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BUSINESS | Page 1

Qatar-Morocco business council looks to strengthen trade alliances, says Chamber official

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Free metro travel with Hayya Card until Dec 23

Free travels with Hayya Card is until December 23 (tomorrow), Qatar Rail announced yesterday in a tweet. "Starting December 24 access the Doha Metro & Lusail Tram networks with your Travel Card only," it was explained.

WHO chief worried about Covid situation

The head of the World Health Organisation yesterday said he was "very concerned" about an unprecedented wave of Covid cases in China, as the health body urged Beijing to accelerate vaccination of the most vulnerable. "WHO is very concerned over the evolving situation in China, with increasing reports of severe disease" Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a weekly news conference, appealing for detailed information on disease severity, hospital admissions and intensive care requirements. "WHO is supporting China to focus its efforts on vaccinating people at the highest risk across the country, and we continue to offer our support for clinical care and protecting its health system", he added.

UN expresses concern over Taliban decision

The United Nations expressed its deep concern over news reports that the Taliban have suspended women and girls' access to universities. In a statement attributed to the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary-General reiterated that the denial of education not only violates the equal rights of women and girls, but will have a devastating impact on the country's future. He "urges the de facto authorities to ensure equal access to education at all levels for women and girls." (QNA)

Nasa retires InSight lander after four years

Nasa said farewell yesterday to the InSight lander that spent four years probing the interior of Mars. The US space agency said mission control had been unable to contact the spacecraft on two consecutive attempts, leading to the conclusion that its solar-powered batteries have run out of energy. The space agency said it will continue to listen for a signal from the lander.

Zelensky gives a medal to Biden



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky gives a medal to US President Joe Biden in the Oval Office of the White House, in Washington, DC yesterday. Zelensky began a dramatic visit to Washington yesterday, saying he would seek help from President Joe Biden in bolstering Kyiv's defences against Russia's devastating invasion. Zelensky's political adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said earlier that the visit, his first overseas trip since Russia invaded 300 days ago, showed the deep trust between Kyiv and Washington and offered the Ukrainian leader the opportunity to explain Kyiv's need for more advanced weaponry to turn the tables against its superpower adversary. Just ahead of Zelensky's arrival, Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the United States would provide another \$1.85 billion in military aid for Ukraine including a Patriot air defence system.

Public hygiene law to be amended to keep roads, beaches clean

● Cabinet congratulates Amir, citizens on successful organisation of World Cup

QNA
Doha

The Cabinet yesterday extended the highest congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani on the occasion of the dazzling and unprecedented success of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, thanks to the Almighty God, and then under the directives of the Amir's insightful vision and careful follow-up of all preparation phases of the tournament, since Qatar won the bid to host the World Cup.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting held at its seat at the Amiri Diwan.

"The Cabinet also congratulated the honourable Qatari people on this historic achievement, which will remain an honourable legacy for future generations, and a source of pride for Arabs, with its reflections of Arab originality, culture and values to the world," HE the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs said in a statement following the meeting.

The Cabinet hailed the efforts of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, the Security and Safety Operations Committee of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and the Tournament Security Force. It also expressed deep thanks and appreciation to all ministries, institutions, state agencies and the private sector, and to everyone who contributed to achieving this exceptional success of the tournament, making the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 the most successful and best tournament in the tournament's history, according to the official data and figures an-

nounced by FIFA president, according to the statement quoted by Qatar News Agency (QNA).

Taking up the other topics on its agenda, the Cabinet approved a draft law to amend some provisions of Law No. 18 of 2017 on public hygiene, and referring it to the Shura Council.

Joint Committee for the Removal and Disposal of Abandoned Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment to be established

Among the provisions included in the draft law are the following:

1- It is prohibited to occupy squares, roads, streets, lanes, alleys, sidewalks, and public parking areas with abandoned vehicles, equipment, machinery, temporary or permanent buildings, without a license from the competent municipality. It is also prohibited to leave the marine means and any equipment used for transporting them by land or sea, any maintenance equipment, or any equipment, machinery, vehicles or parts thereof abandoned in the port or on the seashore, up to the farthest spot reached by the sea waves, within a coastal boundary of a 10-50 metre distance inside sea water, for a period exceeding three days, without a permit from the competent municipality.

2- It is prohibited to leave, throw or pour waste, or dispose of it, in

places other than those specified by the competent municipality, and in the event of violations, the competent municipality may remove the breaches at the expense of the violator, and impound the transport vehicles used in these violations, for a period not exceeding three months.

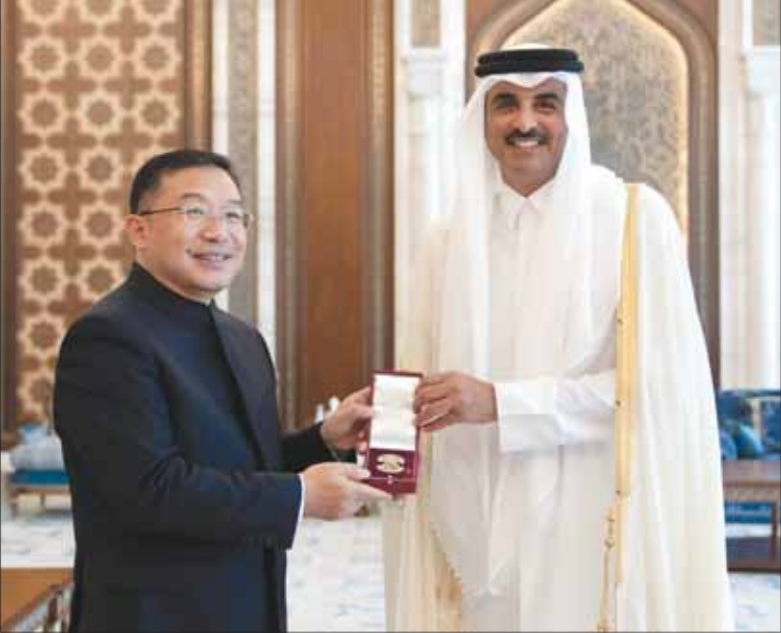
3- The competent municipality shall carry out public cleaning works in all its forms, including the collection, transportation, unloading and disposal of waste, and it may recycle and treat it to benefit from it. It also can entrust all or some of these operations to one or more contractors, in accordance with the provisions of the law, including producers or importers of the materials from which these wastes are generated, in accordance with the regulations issued by a ministerial decision.

4- A committee called the "Joint Committee for the Removal and Disposal of Abandoned Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment" shall be established in the Ministry. The committee's formation, terms of reference, work system and remuneration for its members shall be determined by a Cabinet decision.

Second: The Cabinet reviewed the results of the 32nd Meeting of the GCC Ministers of Justice and took the appropriate decision in this regard.

Third: The Cabinet was briefed, through a presentation made by HE the President of the Planning and Statistics Authority, on what has been achieved in implementing the government agencies' strategic plans for the second quarter (April-June 2022), the progress of programmes and projects at the level of ministries, the challenges facing the authorities and the proposed solutions.

Amir honours Chinese envoy



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met at his office in Lusail Palace yesterday with ambassador of the People's Republic of China Zhou Jian, who called on the Amir to greet him on the occasion of the end of his tenure in the country. His Highness the Amir granted the Chinese ambassador Al Wajbah Decoration in recognition of his role in contributing to enhancing bilateral relations, wishing him success in his future missions, and the relations between the two countries further progress and prosperity. For his part, the ambassador expressed thanks and appreciation to His Highness the Amir and the State's officials for the co-operation he received that contributed to the success of his work in the country. (QNA)

Sealine, Khor Al Udeid receive winter campers

The Sealine and Khor Al Udeid areas have started to receive more winter campers from among the Qatari citizens, who are keen to make early preparations to enjoy the nature and open spaces along the southern beaches of the country until May 30 next year.

Speaking to local Arabic daily *Al-Arabiya*, they stressed that the winter camping season is very important as it is the best time to enjoy outdoor activities and the favourable weather conditions. They said during summer, many prefer to stay indoors or travel abroad.

The areas surrounding the Sealine and Khor Al Udeid and the roads leading to them have recently seen intensive activities due to the ongoing preparations for the sites allocated to various individuals by the Ministry of Environment and Climate



Winter campers transporting portacabins to their allocated sites.

Change (MoECC). Many workers preparing the camping sites and vehicles transporting portacabins are a regular sight now.

The campers have highly appreciated the initiative to introduce several services and retail outlets at the Sealine Area, giving them easy and comfortable access to their daily needs during their stay. **To Page 12**

‘Internet, phone network quality during World Cup superb’

A report issued by Ookla, a global leader in network intelligence and connectivity insights, praised the performance of the mobile phone network and the Internet during the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar, pointing out that the network was not affected by the increasing number of users during the tournament.

In a report seen by Qatar News Agency (QNA), it said that there were no problems or disturbances in the Internet, despite the network's performance reaching its peak.

The report said: "Ahead of the event, we outlined the important role of the Qatar Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) and both Ooredoo Qatar and Vodafone Qatar in driving performance gains in the market. A competitive, pro-investment market environment has paid dividends, coupled with firm commitments from both operators to roll out commercial 5G networks in all densely populated areas and all venues associated with the FIFA World Cup.

"As of December 3, 2022, after almost two weeks and 48 games, the FIFA World Cup has seen over 2.45mn cumulative stadium attendees. For a country with a population of 2.93mn,



ensuring mobile network performance meets expectations has been no easy feat. Ookla was keen to understand how Qatari mobile networks were handling the deluge of visitors and additional traffic. According to Speedtest Intelligence, median download performance in November rose to 263.37Mbps on modern chipsets across all mobile technologies combined, with median 5G download performance hitting 472.13Mbps.

"Fans visiting Qatar for the World Cup have benefited from the offer of local SIMs from national mobile operators Ooredoo and Vodafone, which include free data. Ooredoo SIMs include 2022MB of data for free, valid for 3 days, while Vodafone customers have access to 3GB of data for free, valid across 2 days. Encouraging visitors to utilise local SIMs has helped provide superior network performance for fans at the World Cup. In addition, it's clear that the network enhancements made by Ooredoo and Vodafone, and



their live monitoring and optimisation of network performance using crowdsourced data, has helped boost overall network performance at the event, despite the deluge of fans and resultant data traffic."

The report added: "We used



Speedtest Intelligence data to observe performance in the lead up to, and during the FIFA World Cup. 5G performance increased from a median download of 394.2Mbps and upload of 19.93Mbps 10 weeks before the event, while hitting a median download speed of 489.29Mbps and median upload speed of 38.36Mbps during the second week of the World Cup. Ooredoo and Vodafone have played a crucial role in driving increased 5G performance at the World Cup with both mobile network operators neck-and-neck in terms of 5G download performance.

"Comparing mobile network performance during the first two weeks of the FIFA World Cup to that of other major sporting events in the region and further afield shows just how impressive 5G network performance has been so far, given the number of attendees. While not the fastest sporting event on record, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 ranks highly, well ahead of events such as the French Open and Wimbledon. **To Page 12**

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December cash assistance for Gaza families begins today



HE the Chairman of Qatar's Gaza Reconstruction Committee Ambassador Mohamed al-Emadi has announced that the Committee, in co-operation with Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), will start today the disbursement of the December batch of cash assistance to families in need in the Gaza Strip. HE al-Emadi said that the cash assistance will be provided to about 100,000 poor families in the Gaza Strip governorates, at a rate of \$100 per family. He pointed out that the distribution process will take place through the United Nations and the distribution centres it has identified in the governorates of the Gaza Strip, which are more than 300 centres and shops. **(QNA)**

Qatar elected to UNGA committee

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elected by acclamation that Qatar, representing the Asia and Pacific Group, as a member of the Organisational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission for 2023-2024 under the category of the General Assembly. This is the first time that Qatar has nominated itself for membership in the Organisational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission due to its firm belief that conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy and peacebuilding efforts are crucial to achieve international peace and security and sustainable development. Qatar is considered one of the most important actors regionally and internationally. **(QNA)**

Establishing Police Academy part of security modernisation process

QNA
Doha

HE the Adviser to the Minister of Interior and Vice-President of the Supreme Council of the Police College Major-General Dr Abdullah Yousef al-Mal stressed that the Amiri decision to establish and regularise the Police Academy, affiliated to Ministry of Interior (MoI) comes within the framework of the process of modernisation and development of the ministry's education and training system.

Commenting on the occasion, HE al-Mal said that the announcement of the establishment of the Police Academy comes in light of the special attention given by the Ministry of Interior to the academic aspects of security and modernising its educational and training system. Establishing the Police Academy was the main core to gathering all academic, research, training, educational, security, and police aspects under one umbrella.

He stressed that the Police College achieved its goals since its start in the academic year 2014/2015 and graduated four batches so far – under the pa-



HE Major-General Dr Abdullah Yousef al-Mal

tronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani – as the last graduating batch was in January 2022. He also indicated that establishing the Police Academy comes within the framework of the efforts of the Ministry of Interior to modernise its educational, training, and research system according to what falls within its competencies to be in line with the latest development in legal and security fields; achieves its strategy; promotes the role of the ministry and other security institutions in fulfilling Qatar National Vision 2030; provides outputs that effectively contribute to human,

social, and economic development in the country; and promotes the optimal investment of the country's human resources.

The Ministry of Interior formed a committee that undertook the preparation of all requirements for establishing the Police Academy based on a vision for the academy to become distinguished centre in higher education, scientific research, and community service, as well as produce and exchange knowledge in legal, and security fields according to best international standards.

The academy's mission is to prepare and qualify national security cadres according to the best academic and research standards, to provide the needs of the Ministry of Interior and other security institutions in the country, and to develop an environment that stimulates creativity and innovation.

The efforts of the Ministry of the Interior culminated in obtaining the approval of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to license the establishment of the Police Academy and approving its academic programs after completing the standards and requirements for licensing higher education institutions in the country.

Amir receives more greetings on successful hosting of World Cup

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received more cables of congratulations from Their Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses, leaders and heads of governments of brotherly and friendly countries on the occasion of the successful organisation of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. His Highness the Amir received cables of congratulations from Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam, President of the United States of America Joe Biden, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, President of Namibia Hage Geingob, President of Singapore Halimah Yacob, President of Paraguay Mario Abdo Benitez, President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of Ghana Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Croatia Zoran Milanovic, President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro, Governor-General of Canada Mary Simon, and President of Mozambique Filipe Jacinto Nyusi. **(QNA)**

Transport minister meets Moroccan counterpart



HE the Minister of Transport Jassim Seif Ahmed al-Sulaiti met with Minister of Transport and Logistics of Morocco Mohamed Abdeljalil. They reviewed bilateral co-operation and ways to develop them in areas of transportation, logistics services, commercial harbours and civil aviation. The Moroccan minister congratulated Qatar on the successful hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. **(QNA)**

Qatar Post issues stamp on 40th anniversary of GCC

Qatar Postal Services Company (Qatar Post) issued a special postage stamp on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. The stamp displays the picture of the founding leaders and the flags of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries.

Chairman and Managing Director of Qatar Postal Services Company (Qatar Post) Faleh bin Mohamed al-Nuaimi said that the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf embodies the meaning of fraternity, historical unity and common destiny that connects the people of the region, adding that this stamp commemorates the 40th anniversary of the founding of this Council, which reflected the vision and aspiration of the founding leaders for a better future for the Gulf states. The stamps will be sold to the public for QR5, as the printed quantity of this issue reached 10,000 copies, in addition to 6,000 cards, 1,500 envelopes and 500 folders. **(QNA)**

Qatar Airways operated nearly 14,000 flights during World Cup

QNA
Doha

Qatar Airways concluded its FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 journey in style, presenting the medals and individual awards to Argentina after their historic 4-2 victory on penalties over 2018 champions, France. Following a thrilling month of non-stop action and entertain-

ment, the airline operated nearly 14,000 Flights, uniting the world in Qatar for the greatest sporting show on Earth.

As the Official Airline Partner of FIFA and the Official Airline of the Journey, Qatar Airways celebrated the historic FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 with its global passengers through countless international, local, and onboard football-themed activations and entertainment experiences.

The tournament was a resounding success, with impressive attendance figures of over 3.4mn fans throughout the 64 matches. Throughout the duration of the tournament, the Qatar Airways Sky House, located at the FIFA Fan Festival at Al Bidda Park, welcomed more than 1.8mn fans. The iconic pavilion provided a range of interactive activities, including a Neymar challenge, Qverse experience, Swing the World, foosball,

and face painting. Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, HE Akbar al-Baker, said: "What started off as a dream has finally turned into reality."

The State of Qatar succeeded in bringing the world together in a celebration of football and unity, and now history will remember this FIFA World Cup – the first in the Middle East, and the best edition ever. On behalf of the Qatar Airways Group, I would like

to congratulate the Argentinian team for their victorious performance and also commend the French team for their inspiring journey throughout the tournament.

"We are grateful to have been a part of this long and rewarding experience as the Official Airline of the Journey. For every step and every mile travelled with us, we have aimed to deliver a flying experience like no other."

We offer our best regards, many congratulations and blessings to




His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar

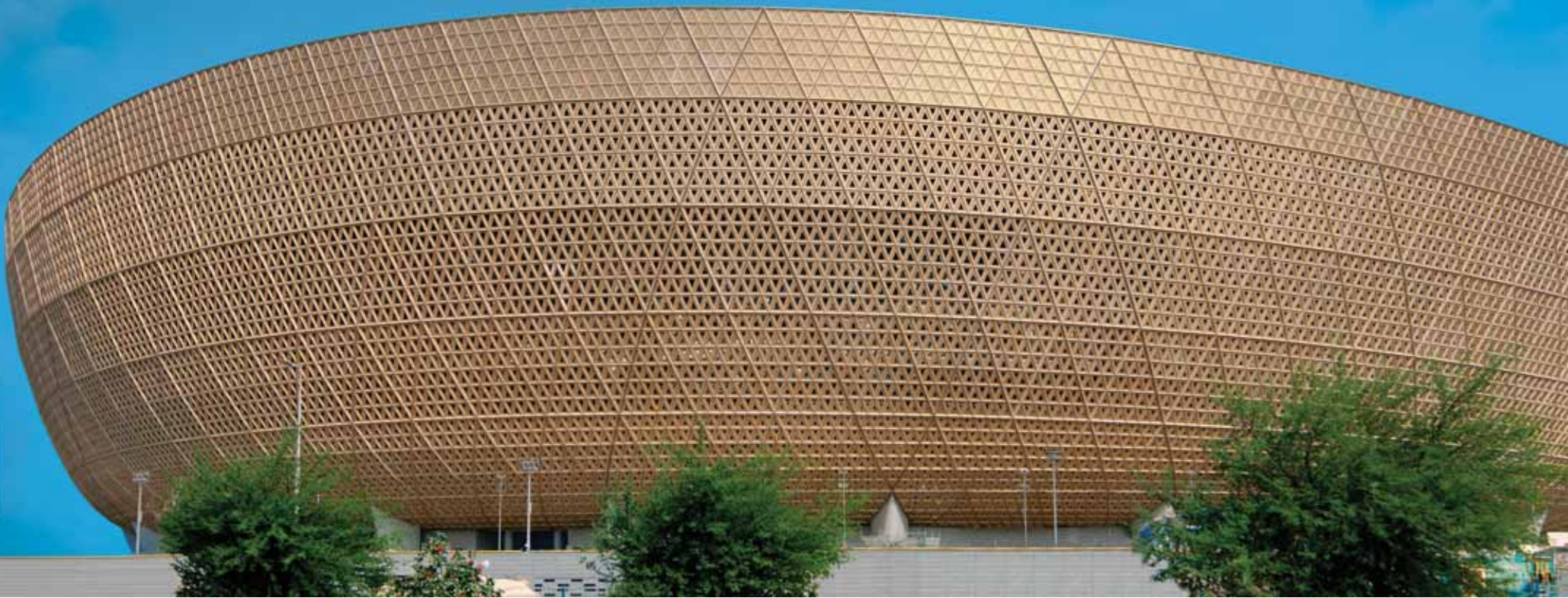

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

And the people of Qatar
on the occasion of hosting the
World Cup Qatar 2022
and the dazzling success of the closing ceremony

We ask Allah for successes and auspicious times for Qatar to enjoy security, glory and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir





Qatar expresses deep concern over women's education in Afghanistan

QNA
Doha

Qatar has expressed deep concern and disappointment with the Afghan caretaker government's decision to suspend girls' and women's studies in Afghan universities until further notice.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that these negative practices will have a significant impact on human rights, development, and the economy in Afghanistan.

As a Muslim country in which women enjoy all their rights, especially education, Qatar calls on the Afghan caretaker government to review its decision in line

with the teachings of the Islamic religion concerning women's rights, the statement added. The statement underscored the position of Qatar supporting all spectrum of Afghan people to obtain all their rights, particularly the right to education.

It also renewed the deep commitment of Qatar to work with its Afghan and international partners to ensure that all groups of Afghan people of all ages enjoy their right to education. Meanwhile, Education Above All Foundation (EAA) has also deplored the decision of Afghan Caretaker Government to ban all girls and women from attending schools and universities in Afghanistan. EAA has called for all students in Afghanistan to be given equal access to education at every level, regardless of their gender. "Education is

a human right that states must safeguard for all their citizens without discrimination. No party should deprive a person from the right to education, and states, civil society, communities and parents must work together to ensure that children and young people have access to safe, quality primary, secondary and higher education."

EAA is currently helping 250 Afghan students, half of them women, restart their studies after they were forced to leave Afghanistan last year. Through the Qatar Scholarship for Afghan Refugee Project, recently displaced Afghans can now continue their post-secondary education, thereby increasing their chances of building stable and prosperous futures for themselves and their families."

New location of Philippine Passport Renewal Centre

The Philippine Passport Renewal Centre will move from Al Shoumoukh Towers to a new location in West Bay at Office No. 22, 5th floor of Al Reem Tower (opposite of Intercontinental Doha The City) starting January 1, 2023, the Philippine embassy in Doha has announced. The embassy noted that the Filipino community continues to have the option to process the renewal of their passport either at the embassy or at the renewal centre, the latter is open from 8am to 5pm, Sunday to Saturday.

DFC, Kahramaa launch EV charging stations

Doha Festival City (DFC) announced the completion of the first phase of 23 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in partnership with Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa), as part of Tarsheed, the National Programme for Conservation and Energy Efficiency.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by engineer Rashid al-Rahimi, manager of Conservation and Energy Efficiency Department at Kahramaa, and Jihad Zarkout, assistant general manager of Basrec, owner and operator of DFC, and Robert Hall, general manager, DFC, a Kahramaa statement said.

The EV charging stations, now available for public use, can be found in 46 locations across the mall in the Lower Ground Floor, near Monoprix and Sacoort Brothers and on the first floor near the VIP valet area, Harvey Nichols, and VOX.

DFC has further plans to install more




EV charging stations in two phases in the next two years. Engineer al-Rahimi noted that Tarsheed has completed over 100 fast electric charging stations all over Qatar. "Expansion of the network is expected to reach 250 EV


charging stations by the end of 2023," he added.

Engineer Mohamed al-Sharshani, head of EV Charging Stations Unit, stated that Kahramaa, represented by Tarsheed, was keen on co-operating with all local stakeholders, both in the governmental and private sectors. Kahramaa recently signed an agreement with Woqod to supply, install, and operate 37 EV charging units across 22 different locations in Qatar. The Unity50 charging stations at DFC can charge electric vehicles with a power output of up to 50kW and reduce charging times to less than 30 minutes.


The stations are managed by the efficient "ChargeSphere - powered by Kostad" web-based control and management system to ensure cross connectivity and visibility. All stations will be monitored by Tarsheed Platform that connects all EV charging stations in Qatar, the statement added.




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5

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Ooredoo shatters records with phenomenal connectivity; wows world with first 5G-enabled FIFA World Cup

Ooredoo has announced record-breaking figures at the conclusion of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, cementing its position as a world-leading telecommunications and ICT provider.

Records set at the opening ceremony were broken by the time the tournament concluded. The final game between Argentina and France at Lusail Stadium saw a record-breaking 45.1TB of data used, 8.4TB of stadium Wi-Fi used, more than 650,000 calls made, and 32,000 fans using roaming.

Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad bin Nasser al-Thani, chief commercial officer at Ooredoo, said: "There are no words to describe the pride we feel as we conclude the world's greatest sporting event.

"To have hosted such an incredible event in our beloved country, and for our country to have put on such a stellar performance, was phenomenal. It was priceless for Ooredoo to have had the opportunity to show the world just what we and our network of champions can do."

Across all 64 matches, the 3.4mn fans attending used a phenomenal 801TB of data, of which 40.3% was via Ooredoo's pioneering 5G at a speed of up to 236Mbps. Also, 58.2% was on 4G network at a speed of up to 19Mbps, while 201TB of Wi-Fi was used in and around the eight stadiums.

Similarly, 11.4mn voice calls were made throughout the event, of which 63.1% were VoLTE with a call success rate of 99.95% and 646,000 fans used roaming, while 8,466 antennae placed in the eight stadiums supported the network and a team of more than 500 experts on the ground ensured seamless service. Lusail Stadium saw the highest figures, with 222TB data used and 2.9mn calls made throughout the tournament.

A full 4G/5G mobile network modernisation incorporating the very latest, most advanced equipment and functionalities ensured complete readiness for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Proper network capacity and resili-



Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad bin Nasser al-Thani

ency throughout all network components – RAN, Core and Transport – were ensured for both national and international segments and included full modernisation of the core with a sophisticated cloud core network in state-of-the-art data centres.

A major upgrade of outdoor radio sites with the latest 5G technology maximised country-level coverage, including stadiums, airports, rail networks, fan zones, and other FIFA-related facilities. Capacity for fan zones and other event venues and hotspots was enhanced.

More than 1,130 multi-beam antennas connected over 355km of RF cables and over 202km of fibre optic, covering the eight stadiums and immediate surrounding areas with 4G and 5G. Mobile network services with more than 5,000 cells, more than 1,500 DOTs, TETRA services, and Wi-Fi backbone offered state-of-the-art 5G, 4G, 3G, and 2G technologies in all eight stadiums.

A focused task force comprising more than 400 experts handled operations from a centralised state-of-the-art Service Operation Centre, supported by a network of



"To have hosted such an incredible event in our beloved country, and for our country to have put on such a stellar performance, was phenomenal. It was priceless for Ooredoo to have had the opportunity to show the world just what we and our network of champions can do"

multiple remote hubs and field operations round-the-clock. Technical experts with experience in major global events, such as the Super Bowl or previous World Cup tournaments were engaged.

Major telecom suppliers were asked to enhance their support framework and service assurance requirements during the period of the event. Ooredoo also liaised closely with the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, as well as with the Qatar Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) to facilitate successful World Cup operations.

Ooredoo used a new AI-powered

process of identity authentication and SIM card activation to speed up and simplify its onboarding process. The service deployed a sophisticated AI-based digital Know Your Customer (KYC) technology to quickly and efficiently establish the real identity of users in the digital world.

An AI-powered virtual voice assistant utilising Google Contact Centre AI was available 24/7 to assist customers in nine different languages, including English, Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Japanese, Korean and Arabic.

Network enhancements included upgrades of Ooredoo's national and

international transport IP links capacity, ensuring abundant bandwidth for internet connectivity with international servers for popular OTT applications, such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, WhatsApp, and more. These upgrades also ensured the provision of high-quality voice calls and an excellent roaming experience, enabling customers and broadcasters to stay connected with their international home destinations.

Customer experience measurement devices were deployed in stadiums and fan zones to monitor in real-time the main applications being used by fans and enable proactive real-time quality enhancements.

Ooredoo provided global telecommunications services to all media rights licensees in Qatar to cover this landmark international event. This included the connection of approximately 50 event broadcasters around the world to the Ooredoo network and the Qatar International Broadcasting Centre to transmit live video and data, providing tournament carriers with the quality and flexibility needed to produce and distribute broadcast video content.

More than 350 FIFA buses that were used to transport players, match officials, and media representatives were provided with mobile broadband with some 300 of these also fitted with managed Wi-Fi systems.

Sheikh Nasser said: "I'm sure it will be agreed across the globe that Qatar laid on an absolutely world-class, record-breaking FIFA World Cup and that Ooredoo presented a phenomenal display of what will surely now be industry-standard communications and connectivity for such major global events.

"Our thanks go to FIFA and the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy for placing their trust in us, and to the thousands of fans and customers who relied on us to keep them connected, as well as to each and every member of the Ooredoo family for their relentless efforts to stand up and deliver."

Sidra Medicine gets new CEO



Dr Iyabo Tinubu-Karch.

Sidra Medicine, a QF entity, has announced the appointment of Dr Iyabo Tinubu-Karch as its Chief Executive Officer. She has extensive clinical experience in general internal medicine, hospital and geriatric medicine, a statement said.

Dr Tinubu-Karch is certified in health information technology and has led several international based programmes on the application of technology in clinical medicine. She also holds numerous high-profile board appointments and memberships in leading healthcare colleges and societies in the US.

Mohamed Khalid al-Mana, current managing director and member of the Board of Governors at Sidra Medicine said: "Dr Iyabo Tinubu-Karch has been actively involved with the management team at our hospital, in her previous capacity as a non-executive Board member since 2019, as well as in an advisory role with our management committee. Dr Tinubu-Karch's experience within the healthcare sector and extensive knowledge of Sidra Medicine will be invaluable to lead our organisation into a new era."

Dr Tinubu-Karch was a practising physician at a number of health organisations in the US including: Swedish Medical Centre; University of Washington; the Department of Veterans Affairs in Seattle and VA Health Care Systems. She was most recently the clinical instructor at the University of Washington, School of Public Health and is the founder and CEO of 6M Geriatrics and Hospital Medicine. Her international roles include serving as a consultant physician in health systems improvement at Lagos State University Teaching Hospital in Nigeria.

Announcement

Voluntary Liquidation Ended

I, **Mr. Mibu Jose**,
a liquidator for
CASTLE CONSTRUCTION L.L.C.
Commercial Registration No. 35754
announce the end of Liquidation process
in accordance with Qatar **Commercial
Companies Law No. 11 of 2015.**

The company's commercial registration
was duly cancelled after the completion of
liquidation process.

QRCS, Qatar Charity support Lebanon's health sector

As part of backing the Lebanese health sector in the face of economic challenges, two batches of vital medicines worth QR3,650,000 have recently been delivered to the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and its Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

The grant forms part of a project funded by Qatar Charity (QC) and implemented by Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS).

At Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Medical Centre, the Directorate-General of Internal Security Forces (ISF) held a ceremony to receive chronic disease medications provided by QRCS and QC.

Major-General Imad Othman, director-general of ISF; Counselor Mashaal bin Mohamed al-Kuwari, representative of the ambassador of Qatar to Lebanon; Dr Mohamed al-Sousi, head of QRCS' mission in Lebanon; Brigadier Hussein Khashfa, head of the Central Administration Unit; Colonel Ahmed Abla, commander of Beirut Police; and senior officers were present.



Lebanese Minister of Public Health Dr Firas al-Abyad addresses a press conference.



Miandad V P hails Qatar's success in hosting historic World Cup

Mohammad Miandad V P, Chairman-33 Holdings and Managing Director-Naseem Healthcare, praised Qatar for hosting a historic FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 that will be hard to replicate, adding that Qatar has achieved great success, and this achievement should be a source of pride for all of us.



Mohammed Miandad V P
Chairman-33 Holdings and Managing Director-Naseem Healthcare

A decade of preparation, massive infrastructural transformation, the creation of seven new stadiums, and finally a deserving world cup winner. The game is not over. In fact, it has just begun. The world cup final was the epitome of all that we have done during

the last decade—a coordinated game of football, moving through circles led by a magician. Man-to-man marking and strategic positioning deployed by the South Americans made the impossible possible in the first half, which ended in a 2-0 lead. But, like the World Cup itself, France came back and scored twice, led by its unstoppable hero. Extra time was extra special. Fortunes changed hands twice. Finally, it becomes an on-the-spot judgement because Argentina was determined to bring the cup home.

There is no doubt that the World Cup was a great success. In fact, success is beyond imagination in terms of facilities and participation. The entire nation was rolling with the ball for 29 days, embracing everyone without any prejudice or differences. It was literally all roads that led to the stadium. None of them strayed from the spirit of the game. Qatar proved to the world that size does not matter, but attitude does.


With the curtain falling on the game, it is time to think about the future. Qatar is now a superpower: a country that can work miracles and scale beyond any boundaries. By welcoming more than a million visitors during the world cup, the country can now eye a regular flow of visitors to the country.

The infrastructure developed for the game is now an asset to the country and will pave the way for future business expansion within the country and abroad. More countries are now expected to accept the country as a choice for their business and holidays.

Being the host, Qatar could change all perceptions against the cultural barriers, which were a discussion topic ahead of the game. The country gracefully invalidated all baseless allegations and propaganda by setting stage for the greatest experience for the world.

This is an occasion for the expatriate brands to contribute further to the growth of this beautiful country. Naseem Healthcare will further invest in this growing market by opening a new centre next year, and more is in the pipeline. The expansion of Naseem Surgical Centre is aimed at making elective surgeries available to everyone, integrating cutting-edge technology and radical clinical capabilities. In the coming year, Naseem Healthcare will focus on uncompromised quality for the people in the country. We will launch Naseem Humans, the CSR wing that would help organizations deliver services across working-class society. Land Royal Properties, one of the leading property dealers in Qatar, is committed to up scaling its real estate facilities to meet the growing demand for housing facilities in terms of quality and quantity.

"Everyone in the country should learn from two aspects of football; pace and coordination. For a fast growing country like Qatar, we should learn to keep our pace without losing focus on the goal. We should bring this and apply it at every level of living in both personal and work spaces," Miandad concluded.



QATAR ELECTRICITY AND WATER COMPANY Q.P.S.C

STATE OF QATAR

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Sr. No	Tender No.	Description
1	OT/14 /420288	Supply Of Sodium Chlorite Solution On Call Off Basis

- Document for the above Tender can be downloaded from the company website www.qewc.com/qewc/tenders
- Closing Date to download the Tender document: 09.01.2023
- Closing Date and Time for Tender submission: 16.02.2023 at 11:00 AM
- Offer must be valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Tender bids to be deposited in the Tender Box situated at the Purchase Department of QEWC, and should be in sealed envelopes addressed to the Head of Tender and Purchase Committee.
- Location : Qatar Navigation Tower in Al-Dafna Area, Floor No.48, Zone 63
- This tender is floated in conjunction with Tawteen, Investor packs can be obtained from the e-Brochure which can be downloaded from Tawteen (www.tawteen.com.qa)

For More Information please contact us via email 1482@qewc.com

Qatar Rail carries 18.2mn passengers onboard Doha Metro & Lusail Tram during FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022



Record operational achievements during the tournament across 64 matches



Metro plays pivotal role in providing a safe and reliable travel experience for the World Cup fans



The total number of passengers who used the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram networks during the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar – from November 20 to December 18, 2022 – reached 18.2 million, with 17.4 million and 0.8 million passengers using Doha Metro and Lusail Tram respectively, Qatar Rail has announced. This translates to an average daily ridership of 600,000 for Metro, and 27,000 for Tram.

Doha Metro trains performed a total of more than 79,000 trips, travelling a total of almost 1.5 million kilometres, equivalent to two journeys to the moon and back. The total distance passengers travelled during the tournament exceeded 200 million kilometres, which is 1.4 times the distance to the sun.

Throughout the tournament, metro and tram services witnessed a huge turnout, especially during the first thirteen days when the group stage saw four daily matches played across eight stadiums. With the tournament hitting the highest-ever attendance in FIFA's history during group stages, Doha Metro & Lusail Tram made an exceptional contribution to providing a safe and reliable travel experience to fans who attended up to four matches a day, in addition to carrying them to fan zones, event areas, and key destinations across the city. During this period, Doha Metro trains were amongst the busiest trains anywhere in the world.

Managing Director and CEO of Qatar Rail HE Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie said:



“This edition of the World Cup was undoubtedly an exceptional one, the successful hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 represents a historical milestone for the state of Qatar and the successful delivery of this global event will shine a bright light, through which the world will see the State of Qatar. At Qatar Rail, we are indeed proud of the tournament's success, which we attribute to the high level of preparedness and co-ordination among all key stakeholders. We highly prize the Ministry of Transport for its continuous support, the intensive preparations and the operational and strategic planning set into motion, and the expertise put forth by employees, which collectively played an instrumental role in our success and our ability to present an exemplary model for transport services during mega-events.”

– HE Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, Managing Director and CEO

during the World Cup also led to the breaking of several operational records. On November 24, 2022, the tournament's 5th day marked a new record in daily metro ridership when 827,135 passengers were safely transported to and from stadiums and other destinations, exceeding

the previous record patronage of 333,000 passengers who were transported on the Qatar National Day (QND) in 2019. The 2022 QND also saw an equally exceptional turnout, with a total of 810,000 passengers carried during the day.

To Page 8

17.4 million

The number of people who travelled on Doha Metro between November 20 and December 18

800,000

The number of people who travelled on Lusail Tram during the period

600,000

The average daily ridership for Doha Metro during the period

27,000

The average daily ridership for Lusail Tram during the period

79,000

The number of trips made by Doha Metro during the World Cup, travelling a total of almost 1.5 million kilometres, equivalent to two journeys to the moon and back. The total distance passengers travelled during the tournament exceeded 200 million kilometres

QATAR

“ Throughout the tournament, Doha Metro provided the highest levels of operational performance, despite witnessing record attendance at stadiums and holding up to four matches per day. Our main objective during the World Cup revolved around delivering a safe and reliable travel experience, with a special focus on the implementation of our operational plans and crowd management systems towards boosting our capacity to accommodate this record patronage, especially during the group stage. We also continued to focus on offering world-class customer service by providing travel information, facilitating passenger flow, and providing an integrated experience to fans and passengers.”

— Eng. Abdulla Saif al-Sulaiti,
Chief of Service Delivery at Qatar Rail

“ Every decision by the team at the ICC was made to improve our passengers’ experience after having a full overview of the network. This enabled us to react in a timely manner, for instance by bringing trains on hot standby into service in the busy times and therefore, minimize the impact on the passengers’ journey. Meanwhile, our maintenance team ensured a rapid response time by allocating resources in strategic locations across the network and scheduling maintenance activities intelligently. This allowed us to achieve 100% fleet availability during the tournament despite the limited engineering hours available.”

— Eng. Jassim al-Ansari,
Chief of Program Delivery at Qatar Rail

“ Our multi-faceted plan provided the World Cup fans with a safe and secure experience onboard our networks. This extended beyond the stations and included critical systems infrastructure protection and was augmented by the Railway Conditions of Carriage and User Regulations for passengers, which achieved an exceptional level of compliance throughout the tournament. We’ve also achieved the highest standards of environmental sustainability during this period. Moreover, and despite the record patronage, no major incidents were reported, thanks to our security preparedness for the event.”

— Abdulrahman Ali al-Malik,
Senior QSHSE Director at Qatar Rail

From Page 7

Doha Metro's busiest stations were Msheireb, Lusail QNB, and DECC, while Legtaifiya and Lusail Central were the busiest stops along Lusail Tram.

As for the network's interchange stations, up to 400,00 passengers daily used Msheireb, which connects all three metro lines. Meanwhile, Al Bidda Station, where the Green and Red Lines intersect, received up to 150,000 passengers during the event.

Eng. Abdulla Saif al-Sulaiti, Chief of Service Delivery at Qatar Rail, said:

“Throughout the tournament, Doha Metro provided the highest levels of operational performance, despite witnessing record attendance at stadiums and holding up to four matches per day. Our main objective during the World Cup revolved around delivering a safe and reliable travel experience, with a special focus on the implementation of our operational plans and crowd management systems towards boosting our capacity to accommodate this record patronage, especially during the group stage. We also continued to focus on offering world-class customer service by providing travel information, facilitating passenger flow, and providing an integrated experience to fans and passengers.”

In addition to directly connecting fans to five of the tournament's eight stadiums, Doha Metro proved to be a reliable mobility partner for fans and

facilitated their access to activation areas, especially at the Corniche and its surrounding areas, including the FIFA Fan Festival at Al Bidda Park. Due to the various events and activities' popularity among fans, the seven metro stations in this area, namely Corniche, Al Bidda, West Bay Qatar Energy, DECC, Souq Waqif and Msheireb, welcomed up to 870,000 passengers per day starting or ending their journey, or transferring between lines. Lusail QNB Station was also popular among fans since it is located near the Darb Lusail Festival.

Thanks to the metro, fans and visitors were also able to easily access other event areas across the country such as the Arcadia Music Festival through Ras Bu Fontas station, the ARAVIA live music experience by MDLBEAST through Al Wakra station, the Fan Village Caravan City through Al Mesila station, and Darb Al Saai festival through Al Rayyan Al Qadeem station.

Due to the compact nature of the tournament, and to cater for the high demand for its services during the tournament, Qatar Rail implemented special operational plans, where in co-ordination with key partners, the company's preparations for the event translated into an integrated travel experience that contributed to making the Qatar edition of the World Cup among the safest and most secure yet.

In this context, Qatar Rail and its partners and stakeholders developed an ecosystem of integrat-



ed skillsets, systems, plans, and procedures to strategically implement an effective crowd management system that optimises passenger flow and provides rapid response when needed.

To this end, Eng. Jassim al-Ansari, Chief of Program Delivery at Qatar Rail commented: “every decision by the team at the ICC was made to improve our passengers’ experience after having a full overview of the network. This enabled us to react in a timely manner, for instance by bringing trains on hot standby into service in the busy times and therefore, minimise the impact on the passengers’

journey. Meanwhile, our maintenance team ensured a rapid response time by allocating resources in strategic locations across the network and scheduling maintenance activities intelligently. This allowed us to achieve 100% fleet availability during the tournament despite the limited engineering hours available.”

Accordingly, Qatar Rail mobilised more than 5,000 additional staff to support its operational plans for the World Cup and manage crowds at the stations in collaboration with RKH Qitarat, the operator of Doha Metro & Lusail Tram. Qatar Rail

also coordinated with the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy to install over 560 wayfinding signages across stations in order to make it easy and convenient for fans to access stadiums and other destinations in Qatar.

Qatar Rail's crowd management plans and ongoing efforts included the enhancement of Doha Metro's operational capacity, with the network's entire fleet of 110 trains serving the World Cup, operating at headways as low as 165 seconds across all three metro lines. In parallel, advanced systems played a key role in providing

real-time information on passenger flow at stations, which enhanced the ability to deal with various scenarios related to crowd management safely and effectively.

Station capacities were also increased with 20 additional ticket machines and 35 additional passenger gates installed at strategic locations across the network to accommodate the growing demand for Doha Metro's services throughout the event. In addition, Qatar Rail has raised its security readiness to ensure providing safe travel experience to the fans specially with having large number of crowds at the network during the tournament.

“Our multi-faceted plan provided the World Cup fans with a safe and secure experience onboard our networks. This extended beyond the stations and included critical systems infrastructure protection and was augmented by the Railway Conditions of Carriage and User Regulations for passengers, which achieved an exceptional level of compliance throughout the tournament. We've also achieved the highest standards of environmental sustainability during this period. Moreover, and despite the record patronage, no major incidents were reported, thanks to our security preparedness for the event”, Abdulrahman Ali al-Malik, Senior QSHSE Director at Qatar Rail explained.

Complementing their in-station experience, customers also enjoyed access to 5G Wi-Fi services at all stations, as well

as a unique shopping experience through more than 250 retail shops that offer a multitude of products and services across the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram networks.

Qatar Rail's commitment to constantly enhancing its customers' experience also translated into another feat, as 97% of incoming calls answered by the customer service centre within 15 seconds of receiving them, which complemented the comprehensive customer communication plan put in place in co-ordination with partners and stakeholders.

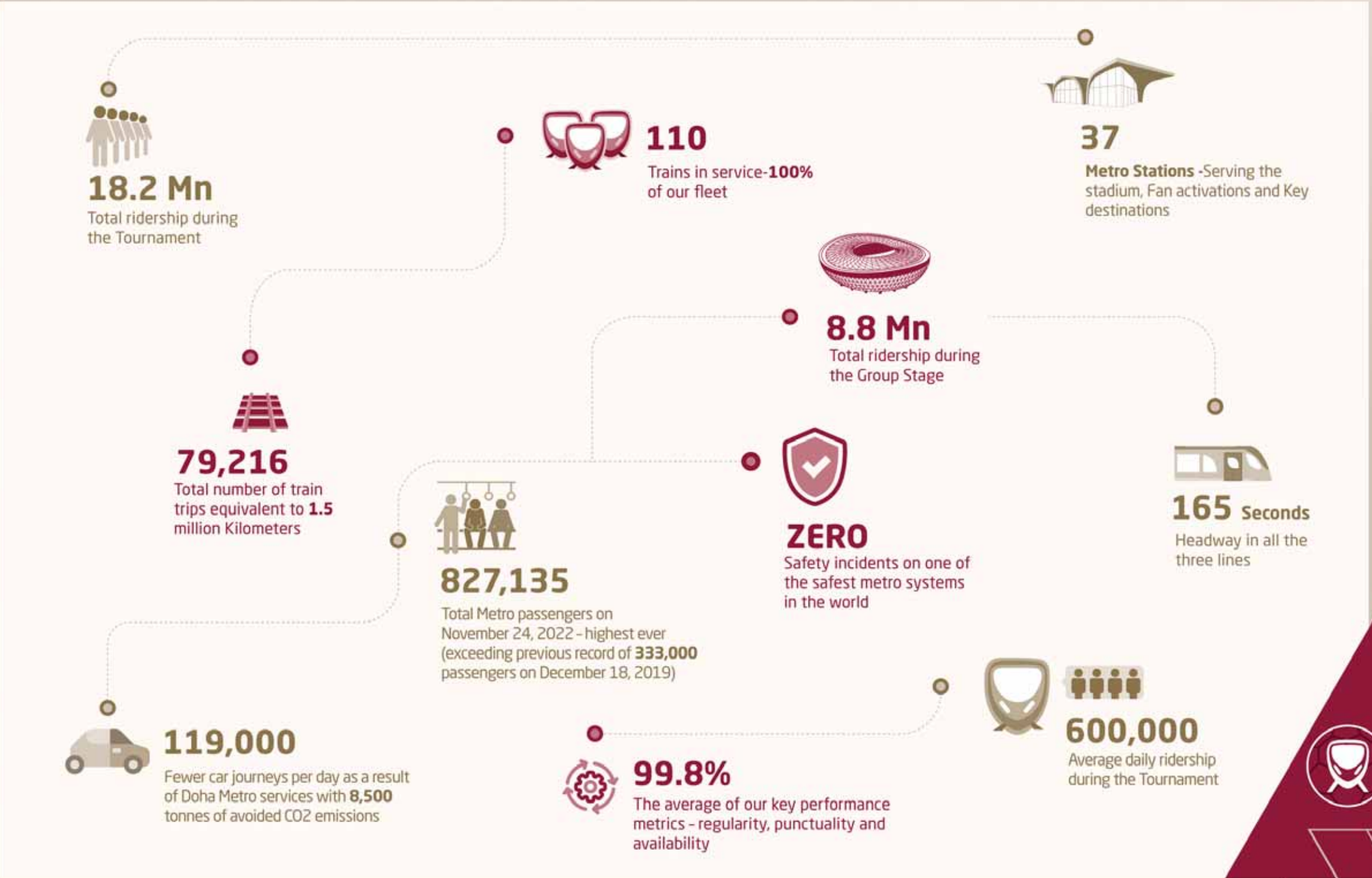
In this connection, the metro amassed the attention of international journalists and fans alike, who praised the metro network, its cleanliness, modernity, and safety during the tournament. Fans' comments also highlighted the trains' interior design and comfort as well as the stations' distinctive architecture and spaciousness, which helped accommodate the influx of visitors and maintain a steady flow of passengers across the network.

By the same token, Qatar Rail's worldwide media coverage featured a large number of articles published in international newspapers underpinning Doha Metro's central role in the success of the World Cup and how it became a melting pot for cultural exchange among fans from all countries and walks of life. The Metro was also a huge hit on social media platforms, where many videos and fan experiences went viral the world over.



PERFORMANCE DURING FIFA WORLD CUP QATAR 2022

FROM 20 NOV TO 18 DEC, 2022



Qatar Rail celebrates successful World Cup journey at Rayyan Park



Qatar Rail's journey with the World Cup culminated with a special ceremony at Al Rayyan Park to celebrate the success of Doha Metro & Lusail Tram's operational plan for the tournament. The event was held in the presence of HE Dr al-Subaie, who attended alongside the senior and executive management officials of Qatar Rail and RKH Qitarat. Qatar Rail and RKH Qitarat's staff were honoured during the event, in recognition of their exceptional efforts and valuable contributions to the success of this international mega-event.



CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

📍 P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
✉ editor@gulf-times.com
☎ 44350478 (News),
☎ 44466404 (Sport),
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GULF TIMES

A financial deglobalisation must come next

After four decades of fostering integration through trade and finance, the global economy has begun a painful process of fragmentation. Initially driven by wealthy countries – namely, the United States under former president Donald Trump and the United Kingdom following the Brexit referendum – several geopolitical forces have combined to accelerate the shift toward deglobalisation.

The fracturing of global trade could herald the fragmentation of international capital markets. Covid-19-related lockdowns and closures have disrupted global supply chains and shut down major production centres, most notably in China. Similarly, the war in Ukraine has altered trade routes and forced Western countries to find alternative suppliers of major commodities like oil, gas, wheat, and fertilisers. Western-led sanctions on Russia have further impeded trade and sharply increased food and energy prices.

But while global trade could become even more fragmented if major economies adopt protectionist policies such as border carbon taxes, financial markets remain strongly integrated. Cross-border capital flows are still largely unregulated and more volatile than ever. It's a combination that is currently proving to be lethal for many low- and middle-income countries.

The liberalisation of capital accounts in these countries in the 1990s has led to large inflows of "hot money": private financial capital driven not so much by developing countries' economic outlook as by developed countries' macroeconomic policies. In the years following the 2008 global financial crisis, capital flows to emerging and "frontier" markets surged as prolonged monetary expansion by developed countries' central banks fuelled asset bubbles. Financial agents borrowed cheap in dollars and either lent in foreign currency to developing countries or invested in local currency markets. Capital inflows triggered higher interest-rate spreads and currency appreciation, making carry trades particularly lucrative – at least for a while.

To restore their economic viability, low- and middle-income countries must embrace the fragmentation of capital markets

Over the years, the inflows of hot money, often held as reserves and invested in low-return dollar assets, have made emerging and developing economies vulnerable to capital flight. This has had a dampening effect on these countries' fiscal policies, as rising seignior age costs have stoked fears of credit-rating downgrades.

The rapid interest-rate hikes in the US and the European Union have compounded low- and middle-income countries' external debt burdens, forcing them to raise interest rates even more aggressively than advanced economies and hindering their recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. Moreover, these dramatic rate hikes have not prevented fickle foreign investors from fleeing, causing emerging-market currencies to depreciate and severely damaging labour markets and growth prospects.

But the developed countries' combination of higher interest rates and fiscal consolidation is counterproductive, as it risks causing recessions without addressing the real forces behind surging inflation. As a result of following the US Federal Reserve's lead, many low- and middle-income countries already face severe stagflation – and integration with global finance is worsening their economic woes.

Instead of mimicking developed countries' ineffective approach, developing and emerging countries must introduce policies tailored to their specific needs and political economies. Such policies include controlling the prices of key commodities, increasing domestic production to alleviate critical shortages, and ensuring social protections for the newly unemployed and those who are worst affected by high inflation.

Above all, developing countries must introduce more effective capital controls. Imposing constraints on volatile portfolio flows, particularly those that contribute to currency depreciation, is crucial to mitigating the risks associated with financial globalisation. Moreover, just as several developing countries have explicitly or implicitly defied the US-led trade sanctions on Russia, policymakers must break free from the US-dominated international financial system, especially dollar swaps and repo markets.

Given that most developing countries cannot afford to act on their own, regional cooperation is also critical. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's annual report mentions several innovative forms of finance and exchange payments that Global South countries could implement to counter advanced economies' financial dominance, including "South-South clearing unions."

If trade among Global South economies grows quickly, the report notes, the flows will be settled in their own currencies or through regional currency mechanisms. Such mechanisms could also help negotiate debt-restructuring deals, provide financial insurance at the regional level, and even establish stabilisation funds to improve countries' foreign-asset positions.

Financial globalisation was supposed to usher in an era of robust growth and fiscal stability in the developing world. It ended up doing the opposite. Now, to restore their economic viability, low- and middle-income countries must make the most of deglobalisation and embrace the fragmentation of international capital markets. — Project Syndicate

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Hardest part yet to come for gas-hoarding Europe



Russian gas deliveries via Nord Stream halted since end-August



EU says gas stores must again be 90% full by November 2023



Cost of filling gas storage estimated at €58bn

By Susanna Twidale, Marwa Rashad and Emily Chow

Europe faces a much tougher task to rebuild gas stocks next year compared with this winter, meaning energy bills are likely to stay high and governments could have to implement painful rationing measures they have so far avoided.

Previously dominant, gas supplies from Russia have since late August been greatly reduced, meaning the task of refilling storage will be much harder when levels are depleted by early next year.

The expense of buying gas on the open market rather than through contracts negotiated at favourable prices will also be harder to bear for governments weakened by months of steep energy costs that have driven inflation to multi-decade highs.

This year, the European Union successfully filled reserves to a peak of 96% - full in November to try to ensure sufficient winter supplies.

Countries also managed to restrain use during unusually mild weather but a prolonged cold snap this month has focused minds on the scale of the task ahead.

"Many of the circumstances that allowed EU countries to fill their storage sites ahead of this winter may well not be repeated in 2023," Fatih Birol,

Executive Director of Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) said last week.

The IEA said Europe could face a shortfall of almost 30bn cubic metres (bcm) next winter, equivalent to nearly 7% of 2021 demand.

Pipelines versus LNG

Before Russia invaded Ukraine in February, prompting Western sanctions, Russia provided around 40% of Europe's gas.

Of this, around 65% of Europe's pipeline deliveries came via the Nord Stream pipeline to Germany and the rest through pipelines via Ukraine.

Shipments via Ukraine continue, but are at risk as the war with Russia shows no sign of ending, while gas deliveries through Nord Stream have stopped since the end of August.

Suspected sabotage has since damaged the link, which is not expected to return to service in the near future.

Analysts at Wood Mackenzie forecast up to 25 bcm less Russian gas will reach Europe for the 2023 filling season from April to end September when summer temperatures reduce heating demand.

That means the levels left in storage at the end of this winter will determine the scale of the challenge for the following winter.

Energy Aspects analyst Leon Izbicki expects Europe's stocks to be around 55 bcm, or just over half full by the end

of March compared with levels around 84% now.

The European Commission has said these stores must be 90% full by November 1 2023.

Based on an average gas price forecast of €95 per megawatt hour (MWh) for 2023, Izbicki said it will cost around €58bn for Europe to meet the target, similar to the filling costs analysts calculated for this year.

Weather and price determine demand

The cost of energy has focused minds on reducing gas consumption, which fell by around a quarter in October and November year-on-year, analysts said, through a wide range of measures such as fuel switching, efficiency, and curtailing production.

"The focus will continue to be on demand-side reductions next year, with the scale of the challenge dependent in part on where stocks sit coming out of winter," Luke Cottell, senior analyst at Timera Energy, said.

German automotive giant Mercedes-Benz for instance said it could cut gas use by up to 50% this year by using more renewable electricity while retailers across Europe have dimmed lights and turned off advertising screens.

A large dent has also come from industrial sectors forced to curb output as high gas prices make production uneconomic with some

firms shifting production to regions with cheaper energy.

"We still see the reduction in industrial gas demand owing to lower economic activity as mostly reversible in 2023 if prices drop, but the longer prices stay elevated the more likely it is that businesses will permanently offshore their gas-intensive production," Energy Aspects' Izbicki said.

How much demand can be reduced is heavily dependent on the weather as well as on price.

As temperatures plunged in Europe earlier this month, the German energy regulator, the Federal Network Agency said Europe's largest gas consumer had fallen short of its gas saving targets for the first time.

Fight for supplies

The obvious way to boost supplies is through liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Countries such as Germany, Poland and The Netherlands built or expanded LNG regasification terminals that receive seaborne cargoes of LNG from around the world, and reheat it to pump into domestic gas networks.

Europe and Britain's LNG import capacity will increase around 25% by the end of 2023 compared with 2021 levels, data compiled by the US Energy Information Administration showed.

But having capacity is no guarantee of supplies.

This year, lower demand and high prices meant Chinese buyers largely shunned the spot LNG market and some cargoes destined for Asian buyers were diverted to Europe.

That may not happen next year, meaning Europe would face fierce competition for LNG that would drive up the cost.

"Asia consumption could shift from a tailwind to Europe to a major headwind for European buying," said Sean Morgan, director at US banking firm Evercore ISI.

Europe's efforts to introduce a cap on gas prices in the European Union could further hamper EU attempts to secure cargoes, countries, such as Germany, which have opposed the plan, say.

Record high prices in Europe, however painful, helped the region to secure record volumes of LNG imports this year.

Benchmark European gas prices hit a peak in August of more than 300 euros/MWh.

Unless Europe can agree on a price cap, most analysts forecast prices will remain elevated, in a 90-200 euros/MWh range in 2023 compared with prices below 20 euros/MWh in 2020.

"Next year will be a constant headache for prices rather than the pain of the being punched in the face, migraine attack we saw this August," Henning Gloystein, a director at consultancy Eurasia, said. — Reuters



The gas compressor station, a part of Polish section of the Yamal pipeline that links Russia with western Europe which is owned by a joint venture of Gazprom and PGNiG but it is operated by Poland's state-owned gas transmission company Gaz-System, is seen in Gabinek near Wloclawek, Poland, last May. (Reuters)

Qatar embassies and consulates continue to mark National Day



The diplomatic, consular and representative missions of Qatar abroad continued their celebrations on the occasion of Qatar National Day, which falls on December 18 every year, in memory of the founder of the State, Sheikh Jassem bin Mohamed bin Thani, under the slogan "Our Unity is Source of Our Strength".

The heads of the diplomatic, consular and representative missions of Qatar abroad extended their congratulations and blessings to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, and all the Qatari people on the cherished occasion, wishing Qatar further progress and prosperity.

The Qatari diplomatic celebrations in the capitals and cities of the world enjoyed high-level official and popular participation, reflecting Qatar's distinguished relations with the countries of the world.

In Algiers, the Qatar embassy in Algeria held a ceremony, which was attended by Algerian Minister of Youth and Sports Abderezak Sebgag, Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts Yacine Hammadi, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Mohamed Abdelhafid Henni, Vice-President of the People's National Assembly Munther Bouden, and Major General Abdelaziz Haouam, Territory Air Defence Forces Commander and Personal Representative of Chief of Staff of the People's National Army Lt Gen Said Chanegriha. During the ceremony, Qatar's ambassador to Algeria Abdulaziz Ali al-Naama honoured the heads of missions of the countries that won the top three places in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. Munther Bouden, on behalf of the National People's Assembly, honoured Qatar's ambassador, in recognition of Qatar's efforts in organising the World Cup.

In Stockholm, Qatar's embassy in Sweden held a ceremony, which was attended by Director-General for International Development Co-operation at the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Helen Edwards as guest of honour, among others. During the ceremony, the friends of Qatar in Sweden were honoured for their efforts in strengthening bilateral relations. The Qatari Al Maha band presented heritage and popular segments highlighting the authentic Qatari culture and heritage, and various competitions were held at the ceremony with the participation of Qatar Tourism and Qatar Airways.

In Tokyo, Qatar's embassy in Japan held a celebration. The ceremony was attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Takeki Shunsuke, Minister for Digital Transformation of Japan Taro Kono, Chief Representative of the New Komeito Party, and a number of officials, members of the National Diet of Japan, as well as head and representatives of diplomatic missions in Japan.

In Djibouti, Qatar's embassy also held a celebration. The ceremony was attended by President of the National Assembly of Djibouti Mohamed Ali Houmed, Djibouti's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation and official spokesman for the government Mamoud Ali Youssef, Minister of Interior Said Noh Hassan, and a number of ministers, senior officials, heads and members of diplomatic missions, as well as representatives of regional and international organisations in Djibouti. Qatar's ambassador to Djibouti Rashid bin Shafie al-Marri spoke during the ceremony.



In Lima, Qatar embassy in Peru held a celebration. The ceremony was attended by representatives of the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a number of public figures and businessmen, in addition to heads and representatives of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Peru, members of the Qatar mission, the attache, and local employees. The ceremony included various segments on Qatar's hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar.

In Dhaka, Qatar's embassy in Bangladesh also held a celebration. The ceremony was attended by Bangladesh Minister of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Imran Ahmed, Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed, among others. Qatar Airways, Qatar Charity and Qatar Red Crescent Society also participated in the ceremony. Qatar's ambassador to Bangladesh Seraya bin Ali al-Qahtani made a speech during the ceremony.

In Zagreb, Qatar's embassy in Croatia also held a celebration. In San Jose, Qatar's embassy in Costa Rica held a ceremony attended by Second Vice-President of Costa Rica Mary Munive Angermuller, Minister of Women's Affairs Cindy Quesada, a number of ambassadors, representatives of missions and international organisations accredited to Costa Rica, among others. Qatar's ambassador to Costa Rica Dr Khamis bin Rashid al-Kaabi noted in his speech the progress achieved by Qatar in many fields.

In Buenos Aires, Qatar's embassy in Argentina held a celebration with the ceremony attended by a number of Argentine officials, a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors accredited to Argentina, representatives



of the Argentine air and armed forces, members of the Senate and Representatives, a number of senior businessmen, representatives of oil and gas companies, as well as media, sports personalities, a group of intellectuals, academics and university professors, in addition to researchers, clerics, heads of Islamic centres, local and international organisations and associations concerned with human rights, and representatives of civil society.

In Bamako, Qatar's embassy in Mali organised a ceremony which was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of Mali Abdoulaye Diop, a number of officials, parliamentarians, leaders of parties and organisations, businessmen, heads and members of diplomatic missions accredited to Mali, leaders and representatives of the media. Qatar's ambassador to Mali Ahmed bin Abdulrahman al-Sunaidi made a speech on the occasion.

In Tunis, Qatar's embassy in Tunisia organised a celebration attended by Minister of National Defence Imad Mamish, representing the Tunisian government, Minister of Youth and Sports Kamal Daqish, Minister Adviser to the President of Tunisia Mustapha Ferjani, Adviser to the President Walid al-Hajjam, and a number of heads of diplomatic missions and diplomats accredited to Tunisia. (QNA)

Winter Wonderland vibes at talabat Boulevard

The recently-opened talabat Boulevard at Lusail Winter Wonderland features an array of fresh food kiosks, festive decor and engaging activities for visitors to enjoy, a statement said.

The talabat Boulevard also offers convenient and quick ordering, cashless payment, and no queues at collection.

Customers can order from a wide variety of desserts such as hot waffles, pancakes, and cookies. Other available treats include hot chocolate and donut.

The talabat Boulevard offers a relaxed and festive environment with warm fairy lights, pine trees, wooden benches and some picturesque spots to brighten up IG feeds. Some exciting football-themed activities and games are also being held at the Boulevard daily.

"As the official F&B sponsor of Lusail Winter Wonderland in Doha, talabat Qatar is pleased to welcome everyone to the talabat Boulevard, open from 4pm to 12am between



An array of offerings at the talabat Boulevard.



Saturday and Wednesday and Thursday and Friday," it was added.

Lebanese health minister lauds Qatar's medical aid

Minister of Public Health in the Lebanese caretaker government Dr Firas al-Abiad voiced appreciation of the support provided by Qatar and its charities to Lebanon, especially in relation to the health sector, QNA reported from Beirut.

This came at a press conference, during which Dr al-Abiad announced receiving medical assistance for the Lebanese ministries of interior and public health, funded by Qatar Charity (QC) and executed by Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) with a total value of QR3.65mn, in continuation of the assistance provided in support of the Lebanese health sector to face the current economic challenges.

The grant consisted chronic diseases medications, including 11 categories that are most in need, according to the ministry.

About 70% of these medicines are allocated for free distribution to patients in 240 primary health care centres,



Lebanese Minister of Health meets officials.

while the remaining 30% are allocated for the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, for distribution to pharmacies of the Internal Security Forces (ISF).

Lebanon's health minister also referred to the important and numerous programmes implemented by QRCS in Lebanon, the latest of which was the co-operation to provide drinking water to the Lebanese as well as refugees in Arsal and other regions.

Director-General of the ISF Major General Imad Othman extended his appreciation to the Qatari em-

bassy in Lebanon, QC and QRCS for the assistance and underscored its significance in the provision of medical services to over 150,000 beneficiaries from the ISF personnel and their families, as well as retirees.

Head of QRCS mission in Lebanon Dr Mohamed al-Sousi said the grant affirms keenness to support the health sector in Lebanon.

Emergency and Relief Department at Qatar Charity Khaled al-Yafei said the assistance comes in the framework of QC's attention to the health sector.



Some of the participants and officials at the QDA-organised camp.

QDA launches annual Al Bawasil Camp

Qatar Diabetes Association (QDA), a member of Qatar Foundation, launched yesterday its 23rd annual Al Bawasil International Camp for children with diabetes. The camp will run until December 26.

The activity creates an educational, safe, and fun environment for children living with diabetes from across the Middle East and North Africa region to connect and share their experiences, while also offering training and practical advice. Over 50 boys and girls, aged 7-11, are attending the camp, which is the largest of its kind organised in the region. Educational elements of the camp include workshops that deal with diabetes and its management, such as insulin injections, insulin pumps, self-monitoring blood

glucose, carb counting, and a session about a day in my life with diabetes. Additionally, the camp incorporates simple sports activities with entertainment programmes. Dr Abdullah al-Hamaq, executive director, QDA, said: "We aim to help the children lead a healthy lifestyle and cope with diabetes by fostering their knowledge of diabetes and building confidence in managing the condition so they can enjoy a normal and productive life." "It should be noted that Qatar Diabetes Association launched the first-ever Al Bawasil camp in 1999. At the time, it only catered to children within Qatar. In 2009, we opened it up to the Gulf countries, and our first international delegation attended in 2013," Dr al-Hamaq added.

Qatar-Iran transportation ties discussed



A Ministry of Transport delegation headed by Acting Assistant Undersecretary, Land Transport Affairs, Eng Hamad Essa Abdulla, met with the visiting delegation from the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development of Iran headed by Deputy Minister Dayrush Amani. The meeting discussed enhancing bilateral co-operation in areas of transportation, and several other topics related to land transportation activities and services. (QNA)

Beckham attends screening of *Save Our Squad* by DFI

The Doha Film Institute (DFI) organised a special screening of the factual entertainment series, *Save our Squad* starring global sporting icon David Beckham for the jurors of the Ajyal Film Festival, in the presence of DFI Chairperson HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, and other distinguished guests.

Co-produced by Studio 99 and Twenty Twenty for Disney+, the inspirational series follows Beckham as he returns to his roots in East London to mentor a struggling under-14s football team playing in the same league that Beckham himself played in as a boy. The screening was followed by a panel discussion.

In a press statement, DFI CEO Fatma Hassan Alremaihi said: "It was an honour to collaborate with David Beckham and Studio 99 on this very special and inspiring screening for our Ajyal family."

Addressing the young audience in Doha, Beckham stated that *Save Our Squad with David Beckham*, was a personal project for him.

"It enabled me to work with people where I grew up and give back to the game that has given



HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani with David Beckham and DFI officials.

me so much. It was important for me to go back to East London and when I heard about the Westward Boys (an under-14 grassroots side from East London), I immediately wanted to be a part of it. It wasn't easy for the

boys, but I got to know them the way I never would and that was very special for me."

The documentary, streaming on Disney+, portrays Beckham's experience mentoring the Westward Boys. From heroics

to heartbreak and failure to redemption, the experiences that Westward Boys, their coaches and their families go through over the course of the season strikes an emotional chord, as Beckham intended.



David Beckham with AJ al-Thani and other filmmakers.

Save Our Squad with David Beckham is co-produced by Beckham's production company Studio 99, and the beginning of several exciting upcoming projects.

"I am proud to say that we

are filming some scenes here in Doha for a project about the history of Adidas and Puma. It is a very interesting story, which has never been told in the way that we are doing so now."

Addressing the panel with

Beckham, Qatari filmmaker AJ al-Thani said one of her biggest inspirations was football and Beckham. Qatar-based Palestinian filmmaker Mo'men said films play a vital role in promoting cultural exchange.

Qatari pianist with autism in spotlight at D'reesha Festival

With his eyes diligently fixed on the piano, fingers delicately moving over its keys, and facial expressions changing ever so slightly with each note, 14-year-old Hassan Saeed al-Shehhi performed in front of his biggest crowd yet at Qatar Foundation's recent D'reesha Performing Arts Festival.

Al-Shehhi, diagnosed with autism when he was two, is non-verbal. His mother, Aisha al-Kash said: "He couldn't say it to me in words, but I could feel he understood that he was on a stage, performing in front of a crowd, that people were listening to him, and that he was being applauded. I could see it in that instance that he was as proud and as happy as I was."

The al-Shehhi family found out about the D'reesha Performing Arts Festival and expressed their wish for their son's participation and to their delight was welcomed by the team. Al-Kash said: "We are on always on the lookout for opportunities for Hassan to perform and pursue his passion for music. As parents, we want him to have a place in the community, and by opening their doors to people of all abilities the D'reesha Performing Arts Festival and QF have given him exactly that – a place and a sense of belonging in the community."

Al-Shehhi's relationship with music started when he was eight, thanks to a



Hassan Saeed al-Shehhi performing at D'reesha. **Right:** al-Shehhi mounts a horse.

chance encounter at his school where he tried his hand at the piano during one of his music classes. His parents quickly recognised that he showed signs of talent and enrolled him in a private music institute so he could progress.

His mother recalls that when she initially approached the music institute, the piano teacher wasn't sure al-Shehhi would be a good fit, given he had autism. But on her insistence, he agreed to give it a go. Six years on, al-Shehhi plays with the flowing dexterity of a seasoned pianist. And his piano teacher is the first to admit that al-Shehhi has shown strengths that most other kids don't.

"His memory is particularly good. He never forgets the notes, no matter how long he's been on break, he doesn't forget

them. Most other kids need a refresher after a break but not Hassan," said al-Kash. When he isn't playing the piano, al-Shehhi enjoys swimming, cycling, horse riding, and skating. "He enjoys everything other children his age do. A little support is all he needs."

Given his interest in music, al-Shehhi also plays the xylophone and is taking lessons in Eastern music too. His mother thinks music has allowed him to concentrate better on whatever task he is doing.

According to al-Kash, the D'reesha Performing Arts Festival has played a commendable role in showcasing Arab culture through music, theatre, and arts, but what's more commendable is the way it incorporated inclusivity and accessibility.

She said: "Not only did they have peo-

ple of all abilities in the performances, but they also had sign language available for the deaf and hard of hearing, and audio description of the performances for the blind and visually impaired. It was beautiful to see just how much thought was put into ensuring they were catering to people of all abilities." Getting in on the football fever, al-Shehhi learned how to play World Cup favourites like Arhabo and Hayya Hayya on the piano. "He often plays them for us at home. It's his way of being part of the football fever," said his mother, who dreams of seeing her son perform on a global stage in the near future.

Going forward, she hopes to see more opportunities – recreational and skill development – for people of all abilities across the country.

Al Dibiyat meteor shower to light up Qatar skies today

Qatar Calendar House (QCH) has announced that people living in the northern hemisphere, including residents of Qatar, will have the opportunity to observe and track the second Geminids meteorite, known as the Al Dibiyat meteor shower, which is active during December.

Also, Qatar and the rest of the world will witness the shortest day of this year.

There is a good opportunity that this year Al Dibiyat meteor showers will be visible as the sky will be darker and because the moon will not be in the sky overnight from today evening until tomorrow morning.

Qatar Calendar House's astronomer Dr Bashir Marzouq said the meteorite will peak in the evening today (Dec 22), and will continue until the dawn of tomorrow. The meteor shower is active every year during the period between Dec 7 and Dec 17. Marzouq noted that residents of Qatar can observe and see the meteorite without the need for astronomical devices or telescopes. Residents can

see and monitor the meteors from today evening, until the dawn of next day, by looking towards the northern horizon of the sky of Qatar, where the rate of fall at its peak will reach 10 meteors per hour, according to astronomers specialising in meteorological observation.

He added that the day will be almost the shortest for all inhabitants of the northern hemisphere, including for those living in Qatar, where the winter solstice phenomenon takes place in the northern half. The situation will be opposite for the population in the southern half as they would experience the summer solstice phenomenon the same day.

The winter solstice phenomenon is an important astrological phenomena. Earth's population depends on it and the rest of the four seasons to learn about climate changes, in addition to the fact that the sun will rise on this day from the southeasternmost point, with the length of the shadow in the afternoon being the longest of the year. (QNA)

Hyatt Regency Oryx Doha lines up festivities until Jan 7



Festive Goodies at Sky Lounge.

Hyatt Regency Oryx Doha, located on Old Airport Road, is hosting a line-up of festivities until January 7, 2023, a statement said yesterday.

Guests can explore the festive spirit through a wide variety of goodies available at Sky Lounge, from traditional Buche de Noel (yule log cake), panettone, gingerbread, pecan pie and more.

The Festive Resident Rate (starting from QR395 for two persons) is described as

the perfect gift. Dinners and brunches at the all-day dining restaurant Choices, from QR210 per person, and a Spanish three-course set menu at The Cellar for QR180 per set on December 24 and 25 are among the options.

The Glam Up New Year's Eve Party with a feel of Spanish hospitality features a four-course set menu and entertainment by flamenco dancers and a guitarist for QR395 per head.

The New Year's Eve buffet at Choices will have pumping music

mixes by DJ Purple Dolphin. Al Nafourah Garden offers authentic Lebanese and Middle Eastern cuisine, featuring al fresco dining and DJ entertainment throughout the evening.

The Jazz Club will have gourmet bar bites and live entertainment from the band Encore. "Throughout the holidays, our teams are excited to create a joyous festive atmosphere and celebrate wonderful moments," said Julien Gonzalez, general manager of Hyatt Regency Oryx Doha.

Sealine, Khor Al Udeid receive winter campers

From Page 1

Hamad Abdulla, a camper, asked the MoECC to allow those who have sites near the dunes to install translucent fences around their camps to avoid any trespassing by the vehicles or motorbikes that go over the dunes.

He noted that the process of preparing his camp was smooth and all the related services and utilities were easily accessible. "My friends and I are eager to complete the preparations sufficiently early," he said.

Ali al-Hadad said he has made all the preparations to stay until the end of the season as it is an excellent opportunity to enjoy nature at its best with family and friends. He



stressed that it is very important all campers strictly follow the regulations and rules specified by the MoECC to maintain a hassle-free experience and avoid violations.

Khalifa Abdulaziz pointed out that the winter camping

season is a very important time for large numbers of young people, especially during the weekends when they can stay until late hours enjoying the beautiful nature and various outdoor activities.

Khalid al-Obaidly said the

MoECC has made great efforts to develop the Sealine Area with excellent tourist services and utilities. "There are a good number of ambulances, traffic patrols and rescue police present in the area for any support," he added.

'Internet, phone network quality during World Cup superb'

From Page 1

"Ooredoo, FIFA's Official Global Connectivity Services Provider for the event, has been very vocal on the improvements it has made to its network and operations. Ooredoo has rolled out additional macro cell sites and small cells to cater to data traffic around the stadiums, and has also deployed over 5,000 cell sites to offer sufficient network coverage across mobile technologies within the stadiums.

"Using Speedtest Intelligence data to analyse network performance across Qatar's World Cup stadiums for both Ooredoo and Vodafone combined, we see that Al Janoub

Stadium recorded the fastest median 5G download performance at 757.77Mbps, and that all World Cup stadiums recorded median 5G speeds over 400Mbps. Of the most popular fan sites, the Ras Bufontas and Airport Free Zone recorded the highest 5G performance."

"Ooredoo has also implemented a full modernisation of its core network, moving to a cloud-based architecture, while also making improvements to the capacity of its national and international IP transport links to ensure sufficient capacity for fans to better access servers for popular OTT services such as Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat.

These network improvements are helping to drive improved customer experience, as reflected in page load times for mobile users at the World Cup accessing Facebook, with median page load times for the social network of well under 2 seconds on 4G networks, and below 1.5 seconds with 5G. Video streaming start times, which were 2.3 seconds on 4G networks, improve to 1.7 seconds on 5G networks," the reported explained.

Ookla is a global leader in network intelligence and connectivity insights and is headquartered in Seattle, Washington, DC, and has many offices around the world. (QNA)