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## Kuwaiti PM arrives in Doha



Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf 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 Israeli 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.

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-final 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 Bou-nou, 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 Yamiq 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.

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



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

**A**n environmental initiative "Cycle to Recycle" claimed 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**



# 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 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 Abdalrahman 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 Abdalrahman 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 memorandum of understanding with Silatech organisation 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 cooperation that would contribute to changing the lives of many people to the best.



## Holiday Celebration

Getting into the holiday spirit will be easy at Toshi restaurant. From 20<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022, we will be serving a lavish five-course dinner, featuring some contemporary favourites with an Asian twist. It's the perfect seasonal meal to enjoy with your loved ones.

Toshi's festive five-course dinner set menu for QAR 220 including a glass of sparkling pink grapes per person.

For reservations, please call +974 4041 6911, WhatsApp +974 5083 7102 or email [toshi.doha@millenniumhotels.com](mailto:toshi.doha@millenniumhotels.com).



## 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.

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 refugee 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.



Jawhara Abdulaziz al-Suwaidi



Architect's impression of the QM's proposed Lusail Museum.



QM Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Qatar Central Bank Governor HE Sheikh Bandar bin Mohamed al-Thani and other dignitaries at the event.

## Acclaimed architect previews vision for Lusail Museum

**S**wiss Pritzker Prize-winning architect Jacques Herzog shared plans for Qatar Museums' (QM) proposed Lusail Museum at an event at Club Suisse Doha (CSD) on Sunday in recognition of the UN General Assembly International Day of Banks.

The forum focused on bilateral relations between Switzerland and Qatar in the areas of business and innovation, as well as cultural exchange, a QM statement said. Hosted by the Swiss ambassador Edgar Doerig, the event was presented under the patronage of the Qatar Central Bank Governor HE Sheikh Bandar bin Mohamed al-Thani.

The event was attended by international chairs and CEOs of banks and financial service companies as well as Qatari dignitaries including QM Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, and Lusail Museum President, HE Sheikh Dr Abdullah bin Ali bin Saud al-Thani.

The Lusail Museum will be constructed in Lusail, the home of Sheikh Jassim bin Mohamed bin Thani, the statesman, diplomat, and poet who was the founder of Qatar. QM is scheduled to break ground on the new Lusail Museum in 2023.

Through vast and diverse collections, the Lusail Museum



Swiss ambassador Edgar Doerig speaks at the session as Swiss Pritzker Prize-winning architect Jacques Herzog and others look on.

will tell nuanced stories about different groups of people connected across the Indian Ocean, focusing on themes of move-

ment, identity, and exchange, while serving as a forum for much-needed dialogue about global challenges. QM is cur-

rently showcasing a special exhibition at QM Gallery Al Riwaq, Lusail Museum: Tales of a Connected World, which previews the vision for the new museum.

The exhibition presents plans for the Lusail Museum, its architectural design, and its world-class collection of art. The exhibition sheds light on the past, present, and future of Lusail by showcasing 247 artefacts. The central space in the exhibition is dedicated to the architecture of the new museum. This space is curated by the firm Herzog & de Meuron and presents the design process through wall projections and a large floor installation

showcasing working models, concept images, and material samples.

The room also includes a newly commissioned model of the Museum. Accompanying Tales of a Connected World are three additional special exhibitions – presented at the Garage Gallery, Fire Station, QM Gallery Katara, and the Museum of Islamic Art – which displays a set of fourteen ceremonial tea bowls inspired by Qatar's natural environment and people, featuring the poetry of Sheikh Jassim.

The Lusail Museum will be located on Al Maha Island, Lusail, complementing the newly opened Lusail Wonderland Park developed in association with Estithmar Ventures and IMG, in collaboration with Qatar Tourism and Qatari Diar, the statement added.



Football fan, Najira, drove over 3,000km from Kerala to Doha to attend this "once in a lifetime event."



In recognition of her determination to attend her favourite team's game, QNB offered Najira and her family, tickets to attend matches of Argentina's national team and to attend the last 10 minutes of the game from the pitch.

## QNB felicitates Indian traveller for 3,000km World Cup journey

**Q**NB Group, the Official Middle East and Africa Supporter of the FIFA World Cup 2022, presented match tickets and an unforgettable experience to Najira Noushad, a traveller, blogger and a dedicated supporter of Argentine's team to attend during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. Football fan, Najira, drove over 3,000km from Kerala to Doha to attend

this "once in a lifetime event."

The bank celebrated Najira's journey along with her family and presented her with match tickets as well as a day at Qatar's recent entertainment hotspot, Winter Wonderland, courtesy of QNB. In recognition of her determination to attend her favourite team's game, QNB offered Noushad and her family tickets to attend matches of Argentine's national team and

to attend the last 10 minutes of the game from the pitch. As part of QNB Group's continued celebration of the World Cup, this initiative celebrates fans from all over the world that are eager to experience the tournament regardless of challenges.

QNB Group, currently ranked as the most valuable bank brand in the Middle East and Africa, is proud to be the Official Mid-

dle East and Africa Supporter of the FIFA World Cup 2022. Through its subsidiaries and associate companies, the Group extends to more than 30 countries across three continents providing a comprehensive range of advanced products and services. The total number of employees is 27,000 operating through 1,000 locations, with an ATM network of more than 4,700 machines.

Ooredoo Group has unveiled roaming benefits across its operating companies to enable travelling football fans to stay connected while attending FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and to enjoy the many exciting experiences on offer in the country.

Ooredoo customers across the Middle East, North Africa, and Southeast Asia can sign up for one of the Ooredoo Passport or equivalent options, offering comprehensive, cost-effective packages that will ensure they can share unforgettable moments with friends and loved ones across the globe without worrying about roaming bills.

On arrival in Qatar, customers will connect to Ooredoo Qatar's pioneering network of heroes, which offers super-fast Internet and crystal-clear voice calls. An all-encompassing network modernisation drive in collaboration with global tech giants has ensured Qatar's leading telecommunications operator is more than capable of providing the necessary connectivity and reliability to ensure a vastly enhanced fan experience for all attending the FIFA World Cup.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdullah al-Thani, Deputy Group CEO

and Ooredoo Qatar CEO, said: "In line with our strategic commitment to upgrading our customers' worlds, we are proud to be offering the opportunity for everyone to stay connected while they attend the world's greatest sporting event, without the worry of roaming bills.

"As a major and groundbreaking international telecommunications provider, we have both the technology and expertise, and the internal infrastructure to ensure seamless provision of roaming services for the benefit of customers across our global footprint."

He added: "We are so excited to welcome our customers and visitors to experience the Arab culture and hospitality, and proud that our country is hosting such an incredible event, and we want everyone to enjoy all the festivities and be able to share everything in real-time with their loved ones back home."

Ooredoo Group companies across its global footprint offering roaming services include Ooredoo Kuwait, Ooredoo Oman, Ooredoo Tunisia, Ooredoo Palestine, Asiacell Iraq, Ooredoo Maldives, and Indosat Ooredoo Hutchison.

## Saudi House welcomes fans for rich, varied cultural experience

**A**ssistant secretary-general for strategic affairs at the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) Majed al-Saib stressed that the activities of the Doha Corniche-based Saudi House provide a cultural, social, tourism, and entertaining experience for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 fans. In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Saib said that the SAFF has set up an interactive zone under the name "Saudi House" to receive fans from all nationalities, promote the Saudi national culture, and provide the support for the Saudi team.

He added that the Saudi House activities zone provides an integrated cultural, social, tourism, and entertainment experience, especially since the Saudi culture and lifestyle inspire the Saudi House's design, yet with a sporty touch.

He said that the Saudi House zone, which runs until the end of the World Cup, provides fans with interactive cultural experiences related to Saudi food, Arabian coffee, authentic Arab values and customs. He pointed out the Saudi House zone stretches over an area of about 18,000sq m and includes



Majed al-Saib. Supplied picture



A view of the Saudi House. PICTURE: Thajudheen

more than 21 activities in 10 pavilions. He underlined the presence of a huge stage at the Saudi House zone, which includes giant screens to broadcast the World Cup matches, in addition to live concerts by Saudi artistes.

During the past few days, the Saudi House saw concerts for the artistes Moudi al-Shamrani, Rashed al-Fares, and Bader al-Shuaibi, where they performed songs for the Saudi team and their most famous songs.

In addition, the Saudi House also witnessed various artistic

events of a Saudi cultural nature, such as Saudi folklore, medley, and other interesting and interactive arts and events.

He explained that through the Green Falcons Museum, it is possible to learn about the Saudi Pro League "Roshn League," take photos with the original league cup and learn about the stages of its development through screens equipped for that, as the Saudi League is one of the most prominent Arab leagues and millions of fans in Saudi Arabia and the region follow its stars.

He stressed that the Saudi House visitors enjoy the experience of playing football virtually with top players at the dream pavilion through augmented and virtual reality technology, in addition to the experience of virtual photography with the Saudi squad, indicating that the visitors have the opportunity to shop at the Green Falcons store, which contains the official team jersey, as well as Saudi team flags and slogans. The Saudi House is participating in the World Cup through exhibitions and mu-

seums to introduce the West and the world to the Saudi identity and culture, in addition to introducing the Saudi and Gulf values and customs.

The Saudi team played three

matches within the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Group C collecting three points from one win and two losses. The Saudi team won their first match over Argentina (2-1) but lost their following matches against Poland (0-2) and Mexico (2-1), leaving the World Cup from the group stage.

He pointed out that the SAFF has taken care of their transportation to Doha and granted the Saudi clubs full discretion to select the fans through the fan links who are equally distributed among the clubs, adding that the initiative has numerous dimensions which highlight the unprecedented volunteering of the Saudi club with directives, unlimited interest from the Saudi leadership and is backed by the Ministry of Sports and SAFF, adding that Saudi Arabia has a powerful sports infrastructure, along with cultural, natural and civilized treasure qualifying it to host global tournaments.

He stressed that through this initiative the Saudi people express their culture, heritage and love for football, albeit they have different tendencies toward sports, adding that the Saudi fans are unified in backing their country's team strongly, pointing out that the initiative aims to create a unique cheerleading experience to further highlight the Saudi sport street that has the awareness of the civilised behaviours that must be upheld.

He pointed out that through the Saudi House events and the "Qadarn" initiative Saudi Arabia harnesses its potential to support its brothers in Qatar along with its international partners and is moving forward to have a successful tournament, which is something that promotes its international status, touching on the accommodation building of the Saudi fans in Doha, adding that the SAFF has co-ordinated with the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) to find an appropriate place to accommodate a substantial number of fans in an independent site owing to the easy access, in addition to providing the essential services to them. (QNA)

## Amir congratulates Finnish president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to Finland's President Sauli Niinistö on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister Sanna Marin. (QNA)

## Amir gets written message from Jordanian king

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received a written message from Jordan's King Abdullah II bin Hussein pertaining to bilateral relations and ways to support and enhance them. HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi received the message during his meeting yesterday with Jordanian ambassador to Qatar Zaid Mufleh al-Lawzi. (QNA)

## FM receives phone call from Irish counterpart

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani received yesterday a phone call from Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence Simon Coveney. During the phone call, the two sides discussed the developments of the Palestinian issues, and the updates in the nuclear file talks. Coveney congratulated Qatar on its success in organising the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. (QNA)

## Shura Council partakes in parliamentary symposium

The Shura Council participated in a parliamentary symposium entitled 'Creating a safe cyberspace for democracy', organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in co-operation with the UN Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes. The Shura Council was represented in the symposium, which was held via visual communication technology, by HE Dr Mohamed bin Butti al-Abdullah, member of the Council. The symposium discussed a number of topics related to cybersecurity, raising awareness of the risks and consequences of cybercrime and critical infrastructure, exchanging good parliamentary practices and effective policies in the field of countering cybercrime, and ways to protect citizens in cyberspace to be included in the agreement. (QNA)



## Qatar's envoy to Italy elected vice-president of FAO

Qatar's ambassador to Italy and permanent representative to the UN agencies based in Rome, Khalid bin Youssef al-Sada (pictured) has been elected as vice-president of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). (QNA)



## Djibouti's FM receives copy of credentials of Qatar's envoy



Djibouti's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, received a copy of the credentials of Dr Rashid bin Shafee al-Fahida al-Marri as Qatar's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Djibouti. (QNA)

## QATARGAS OPERATING COMPANY LTD Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/A/DFS/5848/22, B30 Material Agreement for Supply of Triethylene Glycol (TEG) without any commitment	07/12/2022 to 21/12/2022	0	25,000	07/01/2023

**Scope of Work:**  
Material Agreement for Supply of Triethylene Glycol (TEG) without any commitment Duration : 5 years + 2 years (optional)

**Bid Validity:** Bid should be valid for 270 days from the Tender Closing Date.

**Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:**  
ITT document for this tender will be available in Qatargas website under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the Qatargas online platform (SMART by GEP).

## PM meets Kuwaiti counterpart



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani met yesterday at Lusail Stadium with Kuwait Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah and the accompanying delegation. During the meeting, they discussed the close fraternal relations between the two countries and the means to enhance them. (QNA)

## QU signs agreement with sports ministry



Qatar University (QU) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Sports and Youth to enhance co-operation and benefit from the joint capabilities of both parties. The MoU includes working in the field of developing, organising, managing and implementing training programmes and courses to qualify cadres working in sports professions. The signing was attended by HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser al-Ali, QU president Dr Hassan al-Derham, College of Education dean Dr Hessa H al-Thani, QU vice-president for Student Affairs Dr Eiman Mustafawi as well as a number of professors in the College of Education. The MoU was signed by QU's vice-president for Academic Affairs Dr Omar al-Ansari and the Ministry of Sports and Youth's Sports Affairs director Issa al-Harami. The pact paves the way for both parties to work together to develop certifications for the accreditation of fitness trainers and cadres working in sports professions, including the fulfilment of their basic professional competence based on a specific international standard. The MoU comes as part of the belief in the vital and effective role of QU's co-operation with the Ministry of Sports and Youth, represented in this agreement by the Qatar Sports for All Federation, as QU is keen to continue playing a role in enabling the various sectors of the state to benefit from its resources and expertise to implement its strategy and achieve its goals.

## 'Cycle to Recycle' environmental initiative launched



The participants rode through the streets of Msheireb to explore the features that make the district the world's first smart and sustainable downtown regeneration project. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen



Dr Hafez Ali Ali



Mubarak Nasser al-Thani



Maimunah Mohd Sharif



George Tavola at the event.

### From Page 1

Before the start of the cycling tour, Sharif said in her speech: "You might wonder why we mention sustainable development during this event. Football is a mass sport with millions of fans and followers. If people learn about Sustainable Development Goals here, they will know more and will help us achieve more. This means we have higher chances of achieving our Global Goals by 2030."

The event puts a spotlight on SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), SDG 11 (inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities), and SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production patterns).

The participants rode through the streets of Msheireb to explore the features that make the district the world's first smart and sustainable downtown regeneration project.

"EAA is committed to using education to help transform lives and bring about a better world for everyone, and perhaps nothing is more important than sharing knowledge about ways in which on what we can all do in order to bring about a cleaner, healthier future."

Learning to take simple every day

actions, like cycling, recycling, and conserving energy, will go a long way in Scoring 4 the Sustainable Goals," EAA CEO Fahad al-Sulaiti said in a statement.

"Scoring 4 the Goals" underscores the value of football in enhancing sustainable development, peace, tolerance, inclusion, and climate action. The campaign was launched three months ago at the

UN General Assembly in New York, and is ongoing throughout the World Cup 2022 tournament, with daily activations and engaging discussions.

Msheireb Properties Marketing and Communications' director Dr Hafez Ali Ali said the event takes place in the heart of Doha, at MDD, the sustainable eco-friendly city district that is equipped with smart

facilities while embodying the true Qatari heritage. He noted that MDD is now a role model for modern sustainable cities, in line with Qatar's ambitious strategy to tackle the climate change challenge, and achieve low carbon emissions.

"We are proud that we are leading a new norm in the construction sector, and honoured to share our knowledge and expertise in this."



# QRCS takes part in 3rd Gulf Forum for Voluntary Work

**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, Coordinator 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)

## Qatar World Cup, a model for others to emulate, says Indian legislator

**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



Visiting Indian legislator Saneesh Kumar Joseph with former Croatian president Kolinda Grabar during a World Cup match.

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.

## Vodafone ties up with Qatari hip hop artiste to offer unique fan experience

Under its ongoing 'We Fan Together' campaign, Vodafone Qatar has teamed up with Qatari talent, Yousef al-Sulaiti - more popularly known as Big Soof - to contribute to fan experiences in Qatar as the country hosts the world's biggest sporting event.

As part of the collaboration, Vodafone has started releasing a series of rap songs by al-Sulaiti, one of the first rappers from Qatar in what is a genre still gathering pace in the region, and in which there are few homegrown artists. Fans will have access to the beats through Vodafone Qatar's TikTok, Spotify, and Instagram pages.

Al-Sulaiti, who has also performed at other high-profile sporting events in Qatar, is creating exclusive lyrics that are innovative in several ways. They provide artistic raps of the tournament matches and aim to engage fans in a distinctive celebratory mood as the event progresses over the next few weeks. Each track includes a combination of the Arabic and English languages and will be aligned with the emotional journeys of fans during all stages of the tournament.

The first nine songs aim to familiarise fans with the various teams to build the excitement, hopes, and dreams of both fans and players. These feelings will then escalate through four special songs that cover the end of the round of 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals matches.



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

Diego Camberos, chief operating officer at Vodafone Qatar, said: "Through our 'We Fan Together' 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 Ainghami. Other on-ground Vodafone activations will also be happening during the tournament. For updates, visit [www.vodafone.qa/fans](http://www.vodafone.qa/fans)

## The FIFA World Cup festivities continue Football fun and fabulous prizes for families at HYATT PLAZA

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 Wakrah 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 Ghwailina 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



**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 Sheikha 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 Sheikha 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

England and the US at Al Bayt Stadium.

Abbas's performance had a wide impact on the staff, with most of the stations started to witness staff members dancing and singing while managing the crowd in a creative way.

Various catchphrases like "Metro? This way", "Stadium? This Way", "Air-

port? This Way" and "Fan Zone? This Way" started to strike a chord with the fans and tourists.

"Many (commuters) echo our announcements and love to take selfies with us while heading to the stations or exiting," said a metro man at Al Bidda station.

"They are doing the job amazingly

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:

**1A** Electronic Food Safety System (Watheq), with all its services by choosing No. 1 where you can inquire about:

Food Facility Registration | Food Items Registration | Food Worker Registration | Follow-up of food shipments | Follow-up inspection reports of local food facilities | 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 Alfardan 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.



## Artistes join refugees in Qatar Charity's Fan Zone in Jordan's Za'atari camp

Qatar Charity (QC)'s Fan Zone for Syrian refugees in Jordan's Za'atari Camp had special guests yesterday as they were joined by artistes Maher Zain and Huwaid AlKhuder.

The Fan Zone is part of the "Qatar FIFA 2022 for All: Celebrating Football with Refugees and Displaced People" initiative, which aims to share the joy of the World Cup with refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) by providing World Cup match screenings in refugee camps.

In a gesture of support for the Syrian refugees at the Za'atari Camp, artistes Zain and AlKhuder paid a surprise visit.

Friendly matches between children and the artists and music performances were held.

The event was also attended by sports commentator Swar al-Dahab, who provided real-time commentary of the match.

"This has been an incredible experience, I am immensely humbled to have been able to join refugees in Za'atari Camp, to enjoy the football matches together, sing together and play football together," Zain said. "I am happy to have been part of an initiative that aims to extend the joy of the World Cup to refugees and displaced persons."

"This is a special moment to remember that no one should be left behind," he added.

"It has been a great pleasure to join girls and boys from Za'atari refugee Camp and spend the day with them, we have been received with warm hospitality, we are happy to have been able to contribute to bringing joy to the youth in the fan zone," said AlKhuder.

Located in northern Jordan, Za'atari refugee camp is the largest in the Middle East and one of the largest in the world.

Opened in 2012, Za'atari camp currently houses around 80,000 Syrians who have been forced to flee the war in their country.

The QC is supervising World Cup Qatar 2022 fan zones in six countries: Jordan (Za'atari camp), Syria (Al-Kaibah camp, Al-Rai city), Kenya (Dadaab refugee camp), Bangladesh (Basan Char Island camp) and Somalia (Shabelle camp in the city of Gerowe).



# D'reesha Festival to showcase Arab culture during World Cup

Qatar Foundation (QF)'s D'reesha Performing Arts Festival, taking place during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 from December 11-17 – is set to celebrate Qatar's culture, heritage, and traditions.

This year, the festival is being held under the theme *Travel and Adventure*.

Inspired by the explorer Ibn Battuta, it will showcase performances in Arabic and English, from storytelling, music, and poetry to visual arts and theatre.

"Through this strategic partnership, the Ministry of Social Development and Family seeks to enhance the concept of Qatars as being productive, and to change the culture of consumption to one of innovation and creativity," said HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Mariam bint Ali al-Misnad. "At the ministry, we are always keen to support productive families, and to increase their presence and productivity within the community."

"Their participation in the D'reesha Performing Arts Festival will provide them with an opportunity to showcase their efforts and to increase their integration in national events in Qatar," she said, adding: "This is especially since D'reesha is a cultural event that will gather together different elements of society in line with the hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022."

Main performances during the festival include *Ibn Battuta*, which features regional artists, QF students, and members of the community, *RUMI: The Musical*, and *Ajyal Tunes*.

The festival will also feature cultural performances from Qatar and other nations such as Morocco, Senegal, Turkiye, and Greece.



D'reesha festival to highlight Arab culture during World Cup.

Right: A performance from the last edition of the festival.

STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) shows and workshops will also take place during the festival as part of D'reesha of Invention, which is being sponsored by ConocoPhillips Qatar, showcasing scientists, scholars, and researchers from the Arab world.

Local heritage will play a large part in the festival, with Al Khatier House hosting the Poetry Majlis, traditional games, and film screenings, along with merchandising and the return of Torba Farmers Market.

A number of artistes will present poems about Palestine during the festival, including Rawdah AlHajj and Anas al-Dogheim, while Dalal Abu Amneh will showcase the history of the Arab and Islamic world by combining music with art and science.

"The D'reesha Performing Arts Festival is an opportunity for us to share Qatar's rich cultural heritage with guests from around the world, as well as encourage international dialogue and engage our local community," QF chief communications officer

Mayan M Zebeib said.

"The D'reesha Performing Arts Festival is a space for cultural communication between people, and the importance of this year's edition of the festival is that it takes place during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, allowing visitors to Qatar from different cultural backgrounds to explore Qatari heritage and culture," said Dr Ghanem bin Mubarak al-Ali, cultural adviser at Ministry of Culture.

"This is the first FIFA World Cup is taking place in the Middle East. This is a momentous occasion," said QF community programme manager Al-Jazi al-Hanzab. "So, by hosting the D'reesha Performing Arts Festival during the World Cup, we will be able to take our rich culture and heritage to new, global audiences."

"Our jam-packed schedule features a diverse range of fun and educational activities, events, and performances covering key themes such as science, research, education, and community," she added. "And open to all, it has been designed to cater



## Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra concert today

The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra will organise a concert today in co-operation with the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC).

The orchestra said in a statement that the concert will be organised in the open air in the heart of Doha (Al Bidda Park), under the leadership of the orchestra conductor Johannes Vogel.

The musicians of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra will perform a selection of the most famous football songs such as Shakira's *Waka Waka*, Queen's *We Are the Champions*, and the Qatari football song *Come on, come on*.

The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, which is a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), supports the foundation's mission to promote the heritage and culture of Qatar and the Arab world as well as social participation. The orchestra promotes Western and Arabic music to inspire children and adults in Qatar and the Arab world to create and enjoy music. - QNA

to people of all ages, interests, and nationalities."

"The festival aims to promote, preserve, and celebrate the identity and spirit of the Arab world and it does so by combining tradition and modernity for a unique, educational experience," al-Hanzab said.

"It will shed light on Qatar today, and Qatar in the past, including traditional lifestyles, clothes, and food."

"It is also focused on where the arts fit in Qatari society," the official said.

Tickets for the festival are on sale, and daily passes are QR35 for those aged 3-11, and QR50 for those above 12 years.

Children aged under three can enter for free.

Tickets can be purchased at Virgin Megastore – online or in-store.



## Shops at souq experiencing WC sales bump

Traditional Souqs across Qatar are seeing an influx of customers from among FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 fans, who have been keen to buy heritage souvenirs and gifts to document their journey to this part of the world.

Local Arabic daily *Arrayah* reported that places such as Souq Waqif, Al Najada, Al Jabi, Al Assari and other souqs have been among the most popular places for tourists and guests of Qatar over the past weeks.

The sellers there stressed that sales have increased by almost 80% for most of the traditional items and souvenirs, when compared to the period before the World Cup.

Fans in particular looked for models of heritage sites, mementos, small traditional utensils used for Arabic coffee, daggers, swords, rosaries and prayer beads, and incense.

Mohsen al-Yafeai, a seller at Souq Al Naja, said that there is a big boom in sales at the shops there, especially the gold shops, leading to many shops opting to operate around the clock.

Many customers hailing from different parts of the world have expressed their admiration for Qatar's colourful traditional markets, citing their heritage architecture and the variety of the goods available.



## HBKU's audio-descriptive commentary enhances football match experience

In an audio-descriptive commentary (ADC) service in Arabic and English – offered as a partnership between Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU)'s Translation and Interpreting Institute (TII) and the Centre for Access to Football in Europe (CAFE) – is enhancing the match experience of blind and visually impaired fans at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The legacy impact of the ADC service is supporting Qatar in achieving its vision of delivering an accessible and inclusive tournament.

In preparation for their roles, the ADC commentators completed an intensive Football Commentary Training Programme delivered by the TII, which is part of the HBKU's College of Humanities and Social Sciences, in collaboration with CAFE.

The training focused on the skills needed to describe the action on the pitch and significant visual information.

After downloading the FIFA Interpreting app, fans can independently listen to the ADC commentary in English or, for the first time, in Arabic.

Murad al-Souss, an audio-descriptive commentator at World Cup matches, shared his experience.

"The main challenges are conveying a complete and clear picture to the blind fans, to place them at the heart of the event and involve them by providing an accurate audio-descriptive commentary of the game," he said. "One of the challenges is when the rhythm of the game gets very rapid, and I have to present the image in detail so that the receiver can fully enjoy the game."

Al-Souss is passionate about accessibility.

A sign language interpreter and a professional physical education teacher for the deaf, with both his parents as well as some members of his extended family being deaf, sign language is his first language.

"ADC is a wonderful service that has brought the blind audience very close to the stadium," al-Souss said. "The ADC service allows them to 'live' the experience and the atmosphere more actively and enthusiastically in a way not imagined before."

He is encouraged by the overwhelmingly positive responses from football fans.

"After my commentary on the match between Argentina and Saudi Arabia during the group stage, one of the blind spectators said, 'I'm listening to the games through the FIFA Interpreting app. ADC provides descriptions of the players' movements in the stadium,'" al-Souss recounted, continuing: "I felt so tense and understood why sighted viewers get excited when watching football matches. I tried to pause the game several times because of the tension. I found out that there are many details in the game that I didn't know about."

"I also saw a tweet that said, 'The blind sees the world in Qatar,'" he added.



# 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.

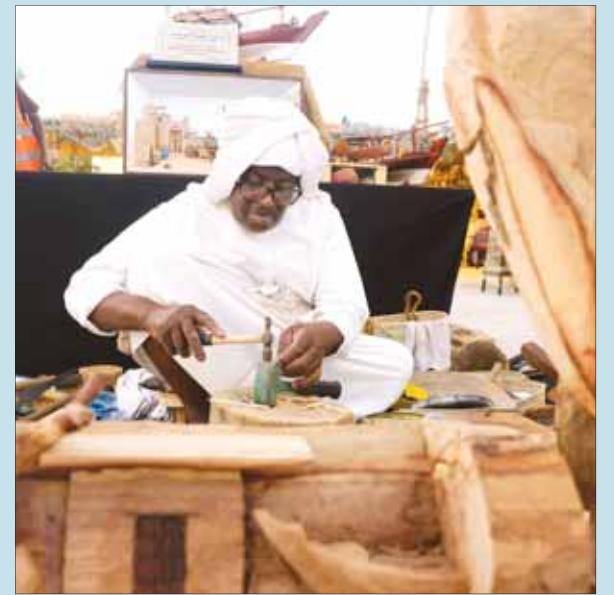


The Katara Traditional Dhow Festival features a number of pavilions that offer various activities of an artistic, cultural and commercial nature. The Palestinian pavilion presents a scene inspired by the traditional Palestinian life with a group of women preparing traditional bread. This pavilion is 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.





## Selfies, music, sports, books and military parades reflect Qatar 2022 buzz at Katara

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-Najim. 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.



## Bogsum Museum at Dhow Festival, falconry mesmerise Katara visitors

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



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 Bogsum 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, and I am very impressed with Katara, especially the Traditional Dhow Festival. The place is wonderful and offers beautiful activities that give tourists the opportunity to discover the culture of the country."

Samuel from Hungary noted: "I came to follow the World Cup, and the truth is that I am impressed with the various and beautiful events that exist here." David from the USA added: "The FIFA World Cup seems to have a special flavour this time. It is an opportunity to learn about Qatar and the Arab culture, and I think this is the most important thing for me as a visitor."



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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

**A**fter 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.

**Twitter was already struggling. After taking on debt and overpaying for the platform, Elon 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**





## Thousands protest teen's shooting in Greece

AFP  
Thessaloniki

Thousands of protesters demonstrated in Athens, Thessaloniki and other Greek cities yesterday against police violence, a day after a Roma youth was shot in the head in a police pursuit.

The demonstrations were part of planned annual commemorations to mark the 2008 death of Alexandros Grigoropoulos, a 15-year-old fatally shot by police.

His death shocked the nation and sparked days of youth riots in major cities at the time.

Police estimated more than 11,000 protesters turned out across the country yesterday.

Around 4,000 police were deployed in Athens with tensions running high after Monday's shooting. A police motorcyclist in Greece's second city Thessaloniki early on Monday shot a 16-year-old Roma boy after he drove away from a petrol station without paying.

The teenager was hospitalised and in a critical condition, according to media reports.

Some of the most violent protests yesterday were in Thessaloniki, where police fired tear gas after protesters set fire to rubbish bins and threw rocks and Molotov cocktails at riot police.

Some 6,500 rallied in Athens where a banner referenced the unpaid €20 (\$21) petrol bill, saying "Life is worth 20 euros".

A police officer has been arrested and charged with attempted manslaughter over the incident. The Greek police department said the youth had tried to ram officers in pursuit on motorbikes in his attempt to evade arrest.

### Palestinians slam Israeli bid to Judaise mosque

The Palestinian Authority condemned the continuous efforts of the Israeli occupation authorities to Judaise the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in the city of Hebron and convert it to a Jewish synagogue, calling for halting these assaults unleashed against the mosque immediately due to their grave consequences on the region.

Director General of the Hebron Endowment Nidal al-Jabari confirmed in his statements that such Israeli efforts in Judaising the Islamic mosque will not succeed, stressing the importance of halting these assaults immediately.

In a related development, the occupation forces demolished a mosque in the town of Dura, southwest of Hebron on Monday, where local sources reported that Israeli forces raided the aforementioned area with their heavy vehicles and demolished the mosque, which was approximately 100 square metres in area.

Dozens of Palestinians suffocated at the entrance to the Al-Aroub camp in Hebron during clashes with the occupation forces after the Israeli soldiers fired sound and gas bombs at Khadouri University after it had sealed off the entrance to the university space and prevented students from entering or getting out from the campus.

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

The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said violations by the Israeli occupation forces are a compelling evidence of the absence of the Israeli peace partner, pointing out that the Israeli entity has replaced peace with settlement.

In a statement yesterday, the ministry indicated that the abandonment of the political efforts to solve the conflict poses a direct threat to the stability of the region, affirming that the Palestinian people will continue to stand firm on their homeland, adhering to their just and legitimate rights and will never be browbeaten by the Israel, pointing out that these occupation forces will continue to reject a political solution which is represented in the Palestinian people obtaining their just and legitimate rights.

## Ramaphosa's future fragile despite party backing

AFP  
Johannesburg

The threat of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's immediate exit from office over a cash-in-sofas scandal has temporarily faded after his party vowed to rally around him at next week's impeachment vote, but his woes are far from over.

The next days are critical for the head of state who has been championed as a graft-busting saviour after the corruption-drenched tenure of predecessor Jacob Zuma.

Ruling African National Congress (ANC) party lawmakers vowed to close

ranks around him at an impeachment vote in parliament next week, but Ramaphosa remains embroiled in the worst scandal of his career that could yet bring him down.

After a tumultuous week following a report by a parliament-sanctioned independent panel which found that he "may have committed" serious violations and misconduct, Ramaphosa appeared to have earned a reprieve.

The parliament sitting to vote on whether he should face impeachment, initially slated for yesterday, was at the 11th hour pushed back by a week, prolonging the uncertainty around Ramaphosa's future.

That vote will come just three days

before the ANC meets for its five-yearly conference to elect a new president. Ramaphosa is the leading candidate of the two nominees named so far for the party leadership.

But that is no guarantee he will be re-elected, or serve out his full state presidential term which should run until April 2024.

ANC members facing criminal allegations or charges are expected to step aside.

Ramaphosa is not charged yet over the scandal dubbed "Phala Phala farmgate", after the name of the estate in northeastern South Africa.

That gives him room to still try his luck and contest the ANC leadership –

a ticket to the national presidency.

"The step-aside rule doesn't apply here, Cyril Ramaphosa is not charged with anything," lawyer and ANC veteran Mathews Phosa told eNCA news at the weekend.

But scandals do not necessarily decide the fate of an ANC president and the party throughout its nearly three decades in power has exhibited a tendency to protect its own people.

Formerly a wealthy businessman, the president may follow the footsteps of two of his predecessors, Zuma and Thabo Mbeki, who did not complete their tenures and were forced out by the ANC.

The 70-year-old president found

himself in hot water in June when South Africa's former spy boss filed a complaint to the police alleging Ramaphosa had concealed a huge cash theft from his game and rare cattle farm in 2020.

He accused the president of having organised for the burglars to be kidnapped and bribed into silence.

Ramaphosa has denied any wrongdoing, saying the cash – more than half a million dollars, stashed beneath sofa cushions – was payment for buffaloes bought by a Sudanese businessman.

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



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

## Latvia revokes licence for exiled Russia TV channel

AFP  
Riga

Latvia announced yesterday it was revoking the licence for exiled Russian independent channel Dozhd (Rain) for multiple violations that included showing the Crimea peninsula annexed from Ukraine as part of Russia.

The channel, which moved to Latvia after Russian authorities blocked its broadcasts for critical coverage of the war in Ukraine, dismissed the accusations as "unfair and absurd", saying that it would remain on YouTube.

"TV Rain will stop broadcasting on December 8," Ivars Abolins, head of the Latvian National Electronic Mass Media Council said on Twitter.

"The laws of Latvia must be respected by everyone," Abolins added.

The network, which was founded in 2010 as the main opposition channel in Russia, is also accused of supporting Russian soldiers, which the channel denies, and failing to ensure Latvian language translation, LETA news agency reported.

"The TV channel will stop broadcasting on cable but will remain on YouTube," Rain said on Twitter in response.

"We continue to work and believe all accusations against us to be unfair and absurd."

The regulator's decision can be appealed.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine, fear of Moscow aggression has grown in Latvia, a neighbouring Baltic country that spent decades as part of the Soviet Union and where a quarter of the population of two million are Russian speakers.

Moscow commented on the move in relatively neutral tones.

"Some always think that there is a better place than home, that there is always more freedom than at home. This is one of the clearest examples that shows that these are wrong illusions," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

The Latvian government had offered refuge to TV Rain and by mid-July, their shows were back up and running, having been blocked in early March in Russia.

The channel's declared mission was to provide independent information and counter Kremlin propaganda.

Several other newsrooms have also found refuge in the Latvian capital, including Novaya Gazeta Europe and Deutsche Welle's Moscow branch.

### 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".

President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday visited the frontline region of Donetsk in east Ukraine, describing fighting in the area as "difficult" with Russian forces pushing to capture the industrial city of Bakhmut.

The visit came as Russian President Vladimir Putin convened his security council in the wake of the latest spate of drone attacks on military-linked facilities inside Russian territory.

The focus of fighting in Ukraine has shifted to Donbas after Kyiv's forces recaptured the southern city of Kherson last month following a Russian retreat from the regional capital.

Zelensky appeared in a video wearing a heavy winter coat, standing next to a large sign in Ukraine's blue and yellow colours bearing the city name Sloviansk and calling for a moment of silence to commemorate killed Ukrainian soldiers.

"The east of Ukraine today is the most difficult front. And I am honoured to be here now with our defending troops in Donbas. I believe that next time we will meet in our Ukrainian Donetsk and Luhansk and in Crimea as well," Zelensky said.

Russian forces and their proxies have controlled parts of Donetsk and Luhansk since the end of the war.

Officials in Russia's Kursk region near the border with Ukraine said earlier yesterday that a drone attack near an oil field had caused a fire at a oil

## Zelensky visits Donbas near the 'difficult' Ukraine front

AFP  
Kyiv

President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday visited the frontline region of Donetsk in east Ukraine, describing fighting in the area as "difficult" with Russian forces pushing to capture the industrial city of Bakhmut.

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Officials in Russia's Kursk region near the border with Ukraine said earlier yesterday that a drone attack near an oil

storage unit. That attack came after the defence ministry said a day earlier that Ukraine had tried to attack another airfield in Ryazan region and also the key Engels airfield in the Saratov region.

Engels is a base for the country's strategic aircraft that Kyiv says have been used to strike Ukraine, and both sites are hundreds of kilometres away from Ukraine's border.

The British defence ministry said that if Russia deems Ukraine to have been responsible then Moscow will "probably consider them as some of the most strategically significant failures of force protection since its invasion of Ukraine."

The drone attacks come on the back of weeks of systematic Russian attacks that have crippled Ukrainian critical infrastructure like water, electricity and heating ahead of winter.

Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu yesterday said that Russian forces were using long-range, precision weapons to target military-linked facilities and "crush the military potential of Ukraine".

The defence ministry also announced it had received back from Ukraine captivity 60 Russian servicemen in their most recent exchange.

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.

## 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 said 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 Víctor María Do Borbón y Borbón, 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".

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**

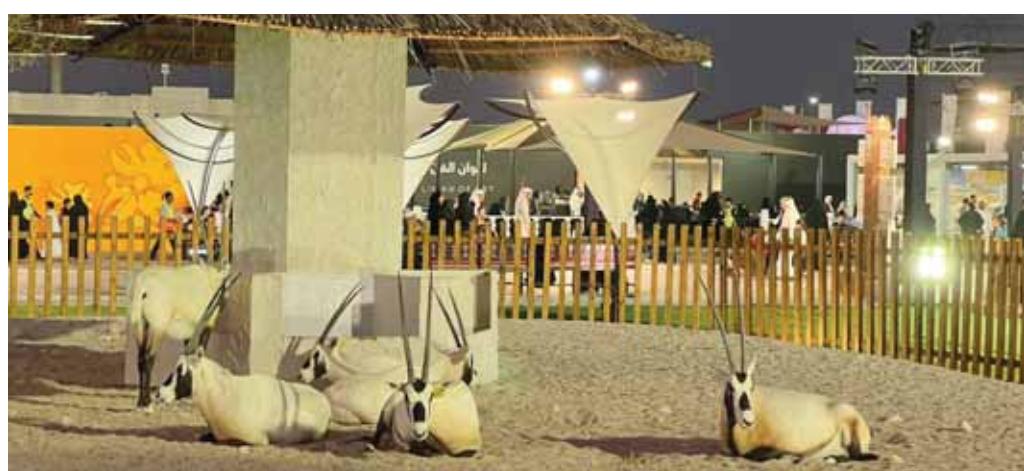
HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi visited Darb Al Saai at Umm Salal on Monday and toured the various cultural and heritage activities. He praised the excellent organisation of the Darb Al Saai and highlighted that the new headquarters has a variety 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 Yaqoub 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, performances 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 Wakrah 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, 18.

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 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://tixbox.com).

**Daydream Festival**

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

The festival will host some of the world's largest Electronic Dance Music (EDM) artistes at the Doha Golf Club.

The festival opened late last month and continues on December 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](https://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.