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**QATAR** | Page 12

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**Saudi FM sees progress to end Yemen conflict**

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said yesterday progress was being made towards ending the Yemen conflict, in which Riyadh leads a military coalition, but more work was needed, including reinstating a truce and transitioning to a permanent ceasefire. "The conflict is only going to end through a political settlement and that needs to be the focus, and I can say that we are making progress but there's still work to be done," Prince Faisal bin Farhan al-Saud said on a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

**Nasa-Boeing project for fuel-efficient plane**

Nasa said yesterday it awarded \$425mn to Boeing Co for the agency's "Sustainable Flight Demonstrator" project as the Biden administration works to cut aviation sector emissions. Boeing will work with Nasa to "build, test, and fly a full-scale demonstrator aircraft and validate technologies aimed at lowering emissions," the agency said. Over seven years, Nasa will invest \$425mn, while Boeing and its partners will contribute the remainder of the agreement funding, estimated at about \$725mn.

**Microsoft to shed 10,000 jobs on recession worries**

Microsoft Corp yesterday said it would eliminate 10,000 jobs and take a \$1.2bn charge, as its cloud-computing customers reassess their spending and the company braces for potential recession. The layoff, far larger than cuts by Microsoft last year, pile on to tens of thousands of job cuts across the technology sector that's long past its strong growth during the pandemic. **Page 11**

**Minister among 14 dead in Ukraine copter crash**

Ukraine's interior minister Denys Monastyrskyi and a child were among at least 14 people killed yesterday when a helicopter crashed into a nursery and set it ablaze in a suburb of the capital Kyiv. Separately, Ukraine reported more fighting along front lines hundreds of kilometres away in the east. Ukrainian officials said it was too early to determine what caused the helicopter crash. **Page 11**

**S China Sea 'keeps Marcos up at night'**

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos said yesterday that tension in the disputed South China Sea "keeps him up at night", but his country was committed to peace despite Beijing's territorial claims. Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The situation "keeps you up at night, keeps you up in the day, keeps you up most of the time," said Marcos.

**Thousands greet PSG stars at Khalifa Stadium**



Paris Saint-Germain's Argentine forward Lionel Messi trains with teammates during a team training session at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha yesterday. More than 30,000 fans watched the PSG stars train as the French champions spent a day in Qatar on an promotional tour. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam **Page 12, Sport Page 1**

**Amir attends 'consultative meeting' in UAE**

**QNA**  
Abu Dhabi

**H**is Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani participated yesterday, along with his brothers Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of the sisterly Sultanate of Oman, King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifah of the sisterly Kingdom of Bahrain, King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein of the sisterly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and President of the Arab Republic of Egypt Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, in the fraternal consultative meeting that was held at the invitation of President of the sisterly United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, under the title "Prosperity and Stability in the Region", at the St Regis Saadiyat Island Resort, Abu Dhabi.

His Highness the Amir also attended the luncheon banquet hosted by the UAE president in honour of the leaders of a number of GCC countries, the king of Jordan and the president of Egypt.

The meeting and luncheon banquet were attended by HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, HE Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani,



and a number of Sheikhs and ministers, as well as members of official delegations.

His Highness the Amir arrived yesterday morning in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, to take part in the fraternal consultative meeting.

The Amir and the accompanying

delegation were welcomed upon arrival at the Presidential Flight by his brother UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan.

The Amir and the accompanying delegation were welcomed also by Deputy Chairman of Abu Dhabi Exec-

utive Council Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed al-Nahyan, National Security Adviser Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed al-Nahyan and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan.

His Highness the Amir left yesterday

Abu Dhabi, after taking part in the fraternal consultative meeting.

The Amir and the accompanying delegation were seen off upon departure from the Presidential Flight by National Security Adviser Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed al-Nahyan. **Page 4**

**World Cup investments done for Qatar's future: al-Kuwari**

**By Pratap John**  
Business Editor

**Q**atar's investments for the World Cup have been done for the country's future and economic diversification as part of Qatar National Vision 2030, said HE the Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari.

In an interview with CNN's Richard Quest at the World Economic Forum in Davos, al-Kuwari discussed what was next for the country after the success of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Al-Kuwari said: "World Cup is only one month...and nobody would do a huge investment or prepare only for one month. So what we have been doing with the investments...infrastructure ... it's for Qatar. It's for the future of Qatar. This is part of our principles. And it is part of our diversification journey."

On Qatar budget surplus (of \$8bn in the third quarter of 2022), al-Kuwari said. "We have a very clear and disciplined fiscal policy framework. This is



In an interview with CNN at the World Economic Forum in Davos, al-Kuwari discussed what was next for the country after the success of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

already approved by the government. And this decides how we do and how we deal with surpluses. Our surplus goes to Qatar Investment Authority for investments as part of our diversification."

Al-Kuwari said: "Our economy to-

day is 57% non-hydro-carbon. Only 43% is hydrocarbon. Most of the growth we see in our economy today comes from the non-hydrocarbon sector. But in reality, we are dependent on the hydrocarbon sector...and on the prices of oil. That's why we have achieved an excellent surplus in the nine months of last year...9% GDP growth. This year also we are projecting a 3.5% growth in our GDP"

The minister also listed out global recession, inflation, ongoing war in Ukraine and energy crisis as major concerns for the global economy.

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani participated on Tuesday in a discussion session on the geopolitical changes in the world, within the framework of the 53rd World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

During the session, he asserted that gas was the cleanest and the most secure and reliable source of energy, and it would remain appropriate and very vital in the energy blend for decades to come. **Page 4**

**Doha Metro celebrates 100mn-rider milestone**

**Q**atar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) yesterday announced that Doha Metro has recorded a ridership of 100mn since the launch of its services in 2019.

"Doha Metro has changed the public transport landscape in Qatar by providing a high-quality, fast, reliable and affordable alternative to the predominant mode of transport, i.e. private car," Qatar Rail said in a statement. "The ridership has steadily grown since opening of the metro network and it also reflects the growing confidence of citizens, residents and visitors in Doha Metro services, underpinned by network connectivity to key destinations, tourist attractions and Hamad International Airport."

Qatar Rail also recognised the importance of the first and last miles in the metro journey. On this front, Qatar Rail is actively engaged and supported by the Ministry of Transport and Mowasalat (Karwa) to introduce first and last mile connectivity initiatives such as metrolink and metroexpress to encourage the use of metro.

In terms of operational performance, the metro witnessed several records, the first of which was in the first year of operation when it recorded the largest



number of passengers in one day during the 2019 Qatar National Day, transporting 333,000 passengers.

This number was recently surpassed during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on the fifth day of the tournament, November 24, 2022, when the metro set a record in the daily number of passengers by transporting more than 827,000 people in one day.

In terms of stations, Msheireb, the heart of Doha Metro and its central station connecting the three Metro lines, recorded the highest number of passengers travelling through it in one day during the World Cup with approximately 405,000 passengers, on December 2, 2022. **To Page 6**

**Qatar 2022 souvenir tickets now available for purchase**

**P**hysical versions of mobile match tickets for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 are on sale now, FIFA has said.

"You saw history made at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and now you can get a unique memento of your unforgettable experience to treasure forever," FIFA said in an e-mail to ticketholders.

The personalised tickets are available for QR10 each, including delivery, for a limited time only.

Original mobile match ticket buyers can log in to their account at FIFA.com/tickets and purchase the keepsakes for themselves and any guests who joined them at the games.

Orders can be processed until February 7, with the tickets distributed from late March.

All tickets included in a ticket application will be printed, which means that ticket purchasers will not be able



to select which tickets within a ticket application are printed.

All souvenir ticket purchases will be processed as a real-time transaction and customers will receive a confirmation email after payment is successfully completed.

Visa payment cards are the exclusive payment method accepted for residents of Qatar.

The FIFA website explains that "the price per souvenir ticket is fixed at QR10 and all tickets contained

within a single application number will be printed. The total price is calculated as QR10 multiplied by the number of tickets with the same application number. For example, if an original ticket purchaser purchased six tickets within a given ticket application (one for themselves and five for their guests), all six tickets will be printed. In this case, the cost would be QR60."

Only FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 original ticket purchasers can purchase souvenir tickets related to the mobile tickets they owned for the tournament. Guests are not entitled to purchase souvenir tickets directly. "Please note that personal data, including ticket holder names, cannot be changed on a souvenir ticket," the website says.

More details can be found at https://www.fifa.com/fifaplus/en/articles/souvenir-tickets



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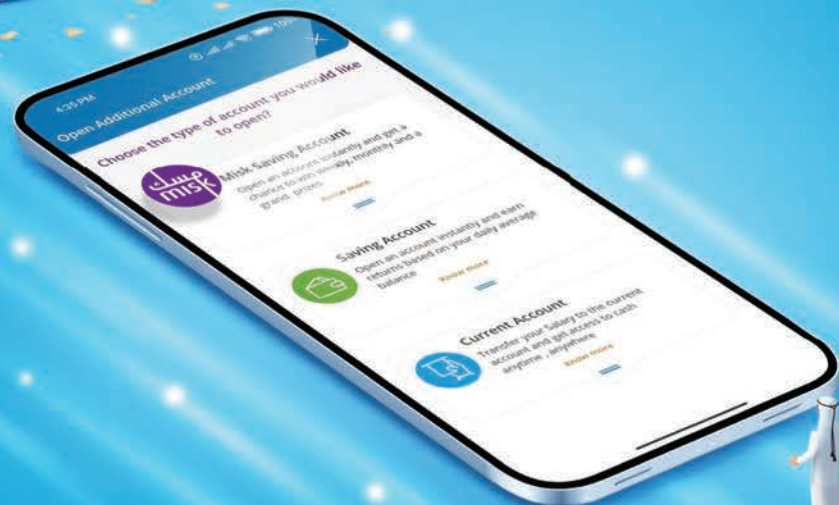
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# FM: Gas most secure source of energy in decades to come

**QNA**  
Davos

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani participated on Tuesday in a discussion session on the geopolitical changes in the world, within the framework of the 53rd World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

During the session, HE Sheikh Mohamed asserted that gas is the cleanest and the most secure and reliable source of energy, and will remain appropriate and very vital in energy blend for decades to come.

He said that many policy-makers have unfortunately set extremely ambitious objectives without realising that such objectives would require time and a substantial amount of investment, then they stopped and most likely did allow investments in the last decade.

HE Sheikh Mohamed added that world countries have experienced energy poverty due to these policies, and unfortunately this has been accelerating due to the war in Ukraine.

Qatar did not pursue the approach of reducing the investment in gas, which allowed it to obtain such an additional expansion, allowing pumping more gas in 2027, specially to Europe, he pointed out.

He said that it is unfair that many developing countries are demanded not to develop their special resources and to be independent in the field of energy, while they are still in need of development, noting that many countries around the world see that rich countries are unfair and are requesting them to stop



HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani at the 53rd World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

developing their oil resources.

Regarding the Afghan issue, HE Sheikh Mohamed said that the recent procedures undertaken by the Afghan caretaker government were disappointing, adding that communication with all parties in Afghanistan is important because the alternative to dialogue in Afghanistan is a civil war.

He noted that Afghanistan suffered from war during the past few years, thus we can not expect that the agreement that took place between the US and Taliban will achieve peace in one day or even a year.

He considered that the Afghan dialogue was not conducted properly and that the latest

procedures would worsen the situation for the Afghani people, making the international community unable to deal with Afghanistan.

Regarding the conflict in Ukraine, HE Sheikh Mohamed referred to the UN Charter that was adopted by all countries, stressing that no one wishes to see a country use or threaten to use force against another country, we would all rather want to see all countries standing together abiding to the UN charter.

He added that people in the Middle East have been suffering for decades from all violations of the UN Charter, including the Palestinian cause and the Israeli

**Regarding the Afghan issue, HE Sheikh Mohamed said that the recent procedures undertaken by the Afghan caretaker government were disappointing, adding that communication with all parties in Afghanistan is important because the alternative to dialogue in Afghanistan is a civil war**

occupation as well as the Syrian issue. “We wish to see the world standing against these violations, because, unfortunately, we still see them unaddressed, which constitutes a big concern to us, especially what is happening now in Palestine as provocative practices of Israel towards Palestinians are still occurring.

“In Qatar, we would like to see a real stance from our allies towards these provocative practices carried out by the Israeli government, which also applies to the suffering of the Syrian people and others.

“We truly wish to see an end to the war in Ukraine and we wish to see everyone abide by the UN Charter.

“We wish to see an end to the suffering of the Ukrainian people as soon as possible, as well as the sufferings of all other peoples of the world.”

## Amir welcomed on arrival in Abu Dhabi



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani is being welcomed by UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan on arrival in Abu Dhabi yesterday to take part in the fraternal consultative meeting.

# Cabinet approves draft law amending CMC regulations

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting held yesterday morning at the Amiri Diwan. Following the meeting, HE the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs issued the following statement:

The Cabinet considered the topics on its agenda as follows:

First: Approval of a draft law amending some provisions of Law No 12 of 1998 concerning the regulations of the Central Municipal Council, and its referral to the Shura Council.

Second: Approval of a draft Cabinet decision on establishing a technical committee to study the fees for services provided by government agencies and define its functions. The functions of this

committee include the following:

1- Study the proposals submitted by government agencies regarding determining or amending the fees for the services they provide in light of their respective legal basis.

2- Conduct the necessary evaluation of the fee and its suitability with the service proposed for it, and whether or not a fee should be imposed.

3- Study the effect of the required amendments on fees compared to the financial conditions of the groups targeted, and the extent to which this is affected by inflation conditions that may occur on economic activity in general.

Third – Approval of providing financial support to the United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRS).

Fourth: Approval of a draft agreement on encouraging and protecting mutual investments between the governments of Qatar and Sao Tome and Principe.

Fifth: The Cabinet reviewed the following topics and took the appropriate decisions:

1- Approval of a draft law regulating security permits to enter concession and usufruct areas.

2- The first report of the team concerned with following up the implementation of the recommendations of the committee formed to prepare a study on chemicals and hazardous materials, dual-use materials, and chemical precursors in Qatar.

3.The outcomes of the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27). (QNA)



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1	SALEM ALI SALEM AL SAAFI	Qatar	24763400044	83	SAEED FATHY FAWZY MOHAMED ATTIA	Egypt	27381802573	165	RIYAS MOHAMEDMOHAMED RAZIK	Sri Lanka	28014401061
2	SAMIRA HASSAN IBRAHIM HASSAN	Egypt	27581800282	84	NISHAD A E MEETHAL	India	28355620793	166	AHMED NASR DEIF GOD AHMED	Yemen	27988600150
3	MUHAMMAD SALEM AL MUHAMMAD	Qatar	28453403525	85	SURESH KUMAR P K	India	27135623719	167	THIRUVINGAM THAVASELAN	Sri Lanka	27214400169
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5	WASEF FOUAD MOHAMED EL-TANOUBY	Egypt	2788859	87	SALAM HASSAN ABDULLAH AWAD	Qatar	24363400510	169	MOHAMED HARIS M THAHIR	Sri Lanka	26814401253
6	SAMIRA HASSAN IBRAHIM HASSAN	Egypt	27581800282	88	SAMIRA HASSAN IBRAHIM HASSAN	Egypt	27581800282	170	MOHOMED IFAL SEIYADHU AHMAED	Sri Lanka	28614406746
7	SAMIRA HASSAN IBRAHIM HASSAN	Egypt	27581800282	89	RAJINI KUMAR NAGAMANI	Sri Lanka	28114410364	171	SAMEER RANGA UDAYA ARACHCHILGE	Sri Lanka	28714407209
8	GAYAN PRESAD J	Sri Lanka	28514408845	90	ABDEL QADER MESLOUB ABDEL HALIM	Egypt	25081800051	172	SAGAYANATHAN NARAYANAN	India	26435614426
9	ABDULLAH ALI QAID AL-RIYASHI	Yemen	28988600240	91	MOHAMMED KUNHIE ABDULLA	India	27135612550	173	ATHAMKANDO THAJOON	Sri Lanka	26914403061
10	MUZZNA OBAID AL-MARRI	Qatar	24763400539	92	JAMAL HAMDY ABDEL HALIM MURAD	Egypt	27381801191	174	SALEH HASSAN SALEH SAMHAN	Qatar	27563401246
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14	JUDELYN NOCELLADO LICUDO	Philippines	28760803624	96	ABDULLAH ALI MOHAMMED AL-AJI	Yemen	27688600259	178	AFWAN MOHAMMED H	Sri Lanka	27714403531
15	SAMIRA HASSAN IBRAHIM HASSAN	Egypt	27581800282	97	MONA MOHAMED FATH MOHSEN SAEED	Qatar	27063401358	179	MUHAMMAD SIDDIQ ABDEL HAFEZ AHMED	Sudan	28473601013
16	ABDULLAH ABDUL SALAM HUSSEIN	Yemen	28888600172	98	WAJID THABET SAEED MUSA	Yemen	29188600437	180	AMR AHMED ABDEL-AL KHALIL	Egypt	28381805200
17	MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM MAH	Egypt	27081804051	99	SAMIRA HASSAN IBRAHIM HASSAN	Egypt	27581800282	181	RASVIN NAINAMOHAMMADU	Sri Lanka	27514400694
18	AHMED RAMADAN ALI AHMED	Egypt	26181801522	100	ABBAS RAIMARAKKAR VEETIL MUHAMMED	India	28435602341	182	FADL MUHAMMAD SALIH RABEH	Yemen	26888600142
19	MOHAMED MIFRAD M NISHTAR	Sri Lanka	28814402003	101	MAHDI K VEETIL	India	28735616417	183	HUSSAIN MUHAMMED SALIH MUHAMMED	Qatar	23463400087
20	ABDULLAH IBRAHIM SIDDIQ SULEIMAN	Yemen	27888600364	102	AHMED MUSTAFA MOHAMED	Egypt	28181806804	184	YASOTHARANK	Sri Lanka	28614400129
21	NOBY HUSSEIN KHALIL AHMED	Egypt	28181802021	103	JAMAL HAMDY ABDEL HALIM MURAD	Egypt	27381801191	185	ABDO HADI ABDULLAH SALEH	Yemen	26272000017
22	ABRAHAMABHILASH P M ABRAHAM	India	27835601317	104	ARJUN S	Sri Lanka	28514400913	186	VASUCHEELU PARAMBATH	India	26235605550
23	MUSA MUTHANNA AHMED AL-ASHMALI	Yemen	27688600293	105	VASUDEVAN VINISH	India	27835623811	187	VASUCHEELU PARAMBATH	India	26235605550
24	HISHAM FIKRY MOHAMED OTHMAN	Egypt	28181801937	106	LALBAHADURMAGAR	Nepal	28452408192	188	VASUCHEELU PARAMBATH	India	26235605550
25	SRAMBI KUNILYI IYRAVI	India	26135604053	107	ARJUN S	Sri Lanka	28514400913	189	SANJEEV PUTHUSEERY	India	27635616951
26	SHERIF MOHAMED ABDEL-SALHEEN	Egypt	28281802255	108	MUHAMMAD ISSA MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH AL THAWADI	Qatar	28163400443	190	FARAJ MAHMOUD IBRAHIM MOHAMED	Egypt	26181802856
27	AMAL SAIF AZIZ TARISH AL-SHAOUTI	Qatar	27363400424	109	JUDELYN NOCELLADO LICUDO	Philippines	28760803624	191	ZAIN AHMED ABDULLAH	Yemen	25472000002
28	MOHAMED NASAR MOHAMEDFASITH	Egypt	3801504	110	FAHD ALI ABDULLAH AL-AYESH	Yemen	27688600230	192	MUHAMMAD SULEIMAN KHALIFA HASSAN	Egypt	28881802159
29	JUDELYN NOCELLADO LICUDO	Philippines	28760803624	111	ARUNTHAVAN IYATHURAI	Sri Lanka	29314400656	193	MOHAMED RIYAZ MOHAMED MAJIDREEEN	Sri Lanka	28714401018
30	BALAMUNESWARAN KALIMUTHU	India	F0916442	112	SHERIF AHMED ELSAYED	Egypt	26581803825	194	ALLAM NADHAN	Nepal	28152403895
31	SALEM MOHAMED AHMED BADR	Egypt	27581800459	113	ABBAS MENORA ABU BAKR	India	27335622658	195	MOHAMED FASMEED SAPIKHAN	Sri Lanka	28314405613
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33	ASARI VALUPIL HSHAHULHAMEED	India	26235601162	115	ABDUL-JABBAR ABDULLAH ABDUL-JABBAR AL-QABATI	Yemen	26888600201	197	MOSTAFA FATHI MOHAMED	Egypt	28281805815
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35	MUHAMMEDTALAPADY PATNA	India	26035600479	117	RAGUNATHKARUNAKARAN	Sri Lanka	29114402715	199	JIHAD ABDULLAH	Yemen	28888600302
36	ABDUL SATTHAR HASANAR	India	27835612678	118	SOUD BRACKS AL MEFOAEY	Qatar	25163400115	200	RIMAS ABDUL MAJEED	Sri Lanka	27914408822
37	ABDUL RAHIMAN M UNNY	India	25835611021	119	ISMAIL AHMED	Mauritania	27647800004	201	ABDUL JALLEL P K	India	28435609401
38	KUSUMAWATIE HERATH MUDIYANSELAGE	India	28435621659	120	MUNIR SHEIKH ABDULLAH AHMED	Egypt	27688600462	202	KAPIL KUMARA JALATHGE	Sri Lanka	28614408112
39	MOHAMED ABDEL FATTAH MUSTAFA HUSSEIN	Egypt	27681800489	121	TALAL HUSSEIN DEIF AL-AJI	Yemen	29388600526	203	JUDE PRIYANTHA PINNALADON	Sri Lanka	26814406934
40	ROSE JOSE	India	26435606518	122	HASHIM TAJER A AL-SADI	Qatar	28763402797	204	MUNAFAERASANAR	Sri Lanka	28314409878
41	ALI AWAD OTHMAN	Qatar	24163400097	123	NOWEL MAHEEN	India	28735625796	205	SUJIT KUMAR SRIVASTAVA	India	76245670
42	PONNIAHBALAKRISHNAN	Sri Lanka	26914406466	124	MUHAMMED ZAMIQMOHAMED NAAZIR	Sri Lanka	27814408616	206	ABDEL SALAM MOHAMED ABDULLAH AL-TAIRI	Yemen	26288600067
43	GEORGE BINU	India	27535605965	125	AL MARRI, JARALLAH SALEH A A	Qatar	26163400877	207	DINESH RATHNAYAKA	Sri Lanka	28414407927
44	CHANDRAN N P	India	25935611967	126	NOSIR UDDIN U ALI	Bangladesh	27905001419	208	DANUSHKA DEEPA SENADEERA K KANKANIGE	Sri Lanka	28514409609
45	SHAJI JOSEPH	India	25935607258	127	TONY AKBAR SENUDEEN	Sri Lanka	25914400392	209	MOHAMMED AZWAR AKBAR	India	N 341059
46	MUHAMMADU MUMTHIR M M	Sri Lanka	28914404365	128	SHILESH KUMARTELLI	Nepal	28552423516	210	KHORASAN MOHAMMED ABDULLAH	Yemen	27088600268
47	THINESPRIYAN THEVARAJAN	Sri Lanka	28914403032	129	DOOYPRAMONOBIN H SABARI	Sudan	27736001642	211	MOHANASUNDARMVEERASINGAM	Sri Lanka	27614405344
48	VEETIPPARAMBIL P ABDULJALEEL	India	26235600238	130	MAHFOUZ ABDULLAH SALEH SHARIF	Yemen	27688600277	212	AHMED ABDEL RAZEK FANAR	Syria	27976000622
49	SHERIF MOHAMED ABDEL-SALHEEN	Egypt	28281802255	131	MUHAMMED ABDULBARIM K	India	28135625052	213	SALAHUDDIN ZAFER KHANKAN	Syria	28376003442
50	M LA GAFOOR	Sri Lanka	27614402186	132	SARAH SAFAR SHAFI AL SHAFI	Qatar	27663401578	214	MD SHAHADAT KHAN	Bangladesh	28805002102
51	DEEPAK R R	India	27235622729	133	SHUKRI ANWAR HASSAN SAAO ABU ARAB	Egypt	24681800424	215	MACHIKAVIL PATHUKKAL SALEEM	India	28035620664
52	ASHARAF MANGATH	India	26535600136	134	ESMAIL KUNJUMUHAMMED HANEEFA	India	25735608509	216	LAKMALI PRIYANKAPERERA	Sri Lanka	27214404968
53	KHALED ALJOUB ON SHWAIH	Egypt	26581800864	135	PRAMOD TRISHAN E SILVA	Sri Lanka	27414408600	217	DHARMARAJRAMANATHAN	Sri Lanka	25914400250
54	GOD'S MERCY SADABLI	India	27135609921	136	MUHAMMED HUSHVI RAUFDEEN	Sri Lanka	28714405268	218	ANAS MUHAMMAD MAHMOUD AL-WAELI	Yemen	28888600402
55	TARIO ABDEL MONEM ABDEL RAHIM	Egypt	26881802650	137	MOHAMED HUSHVI RAUFDEEN	Sri Lanka	28714405268	219	NABIL MOHAMED AHMED AL-AHMAR	Yemen	27988600358
56	RUSENDRANRASENORAM	Sri Lanka	28814404514	138	MUHAMMADU RISLI ADAMLEBBE	Sri Lanka	28814400765	220	RAMMANNA DEVAYALAGE DILHANI KUMARASINGA	India	N4518582
57	KOSINA ABDEL HAKIM ABDEL GAWAD	Egypt	25381801612	139	KAPIL KUMARA JALATHGE	Sri Lanka	28614408112	221	RUKIA AHSAN K RATHNIGE	Sri Lanka	27614402367
58	KRISHNAPILLAIODENDRAN NAIR	India	26135603000	140	JUDELYN NOCELLADO LICUDO	Philippines	28760803624	222	OTHMAN MUHAMMAD ALI	Egypt	26481800432
59	MUHAMMED MUSTAFA	Bangladesh	28105003411	141	SHAJU PUTHUPARAMBIL VARKEY	India	28435628281	223	THARINDU LAKPRIYA D D	Sri Lanka	28914407408
60	CHEMBIL CHANDRAN PRASAD	India	25635600506	142	ABDUL ANEES CHERUVATTI HOUSE	India	28935611181	224	ON THE NET ZAKI KHAFAJAH	Egypt	1126505
61	CHEMBIL CHANDRAN PRASAD	India	25635600506	143	ABDUL-JABBAR ABDULLAH ABDUL-JABBAR AL-QABATI	Yemen	26888600201	225	ANAS MUHAMMAD MAHMOUD AL-WAELI	Yemen	28888600402
62	BASITH KHANMUTHAPPUMMAL	India	27335600135	144	RASHID SAQR S AL MURAIKHI	Qatar	27063400377	226	MOHAMMED NASWAN MOHAMED NAWAS	Sri Lanka	29314400160
63	SADIQ AHMED ALI AL-DHANI	Egypt	3805144	145	RAKITHA LANKANATH HETTEARACHEGE	Sri Lanka	28014400796	227	JUNAIDY CONGRATULATIONS JUNAIDY ABDEL HALIM	Egypt	27781802723
64	CHEMBIL CHANDRAN PRASAD	India	25635600506	146	MUHAMMED NALEEM KALANTHAR	Sri Lanka	28114407803	228	ABDUL MAJID MUHAMMAD ABDUL MAJID	Egypt	28081803751
65	MUHAMMED AFTAAR K P	India	27435600160	147	ANOO SASHIHARAN	India	29035605267	229	ANBU ROSECEKEPALLEMURUGESAN	Yemen	27535617706
66	ABDUL SALAM SALEH AHMED AL-SAFRY	Yemen	27088600249	148	MUJEEB RAHMANCHAKKALA PARAMBIL	India	29035604170	230	NABIL AMIN AHMED AL ZARAF	Yemen	27088600311
67	AHMED RAGAB ZAKI ABDEL RAHMAN	Egypt	27881805894	149	ABDEL-FATTAH MOHAMED AHMED AL-TANZI	Yemen	29088600531	231	MUHAMMED FOZULSILAM CHOWDHURY	Bangladesh	27205004393
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69	ABDUL HAMID SAAD REPUBLIC	Egypt	25481800814	151	JAGATH BANDULA A M	Sri Lanka	29014402207	233	SHIVARAN SINNATAMBI	India	N4154863
70	HEWA FOSNEKAGE V H FONSEKA	Sri Lanka	28214409026	152	SJUU VAZHKKKUDIVU DNACHEN	India	27835617606	234	ABDUL QADIR OMAR SULEIMAN	Egypt	28481802553
71	IBRAHIM KATIL	India	26135602719	153	AYMAN MUHAMMAD SULEIMAN ALI	Egypt	2093768	235	KHALED ATEEO HAMAD BADDAH	Qatar	27963403123
72	ALI SALEH ALI AL-OBEIDI	Qatar	26063401666	154	JUDE PRIYANTHA PINNALADON	Sri Lanka	26814406934	236	AHMED JASSIM MOHAMMED AL-MAADADI	Qatar	25163400250
73	ANEESH MUHAMMED HANEEFA	India	28035628768	155	SHYADUDDIN SHAHUL HAMEED	Sri Lanka	28414408832	237	JABER HAMAD JABER MUHAMMAD	Qatar	29063402504
74	MUHAMMED MUSTAFA AHMED	India	28281804923	156	FAYIZ HAMZA KATTUPPARRA	India	28635605267	238	KALINGALE POSITIVE	India	27335625939
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80	ABOBACKER PERINCHERY	India	E5818729	162	MUJEEB RAHMANCHAKKALA PARAMBIL	India	29035604170	244	KARMAF GOD NOOR GOD DRASTKAR	Iran	25836400168
81	AHMED MUSTAFA MOHAMED	Egypt	28181806804	163	VARKEY SAMUEL VERGESE	India	25735601199	245	HARE BILAL KUCHUMARAYANAR	India	25535608727
82	SARFARAZABDULRAJAK HSAWRE	India	27635626043	164	JUDELYN NOCELLADO LICUDO	Philippines	28760803624	246	NASSER MUSA ABDULLAH MUSA	Qatar	26163400229



# 'Earth Talk Series' hosts renowned Indian author

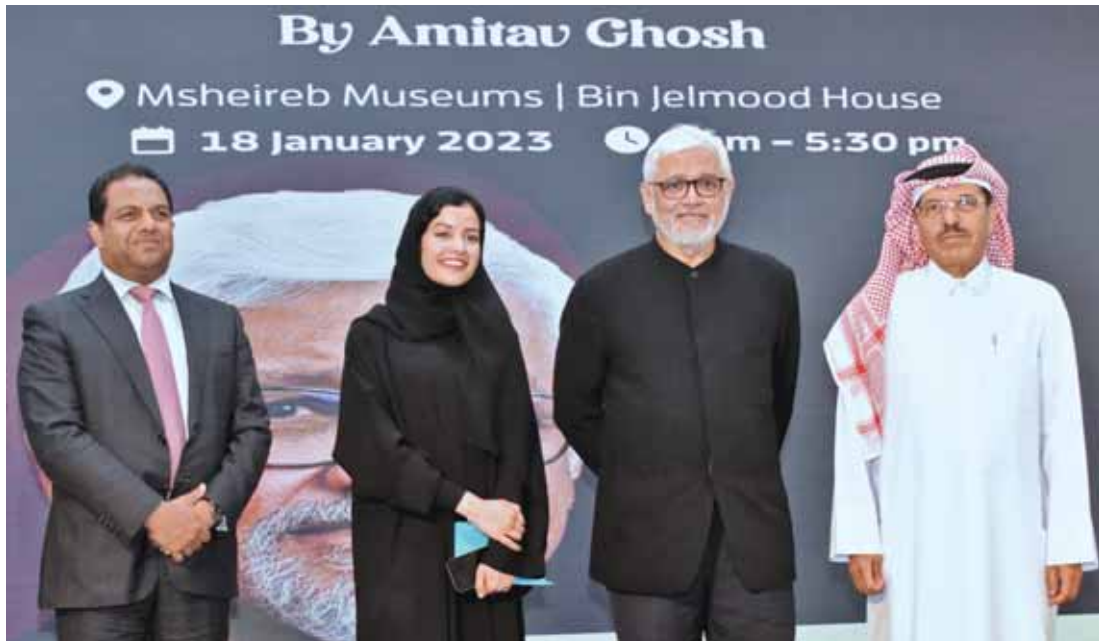
**Organised by the Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar (AYCMQA), the annual event featured Indian writer Amitav Ghosh, who discussed the 'Climate of War: Global Geopolitics in the Anthropocene'**

By Peter Alagos  
Business Reporter

The staging of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has helped place the Middle East in a positive perspective, according to renowned Indian writer Amitav Ghosh, who spoke yesterday at the 'Earth Talks Series' at the Bin Jelmood House in Msheireb Museums.

The 'Earth Talk Series', an annual event organised by the Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar (AYCMQA), featured Ghosh, who discussed the 'Climate of War: Global Geopolitics in the Anthropocene'. Speaking to *Gulf Times* on the sidelines of the event, Ghosh lauded Qatar for doing "a great job" in hosting the World Cup and for delivering "an incredible event with perhaps the greatest soccer match ever played." Ghosh said: "It really showed that when such events are held in these parts of the world, it creates a completely different atmosphere; it creates new possibilities."

He added: "In the same way, if the Qatari leadership were to approach these other issues with the idea of bringing a different point of view and opening up these global negotiations to voices from the global



Renowned Indian writer Amitav Ghosh is joined by Hessa al-Noaimi, director of strategic partnerships at AYCMQA; Dr Mohamed Althaf, director of LuLu Group International; and Qatari author Dr Jabr al-Noaimi during the 'Earth Talk Series' held yesterday at Bin Jelmood House in Msheireb Museums. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

south, I think that would be an important thing that Qatar could do." Hessa al-Noaimi, director of strategic partnerships at AYCMQA, said: "The event aims to bring forward thinkers, scientists, writers, and artists mainly from the global south to talk about the environmental and climate crises from their perspective. "We see the need for this because we can tell that most of the information that we receive surrounding these topics comes from the north. And it is also offering a platform for conversations that are not usually discussed in this region as much as we should."

She added: "As AYCMQA, we believe that the programmes we run and the kind of awareness that we raise will bring about some significant change because we believe in research, data, and the necessity of

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understanding the problem before answering it. We also address the potential young people have in becoming faster and better learners on how to mitigate the climate crisis."

Dr Mohamed Althaf, director of LuLu Group International, said LuLu sponsored the event as part of its efforts to encourage and promote discussions on environmental protection, sustainable development, and climate change.

He said: "LuLu is always trying to be ahead of the game, and our commitment to sustainability is very strong. Only recently, we have

announced that LuLu's Al Meshaf store has become the first carbon-neutral hypermarket in the GCC."

Dr Althaf added: "Notwithstanding our commitment to address the cause of climate change, we also think that it is very critical to our industry because these environmental crises are directly affecting the food supply chain and other resources."

"So, this is part of our community engagement and we will continue to expand this relationship with more non-governmental organisations, schools, and wherever engagement is possible."

## Saudi cuts Umrah insurance cost for foreign pilgrims

In a move aimed at encouraging and facilitating Umrah pilgrimage, the Saudi Ministry of Haj and Umrah has announced a reduction in the insurance cost for foreign pilgrims. The ministry tweeted that the insurance fee has been reduced from SR235 to SR87, marking a 63% decrease. The visa procedures require visitors to get Umrah insurance that covers emergency treatments, admission, traffic accident injuries, hospitalisation, dental emergencies, pregnancy, dialysis cases and medical evacuations. Also, the insurance covers general cases such as permanent total disability and death due to natural disasters or other causes. The ministry said the insurance includes travel-related coverage, such as flight delay and cancellation compensation. A person with the insurance can benefit up to 100,000 Saudi riyals. The duration of the coverage is 90 days from the date of entry into the country with its validity limited within Saudi only.



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## Pigeons going strong at Marmi 2023

The homing pigeons continued to give exceptionally excellent performance for the second consecutive day yesterday against the falcons, escaping their sharp claws and returning safe to their coops at Umm Ebairiya at ongoing the 14th edition of Qatar International Falcons and Hunting Festival (Marmi 2023).

Only two falcons were able to hunt their prey during the afternoon session of the competitions of Haddad Al Tahadi (where the falcon has to hunt a homing pigeon within certain standards). One of the falcons is owned by a Kuwaiti falconer and the other by a Qatari falconer.

A total of 58 falcons have qualified for the higher round of this competition since the start of the festival.

Shawi al-Kaabi, deputy head of Haddad Al Tahadi, pointed out that the ultimate upper hand yesterday was certainly for the homing pigeons as it was clear that most of the falcons were not fully prepared for the hunt. Some said that the strong winds gave pigeons advantage over the falcons but al-Kaabi stressed that the strong winds have equal effect on both the pigeons and the falcons, which shows the excellent skills of the pigeons.

The organising committee of Marmi 2023 has been very keen to provide opportunity for many commercial shops throughout the festival location for the various needs of the falconers, campers and visitors. Some of these shops also have traditional gifts and heritage collectibles such as vintage radios and television sets and other items, while others sell various falconry-related tools, items, gifts and mementos. Marmi 2023, organised by Al Qannas Qatari Society at Sabkhat Marmi in the Sealine Area under the patronage of HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, will continue until January 28. The event has been drawing more local, regional and international attention as one of the major festivals in its category, pioneered by Qatar to maintain and develop such heritage traditional sport.



## Skyline Team in Doha to present ‘Ranch’ – garden villas in Kochi

A team from Skyline, ‘the most trusted builder in Kerala’, are in Doha until January 30 to present ‘Ranch’, its elegant Garden Bungalow project in Kochi.

“Skyline Ranch offers unlimited extravagance with wide open space, a verdant green cover, state-of-the-art amenities, top of the line garden bungalows – all in close proximity to Kochi city at Tripunithura,” a statement explained.

“Spread across 12.5 acres of verdant green, Skyline Ranch has 67 ultra-luxury independent garden bungalows with more than 4.5 acres of pristine open spaces. “The exotically designed gardens, well-manicured lawns and two large central parks with rich flora offer an emphatic green ambience to this project. Nestled amidst the flowering shrubs and palms, these garden bungalows offer opulent ambience with utmost privacy.

“The skillfully designed Skyline Ranch is a new lifestyle statement, with topnotch comfort level. Skyline Ranch accommodates a state-of-the-art clubhouse of 11,000sq ft, majestically facing the central park.

“The clubhouse named, The County, is a 3-storeyed independent building with passenger lift. It hosts an array of luxury amenities such as a swimming pool with kids’ wading pool, Jacuzzi, party deck, well-equipped fitness



**Spread across 12.5 acres of verdant green, Skyline Ranch has 67 ultra-luxury independent garden bungalows with more than 4.5 acres of pristine open spaces**

centre, spa, AC mini-theatre, spacious AC recreation hall and an indoor games room.

“The County is also equipped with amenities such as foosball table, table tennis room and billiards room. Along with this, outdoor facilities include two large central parks, half-basketball court, skating rink, children’s play area, water bodies, barbecue counter, open stage, well-manicured gardens and jogging track.

“The Ranch is ready to move-in with three and 4-BHK ultra-luxury garden bungalows in different combinations. The first phase offers exceptionally stylish 39 ultra luxury bungalows and phase two consists of

28 exclusive 4BHK ultra-luxury garden bungalows ranging from 2000-4686sq ft.

The bungalows have all luxuries, including home elevator, home theatre, patio garden with fountain and open bathroom.

“Skyline Ranch also offers tri-level security features, such as security guards and controlled entry and exit. This project has proximity to all major conveniences in Tripunithura, such as educational institutions, shopping malls, metro station, 5-star hotels and highways.

The Skyline Team in Doha can be contacted at +974-70895344 or +974-31528521.”



## Hundreds of Indonesians to benefit from Fanar’s programmes, courses

Hundreds of Indonesian community members will benefit from the programmes and courses by the Sheikh Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Centre (Fanar) at the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs. A statement from Awqaf said that a total of 507 members, including 260 male and 247 female students are part of the courses that are supervised by the Muslim Communities Division of the Islamic Culture Department.

The courses, according to the statement, are run with the aim of educating them in the legal aspects of belief, jurisprudence, biography and others. The Department of Islamic Culture has also launched a programme for Russian-speaking Muslims. The course deals with various aspects of life and Islam’s view. The videos the centre publishes on its Facebook account in Urdu and English, have garnered thousands of views. The videos are accompanied by a weekly competition that includes questions about the content of the videos and the centre is giving prizes for the winners. The centre was recently visited by 30 tourists of different nationalities who arrived Doha on the cruise ships. They expressed their admiration for the centre’s efforts and its positive impact in introducing Qatari and Islamic culture.



## Doha Metro celebrates 100mn-rider milestone

From Page 1

Also, on Qatar National Day (December 18, 2022), which coincided with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 final at Lusail Stadium, Lusail QNB station recorded more than 290,000 passengers.

Doha Metro is seamlessly connected to the Lusail Tram network through Legtaifiya station. This, in turn, played a key role in providing a smooth travel experience and allowed customers to change between the two networks and access Lusail City easily. During the World Cup, the connection of the two networks enabled fans and visitors to access various activation areas in Lusail City.

Since the launch of its services, the Doha Metro has played an instrumental role in the success of 13 key local, regional and international sports events and tournaments, including four finals of the Amir Cup and nine regional and international events. Unprecedented operational plans were developed to serve the fans of these tournaments, while ensuring the safety of all network users.

In 2019, key sport events included the final of the Amir Cup, the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup and the FIFA Club World Cup 2019, in addition to the National Day celebrations that took place across

the city. During these events, the Metro transported more than 1.2mn passengers.

In 2021, five sporting tournaments took place and during which the metro recorded approximately 2.5mn passengers. These events included the FIFA Club World Cup 2020, the final of the African Super Cup, the preliminary round of the joint Asian qualifiers, the qualifiers for the Arab Cup, and the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2021.

During the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Doha Metro gained the confidence of 17.4mn passengers who travelled onboard the network to reach stadiums. The Metro also contributed to tourists’ and visitors’ experience in the country during that time.

Further to that, the metro played a pivotal role in successfully hosting the tournament, as 51% of the fans used the Metro to go to stadiums. The daily average number of passengers recorded during the tournament was about five times the usual average, with a 300% increase, the statement noted.

In addition, the various events and sports tournaments held in Qatar over the last three years enabled developing the operational expertise, and further enhancing customer experience and significantly contributed to the inte-



The Doha Metro is an effective and convenient alternative for transportation, and a key contributor to the success of events hosted in Qatar.

### BIG NUMBERS

- Since the launch of its services, the Doha Metro has played an instrumental role in the success of 13 key local, regional and international sports events and tournaments
- On Nov 24, 2022 (during the World Cup), the Doha Metro set a record in the daily number of passengers by transporting more than 827,000 people in one day
- Msheireb recorded the highest number of passengers travelling through it in one day during the World Cup with approximately 405,000 people, on December 2, 2022
- The Doha Metro ferried 17.4mn passengers during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022
- 51% of World Cup fans used the metro to go to stadiums



### ANNOUNCEMENT

I, GABRIEL ARMANDOJR LOPEZ BORDALES  
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within 15 days from the publication of this notice.



# The All-New 2023 Grand Wagoneer makes its International Debut in the Middle East:

## Ushering a New Standard of Off-Road Capability, Technology and Luxury

The All-New 2023 Grand Wagoneer marks the rebirth of a premium American icon, with legendary capability courtesy of three available 4x4 systems, exceptional driving dynamics, powerful performance, including best-in-class towing capability of up to 10,000 lbs, advanced technology, safety and a new level of comfort for up to eight passengers – all wrapped in a sophisticated and authentic new design. The All-New Grand Wagoneer is now making its international debut in the Middle East, the only other market where it will be sold outside of North America and is scheduled to arrive in showrooms across the region in the first quarter of 2023.

Samir Cherfan, Chief Operating Officer at Stellantis Middle East & Africa, commented: “In 2022, Stellantis unveiled its ‘Dare Forward 2030’ strategic plan; a bold vision for the coming decade that will turbocharge the way we think, work, and meet the needs of our customers. It positions us to be number one in market share by 2030 while leading the energy transition, setting a clear path for growth. The entry into the market of the most luxurious and technologically advanced SUV in our history will be a key driver towards our ambitions for the future.”

“We are ready to start a new exciting adventure in the Middle East with the most luxurious and technologically advanced SUV that we have introduced in our more than 80 years of history,” said Christian Meunier, Jeep® Brand CEO. “The all-new Grand Wagoneer was developed from the start with North America and the Middle East in mind. We engineered and tested the Grand Wagoneer in both regions to deliver the ultimate combination of luxury, technology, and best-in-class off-road capability.”

### Modern interpretation of an American-made icon

The 2023 Grand Wagoneer's premium exterior styling pays tribute to the original SUV and embodies American authenticity and artisan-levels of craftsmanship. The new exterior design is bold, crafted with a wide stance, and features a timeless silhouette with large architecturally drawn windows for enhanced outward visibility. The prominent grille on Grand Wagoneer models features a knurled finish on the rings.

Exterior color options include Diamond Black, Bright White, Silver Zynith, Baltic Gray, Velvet Red, River Rock Blue, Midnight Sky Blue, Rocky Mountain Green and Ember Red.

Grand Wagoneer offers opulent Palermo leather trimmed seating with quilting and leather-wrapped instrument panel, consoles and door panels with accent stitching. The fully digital cockpit takes advantage of leading-edge technologies that are exquisitely presented with expansive and easy-to-use screens with different interfaces.

The relaxed atmosphere of the interior — accentuated by the use of five customizable ambient lighting themes, proximity entry/exit lighting and interior-mounted LED door puddle lamps — is delivered through a timeless design combined with the soul of Americana that will continue to solidify Grand Wagoneer's iconic place in history.

### A technology-rich interior for drivers and passengers alike

The most technologically advanced Grand Wagoneer ever features next-generation innovations, including the new advanced Uconnect 5 system, digital rearview mirror, exclusive Rear Seat Monitoring Camera, head-up display, frameless digital cluster and a premium McIntosh audio system for a vehicle.

Grand Wagoneer is available with up to 75 inches of total digital display screen area. This consists of nearly 45 inches of total screens along the front dashboard including 12-inch reconfigurable touchscreen display featuring split-screen capability for dual-application operation, featuring the all-new Uconnect 5 system with Wi-Fi capability, Android Auto and Apple CarPlay enable link with Uconnect 12-inch touchscreen, First Fire TV for Auto integration with Alexa, and access to hundreds of thousands of movies, TV shows, and apps, simultaneous connectivity for two Bluetooth-enabled phones, Integrated 4-zone climate and infotainment controls, and tailored and customizable radio display interface with driver profile.

### Leading-edge technology

The 2023 Grand Wagoneer offers a windshield head-up display (HUD). The full color display is configurable up to 10 inches and features three (simple, standard, advanced) predefined configurations with layouts, including Lane Departure, Lane Keep Assist, Adaptive Cruise Control, turn-by-turn navigation, current speed, current gear and speed limit. All HUD settings can be personalized and saved within the driver profiles.



An available fully digital rearview mirror provides an unobstructed rear view that enhances safety and visibility. The digital rearview mirror displays video in real time from a rear-facing camera, offering an image that is unobstructed by the D-pillars or rear seats. It also reverts back to a traditional reflective mirror by toggling the switch underneath.

collaborated with Stellantis to deliver an industry exclusive, high-fidelity audio system.

Grand Wagoneer and McIntosh engineers worked closely to develop, test and tune groundbreaking entertainment systems that complement the vehicle's unique interior volume and layout. McIntosh carried some of its patented technologies from the home side into the Grand

Active Driving Assist hands-free active driving Assist (late availability) and ParkSense automated Parking System.

Active Driving Assist is the company's name for Level 2 (L2) automated driving capability. The technology affirms the company's march toward an autonomous future. Grand Wagoneer is available with Active Driving Assist for hands-



Rear seat monitoring camera views are accessible through the Uconnect touchscreen and allows the driver to quickly view the entire cabin, as well as to easily zoom-in on each seat location. Memory setting functions keep the zoomed image focused on the most recent position viewed, making the system easier to use and limiting driver distraction. The camera is positioned on the headliner between the second- and third-row seats. Three infrared lights surround the camera and illuminate the cabin in low-light conditions. The system automatically switches between day and night modes for added visibility and convenience.

Interior mood lighting features two zones (upper and lower), each available with five colors: white, blue, aqua, gold and amber and selectable through the touchscreen.

### The pinnacle of design-focused audio, emanating luxury sound

For more than 70 years, McIntosh has created high-quality, handcrafted, American-made audio products and systems for homes, concert venues and iconic moments in music history across the globe. McIntosh – a classic American luxury brand known for its distinguished offerings – has

Wagoneer's systems, including Power Guard® for unrivaled clarity even at high-volume levels. The audio system has Low Distortion/High Performance (LD/HP) speaker design to minimize distortion and provide an unparalleled listening experience.

### High-tech safety and security features

The 2023 Grand Wagoneer offers more than 120 safety and security features, including innovative applications of technologies that refine the connection between driver, vehicle and the road.

### Segment-leading innovation

Grand Wagoneer arrives with a combination of class-leading safety features that enhance a driver's field of vision, help make instrumentation easier to see and enable driver-assist capabilities that accommodate collision avoidance.

Grand Wagoneer features a new electrical architecture system that enables secure messaging in Controller Area Network (CAN) communications, which allows for enhanced driver assist features, such as Hands-free Active Driving Assist autonomous functionality.

Autonomous vehicle capabilities include



on-wheel and eyes-on-road automated driving using lane centering with adaptive cruise control. The system uses multiple sensors, including radars and cameras to dictate appropriate roads for the technology.

The Digital Rearview Mirror system replaces the conventional rearview mirror with a 9.2-inch LCD that shows real-time video from a rear-facing camera. Unlike a conventional rearview mirror, the digital camera system offers a view that is unobstructed by the D-pillars or rear seats. When not in use as a display, the screen reverts back to a reflective mirror by toggling the switch underneath.

Equipment levels on Grand Wagoneer are elevated even further with ParkSense automated parking system, which uses ultrasonic sensors to guide the driver into parking spaces. Stellantis is the first automaker to use this technology with a live, dedicated view on the infotainment screen for easy viewing.

**Three available 4x4 systems are the foundation of legendary capability**

Three available 4x4 systems (Quadra-Trac I, Quadra-Trac II and Quadra-Drive II), an available Quadra-Lift air suspension and Selec-Terrain traction management system, instill this premium SUV with legendary capability.

Quadra-Trac I delivers full-time four-wheel drive without any switches to push or levers to pull, the Quadra-Trac II's two-speed transfer case uses input from a variety of sensors to determine tire slip at the earliest possible moment and takes corrective action, and Quadra-Drive II, with a rear Electronic Limited-slip Differential (ELSD), delivers industry-leading tractive capability. The system instantly detects tire slip and smoothly distributes engine torque to tires with traction. In some cases, the vehicle will anticipate low traction and adjust in order to proactively limit or eliminate slip.

The 2023 Grand Wagoneer features a 25-degree approach angle, 24-degree departure angle, 22-degree breakover angle and a ground clearance of 10 inches/ 25.4cm. This combination enables up to 24 inches/ 61cm of water-fording capability.

### All-new architecture delivers sophisticated on-road driving dynamics and composed capability

The 2023 Grand Wagoneer features an all-new architecture that delivers sophisticated on-road driving dynamics, a lightweight, durable body-on-frame design, composed 4x4 capability and best-in-class towing.

Substantial emphasis was placed on designing an all-new body-on-frame structure that uses high-strength steel to bolster vehicle performance, safety, reliability and reduce overall weight. Premium driving dynamics and refined on-road manners are thanks, in part, to a front and rear independent suspension. New front independent double wishbone suspension components combine lightweight composite upper control arms, aluminum lower control arms and geometry tuned for responsiveness and handling. The front stabilizer bar sits behind the front tires, further enhancing roll stiffness. A rear multi-link, coil-spring suspension provides a superior on-road ride, bolsters handling and provides better articulation over obstacles.

Stellantis Debuts Hurricane Twin-turbo I-6 Engine That Cuts Emissions, Increases Fuel Economy And Is More Powerful

The 2023 Grand Wagoneer is equipped with a new 3.0-liter Hurricane twin-turbo, inline, six-cylinder engine that puts out less tailpipe emissions and uses less gasoline than larger engines, yet delivers V-8 levels of power performance.

The Robust architecture enables Stellantis Propulsion Systems to deliver two distinct variants – one tuned for efficiency, one tuned for performance, Grand Wagoneer's beating heart is the high output version which is performance driven delivering almost 500hp for the Middle East version. Two low-inertia turbochargers power the Hurricane's rapid response to throttle inputs, along with enhanced torque output for chores such as towing without sacrificing fuel economy.

State-of-the-art technologies include Plasma Transfer Wire Arc (PTWA) sprayed cylinder coating and high-pressure gasoline direct injection.

The High Output (HO) Hurricane engine for the Grand Wagoneer is optimized for great performance ( 493hp/670 Nm of torque ) while maintaining significant fuel economy during heavy use, such as towing.







## Karwa receives ISO certification

Mowasalat (Karwa) has successfully cleared the annual ISO audit for its Environmental Management system under (ISO 14001:2004), the Occupational Health and Safety Management system under (ISO 45001:2018), and for Karwa Driving School (KDS) for Quality Management System under (ISO 9001:2015).

According to an official statement from Karwa, gaining the ISO certification confirms and reinforces Mowasalat's (Karwa) continuous drive for excellence, through a relentless focus on environment and occupational health and safety management systems.

"It also encourages the entire Mowasalat management team to oversee systematic and continuous improvement of its practices, and the integration and constant alignment of the organisation's strategy and operations. These standards also provide guidance and tools for Mowasalat while delivering corporate client mandates in accordance with international standards. Independent third-party certification of Mowasalat's HSE management systems have helped the organisation in continuously improving its business performance, in effectively managing business risks and in aligning its operations with



Officials pose for a group photo.

international benchmarks," the statement noted.

Khalid Abdulla al-Kaabi, Mowasalat (Karwa) HSSE Manager, said that obtaining the ISO certificate in environmental management boosts the company's efforts towards sustainability, and contributes to improving the work environment quality.

"It also helps us provide our services with world-class quality standards and gain the trust of our customers. Through these international accreditations, Mowasalat seeks to raise the environmental awareness among our employees and increase the company's efficiency in achieving environmental sustainability," al-Kaabi said.

Mowasalat (Karwa) received its first ISO and Occupational

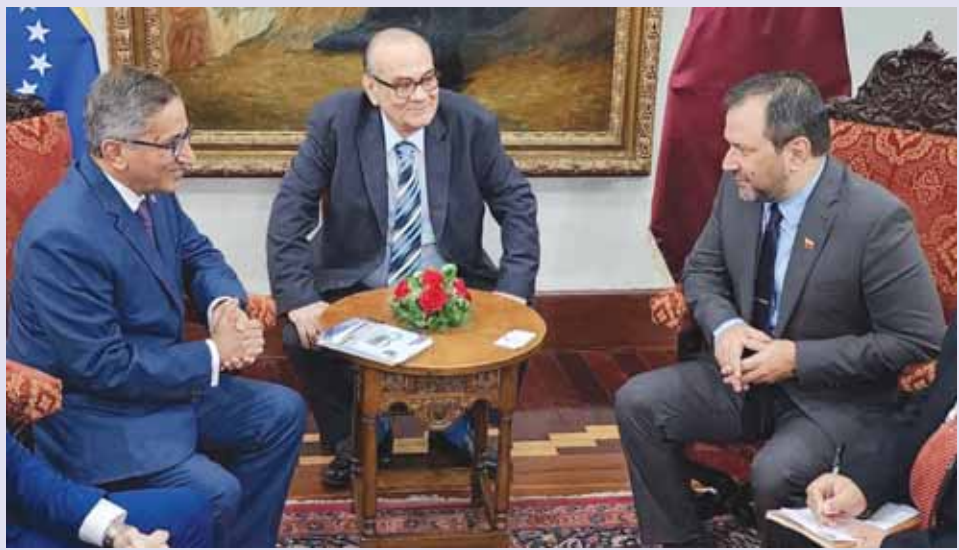
Health & Safety Assessment series (OHSAS) certification in 2014 and has continuously met the world class ISO and OHSAS standards through its stringent HSSE Management System procedures, which provide an integrated framework of safety, health, and environment management. In line with the Qatar National Vision 2030, Mowasalat is committed to protecting and conserving the environment, ensuring the safety of its assets and employees, as well as providing efficient services to its customers.

It also allows Mowasalat to consistently exceed expectations on service excellence, while ensuring that the overall quality of internal processes and policies is maintained and continues to improve.

## Qatar's envoys in Turkmenistan, Venezuela, Uzbekistan and Ethiopia hold meetings



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov met with Qatar's ambassador in Ashgabat Hamad bin Rashid al-Athba. The meeting reviewed bilateral relations. (QNA)



Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil met yesterday with Qatar's ambassador in Caracas Rashid bin Mohsin Fetais. The meeting reviewed bilateral relations. (QNA)



Deputy Secretary of the Security Council under the President for Foreign Policy and Security of Uzbekistan and Special Representative of the President for Foreign Policy Issues Abdulaziz Kamilov met with Qatar's ambassador in Tashkent Hassan bin Hamza Hashim. The meeting reviewed bilateral relations. (QNA)

Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) Moussa Faki Mahamat met in Addis Ababa with Qatar's ambassador to Ethiopia and representative to the African Union Hamad bin Mohamed al-Dossari. The meeting reviewed the co-operation between Qatar and the African Union and ways to support and develop them. (QNA)



Graduates with Sheikh Dr Aisha al-Thani and other guests. PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam



Sheikha Dr Aisha bint Faleh al-Thani and Sheikh Nawaf bin Nasser al-Thani at the graduation ceremony. (Supplied picture)



Some of the guests at the event.

# AFG College with University of Aberdeen celebrates graduation of its Class of 2022

By Joseph Varghese  
Staff Reporter

The graduation of the Class of 2022 of AFG College with the University of Aberdeen was held on Tuesday.

The grand ceremony started with the age old tradition of the Scottish bagpiper ushering in the graduates and faculty in a procession. The graduates included 162 Qataris and 15 other nationalities who successfully completed their programmes of study in Qatar. The ceremony at Sheraton Grand Doha was attended by Sheikh Dr Aisha bint Faleh al-Thani, chairperson of Al Faleh Educational Holding and founder and chairperson of AFG College; Sheikh Nawaf bin Nasser al-Thani, chairperson of Nasser Bin Khalid Holding; Prof Alan Speight, vice-principal of the University of Aberdeen; Jon Wilks, British ambassador; Dr Khalid al-Ali, acting assistant undersecretary for Higher Education Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Qatar; and other dignitaries.

Students and guests were joined by representatives from the University of Aberdeen, AFG faculty, staff, parents, family and friends of the gradu-

ates. The graduates were conferred their degrees by Prof Alan Speight.

Speaking at the event, Sheikh Dr Aisha al-Thani said: "I am always happy to witness the graduation ceremony of our graduates, who have all worked so hard in completing their studies. Today marks the culmination of their determination and is a day for celebration not just for the graduates, but for their families and guests who have played a part in their journey. I am confident that those who have graduated will go forward to be a force for good in their chosen careers and within the wider community."

Prof Speight highlighted the importance of the partnership between the University of Aberdeen and AFG College and noted that Aberdeen University is committed to continue the international reach and the diversity of the student body along with the AFG College.

British ambassador Wilks noted: "I am delighted to see so many students graduate with a British degree from a campus in Doha. They are an important and valued part of the human bridge between the UK and Qatar. I am confident that they will go on to future success, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavours."

Brian Buckley, AFG College principal said: "It is such a pleasure to see so many familiar faces graduate at what is a wonderful celebration of the hard work of all our students. I am particularly pleased to see our first LLM International Commercial Law cohort graduate, having worked so hard during the Covid-19 period."

The ceremony included student speeches, with the cohort representatives reflecting on their study journey, experiences of the programmes and concluding with wishing the class of 2022 all success for their future, and encouraging them to be a positive force for change.



The bagpiper playing the traditional music as graduates look on.

## AFG College to launch new programmes from next academic year: chairperson

By Joseph Varghese  
Staff Reporter

AFG College with the University of Aberdeen will offer two more new programmes from the next academic year after completing all the necessary approvals, according to the chairperson.

"We are planning to introduce computer science and artificial intelligence pending approval from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. It could be started either from September or January intake," Sheikh Dr Aisha bint Faleh al-Thani, chairperson of Al Faleh Educational Holding as well as the founder and chairperson of AFG College with the Uni-

versity of Aberdeen told *Gulf Times*.

Speaking on the sidelines of the graduation ceremony of the Class of 2022 of the university, Sheikh Dr Aisha al-Thani said AFG College with the University of Aberdeen plans to introduce several new programmes in the coming years. "We have plans to introduce medical studies in the coming years and we plan to launch PhD programmes in some specific areas. We will expand the programmes depending on the needs of the country as well as the demands of the labour market in the country and across the globe," she explained.

The chairperson said that the student strength is growing steadily year after year as the university has added several new programmes. She noted: "Our num-

bers are growing strong every year and we have a large number of students. This shows the confidence of the community in the excellence of our programmes and we get very strong feedback from the graduates and our alumni as well as the employers of our graduates."

"We have also started the construction of our new campus which is expected to be completed in 18 months and we are planning to complete the construction in different stages. We are aiming to complete two buildings in the first stage. Then we will develop more buildings as we aim to expand our programmes and start courses in several new areas. We hope to become a full-fledged one with all the facilities in the very near future," added Sheikh Dr Aisha al-Thani.





## QFFD renews commitment to offer support to Unesco's Heritage Emergency Fund

Following its previous contributions, the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) is contributing \$500,000 in 2023 to continue supporting Unesco's efforts in safeguarding culture in emergencies.

This contribution is part of QFFD's commitment to supporting the Heritage Emergency Fund.

"With the rise of conflict and disasters, the world is not only losing the unique records of our past of significant historical, aesthetic, and scientific value, but we are losing an excellent opportunity for essential resources for sustainable development in many societies where the preservation of cultural heritage helps the solidarity of communities post wars and disasters and supports the

reconstruction and resilience of the affected society.

"We are confident that with this contribution, we will play a role in safeguarding the cultural heritage that is in danger of being lost forever due to disasters, conflicts, and neglect," said Deputy-Director General of Projects at QFFD Sultan al-Aseeri. The Unesco Heritage Emergency Fund has supported 79 countries to assess, secure, and safeguard heritage at risk and promote cultural life and creativity.

By protecting culture, the Fund is a critical tool for Unesco to deploy rapid preparedness and response activities in time of crisis, contributing to social cohesion and supporting communities in building their resilience.

"In this regard, I wish to ac-

knowledge the commitment of Qatar over the years and welcome its renewed contribution. I would also like to take the opportunity to invite other partners to join our actions in supporting Unesco during the year 2023," said Assistant Director-General for Culture of Unesco Ernesto Ottone Ramirez.

This QFFD contribution complements its previous contributions, a total of \$4mn since 2015, affirming Qatar's commitment to preserving peace and development worldwide. Established in 2015, the Heritage Emergency Fund supports countries in strengthening their preparedness and response capacity to prevent, mitigate, and support recovery where culture has been affected by conflicts and disasters. (QNA)

## 16 teams in fray for QSFA-organised Al Furjan football tourney from Sunday

The Qatar Sports for All Federation (QSFA) has announced the draw for the eighth edition of the Al Furjan football tournament, which will kick off on Sunday at Al Markhiya stadiums, with the participation of 16 teams.

The draw divides the teams into four groups, with four teams each. While Group A comprises the teams Ain Khalid, Al Sadd, Al Waab, and Lusail, Group B includes the teams of Al Hilal, Police Institute, Al Wakra, and Al Udeid. Group C has the teams of Dukhan, Lebayy, Al Nasr, and Halul, and Group D includes the teams of Al Maida, Madinat Khalifa, Muaitheer, and Simaisma.

Al Furjan stadiums in Al



Abdullah al-Dosari

Markhiya will host two matches per day, starting from Sunday, the first day of the tournament. The matches will be held in the group system from stage one, to ensure that two teams from each group qualify. After that stage,

the matches will be held in the knockout system. In a statement yesterday, Director of Events and Activities at the QSFA Abdullah al-Dosari stressed the importance of the tournament, and said it represents an opportunity for young people – from 16 years of age and over – as it opens the way for Qatari players who are not registered in the lists of the Qatar Football Association to show their talents and abilities.

The tournament also represents an opportunity for the emergence of new faces. Organised by the QSFA, the eighth edition will be the first in the Al Furjan championships series within its calendar of events and activities of 2023. (QNA)



People enjoying the winter in Doha yesterday. PICTURES: Thajudheen

## Strong winds and cool conditions expected today

The weather forecast shows that strong winds are again expected in the country today, affecting some places at times.

Similar conditions are also likely in offshore areas until late tonight. Northwesterly winds will blow at speeds of 15-25 knots offshore, gusting to 30 knots at first and decreasing to 10-20 knots late at night.

Inshore, northwesterly winds will blow at 12-22 knots and reach a high of 28 knots in some areas, before dropping to 5-15 by the evening, according to the Qatar Met department.

The detailed forecast says it will be relatively cold today and scattered clouds are also expected along with blowing dust



in some places occasionally. Cloudy conditions are likely in offshore areas at times, while the sea level may rise to 10ft at

first. The temperature, meanwhile, will range from 14-21C in Doha today, with Al Khor expected to see a low of 13C. Cool

# Qatar Charity reveals launch of diverse humanitarian projects in Sri Lanka

Qatar Charity (QC) announced the launch of several humanitarian and development projects in Sri Lanka, which will be implemented during 2023, a statement said yesterday.

This came during a meeting of M U M Ali Sabry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, with Yusuf bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, CEO of QC, and the delegation at the Foreign Ministry, in the presence of many officials.

During the visit of QC's delegation to Sri Lanka, a ceremony was held to resume its activities and inaugurate a new office in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, in the presence of ambassador Jassim bin Jaber al-Sorour, many Sri Lankan government officials, and Arab ambassadors.

During the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, al-Kuwari underscored QC's determination to provide all possible support to Sri Lanka. He noted QC's keenness to ensure that its development interventions, which are expected to be implemented by its office in Colombo, will be consistent with the strategic plans of the ministries and authorities concerned in Sri Lanka. He praised the support provided by the various Sri Lankan government bodies to QC to facilitate its humanitarian and development missions in the country.

The projects worth \$11mn, which will be implemented by QC in Sri Lanka, come in accordance with its 2023 plan. Minister Ali Sabry, welcomed QC's pledge to implement the new projects this year, terming the initiative as an important step and an integral part of the historical relations between the two countries.

He also appreciated QC's efforts in the field of humanitarian and development work at the local and international levels, and thanked it for its



Officials pose for a group photo.



support for the vulnerable. He hoped that QC would continue to aid those in need in Sri Lanka in the areas of health, education, food security, economic empowerment, housing, and social care.

It was in 1993 that QC commenced its activities in Sri Lanka, where the projects and programmes were implemented in co-ordination with local charitable organisations until its office was opened in Colombo in 2018, the statement added.



## Sanitation services assigned to private sector in two municipalities



### Assigning sanitation services to the private sector in Al Shahaniyah Municipality and Al Rayyan Municipality

Al Shahaniyah Municipality and Al Rayyan Municipality have privatized the sewage manholes wiring services.

After a comprehensive study, the sewage service operations were assigned to the private sector, with the aim of developing the mechanism and speed of work with high efficiency, and completing the largest number of requests in a faster time, as it is expected that twice the number of completed requests will be executed at the present time.

To request the service of clearing sewage manholes:



The Ministry of Municipality yesterday issued an infographic on assigning sanitation services to the private sector in two municipalities.



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**GULF** **TIMES**

# Airlines face hurdles to cashing in on China reopening

US and European airlines will benefit from pent-up demand for travel to China after its recent border reopening, but route approvals, fresh Covid-19 testing rules and not enough large aircraft remain barriers to rising sales, analysts and industry officials say.

Travel is returning to China, the world's largest outbound tourism market worth \$255bn in 2019, after the country ended mandatory quarantines on January 8. Airfares from China are now 160% higher than before the pandemic, data from travel firm ForwardKeys shows, due to limited supply.

Iowa-based lawyer Jinying Zhan, 50, said he paid \$1,600 for a one-way ticket in December to fly via Chicago and Dubai to Guangzhou. "I haven't visited my family in three years, so I will go to the spring festival with my sisters," he said. "Flights were very expensive." Before the pandemic, he used to pay \$1,000-1,500 for a round trip direct flight from Chicago.

A round-trip fare from San Francisco to Shanghai on United Airlines for a week-long trip in early March costs \$3,852 in economy class and \$18,369 in business class, according to a Reuters search on the airline's website.

Global airlines are running only 11% of 2019 capacity levels to and from China in January, Cirium data shows, but the figure is expected to hit 25% by April.

Booking website Expedia said it saw US-China and Europe-China searches double after the reopening announcement.

Chinese airlines, with ample staff and widebody planes, and a cost and time advantage of roughly two hours from flying a more direct route using Russian airspace, are expected to be early winners.

**Global airlines are running only 11% of 2019 capacity levels to and from China in January, Cirium data shows, but the figure is expected to hit 25% by April**

But US and European airlines, which have focused traditionally on the strong business travel market to China, and often cater more to the preferences of Western passengers, are poised to benefit from companies willing to pay a premium to rekindle face-to-face ties.

Trips to China "are already on the books for many companies and travellers as they kick off a new business year," said Suzanne Neufang, chief executive of the Global Business Travel Association.

China's reopening comes as surging Covid infections have led the United States, Japan and others to require negative coronavirus tests from Chinese arrivals, discouraging travel.

Since regulatory approval from both countries is required to add flights, at a time of US-China trade tensions, short-term capacity could be limited, industry sources said.

United, which had 584 flights to and from China in January 2019 according to Cirium, can now fly four times weekly from the US to mainland China. United said it could add services pending government authorisations.

Since January 4, Air China, Hainan Airlines and China Southern Airlines have filed schedules with the US Department of Transportation proposing to increase flights to as much as daily on some routes.

"There are some things brewing," said US Deputy Transportation Secretary Polly Trottenberg, but gave no further details on US carriers adding more Chinese flights.

Foreign carriers seeking to add flights to China require approvals from the Civil Aviation Administration of China, which did not respond to a request for comment.

American Airlines said this week it would fly non-stop from Dallas to Shanghai twice-weekly from March, dropping a current stop in Seoul. However, other flights were paused as it assessed market demand and government regulations.

Delta Air Lines expects to cautiously "rebuild capacity to China in line with demand starting later this year," President Glen Hauenstein said when the company reported quarterly results.

China, which accounted for about 5-6% of long-haul travel from Europe in 2019, is also a key market for some European carriers including Germany's Lufthansa, Bernstein analyst Alex Irving said.

But European and US carriers may prioritise their wide body planes for lucrative trans-Atlantic travel this summer, leaving them stretched to accommodate fresh demand for China, said George Dimitroff, an analyst with Cirium.

Many Western airlines parked large planes when international traffic plunged and production of new twin-aisle jets has been limited. — Reuters

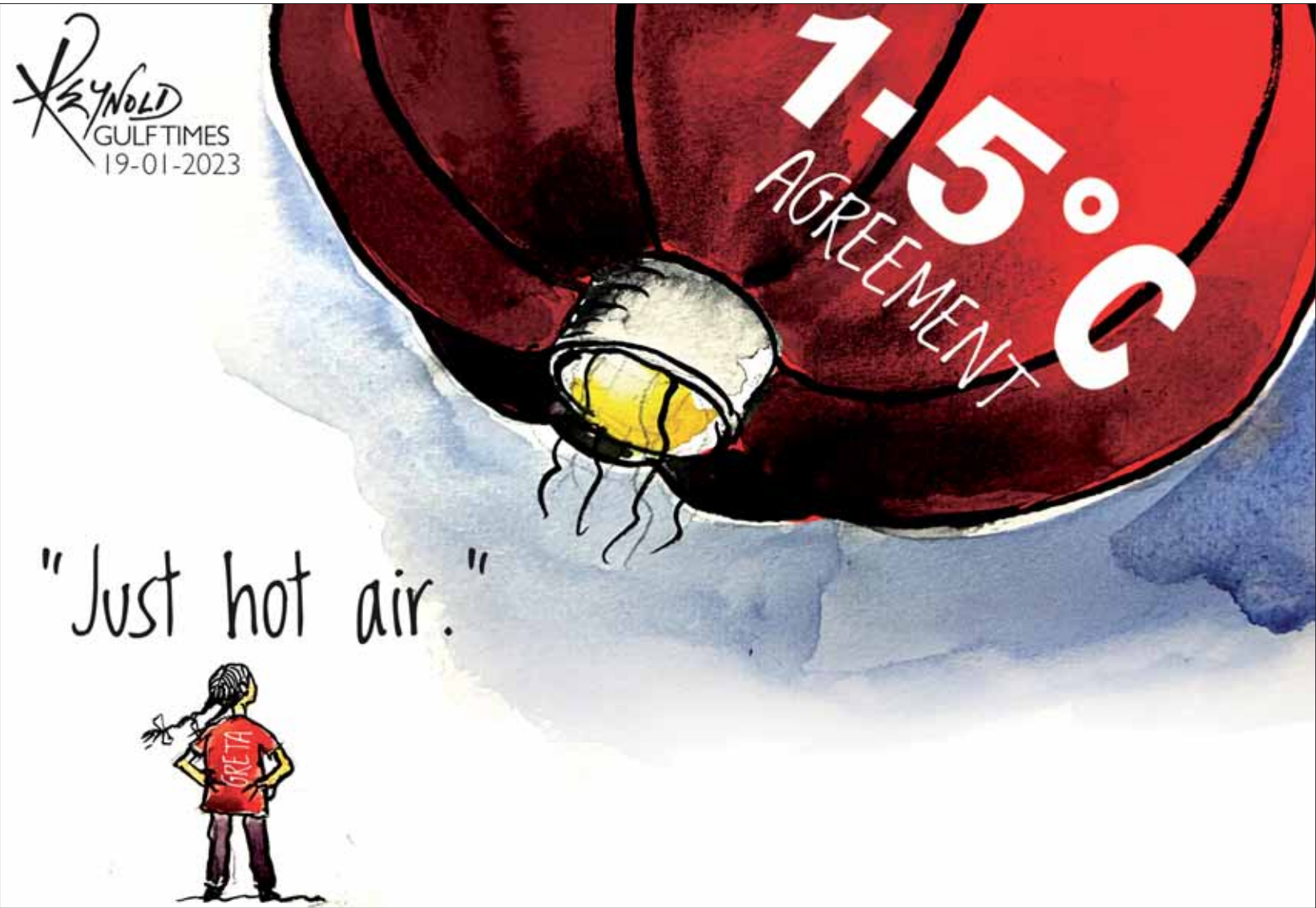
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# Russian aggression has undermined populism

**While populists with pro-Russian leanings have been marginalised, those who have come out in support of Ukraine have been welcomed back into the fold**

By Sławomir Sierakowski  
Warsaw

Russia's war in Ukraine has affected political life in countries around the world, and this influence has been greater in the countries that are politically closest not to Ukraine but to Russia. Because Ukraine is a democracy and Russia is an authoritarian kleptocracy, the war has highlighted a fundamental clash between alternative political systems. This dynamic raises the stakes considerably, because a military defeat for the democracy could be an invitation to dictators elsewhere to pursue their own conquests.

Fortunately, as the war has dragged on, the spectre of populism has receded in Europe, where it has been overshadowed by the larger threat of a Russia victory. While those populists with pro-Russian leanings have been marginalised, those who have moderated and come out in support of Ukraine have been welcomed back into the fold, despite having spent years undermining democracy at home.

For example, before the Russian invasion, Polish President Andrzej Duda was receiving a cold shoulder just about everywhere in the West. Yet his staunch support of Ukraine has turned him into a key participant in major transatlantic and European meetings, and an important partner to anti-populist Western politicians, not least US President Joe Biden.

At the same time, Duda himself has become less populist. Never an independent thinker or politician, he now takes his cues from the American

embassy, rather than from Law and Justice (PiS) party leader Jarosław Kaczyński, to whom he owes his current position. Duda seems to have concluded that Kaczyński cannot hope to reward him with the kind of international profile that the Americans can.

Meanwhile, pro-Russian populists have fallen out of favour almost everywhere. The notable exception is Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who has long convinced Hungarian voters that their country can occupy the best of all possible economic worlds by juggling relations with Russia, China, and the European Union. But even Orbán has had to soften his position. He has not dared to block the bulk of Western sanctions against Russia, because he knows that he must play nice with the EU to receive Covid recovery-package funds that have been withheld as a result of his rule-of-law violations. Orbán is thus in limbo – neither a pariah nor a partner to leaders in Washington, London, or even Berlin.

But the previously ironclad Kaczyński-Orbán axis is finished. Poland is supplying Ukraine with every kind of weapon, including more than 200 tanks; and it has just declared that it will be the first country to furnish German Leopard 2s. By contrast, Hungary not only refuses to help Ukraine, but is also transmitting Russian propaganda through its government-controlled media channels.

As a result, relations between Warsaw and Budapest have chilled, with Kaczyński even criticising Orbán directly. "We can't co-operate as before," he complains: "If Prime

Minister Orbán says he doesn't see exactly what happened in Bucha [Bucha, the site of Russian atrocities early in the war], he should be advised to go to an ophthalmologist."

When it comes to military, territorial, or economic bargaining power, Orbán cannot hope to compete with Türkiye's president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. While Orbán is still grasping for crumbs from larger powers' tables, Erdoğan's international standing has grown overnight. Western leaders must give him what he wants to secure Finland and Sweden's entry into Nato, and the Kremlin must work with him to prevent Türkiye from joining the sanctions and embargoes on Russian raw materials, goods, and technologies.

Türkiye's relations with Russia do not prevent it from having good relations with Ukraine. It was Türkiye that negotiated the prisoner exchanges and limited ceasefires needed to unblock Ukrainian exports through the Black Sea.

Importantly, while Ukraine's defeat is not in Türkiye's interest, a total Russian defeat also is not in its interest. A diminished Russia would reduce Türkiye's clout within Nato, and Türkiye is also an economic beneficiary of the sanctions against Russia (despite the loss of millions of regular tourists from Russia and Ukraine). With Erdoğan a responsible global actor, he may have markedly improved his chances of winning re-election this Spring, despite an economic crisis and rampant inflation.

While individual populists have either moderated their positions or been marginalised, the broader "populist international" has become

more fractured with the loss of its Russian patron. Western politicians can no longer walk around in pro-Putin t-shirts, as the Italian nationalist leader Matteo Salvini once did, or borrow money from Russian banks, as the French right-wing leader Marine Le Pen's party has done. Pro-Russian and anti-Nato views are no longer acceptable. In 2022, the German pro-Russian parties Alternative für Deutschland and Die Linke lost local elections across the board.

Populists also suffered losses in elections in the United States and France, and Russia's war of aggression was certainly one reason. Candidates backed by former US president Donald Trump – an open admirer of Putin – were roundly defeated in the US midterms. And in the French presidential and parliamentary elections last spring, Le Pen and the left-wing leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon's sympathies for Russia did not go unnoticed.

If the pro-Russian populist former Czech prime minister Andrej Babiš loses this week's presidential election to Petr Pavel, the former head of Nato's Military Committee, that, too, will be partly because of Russia's war.

But we should remain only cautiously optimistic. The New Year could always bring a trend reversal. If fatigue with the refugee crisis and high inflation deepens, today's discredited populists will be the natural beneficiaries.

— Project Syndicate

● Sławomir Sierakowski, founder of the Krytyka Polityczna movement, is a senior fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations.



**SPOTLIGHT:** Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting on economic issues via a video link from the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow on Tuesday. (Reuters)



## UN chief slams oil firms for 'big lie' on global warming

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres skewered oil firms yesterday for having "peddled the big lie" about their role in global warming, telling the World Economic Forum that they should be held accountable.

Addressing a room full of the world's business and political elite, Guterres drew a parallel between the actions of oil companies and those of tobacco companies that have been hit by huge lawsuits over the adverse effects of cigarettes.

"We learned last week that certain fossil fuel producers were fully aware in the 1970s that their core product was baking our planet," Guterres said.

He was referring to a study published in the journal *Science* that said ExxonMobil had dismissed the findings of its own scientists on the role of fossil fuels in climate change.

"Just like the tobacco industry, they rode roughshod over their own science," Guterres said, referring to lawsuits that determined cigarette companies had hidden the dangers of their products.

"Some in Big Oil peddled the big lie. And like the tobacco industry, those responsible must be held to account," he said.

In 1998, US states won a landmark settlement against tobacco companies worth \$246bn aimed at recovering the costs of treating smokers from the harmful effects of cigarettes.

The study on ExxonMobil found that the firm's scientists had modelled and predicted global warming "with shocking accuracy", only for the company "to spend the next couple of decades denying that very climate science".

ExxonMobil is the target of a number of lawsuits in the United States.

## Microsoft to shed 10,000 jobs amid recession blues

Microsoft Corp yesterday said it would eliminate 10,000 jobs and take a \$1.2bn charge to earnings, as its cloud-computing customers reassess their spending and the company braces for potential recession.

The layoffs, far larger than cuts by Microsoft last year, add to the tens of thousands of job cuts across the technology sector, which has downshifted following a strong growth period during the pandemic.

The news comes even as the software maker is set to ramp up spending in generative artificial intelligence that the industry sees as the new bright spot.

In a note to employees, CEO Satya Nadella attempted to address the divergent realities.

Customers wanted to "optimise their digital spend to do more with less" and "exercise caution as some parts of the world are in a recession and other parts are anticipating one," he said. "At the same time, the next major wave of computing is being born with advances in AI."

Nadella said the layoffs, affecting less than 5% of Microsoft's workforce, would conclude by the end of March, with notifications beginning yesterday.

However, Microsoft would keep hiring in "strategic areas," he said.

AI is likely to be one of those areas. Nadella this week touted AI to world leaders gathered in Davos, Switzerland, claiming the technology would transform its products and touch people around the globe.

Microsoft has looked at adding to its \$1bn stake in OpenAI, the startup behind the Silicon Valley chatbot sensation known as ChatGPT, which Microsoft plans to soon market through its cloud service.

## French city asks Madonna for loan of lost painting

The mayor of Amiens in northern France has released a video "requesting" that Madonna "loan" the city a painting from her personal collection, which resembles one lost there during World War I.

The 19th-century work, "Diane and Endymion" by artist Jerome-Martin Langlois, is "likely" the same one "loaned by the Louvre to the Fine Art Museum in Amiens before World War I and which subsequently disappeared", Brigitte Fouré said in a video message to the Queen of Pop posted on Facebook.

"Obviously, we don't dispute in any way the legal acquisition that you made of this work," Fouré added.

Instead she asked the singer for a "loan" to exhibit it in 2028, when Amiens hopes to be the year's European Capital of Culture.

Lending the image would allow "the inhabitants to discover this work and enjoy it," the mayor said.

The painting's possible provenance was suggested by newspaper *Le Figaro* in an investigation published this month.

Sold at auction for \$1.3mn to Madonna in 1989, an art conservator spotted the monumental work in a photo of her home published in magazine *Paris Match*.

"I'm not certain that it's the actual painting", but even if a copy, "it's extremely similar to the work" and "I'd like the people of Amiens to be able to see it again," Fouré said.

## In rare attack, polar bear kills 2 people in Alaska

A polar bear on a rampage killed a woman and a boy in a remote area of Alaska, police said, in a rare attack on humans. The bear was itself then shot and killed by a resident in the tiny community of Wales, on the far western coast of Alaska.

"Initial reports indicate that a polar bear had entered the community and had chased multiple residents," police said in a statement on Tuesday's attack.

"The bear fatally attacked an adult female and juvenile male — it was shot and killed by a local resident as it attacked the pair," police said, adding that state troopers and Fish and Game Department authorities were trying to reach the town "as weather conditions allow."

The victims' identities were not made public as authorities were trying to notify their families.

Polar bear attacks are extremely rare, with local media reporting one of the most recent fatal encounters between a human and polar bear in Alaska was in 1990.

According to Canadian NGO Polar Bears International, only 20 people worldwide are known to have been killed by polar bears between 1870 and 2014, though the frequency of attacks is increasing.

# Ukraine copter crash kills interior minister

Reuters  
Brovary (Ukraine)

Ukraine's interior minister and a child were among at least 14 people killed yesterday when a helicopter crashed into a nursery and set it ablaze in a suburb of the capital Kyiv.

Separately, Ukraine said its forces again blunted Russian attempts to advance on the front-line city Bakhmut hundreds of kilometres away in the east, where both sides have taken heavy losses for scant gain in trench warfare since November.

Ukrainian officials said it was too early to determine what caused the helicopter crash. None immediately spoke of any attack by Russia, which invaded Ukraine last February and has been battering Ukrainian cities often far from front lines with missiles almost daily since October.

Dozens of people were injured including children, many suffering burns, after the French-made Super Puma helicopter went down in the fog in Brovary on the eastern outskirts of Kyiv, plummeting into the nursery grounds.

Ukrainian state emergency services said 14 people in total had been killed. Government agencies had earlier published higher death tolls ranging up to 18.

Interior Minister Denys Monastyrskyi, who was on board the helicopter, was among the dead. He was the most senior Ukrainian official to die since the war began with a Russian invasion in February last year.

Residents described a frantic rescue.

"We saw wounded people, we saw children. There was a lot of fog here, everything was strewn all around. We could hear screams, we ran towards them," Hlib, a 17-year-old local resident, told Reuters. "We took the children and passed them over the fence, away from the nurs-



People leave tributes at the site of a helicopter crash in the town of Brovary, outside Kyiv, yesterday. (Reuters)

ery as it was on fire."

The entire side of the nursery building was charred, with a gaping hole above the entrance, where the helicopter's rotor blades rested. Nearby, debris was strewn over a muddy playground and the helicopter wreckage lay crumpled by an apartment block.

Several dead men lay in a courtyard, wearing blue uniforms and black boots visible from under foil blankets draped over the bodies.

Vitaliy, 56, said he saw the aircraft fall quickly and crash onto the grounds of the nursery before debris was hurled further into the block of flats. "I thought it was the engine from a rocket or something like that, something very large," he said.

President Volodymyr Zelensky ordered an investigation into what he said was a "terrible tragedy".

"The pain is unspeakable," he said in a statement.

Monastyrskyi died alongside his first deputy, Yevheniy Yenin, and other ministry officials flying in the helicopter operated by the state emergency service.

Ukraine's SBU State Security

Service said it would consider possible causes including a breach of flight rules, a technical malfunction or intentional destruction.

Since Ukraine wrested back significant territory in the east and south in the second half of 2022, front lines have hardened and Kyiv says new Western weapons especially heavy battle tanks are vital for it to regain momentum this year.

In a speech by video link to the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, Zelensky said Western supplies of tanks, and air defence systems to ward off Russia's missile strike campaign, should come more quickly and be delivered faster than Moscow is able to carry out attacks.

"The supplying of Ukraine with air defence systems must outpace Russia's next missile attacks," Zelensky said. "The supplies of Western tanks must outpace another invasion of Russian tanks." In the latest announcement of new aid, Canadian Defence Minister Anita Anand visited Kyiv yesterday and pledged 200 Senator armoured personnel carriers.

## Making fewer babies: the demographic decline

The world's population may have shot up beyond eight billion for the first time recently, but some countries including the most populous, China, are seeing their populations shrink.

And the decline is set to continue as factors including rising living costs, more women entering the workforce and having children later mean people in some countries are having fewer babies.

China's population shrank last year for the first time in more than six decades, official data showed yesterday, and it is expected to be overtaken by India this year as the most populous nation.

Other countries, mostly in Europe and Asia, can expect a demographic slump over the coming decades, according to UN figures published last July which forecast how the world's population will develop between now and 2100.

A different picture is emerging in Africa, where the population is expected to rise from 1.4 to 3.9bn inhabitants by 2100, with some 38% of Earth dwellers living there, against around 18% today.

Eight nations of more than 10mn inhabitants, most of them in Europe, saw their populations shrink over the past decade.

Among them is war-battered Ukraine, but also Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, and Romania whose birth rates are particularly low — between 1.2 and 1.6 children per woman — according to the World Bank.

Of note is that Greece, Poland and Romania also have fewer immigrants arriving than people leaving for the rest of the European continent.

Outside Europe, Japan is also seeing a decline due to its ageing population, with women there having on average 1.3 children, along with a low level of immigration.

Japan thus lost more than 3mn inhabitants between 2011 and 2021.

Finally, in Syria, the population has been hard-hit by the war which has been raging since 2011.

## Indian diamond heiress, 8, loses fortune for monkhood

An eight-year-old girl in India who stood to inherit a multi-million-dollar diamond fortune has instead been inducted as a nun to a strict religious order after renouncing worldly pleasures.

Devanshi Sanghvi was, until this week, an heiress to the Sanghvi and Sons jewellery business in the western city of Surat, known locally as "Diamond City" for its prominence in the global gem trade.

Her family are also members of the Jain faith, a small but ancient Indian religion that preaches non-violence, strict vegetarianism and love for all creatures great and small.

This week, she was feted in a four-day ceremony to herald her new vocation, which at one point saw her ride in a carriage pulled by an elephant, according to pictures shared on local media.

Yesterday, she arrived at a temple to trade her elaborate garments for a simple white cotton outfit, after having all her hair removed.

Sanghvi was known among members of Surat's Jain community for her piousness even as a young child, according to a witness to yesterday's ceremony, who spoke to AFP on condition of anonymity.

"Devanshi has never watched television, movies or gone to malls and restaurants," they said, adding that the girl had been a regular presence at temple ceremonies.

The child is one of the youngest people to have taken the "diksha" ceremony to abandon their material possessions and enter the Jain monkhood.

Sanghvi's parents said she had been eager to become a nun, according to local media. Jain



COMMITTED: Devanshi Sanghvi

families are sometimes said to encourage their children to enter the monkhood to enhance their relatives' social standing.

Her family's business, founded in 1981, has a net worth of Rs5bn (\$61mn) according to ICRA, an Indian credit rating agency.

Jainism has more than four million followers in India, many — such as Sanghvi's family — from affluent trading communities.

Followers adhere to a strict vegetarian diet and some monks and nuns cover their mouths with fabric to prevent them from accidentally swallowing insects.

The religion has come under criticism for some of its ritual practices, particularly for a tradition of extreme fasts to the death.

A 13-year-old girl in Hyderabad fell into a coma and died in 2016 while undertaking a two-month fast as an act of penance, during which she was only allowed to drink warm water twice a day.

Her parents were charged by police with manslaughter and were subject to public outrage over claims the family had forced her into the fast.

## Philippine Nobel laureate acquitted of tax evasion

Philippine Nobel Prize winner Maria Ressa was yesterday acquitted of tax evasion, among a slew of charges she has long maintained are politically motivated, calling the verdict a victory for "truth".

Ressa, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov in 2021, still faces three other cases, including a cyber libel conviction now under appeal that could mean nearly seven years in prison.

"Today, facts win. Truth wins," a teary-eyed and defiant Ressa told reporters outside the Manila courtroom after the ruling on four government charges that she and her online media company Rappler had dodged taxes in a 2015 bond sale to foreign investors.

It was her first court acquittal since former president Rodrigo Duterte's government began filing charges against her. Ressa had earlier termed the cases "politically motivated" and "a brazen abuse of power".

The tax court said prosecutors failed to prove "beyond reasonable doubt" that Ressa and Rappler had evaded income taxes.



Maria Ressa looks on after the acquittal at the Court of Tax Appeals in Quezon City, Metro Manila, yesterday. (AFP)

## Modi govt mulls banning news identified as 'fake'

India's government will not permit social media platforms to host any information that it identifies as false, according to a draft proposal of the country's IT rules released this week.

This is the latest in a slew of measures by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government that are being seen as efforts to rein in big tech firms.

Any information identified as "fake or false" by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), or by any other agency authorised for fact-checking by the government or "by its department in which such business is transacted", would be prohibited under the draft.

Once information was identified as such, social media platforms or other "online intermediaries" would have to "make reasonable efforts" to ensure users do not "host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share" such information, it added.

In October, the government announced a panel would be set up to hear complaints from users regarding content moderation decisions of social media firms, which are already required to appoint in-house grievance redressal officers and executives to co-ordinate with law enforcement officials.

The government has also repeatedly been involved in tussles with various platforms when they failed to heed demands that certain content or accounts be taken down for allegedly spreading misinformation.

## Fugitive tiger euthanised in South Africa after attacks

A tiger which escaped from a farm and roamed the countryside outside of Johannesburg for four days, attacking a man and killing several animals, was euthanised yesterday.

The tiger's breakout and eventual killing has reignited concerns over South Africa's legal and flourishing breeding of big cats.

The eight-year-old female Bengal tiger was put down just before dawn after it killed a dog, the latest in a series of attacks that followed its escape from an enclosure at a private farm on Saturday, Gresham Mandy, a member of a local safety volunteer group in Walkerville, 30km south of Johannesburg, told AFP.

Tigers are not native to South Africa, but in recent years their rearing has become common in the country, where they are owned as pets or bred for commercial exports.

The tiger, named Sheba, roamed the countryside outside of Johannesburg for days, attacking a man and killing several animals, said Mandy.



# QNB holds exclusive event for customers with PSG stars



**Q**NB, one of the largest financial institutions in the Middle East and Africa, organised an exclusive event for a selected number of its VIP customers with the stars of the Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) football club in the presence of a number of senior officials and employees of the bank.

French football giants Paris Saint-Germain arrived in Doha as part of their winter training camp ahead of the Riyadh Season Cup in Saudi Arabia.

The exclusive event, which brought together prominent PSG stars Lionel Messi, Marquinhos, Achraf Hakimi, Sergio Ramos, Renato Sanches, Sergio Rico, Warren Zaire-Emery and El Chadaille Bitshiabu, saw positive impressions on social media platforms worldwide.

Aimed at strengthening the partnership between QNB Group and the Parisians, the event was also an opportunity to award the bank's customers with innovative ways through sports, with a particular emphasis on football as a major component of its CSR strategy, a press statement noted.

During the event, the Paris Saint-Germain players met with guests, had photographs taken with them, and handed out club merchandise to the lucky attendees who had them signed by the players.

In addition to the exclusive occasion, QNB also provided its employees and clients with the opportunity to attend the PSG training session at Khalifa International Stadium where they were able to watch the players go through their routines and receive a range of club merchandise as souvenirs of the special day.

Heba Ali al-Tamimi, senior executive vice-president of QNB Group Communications, said: "We are pleased to organise this exclusive initiative, which gave our customers the opportunity to meet their favourite stars and spend the most enjoyable time inspired by the beautiful game, and to share the passion for football and its positive values."

QNB Group was currently ranked as the most valuable bank brand in the Middle East and Africa. 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 4,600 machines.



Glimpses from the event.

# One month on: 5bn engaged with World Cup, 1.5bn watched final

**O**n December 18, 2022, 88,966 spectators packed into Lusail Stadium and close to 1.5bn around the world watched a pulsating final between Argentina and France. One month to the day since Lionel Messi, Lionel Scaloni and La Albiceleste lifted the trophy, FIFA has reviewed some facts and figures from on and off the pitch, which reflect the sheer scale of the biggest single sporting event on the planet.

Early figures suggest that around 5bn people have engaged with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, following tournament content across an array of platforms and devices across the media universe. On social media, according to Nielsen, there have been 93.6mn posts across all platforms, with a 262bn cumulative reach and 5.95bn engagements.

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 was enjoyed inside the stadiums by 3.4mn spectators - up from 3mn in 2018 - who were treated to a historic tournament. A total of 172 goals ensured that Qatar 2022 became the highest scoring FIFA World Cup in history, eclipsing the previous highest total of 171, in both 1998 and 2014.

Three matches at Lusail Stadium, including the final, saw the highest attendance for a match registered at a FIFA World Cup since USA 1994 when Brazil played Italy in front of 94,194 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena.

It was a tournament too of notable contributions from some of football's heavyweights. Cristiano Ronaldo became the first man to score at five FIFA World Cups (2006, 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022) while Lionel Messi became the first player to score in four successive knockout stage matches in a FIFA World Cup since the round of 16 was introduced into the modern era, at Mexico 1986. Messi also passed another landmark when he made his 26th FIFA World Cup appearance in the final, overtaking the record previously held by Lothar Matthaus.

The fastest goal came after just 68 seconds when Canada's Alphonso Davies, 22, scored against Croatia. At just 18 years and 110 days, Spain's Gavi became the youngest goal scorer at a World Cup since Pele in 1958, with a stunning strike during the 7-0 win against Costa Rica.

There were many other notable achievements:

- Stephanie Frappart became the first woman in FIFA World Cup history to referee a finals match. Together with assistants Neuza Back and Karen Diaz, she composed the first-ever female trio to officiate in the tournament.
- The eight group stage winners included teams from four different confederations for only the third time, and the first in 20 years (1986, 2002, 2022).
- Three teams from the AFC reached the round of 16 for the first time in FIFA World Cup history.
- Qatar 2022 was the first time an African or Arab team made it to the semi-final, with Morocco's incredible campaign uniting the Middle East and Arab world.
- 1.85mn visitors attended the FIFA Fan Festival in Doha, which had its own anthem for the first time - 'Tukoh Taka' was one of the nine songs of the first-ever FIFA World Cup Official Soundtrack, which generated 450mn views on YouTube.
- In a record-breaking first, FIFA+ live-streamed the entire tournament in Brazil, partnering with the likes of YouTube streamer Casimiro and Brazilian legend Ronaldo to deliver an innovative and engaging product to a new generation of fans.
- All global and regional sponsorship packages were sold out, with the 32 commercial affiliates activating more than 600 special marketing programmes.

No tournament can run without the incredible hard work behind the scenes. The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 was supported by 20,000 volunteers, selected from 150 nationalities. 17,000 volunteers were residents of Qatar; 3,000 were international. The volunteers ranged in age from 18-77 years. In total, there were 180,000 accredited people working to make the tournament a success, including more than 10,000 media representatives who shared their impressions and images with the world as football history was being made.

Qatar 2022 also featured a number of firsts in the areas of workers' welfare and sustainability. This was the first FIFA World Cup to offer audio-descriptive commentary for blind and partially sighted fans globally through the Internet, with the service being available in English and Arabic. Three stadiums hosted sensory rooms for fans with sensory access requirements, while every match venue was built to exacting accessibility standards, including accessible parking, seating, bathrooms and concession stands.

All in all, the numbers added up to a formidable FIFA World Cup. Visit <https://digitalhub.fifa.com/m/546158158e52f1c9/original/The-FIFA-World-Cup-Qatar-2022-in-numbers.pdf> to see the full overview.



Lionel Messi of Argentina and teammates celebrate with the FIFA World Cup trophy after the final against France at Lusail Stadium. (Picture courtesy of FIFA)



## Of winter chill and football fever

People turned up in large numbers at Khalifa International Stadium yesterday to watch a training session of Paris Saint-Germain, enjoying the winter chill and getting another opportunity - after the 2022 World Cup - to see some of the biggest names in world football on the field. Pictured are people heading to the venue and inside the stadium.

**PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam







