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Day 18

Asian teams getting closer Sport Page 6
FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

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Kuwaiti PM arrives in Doha



Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah arrived yesterday in Doha to attend part of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 matches. The Kuwaiti PM and the delegation accompanying him were received upon arrival at Doha International Airport by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani. A number of ministers were also present. **(QNA) Page 4**

Qatar drops Hayya card entry requirement for GCC nationals, residents

Citizens and residents of GCC countries will be allowed to enter Qatar without the need to obtain a Hayya Card for non-match ticket holders, through all points of entry, in accordance with the normal entry procedures, the Ministry of Interior announced yesterday.

The ministry explained, in a statement, the entry mechanism through all entry points, noting that citizens and residents of the GCC countries arriving in Qatar by air will be able to enter without requiring registration via the Hayya platform, effective as of Tuesday.

As for those arriving through the border crossing points using buses and various means of land transportation, the statement said transportation by buses will be available to all travellers through the land border crossing, as usual, and the parking will be allocated to visitors without a fee.

GCC nationals and residents arriving through the land border crossing

by their own vehicles will be able to enter the country as of December 8. They must apply for a permit on the website of the Ministry of Interior at least 12 hours before travel; the permit does not require any fee.

The Ministry of Interior confirmed that this step was taken in the context of the state's efforts to provide an opportunity for visitors, citizens and residents of the GCC countries, to enjoy the atmosphere accompanying the matches of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and its entertainment activities during the remainder of this tournament and to facilitate the entry mechanism through all border points, to join hundreds of thousands of fans in stadiums, dedicated fan zones and live screening areas, to watch the world's famous football players.

The ministry said that fans who wish to see the matches live in a stadium must register via the Hayya online platform. **(QNA)**

Al Jazeera takes Abu Akleh's killing to ICC

Al Jazeera submitted the case of slain journalist Shireen Abu Akleh to the International Criminal Court yesterday, saying the veteran reporter was deliberately killed by Israeli forces. The Qatar-based television channel said it had "unearthed new evidence" on the "brutal" death of the Palestinian-

American, shot while covering an Israel army raid in Jenin in the occupied West Bank on May 11. "My family still doesn't know who fired that deadly bullet and who was in the chain of command that killed my aunt," her niece Lina Abu Akleh told a press conference in The Hague.

Gutsy Morocco, clinical Portugal in last eight

In a spirited performance that resonated with the Arab world, Morocco yesterday stunned former winners Spain in a dramatic penalty shootout in their FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Round of 16 clash.

Achraf Hakimi, the Madrid-born defender, found the net with calmest of ease on the fourth penalty to take Morocco to their maiden quarter-finals berth in World Cup history.

The packed Education City Stadium erupted in absolute joy as Hakimi's shot hit the net giving Morocco an unassailable 3-0 lead in the penalty shootout following a goalless regulation play of 120 minutes separated by extra time.

Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou, who plays for Spain's Sevilla, saved spot-kicks from Carlos Soler and Sergio Busquets after Pablo Sarabia had hit the post and Hakimi, a product of the Real Madrid youth system, held his nerve to earn his team a quarter-final against either Portugal who crushed Switzerland 6-1 yesterday.

Morocco yesterday became only the fourth African nation to reach the last eight of the tournament, 12 years after Ghana did so in South Africa in 2010.

After a scrappy match finished 0-0 after extra time with few shots on target for either side, Morocco fed off the raucous support of their red-clad fans in the shootout as Spain crumbled.

Spain enjoyed more than 75% of possession and completed almost 1000 passes but Morocco caused problems for them on the counter-attack and goalkeeper Unai Simon made some good saves.

"We fought and made the Moroccan people happy, we made history and Morocco deserve it, Moroccan people made us united on the pitch," coach Walid Regragui said yesterday.

Morocco defender Jawad Yamqi was proud of his team's performance.

"We honoured the Arab and African football, coach Regragui gave us the confidence that we needed in this game, a big boost in morale," he said. "We knew that Spain depend on their ball possession and we played with that in mind. They didn't impose any danger."

It was the fourth time Spain have been knocked out of the World Cup on penalties and the second in a row.

It was a huge blow for Luis Enrique's team, who arrived in Qatar as one of the favourites after reaching the Euro 2020 semi-finals and the Nations League final last year.



Morocco's players celebrate at the end of the Qatar 2022 World Cup round of 16 football match between Morocco and Spain at the Education City Stadium yesterday.



Portugal's Goncalo Ramos celebrates scoring their fifth goal and his hat-trick in the match against Switzerland at the Lusail Stadium yesterday.

"We completely dominated the match, it's a shame it went that way," the Spain coach told TVE yesterday. "It's the most difficult thing, playing against a team like Morocco who are hard workers. The penalties cost us, but I am very proud of the team and all the players. I'm very sorry about the result but I congratulate Morocco."

In the day's other clash, 2016 Euro

champions Portugal crushed Switzerland 6-1 at Lusail Stadium in a game that saw Cristiano Ronaldo on the bench.

Goncalo Ramos scored the first hat-trick of the 2022 World Cup as Portugal powered towards a place in the quarter-finals with a one-sided mauling of Switzerland.

The 21-year-old Ramos, named in the starting line-up ahead of veteran star Ronaldo, struck in the 17th, 51st and 67th minutes.

Benfica forward Ramos - making

his first international start - was substituted for Ronaldo with just under 20 minutes of regulation time remaining at the Lusail Stadium.

Earlier Pepe, the stand-in captain, added Portugal's second just after the half hour mark when he beat two defenders in the air to head home a corner. Raphael Guerreiro scored one in the 55th minute while Rafael Leao scored the sixth in injury time (90+2).

Portugal will face Morocco in the quarter-finals on Saturday. **Sport Pages 1-8**



Spain players react after Sergio Busquets misses a penalty during a shootout in the match against Morocco at the Education City Stadium in Doha yesterday.

'Cycle to Recycle' environmental initiative launched

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

An environmental initiative "Cycle to Recycle" aimed at raising awareness about the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was launched yesterday, featuring a cycling tour around Msheireb Downtown Doha.

The event, organised by UN-Habitat in co-operation with Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, Msheireb and Doha Cyclists, brought together 30 participants from different sectors of society, including Qatari Minister of Sports and Youth HE Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser al-Ali, Morocco's



Fahad al-Sulaiti with the Doha Cyclists at the MDD tour yesterday. (Supplied picture)

Minister of Culture Othman El Ferdaos, UN-Habitat execu-

tive director Maimunah Mohd Sharif, EAA Foundation CEO

Fahad al-Sulaiti, and Rwandan cyclist Moise Mugisha.

UN-Habitat is working in more than 90 countries, including 18 in the Arab region supporting people in cities and human settlements for a better urban future.

"The idea why we're hosting it in Msheireb Downtown because this is a sustainable city, we're learning about sustainability, promoting good health and well-being and we are partnering with the UN agency called UN-Habitat," EAA Engagement manager George Tavola told *Gulf Times*.

He said the Ooredoo-sponsored event was held on the sidelines of the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar and forms part of

EAA's ongoing 'Scoring 4 the Goals' campaign.

The campaign calls for action in support of SDGs to encourage people around the world to do their part in bringing about a more peaceful and prosperous future for all.

While EAA hosts an array of activities at its pavilion at the FIFA Fan Festival throughout the World Cup, Tavola noted that its latest initiative is an offside activity aimed at promoting recycling through cycling - a carbon-neutral sustainable form of transportation.

The cyclists visited a number of green spaces, an electric charging station and Msheireb's electric tram (to promote

electric cars as opposed to carbon-based transport technologies), and museums at MDD to learn more about the history of Qatar.

"Cycle to Recycle," organisers noted, also aims to create a movement that would encourage alternative ways in promoting more sustainable cities, including shedding light on different modes of mobility.

EAA's Creative lead Mubarak Nasser al-Thani said the event underlines the synergies between the entities in Qatar and UN-Habitat to work jointly towards achieving the SDGs and the importance of using alternative sustainable transport such as cycling. **To Page 4**



Today's Results
ROUND OF 16

Morocco 0 (3) Spain 0 (0)
Morocco win 3-0 on penalties
Portugal 6 Switzerland 1

QUARTER-FINALS

December 9: Brazil vs Croatia
at Education City Stadium, 6pm

December 9: Argentina vs Netherlands
at Lusail Stadium, 10pm

December 10: Morocco vs Portugal
at Al Thumama Stadium, 6pm

December 10: England vs France
at Al Bayt Stadium, 10pm



Qatar adopted pioneering legislation in labour sector

QNA
Singapore

HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri said that Qatar is moving forward in developing economic legislation that reflects a future-exploring vision, through the implementation of its National Vision 2030 and related strategies, the application of international labour standards, and the realisation of basic principles and rights at work.

Qatar adopted a series of pioneering legislative and institutional reforms in the region, which led to the improvement of working conditions and ensuring a decent living for all labourers, indicating that these reforms included many aspects, the most important of which is the abolition of the sponsorship system, facilitating the job transition process, and providing fair

employment through Qatar visa centres, and setting a minimum wage, he said.

This came during HE the Minister's speech at the plenary session discussing report of the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation entitled 'Renewed Social Justice for a Human-Centred Recovery', which was held within the framework of the 17th regional meeting of the Asia-Pacific countries, currently in session in the Singaporean capital until Dec 9.

HE al-Marri, who is heading Qatar's delegation to the meeting, stated that the Ministry of Labour worked to establish a digital platform for complaints, as the majority of complaints were a result of the delay in the payment of wages and end-of-service benefits. He noted that more than 280,000 workers, or about 13% of the total workforce in the private sector, have had their basic wages increased to the minimum wage.



He added that social justice is a basic principle of peaceful coexistence among people, which is what Qatar believes in, stressing that achieving social justice requires the availability of many factors, including: equality, non-discrimination, equal opportunities, and restoring priority to decent work in national, international and multilateral sustainable development strategies, through close co-operation

between stakeholders, especially the tripartite bodies that make up the ILO. HE Dr al-Marri stressed that Qatar has taken an effective approach to address the Covid-19 pandemic and its health and economic effects, by taking many measures to ensure social protection for all members of society, noting that this policy mitigated the repercussions of crises and challenges facing the global economy.

He stressed that there are new legislation enacted to increase the protection of workers from heat stress, raise awareness of occupational safety and health, update the inspection policy by training labour inspectors, as well as raise awareness among domestic labourers, amplify the voice of labourers and encourage social dialogue, implement digital government initiatives, combat trafficking and forced labour, as well as the creation of a safe and balanced work environment in accordance with the standards of the ILO. HE the Minister revealed that Qatar will host next March, the 5th UN Conference for the Least Developed Countries, to meet the needs and priorities of these countries and contribute to supporting their path towards achieving development in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

He also participated in the high-level session along with



HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri addressing the gathering.

the labour ministers, representatives of employers' federations and representatives of labour unions, with the aim of discussing the broad economic context of the labour market in the Asia-Pacific region and the Arab countries, which is reflected through various economic policies and various labour policies which are necessary to promote a human-centred recovery.

The four-day conference will discuss the commitment of the production parties regarding joint work priorities that will contribute to shaping the parameters

of the activities of the ILO in the Asia-Pacific region and the Arab region in the upcoming years.

Qatar's participation in the 17th meeting for Asia-Pacific countries comes within the framework of co-operation with various international organisations in exchanging expertise and experience in the field, and consulting on the implementation and development of various mechanisms, in addition to reviewing the most prominent achievements of Qatar in the labour sector over the past years. (QNA)

Qatar keen to provide support to UN to fulfil its tasks and mandate



HE Dr Hend Abdulrahman al-Muftah

QNA
Geneva

Qatar stressed its belief in the work undertaken by the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), pointing out that it has strengthened its relationship with the institute through long-term partnerships for 2018, 2019, and 2020 to implement several programmes in vital areas, including training and improving the skills of diplomats in developing countries, international crises management, multilateral diplomacy, and other pro-

grams with a contribution from Qatar reaching \$1.5mn.

This came in a statement delivered by HE the Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva Dr Hend Abdulrahman al-Muftah, during the 9th Meeting of Friends of UNITAR in Geneva. HE al-Muftah noted that within its strategic partnership with the UN, Qatar was keen to provide various types of support that help the organisation fulfil its tasks and mandate, pointing out that Qatar has actively contributed to international efforts aimed at strengthening international peace and security, achieving development in all its fields, promoting and protecting human rights, and providing humanitarian relief through its initiatives and also through active participation in multilateral international collective action.

In this regard, she indicated Qatar's recent efforts to support international endeavours to address the Covid-19 pandemic through its direct support to countries or by providing support to the World Health Organisation (WHO). She added that the UN House in Doha – which will include representative offices of several programmes and specialised agencies of the UN – is scheduled to open soon as an interpretation of the existing partnership between Qatar and the UN, expressing her hope that there would be a representative office

of UNITAR among them and that the UN House in Doha would contribute to strengthening the co-operation between Qatar and the UN and enable the organisation to implement its initiatives and activities effectively in the region.

HE al-Muftah expressed Qatar's aspiration for Doha to be the capital of multilateral international action, especially in light of the accelerated global and regional changes witnessed by the world today, which require doubled efforts to implement the goals and objectives for which the UN was established. She said that the relationship between the UNITAR and Qatari institutions has developed by signing a partnership agreement with the Doha-based Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center, a memorandum of co-operation with the International Centre for Sport Security, and a memorandum of understanding with Silatech organisation in the field of training youth for employment.

She said that in early November, this partnership was crowned by signing an agreement to launch a postgraduate programme with a master's degree in international affairs and public policy in co-operation between Lusail University and UNITAR institute and signing a memorandum of understanding between the UNITAR institute and the Doha-based Global Organisation of Parliamentar-

ians Against Corruption (GOPAC) to launch the global initiative to train more than a thousand parliamentarian to work against corruption, which aims to consolidate the principles of justice and good governance through capacity building.

HE al-Muftah explained that under this initiative, parliamentarians would be trained to activate anti-corruption legislation and work to enact new legislations by international best practices by organising training programmes in both Geneva and Doha, as well as passing a guidebook to train parliamentarians in various world countries on how to address the phenomenon of corruption. She expressed Qatar's aspiration to sustain the distinguished relationship and partnership that brings together the Qatari institutions and the UNITAR institute; stressing Qatar's determination as one of the active friends and reliable partners of the UN and UNITAR institute to work on developing this distinguished relationship for more future prospects and work together to implement programmes that will create innovative solutions to urgent international issues, in a way that meets our aspirations to serve humanity, and makes these partnerships a model for positive co-operation that would contribute to changing the lives of many people to the best.



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Qatar backs UN efforts to assist refugees, displaced

QNA
Geneva

Qatar affirmed its keenness to be among the key supporters of the efforts of the United Nations (UN) and its agencies to assist refugees and displaced persons worldwide, without any cultural, religious or ethnic discriminations, based on its belief in human responsibility, the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing. This came in a statement delivered by Qatar's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Jawhara Abdulaziz al-Suwaidi, during the UNHCR Pledging Conference for 2023 in Geneva.

Al-Suwaidi said that the UNHCR's Global Appeal 2023 highlighted the size and perils of the current refugee and displaced crisis, with their humanitarian ordeal exacerbating and numbers surging to more than 100mn, which calls for the international community to continue joint co-ordination, share burdens, and provide the necessary support for humanitarian and developmental response efforts for refugees and the countries and societies hosting them, work to settle and end conflicts and find permanent solutions to them.

Qatar is a strategic partner of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and a member of the \$20mn and above club, which includes the key donor and UNHCR-cooperating countries, in addition to its membership in the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), as well as the establishment of a UNHCR office in Doha, al-Suwaidi added.



Jawhara Abdulaziz al-Suwaidi

She added that Qatar is among the first 10 countries to make multi-year contributions to the UNHCR, highlighting its 2020-23 contributions that amounted to more than \$61mn. Based on its belief in the role of sport as a tool to bolster humanitarian and development efforts and to boost peace, al-Suwaidi said, Qatar has recently signed a partnership agreement with the UNHCR to prepare the "Football for Development" manual, which includes a set of new educational tools, aimed at harnessing football's influence to empower refugee children and youth and provide them with life-long skills that will help them and support their host communities.

Highlighting the "FIFA Qatar 2022 for All: Sharing the Joy of Refugees and Displaced Persons" humanitarian initiative launched by Qatar coinciding with the kick-off of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, al-Suwaidi said that fan zones were launched inside refu-

gee and displaced camps in a number of countries, including Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, Turkey, Bangladesh, Sudan, Somalia, northern Syria and Kenya, to allow them to enjoy World Cup matches and activities on large screens.

She also highlighted the well-prepared sites to hold World Cup-simulating championships, as well as cultural, educational and entertainment activities and programmes aimed at harnessing sports to promote peace and contribute to mitigating the sufferings of refugees amid their difficult humanitarian, social and psychological conditions. Al-Suwaidi affirmed that Qatar will continue to provide all necessary support to the UNHCR's efforts to implement its humanitarian programmes and activities worldwide, and to boost its ability to respond to the growing humanitarian needs emanating from waves of asylum and forced displacement.

QNA
Riyadh,

Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has participated in the 3rd Gulf Forum for Voluntary Work organised by the GCC General-Secretariat in Riyadh in co-operation with the Saudi Red Crescent Authority under the theme of "Volunteering is life".

Coinciding with the International Volunteer Day, which is organised on December 5 every year, the two-day forum saw the participation of leaders and volunteer representatives, Red Crescent organisations and societies in GCC states.

The forum paid tribute to a host of volunteers in Red Crescent organisations and societies in GCC states, including three volunteers from QRCS.

During the forum's event, Co-ordinator of Volunteer Relations in QRCS, Karim Younes, discussed their efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic along with their contributions in organising events associated with Arab World Cup in Qatar and FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The attendees of the forum extended their thanks to Qatar for its invitation to hold the 4th Gulf Forum for Voluntary Work

in Doha in conjunction with Horticultural Expo “Doha Expo 2023”.

Sheikha Maryam al-Thani, one of the volunteers at QRCS who was feted during the forum, said the honour is a major responsibility and she is always keen to serve the country.

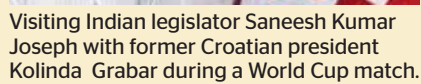
Volunteer Aisha al-Emadi, who was also honoured, said she was pleased to participate in the forum. (QNA)

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

An Indian politician, who attended some of the World Cup matches, has praised the way Qatar organised the mega sporting event and says it is a model for others to follow.

"The Doha Metro has been the central nerve that connected the stadiums and made the travelling astonishingly easy and simple," T J Saneesh Kumar Joseph, a current member of the legislative assembly of Kerala, told *Gulf Times*.

Representing the constituency of Chalakudy in central Kerala, Joseph paid a visit to *Gulf Times* and interacted with the staff and shared his impressions about Qatar and the World Cup. "Qatar has arranged world class facilities for



the World Cup. They are simply superb and the access to the stadiums are flawless and fantas-

tic. People could move freely and seamlessly reach the stadiums which is something great considering the magnitude of the tournament. This is a real model for other countries that host mega events," he continued.

Joseph who is a first time legislator is also on his maiden visit to Qatar said that the World Cup was also an opportunity for enjoying the Arabian hospitality. "It has been a great experience for me as I am overwhelmed by the hospitality of the country and its people. The people are so welcoming and it has been a great cultural exchange for me," he pointed out.

The legislator also disclosed that he plans Athirappally Water Falls, a major tourist spot in his constituency to be transformed into top destination of international standard. "The vision is to make Athirappally, a world class destination such as the Niagara Falls," he added.

Qatari talent Yousef al-Sulaiti - more popularly known as Big Soof.

Diego Camberos, chief operating officer at Vodafone Qatar, said: "Through our 'We Fan To-

gether' campaign, we are proud to join forces with not just renowned entities but also home-grown artistes to showcase the many brilliant talents that make Qatar such a vibrant host nation.

"This partnership springs from our desire to create something unique for fans to enjoy during the tournament and that stays with them even beyond it. It also echoes our thorough belief that the interplay between technology and sports can help create unforgettable fan experiences."

Al-Sulaiti said: "I'm honoured to collaborate with Vodafone on its latest campaign and to be supporting the most exciting time for Qatar as a country. This campaign is something 'out of the box' and is a bold move for any Qatari brand to make, and I see it as a way to in-

spire hope in future talents.

“The whole experience has been great fun and allowed me to really stretch the boundaries of my creativity, as I try to communicate the values and personalities of the teams in a way that engages the listener and includes a lot of different ideas. It's also inspiring to be part of something which is ultimately uniting people through the power of music, sport, and innovation.”

The 'We Fan Together' campaign will run until Dec 18. Throughout the tournament, fans can participate in a host of activities, offers, and experiences.

To match their feelings and emotions during the event, Vodafone has also created 'Fan Mood Playlists' on Spotify and Anghami. Other on-ground Vodafone activations will also be happening during the tournament. For updates, visit www.vodafone.qa/fans

Hyatt Plaza patrons can look forward to a host of exciting indoor games and activities to continue on celebrating the FIFA World Cup - Qatar 2022 season. "Football Fever is in full swing, especially here at Hyatt Plaza" stated Feroz Moideen, CEO - of Qatar Central Markets Company (QCMC) "This is a great opportunity for families to come together for fun games during this incredibly joyous occasion, and to be able to have the chance to win some of our invaluable prizes." He added: "These activities could provide a great retail experience and promote wholesome activities that encourage engagement and physical well-being of our community."

Families competed against each other, in an environment filled with healthy competition and raucous fun. A special stage was erected inside the mall to host entertaining and fun family activities and competitions. Children and their parents engaged in a variety of games on the stage and the Winners were rewarded with invaluable prizes presented by Hyatt Plaza sponsors. All kids partook in Henna painting, face, pottery, and t-shirt painting activities, as well. Families were treated to celebratory FIFA music that helped set the mood, and Dazzling performances, as well as a traditional tent, where they had the opportunity to take photos with falcons, to forever cement their memories.

Highlighting all the great festivities and family fun at Hyatt Plaza, Feroz Moideen said: "The joy we see and feel emanating from our patrons daily, affirms the success of our strategies. We set out to create a festive environment for all during FIFA and this is exactly what we keep on delivering."



Team Doha Metro earns praise with excellent service during World Cup

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

The reputation of Doha Metro staff have risen to stardom levels among FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 fans and tourists, who have heaped praise on them while lauding the pivotal role that Qatar Rail is playing in ensuring smooth transportation to stadiums and various tourist destinations.

“We are glad that our determination and dedication pay us back,” a metro staff member at Al Wakra station told *Gulf Times*. “We earn much praise everywhere while serving passengers.”

For the Doha Metro staff, serving at the stations is not a just a job.

“We are proud that we facilitate the smooth organising of a crucial component of the mega event,” said another staff member, on duty at Umm Ghuwailina station. “We enjoy guiding the fans, managing the crowd and checking the cards. This can’t be smoothly done without dedication and attention. Passion, rather than anything else, drives us.”

The Doha Metro serves fans 21 hours a day from Saturday to Thursday and 18 hours on Friday, with shorter train headway times and increased operational capacity and more than 5,000 additional staff deployed to serve the tournament.

Abubakr Abbass, a 23-year-old metro staff member from Kenya, drew



Doha Metro staff are being praised for their outstanding service.
PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam

Qatar’s permanent delegation in New York organises football matches at UN HQ

Qatar’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, in co-operation with the permanent delegate of the Principality of Monaco, held friendly football matches in the North Lawn of the United Nations headquarters in New York, to celebrate the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The event, which is being held for the first time in the history of the UN, follows Qatar and Monaco’s co-chairing of the Group of Friends of Sport. The event was attended by a large number of permanent representatives of United Nations member states, heads of accredited diplomatic missions, and UN personnel.

HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the UN Sheikhha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani inaugurated the matches in which four teams participated, representing the European and African group, the Asia and the Pacific group, and the Americas and the Caribbean group. The Asia-Pacific Group team won the championship and was honoured with the trophy presented by HE Sheikhha Alya, while the other three teams received souvenirs related to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. — **QNA**

much attention while using a creative method of directing people to the metro station.

His video of guiding the fans while sitting on a tennis-umpire chair and armed with a large foam finger and a megaphone went viral on social media.

The Kenyan was later invited as a special guest at the match between



and make things easy for us,” said Canadian fan Chris Dorrington. “The credit of ensuring smooth transportation goes to the metro staff.”

“Qatar’s metro is much nicer than most of the metros across the world,” Abraham Schewel said, praising the metro and its staff. “It’s a nice place to see people and cheer for the teams.”

The Doha Metro and the staff are prepared to deal with any expected influx of crowds during the tournament, with the number of trains having been increased from 75 to 110 for continuous service during the World Cup.

As part of the preparations, training programmes and drills were held ahead of the tournament.



The MoPH is partnering with the US CDC for field epidemiology training programme in Qatar.

MoPH, US CDC partner up for field programme

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have recently signed an agreement to implement the CDC Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) in Qatar.

The aim is to strengthen Qatar’s healthcare system and bolster growth and excellence in all basic public health areas, capacity building, and exchange of expertise.

As part of the agreement, a CDC delegation of experts visited Qatar recently to assess training needs and develop joint action plans.

During the visit, the technical and training needs of the health sector in Qatar were assessed to obtain a deeper understanding, including disease surveillance mechanisms, targeted training sector, and supervisory and teaching capabilities.

A number of activities were organised, includ-

ing meetings with representatives of MoPH departments and sections and representatives of the healthcare sector, as well as field visits to government, healthcare and academic institutions.

The FETP is being implemented worldwide to build the core capacity of the public health workforce, strengthen programmes for disease surveillance, outbreak response and prevention, and public health protection.

Ministry of Public Health adds food safety to 16000 services

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has announced the addition of food safety to the services provided through the unified call centre for the health sector in Qatar over the 16000 hotline.

See infographic on the right for details.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Respected Public

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) announces adding food safety services to the services provided through the unified call center for the health sector in Qatar over the hotline **16000**

Calls and inquiries related to all food safety department services are received by selecting the services of (MoPH) No. 5 and then selecting the Department and pressing No. 2 as follows:

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All E-Services

1B All inquiries related to food safety and complaints about any food facility by selecting No. 2

Thank you for your cooperation with us.

QF-RE-110

Recall order for Nissan, BMW models

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana, has announced the recall of Nissan Sunny and Kicks, 2022 model, due to a possible defect in the steering column that leads to a sudden loss of the steering assist with a warning light on instrumental panel.

The MoCI, in co-operation with Alfordan Automobiles, also announced the recall of BMW 735i Saloon, 760i xDrive Saloon, and 740i Saloon, 2022 models, due to a possible defect in the fuel tank top valve.

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



Al Shamal officers hold inspections of food outlets

Al Shamal Municipality’s Health Control Section has intensified its inspection campaign on food outlets and facilities under its jurisdiction, with more focus on restaurants and cafeterias.

The workers were reminded of the necessary regulations and rules of food health and safety. The campaign in particular covered Al Ruwais City market for imported products.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **KUNJAHAMU JANEENA THATTATH**
holder of
INDIAN Passport No. K9611090
QID No. 28035623404

hereby change my name
from
KUNJAHAMU JANEENA THATTATH
to
JANEENA THATTATH KUNJAHAMU

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **DEVASSY WILSON KANNAMPUZHA**
holder of
INDIAN Passport No. T8262312
QID No. 28035610217

hereby change my name
from
DEVASSY WILSON KANNAMPUZHA
to
WILSON KANNAMPUZHA DEVASSY

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

Maritime heritage show at Katara Dhow Fest draws crowds

Traditional tools, handicrafts, music, cuisine wow all

Visitors and guests of the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar have been experiencing a distinctive cultural and tourism experience at Katara - the Cultural Village. Among the key attractions are pavilions of the countries participating in the traditional dhow festival on the Katara Beach, amid an atmosphere rich in maritime heritage.

Nine countries are participating in the 12th edition of the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival - which coincides with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and runs until December 18. Among the pavilions is the Iraqi House with its various activities that are drawing the interest of visitors. On display are traditional crafts and handicrafts such as carpets and palm fronds, in addition to various exhibits related to the marine heritage in Iraq. Meanwhile, the supervisor of the Omani House said: "As a whole, the Omani participation is distinguished at the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival, whether in relation to the exhibits of the Omani House pertaining to the Omani maritime heritage or the famous Omani sweets industry, as well as the presence of a number of craftsmen specialised in Al Tawasha - fishing tools. We also have an Omani folk band, which continuously presents a show that draws the admiration of the audience."

The Tanzanian House provides the public with an insight into the marine heritage of the African country. One of the participants at their pavilion said: "We provide visitors with everything related to the sea and fishing, whether in terms of jewellery or clothes and bags, as well as handicrafts related to women's adornment in particular. There are also some pictures and drawings inspired by the culture of Tanzania. Our booth is witnessing a great turnout of people from different nationalities."

The Zanzibar pavilion supervisor added: "We participate in the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival every year. We provide visitors with live performances of painting and traditional crafts in Zanzibar related to fishing and sea work, which show that we share a common heritage and history with other countries of the region."



Katara is buzzing with activity thanks to its multiple attractions.



The Katara Traditional Dhow Festival features a number of pavilions that offer various activities of an artistic, cultural and commercial nature. The Palestinian pavilion presents a scene inspired by the traditional Palestinian life with a group of women preparing traditional bread. This pavilion is highly popular with international visitors, a press statement notes. Traditional dresses at the festival also attract visitors, with the heritage photography pavilion seeing women, men and even children take souvenir photographs wearing the Qatari dress.

Traditional marine crafts are also attracting audiences. These include the making of medicines for fishing, live in front of the audience, and the craft related to the manufacture of ships and boats (Qalaf), which occupies a prominent position among traditional industries for their various types and uses in fishing and diving, pearls and trade, in addition to other folk crafts such as palmettes, wooden items, blacksmithing, spinning industry (fishing nets), ropes, gargoyles (metal cages) and the manufacture of other ancient marine artefacts.





Katara Cultural Village has continued to present a diverse panorama of events and activities within its festive programme for the ongoing FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, with a remarkable presence of visitors, comprising tourists of various nationalities and football fans. The murals on Katara buildings have become a favourite background for many to take selfies and photos. Joseph, a fan from France said: "I was very impressed by these murals, as I am a fan of graffiti art. I also admired the sculptures and works of art scattered throughout the Katara." Mario from Argentina said: "Katara is magical and beautiful. We took a lot of photos, whether with people or with these beautiful works of art. I also loved the architecture, its view of the sea, and diverse and luxurious buildings." Naomi from Ukraine said: "The beauty is that you can learn about many things at the same time at Katara, such as the culture of the people of the country and other cultures, in addition to getting to know the local cuisine and its delicious dishes, and meeting people of various nationalities. Personally, I loved the art exhibitions and the interest in presenting the local culture in the best way." Dr Najeeb Nazim, the general supervisor of Katara Oud Centre said: "We offer three daily sessions for the public to enjoy Oud recitals of famous artists Siddiqui, Najib Nazim, Riad Boualem, Mohamed al-Sulaiti, Faisal al-Najm. We will also present two lectures on the history of the Oud, in which we will discuss the various stages during the 5,000 years of the history of this ancient instrument."



Today at 7pm at Katara Oud Centre's headquarters in Building 6 there will be a special concert with the participation of a group of well-known musicians, he added.

Near the model of the largest sports shoe in the world, the activities of the Qatar Society of Engineers were launched - "Football and Sports Engineering". It includes a variety of activities for children and adults which assess the performance of football players by tracking the movement of players. Parents can obtain a report about their children's football skills after conducting simple tests using artificial intelligence.

Many major sports institutions



and companies are participating in these events, including Paris Saint-Germain, Lusail Football Academy, Asura, and N S A Tech, the latter two specialising in Artificial Intelligence. In Building 46 there is an

exhibition of rare watches from international brands and dating back to different periods of time, in addition to paintings, books, and clippings from old and new newspapers and magazines about watches.

The Katara Publishing House is scheduled to launch 22 books it published on the occasion of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, today afternoon, in Building 18, along with eight books, including those translated into English.

Further, the visitors to Katara watch daily, starting at 3.30pm, a military show presented by the Military Show Centre and the Qatari Armed Forces Music Battalion on the Katara waterfront.

Katara Cultural Village continues to be a major draw for citizens, residents and guests from all over the world, who are in Qatar to support their respective national teams participating in the 2022 FIFA World Cup. As part of its festive programmes coinciding with the World Cup, the 12th edition of the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival has become a distinguished destination and a window for visitors to the maritime heritage of Qatar and the Gulf region. It sheds light on the luminous glories of the coasts of Qatar and the Gulf of the past. Similarly, the many museums at the festival are enlightening visitors through a dazzling tour highlighting the maritime heritage. Khaled al-Badr, the official in charge of the Bogsum Museum, established the museum as he was driven by his passion and the profession of his forefathers. He participates in the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival every year. "The museum includes equipment and methods that were used by pearl diving people in the past, in order to show them to the public and visitors who have come to Qatar from all over the world to attend the football World Cup. We talk to them about our maritime heritage, how to dive and obtain pearls, and the methods used in this profession that our fathers and grandfathers have always practised, in addition to introducing them to the types of ships and traditional dhows related to fishing and pearl diving," he explained. "They are also shown how to manufacture



Glimpses from the activities taking place at Katara, which are attracting visitors from around the world.

the sails used on old ships and boats, and their accessories procured from the equipment of the shipbuilder.”

Al-Badr pointed out that the pavilion is displaying the guiding and navigational tools that were used by sailors in the past on the deck of the ship during their fishing and diving trips to know the wind directions and weather conditions – being guided by the location of the stars and planets and their movement in different months. He said, “The museum also displays a collection of rare documentary images that highlight the history of football in Qatar and narrate the activities of Al Furjan folk teams and their dirt courts in the past, which embodies the heritage of Qatari football. In addition, there is another set of archival photographs on the urban renaissance of the city of Doha from its beginnings, a third set of photos documenting diving trips, which also provide details of the daily life of the past generations as they crossed the seas and oceans in search of livelihood, amid harsh and strenuous living conditions. “These snapshots show the

sailors' sessions and co-operation between them, their descent to the depths of the water, the moments of the diver's assistant waiting for the signal from the diver to pull him from the depths, and their resting after a tiring day of work and their sleep on the ropes." Al-Badr speaks proudly of his forefathers who worked in the past as divers and captains on ships before the start of the oil era and his enrolment in an American university to study for a Bachelor's degree in Aviation Science Management.

He says he loves the profession because of the lessons he learnt with regard to co-operation, patience, endurance and how to face risks, noting that the Bogsom Museum is witnessing an increasing number of visitors, tourists and World Cup guests of all nationalities. They have a great love and endless passion for learning about the history of Qatar and its maritime heritage and the desire to explore the relationship of the people of Qatar with the sea, the details of trips and the secrets of diving. On the other hand, the Falconry Area event at Al-Hikma Square

has also witnessed a great turnout of visitors, especially foreigners who are keen to take souvenir photographs while holding falcons. The event includes introducing visitors to the origins of the art of falconry as an ancient Arab heritage. The Ministry of Social Development and Family has received visitors of all nationalities at its pavilion in Katara, with the participation of different institutions and centres affiliated with the ministry. The Al Thuraya Planetarium also continues its activities in addition to the usual five daily shows, as it has launched new activities starting from the beginning of December. These include space travel, 3D space oasis and the activity of the 'ghost of the universe'. Visitors from different countries and nationalities have been expressing happiness at visiting the Cultural Village and following up on the various activities and events it offers, expressing admiration for the architecture of Katara and the diversity of its facilities. Mark from England said: "This is the first time I'm visiting Qatar,





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GULF TIMES

US currency, global problem: Mighty dollar creates bigger headaches

The greenback has an overarching sway over the financial world. The US currency is on one side of almost 90% of foreign-exchange transactions and accounts for two-thirds of international debt.

Virtually all international trades in oil are priced in dollars. The mighty greenback has surged against most other currencies, driven by a combination of higher US interest rates, diverging economic prospects and a hunt by investors for safety.

Against the yen, the dollar hit a mark last seen in 1990, around the beginning of Japan's so-called lost decade; and against the euro it strengthened to better than 1-to-1 for the first time since 2002, when the common currency was still in its infancy, according to a Bloomberg report.

Relative to China's currency, the greenback has hit its most formidable level since the 2008 financial crisis.

The dollar now reigns stronger than at any time since the 1980s, according to an index from the US Federal Reserve. By that measure, the US currency climbed more than 10% in the first 10 months of 2022, eclipsing even the highs seen during the Covid-related financial panic of 2020.

Several factors are playing out to bolster the dollar. They include a combination of more alluring interest rates in the US and a feeling for many investors that their money is safer in dollar-denominated assets during troubling times: War in Ukraine, slowing global economic growth and other woes.

The Fed has raised its benchmark rate from near zero to 4% in a mere six months.

In more normal times, global policymakers might welcome a weakening of their currencies, which tends to stimulate growth by making exports more competitive, while encouraging consumers and businesses to buy local.

But the main problem that's been tormenting finance officials from Frankfurt to Seoul for the past year has been inflation. Weak currencies add fuel to that by increasing the cost of imported products such as fuel and food.

This is a concern for many emerging markets in particular. They tend to lean more on so-called hard currencies like the dollar than on smaller domestic debt markets.

Nations that have chosen to peg the value of their own currencies to the dollar – like most in the Gulf region – face challenges both in maintaining that link and in dealing with the economic fallout of basically importing the dollar's strength, which weighs on policy and prices domestically.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said she believed financial markets were working as they should.

The Fed has been focused on fighting inflation. From its perspective, a strong currency actually helps.

Here's the flipside of the strong-dollar narrative.

For sure, the greenback looked unstoppable earlier this year when investors were adding to bets on inflation and US rate hikes.

Now they're turning against it in droves.

Former bulls including JPMorgan Asset Management and Morgan Stanley say the era of dollar strength is ending as cooling prices spur markets to trim bets on further Fed tightening.

The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index, which tracks the US currency against 10 of its major peers, has dropped more than 6% from its September high.

Also, the greenback has weakened against all of its Group-of-10 peers over the past month, sliding about 7% against the yen and New Zealand dollar.

As a matter of fact, when the markets are teetering, investors view the US currency as the safest haven, even more so than gold, the yen or the Swiss franc.

The dollar's dominant status as a global reserve currency means other countries also rely on its stability.

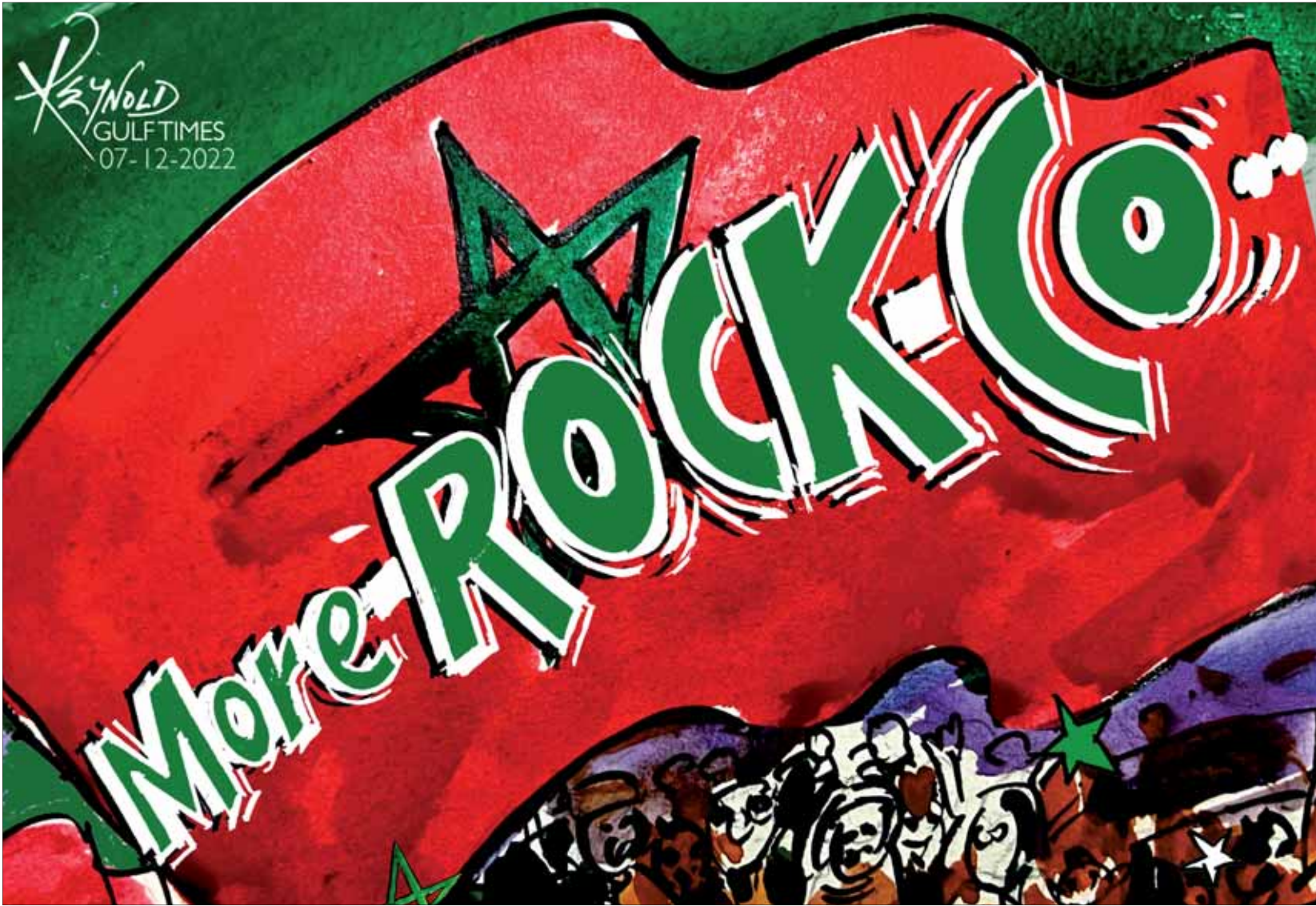
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Disrupting the disruptors

By Roger McNamee
Stanford

After a decade of unconstrained growth – when it seemed that a new billionaire was minted every day – the tech industry has finally hit a rough patch. Elon Musk's erratic behaviour following his takeover of Twitter has left the financially leveraged platform in a precarious state. The crypto exchange FTX's sudden implosion has vaporised a business that was recently valued at \$32bn, taking many other crypto firms with it. Meta (Facebook) is laying off 11,000 people, 13% of its workforce, and Amazon is shedding 10,000.

What are we supposed to make of these setbacks? Are they isolated incidents, or signs of structural change?

Twitter was already struggling. After taking on debt and overpaying for the platform, Musk immediately began cutting costs, declaring that the company was losing \$4mn per day. His first layoffs swept out 80% of the company's contractors and half of its permanent staff, including key engineers and most of the content-moderation team.

Musk then reversed the bans on Donald Trump and thousands of far-right provocateurs, as well as ending the enforcement of rules against "harmful misinformation"

about Covid-19 and vaccines. Many advertisers have paused their campaigns to avoid having their brands associated with toxic content. As I write, Twitter is in chaos.

As the second-largest crypto exchange, FTX (and its founder, Sam Bankman-Fried) came out of nowhere, built a huge public profile, and then blew up – all in the space of a few years. Details are still emerging, but the bankruptcy specialist now serving as FTX's CEO (and who previously oversaw Enron's bankruptcy), says he has never seen "such a complete failure of corporate controls and such a complete absence of trustworthy information." The ripple effects are being felt across the crypto industry.

Meta's layoffs reflect the company's stalled growth after a meteoric 17-year run. Young people have embraced TikTok, undermining the growth of Meta's Instagram platform, and Apple has introduced a tool that lets iPhone users opt out of sharing data with platforms like Facebook and Instagram, costing Meta as much as \$12.8bn this year. Meanwhile, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has made a huge bet on virtual reality, attempting to create a general-purpose operating system for an industry that does not yet exist. The company has already spent \$36bn on this vision, with little to show for it.

Other tech companies are also retrenching, owing to a broader post-pandemic reversion to the trend line for online retail, as well as disappointing

results from some individual products. But more to the point, I believe the global economy is in the early stages of a structural change that will leave the tech industry – the biggest beneficiary of the prior economic regime – particularly vulnerable to disruption.

The economic environment of the past decade was ideal for business. Interest rates and inflation across the advanced economies were exceptionally and persistently low. Peaceful relations among major powers underpinned easy access to global markets and sustained supply chains that optimised labour costs.

But while prolonged economic stability benefited market leaders in every industry, it lulled executives, investors, and politicians into complacency. Many took on more risk, seemingly without consequence, leading to a mispricing of risk throughout the economy. When the pandemic hit in early 2020, it shocked most of the economy. But lockdowns and quarantines were great for tech companies, which kept hiring through the first half of this year, seemingly unaware that they, too, might be subject to disruption.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine changed everything, catching most corporations and even governments off guard. I believe it will be remembered as the trigger that ushered in a new economic era, with interest rates, inflation, geopolitical tensions, and instability at significantly higher levels than in the

past decade. There has been a loss of trust among major powers, and it will be many years before governments are once again willing to subordinate other issues to economic interests.

For tech, a new economic environment presents both challenges and opportunities. Many tech businesses will not recover. Crypto, Twitter, and Meta's best days appear to be behind them. Other tech businesses, probably including Amazon and Apple, will recover, but perhaps more slowly than they would like.

Some new opportunities will emerge. Enterprises that are restructuring manufacturing and supply chains will need technology. As workers leverage their newfound bargaining power to demand a greater share of the returns, demand for tech-based automation will likely increase. And as consumers adjust to new economic realities, they will stand to benefit from a range of applications and services that do not exist today.

While it may be too much to ask, policymakers should seize this moment to steer the tech industry in more desirable directions. For years, the industry – particularly the social-media platforms – has weakened democracy, undermined public health, and jeopardised public safety. To the extent that policymakers have done anything to rein in the industry, they have focused on privacy and competition – efforts that have accomplished too little and come too late.

The focus of policymakers and regulators should shift from symptoms to root causes: namely, the industry's culture, business models, and structure. The culture of the industry is hyper-focused on speed, scale, and profits, without regard for consumer safety. Too many products – including major Internet platforms, self-driving cars, artificial intelligence, smart devices, crypto, deep fakes, and facial recognition – are simply unsafe. There are no rules requiring tech companies to put consumer safety first; worse, the economic incentives encourage exactly the opposite kind of behaviour.

Similarly, the "surveillance capitalism" business model – which uses big data and behavioural economics to manipulate behaviour – is an assault on human autonomy analogous to child labour. And it is an assault that has spread from Internet platforms to many other industries, including healthcare, transportation, and financial services.

Finally, the concentration of economic power in the tech industry prevents new ideas and business models from coming to market. With today's macroeconomic disruption, policymakers have an opportunity to make up for years of laissez-faire policies. Tech companies should be forced to demonstrate safety as a condition of market access. Surveillance capitalism should be banned. Monopolistic business practices must be outlawed, and monopolies broken up.

Protecting democracy, public health, and public safety is good politics. It also happens to be the right thing to do. There will never be a better time. – Project Syndicate

● Roger McNamee is a co-founder of Elevation Partners and an early investor in Facebook, Google, and Amazon.



AFP
Thessaloniki

Palestinians slam Israeli bid to Judaize mosque

Israeli actions 'a direct threat to region's stability'

AFP
Johannesburg

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (**right**) posing for a picture with a wounded Ukrainian soldier in a hospital during his visit to Kharkiv region. (**AFP**)

Latvia revokes licence for exiled Russia TV channel

AFP
Riga

Iran says 9 face death over N-scientist's assassination

Khamenei calls for overhaul of Iran's cultural system

Iran's Supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, yesterday called for "revolutionary reconstruction of the country's cultural system", state media reported, as nationwide protests kept up pressure on the authorities. "It is necessary to revolutionise the country's cultural structure... the supreme council should observe the weaknesses of culture in different fields of the country," Khamenei said during his meeting with a state cultural council.

Iran has been rocked by unrest since the death of Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini on September 16 in police custody after her arrest for "inappropriate Islamic attire".

Ex-Spanish king wins partial victory in harassment case

Three appeal judges in London yesterday ruled that the former mistress of Spain's ex-king Juan Carlos I could not sue him for harassment in the English courts for the period while he was on the throne.

The judges gave in a written judgment that he was "immune from the jurisdiction" in England and Wales until his abdication in 2014. That means that Corinna Zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn can still pursue the 84-year-old former monarch in the English courts for his alleged behaviour after that time.

Zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn, who lives in England, wants an "injunction and damages" due to "a continuous and ongoing campaign of harassment" against her.

She claims the campaign began in 2012, following the "break-up of an intimate romantic relationship", and continues to this day. She filed a harassment suit in London in 2020, alleging Juan Carlos pressured her to return gifts worth €65mn (\$65mn), including works of art and jewellery.

Her legal representatives called yesterday's ruling "disappointing", but added it only affected a narrow part of their case. "Corinna's claim can now progress towards trial in the High Court in London," said Michael Kim of law firm Kobre & Kim.

"The judgment applies to a very narrow issue. It concerns only the period when Juan Carlos was the reigning King of Spain," he added. "The overwhelming part of Corinna's claim, from 2014, remains unaffected and should proceed to trial."

Juan Carlos's lawyers Carter-Ruck Solicitors repeated his position that Zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn's claims were false. "In its judgment the Court of Appeal emphasised that His Majesty 'emphatically denies that he engaged in, or directed, any harassment of (the claimant) and rejects her allegations... as untrue'," a statement read.

Juan Carlos, listed in court under his full name Juan Carlos Alfonso Victor Maria De Borbon y Borbon, has not appeared at hearings so far. In March, the High Court in London fully rejected Juan Carlos's claim that English courts had no jurisdiction to hear the case because he had state immunity as a royal.

Judge Matthew Nicklin said that "whatever special status the defendant retained under the law and constitution of Spain, he was no longer a 'sovereign' or 'head of state' so as to entitle him to personal immunity".

The 70-year-old president found

But his explanations did not convince the special panel, which raised questions about the source of the cash.

Zelensky visits Donbas near the 'difficult' Ukraine front

AFP
Kyiv

Russia's invasion and its decision to conscript hundreds of thousands of men has set off an exodus of Russians from the country, including critical politicians and journalists.



In this file photo taken on May 23, 2022 former king Juan Carlos I of Spain, waves from a car as he arrives at La Zarzuela palace in Madrid, to meet with his son, King Felipe VI of Spain. (AFP)

He challenged the ruling and took the case to the Court of Appeal. Court submissions claim Juan Carlos, who is married, was in an "intimate romantic relationship" with the divorcee from 2004 to 2009 and showered her with gifts. She alleged that Juan Carlos began harassing her after their relationship broke down, using threats, break-ins at her properties and surveillance. Gunshots were fired at and damaged security cameras at the front gate of the property, she alleged, accusing the former king of being angry at her refusals. The couple's relationship became known in 2012, when the monarch broke a hip while on holiday in Botswana with Zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn and had to be flown home, sparking public anger during a period of record unemployment in Spain. Two years later, dogged by the scandals and health problems, Juan Carlos abdicated at the age of 76 in favour of his son Felipe VI, who has now publicly distanced himself from his father. Juan Carlos went into self-imposed exile in 2020. The pair attended the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in September and were seated together.



MoFA secretary-general at Darb Al Saai



HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi visited Darb Al Saai at Umm Salal on Monday and toured the various cultural and heritage activities. He praised the excellent organisation of the Darb Al Saai and highlighted that the new headquarters has a variety of activities that promote both authentic Qatari heritage and the modern arts.



Dignitaries tour Darb Al Saai

HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani took a group of dignitaries on a tour of Darb Al Saai on Monday. HE the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Mohamed bin Abdulla bin Mohamed bin al-Yousef al-Sulaiti, Cabinet Secretary-General Hamad bin Ahmed al-Muhannadi, renowned poet Dr Hassan al-Naama, consultant at the Diwan of the Crown Prince of Kuwait Nasser Abdulla al-Rawdan, former GCC secretary-general Abdulla Yaquob Bishara, and Hamad bin Saud al-Sayyari, chairman at Saudi Industrial Investment Group and National Petrochemical Company, were among the dignitaries.



Show of unity

A good number of visitors converged on Darb Al Saai in Umm Salal yesterday to witness the activities organised ahead of Qatar National Day on December 18. This year's celebrations are under the slogan *Our Unity Source of Our Strength*.



Volunteering has become part of the culture in Qatar: expert

QNA
Doha

Experts have underlined that volunteering has become a way of life and culture in society in Qatar, following the success of volunteers in achieving their duties in the ongoing FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and all major events held by state institutions.

In a symposium held on Monday evening at Darb Al Saai in Umm Salal, in conjunction with International Volunteer Day, which falls on December 5 each year, the participants addressed the issue under the title of *Volunteering is an Arab and human heritage and culture*.

Director of the Volunteer Strategy Department at the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy Nasser al-Mogaiseeb, Qatar Voluntary Centre director Moeed al-Qahtani, writer and journalist Najat Ali Mohamed, and Wadha al-Athba, a

trainer and leader in volunteer work and its management, participated in the symposium.

They underscored the importance of volunteer work and its connection to the values of giving stemming from the Islamic religion.

Al-Mogaiseeb said that more than 20,000 volunteers have been selected out of 500,000 who wish to volunteer, after interviewing approximately 55,000, adding that there is a desire among the volunteers to ensure the success of the world's most prominent sporting event.

The SC official also spoke about the art of managing volunteers and defining their tasks to ensure success, and stressed that the culture of volunteering has become part of the culture in Qatar.

Al-Mogaiseeb noted that volunteering is not limited to physical form, but also exists in the form of intellectual volunteering, contributing to putting forward ideas and projects to serve the community.

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

Here are some highlights:

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

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

🌊 **Welcome to Qatar: Corniche**
Welcome to Qatar is a must-see for everyone during the tournament, featuring the Circle of Lights – a shimmering circle suspended above the water that transforms to poetically

narrate wonderful stories.
Daily shows start 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!
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 shapes of Arab culture, blending rave with Arabia.
Taking place until December 18 from 8pm-2am.

Live it all in Qatar!



Young fans at Katara.

Located next to Al Wakra Metro Station, 12 minutes from Doha.
Access: Event admission ticket required.
20% discount on your first ticket

and 50% for any other ticket you purchase within the same order when using promo code Hayya50.
This offer is valid on all ticket categories until the last day of the festival,

on a limited number of tickets.
Visit <https://aravia.mdlbeast.com/en> for 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 artists and DJs, extraordinary sculpted stages with a fire-breathing spider, and much more.
Open until December 19, daily from 6pm-3am, at Ras Bu Fontas.
The organisers have announced free entry for women, couples and everyone wearing a national team jersey before 10pm.
Regular tickets are available from \$49 via Tixbox.com

🎵 **Daydream Festival**
The Daydream Festival returns to Doha with an unparalleled line-up and a brand-new stage.
The festival will host some of the world's largest Electronic Dance Music (EDM) artists at the Doha Golf Club.
The festival opened late last month and continues on 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.