,000km free service (whichever comes first) and free registration on all the latest 2023 models.

Customers purchasing 2023 models can take advantage of five years' unlimited kilometre warranty along with five years' roadside assistance, among other customer-friendly purchase packages, a press statement notes.

The entire range of Mazda sedans and SUVs is now on display at the state-of-the-art Mazda showroom at Al Nasr, open from 9am-9pm from Saturdays to Thursdays and from 4.30pm-8.30pm on Fridays.

Besides the regular modes of payment, customers can also opt for flexible in-house finance schemes that are subject to credit approval.

Announcing the "amazing offers" on Mazda 2023 vehicles, Sathish Nair - general manager, Marketing & Sales for Mazda Qatar, said: "Mazda's positioning as an affordable premium brand with unique design, innovative technologies, Japanese quality



A view of the CX-30's interior.



The Mazda CX-30.

and workmanship are reflected in the model range along with the special offerings in terms of value-added packages. Our team at National Car Company always strives to deliver exceptional customer experience while presenting the 'Pure, New and Elevated Dimensions of Driving Pleasure', ultimately derived by our loyal customers from their favourite Mazda, establishing an enduring and long-term association.'

Mazda remains the only brand with its entire model line-up available in Qatar exclusively made in Japan with exceptional quality and workmanship, and

all Mazda sedans and SUVs have been awarded the 2022 IIHS Safety Pick Plus ratings, a clear indication of Mazda's human-centric approach in building cars, National Car Company said in the statement.

Mazda's path-breaking SKY-ACTIV family of technologies lifts performance to new heights and delivers sheer driving pleasure at the same time. "Mazda is constantly looking for ways to increase the efficiency of its engines without sacrificing performance. While most of the automotive world has given up on innovating the internal combustion engine, Mazda believes there

is still room for improvement. It is this obsession with squeezing more efficiency through continuous improvements that has led to some of Mazda's most prolific breakthroughs," the statement explains.

Mazda's "unwavering commitment" to making vehicles that thrill and delight is evident in the driving dynamics derived from the confidence-inspiring i-ACTIV AWD.

Meanwhile, the Kodo - Soul Motion design has been redefined by strengthening the low, wide expression of the evolved Mazda identity. Inspired by traditional Japanese crafts, Mazda

has pursued minimalist aesthetics - the Less is More concept - free of all non-essential elements. The result is a bold and premium-looking exterior, and an interior that gives all occupants a pleasant feeling.

The time-tested Mazda CX-9 is the ultimate blend of stunning sophistication and family SUV. It is the first Mazda to feature the breakthrough SKYACTIV-G 2.5T petrol engine. Delivering class-leading performance with real-world efficiency, the turbocharged engine offers driving excitement felt never in a seven-seat SUV.

The Mazda CX-9 Signature

grade comes with a sophisticated and luxurious interior. The newly available Apple CarPlay and Android Auto integration allows one to access his/her smartphone's maps, playlists, contacts and compatible apps with the voice-controlled personal assistant, which will also read incoming text messages and allow reply without taking the hands off the wheel.

The advanced proactive safety features have been reinforced in the High Plus grade further to the standard and optional features available in the mid and high grades - with Full Speed Mazda Radar Cruise Control, and Smart City Brake Support (front and rear) automatic emergency braking with Pedestrian Detection, etc, being a few.

In line with Mazda's human-centric approach to building cars, the CX-30 has a feeling of oneness that extends beyond the drive. It is a five-seat crossover made for a wide range of fans, especially young people who are approaching significant life transitions. A focus on interior comfort and everyday user-friendliness makes this all-new compact crossover a car for everyone.

The proportions of the CX-30 give the compact crossover the freedom to go just about anywhere. It is strong presence, class-leading standard horsepower and available i-Activ all-wheel drive facilitates the ability

to be driven effortlessly. All CX-30's is equipped with a four-cylinder Skyactiv-G 2.0 paired with a quick-shifting Skyactiv-Drive 6 speed automatic transmission. This engine provides a class-leading power output of 155ps at 6,000rpm and 200Nm of torque at 4,000rpm. The compact crossover is equipped with Mazda's new off-road traction assist feature, which can potentially help the driver when adventuring on uneven terrain.

The 2023 model year next-generation Mazda CX-5, which was introduced recently, re-emphasises Mazda's dream of delivering an SUV that breaks through the traditional trade-off between driving pleasure and passenger comfort.

The all-new CX5 comes with a SKYACTIV-G 2.5 direct-injection gasoline engine, paired with the six-speed SKYACTIV-DRIVE automatic-manual transmission. These powertrains provide powerful acceleration delivering power output of 187hp at 5,700rpm and torque of 250Nm at 5,000rpm (AWD).

These features are in addition to the existing CX-9 Prestige grade offering a power sunroof, Bose Premium 12-speaker audio system, LED fog lamps and Mazda GPS navigation system.

For more information, visit the Mazda showroom, call 44435965/44417859 or visit www.mazda-qatar.com

Kia gears up for FIFA World Cup 2022™ with exciting simulator experiences and prizes

Fans can win big when they interact with the tournament's official vehicle supplier during the World Cup

As an official automotive partner of FIFA World Cup 2022™, Kia, will add a touch more excitement to this year's historic tournament through two must-see activations and a host of exciting prizes.

The activations will be hosted at Al Bayt Stadium, Al Thumama Stadium, and Khalifa International Stadium, where Kia's latest generation EV6 GT, Sportage, K5, Telluride, K8, Sorento will all be on display.

The first activation at the Brand Activation Area promises a thrilling simulator experience where spectators can drive a Kia vehicle of their choice from the automaker's latest line up. The second activation invites football fans to win big by participating in a football challenge. Successful participants can walk away with a Kia branded cap, towel or wristband.

Meanwhile, visitors can check out Kia's spot at the FIFA Fan Festival™ zone, which is the perfect place to experience the World Cup, as it is the central destination where fans from all over the world can come together to share their love of football and celebrate the electrifying atmosphere of the global event.

At the FIFA Fan Festival™, Kia's Ground of Inspiration will offer audiences a chance to check out the Kia EV9 Concept, which embodies an adventurous and recreational form with its rugged and upright stance. Fitted with a solar panel built into the car bonnet and an interior made from sustainable materials, this electric car reimagines what an all-electric vehicle can be.

Alongside the activations, Kia will support 64 Official Match Ball Carriers (OMBC) across the tournament. Children from about 20 different nations globally will enjoy the once-in-a-lifetime experience of carrying the official match ball to the pitch at the start of all matches.

As a partner of the FIFA World Cup™, the automotive brand will support the operation of the world's greatest sporting event by providing an official event vehicle fleet that will include Kia passenger cars to facilitate the safe and convenient mobility of players, referees, VIPs and staff, as well as Kia-branded buses specifically dedicated to transport national teams and referees.





Professors Ayyub, al-Ghamdi, Eltahir and Qaraqe.

HBKU awarded grant to create national risk management plan

Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU)'s College of Science and Engineering (CSE) is spearheading critical research to create an effective national risk management plan for Qatar.

A new research project – "Re-SOLVE (Resilient Solutions for Vulnerabilities and Emergencies: An Effective National Risk Management Plan for Qatar" led by Dr Sami G al-Ghamdi, associate professor in the Sustainable Development Division at CSE, and head of the Sustainable Built Environment group, as the project director and lead principal investigator, has received a QR16.1mm grant under Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)'s National Priorities Research Programme (NPRP) in the 14th cycle.

Re-SOLVE was awarded under the new NPRP-Cluster focusing on National Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Resilience thematic area, launched by QNRF to support Qatar's relevant capabilities. Dr al-Ghamdi and his team will work with expert teams from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD), Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ), and Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q).

During unexpected events or disasters, two major categories of infrastructure and systems are significantly impacted: (i) physical infrastructure (transportation, energy, and water systems), and (ii) healthcare infrastructure. To anticipate and enhance its resilience to unprecedented climate events, it is vital for Qatar to assess its

own existing infrastructure, systems, and service provisions and evaluate any potential vulnerabilities.

The Re-SOLVE project's overarching goal is to develop a robust methodology and framework for a Risk-Resilience-Sustainability nexus, driven by a full data management plan, to assess and identify the potential risks, vulnerabilities, and impacts of emergencies or disasters faced by Qatar, and provide resilient solutions.

Re-SOLVE consists of five sub-projects (SP).

SP-1, led by Dr al-Ghamdi, involves project management and developing a holistic framework and metrics through a robust data-management plan in a system-of-systems fashion using analysis of the different infrastructures carried out in other SPs.

In SP-2, HBKU researchers will collaborate with MIT researchers, led by Dr Elfatih A B Eltahir, professor of civil and environmental engineering, focusing on climate change modelling and hazard identification to quantify the environmental changes and hazards for Qatar in the coming decades. This SP involves investigating the effects of climate change on weather conditions and diseases in the context of Qatar, as well as identifying potential hazards.

The climate change data from SP-2 will be used by two teams, from WCM-Q and HBKU, and UMD and HBKU, to do a risk assessment of the resilience of Qatar's health and physical infrastructures in SP-3 and SP-4, respectively.

The healthcare infrastructure

assessment will be supervised by Dr Ali Sultan, professor of Teaching in Microbiology and Immunology at WCM-Q, in conjunction with Qatar's Ministry of Public Health.

The physical infrastructure assessment will be supervised by Dr Bilal Ayyub, professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UMD. This SP will examine the relevant risks and vulnerabilities of Qatar's physical infrastructure, such as transportation, energy, and water networks, to identify potential cost-effective upgrades and communicate the findings to support policy and decision-making.

Another team led by Dr Khalid Qaraqe, professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at TAMUQ, along with partner institutions, will participate in the design of high-speed communications to strengthen communication and information infrastructure in these sectors in SP-5. The data from climate change, physical and healthcare infrastructures, and high-speed communications will then be integrated to develop a framework that will help in forming policies, mitigation measures, and strengthening the resilience-sustainability-nexus in SP-1.

Dr al-Ghamdi said: "HBKU will examine public, legal, and economic policies in the framework development, and will then propose and quantify the risk indicators tailored to Qatar. For the effective execution of the project, a steering committee will be formed, comprising high-ranking officials from Qatar's government agencies and institutions."

In a press statement, Saad Saleh al-Hudaifi, head of Qatar Creates, commented: "Bringing Post Malone to Qatar for the first time is an exciting moment for Qatar Creates and a crucial part of our FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 journey. His performance tops a thrilling line up of global talent in fashion and music, featuring more than 150 designers and brands on the world's biggest catwalk."

With representation from over 50 countries, Qatar Fashion United by CR Runway will present four choreographed runway presentations, followed by show-stopping performances by Post Malone and other acclaimed artists, including DJ Snake, Nancy Ajram, Kadim al-Sahir, Khaled, Ozuna and Zakes Bantwini.

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With over 80mm records sold

Qatar Creates and CR Runway present Post Malone in concert on December 16



MTV Video Music Award, and nine Grammy Award nominations.

Most recently, Malone's collaborative track Sunflower with Swae Lee became the highest-certified single in Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) history with 17-times platinum with 2.4bn streams worldwide.

Qatar Fashion United by CR Runway was conceived by HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, curated by the French editor and visionary stylist Carine Roitfeld, and directed by CR Runway CEO Vladimir Restoin Roitfeld.

Proceeds from the global event will benefit Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, a non-for-profit organisation founded by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser that supports education for marginalised children and communities around the world.

Qatar Fashion United comes as part of Qatar Creates' vision to engage a broad network of global, regional and local stakeholders within an unprecedented schedule of high-profile events that spotlight and celebrate the diversity of cultural activities in Qatar for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and beyond.

QF marks Ability Friendly Fun Day



To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Qatar Foundation's Ability Friendly Programme – an initiative that supports people of all abilities to engage in sporting and developmental activities – hosted an Ability Friendly Fun Day. Held at QF's recreation centre, the Fun Day offered children and adults of all abilities the opportunity to engage in recreational sports like football, swimming, and cricket with QF's ability-friendly coaches. The event welcomed more than 40 participants, ranging from five to 28 years old. Qatar Foundation's Ability Friendly Programme offers sessions year-round.

Discover Qatar offers educational tours to school and college students

Discover Qatar (DQ) is offering specially-designed tours to showcase Qatar's top-tier educational and tourism resources as well as the distinctive features of Doha.

Custom-made for school and college students from across the globe, these tours present a unique opportunity for a holistic view of Qatar's premier academic ecosystem, while immersing guests in the culture of the country.

In a press statement, Steven Reynolds, senior vice president, Discover Qatar, said: "We look forward to enriching the academic growth of students around the world with resources, insights, and experiences

from leading academic and cultural institutions in Qatar."

DQ's educational tours focus on a range of subjects including architecture, art and culture, sports and performance excellence, fashion and design, business management, and gastronomy, all with the goal of stimulating learning for students through curated activities and workshops.

Bringing learning curriculums to life, students can develop problem-solving skills, improve critical thinking, broaden their worldview, and learn through a variety of custom-designed workshops, activities, and interactive experimental sessions.

The specially-designed

programmes are offered for five days and can be extended up to 10 days based on the subject or expected learning outcomes. These are all-inclusive group programmes that combine services such as hotel accommodation, meals, airport and local city transfers, sightseeing activities and guide who escorts the group for a complete stay in Doha. More details can be found on the Discover Qatar website: <https://www.discoverqatar.qa/education-tours/>

DQ recently conducted familiarisation tours during which participants discovered diverse opportunities through interactions at Qatar Foundation and Education City, main-



The tours present a unique opportunity for a holistic view of Qatar's premier academic ecosystem while immersing guests in the culture of the country.

ly at Weill Cornell Medicine – Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, and Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar.

DQ also arranged visits to National Museum of Qatar, 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum, Fire Station, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, M7, Katara Cultural Village, and Aspire Academy to present an all-inclusive understanding of Qatar.

Mark Alexander, founder and CEO, Happymiles Outdoor Learning, who was part of a familiarisation tour said: "Happymiles Outdoor Learning is aiming to send approximately 25 student groups to Qatar in next six months".

QNL welcomes special delegations from Saudi, Kuwait



HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari, Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library (QNL) welcomed high-profile delegations from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to the library on November 29. The delegates toured the building and collections and discussed future collaborations, cultural exchanges and enhancing co-operation between QNL and libraries in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, as well as other cultural institutions. As part of its mission to preserve the nation's and region's heritage, QNL will continue to invest time and effort into sharing knowledge and empowering future generations across Qatar and beyond.

Kia, BMW models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Al Attiya Motors and Trading Company, has announced the recall of Kia Sorento and Carnival, 2015 model as the shift lever knob can be moved out of (park) position into any gear position without pressing the brake pedal, regardless of whether the ignition key is ON or OFF.

The MoCI, in co-operation with Alfarðan Automobiles, has announced the recall of BMW 218i Gran Coupe, 2022 model, due to a possible fault in the rear tail-light programming.

The recall campaigns come within the framework of the MoCI's continuous efforts to protect consumers and ensure

that dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs.

The MoCI said that it will coordinate with the dealers to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out.

The MoCI has urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquiries and suggestions through the following channels: call centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, Twitter: [@MOCIQATAR](https://twitter.com/MOCIQATAR), Instagram: [@MOCIQATAR](https://www.instagram.com/mociqatar), MoCI mobile app for android and iOS: MOCIQATAR



Municipality minister and ACTA chief visit Darb Al Saai HQ



HE the Minister of Municipality Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, HE the Chairman of the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA) Hamad bin Nasser al-Misnad, and HE Dr Mohamed Abdul Rahim Kafoud visited the Darb Al Saai headquarters at Umm Salal, accompanied by HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani. They were briefed on a number of heritage and cultural events and learned about Al Shaqab, Darb Al Saai market, Al Bidda, Liwan Art, and the activities of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.



Fans' Cup unites football lovers at Qatar 2022

Poland defeat Serbia 4-0 in final at FIFA Fan Festival

Football fans representing all 32 qualified nations for Qatar 2022 took part in the Fans' Cup – held on the sidelines of the FIFA World Cup.

The four-day tournament, held at the FIFA Fan Festival in Al Bidda Park, was organised by the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) as part of fan engagement activities.

The five-a-side tournament reflected the same format as Qatar 2022, with the teams drawn into the same eight groups.

All participants were nationals of their respective countries.

This included hosts Qatar, who

reached the quarter-finals before falling to Poland.

The final was an all-European affair between Poland and Serbia, with the Poles lifting the trophy after a convincing 4-0 victory.

The trophy presentation took place on the main stage at the FIFA Fan Festival, with Qatar Legacy Ambassadors Cafu and Ronald de Boer handing out the silverware.

Lifting the trophy was a moment to savour for Poland's Adrian Dalek.

"I feel amazing right now because we've won the World Cup for fans," he said. "It was a fantastic tournament



and it is very nice to be here in Qatar for it. Though it is a fans' cup, there were some very good teams here and a high level of football was played."

"The companionship we have had with all the cultures we have met here and the chance to meet new people has been extraordinary," said Serbia goalkeeper Bogdan Sokolovic. "I think Qatar raised the bar for the next World Cup by staging this tournament."



The trophy presentation on the main stage at the FIFA Fan Festival, with Qatar Legacy Ambassadors Cafu and Ronald de Boer handing out the prize.

"Fans are central to the success of the first FIFA World Cup in the Middle East and Arab world, so we were thrilled to host the first 32-team Fans' Cup at a FIFA World Cup, which we believe created an exciting atmosphere while uniting fans from across the globe through their shared passion for the beautiful game," said SC fan engagement manager Samantha Sifah. "We hope the legacy of this historic tour-



nement, delivered for the first time in Qatar, sees fan tournaments at all major football events in the future."

Visit <https://www.fanscup.qa/index.html> to find out more about the Fans' Cup.



Al Bayt Al Saudi beckons fans with activities and exhibitions

Despite the Saudi Arabia team's exit in the first round of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, fans continue flock to Al Bayt Al Saudi (Saudi House) to watch matches on big screens and explore Saudi's cultural legacy and art exhibition.

Located at the Sheraton Park, Al Bayt Al Saudi gives visitors the opportunity to learn about the Saudi identity and attachment towards football.

The venue also houses cultural programmes daily, while the playgrounds allow children and adults to take part in sport activities.

Al Bayt Al Saudi boasts of a total of 10 pavilions, in which 21 activities are held.

An official said that these are aimed at enriching the fans' experience in the World Cup.

The fan zone hosts fans across the world from 12 noon to 12 midnight.

"We receive many fans from Western countries, and they spend time here in Saudi dress with Ghutra and Igal, the traditional headwears," the official said.

The area has dedicated pavilions representing various geographical zones of Saudi Arabia, featuring the cultural specialities of each zone.

Many Saudi artists are part of the exhibition, which features live painting, weaving and calligraphy making.

Visitors can also take a look at the calligraphy collection on show.

"The exhibition here is an opportunity for the artists who can get international visitors here," said artist Saleh al-Qarni. "The artists try to speak to the world about Saudi's rich culture and love for the arts."

One of the highlights is a football exhibition on the achievements of Saudi Arabia in international tournaments.

The photo exhibition features Saudi football legends.

The activities area provides fans with the experience of playing football with the top players via Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality, in addition to the experience of getting photographed with members of the Saudi national team.

The area also contains a special store for everything related to collectibles.

There are cafes and restaurants that promote Saudi cuisine.

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

circle suspended above the water that transforms to poetically narrate wonderful stories.

Daily shows start at 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 Aravian nights.

A magical world that combines music, performance and song – from top international talent and rising regional stars – inspired by the colours and

Live it all in Qatar!



All lit up at Souq Waqif. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

shapes of Arab culture, blending rave with Arabia.

Taking place until December 18 from 8pm-2am.

Located next to Al Wakrah Metro Station, 12 minutes from Doha.

Access: Event admission ticket required.

en for details about tickets.

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](https://www.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 tomorrow, December 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

World Cup activations/celebrations

at The Pearl Island, 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.

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GULF TIMES

For fan facilitation and seamless delivery, an unmatched World Cup

The ongoing FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which will run until December 18, completing the 29-day, 32-nation tournament, has carved a niche for itself in the history of the mega sporting event with many firsts. The first-ever 4k telecast, free transportation within the country for fans, opportunities to watch more than one match a day and the most accessible edition of the FIFA World Cup are among the unique features of the historic event being held for first time in the Middle East and the Arab world. Fans from across the world are full of praise for the outstanding infrastructure and other facilities Qatar has meticulously prepared over the past 12 years, ever since it won the bid to host the greatest sporting event on earth.

All eight stadiums are outfitted with facilities for specially-abled fans. Working with local stakeholders, the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC), FIFA and the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 LLC also has set up sensory rooms for fans with access requirements at three stadiums: Al Bayt, Lusail and Education City. The spaces allow fans to watch matches in a quiet space, equipped with assistive technology and managed by expert staff. This edition of the FIFA World Cup has included the largest deployment of sensory rooms at a mega sporting event in history. A number of mobile sensory rooms have also been set up across Qatar to give fans the opportunity to step away from large crowds or loud music. Locations include the Corniche, where the SC has organised a vast number of cultural activations, and the FIFA Fan Festival at Al Bidda Park.

By the time the tournament concludes in a fortnight, Qatar would have added more feathers to its crown

the delight of the fans. 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. Qatar Rail's Doha Metro has proven to be immensely popular with the fans as it offers them seamless connectivity, with services extending to 21 hours Saturday to Thursday and 18 hours on Friday.

The state-of-the-art broadcast network delivered by the SC is helping media from across the world 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, located at the Qatar National Convention Centre, where live feeds are transmitted globally to billions of viewers. 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 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. Special credit should also go to the SC for establishing a Host Country Media Centre to support more than 17,000 non-FIFA accredited media personnel. By the time the tournament concludes in a fortnight, Qatar would have added more feathers to its crown.

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"I feel at home
here in Qatar"

"Me too"

Female World Cup fans
feel safer in Qatar

Russian oil revenues could weather EU ban, G7 price cap

By Olesya Astakhova
Moscow

Russian oil output could fall by 500,000 to 1mn barrels per day (bpd) early in 2023 after the European Union imposes a ban on seaborne imports from today, two sources at major Russian producers said.

The estimate is at the lower end of market analysts' forecasts of the combined impact of the ban and a proposed price cap on Russian oil, although the sources said the true level would depend on several factors yet to be settled.

They requested anonymity to discuss sensitive market dynamics connected with the conflict in Ukraine that Russia calls a "special military operation".

Alexei Kokin of Otkritie brokerage broadly agreed with their assessment of the likely impact of Western measures on Russian output.

"It's roughly the same as the volume of seaborne supplies to the EU in recent weeks," he said. "I don't think they (Russian producers) will be able to divert that elsewhere."

The West wants to squeeze Russia's finances to reduce its ability to fund the conflict.

Exports of crude, gas and oil products account for the majority of Russia's revenues, which have stayed high as disruption to production and sales following Western sanctions has been more than offset by high prices on international markets.

Russia's budget revenues from oil and gas jumped by over a third in the first 10 months of the year.

Before the Ukraine conflict began on February 24, Russia exported around 8 million bpd of oil and oil products.

The EU, its biggest buyer, cut

purchases in response to the conflict, but Moscow successfully diverted supply to Asia and exports slipped only slightly to 7.6mn bpd.

Looking ahead to 2023, one of the main variables will be the ceiling G7 countries and the EU agree on importing Russian oil.

They are seeking to strike a difficult balance to limit Moscow's oil income while avoiding oil price shocks on international markets that surged around the time of Russia's invasion but have more recently cooled.

Some of the biggest importers of Russian oil, including China and India, are not part of the initiative. Moscow has said it would not supply oil to those who participate.

It is also unclear whether shipping and insurance companies will be able to move Russian oil around the world that has been bought for more than the agreed ceiling.

Navigating that obstacle could take time and cause disruptions, some analysts said, although US bank JPMorgan sees the impact of the cap as muted with Russia able to use its own ships and marshal China and India.

Others see a deeper impact.

Kirill Melnikov, analyst at the Centre for Energy Development, forecast a drop in Russian production of 1.0-1.5mn bpd in January compared with November levels.

The International Energy Agency expects Russian crude output to fall by 2mn bpd by the end of the first quarter, although that also takes into account an EU ban on Russian oil products that will come into effect on February 5.

The more Russian oil that is lost to world markets, the greater the likely impact on prices. That could benefit Moscow and other major exporters and penalise consumers in the West who

already face the highest inflation in decades, largely because of energy costs.

"Even if the drop in exports is greater than expected, the impact on the budget is offset by the rise in prices, so budget revenues are unlikely to suffer significantly," Igor Galaktionov of BCS Mir Investitsiy brokerage said.

EU governments on Thursday provisionally agreed to a price cap of \$60 per barrel of Russian crude, with an adjustment mechanism to keep the ceiling 5% below market values.

G7 nations had earlier proposed a cap of \$65-70 per barrel, around the current price of Russia's main export blend Urals, while Poland wanted it far lower at \$30.

Urals, which used to be sold largely to European buyers, has fallen to a discount of around \$23.50 per barrel versus dated Brent, the benchmark on the over the counter market, from a \$2-3 per barrel discount at the beginning of the year.

Dated Brent is priced at around \$87, close to the level of international Brent futures.

"I think that the cap being discussed by the EU will be close to the price level at which Russia is currently selling oil," Alexei Gromov of the Moscow-based Institute for Energy and Finance Foundation said.

"If the price cap is around \$60 per barrel, Russia will continue to export its oil comfortably."

Provided buyers refuse to pay more than the price cap, a limit of \$60 would mean Russia would not benefit if international prices rise.

Already, Russia's revenues – and those of other oil producers – have fallen since the price cap was first proposed by the United States and other G7 countries in June, adding selling pressure on international oil markets

weakened by the global economic outlook.

Were the price of Russian oil to fall to \$45-50 per barrel in 2023, Yevgeny Suvorov, economist at Centrocredit Bank, said Russia's budget would face a shortfall in the region of 2tn roubles (\$32bn).

The central bank expects total oil and gas revenues next year of 8.9tn roubles.

Revenues are determined not just by the outright price of Russian crude but by the exchange rate at the time of sale.

If the rouble is relatively strong, as it is now, budget revenues in the local currency drop, making it harder for the finance ministry to balance the books.

The ministry's assumptions for next year's budget are for Russian oil to average \$70.1 per barrel and an average exchange rate of 68.3 roubles per dollar. That compares with today's levels of around \$65 and 61-62 roubles respectively.

Although the rouble has fallen recently, it is still well above the government's favoured range of 70-80 to the dollar, and Russian businesses have urged the central bank to build up reserves of Chinese yuan and weaken the local currency.

Beyond the price cap and European import ban, Russia's oil sector may also be affected by Covid-19 restrictions in China, an increasingly important buyer of its crude.

China has bought around 2mn bpd of Russian oil in recent months from 1.6-1.8mn bpd at the start of the year.

"Oil markets are going to continue to be buffeted by ongoing news out of China, given how much of an impact ongoing lockdowns are having on oil demand in the world's second-largest consumer," said Matt Smith, lead oil analyst at Kpler.



The NS POWER oil/chemical tanker is moored at the NNK-Primornefteproduct petroleum depot in the far eastern port of Vladivostok, Russia, on Saturday. (Reuters)



2 dead as protesters, police clash in Syria

AFP
Beirut

A protester and a policeman were killed yesterday in Syria's southern city of Sweida as security forces cracked down on a rare demonstration by hundreds against deteriorating living conditions.

Tensions were high in the regime-held city after protesters threw rocks at a government building and stormed it, removing a large picture of President Bashar al-Assad from its facade, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

"At least one protester and one police officer were killed," Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP.

The protester was shot dead when security forces opened fire after demonstrators entered the building, he said, adding that government forces have fanned out in the city, dispersing protesters.

Local news outlet Suwayda24 confirmed the two deaths and said four others were taken to hospital with gunshot wounds in the Druze-majority city.

The Sweida region south of Damascus is the heartland of the Druze, who made up less than three percent of Syria's pre-war population and have largely kept out of the country's civil war.

That war has killed nearly half a million people since it began in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government protests, fragmenting the country and causing economic collapse.

Suwayda24 posted images on social media earlier in the day that showed protesters calling for the fall of the regime as security forces stood guard outside the building.

Other images showed a military vehicle on fire and burning tyres on main streets of the city. Gunshots could be heard in some of the footage.

Syria's interior ministry said a group of outlaws killed one policeman while they tried to storm police headquarters.

Some protesters carried weapons, the ministry said.

"We will pursue the outlaws, and take legal measures against anyone who tries to tamper with the security and stability of the Sweida governorate and the safety of its citizens," the ministry said in a statement yesterday.

State television said "law-breakers" had stormed the provincial government building and "set fire to official documents and files".

Brazil's Lula undergoes laryngoscopy

AFP
Sao Paulo

Brazil's president-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva underwent a laryngoscopy yesterday, with the result "within normality" following surgery to remove a lesion from his vocal cords last month, according to a Sao Paulo hospital.

Lula, 77, was elected for a third term as president in October, in a razor-thin victory over incumbent Jair Bolsonaro.

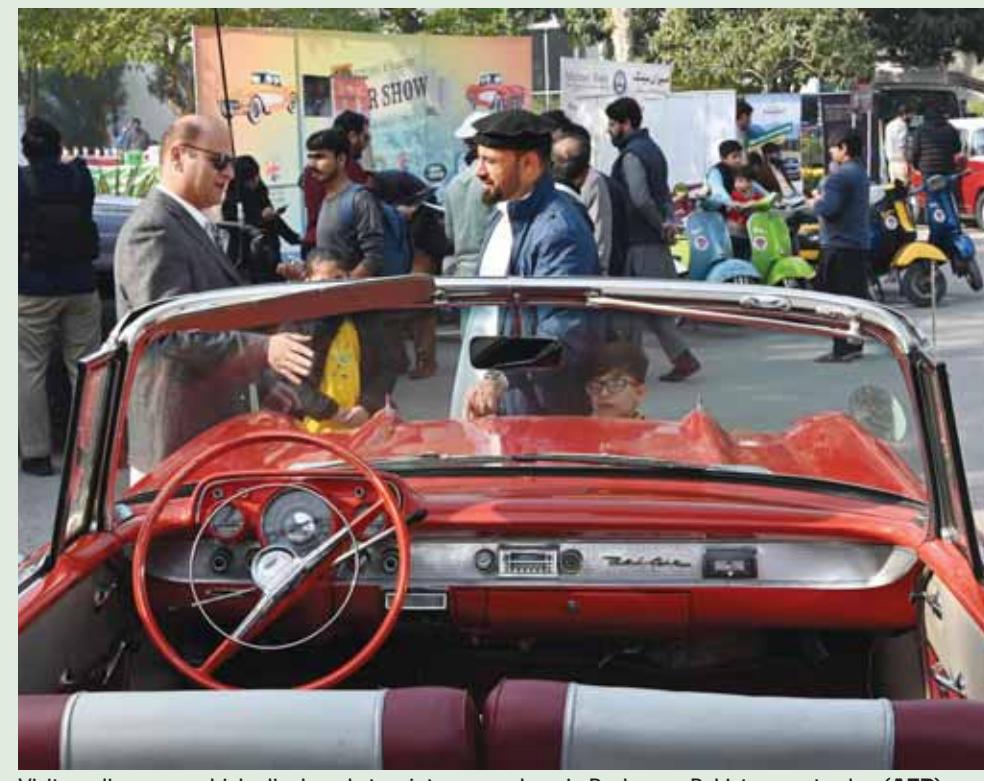
He was a smoker for more than 50 years before quitting in 2010 after being hospitalised for high blood pressure.

"Lula da Silva was today in the morning at the Sirio Libanes hospital for a previously scheduled laryngoscopy," said the report, released by Lula's communications office. "The examination was normal," the brief medical bulletin added.

Lula had surgery on November 20 to remove the lesion in his left vocal cord after a months-long presidential campaign in which his hoarse voice had generated concern. Doctors noted there were no new tumours present.

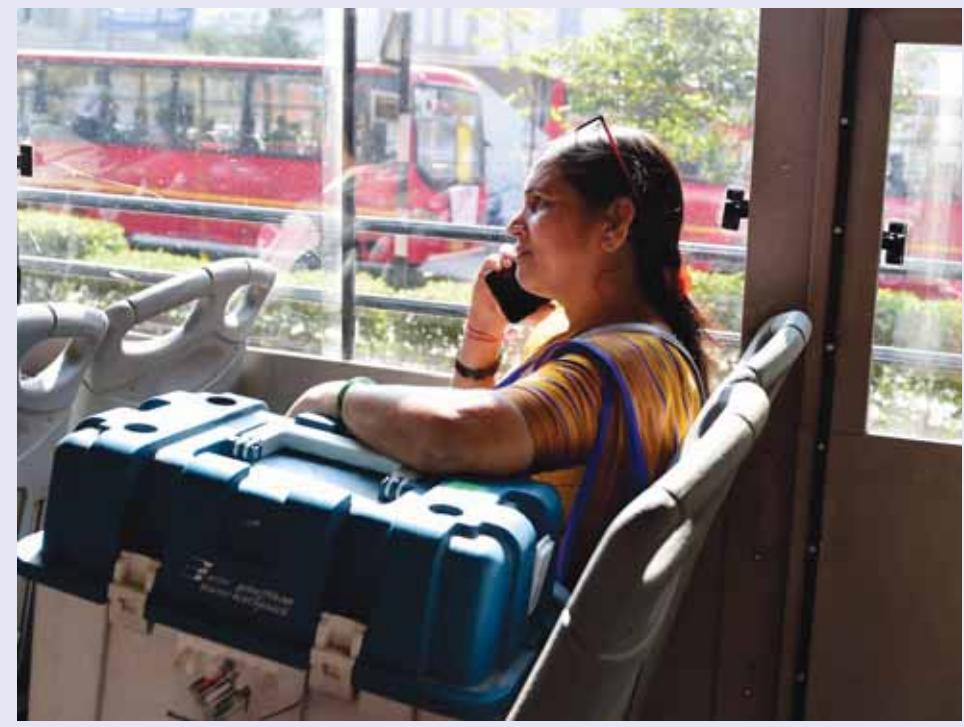
Lula was diagnosed with throat cancer in 2011, shortly after he left office following two presidential terms between 2003 and 2010. He went into remission the following year after undergoing radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

Vintage car show in Peshawar



Visitors discuss a vehicle displayed at a vintage car show in Peshawar, Pakistan, yesterday. (AFP)

On call for polls in Ahmedabad



A polling official speaks on the phone as she boards a bus carrying election related materials and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail a day ahead of the second phase of India's Gujarat state assembly elections in Ahmedabad yesterday. (AFP)

Iran abolishes morality police

AFP
Teheran

Iran has scrapped its morality police after more than two months of protests triggered by the death of Mahsa Amini following her arrest for allegedly violating the country's strict female dress code, an official said yesterday.

Women-led protests, labelled "riots" by the authorities, have swept Iran since the 22-year-old Iranian of Kurdish origin died on September 16, three days after her arrest by the morality police in Tehran.

Demonstrators have burned their mandatory hijab head coverings and shouted anti-government slogans, and a growing number of women have refrained from wearing the hijab, particularly in parts of Tehran.

"Morality police have nothing to do with the judiciary and have been abolished," Attorney General Mohamed Jafar Montazeri was quoted as saying by the ISNA news agency.

His comment came at a religious con-

ference where he responded to a question on "why the morality police were being shut down", the report said.

The move represents a rare concession to the protest movement, and authorities have also acknowledged the demoralising effect of an economic crisis spurred by US sanctions.

"The best way to confront the riots is to... pay attention to people's real demands," said the parliament presidium council spokesman Seyyed Nezamoldin Mousavi, referencing "livelihoods and the economy".

The news was treated with scepticism by some Iranians on social media, including those who expressed fears its role would be taken over by another unit, as well as others pointing out that intense social pressure remained at home.

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution that overthrew Iran's US-backed monarchy, authorities have monitored adherence to the strict dress code for women and men.

But under president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the morality police - known formally as the Gasht-e Eshad, or "Guidance Patrol" - was established to

"spread the culture of modesty and hijab".

The units were set up by Iran's Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, which is today headed by President Ebrahim Raisi.

They began their patrols in 2006 to enforce the dress code which also requires women to wear long clothes and forbids shorts, ripped jeans and other clothes deemed immodest.

The announcement of the units' abolition came a day after Montazeri said "both parliament and the judiciary are working" on the issue of whether the law requiring women to cover their heads needs to be changed.

Raisi said in televised comments Saturday that Iran's republican and Islamic foundations were constitutionally entrenched "but there are methods of implementing the constitution that can be flexible".

The hijab became mandatory in 1983. Morality police officers initially issued warnings before starting to crack down and arrest women 15 years ago.

Clothing norms gradually changed,

especially under former moderate president Hassan Rouhani, when it became common to see women in tight jeans and with loose, colourful headscarves.

But in July this year his successor Raisi, called for the mobilisation of all state institutions to enforce the headscarf law.

Raisi at the time charged that "the enemies of Iran and Islam have targeted the cultural and religious values of society by spreading corruption".

In September, the Union of Islamic Iranian People Party, the country's main reformist party, called for the hijab law to be rescinded.

On Saturday it also called for the Islamic republic to publicly shut down the morality police and "allow peaceful demonstrations".

Iran accuses its enemy the United States and its allies, including Britain and Israel, and Kurdish groups based outside the country, of fomenting the street protests. More than 300 people have been killed in the unrest, including dozens of security force members, an Iranian general said.

IS claims attack on Pakistani envoy in Kabul

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility yesterday for an attack on Pakistan's embassy in Kabul, which Islamabad decried as an "assassination attempt". A security guard was wounded in the attack Friday in the Afghan capital. In a statement cited by jihadist monitor SITE, the Islamic State's regional chapter said it had "attacked the apostate Pakistani ambassador and his guards". Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called it "an assassination attempt" on the head of the mission, and demanded an investigation. A Kabul police spokesman said one suspect had been arrested and two light weapons seized after security forces swept a nearby building. Although Pakistan does not officially recognise Afghanistan's Taliban government, it kept its embassy open even as the Islamists took over in August last year, and maintains a full diplomatic mission.

An embassy official told AFP a lone attacker "came behind the cover of houses and started firing", but that the ambassador and other staff were safe.

A spokesman for Afghanistan's foreign ministry said they strongly condemned the "failed attack".

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan will not allow any malicious actors to pose a threat to the security of diplomatic missions in Kabul," it said in a statement, vowing to find and punish those responsible. Pakistan has complicated relations with the Taliban, with Islamabad long accused of supporting the Islamists even while backing the US-led invasion of Afghanistan that toppled them following the 9/11 attacks.

Pakistan is home to more than a million Afghan refugees, and the porous border they share is frequently the scene of clashes.

Tigray forces claim to have pulled 65% of fighters from the frontlines

More than half of Tigrayan forces have withdrawn from the frontlines, the forces' top commander said, a month after a ceasefire agreement aimed at ending the two-year conflict in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region.

"We have accomplished 65% disengagement of our army," Tadesse Wereda, commander-in-chief of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said in a video posted on the forces' official Facebook page late on Saturday.

"Our army left the front lines and moved to the place prepared for them to camp. Our forces withdrew on vehicles and on foot."

Ethiopian government spokesman Legesse Tulu did not respond to requests for comment.

War erupted in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region in November 2020, pitting the Tigrayan forces

against federal troops and their allies that included fighters from the Amhara region that borders Tigray and Eritrean soldiers.

The fighting has killed thousands, displaced millions and left hundreds of thousands facing famine.

In a surprise diplomatic breakthrough, however, the two sides signed a permanent cessation of hostilities in an African Union (AU)-mediated peace deal on November 2 in South Africa.

A follow-up agreement on disarmament of TPLF fighters, humanitarian access guarantees and entry of the Ethiopian military into the Tigrayan capital of Mekelle was subsequently signed on November 12 in Kenya.

Tadesse said TPLF was still maintaining fighters in some locations "where there is a presence of anti-

peace forces". He did not name the locations. "Our forces are still on the ground in those places due to the problems they (anti-peace forces) are creating for our people. But we have even reduced numbers of our forces in those places."

On Thursday the federal government said a joint committee mandated to draw a detailed plan for disarmament of the TPLF had begun its work and would finalise the plan in a few days.

Even with the humanitarian access guarantees reached in the truce, however, the World Health Organization said on Friday it still does not have unfettered access to Tigray.

Ethiopia's allies are also looting towns, arresting and killing civilians and relocating thousands of people from a disputed part of Tigray despite the peace pact, residents and aid workers say.

Thousands flee Indonesia's mount eruption

AFP
Lumajang

A gus Harianto with Agnes Anya in Jakarta Indonesia's Mount Semeru erupted yesterday spewing hot ash clouds a mile high and rivers of lava down its side while sparking the evacuation of nearly 2,000 people exactly one year after its last major eruption killed dozens.

The burst from the highest mountain on Indonesia's main island of Java, around 800km southeast of the capital Jakarta, prompted authorities to raise the alert status for the volcano to the highest level.

Villages around Semeru were being battered by a mix of volcanic ash and monsoon rains. Videos shared with AFP by a local rescue group showed a huge black cloud rising from the volcano, engulfing the sky and blocking the sun.

One resident described the panic when the ash clouds de-

scended on their village.

"It was dark, I could not see anything. It was raining water and ash," the person, who did not want to be named, told AFP.

"I didn't know where to take shelter. I had to flee."

"Hot avalanches" triggered by piles of lava at the top flooded down the 3,676m mountain, said Abdul Muhamar, a spokesperson for Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB).

A spokesperson for Indonesia's volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation Centre (PVMBG) told broadcaster Kompas TV that the higher alert level meant local villages were in danger. However, no casualties or injuries were reported on Sunday after the PVMBG warned nearby residents not to travel within eight kilometres (five miles) of the crater.

The geological agency said that by evening Semeru was "still in the eruption phase" though the size of the ash clouds was decreasing.

"Overall the activity is still very high," it said in a statement.

The Internet in the area was down and phone signals were patchy after the eruption, according to an AFP journalist.

The BNPB said 1,979 people had been taken to 11 shelters, with at least six villages affected by the eruption. Local administration official Indah Amperawati Masdar said residents would only be allowed to return home when the hot clouds had dissipated. Residents were also told to avoid a southeastern area 13km along a river in the direction the ash was travelling. The majority of residents in the two villages most at risk had been evacuated, said



Gladak Perak Bridge is seen following the eruption of Mount Semeru volcano, in Lumajang, East Java province yesterday. (Reuters)

Patria Dwi Hastiadi, a spokesperson for the Lumajang Disaster Mitigation Agency.

Locals fled on motorbikes, some three at a time with their belongings, while others helped the elderly evacuate safely. One resident was covered in mud that had rained down on him as a mix of rain and ash. Japan's weather agency had earlier warned that a tsunami could be triggered by the eruption affecting southern islands in the country's Okinawa prefecture, Kyodo news agency reported. But Japan's meteorological agency later said no significant tidal changes were expected.

Semeru last erupted exactly one year ago, killing at least 51 people and damaging more than 5,000 homes. That disaster left entire streets filled with mud and ash that swallowed houses and vehicles, forcing nearly 10,000 people to seek refuge. Semeru's alert status had remained at its second-highest level since a previous major eruption in December 2020.

ITEMS FOR

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