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PRAYER TIMING

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Dhuhr: 11:21 am
Asr: 2:41 pm
Maghrib: 5:13 pm
Isha: 6:43 pm

World 7
Russia unleashes wave of missiles on Ukraine as West condemns Putin



Business 8
QNB net profit up 7% to QR11 billion in first 9 months of 2022



Sports 12
Playing in the World Cup was my goal from the start: Denmark's Eriksen



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ooredoo UPGRADe YOUR WORLD

Amir calls for resolving Russia-Ukraine crisis through dialogue

QNA
DOHA

HIS Highness the Amir of State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Monday held a telephone conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

During the phone call, they discussed the latest developments on the Ukrainian affairs, especially with regards to the crisis with Russia and the need to end it through dialogue and diplomatic means.

HH the Amir, during the call, called again on all parties to exercise restraint, resolve the dispute through dialogue and diplomatic methods, settle international disputes by peaceful means, and not to take any action that would lead to further escalation.

HH the Amir also renewed Qatar's stance calling for the need to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, to adhere to the United Nations Charter and the well-established principles of international law, including obligations under the Charter to settle international disputes by peaceful means.

SC conducts simulation drill for Qatar 2022

THE Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) and countrywide stakeholders held a simulation exercise in preparation for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The exercise was held to practice and improve communication, coordination and operations integration between countrywide stakeholders ahead of the tournament. **PAGE 16**

Amir to visit Kazakhstan today



QNA
DOHA

HIS Highness the Amir of State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani will head for Astana on a state visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan on Tuesday.

During the visit, HH the Amir will discuss with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and senior officials the development of relations between the two countries in various fields of cooperation, in addition to discussing regional and

international issues of common interest.

Also, HH the Amir will participate in the sixth summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), which will take place in the Republic of Kazakhstan, with the participation of a number of leaders of member states, heads of governments, regional and international organizations, and guests of the summit. HH the Amir will be accompanied by an official delegation.

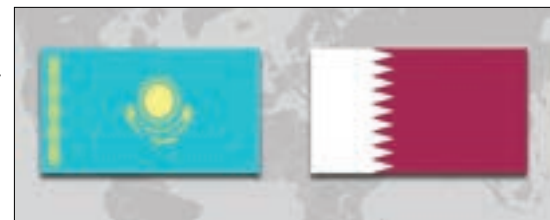
Qatar-Kazakhstan ties characterised by friendship, mutual trust: Envoy

QNA
ASTANA

AMBASSADOR of Qatar to Kazakhstan HE Abdulaziz bin Sultan Al Rumaihi has described the relations between the two countries as excellent and developed, characterised by friendship and mutual trust.

On the occasion of the state visit of His Highness the Amir of State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to Kazakhstan, the ambassador stressed that the Kazakh authorities attach great importance to this visit, which will undoubtedly give great impetus and support to the development of relations between the two countries at all levels and fields.

He pointed out that the visit of HH the Amir to Kazakhstan is expected to result in the signing of a set of governmental agreements between Qatar and Kazakhstan in various fields, and that among the most important issues that the leaderships of the two countries



will discuss is increasing the volume of trade exchange and establishing Qatari investment projects in Kazakhstan, especially in the agricultural, energy and mining fields.

The ambassador noted that

since the launch of diplomatic relations between Qatar and Kazakhstan on July 1, 1993, there has been mutual support for the two countries' initiatives in regional and international forums, including Qatar's accession to the membership of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in 2015, and to the Islamic Organization for Food Security.

The ambassador affirmed the desire and keenness of the Qatari and Kazakh sides to activate and increase bilateral cooperation in various fields, including political, investment, commercial, economic, cultural, and humanitarian.

Continued on page 3

Ooredoo readies 2 million free Hayya SIM cards for WC fans

SATYENDRA PATHAK
DOHA

Ooredoo, the official Middle East & Africa Telecommunications Operator of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, has kept aside up to 2 million Hayya SIM cards to be distributed among fans attending the world's biggest sporting event as a gift, a senior official of Ooredoo said.

Aimed at welcoming World Cup visitors to Qatar with a seamless connectivity journey from the moment they land, all the Hayya SIM cards will be loaded with 2022 local minutes, 2022 local SMS and 2022MB data, with the line valid for three days free of charge.

Ooredoo Chief Commercial Officer Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad bin Nasser Al Thani said, "Hayya SIM cards will be available in two formats, a physical SIM card and an eSIM, from November 1. The eSIM will be in addition to the 2 million physical Hayya SIM cards."

All the Hayya SIM card users will enjoy high-speed 5G coverage across the country during the World Cup, he said.



Visiting fans with a Hayya Card will be able to obtain a Hayya SIM at one of the several dispensing machines that will be conveniently available at airports, ports and land borders; in taxis; at metro stations; in hotels and at official FIFA fan accommodations; at Fan Zones; at Ooredoo shops, franchises and dealers; and many more. Visitors will also be able to get a Hayya SIM online at the Ooredoo eShop. **PAGE 8**



English athlete Sir Mo Farah with HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani.

Qatar 2022: Friendship Benches initiative launched to promote mental health

QNA
DOHA

AN initiative was announced on Monday to allocate public benches to promote the critical importance of mental health, and the role the football and more broadly sport can play to promote mental well-being.

Thirty-two "Friendship Benches" — one for each nation competing in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 — are being built for installation in prominent Doha locations, including the precincts of tournament stadiums.

The initiative is part of the Sport for Health partnership, led by the World Health Organization and Qatar's Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). The benches initiative is

supported by FIFA, the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), the Friendship Benches NGO and the WHO Universal Health Coverage Partnership.

In conjunction with World Mental Health Day, a selection of the first benches will be presented at 974 Stadium, in Doha.

The bench initiative was symbolically inaugurated with the preview of the England bench at Qatar Foundation's global health event, the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) in the lead-up to a larger reveal of the benches on World Mental Health Day.

Continued on page 16

Global praise for Qatar's labour reforms

QNA
DOHA

QATAR continues to receive worldwide acclaims for the major reforms it implemented in the field of labour and the protection of workers' rights, especially as it is on the threshold of hosting the FIFA World Cup.

Experts, officials and former players underlined that Qatar has carried out major reforms to protect the rights of workers, provide them with means of safety in the workplace and decent livelihoods.

In this context, Director-General of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and former prime minister of Togo Gilbert Houngbo said Qatar has witnessed a great development over the past years, and introduced a number of amendments and reforms to the labour law in a very short time, including the abolishment of the sponsorship system and travel permit, which are very important reforms.

During his intervention with the program "International" on the



French TV5Monde, Houngbo valued the reforms taken by Qatar to protect the rights of migrant workers, including the decision to prohibit work in the morning period after 10 am until 3:30 pm during the summer months, which would provide greater protection for workers from heat stress. He pointed out that the World Cup gave the ILO the opportunity to make some changes in Qatar, which in turn approved several reforms in files that are not even talked about in some other countries.

For his part, Honorary President of the German FC Bayern Munich Uli Hoeness stated that it is important to continue to give countries like Qatar

the honor of hosting and organizing sporting events, because there is evidence of the progress they are making.

Speaking to Sonntags-Stammtisch programme on Germany's BR24 TV, Hoeness said that it is important to continue to give countries like Qatar the honour of hosting sporting events because there is evidence of progress in the human rights field, which is the best in the entire Middle East region.

Retired German international player Bastian Schweinsteiger said it is too early to evaluate the experience of holding the World Cup in Qatar, especially since this experience is unique, and no tournament has been seen like this before, so it is difficult to pass judgment on it now.

The German star added in a special interview with Germany's "Sport1" TV that no one can talk today about whether holding the tournament in Qatar is preferred or not, because the tournament will definitely be held in this country, and it should be given a chance.

Katara lines up slew of events for World Cup

THE Cultural Village Foundation — Katara is set to organise 51 events, 300 sub-events with the participation of 22 countries during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 — from November 18 to December 18, 2022. Katara General Manager Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim Al Sulaiti said the events are distributed to five key branches, including festivals, ceremonies, exhibitions, live presentations and events. **(QNA) PAGE 16**



Nation

Good morning Doha

DIAL DOHA	FIRE AMBULANCE POLICE	999			
Electricity		991	Airport Services-Operator	44656666	Drain Centre
Water		991	Qatar Airways	44496666/44496000	Ministry of Education
Hamad Hospital	44394444		Qatar Airways (Airport)	44496688	Qatar Television (QTV)
Childs Emergency Centre (Al Saad)	44393333		Gulf Air	44455444	Qatar Broadcasting Service (QBS)
Rumila Hospital	44396666		Gulf Air (Airport)	44656318	Qatar University
Women's Hospital	44396666		Immigration & Passport Department	44890333	Postal Department
Airport Services- Enquiry	44622999		Traffic Department	44890666	SriLankan Airlines
			Water Emergency	44325959	Oman Air
			Electricity Emergency	44677601	Oman Air (Airport)
			Weather Forecasting (Admn)	44656590	

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Quick read

Amir sends greetings to president of Fiji

THE Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Monday sent a cable of congratulations to President of Fiji Wiliame Katonivere on his country's Independence Day. (QNA)

Deputy Amir congratulates president of Fiji

THE Deputy Amir His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani on Monday sent a cable of congratulations to President of Fiji Wiliame Katonivere on his country's Independence Day. (QNA)

PM congratulates Fijian counterpart

PRIME Minister and Minister of Interior HE Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani on Monday sent a cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of Fiji Frank Bainimarama on his country's Independence Day. (QNA)

TRANSPORT MINISTER MEETS SEYCHELLES COUNTERPART



Minister of Transport HE Jassim Saif Ahmed Al Sulaiti met with Seychelles Minister of Transport Antony Derjacques in Doha on Monday. The two ministers reviewed Qatar-Seychelles relations and the ways to develop them in the fields of transportation, mobility services, civil aviation and harbours. (TNN)



HEALTH MINISTER RECEIVES WHO OFFICIAL'S CREDENTIALS: Minister of Public Health HE Dr Hanan Mohammed Al Kuwari on Monday received a copy of credentials of Dr Rayana Bou Haka as the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) to Qatar. The minister wished the WHO representative success in performing her duties. Dr Rayana Bou Haka is considered the first representative in the country. (TNN)

Expo showcases Qatar-France 50-year bilateral ties journey

ASHRAF SIDDIQUI
DOHA

THE French Embassy in Qatar, in cooperation with Qatar National Library, inaugurated a pictorial exhibition to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the strong bilateral diplomatic relations between Qatar and France.

The exhibition, which will run until October 31, was inaugurated at the Qatar National Library (QNL) on Monday by HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al Kowari, Minister of State and president of QNL, and French Ambassador to Qatar HE Jean-Baptiste Faivre.

The exhibition is showcasing an exclusive selection of photographs reflecting the strength of the relationship between the two countries.

The exhibition is designed as a journey through 50 years of bilateral relations in the political, economic, educational and cultural fields, as well as in defence and security. It brings together photographs taken during key moments of the last five decades, which forged the now well-established tradition of cooperation between the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Kawari said, "The close ties between Qatar and France provide a refined, exemplary model for international diplomatic relations based on mutual respect in various fields of politics, economics, education, sports, and culture."

"The French culture is a wide-ranging, rich and influencing. Therefore, we seek to enhance fruitful co-



Minister of State and President of QNL HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al Kowari with French Ambassador to Qatar HE Jean-Baptiste Faivre and other guests at the inauguration of the exhibition on Monday.



HE Jean-Baptiste Faivre.

operation between Qatar National Library and French cultural institutions. The French Embassy, the French Museum and the French Institute in Doha have always been our partners in organising many key cultural events."

Ambassador Faivre said that French Embassy in Qatar is honoured and grateful for the opportunity to celebrate this milestone anniversary

at the library.

He said, "We are very pleased to showcase this exhibition of photographs, which shed a light on the deep and longstanding friendship between our two countries. France has been a friend of Qatar since 1971 and has played an important role in its development. I am proud of the opportunity to contribute to this endeavour and to the strengthening of our friendship. We are also proud of what we have achieved together over the past 50 years, while looking forward to the future with serenity to promote the values of peace, prosperity and sustainable development that we share."

Thanking Dr Kawari for hosting of the exhibition at Qatar National Library, the envoy said, "Dr Kawari is a friend of France and has greatly contributed to the ties that bind us. We are grateful to him."

MoT's Public Bus Infrastructure Programme wins two awards

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Ministry of Transport's (MoT) Public Bus Infrastructure Programme has received an award from the London-based Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) in recognition of the excellence in applying state-of-the-art, eco-friendly and design efficiency standards.

The Programme has also been awarded the best project for transportation in Qatar in 2022 in the MEED Quality Awards for Projects from the Middle East Economic Digest. Furthermore, the Programme has qualified for the final stage where candidate projects compete at the level of Middle East region, to be appreciated at a special awards event this November 23 in Dubai.

The Programme includes 8 bus stations and 4 depots supported by over 650 electric charging units for e-bus operations and 4 park & ride parking lots to serve public transit users and support transportation operations during FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. It also includes establishing 2300 bus stops within and outside of Doha City, designed with best



world standards and latest sustainable technologies.

Moreover, the Programme includes establishing a station and parking spaces for ferries on Doha coastline in various areas as part of MOT's effort to provide a unique transportation network at the regional level that can support public transit in the coming years.

MEED Quality Awards for Projects is an independently judged competition for projects completed in the GCC. Multiple GCC ministries and government bodies take part in it, as well as several international consulting firms and contracting companies that execute megaprojects in the GCC.

MoCI recalls UD Truck Croner 2017-2019 models

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in cooperation with Jaidah Motors & Trading Co, Qatar's UD trucks dealership, has announced the recall of UD Truck Croner 2017-2019 models, as the cabin rack is not properly installed, which may cause the cabin to tilt when braking on slopes.

The ministry said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs. The ministry said that it will coordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out.

QA signs agreement with Estithmar Holding as Lusail Winter Wonderland Presenting Partner

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QATAR Airways (QA) is the Official Airline Partner and the Presenting Partner of Lusail Winter Wonderland, an original world-class entertainment and leisure destination in Qatar that will deliver unforgettable experiences to fun seekers of all ages.

Lusail Winter Wonderland is a remarkable theme park located on Al Maha Island, in the heart of Qatar's entertainment district, that is set to open to the public in November. This one-of-its-kind theme park will feature more than 50 top-notch rides and attractions including the Qatar Airways Forest Train inside the Qatar Airways Festive Forrest, the Flume ride Arctic Splash, a giant Ice Slide, The Galleon, the Ooredoo 5G Rollercoaster, and a 150 ft Ferris Wheel the Ain QNB.

The park will introduce the region's first outdoor ice-skating rink experience, brought to you by Masraf Al Rayan. Additionally, Lusail Winter Won-



derland will offer an array of entertainment concepts and fun-filled activities that are age appropriate for various groups - children, teenagers, adults and families.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker said: "Lusail Winter Wonderland will become a landmark that attracts tourists from all over the world. The debut of this exceptional theme park will offer unparalleled entertainment to all guests, alongside the other planned events taking place in Qatar. As we bring all festive things in one place, residents and visitors will experience a Winter season like no other."

Commenting on the partnership, Moutaz Al Khayat, chairman of Estithmar Holding, said: "We are happy to

partner with Qatar Airways to bring an international level of entertainment destinations and unparalleled leisure to the residents and visitors of Qatar."

Every year, nearly 1.5 million visitors will be entertained by the Lusail Winter Wonderland theme park experience, a key leisure destination that will attract both international and regional tourists all while boosting Qatar's entertainment experience. Qatar Airways Holidays, the airline's leisure division, will soon be offering travel packages include flights, hotels, and park tickets.

Group Chief Executive of Estithmar Holding Henrik Christiansen said: "We are delighted to welcome Qatar Airways as presenting partner of Lusail Winter Wonderland. At Estithmar Holding our mission is to add exceptional value to our customer and our world-class hospitality and entertainment projects will deliver and create a memorable experience for the residents and visitors of Qatar."

Primary school students take part in tree planting at Lusail Stadium

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Supervisory Committee of Beautification of Roads and Public Places on Monday held a tree-planting event at Lusail Stadium where students of Ahmad Mansour Primary School for Boys participated under the 'Qatar Beautification And Our Kids Planting Trees' campaign, part of the 'Plant One Million Trees' initiative.

Engineer Jameela Abel, project design manager at the committee, said that planting of trees under the campaign and Qatar Sustainability Week aims to increase green space and instil cultivation culture in the society in order to achieve environmental balance and enhance aesthetic values.

Stakeholder Relations Director at the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC) Khaled Al Suwaidi said, "We are happy that kids planted trees at Lusail Stadium. We thank the Super-



visory Committee of Beautification of Roads and Public Places for its beneficial initiatives."

Ali bin Fahid Al Shahwani, representative in Central Municipal Council, said: "I am pleased to participate in planting trees in the Qatar Beautification And Our Kids Planting Trees campaign launched by the committee. I hope everyone will participate in it to achieve its aims."

Student Ahmad Talal Al Mulla said, "I am happy to plant trees today and being

introduced to the importance of trees in our lives."

Student Mohammed said, "I am always glad when I see trees covering large areas in the streets of my beloved country and I am proud that I have planted a new tree today in Lusail."

Student Fahad Al Subaie expressed his gratitude for planting trees today as he extended encouragement to all community members regarding the importance of tree planting as it has environmental benefits.

Princess Dina Mired, Mona bint Fahd visit QCS

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QATAR Cancer Society (QCS) Chairman HE Shaikh Dr Khalid bin Jabor Al Thani received HH Princess Dina Mired, former president of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), and HH Dr Mona bint Fahd Al Said, assistant vice for International Cooperation at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU).

During the visit, the visitors toured QCS facilities and the Cancer Awareness Center and listened to briefings about their role in spreading awareness of the disease through a set of programmes targeting all groups in the society. They praised QCS's efforts in promoting the culture of early detection of the disease,



Chairman of Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) HE Shaikh Dr Khalid bin Jabor Al Thani received HH Princess Dina Mired, former president of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), and HH Dr Mona bint Fahd Al Said.

raising awareness of and supporting people living with cancer.

They discussed ways to enhance cooperation and the latest developments in cancer control, support, empowerment and ad-

vocacy for people living with the disease, as well as promoting professional development and scientific research in cancer.

Sheikh Dr Khalid appreciated the visit, expressing his hap-



Princess that the visit will positively impact the efforts of the awareness association.

He explained QCS's activities and its role in spreading community awareness as well as

supporting, empowering and advocating for people living with cancer, stressing QCS's commitment to achieve its mission to prevent cancer and control the burden in Qatar by working with

partners to educate the community and engage in the professional development and scientific research in the field of cancer.

He added that the QCS's vision is to be a community partnership platform to make Qatar a cancer prevention and mitigation pioneer.

He affirmed the society's keenness to keep pace with global expertise to develop its programmes and plans, which would enrich its work through the exchange of ideas between specialists from various sectors and its implications for developing awareness and providing the best ways and services, especially as QCS is a member of Union for International Cancer Control which is one of the largest global institutions.

'Qatar-Kazakhstan ties based on mutual cooperation & trust'

Continued from page 1

HE said that bilateral relations between Qatar and Kazakhstan are based on the foundations of friendship and cooperation in all areas of common interest, foremost of which is cooperation in the humanitarian field, which he said is aid and grants provided by Qatar to Kazakhstan. In addition, the tourism sector between the two countries began to grow with the inauguration of the direct flight between them by Qatar Airways in November 2021.

He said that all these positive steps, including mutual exemption of the nationals of the two countries from entry visas, and the opening of Qatar's Al Rayan Bank in the Astana International Financial Center, contribute to revitalizing economic and trade cooperation between Doha and Nur-Sultan.

He added that according to the available information, the trade exchange between the two countries is not at the desired level, and that it is necessary to intensify joint work to increase the trade volume to acceptable figures.

The ambassador indicated that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Qatar has invested in the Kazakh economy, especially in the field of infrastructure. Banking cooperation between the two countries has also been activated with the visit of the Governor of the Qatar Central Bank to Nur-Sultan in December 2019, which resulted in the Qatar Investment Bank issuing Islamic Sukuk in the Astana International Financial Center, he said.

On the cultural cooperation between the two countries, the envoy pointed out that Qatar had financed and built the "Nur Astana" Mosque (which has been renamed to Abu Nasr Al Farabi Mosque now), adding that it is one of the largest mosques in the Kazakh capital and was inaugurated in 2005,

upon the initiative of the Father Amir HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani during his first visit to Kazakhstan in 1999.

A delegation of Qatar from the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding visited Almaty as part of the cultural tour to see the most prominent cultural, artistic, and scientific facilities of Kazakhstan, after choosing the Kazakh language for the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding this year. Qatar also participates in the work of the Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, organized by Kazakhstan every three years since 2003, he said.

The ambassador explained that Qatar had also financed and opened the Islamic Finance Center, within the Al Farabi Kazakh National University - the largest university in Kazakhstan - the first of its kind in the Central Asian region, and that this would teach Kazakh students the assets of financial stock trading, financial engineering, and the necessary technical analysis in stocks and stock exchanges.

On the most prominent areas of Qatari support for Kazakhstan, the ambassador pointed out that Qatar is one of the top aid-giving countries to Kazakhstan, noting that one of the most prominent social projects established by Qatar in Kazakhstan is the opening of Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani school in September 2018, and the maternity hospital project in the Almaty region, southern Kazakhstan.

In the field of health care, the ambassador said Qatar was one of the first countries in the world to provide medical assistance to Kazakhstan in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, as the Qatar Fund for Development sent urgent medical aid to Kazakhstan in support of its efforts to combat the pandemic, in implementation of the directives by HH the Amir.

Qatar Foundation forum inspires students to create a better world

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

CONNECTING students to the real world - and inspiring them to take action in their local communities and beyond - can help create a better world, educators heard at Qatar Foundation's annual Teaching and Learning Forum.

The event, organised by Qatar Foundation's (QF) Pre-University Education (PUE) and titled 'Teaching and Learning Forum: Learning for Action and Community Service', brought together nearly 1,500 teachers from across the country for four comprehensive sessions, as well as a series of presentations and workshops delivered in English and Arabic.

Mohamed Ahmed Al-Harbi, Senior Events Coordinator, PUE, said: "The forum aims to provide an opportunity for teachers and educators within Qatar Foundation schools, and schools in Qatar, to exchange experiences, present best practices, and develop educational processes."

"The presence of so many teachers across such a wide va-



Abdulrahman Hussain

riety of fields and specializations will help to improve educational systems. Indeed, by bringing their expertise and experience, presenting different teaching methods and tools, and sharing best practices, students will benefit academically."

The first session of the forum, titled "Learning through community service - the working teacher", shed light on the role of the educator in encouraging learners to become global citizens, and eventually future leaders. The second session, "Moving from ideas to action: why service-learning matters", discussed the importance of empowering young people to be-



come catalysts for change - locally and beyond.

During a session titled "Community service is my way of learning", participants learned how experiential and service learning can contribute to academics. And finally, "Human by chance. Human by design", participants heard about the requirements for student success and the need to prepare young people for the future.

Abdulrahman Hussain, a teacher at Qatar Academy Al Wakra - part of QF's PUE - said: "Organizing the forum and accompanying events and workshops is useful for teachers, staff, and faculty members of all

disciplines to exchange different experiences. We will be able to share what we have learned with our schools - and students."

"Things are constantly changing, there are new technologies and skills in the world of education every day, and herein lies the importance of organizing this forum, to acquire and develop new skills, and preserve them so that we can benefit our students and society."

Other sessions covered topics such as learning approaches centered on acquiring work and service skills; designing value-based learning opportunities to serve the community; how technology can inspire passion for Arabic.

US Embassy initiative welcomes Zainab Al Suwajj at workshops, training sessions

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE US Embassy in Qatar welcomed Zainab Al Suwajj to Doha to host workshops and trainings on leadership, advocacy, and peace-building. Al Suwajj is the co-founder and executive director of the American Islamic Congress (AIC), an organisation founded to foster tolerance and promote civil society and civil rights.

Al Suwajj was in Qatar to collaborate with the Ministry of Sport and Youth on al-Adaam (Youth Ambassadors) programme and participate in multiple discussions with schools and youth groups on empow-



ering women and youth to be successful leaders and entrepreneurs.

On Sunday, September 25, Al Suwajj conducted a workshop for Durham British School for Girls' senior class and staff members, followed by a workshop at

the Community College of Qatar. Both workshops addressed tools and mechanisms for developing leadership skills, fostering self-confidence, and raising awareness about community engagements. Al Suwajj concluded the day with a panel discussion

on empowering women to be leaders entitled "Women on the Rise: Leadership and Impact" in collaboration with the Qatar Women Engineers Association and Texas A&M University Qatar. The panel highlighted the impact of woman leaders on community development and featured prominent Qatari women leaders including Saba Al Fadala, Executive Director of the Social Development Centre Nama, and Layla Jassem, Design Manager at Ashghal.

On Monday, September 26, Al Suwajj kicked off a three-day workshop with the Ministry of Sports and Youth's al-Adaam (Youth Ambassadors) programme.

Korean envoy: Very proud to see the 'Korean food wave' in Qatar

ASHRAF SIDDIQUI
DOHA

A three-day Korean Fermented Food Festival was held from October 3-5 in Qatar University Library premises. A cooking contest under the theme of 'collaboration of Kimchi and Arabic cuisine' organised by Qatar University South Korean Club students demonstrated how Korean fermented food could take a surprisingly pleasant starring role in typical Qatari dishes.

Inaugurating the festival, South Korean Ambassador to Qatar, HE Lee Joon-ho thanked Qatar University, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Korean Food Promotion Institution, Qatar University Korean Club, and the Institute of Traditional Korean Food for the support and cooperation offered to the Embassy for holding the event.

He expressed his special gratitude to Prof. Dr. Sook ja Yoon, Chair of the Institute

of Traditional Korean Food, a noted Korean food expert with more than 40 years of experience, for his presence at the event and support.

The Korean envoy to Qatar said that nowadays K-pop, K-dramas and movies are gaining world-wide popularity. "And this 'Korean wave' has now spilled over to food as well. Korean food has already taken over the shelves of supermarkets and the palates of foodies here in Doha," he said.

Many hotels and restaurants are now incorporating Korean flavours in their menus and product lines. Korean restaurants and groceries have sprouted in Qatar as more and more people are trying out Korean cuisine to discover the Korean culture through food.

"I often hear my colleague ambassadors and good friends talking about their favourite Korean food, and I sometimes bump into them at one of the Korean restaurants here in Qatar," he said.



Prof Sook ja Yoon displays fresh Kimchi dish that she prepared.

The envoy said, "I am very proud and pleased as my country's ambassador to see the 'Korean food wave' in Doha. The Korean Food Festival itself was an opportunity to experience the amazingly rich, versatile and savoury world of Korean fermented dishes."

He said he was not a food expert but as Korean, he himself cannot imagine Korean food

without 'Kimchi' and the iconic Korean condiments 'Jang'. These were featured prominently throughout the event by Professor Yoon through her series of lectures, cooking demonstrations and even cooking classes with her secret recipe.

He said that the food festival will not only prove to be a catalyst, but also a driver for an even stronger "Korean food

wave" in Qatar. He expressed his belief that the event will eventually contribute to further deepening Korea-Qatar relations by promoting better understanding on each other's culture.

The 2022 Korean Fermented Food Festival included an exhibition, lecture, tasting session, cooking class and competition offering visitors the chance to experience distinct Korean food cultures all in one place.

The event exhibited 55 types of fermented delicacies introducing the three main jangs of Korea 'Doenjang' (soybean paste), 'Ganjang' (soy sauce) and 'Gochujang' (red pepper paste), in addition to the various types of kimchi. There was a large display of kimchi-themed dishes and fusion cuisine bringing together elements of Qatari and Korean culinary traditions.

Participants had a chance to learn about the amazingly rich, versatile and savoury world of Korean fermented food through

the lecture by Prof. Dr. Sook ja Yoon, Chair of the Institute of Traditional Korean Food and one of the great Korean food experts with more than 40 years of experience. At various cooking demonstrations, Prof. Dr. Yoon showcased how to make fresh Cabbage Kimchi. And it was followed by tasting session for the participants.

She also demonstrated about the secret recipes for cooking Korean food with Kimchi such as 'Diced Cucumber Kimchi', 'Kimchi Gimbap' and 'Kimchi Riceball' during her workshop.

Dr. Sook ja Yoon was the first person who made a standardised recipes for the Korean food by quantifying the ingredients' amount which was usually described as a 'proper amount'. She has been at the forefront of popularisation and modernisation of Korean food by re-cooking and reinterpreting the traditional Korean food's cooking recipes.

Investment of expatriates should aid India's growth: ABN chairman

Bihar Social Forum-Qatar holds 'Diwali Milan' event

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK DOHA

THE investment of Indian expatriates should aim at the growth of their country, JK Menon, chairman of ABN Corporation and director of NORKA Roots (Government of Kerala, India), has said. Indian expatriates often use their investments solely for buying land and building houses, he pointed out while speaking at the Europe-UK regional conference of 'Loka Kerala Sabha' in London, recently.

"We should discuss the investment projects that are beneficial for the growth of the country. The projects put forward by the government, such as airports, 'K-Rail', INKEL and government-controlled corporations, will provide opportunity for investment," he said.

"The Loka Kerala Sabha is proof of the love and support given to expatriates by the government [of the southern Indian state of Kerala]. It's part of the vision of Chief Minister [of Kerala] Pinarayi Vijayan," he noted.



JK Menon, chairman of ABN Corporation and director of NORKA Roots, with dignitaries at the Europe-UK regional conference of 'Loka Kerala Sabha' in London, recently.

J K Menon stressed that there are several issues related to immigration to foreign countries and these need to be seriously discussed at the Europe-UK regional conference. There are many people who take huge loans for higher studies in foreign universities, and it takes many years for them to repay the loans, he said, adding that there should be discussions on mitigating the pain of repayment of such loans.

Chief Minister of Kerala

Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the Europe-UK Regional Conference of Loka Kerala Sabha in London. Industry Minister of Kerala P Rajeev presided over the meeting. Ministers V Shivankutty and Veena George, NORKA Roots Resident Vice Chairman P Sriramakrishnan, NORKA Vice Chairman MA Yusuff Ali, NORKA Directors Dr Ravi Pillai and Dr Azad Moopan and Special Duty Officer Venu Rajamani addressed the gathering.

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK DOHA

BIHAR Social Forum-Qatar (BSF-Qatar), an associate organisation of the Indian Community Benevolent Forum (ICBF) which functions under the aegis of the Indian Embassy in Qatar, organised a 'Diwali Milan' get-together with the participation of its members and their families.

Ambassador of India to Qatar HE Dr Deepak Mittal inaugurated the event by lighting a lamp. Speaking on the occasion, he stressed the importance of unity of the community members and distributed Diwali gifts to children.

ICBF President Vinod Nair and General Secretary Sabith Sahir attended the event, which was led by MC members Diwakar, Sadab, Dilanwaz, Zulfikar, Abdul Rahman, Arvind, Aftab and Dharmendra.

BSF thanked its founder Irfan Ansari for his leadership role in organising the 'Diwali Milan'.



Banana Island Resort Doha offers 141 rooms, suites, pool villas and over water villas, teeming with impressive Arabian style in every detail.

Banana Island Resort Doha wins 2 honours at Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK DOHA

BANANA Island Resort Doha once again proved and cemented its worldwide position as the leading player in hospitality and the dream luxury destination in Qatar. In the recently concluded Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards 2022, it bagged two key places in the 'Resorts' category: #10



Banana Island coconuts

in the 'Best 50 Resorts in the World' and #3 in the 'Best 12 Resorts in the Middle East'.

Now in its 35th year, Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards continues to capture the travel experiences that readers love best - from their all-time favourite hotels, cruises, and beach resorts to the countries, cities, and islands they are escaping to in 2022 and beyond. The award-giving body has established a solid position and standard of excellence in the travel and tourism sectors.

Commenting on the prestigious win, Mohammed Wazir,

General Manager of Banana Island Resort Doha, said: "We are extremely delighted and beyond grateful to receive these distinguished awards from Condé Nast Traveller, one of the most reputable and market-leading channels in the global travel industry. Being recognised again this year is truly an honour for Banana Island, as these annual awards not only play a defining role in positioning Qatar as a premier tourist destination, but continuously placing our family-friendly Resort and its diverse interesting offers in the global scene".

"Of course, behind the Resort's every achievement is the hard work and resilience of our every team member. The whole Banana Island family is keen at all times to provide the utmost level of services to all valued guests visiting our island paradise, so they can enjoy their stay with peace of mind in a safe and relaxing environment, most especially now that the much-awaited major event in Qatar is happening very soon," he added.

Banana Island Resort Doha offers 141 rooms, suites, pool villas and over water villas, teeming with impressive Arabian style in every detail. Guests are sure to experience and savour breathtaking surroundings, which combine soothing sea views with modern facilities for a blissful stay.



DFC's behavioural health awareness drive concludes with a big success

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK DOHA

DOHA Festival City (DFC), Qatar's 'choice for shopping, dining and entertainment', concluded its awareness campaign for behavioural health issues, held in partnership with the Behavioural Healthcare Centre (Daam) of the Qatar Social Work Foundation.

The campaign, titled 'Ard al-Mustaqbal', which means 'Future Land' in English, included a booth located on the ground floor of the mall where visitors were able to obtain copies of the children's book published by Daam.

Visitors to the booth also received brochures and fliers with information on behavioural health issues full of helpful tips and resources to help those affected. The campaign also featured several activities for children to teach them about behavioural health issues and the best methods for dealing with them.

Commenting on the initiative, Robert Hall, Doha Festival City's general manager, said: "Our cooperation with Daam on this campaign is in line with our #FestivalCares programme which supports community health initiatives in collaboration with our local partners. We are delighted to be partners in raising awareness on mental health issues which are as important as physical health, especially after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the



The campaign, 'Ard al-Mustaqbal', which means 'Future Land' in English, included a booth located on the ground floor of the mall where visitors were able to obtain copies of the children's book published by Daam.



effects of isolation and social disintegration upon people everywhere."

Mental health is one of the most prevalent issues in modern society and behavioural health issues affect nearly one in every five individuals worldwide. They are caused by maladaptive behaviours that negatively impact a person's physical or mental condition. Some examples of behavioural health issues include internet addiction and eating disorders. Mental health is one of Qatar's national health priorities with the government heav-

ily investing in preventive and treatment services.

As part of its robust CSR programme and its #FestivalCares initiatives, Doha Festival City is committed to empowering the community in Qatar through promoting awareness on environmental, health and humanitarian topics. The mall has participated in numerous campaigns throughout the year in support of social and humanitarian causes, partnering with major local authorities and organisations to support the community in Qatar and beyond.

In line with the preventative measures set out by Qatar to limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and to ensure a safe shopping environment for all, Doha Festival City commits itself to continuous necessary health and safety measures throughout the mall. These include a thorough mall disinfection treatment on a weekly basis, robust cleaning and sanitisation operations during mall trading hours, and 127 hand sanitising stations installed in the areas that have commonly touched surfaces.

W Doha offers luxury residential and dining options to enhance football fans' experience

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK DOHA

AS Qatar prepares to welcome more than a million international football fans, W Doha, the luxury lifestyle hotel offering lavish contemporary accommodations, has enhanced its residential suite offerings for match-goers, allowing them to live the experience to the fullest.

The hotel's 153 luxury residences all feature vibrant décor, iconic design, cutting-edge technology, and modern amenities to satisfy guests' every wish, whenever, wherever. In the run-up to and during the Middle East's first global football showpiece, which kicks off November 20, various activities will take place in and around the hotel, from fan zones to food festivals.

With one- and two-bedroom residential suites, W Doha Luxury Residences offer a full array of features, including integrated kitchens with modern appliances and laundry facilities, innovative home entertainment systems and stunning bay windows. All the city's most popular stadiums



The hotel's 153 luxury residences all feature vibrant décor, iconic design, cutting-edge technology, and modern amenities to satisfy guests.

are within a 25-minute drive from the hotel, which is strategically located in the heart of the capital and accessible by metro.

Access to fine dining and grand menus make it possible for residents to amplify their nights at the most exclusive restaurants and lounges in the city, all without stepping out. Besides a Rüya pop-up offering a taste of sophisticated, contemporary dishes from the various Anatolian regions, visitors to W Doha will also have the chance to experience some

of the city's hottest fine-dining concepts.

Market, the contemporary European restaurant, is from celebrity chef and recipient of three Michelin stars Jean-Georges Vongerichten, while COYA the global, luxury lifestyle brand offers an immersive experience inspired by authentic Peruvian cuisine. Spice Market, the award-winning South-East Asian Restaurant, is renowned locally for its incredible range of fresh sushi, and La Spiga by Papermoon is an elegant Milanese

ristorante. The super stylish Wahm Lounge will be hosting a line-up of top DJs and nightly entertainment throughout.

"As Qatar prepares to welcome the world, W Doha is set to help ensure its guests enjoy an unforgettable experience through the hotel's luxurious residential suites, visionary dining concepts and exciting football-themed activations," said Wassim Daageh, general manager. "Traditional Arab hospitality is renowned around the world and we look forward to providing our guests a modern, luxurious showcase of that, leaving them both enchanted and enthralled."

"This is an opportunity for W Doha to showcase its special experiences to a variety of travellers from across the region and wider world. We have all kinds of guests covered with our standard of excellence across our hospitality and cultural services," added Daageh. "Whether they choose the traditional luxury travel experience, modern lifestyle or select-service offerings, they will enjoy an unrivalled, unforgettable experience."

Malaysian PM Yaakob dissolves parliament, calls snap polls

AGENCIES

MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob announced that Parliament will be dissolved Monday, paving the way for general elections that are expected to be held in early November.

The elections come nine months before Parliament's term expires, following calls for early polls from Ismail's United Malays National Organization. UMNO, the biggest party in the ruling coalition, was feuding with its allies and is aiming for a big win on its own.

Ismail said he met Sunday with King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, who consented to the dissolution. He said he decided to call early polls to counter criticism over the legitimacy of his government — the third since 2018 polls.

"With this announcement, the mandate will be returned to the people. The people's mandate is a powerful antidote" to create a firm and stable government, Ismail said in a televised announcement.

The Election Commission is expected to meet within the week to announce a date for the vote, which must be held within 60 days from Parliament's dissolution.

In a statement issued by the palace, Sultan Abdullah voiced hope that the election will be held swiftly as the year-end monsoon season

that starts mid-November often brings devastating floods. The monarch, who left late Sunday for a visit to London, said he has no choice but to approve Ismail's request so people could vote for a stable government.

UMNO's allies in the government and opposition parties have protested plans for elections during the monsoon season, which last year killed more than 50 people and displaced thousands. But UMNO's top leaders decided recently that polls must be called this year for UMNO to capitalize on support of ethnic Malay voters, an opposition in disarray and before an expected softening in the economy next year.

"Ismail Sabri has succumbed to pressure by his party UMNO, serving the shortest tenure as a PM, and entering the country into polls during a dangerous season of monsoon floods," said Bridget Welsh, a Southeast Asia expert with Malaysia's Nottingham University.

"UMNO believes it has the advantage with early polls and has maintained pressure as they hope to return to power as the dominant party," she said.

UMNO led Malaysia since independence from Britain in 1957, but was brought down in 2018 elections by a multibillion-dollar financial scandal that saw ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak imprisoned for 12 years for graft.



File photo of Malaysia's Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob (AFP)

News in brief

Palestinian child shot by Israeli army in Jenin dies from wounds

A Palestinian child succumbed to his wounds nearly two weeks after being shot by the Israeli army near the northern occupied West Bank town of Jenin.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health identified the child as 12-year-old Mahmoud Khalil Samoudi from the village of Yamoun in Jenin, noting he was shot in the stomach. According to the Palestinian Authority's official news agency Wafa, Samoudi was shot on September 28.

That day, a large Israeli military group raided Jenin and killed four Palestinian men. At least 40 others were wounded in armed clashes with Palestinian fighters, as well as widespread confrontations with young people.

Israeli forces have been conducting near-daily raids since last year particularly focused on the northern West Bank cities of Jenin and Nablus, where Palestinian armed resistance is becoming more organised. Army raids increased in March and April following a string of attacks by Palestinians in Israel that killed 20 people. (AGENCIES)

Iran's chief justice ready for dialogue with protesters; Britain acts

TEHRAN: Iran's chief justice has for the first time proposed a dialogue with opponents of the country's leadership as protests against the government continue.

"Citizens or political groups should know that we have an ear for protests and criticism and are ready for dialogue," Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei said on Monday.

According to the Donya-e Eqtasad news portal, he conceded that Iran's political system could also have "weaknesses and flaws" and said that "we are ready to listen to suggestions and also have no qualms about correcting any mistakes." He went on to say, however, that peaceful protests must be distinguished from violent riots. Iran had so far spoken of a conspiracy by foreign countries and armed Iranian opposition groups in connection with the near month-long protests, and has started a crackdown. There were further protests on Monday. Tension on the streets and internet restrictions have paralysed large parts of the economy. Germany and several other western countries have called for sanctions against Iran's leadership. Britain on Monday said it had imposed sanctions on Iran's so-called morality police "in its entirety" as well as five political and security officials in Iran. (DPA)

PROVOCATION



People pay their respects before the statues of late North Korean leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il at Mansu Hill as North Korea marks its 77th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) in Pyongyang on Monday. (AFP)

North Korea confirms simulated use of nukes to 'wipe out' enemies

AGENCIES

NORTH Korea's recent barrage of missile launches were the simulated use of its tactical battlefield nuclear weapons to "hit and wipe out" potential South Korean and U.S. targets, state media reported Monday, as its leader Kim Jong Un signaled he would conduct more provocative tests.

The North's statement, released on the 77th birthday of its ruling Workers' Party, is seen as an attempt to burnish Kim's image as a strong leader at home amid pandemic-related hardships as he's defiantly pushing to enlarge his weapons arsenal to wrest greater concessions from its rivals in future negotiations.

"Through seven times of launching drills of the tactical nuclear operation units, the actual war capabilities ... of the nuclear combat forces ready to hit and wipe out the set objects at any location and any time were displayed to the full," the North's official Korean Central News Agency said. KCNA said the missile

The launches — all supervised by Kim — included a nuclear-capable ballistic missile launched under a reservoir in the northeast; other ballistic missiles designed to launch nuclear strikes on South Korean airfields, ports and command facilities; and a new-type ground-to-ground ballistic missile that flew over Japan, KCNA reported

tests were in response to recent naval drills between U.S. and South Korean forces, which involved the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan for the first time in five years.

Viewing the drills as a military threat, North Korea decided to stage "the simulation of an actual war" to check and improve its war deterrence and send a warning to its enemies, KCNA said.

North Korea considers U.S.-South Korean military drills as an invasion rehearsal, though the allies have stead-

fastly said they are defensive in nature. Since the May inauguration of a conservative government in Seoul, the U.S. and South Korean militaries have been expanding their exercises, posing a greater security threat to Kim.

The launches — all supervised by Kim — included a nuclear-capable ballistic missile launched under a reservoir in the northeast; other ballistic missiles designed to launch nuclear strikes on South Korean airfields, ports and command facilities; and a new-type ground-to-ground ballistic missile that flew over Japan, KCNA reported.

It said North Korea also flew 150 warplanes for separate live-firing and other drills in the country's first-ever such training.

Cheong Seong-Chang at the private Sejong Institute in South Korea said the missile launches marked the first time for North Korea to perform drills involving army units tasked with the operation of tactical nuclear weapons.

The North's public launch of a missile from under an

inland reservoir was also the first of its kind, though it has previously test-launched missiles from a submarine.

Kim Dong-yub, a professor at Seoul's University of North Korean Studies, said North Korea likely aims to diversify launch sites to make it difficult for its enemies to detect its missile liftoffs in advance and conduct preemptive strikes.

KCNA said when the weapon launched from the reservoir was flying above the sea target, North Korean authorities confirmed the reliability of the explosion of the missile's warhead, apparently a dummy one, at the set altitude.

Kim, the professor, said the missile's estimated 600-kilometer (370-mile) flight indicated the launch could be a test of exploding a nuclear weapon above South Korea's southeastern port city of Busan, where the Reagan previously docked. He said the missile tested appeared to be a new version of North Korea's highly maneuverable KN-23 missile, which was modeled on Russia's Iskander missile.

Armed confrontation with China is 'not an option', says Taiwan leader

DPA

TAIPEI

TAIWAN President Tsai Ing-wen on Monday vowed to boost Taiwan's combat capability as she told China that armed confrontation between Beijing and Taipei was "not an option."

"I want to make clear to the Beijing authorities that armed confrontation is absolutely not an option for our two sides," Tsai said in a National Day address, but added that Taiwan was strengthening its national defence capabilities and that the island "will take responsibility for our own self-defence."

Tsai said that Taiwan was "ramping up the mass production of precision missiles and high-performance naval vessels" as well as working to acquire "small, highly mobile precision weapons" with the aim of ensuring that "Taiwan is fully prepared to respond to external military threats."

"We also established the All-out Defense Mobilization Agency to bolster our military training capacity and refine reserve training programmes,"



Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen (top centre) attends a ceremony to mark the island's National Day in front of the Presidential Office in Taipei on Monday. (AFP)

she added.

Tsai said that Russia's war against Ukraine and China's military activity in the South China Sea, the East China Sea and the Taiwan Strait were undermining the rules-based international order.

"We absolutely cannot ignore the challenge that these military expansions pose to the free and democratic world order. These developments are inextricably connected with Taiwan," Tsai said.

Tsai's address comes amid growing regional tensions with China. US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taipei in early August was followed by China's large-scale manoeuvres and military drills around Taiwan.

The leader also expressed hope that, as the pandemic eases and border restrictions loosen in China and Taiwan, "cross-strait people-to-people exchanges" can gradually resume "thereby easing tensions in the Taiwan Strait."

Gunmen attack school children in Malala's hometown

DPA

ISLAMABAD

AT least four children were injured as gunmen opened fire on two school vans in north-western Pakistan on Monday amid fears of a Taliban resurgence in the region they once controlled.

The first attack took place in Swat, the hometown of Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai, in which the driver was killed and a teenage boy sustained wounds from two bullets.

"The assailants were riding a motorcycle and have fled the scene. We have launched a search operation to arrest them," Mehran Ali, a spokesperson for Swat police told dpa. Ali said that the injured student was stable and out of danger.

The second attack took place in Lower Dir district, outside of Swat, and left three students injured, Gulnaz Khan from the Lower Dir police told dpa.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks in a region that has been comparatively peaceful of late. But they reignited fears of the Taliban's regrouping in the region.

Qatar And Kazakhstan: Three Decades of Distinguished Relations

Qatar has occupied the most important position in Kazakhstan's foreign policy, as it was one of the first Arab countries to recognise Kazakhstan's independence and establish diplomatic relations with it. Doha has provided extensive support to Kazakhstan's initiatives and proposals in the political, commercial, economic, investment, cultural and humanitarian fields

QNA
DOHA

HIS Highness the Amir of State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani will start a state visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan on Tuesday. During the visit, HH the Amir will discuss with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and senior officials the development of relations between the two countries in various fields of cooperation, in addition to discussing regional and international issues of common interest.

Also, HH the Amir will participate in the sixth summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), which will take place in the Republic of Kazakhstan, with the participation of a number of leaders of member states, heads of governments, regional and international organizations, and guests of the summit.

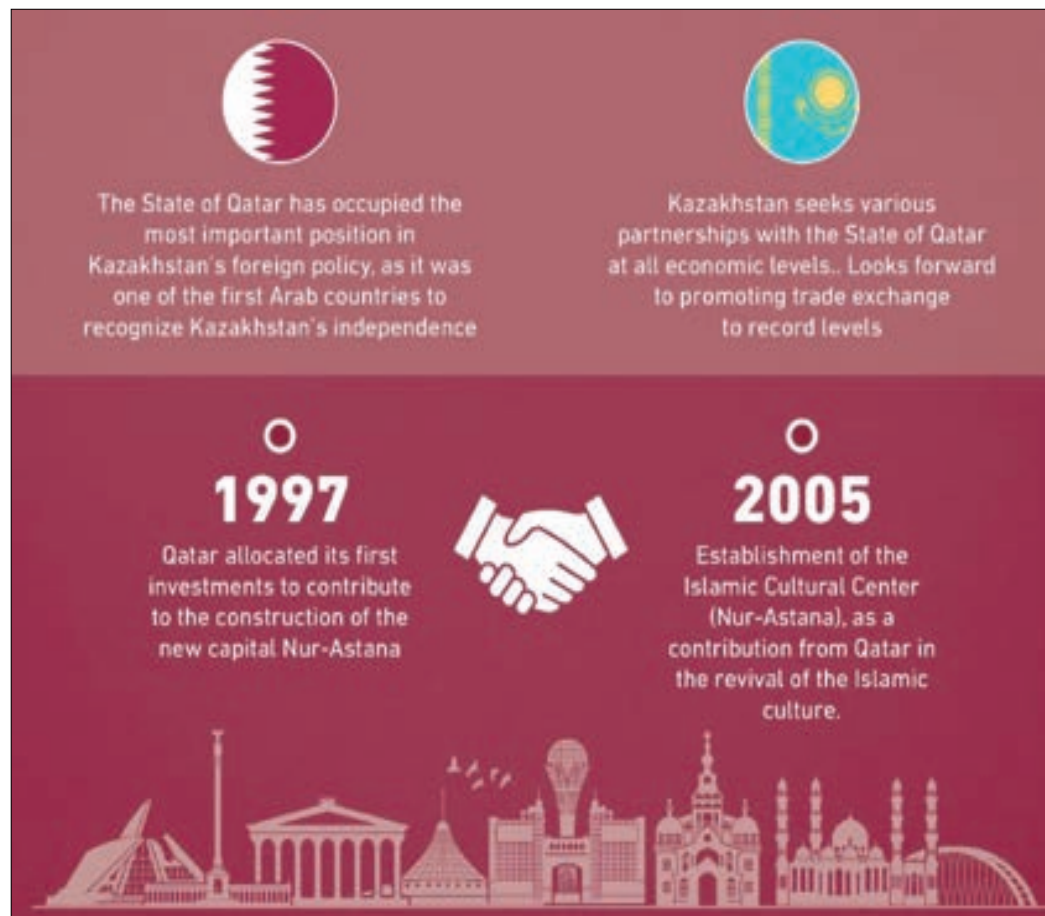
The relations between Qatar and Kazakhstan started nearly thirty years ago. The establishment of the bilateral relations at a high level began in 1993 and has continued to grow well in many fields.

After the transfer of the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan from Almaty to Astana in 1997, Qatar allocated its first investments to contribute to the construction of the new capital. The state funded the building of Astana Mosque, which is one of the most important landmarks in the new capital. The two countries support each other on the international scene and the development of projects of common interest.

The Middle East occupies a special place in Kazakhstan's foreign policy priorities, and it has been keen to consolidate fruitful and beneficial relations with all countries of the region. Qatar has occupied the most important position in Kazakhstan's foreign policy, as it was one of the first Arab countries to recognise Kazakhstan's independence and establish diplomatic relations with it. Throughout these years, Doha has provided extensive support to Kazakhstan's initiatives and proposals in the political, commercial, economic, investment, cultural and humanitarian fields.

Kazakhstan has strong diplomatic relations with Qatar which has been keen to expand mutual visits between the two sides over the past few years. Doha recently participated in the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in the Kazakh capital. During the conference, Doha expressed its appreciation for the leading role of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Central Asian region and its activities directed at ensuring peace and stability in Asia and the world at large.

Qatar also lauded Kazakhstan for the decision it took in the early years of its independence on ceding its fourth nuclear arsenal in the world, which had led to universal recognition of its role in the world nuclear system, the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, as well as the establishment of a unique low-enriched uranium bank under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the Kazakh territory. Qatar also hailed CICA as a



positive contribution to the promotion of peace and sustainable development in Asia.

Qatar and Kazakhstan enjoy a high level of cooperation, reflected in the close brotherly relations between the leaders of the two countries, the exchange of delegations, and the implementation of large joint projects. HH the Amir's visit to Kazakhstan is an important opportunity to consider the current situation and prospects for the development of the Kazakh-Qatari relations, especially in areas of trade, economy, and investment, and to exchange views on the most important developments in the regional and international arenas.

Qatar was one of the first countries to provide medical assistance to Kazakhstan during the first wave of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Qatar has also contributed to the revival of the Islamic culture of the Kazakh people through the establishment of the Islamic Cultural Center (Nur-Astana) in 2005 under the directives of HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

The visit of HH the Amir to Kazakhstan comes within the framework of creating a platform for mutual understanding on ways to strengthen political and economic relations, develop and enhance trade exchange between the two countries, and create bilateral investment partnerships that support increasing Qatari investments in Kazakhstan.

There is a joint keenness of the leaders of the two countries to advance and consolidate the bi-

lateral relations in various fields. The bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture, oil and gas, geology, transport, and banks is developing significantly. There are also close relations between national companies, and the volume of trade exchange between the two countries has been increasing. In 2020, the volume of trade exchange has quadrupled compared to 2019.

Over the course of nearly three decades of close relations between Qatar and Kazakhstan, the two countries have witnessed notable development at the level of the cooperation, most notably the establishment of the Qatar-Kazakhstan Joint Higher Committee, which had held five sessions resulted in the signing of several agreements and memorandums of understanding.

In more than two decades, Kazakhstan has managed to become an economic and geopolitical success story, and over the years Kazakhstan has demonstrated its commitment to multilateralism and the city of Astana has become a world leader in the fields of nuclear disarmament and an active mediator of dialogue between cultures, religions, and civilizations.

Qatar Chamber encourages Qatari businessmen to explore investment opportunities in Kazakhstan. The Chamber recently participated in the Almaty Investment Forum in Kazakhstan which saw a wide international participation. Qatari investors are interested in establishing new investments outside Qatar in line with the country's strategy for economic diversification, considering Kazakhstan as a promising destina-

tion for foreign investments because of its wide investment opportunities.

Kazakhstan seeks to create various partnerships at various economic levels with Qatar, and to significantly promote the level of trade exchange between the two countries.

HH the Amir's visit to Kazakhstan will contribute to creating a platform for mutual understanding on prospects to strengthen political and economic relations, develop and enhance trade exchange between the two countries, and create bilateral investment partnerships that support the Qatari investments in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan is keen on attracting Qatari investors to take advantage of the opportunities it has around. The Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) has been established to be a platform that serves the protection of the rights of foreign investors in the financial sector, and a center for arbitration, and to contribute to strengthening the financial regulatory authorities.

Qatar and Kazakhstan have many capabilities and potentials that push them to achieve greater rates in terms of increasing the volume of trade exchange, and the volume of mutual investments, by activating the relations between the private sector and businessmen on both sides to play a greater role and enter successful strategic and investment partnerships. Perhaps, the availability of regular flights to transport passengers and goods is one of the important mechanisms in raising the volume and rate of trade exchange and activating the relations of the private sector in the two countries.

The Qatari investments in Kazakhstan are estimated at nearly \$113 million, of which \$100 million belong to Qatar Investment Authority in the field of infrastructure, and \$13 million for Qatar Fund for Development. Work is currently under way on a \$13 million financing project for establishing a school carrying the name of HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in the capital Astana.

The third phase of Kazakhstan's economic modernization is very similar to Qatar National Vision 2030 as both aim to improve the lives of citizen. The third modernization of Kazakhstan aims to divide power, increase democracy, and increase the responsibility of parliament and government.

Qatari companies are also considering participating in Kazakhstan's privatization programme to enter the economic sector. In several meetings with Qatari government and private companies, delegations from Kazakhstan put forward about 40 investment projects worth about \$4.6 billion in the sectors of agriculture, mining industry, petrochemicals, tourism infrastructure development, livestock breeding, dairy production, infrastructure development and others.

Kazakhstan is exerting great and important efforts at the highest level in the field of investments with Qatar and has been keen on offering all opportunities to upgrade the economic and investment relations to reach the excellent level of the political relations between the two countries and fraternal friendly relations between the leaderships of the two countries.

Hurricane Ian And The Coming Climate Crash

EUGENE LINDEN

FLORIDA Gov. Ron DeSantis called Hurricane Ian a "once in 500-year event." If only. Floridians could then rebuild after Ian and return to business as usual.

Unfortunately, because of climate change, past weather patterns are becoming less and less useful for pricing future weather-related risks. Rather than 500-year events, biblical floods have become near annual events in the US.

Ian is the poster child of how recent hurricanes have been affected by climate change: rapid intensification, astounding rains related to very slow speed over land and extremely high wind speeds related to the energy supplied by the warming oceans. Rather than an anomaly, Ian shows us what happens when a society underprices climate risk.

As the frequency and intensity of economically destructive events such as storms, floods, fires, droughts and extreme temperatures increase, the risk

risks of a climate-related repeat of the crash of 2008, with the difference being that the economic destruction will only increase in subsequent years.

With Ian, the most dramatic underestimation of risk took place in the central part of Florida. The hurricane crossed the state at the speed of a recreational jogger (the slowing speed of hurricanes relates to a loss of vigor in the steering winds, which in turn relates to the warming of the Arctic), a pace that led to astounding rainfall — 28.6 inches in one spot.

Estimates of insured losses from the storm run to \$63 billion, but it's the uninsured losses that will wreak economic havoc. For instance, the risk analysis company Verisk estimates inland Florida's insured losses from flooding to be about \$1 billion. Sounds modest, but the number is so low because very few homeowners in central Florida have flood insurance. In Orlando the figure is 1.5%, suggesting that the losses that will be borne by



homeowners and businesses in central Florida will run into the tens of billions.

Climate risk for those closer to the coast has also been underpriced for decades. After private insurers began pulling out of the state following a drumbeat of weather-related losses, Florida set up the Citizens Property Insurance Corp., as a backstop. It quickly became the largest insurer in the state, which is evidence that it underprices wind risk. Similarly, coastal flood risk from storms and sea level rise is backstopped — and

underpriced — by US taxpayers through the National Flood Insurance Program under the Federal Emergency Management Agency. NFIP is now more than \$20 billion in debt despite having \$16 billion in debt canceled by Congress as recently as 2017.

One result of underpricing risks is a flood of people moving to dangerous areas. According to census data, Lee County, home to Ian-devastated Fort Myers, has seen a 50% population increase since it was hit by Hurricane Charley in 2004; Miami Dade County

has grown by 600,000 people since Hurricane Andrew did over \$50 billion in damage there in 1992. In California, millions of people have moved into fire-prone zones since a megadrought began at the turn of the millennium.

Once upon a time, I expected the insurance industry would be the White Knight of climate change, simply because the industry relies on the proper estimation of risk. I underestimated the power of business as usual and the industry's genius at off-loading risk.

After Hurricane Andrew, for instance, the reinsurance industry began selling catastrophe bonds — so-called cat bonds — securities that paid a high interest rate for insuring a specific risk for a limited time period. (Ian threatens this market, as the storm will visit huge losses on cat bonds tied to named storms hitting Florida.) Moreover, most property insurance policies are renewable on a yearly basis, which gives private insurers the option of raising rates or pulling out of a

market.

Finally, after years of record losses tied to weather and climate, insurers are beginning to act as they should have done long ago. After a succession of record-breaking fires in the West, insurers have stopped offering policies in the most vulnerable areas. California has slowed this exodus by imposing a moratorium on insurance cancellation for ZIP Codes covered by fire-related emergency declarations. Nonetheless, major insurers such as AIG have pulled out of the state, leaving homeowners with skyrocketing rates in the private market or fire insurance from a barebones backstop supplied by the state.

So long as the burden of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere continues to increase, the already identified climate risks to the economy will continue to increase, new unanticipated risks will emerge and the cost of insuring those risks will rise, perhaps rapidly to catch up with decades of underpricing.

Russia unleashes wave of missiles on Ukraine as West condemns Putin

DPA
MOSCOW/KIEV

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin described the barrage of missile fire on numerous Ukrainian cities on Monday as a response to "terrorist attacks" on Russian territory and warned that even tougher strikes could come.

Putin's remarks at a Russian Security Council meeting came as the seven-month-old war saw a dramatic escalation with the targeting of city centres and infrastructure across Ukraine.

At least 11 people were killed and more than 80 injured.

International condemnation was swift, with world leaders using words such as "terrorism" and "war crimes." Russia fired more than 80 missiles across Ukrainian cities, the government in Kiev said, with air defence systems intercepting about half of them.

At least 36 were injured in the capital alone and deaths were reported, officials said.

Moscow's rockets followed a weekend explosion that damaged the strategically important bridge connecting the annexed Crimean peninsula to mainland Russia. Putin blames Kiev for the attack on the infrastructure, which is used to supply Russian troops in Ukraine.

Putin warned: "In case of continuation of attempts to carry out terrorist attacks on our territory, the responses from the Russian side will be harsh - and in their scale will correspond to the level of threat to the Russian Federation." The



A resident checks a damaged car following a missile strike in Dnipro on Monday. (AFP)

Russian attacks by air, ground and sea, which Moscow's Defence Ministry said achieved their goals, were an "act of terror" according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Kiev's air raid alert was lifted in the early afternoon, after 5 hours and 37 minutes, the longest since the war began on February 24.

City Mayor Vitali Klitschko urged residents to remain cautious. Ukraine's capital has been hit by Russian missiles several times since the beginning of the war, although Monday's was the worst incident of its kind and the first attack on Kiev in months.

It follows Ukraine winning back territory lost earlier in the war as part of a counter-offensive.

Putin's attempt to change the narrative also comes amid problems with Moscow's partial mobilization of new troops, with Putin saying on Monday that mistakes must be dealt with.

Russian rocket attacks were also reported in other parts of Ukraine, from Lviv in the far west to areas of the contested east.

Power failed in parts of the eastern city of Kharkiv following three Russian air attacks, with one targeting energy infrastructure, Mayor Ihor Terekhov said on the Telegram messaging app.

Parts of Lviv was also without power after damage to energy infrastructure. Ukraine called on all citizens to switch

off electrical appliances in the evening to not overload the power grid.

Four deaths were reported by authorities as a result of a missile strike in the eastern Ukrainian city of Sloviansk in the Donetsk region, Mayor Vadim Lyakh said.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg reiterated the alliance's support for Ukraine after speaking to Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba.

Stoltenberg "condemned Russia's horrific [and] indiscriminate attacks on civilian infrastructure in Ukraine" while UN Secretary General António Guterres was "deeply shocked" and India said it was "deeply concerned."

Power restored to Danish island after local fault causes outage

DPA
COPENHAGEN

ELECTRICITY was restored for residents of the Danish island of Bornholm on Monday several hours after a fault in the high-voltage grid left many without power.

Households on the Baltic Sea island had their electricity supplies restored around midday, after a power cut at 7:49 am (0549 GMT), state transmission grid operator Energinet said.

The cable to Bornholm was back in operation. The power failure was due to a local fault on Bornholm and was not directly related to the submarine cable linking the island and Sweden.

Energinet is responsible for the overall operation of the electricity and gas system in Denmark and owns the subma-

rine cable that supplies Bornholm with electricity.

Although the Baltic island is part of Denmark, it lies closer to southern Sweden.

Utility company Trefor said later that the interruption came as the cable went out of service. "We now know that it was a technical fault that has been fixed," the company said in a statement, adding that it is working with Energinet to establish the exact cause.

The outage came amid heightened concerns about the safety of European infrastructure, after damage to Baltic pipelines last month that was widely attributed to sabotage.

Powerful blasts were recorded by underwater monitors in the Baltic on September 26, the same day that pressure dropped on the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines.

Nord Stream 1 carried Rus-

sian gas to Europe until it was shut down as Russia lashed out against Europe, which had laid sanctions on Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. Nord Stream 2 has never been operational, but also links Germany and Russia.

Natural gas - composed mostly of the greenhouse gas methane - began rapidly escaping.

The unexplained incidents affecting the two in Danish and two in Swedish waters came amid sky-high tensions between Europe and Russia over the war in Ukraine.

Investigations continue into what caused the leaks, located in Sweden and Denmark's Exclusive Economic Zones. The European Union and NATO have condemned the sabotage, while the Kremlin has slammed any suggestion of Russian involvement as absurd.

Harvey Weinstein to go on trial in LA

AGENCIES

HARVEY Weinstein will go on trial on Monday in a Los Angeles court, where he is facing 11 further charges of abuse.

The 70-year-old movie producer is currently serving 23 years in jail in New York, after being convicted there for sexual assaults, including rape.

The latest charges include allegations of assault and rape against women in Beverly Hills and Los Angeles hotels from 2004 to 2013, which he has denied.

Jury selection for the expected two-month trial is set to begin on Monday.

The Oscar-winning Shakespeare in Love and Pulp Fiction producer claims his sexual encounters were consensual, and his lawyer told the press the latest round of West Coast allegations "stem from many years ago" and cannot "be substantiated or corroborated by any forensic evidence" or

News in brief

Berlin says it is reaching its limits in accommodating refugees

BERLIN: According to Berlin's Senator for Integration Katja Kipping, Berlin has reached its limits in accommodating refugees.

In recent months, about 6,000 new places have been created in reception and communal facilities, and the total number of 27,700 is higher than ever before. Nevertheless, only about 200 of the places are currently free, Kipping said on Monday.

According to Kipping, the number of asylum seekers has increased significantly since the German summer months. In the first nine months of the year, 12,237 new asylum seekers were registered in Berlin. In the same period last year, there were 7,812, and in 2021 as a whole there were 12,175. A large proportion of these, though not all, will remain in Berlin for the time being. In addition, there are tens of thousands of Ukrainian war refugees in the city, whose numbers, according to Kipping, continue to increase, albeit more slowly recently than in the first months of the Russian war. Many of these people were initially accommodated privately, but now need other accommodation. (DPA)

Air France and Airbus go on trial for Rio-Paris disaster 13 years ago

PARIS: More than 13 years after an Air France plane carrying 228 people plunged into the sea as it flew from Rio de Janeiro to Paris, the airline and planemaker Airbus went on trial for involuntary manslaughter on Monday.

The companies both deny responsibility for the plane crash. They face potential fines of up to 225,000 euros (\$219,000).

Everyone on board died when the storm-tossed plane crashed into the Atlantic Ocean in the early hours of June 1, 2009 after stalling. It took two years to recover the bodies and cockpit recorders, located on the ocean floor at a depth of about 4,000 metres.

It was eventually determined by investigators that the crew had become overwhelmed after the Airbus A330's Pitot speed-monitoring tubes iced up and no longer provided clear readings. The crash was the deadliest in Air France's history. (DPA)

German federal prosecutor investigating alleged pipeline sabotage

KARLSRUHE, Germany: Germany's federal public prosecutor has begun an investigation into the suspected sabotage and explosions at the Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines, the Federal Prosecutor's Office in Karlsruhe confirmed in a statement on Monday. A spokesman said that the suspicion of "deliberately causing an explosion" and "anti-constitutional sabotage" is being investigated.

The case is against an unknown person. The Federal Criminal Police Office and the Federal Police have been tasked with further investigations. "There are sufficient factual indications that the two gas pipelines were deliberately damaged by means of at least two detonations," the Federal Prosecutor's Office continued. (DPA)

King expresses sadness over Ireland disaster

DPA
LONDON

BRITAIN'S King Charles III has expressed his "immense sadness" at the "appallingly tragic" Creeslough disaster.

The monarch sent a message of condolence to the President of Ireland on Monday after 10 people were killed in the devastating explosion in the tiny village in Co Donegal on Friday afternoon.

A five-year-old girl and her father, who were buying a birthday cake, were among the locals from the close-knit rural community who died in the blast at the Applegreen service station and convenience store.

The King offered his "heartfelt sympathy" to those affected, adding "however inadequate this may be under such shattering circumstances", and described his affection for Donegal after visiting in 2016.

Charles said: "My wife and I were filled with immense sadness when we heard of that



Britain's King Charles III with Governor of Victoria, Australia, Linda Dessau in Ballater, Scotland recently. (AFP)

appallingly tragic explosion at Creeslough, County Donegal.

"We remember with the greatest fondness meeting people from across Donegal when we visited in 2016 and the strong sense of community that exists there.

"However inadequate this may be under such shattering circumstances, we wanted you to know that our most heartfelt sympathy and deepest condolences are with those families and friends who have

lost their loved ones in this devastating tragedy, together with yourself and the people of Ireland." His message was signed Charles R.

Charles, as the Prince of Wales, has been a regular visitor to Ireland in recent years, and travelled to Glenveagh Castle and Donegal Town in Co Donegal in 2016.

In 2015, he made a landmark trip to the picturesque Mullaghmore harbour in nearby Co Sligo to visit the site

where his beloved great uncle Earl Mountbatten was murdered by the IRA.

The late Queen made her first visit to Ireland in May 2011, becoming the first British monarch to travel to the Republic since the nation gained independence from Britain.

The state visit was heralded as a new era in relations between Britain and the Republic.

Ireland's police force, An Garda Síochána, continues to investigate the cause of the blast, which is being treated as a "tragic accident".

A gas leak is one theory, it is believed.

Those killed were 50-year-old Robert Garwe and his five-year-old daughter Shauna Flanagan Garwe, 48-year-old James O'Flaherty, 24-year-old Jessica Gallagher, 49-year-old Martin McGill, 39-year-old Catherine O'Donnell and her 13-year-old son James Monaghan, 59-year-old Hugh Kelly, 49-year-old Martina Martin and 14-year-old Leona Harper.

Total of 68,000 irregular migrants apprehended in Austria since May

DPA
VIENNA

SOME 68,000 irregular migrants have been apprehended in Austria since May, according to authorities.

"That's about 3,000...a week and the number is going up all the time," Franz Ruf, director general for public security, said in Vienna on Monday. Most of them were stopped by police near the border with Hungary, he said.

The people come mainly from Afghanistan, India, Syria, Tunisia and Pakistan.

At the same time, according to the Interior Ministry, 56,000 applications for asylum were filed in Austria from January to August.

These applications were mostly made by people who had practically no chance of asylum, Interior Minister

Gerhard Karner said.

The migrants had recently come mainly from India. Their request had no chance, he said.

"Not a single positive asylum decision has been issued yet." The people were being abused by smugglers, he said. Migrants are charged ?3,000 to ?7,000 (\$2,910-6,790) for irregular entry.

Intensive police investigations have already led to the arrest of 440 traffickers this year. This number corresponds to that of the entire previous year, Karner continued.

Austria had recently extended border checks with Slovakia in search of smugglers. More than 7,000 irregular immigrants have already been taken out of the country this year - 60% of them voluntarily, Karner said.



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QIC named best online insurance company in Middle East PAGE 10



DOW 29,285.29 -11.50 PTS

BRENT PRICE 95.87 PERCENTAGE -2.09%

QE 12,913.88 -69.41 PTS

WTI PRICE 90.79 PERCENTAGE -2.00%

SENSEX 57,991.11 -200.18 PTS

GOLD 1,677.00 -0.67%

SILVER 20.26 -1.96%

KAABI MEETS PRESIDENT OF NAMIBIA



Minister of State for Energy Affairs HE Saad Sherida Al Kaabi met with the President of Namibia Dr Hage Geingob in Windhoek on Monday. Discussions during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and cooperation between Qatar and Namibia in the field of energy and means of further enhancing such relations. Discussions also focused on the plans of QatarEnergy, as the largest international working interest holder in the offshore Orange Basin, and its partners, with respect to the recent significant Venus and Graff discoveries, including means to prioritise development and further exploration and address challenges.

Minister of Commerce and Industry meets with Indonesian trade minister

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK DOHA

MINISTER of Commerce and Industry HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Qassim Al Thani met with Minister of Trade of Indonesia Zulkifli Hasan and the accompanying delegation currently visiting the country.

The meeting previewed issues of common interest aimed at strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the sectors of trade, investment, and industry. During the meeting, Sheikh Mohammed highlighted the successful economic policies Qatar has put in place to support the private sector, and pointed



out the incentives, legislations, and promising opportunities that are aimed at encouraging investors, businessmen, and business owners to invest in Qatar.



The QNB headquarters in Doha.

QNB net profit up 7% to QR11 billion in first 9 months of 2022

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK DOHA

QNB, the largest financial institution in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region, on Monday announced that its net profit before the impact of hyperinflation for the nine months of 2022 reached QR12.3 billion (\$3.4 billion), an increase of 20 percent compared to the same period last year.

Net profit after the impact of hyperinflation reached QR11 billion (\$3 billion) in the first nine months of 2022, an increase of 7 percent compared to the same period last year, despite successfully overcoming the negative impact of hyperinflation accounting adjustment of QR1.3 billion (\$356 million).

Operating income increased by 24 percent to reach QR25.6 billion (\$7 billion) which reflects the Group's success in maintaining growth across a range of revenue sources.

Total assets as of September 30, 2022, recorded an increase of 5 percent from September 30, 2021, to reach QR1,135 billion (\$312 billion), mainly driven by growth in high-quality liquid assets.

Strong customer deposit campaigns helped to increase customer deposits by 1 percent to reach QR794 billion (\$218 billion) from September 30, 2021. As a result of the strong liquidity position of QNB Group, the loans to deposits ratio reached 96.1 percent as of September 30, 2022.

The Group's drive for operational efficiency continues to yield cost-savings and enhanced revenue sources that enabled QNB Group to improve the efficiency (cost to income)

ratio to 19.3 percent from 22.5 percent, which is considered the best ratio among large financial institutions in the MEA region.

The NPL ratio continued to remain stable at 2.4 percent as of September 30, 2022, one of the lowest amongst financial institutions in the MEA region, reflecting the high quality

QR1,135 bn

• Total assets as of September 30, 2022, recorded an increase of 5 percent from September 30, 2021, to reach QR1,135 billion mainly driven by growth in high-quality liquid assets.

of the Group's loan book and the effective management of credit risk and also coverage ratio reached 121 percent after including QR6.2 billion (\$1.7 billion) as a precaution for potential loan losses.

Total Equity increased to QR106 billion (\$29 billion), up by 5 percent from September 2021. Earnings per share reached QR1.10 (\$0.30).

Group Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) as of September 30, 2022, amounted to 19 percent higher than the regulatory minimum requirements of the Qatar Central Bank and Basel Committee. In addition, the hyperinflation accounting adjustments relating to our Turkey operations had an incremental impact on Group's capital by about QR3.5 billion.

QNB Group is supported by 27,000 staff operating from approximately 1,000 locations and 4,700 ATMs.

Ooredoo readies up to 2 million free Hayya SIM cards for World Cup fans

Hayya SIM cards to be available in two formats, physical SIM card and eSIM, from November 1

SATYENDRA PATHAK DOHA

OOREDOO, the official Middle East & Africa Telecommunications Operator of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, has kept aside up to 2 million Hayya SIM cards to be distributed among fans attending the world's biggest sporting event as a gift, Ooredoo Chief Commercial Officer Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad bin Nasser Al Thani said on Monday.

Aimed at welcoming World Cup visitors to Qatar with a seamless connectivity journey from the moment they land, all the Hayya SIM cards will be loaded with 2022 local minutes, 2022 local SMS and 2022MB data, with the line valid for three days free of charge.

Talking to Qatar Tribune on the sidelines of the launch of Hayya SIM cards in Doha, Sheikh Nasser said, "Hayya SIM cards will be available in two formats, a physical SIM card and an eSIM, from November 1. The eSIM will be in addition to the 2 million physical Hayya SIM cards."

All the Hayya SIM card users will enjoy high-speed 5G coverage across the country during the World Cup, he said.

Visiting fans with a Hayya Card will be able to obtain a Hayya SIM at one of several dispensing machines that will be conveniently available at airports, ports and land borders; in taxis; at metro stations; in hotels and at official FIFA fan accommodations; at Fan Zones; at Ooredoo shops, franchises and dealers; and many more. Visitors will also be able to get a Hayya SIM online at the Ooredoo eShop.

Visitors subscribing to their Hayya SIM at the Ooredoo eShop will be able to have the SIM delivered to any location of their choice in Qatar, while those opting to use an eSIM will receive it via email.

Activation of the Hayya SIM will be quick and efficient. While eSIMs will be activated as soon as the customer connects to the Ooredoo network, the physical SIM cards can be activated via the Ooredoo App or at the Ooredoo eShop.

"Hayya SIM card holders can top up the same card after three days of free service are over and continue to use it till the end of this year," he said.



Ooredoo Chief Commercial Officer Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad bin Nasser Al Thani, Ooredoo Executive Director of Marketing Sarah Al Dorani and Qatar Tourism COO Berthold Trenkel address media at the launch of Hayya SIM cards in Doha on Monday.



Sheikh Nasser said, "We have promised an unrivalled fan experience during the FIFA World Cup and we are delivering on this promise with the biggest offer in history from any telco ever at a major event. Whether you are residing in or visiting Qatar, as an Ooredoo customer you will encounter first-hand how we prioritise the customer experience."

Ooredoo Executive Director of Marketing Sarah Al Dorani said, "We are proud as Ooredoo to demonstrate our capabilities as a smart operator and innovative player. As we connect the world to the biggest sporting event, we will also be connecting fans in Qatar to a seamless digital experience with our eSIM and AI technology. In line with our brand, we continue to 'Upgrade your World' by delivering excellence in the user

journey and offering incredible 2022 rewards to our existing customer base in Qatar."

Ooredoo is utilising sophisticated artificial intelligence technology as part of its digital onboarding process, both to speed up authentication and ensure security. The AI technology enables quick validation of identification details, while Face Capture with Liveness and 3D Face Map enables comparison of selfies with ID photos for quick and easy identification.

On the occasion, it was also revealed that all of Ooredoo's customers residing in Qatar will enjoy 2022 benefits with both prepaid and post-paid cards. Ooredoo customers need simply activate the 2022 gift offer via the Ooredoo App.

"We announce many more offers for both visitors and residents during the World Cup,"

Sheikh Nasser said. Speaking on the occasion, Qatar Tourism COO Berthold Trenkel praised Ooredoo's efforts during his remarks. "Qatar's leading telco is warmly welcoming visitors to Qatar with a seamless connectivity journey from the moment they land. This is the biggest offer in history from any telco ever at a major event."

In attendance were senior representatives of a number of organisations involved in FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 including Ooredoo CEO Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulla Al Thani and high-level representatives and ambassadors from the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy.

Also in attendance were Ooredoo's Brand Ambassador Mutaz Barsham and popular regional influencers.

Kaabi meets with Namibia's Minister of Mines and Energy



Minister of State for Energy Affairs His Excellency Saad Sherida Al Kaabi met with Namibia's Minister of Mines and Energy Tom Alweendo in Windhoek on Monday. Discussions during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and cooperation between Qatar and Namibia in the field of energy, and means of enhancing them.

Qatar-Indonesia trade up 78% to QR3.22 bn

Qatar Chamber VC calls for enhancing ties with 'resource-rich' Indonesia

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

TRADE between Qatar and Indonesia rose 78 percent from QR1.8 billion in 2016 to QR3.22 billion last year, Qatar Chamber First Vice-Chairman Mohamed bin Twar Al Kuwari has said as he hailed the close relations between the two countries.

Addressing the Qatari-Indonesian Business Forum held in Doha on Monday, Twar described Indonesia as a resource rich country and highlighted sectors such as tourism, real estate development, mining, food security, services and halal trade as having the most investment opportunities in that country.

The forum was organised by the Indonesian Embassy to Qatar in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Qatar Chamber and Ministry of Trade of Indonesia.

The meeting was attended by Zulkifli Hassan, Minister of Trade of Indonesia and Saleh Al Khualifi, Assistant Undersecretary for Commerce Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Indonesian Ambassador to Qatar HE Ridwan Hassan, alongside a crowd of businessmen from both sides.

Addressing the opening session, Twar said the business sectors in Qatar are looking forward to boosting relations with their Indonesian counterparts and exploring the investment climate and opportunities available there, especially since Indonesia is a promising market that offers a multitude of opportunities that attract Qatari investors and is an important gateway to the Southeast Asian region.

As for mutual investments, he said that there are many Qatari investments in Indonesia in various sectors like com-



Qatar Chamber First Vice-Chairman Mohamed bin Twar Al Kuwari and Indonesian Minister of Trade Zulkifli Hassan with other dignitaries during the Qatari-Indonesian Business Forum held in Doha on Monday.

munication, banking, trading, and others, while there are many Indonesian companies that invest in Qatar with Qatari partners in a variety of sectors.

Elaborating on Qatar's investment climate, QC's First Vice-Chairman said that the State has an ambitious development plan in line with its National Vision 2030 that focuses on various sectors, affirming that Qatar has become one of the preferred destinations for global investments and enjoys a unique investment climate, attractive legislation, and stable political and social status, in addition to the distinguished geographical location.

For his part, Assistant Undersecretary for Commerce Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce & Industry HE Saleh Al-Khualifi said that the two nations' cooperation has witnessed a remarkable development, calling upon the Qatari and Indonesian business sectors to establish successful investment partnerships and to take advantage of the available economic opportunities that distinguish our two friendly

countries. Khualifi said Qatar has worked to strengthen existing commercial partnerships, create new ones, and attract more direct and indirect investments, especially in advanced sectors that support economic diversification in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

He referred to the latest estimates of the World Bank that anticipated that the Qatari economy is expected to grow by about 4.9% in 2022, and the International Monetary Fund estimated that expected the non-oil sector to rise by about 4.1% compared to the oil and gas sector.

Minister of Trade of Indonesia Zulkifli Hassan said trade volume between both countries in H1 of this year amounted to \$ 758mn, showing an increase of 29 percent compared with \$ 587.6 mn in the same period of the last year, affirming that there is a good opportunity to increase their trade, especially in light of Qatar's hosting of the FIFA World Cup 2022, as well as Indonesia's hosting of the G20 Summit next November.

Zulkifli pointed to the Qa-

tari investments in Indonesia which includes QNB, Ooredoo, and Nebras Power, noting that this encourages Qatari investors to get acquainted with available opportunities in Indonesia and explore partnerships with the Indonesian private sector in various sectors such as investment and tourism and others.

The Indonesian Minister invited Qatari businessmen to participate in the Trade Expo Indonesia 2022 (TEI) in Jakarta due to convene on October 19-23.

On his part, the Indonesian Ambassador to Qatar HE Ridwan Hassan said the Qatari-Indonesia business forum represents a good opportunity for business sectors to develop their relations and review forging partnerships and alliances, stressing the depth of relations between both countries at all sectors and the mutual visits between both countries' leaderships and the agreements signed between them.

On the sidelines of the forum, Indonesian companies held an exhibition to showcase handicrafts, foodstuffs, and other products.

HBKU announced as research partner of GWC Forum 2022

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

GWC Logistics has announced Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) as the research partner for this year's GWC Forum, which will be held at The Westin Doha Hotel & Spa on November 1.

'Ready for the Game - Empowering Qatar's MSMEs' follows the success of the inaugural forum in 2021, titled 'Getting you in the Game', which was attended by 800 delegates from 59 countries and attracted significant media coverage.

GWC - Qatar's leading logistics and supply chain solutions company - is the official logistics provider for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. As well as supporting tournament preparations, GWC is helping to deliver an economic legacy by supporting Qatar's growing micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). HBKU will support the Forum's objectives in capturing the direct and indirect impact of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022TM on MSMEs' and the transformation affecting the sector in the aftermath of 2022.

This year's hybrid forum will feature senior-level speakers representing partners and other global brands. Panel sessions and workshops will offer a deeper dive into key subjects as delegates glean knowledge from this year's FIFA World Cup™, which will be held from 20 November to 18 December.

Ranjeev Menon, Group CEO, GWC, said: "We are delighted to announce HBKU as the research partner for this year's GWC Forum, which will help businesses across Qatar understand the benefits of hosting the FIFA World Cup and the numerous post-tournament opportunities. HBKU is already collaborating with us closely to research the impact of Qatar 2022 - particularly in relation to the economy and the impact the tournament will have on MSMEs. The forum will further strengthen our ties as Qatar seeks to leverage the hosting of the FIFA World Cup and power the nation towards Qatar National Vision 2030."

This is the latest collaboration between GWC and HBKU, following the announcement of a research initiative last year. GWC and HBKU are working together to assess the impact of Qatar 2022 on the country's economy, with a focus on MSME empowerment.

In addition, GWC is working closely with the College of Science and Engineering (CSE) at HBKU to promote impactful and innovative re-



Ranjeev Menon, Group CEO, GWC



Dr Laoucine Kerbache, Professor and Coordinator of the Engineering Management and Decision Sciences Division at HBKU's CSE

search and development in the fields of engineering, technology and science, with a special emphasis on logistics and supply chain management. The outcomes will be geared towards boosting industry performance and achieving mutually beneficial opportunities, while offering a scientific approach to problem resolution for issues facing the industry.

Dr Laoucine Kerbache, Professor and Coordinator of the Engineering Management and Decision Sciences Division at HBKU's CSE, said: "We are very pleased to be working closely with GWC in relation to this year's forum, which will shine a light on the pivotal role MSMEs are set to play in powering Qatar's economy beyond the FIFA World Cup. We have seen over recent years - due to the global pandemic and vaccine distribution challenges particularly - the crucial importance of logistics and supply chain management. HBKU is keen to support this industry through its various programmes as we help the development of Qatar's economy and drive highly innovative approaches to research."

Furthermore, the partnership provides for GWC to collaborate with HBKU's degree programmes, including Master's and PhD programmes in logistics and supply chain management, and assist with research opportunities. It also aims to enhance knowledge diffusion between the private and education sectors to improve employment possibilities, and broaden the career paths of young professionals in the logistics sector.



13% increase in building permits issued by municipalities in Sept

QNA
DOHA

DATA from the Planning and Statistics Authority showed on Monday that building permits issued by municipalities in the State of Qatar during the month of September reached 884, an increase of 13 percent from the previous month of August, which recorded 784 permits.

Data showed an increase in the number of licenses in all municipalities, most notably in Al Khor 54 percent, Umm Salal 24 percent, Al Doha municipality 25 per-

cent, Al Rayyan 22 percent and Al Shamal municipality seven percent. In return, a decline was recorded Al Sheehaniya municipality (9 percent), Al Wakrah (39 percent) and Al Da'ayen (42 percent).

According to geographical distribution, the municipality of Al Rayyan comes at the top of the municipalities with 250 permits, about 28 percent of all issued permits. The municipality of Al Doha came in second place with 227 permits, i.e. 26 percent, followed by Al Wakrah municipality with 164 permits, i.e.19 percent, then municipi-

ality of Al Da'ayen with 116 permits, i.e.13 percent. The rest of the municipalities were as follows: Umm Salal 51 permits (6 percent), Al Khor 40 permits (5 percent), Al Sheehaniya 20 permits (2 percent), and finally Al Shamal 16 permits (2 percent).

In terms of type of permits issued, data indicates that the new building permits (residential and non-residential) constitutes 40 percent (356 permits) of the total building permits issued during the month of September 2022, while the percentage of additions permits

constituted 58 percent (512 permits), and finally fencing permits with 2 percent (16 permits).

As for new residential buildings permits data, villas' top the list, accounting for 84 percent (231 permits) of all new residential buildings permits, followed by apartments buildings by 9 percent (25 permits) and dwellings of housing loans permits by 5 percent (13 permits).

Commercial buildings were found to be in the forefront of non-residential buildings permits with 54 percent (44 permits), fol-

lowed by industrial buildings such as workshops and factories with 20 percent (16 permits) and other non-residential buildings with 15 percent (12 permits).

With regard to building completion certificates issued during the month of September 2022, the total certificates issued by municipalities amounted to 565 certificates, compared to 401 in August, with an increase of 41 percent.

This increase was clearly noted in most of the municipalities: Al Khor (129 percent), Al Shamal (114 per-

cent), Al Doha (100 percent), Al Rayyan (60 percent), Al Da'ayen (29 percent), Al Wakrah (28 percent), Al Sheehaniya (11 percent).

On the other hand, there was a clear decrease in the municipality of Umm Salal (41 percent).

It is worth mentioning that the release of this monthly data comes under the joint cooperation between the Planning and Statistics Authority and the Ministry of Municipality and Environment to make use of the existing electronic link between the two sides.

QCB says its name and logo being used to mislead public

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Qatar Central Bank (QCB) has warned the public to be wary of con artists who use the name and logo of the central bank in operations targeting individuals on social media.

"In view of recent incidents in which the name and

the symbol of Qatar Central Bank have been intentionally utilised by unauthorised users to defraud and deceive the public, Qatar Central Bank advises caution," QCB said in a statement on Twitter.

The central bank urged the public to obtain correct and accurate information from direct sources and official channels of the bank.

National Leasing Holding posts QR16.3 mn in net profit

QNA
DOHA

THE National Leasing Holding, a Qatari shareholding company, has nearly tripled its net profit to reach QR 16.338 in the nine-month period of 2022, in comparison to net loss of QR 7.805 million in the same period of the previous year.

The Earnings per Share

(EPS) amounted to QR 0.033 as of Sept. 30, 2022 versus loss per share of QR 0.016 for the same period in 2021, the company said in a release published on Qatar Stock Exchange website.

The National Leasing Holding was established in 2003 and was listed on Qatar Stock Exchange in the same year. The company has a capital of QR 494.802 million.

Consumers to ditch cafes amid rising prices

AGENCIES

CONSUMERS worldwide will choose drinking coffee at home over cafes and restaurants due to rising inflation and risks of recession in coming months, the executive director of the International Coffee Organization (ICO) said.

International coffee supply has not been able to meet demand at a time when inventories are low, said Vanusia Nogueira,

attributing the lower global harvest in the 2021/22 coffee year to the effects of climate change.

"We have many climate problems in the top producing regions," she told Reuters in an interview in Colombian capital Bogota. Although coffee prices had risen, growers were unable to deliver more product due to the climate-related issues, she said. Total production for the 2021/22 coffee year hit 167.2 million 60-kilogram bags.

IPA Qatar launches 'Guide to Investment' in many languages

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Investment Promotion Agency Qatar (IPA Qatar) has launched a new multilingual 'Guide to Investment' in Arabic, English, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish. The guide showcases the many benefits of establishing a business in Qatar, including the country's strategic location and connectivity, future-ready infrastructure, supportive business ecosystem, and world-class talent pool.

Under the umbrella of the national economic diversification agenda, the Guide presents country's statistics, logistics, and industrial zones. It also provides information on life in Qatar across four sections: Exciting Opportunities Await, Your Partner in Progress, Best Home in the Middle East for Your Business, and Gateway to a Wealth of Opportunities.

It offers a detailed overview of Qatar's territorial taxation system with two tax regimes, including the State regime administered by the General Tax Authority (GTA) and the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) regime administered by the QFC Tax Department.

The guide also provides entrepreneurs and businesses with a comprehensive overview of the country's integrated business ecosystem. It highlights the licensing platforms that are available to support their investment journey, including the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI), Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZA), Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP), and Media City (Qatar).

Sheikh Ali Alwaleed Al-Thani, CEO, IPA Qatar, said: "We conceptualised the 'Guide to Investment' as a primary source



of information for local, regional, and international investors looking for new avenues to fulfill their potential. The Guide acts as their comprehensive tool to extend their reach and accelerate their growth within Qatar's vibrant commercial ecosystem. Well beyond 2022, Qatar continues its rapid transformation into a global hub for business. IPA Qatar is proud to support this transformation in line with our mandate and the national development goals, helping to integrate international companies and investors to ensure their long-term success in Qatar."

With a strategic focus on the development of the local SME sector and the promotion of entrepreneurship, the Guide also highlights national programmes such as the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), established by the Qatar Foundation to support competitively selected original research, and Qatar FinTech Hub (QFTH), established by Qatar Development Bank in collaboration with EY to support the growth of local and international FinTechs. Another initiative is the TASMU Smart Qatar Programme, launched by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

(MCIT) to advance innovation and economic diversification. Additionally, the Guide underlines key institutions such as the Qatar Business Incubation Centre (QBIC), and the Digital Incubation Center (DIC), which provide funding and deliver business advisory support to start-ups. Other key institutions in the start-up sector include the sports focussed, Sport Accelerator and Qatar SportsTech, a joint venture initiated by QDB, powered by Startupbootcamp, and supported by the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, QFC, Aspire Zone Foundation, beIN Sports, and MOCI.

Small business group files suit over Biden student loan plan

AGENCIES

A small-business advocacy group has filed a new lawsuit seeking to block the Biden administration's efforts to forgive student loan debt for tens of millions of Americans — the latest legal challenge to the program.

The suit, filed Monday by the Job Creators Network Foundation, argues the Biden administration violated federal procedures by failing to seek public input on the program. It's one of a handful of lawsuits that have been filed by conservative business groups, attorneys and Republican law-

makers in recent weeks as the Biden administration tries to push forward with its plan to cancel billions in debt before November's midterm elections.

Elaine Parker, president of Job Creators Network Foundation, slammed the program as executive overreach and complained that it does nothing to address the root cause of rising debt: the "outrageous increase in college tuition that outpaces inflation every single year."

The Job Creators Network Foundation has previously turned to the courts to try to block the Biden administration's COVID-19 vaccine mandate on businesses. It also sued

Major League Baseball in 2001 for moving the All-Star game out of Atlanta over objections to changes to Georgia's voting laws. That lawsuit, which cited losses to local businesses, was later dropped.

The new lawsuit is one of a growing number of legal challenges trying to halt the proposal laid out by President Joe Biden in late August to cancel up to \$20,000 in debt for certain borrowers.

Six Republican-led states filed suit late last month, accusing the Biden administration of overstepping its executive powers, as did the Pacific Legal Foundation, a Sacramen-

to, California, legal advocacy group. Their lawsuit, filed in federal court in Indiana, calls the plan an illegal overreach that would increase state tax burdens for some Americans who get their debt forgiven.

Meanwhile, a federal judge in Wisconsin last week dismissed a lawsuit from a local taxpayers group, the Brown County Taxpayers Association, that sought to block the program, ruling that the group didn't have standing to bring the lawsuit. The group had argued that Biden's order unlawfully circumvented Congress' power over spending and said the plan was discriminatory be-

cause it sought to give particular help to borrowers of color.

The latest lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas against the U.S. Education Department and its secretary, Miguel Cardona, takes issue with how the plan was developed. It alleges the Biden administration violated the Administrative Procedure Act's notice-and-comment procedures. It also challenges the administration's legal justification for the program.

The suit includes two plaintiffs: one who does not qualify for debt forgiveness because the plan excludes commer-

cially held loans that are not in default, and one who did not receive a Pell grant and is therefore entitled to less debt forgiveness under the plan.

"Behind closed doors, the Department promulgated a new Debt Forgiveness Program that will affect tens of millions of Americans and cost hundreds of billions of dollars," the lawsuit reads. "Instead of providing notice and seeking comment from the public, the Department hammered out the critical details of the Program in secret and with an eye toward securing debt forgiveness in time for the November election."

QIC named best online insurance company in Middle East

Title given by Global Banking & Finance Review Awards 2022

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QATAR Insurance Company (QIC), the leading insurer in Qatar and the MENA region, has been crowned Best Online Insurance Company in The Middle East at the Global Banking & Finance Review Awards 2022.

This outstanding accolade comes in recognition of QIC's exceptional performance in 2022 at the levels of products and services digitization, in addition to reaching record levels of customers' reliance on online channels to fulfill their insurance needs instantly, remotely and in just a few clicks.

The prestigious award also reflects the company's success in reshaping online insurance at both local and regional levels with the introduction of innovative market-first online insurance solutions that best respond to the needs of customers in Qatar and beyond,



Salem Al Mannai, QIC Group's Chief Executive Officer

namely the launch qic.online as the fastest and most comprehensive online platform to buy and renew insurance policies.

Developed with an innovative customer-centric approach, qic.online allows customers to buy or renew their car, motorcycle, travel, home contents, boat & yacht, and personal accident insurances in just 2 minutes. It also offers instant insurance covers comparison, allowing customers to get detailed information on policy types, in addition to product recommendation to help them better identify the



The prestigious award reflects the company's success in reshaping online insurance at both local and regional levels with the introduction of innovative market-first online insurance solutions

right insurance covers that suit their needs.

Commenting on the award, Salem Al Mannai, QIC Group's Chief Executive Of-

ficer, said: "Our recognition as the Middle East's best online insurance company in 2022 is an acknowledgement the entire QIC team is proud of. It's

a strong testament to our success in reshaping digital insurance in the region through offering our customers the fastest, most convenient and secure online solutions to fulfill their insurance needs."

Al Mannai added: "QIC's digital acceleration programme in 2022 was one of the industry's most ambitious programs across the region. Thanks to our commitment to innovation, we are looking forward to introducing further digital solutions that will make the insurance experience of our customers in Qatar and the region easier, better and more convenient at all times and from anywhere in the world."

The Global Banking & Finance Review is a leading financial magazine headquartered in London. It provides in-depth insights and information within the financial sector to readers in over 200 countries, including presidents, CEOs, CFOs, decision makers of financial institutions and individuals interested in financial markets and news.

Incepted in 2011, The Global Banking & Finance Review Awards have contin-

ued to reflect the innovation, achievements, strategies, and inspirational changes taking place within the global financial community. The awards recognize companies of all sizes which are prominent in particular areas of expertise and excellence within the world of finance.

Qatar Insurance Company (QIC) is a publicly listed composite insurer with a consistent performance history of over 50 years and a global underwriting footprint. Founded in 1964, QIC was the first domestic insurance company in the State of Qatar.

Today, QIC is the market leader in Qatar and a dominant insurer in the GCC and MENA regions.

QIC is one of the highest rated insurers in the Gulf region with a rating of A/Stable from Standard & Poor's and A (Excellent) from A.M. Best. QIC is also the first & best digital insurance company in Qatar and the largest insurance company in the MENA region by gross written premium, profitability and total assets. It is listed on the Qatar Stock Exchange and has a market capitalization in excess of QR7.8 billion.

QT Economy & Business

Former US Fed Chair Bernanke shares Nobel in economics for research on banks

The Nobel panel recognised Bernanke, Douglas W. Diamond and Philip Dybvig on Monday for research that shows 'why avoiding bank collapses is vital'

Former U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke, who put his academic expertise on the Great Depression to work reviving the American economy after the 2007-2008 financial crisis, won the Nobel Prize in economic sciences along with two other U.S.-based economists for their research into bank failures.

The Nobel panel at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences recognised Bernanke, Douglas W. Diamond and Philip Dybvig on Monday for research that shows "why avoiding bank collapses is vital." Their findings in the early 1980s laid the foundations for regulating financial markets, the panel said.

"Financial crises and depressions are kind of the worst thing that can happen to the economy," said John Hassler of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences. "We need to have an understanding of the mechanism behind those and what to do about it. And the laureates this year provide that." Bernanke, 68, examined the Great Depression of the 1930s when he was a professor at Stanford University, showing the danger of bank runs — when panicked people withdraw their savings — and how bank collapses led to widespread economic devastation. He was Fed chair from early 2006 to early 2014 and is now with the Brookings Institution in Washington.

Before Bernanke, economists saw bank failures as a consequence, not a cause, of economic downturns. Diamond, 68, based at the University of Chicago, and Dybvig, 67, who is at Washington University in St. Louis, showed how government guarantees on deposits can prevent a spiraling of financial crises.

"Probably the most gratifying thing for us is that policymakers actually seem to understand it, and the insights that we had, which are pretty simple, could be used in the actual financial crisis," Diamond told The Associated Press in Chicago. He added that he was "very happy" and "quite surprised" to get the call.

When it comes to the global economic turmoil created by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine, the financial system is "much, much less vulnerable" to cri-



From left, Tore Ellingsen, Hans Ellegren and John Hassler members of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announce the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2022, during a press conference at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden, Monday, Oct. 10, 2022. From left on screen Ben S. Bernanke, Douglas W. Diamond and Philip H. Dybvig have been awarded 2022's Nobel Prize in economic sciences

ses because of memories of the 2000s collapse and improved regulation, Diamond said in a call with the Nobel panel.

The trio's research took on real-world significance when investors sent the financial system into a panic during fall 2008, prompting the longest and most painful recession since the 1930s.

Bernanke, then head of the Fed, teamed up with the U.S. Treasury Department to prop up major banks and ease a shortage of credit, the lifeblood of the economy.

He slashed short-term interest rates to zero, directed the Fed's purchases of Treasury and mortgage investments and set up unprecedented lending programs. Collectively, those steps calmed investors and fortified big banks — and were credited with avoiding another depression.

The Fed also pushed long-term interest rates to historic lows, which led to fierce criticism of Bernanke, particularly

from some 2012 Republican presidential candidates who said the Fed was hurting the value of the dollar and running the risk of igniting inflation later.

And Bernanke's unprecedented activism at the Fed established a precedent for the central bank to respond with speed and force to economic shocks.

When COVID-19 slammed the U.S. economy in early 2020, the Fed, under Chair Jerome Powell, quickly cut short-term interest rates back to zero and pumped money into the financial system. The aggressive intervention — along with massive government spending — quickly ended the downturn and triggered a powerful economic recovery.

But the quick comeback also came at a cost: Inflation began rising rapidly last year and now is close to 40-year highs, forcing the Fed to reverse course and raise rates to cool the economy. Central

banks around the world are taking similar steps as inflation erodes consumers' spending power.

In a groundbreaking 1983 paper, Bernanke explored the role of bank failures in deepening and lengthening the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Before that, economists cast blame on the Fed for not printing enough money to support the economy as it sank. Bernanke agreed but found that the shortage of money could not explain why the depression was so devastating and lasted so long.

The problem, he found, was the collapse of the banking system. Panicked savers pulled money out of rickety banks, which then could not make the loans that kept the economy growing.

"The result," the Nobel committee wrote, "was the worst global recession in modern history." "Ben Bernanke's 1983 paper was startlingly original and of enduring impor-

ance -- not in explaining how the Great Depression started, but in explaining why it lasted so long," said former Fed Vice Chair Alan Blinder, an economist at Princeton University. "That insight has affected economists' thinking ever since." Diamond and Dybvig showed that banks play a crucial role in resolving a nettlesome financial problem: Savers want instant access to their money, but businesses need time to see their ventures generate profits before they can repay loans in full. In a 1983 paper, Diamond and Dybvig explored the banks' key role as intermediary between savers and borrowers.

They also found that banks are vulnerable: If savers fear their bank is in danger of failing, they will pull their money out, forcing the bank to call in loans to raise money to cover withdrawals. To stop bank runs -- and their economic fallout -- governments can insure deposits and act as a lender of last resort to banks.

The insight: "If you could prevent the panic, then the banks would be fine," said Simon Johnson, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who has written about the financial crisis. "That's a very, very powerful idea that underpins how people think about financial stability." Diamond also established, in a 1984 paper, that banks play a crucial role in evaluating borrowers' creditworthiness and making sure that loans go to worthy projects and get repaid. The economics award capped a week of Nobel Prize announcements in medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and peace. They carry a cash award of 10 million Swedish kronor (nearly \$900,000) and will be handed out on Dec. 10.

Unlike the other prizes, the economics award wasn't established in Alfred Nobel's will of 1895 but by the Swedish central bank in his memory. The first winner was selected in 1969.

'Big impact': UK economic chaos, pound plunge hit businesses

AGENCIES

LIKE many small business owners in Britain, Harry Niazi hoped for government help to keep his south London fish and chip shop going in the face of rocketing energy bills and soaring inflation.

But an economic stimulus plan announced last week by Prime Minister Liz Truss' new government brought no relief — far from it.

For Niazi and millions across the United Kingdom, things went from bad to worse after the promise of huge unfunded tax cuts sparked turmoil in financial markets and sent the British pound tumbling to a record low against the U.S. dollar this week.

"Everything's based on the dollar — diesel for the vessels to catch the fish, trucks to deliver our products. It has a big impact," Niazi said from his takeout shop, Olley's Fish Experience.

The pound's slide is hitting many businesses hard because imported materials and commodities like natural gas that are priced in dollars will be more expensive. Businesses will likely be forced to pass the costs on to consumers, which would further push up inflation — already close to a 40-year

high at 9.9%.

That would worsen the squeeze on people facing yet another hike in their household energy bills Saturday, even though Truss' plan capped a more devastating 80% rise as natural gas prices soar.

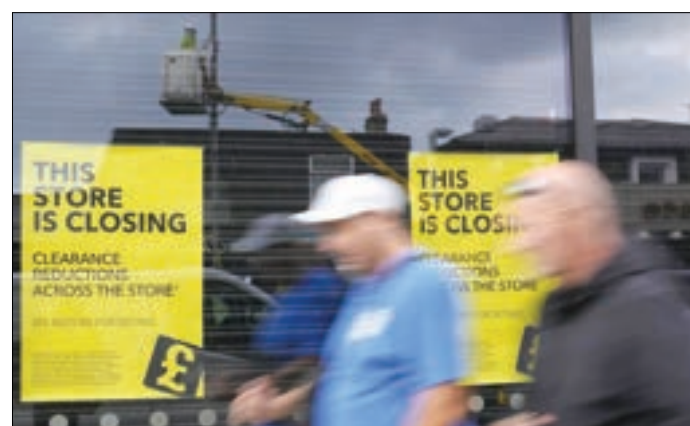
"I'm terrified of putting my prices up. We have a good volume of customers coming in, we don't want to lose them, but every day something goes up in price. I don't know how we're going to cope," Niazi said.

The haddock, cod and other white fish he imports are priced in dollars, and that cost had already surged since July, when Britain's government imposed a 35% tariff on Russian seafood imports as part of sanctions over the war in Ukraine.

Niazi's concerns about the sliding pound are echoed by other businesspeople like Sanjay Aggarwal, co-founder of Spice Kitchen. The Liverpool-based company sells Indian spice mix gift sets packaged in steel tins from Indian manufacturers.

Tins and shipping — his business's two biggest costs — are both priced in dollars.

Aggarwal said he's already been forced to hike his prices this year because of rising steel prices. Shipping costs, too, have spiraled since bottom-



Pedestrians pass a closing down shop in London, on Sept. 23, 2022.

ing out amid the depths of the coronavirus pandemic. The cost to ship a container from India to Britain has quadrupled since 2020 to about \$8,000 to \$9,000, he said.

His latest shipment is already en route in time for Christmas, but he's bracing for a price shock when he has to place his next order.

"We are affected because we're playing on a global scale," said Aggarwal. "So any future orders we now place, it's going to cost us 20% more."

Beyond Britain, the dollar has hammered many other world currencies, fueled by the U.S. economy performing better than others and aggressive Federal Reserve interest

rate hikes drawing investors. The dollar's strength also has pushed the euro below parity and sent China's yuan to a 14-year low. The U.S. Dollar Index, which measures the greenback against six other major currencies, has surged 18% this year.

Britain's Wine and Spirit Trade Association warned that the falling pound is "set to raise prices for consumers and threaten hundreds of British jobs in bottling plants across the U.K."

The trade group said a fifth of all bulk wine imported to the U.K. for bottling comes from the United States.

Miles Beale, the group's chief executive, said that although the government's

measures included "laudable" plans to freeze alcohol duties, "the pound tanking against the dollar has both usurped them and delivered a significant blow for U.K. wine businesses and consumers."

The mood of uncertainty has heightened since the government unveiled a plan to cut 45 billion pounds (\$48 billion) in taxes but no details on spending reductions, meaning they will be funding by public borrowing. Officials also want to spend billions more to subsidize steeply climbing energy bills for people and businesses.

The plans were met with widespread concern from economists and investors about ballooning government debt, and the International Monetary Fund warned that the moves could worsen inflation and the cost-of-living crisis.

The Bank of England has so far refrained from an emergency interest rate hike to offset the inflationary impact of the slide in the pound, but many expect the central bank to sharply raise rates soon.

That has sparked panic among many homeowners used to interest rates that have stayed low, at around 2%, for years. A sudden sharp rise in borrowing costs will make mortgages unaffordable for

many. Dee Corsi, chief executive of the New West End Company, a group representing hundreds of shops, hotels and restaurants in London's famous Oxford Street shopping district, said she is certain those worries will loom large for consumers.

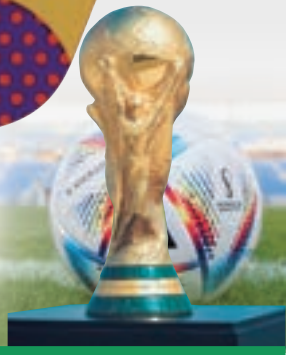
"We may benefit in the short term with a boost of tourists, especially from the U.S." because of the weaker pound, Corsi said.

"But in the long term, the lower pound will push up the cost of all imports for business," she added. "And with the cost-of-living crisis — we can't not talk about that — and with mortgages going up, I absolutely think people will be more cautious with their spending."

For some business owners, the Conservative Party's divisive economic plan might be alienating them in other ways, too.

Niazi, the fish and chip shop owner, is a Conservative Party voter but said he is disappointed in the government and "most probably" would not back the party in the next election.

"I don't know anything about running the country, but I know what the government is doing is hurting everybody," he said.



Playing in the World Cup was my goal from the start: Denmark's Eriksen



Christian Eriksen is starring for Denmark again after his cardiac arrest at UEFA EURO 2020. The Manchester United midfielder is set to be a key player at the upcoming FIFA World Cup. Eriksen tells FIFA about the highs and lows of his recovery and discusses Denmark's recent successes.

ALL 832 players at the FIFA World Cup will arrive in Qatar with the backing of a nation. Only one, perhaps, will take to the field with the support of the whole world. The last time we saw Christian Eriksen at a major tournament, after all, he was being resuscitated on the field after suffering a cardiac arrest at UEFA EURO 2020. A global TV audience watched, horrified, as Denmark's star player, in his own words, "died for five minutes" before the Parken paramedics succeeded in restarting his heart. Experts warned at the time that it was possible, even likely, that we would never see Eriksen play again. Remarkably, however, and having been fitted with an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD), he was back among the game's elite within nine months.



Denmark players gather around teammate and midfielder Christian Eriksen after he collapsed on the pitch during the UEFA EURO 2020 Group B match against Finland at the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen on June 12, 2021.

When a return to the national team followed soon after, he scored inside two minutes – with his first touch no less – and went on to crash home a brilliant goal in his first match at Parken Stadium since collapsing there. It is truly the stuff of football fairy tales, and the return of this much-admired midfielder playmaker to the global stage is sure to warm hearts everywhere. In this interview with FIFA, Eriksen explained that the World Cup was his target from the

earliest stage of his recovery, and relived the experience of watching Denmark reach the EURO semi-finals without him.

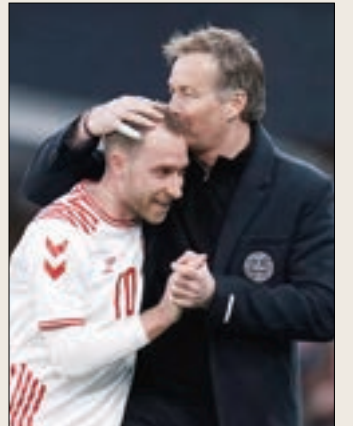
On memories of the EURO
 "After what happened to me, I was just at home watching the team play and seeing everyone having a party. I watched people in the streets, saw how well everything went and I was so annoyed that I couldn't be a part of it. After just a few days I felt as normal as possible, but I couldn't be a part of it all.

"At the same time, I didn't begrudge my team-mates the success at all. I still texted them and talked to them, trying my best to push them in the right direction while at the same time wishing I was there. I take my hat off to them that they managed to turn what happened into something positive and that it became about football in the end.

"Did it make my recovery easier or harder?"
 Harder, I think, because I was constantly reminded – there

was an article about it, or me, every day, so there wasn't an opportunity to shut down. After the EURO was finished I could say, 'Ok, now football is over and we can focus on the person and not much else.' While the tournament was on that was difficult."

On Denmark's impressive results in World Cup qualifying
 "We've been playing well and getting good results. Our good form continued after the EURO in pretty much all of our match-



Christian Eriksen with national team coach Kasper Hjulmand.

es and people were blown away by the attractive football we played and the number of goals we scored. It was nice to watch how well it went and see that the team was able to qualify for the World Cup so early."

On Kasper Hjulmand's impact as coach

"We have been able to build on what had been done by Age [Hareide, Denmark's previous coach], who was also going through a good phase. Since Kasper has joined the results have got even better, football-wise it has got even better and we have more people in the stadium – people who identify with us and support the team. "(Tactically) Age was perhaps more direct, whereas Hjulmand prefers ball possession. He also knows the young players who're coming into the squad very well and they know how to play under him, so it makes it easier for them to fall in line with the system. Those of us who have been with the team a while are all good players who know how to play football. Kasper has just helped push the last few things in the right direction."



AS Roma's Argentinian forward Paulo Dybala reacts, due to an injury, after scoring a penalty kicks during the Italian Serie A match between against Lecce at the Olympic stadium in Rome on Sunday. (AFP)

World Cup question marks for Argentine Dybala after injury

DPA
 ROME

PAULO Dybala injured himself on Sunday night while converting a penalty for Roma amid fears that the Argentina midfielder could be sidelined for a longer period and miss the World Cup.

Dybala injured his left thigh when he netted Roma's 2-1 Serie A winner over Lecce from the spot. He limped as he celebrated with team-mates and was then substituted.

Italian reports said that examinations Tuesday are to determine the nature of the injury

and how long Dybala would be sidelined. The World Cup in Qatar starts on November 20.

Roma coach Jose Mourinho said he was not too optimistic that Dybala could play again this year.

"I'll say it's not looking good, rather than say it's looking bad.

Unfortunately, it's probably looking closer to bad than it is to not good," he said.

"I am not a doctor and I have not talked with the doctor but, from experience and from what I've understood from speaking with Paulo, it's difficult (to see him play again in 2022)."

Ronaldo will keep on scoring: Ten Hag

PA MEDIA/DPA
 LONDON

ERIK ten Hag expects to see plenty more from Cristiano Ronaldo after his 700th career club goal got him off the mark in the league for this campaign and delivered a 2-1 win for Manchester United at Everton.

Ronaldo came off the bench to replace the injured Anthony Martial in the 29th minute at Goodison Park and 15 minutes later was celebrating a landmark strike after Antony had cancelled out Alex Iwobi's early goal with his third for United in as many Premier League appearances.

After a summer of transfer speculation Ronaldo continues to be linked with a move away from United this January amid frustration at playing a reduced role and a lack of Champions League football.

He had played only 207 minutes of Premier League action before this match and was left out of the starting XI again, but, after seeing him get off the mark for this campaign, Ten Hag talked up the 37-year-old's importance.

"That is really impressive," Ten Hag said. "When you score 700 goals, it's a huge performance. I'm really happy for him, I congratulate him on that performance and I'm also happy it's his first goal this season in the Premier League - he had to wait for it and I'm sure there will be more goals.

"I think every player needs it, even when you are the best in the world, you need it, you need the goals. I worked with many goal-scorers, especially them, they need goals in every season to have that feeling, to have the confirmation of the intuition.

"Once they have some goals they come in the flow and games go easier and that will happen



Manchester United's Portuguese striker Cristiano Ronaldo (R) celebrates scoring his team's second goal with teammate English striker Marcus Rashford during the English Premier League match against Everton at Goodison Park in Liverpool on Sunday. (AFP)

with him as well." United could and should have been in front before Ronaldo's 44th-minute intervention against a sloppy Everton side guilty of giving the ball away too many times.

When Ronaldo did come off the bench, Frank Lampard knew what was coming.

"It is outstanding, one of the greatest players that has graced the game in an era when we have had himself and [Lionel] Messi," the Everton boss said of Ronaldo's record.

"The comparison doesn't matter, they are both incredible players in football history. The numbers they have racked up, they are abnormal numbers that have become normal year after year. I don't know him

particularly well but you can do nothing but admire him.

"When he was on 699, I wanted him to score in the Europa League the other night because you knew what was coming at the weekend if he didn't." Everton contributed to their own downfall on a night from which Lampard said lessons must be learned, but for United it was vital they took advantage to show a response from last weekend's 6-3 derby defeat to Manchester City, with the win lifting them to fifth in the table.

"Criticism is normal when you have a defeat, especially in a big game, in a derby, so we have to deal with that and you learn lessons," Ten Hag said. "We did that, we responded

well, already on Thursday (a 3-2 Europa League win away to Omonia Nicosia) and today.

"The first 35 minutes were good in and out of possession. It was also good you deal with the setback, a goal against you, you are 1-0 down, but we respond much better by sticking to the plan, keep composed and doing your work, doing your job. To turn it around before half-time is good.

"In this moment, we collect the points. It's not looking at the table, we have to win every game - it's our aim. We have to improve the process, we have to prepare every game 100% and we demand from the players every game they give their best."

Quick read

Guardiola coy on whether Haaland will be rested

PEP Guardiola has given no clue as to whether he might rest star striker Erling Haaland in Manchester City's Champions League clash at FC Copenhagen. City thrashed the Danish champions 5-0, with Haaland scoring twice, in a one-sided encounter at the Etihad Stadium last week. Guardiola's side can secure a place in the last 16 with victory in the return fixture at the Parken Stadium on Tuesday. Yet with a trip to Liverpool to prepare for at the weekend, the City manager could be tempted to rotate his squad. (PA MEDIA/DPA)

Qatar coach Al Shafei looks to AFC U17 Cup 2023

Heaps praise on his boys on making AFC U17 Asian Cup 2023 finals

QFA
MUSCAT

QATARI coach Ibrahim Al Shafei heaped praises on his players for their resilience and outstanding performances in their AFC U17 Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers Group C campaign.

Qatar won the group after beating Iraq, Oman and Lebanon, in addition to a 1-1 draw against Bahrain.

Al Shafei was quoted following the 4-1 triumph over Lebanon on Sunday: "Of course, this is a continuation of the recent achievements for Qatari sports in general and football in particular, and we are a part of the Qatari football project for the upcoming years. These players took the big step towards the finals of the AFC U17 Asian Cup, which is definitely an achievement we secured through the teamwork of everyone involved. We congratulate Qatari clubs, the QFA, parents, and Aspire Academy - everyone



Qatar team and staff after winning the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers Group C campaign in Muscat on Sunday.

had a role in this achievement. But this is only the first step. We have a much more formidable challenge ahead: the road to the World Cup. We are taking it step by step until we reach our target."

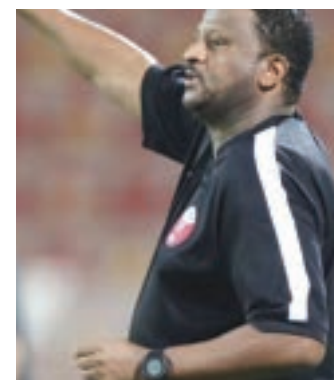
The young coach added: "As for our qualifying campaign, we were in a difficult group with

some Gulf teams like Oman, Bahrain, Iraq and also Lebanon. There were multiple favourites to go through as group winners. When we won our first game against a solid Iraqi side, it was a very strong start for us, even after the draw with Bahrain in the second game. We

were all confident that we could come back, and we came back very strongly against Oman, and today we completed our task in a big way against Lebanon. When you win against Iraq, Oman and Lebanon and draw with Bahrain, I think it's a very successful campaign. We

didn't have many negatives.

"I tell my boys that this is only the start. We have completed our first step, and we have many steps remaining in the near future, starting with the AFC U17 Asian Cup finals. A big future awaits in your sporting career. You must work hard



Qatari U17 coach Ibrahim Al Shafei.

and persevere on every small detail to improve both individually and as a group, and also focus on the mental aspect on and off the pitch. One step is done, but more essential steps remain ahead of us.

"We look forward to competing in the AFC U17 Asian Cup finals, not just participating. As we showed everyone, the team's level bodes well for the future, and we are going to the AFC U17 Asian Cup to compete for one of the top four spots that will take us to the U17 World Cup. This is what we want, it's our target, and we hope we can achieve it."

Bayern president in favour of extending Qatar Airways deal

Bayern Munich not fully satisfied with season so far in Bundesliga, says president Hainer

DPA
BERLIN

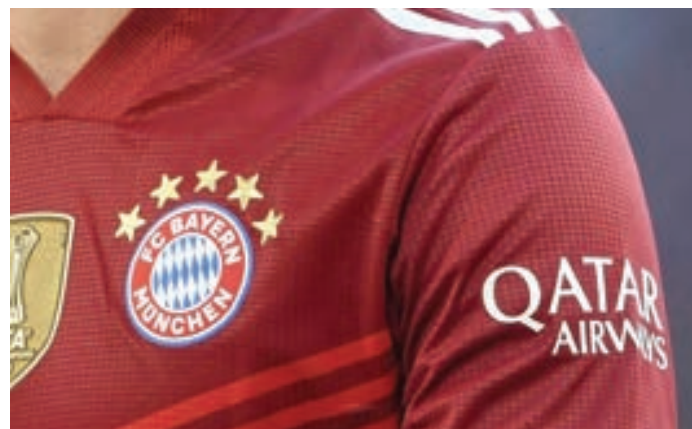
BAYERN Munich honorary president Uli Hoenes said he is in favour of extending the contract with their sponsor Qatar Airways despite criticism from fan groups.

"I'm in favour of extending it [the contract]. But I don't make the decisions, that's up to the board," he told broadcasters Bayerischer Rundfunk late Sunday.

Hoenes is a member of Bayern's supervisory board and, therefore, is also involved in important issues at the club through his office.

"The board of directors has to clarify this first. And then you have to ask whether the Qataris will extend it. Because after the theatrics in Europe in the last few years, it's not certain that they will extend the contract," he said.

The World Cup hosts Qatar has made significant strides in its human rights record.



Bayern Munich have shirt sponsorship with Qatar Airways

Qatar Airways and Bayern Munich had signed a sponsorship deal in 2018, making the national carrier a platinum partner until June 2023. The deal was also an extension of an agreement signed between the club and Hamad International Airport (HIA) in January 2016.

Bayern often holds winter training camps in Qatar.

This relationship has been long criticised by the fan scene and even caused a turbulent end to Bayern's general assembly last year.

Hoenes was recently criticised by Bayern fans due to his support to the club's partnership with Qatar.

Meanwhile, Bayern Mu-

nich are definitely not fully satisfied with their season so far despite a good performance in the Champions League, club president Herbert Hainer has said.

"We have performed well in the Champions League, winning all three games. Even against Inter Milan and Barcelona, who are more difficult opponents. But in the Bundesliga we are definitely not satisfied," Hainer told local broadcasters Bayerischer Rundfunk late Sunday.

Ten-time reigning champions Bayern sit third in the standings, trailing surprise leaders Union Berlin by four points, and have won only four of their nine league games so far.

The latest setback came on Saturday, when they conceded a late 2-2 draw against big rivals Borussia Dortmund.

"We have to get back on track immediately and score points in the Bundesliga to get back to the top," Hainer stressed.

Hainer specially criticized how the team has been wasting goal opportunities during the games.

"The team has to be more consistent. We aren't good enough, that's why we've dropped so many points that we shouldn't have," he said.

"That's annoying and we have to work on that." The absence of top scorer Robert Lewandowski, who moved to Barcelona, might explain why Bayern are missing so many chances. Hainer explained that signing a new striker, however, was not a matter of money, by a matter of finding the "right player on the market." There's not a lot of players like Lewandowski, who can score 30 goals in one season, the Munich president said.

But even amid a turbulent season, Hainer still backs Julian Nagelsmann, a "young, innovative and creative coach who has a great career ahead of him."



PSG President Nasser Al Khelaifi.

Qatar's Paris Saint Germain invest in Portuguese club Sporting Braga

DPA
MADRID

PARIS Saint-Germain's Qatari owners have agreed to buy a minority stake in Portuguese top flight club Sporting Braga.

Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) said on Monday an agreement to buy 21.67% of Braga's shares from Olivetedesportos SGPS was declared to Portuguese financial authorities.

The deal for an undisclosed fee is set to be completed over the next few months, QSI said.

Founded 101 years ago, Braga are currently third in the top flight and the biggest challenger of the big three of Porto, Benfica and Sporting.

They have won the Portuguese Cup three times, are regulars in the Europa League where they reached the final in

2011, but yet to win the Portuguese league.

"Braga is an exemplary Portuguese institution - with a proud history, enormous ambition and a reputation for excellence on and off the pitch," said QSI chairman Nasser Al Khelaifi who is also PSG president.

He added: "We look forward to the club innovating, growing and developing further." Braga president Antonio Salvador spoke of "a great day for our club, our fans and our city" as the partnership with QSI "will bring enormous value and help us deliver on our ambitious plans."

"We believe that this is the right shareholder to accelerate our growth and expansion, helping us deliver on our amazing potential as a club," he said.

Real's Courtois back for El Clasico, Benzema to return against Shakhtar

DPA
MADRID

REAL Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti expects goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois to return from injury in time for Sunday's Clasico clash with Barcelona.

Madrid ruled Courtois out for an undetermined period at the start of the month when they revealed he was suffering from sciatica.

That came shortly after the most recent international window, meaning Courtois has not played for Madrid since the 2-1 win at Atletico Madrid on September 18.

He has missed three games in all competitions and will also be absent when Madrid go to Warsaw to face Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League on Tuesday.

But crucially, Ancelotti's first-choice goalkeeper is predicted to be ready for Sunday's top-of-the-table duel with Barca at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"Courtois is much better," Ancelotti said on Monday.

"The plan is for him to start

training on Thursday and be ready for Sunday. We have spoken with him and he is much better." While Courtois will not feature in Poland, Karim Benzema is set to start.

The Frenchman was out for three weeks after sustaining a thigh injury in the Champions League win over Celtic last month before returning in the 1-1 draw with Osasuna on October 2.

Ancelotti acknowledged prior to the 1-0 weekend win over Getafe that Benzema was "a bit tired" and proceeded to leave him out for the short trip, but he will be back on Tuesday.

"Karim is fine and it's clear that tomorrow he starts, with [Toni] Kroos and [Ferland] Mendy, who are fresh and are going to play," Ancelotti said.

But Vinicius Junior, who has started all of Madrid's 12 games in all competitions this season, could be due a rest.

"Vini is one of the players that I have to evaluate because he has played everything before this trip. We have to evaluate him."

Messi to miss Benfica UCL clash, but star is close to return: Galtier assures

DPA
PARIS

LIONEL Messi will miss Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League clash with Benfica on Tuesday, but head coach Christophe Galtier expects the forward to return for next weekend's game with Marseille.

The Argentina international missed out on his side's ill-tempered Ligue 1 match with Reims over the weekend with a calf injury, and was forced to watch from the sidelines as they played out a goalless draw.

Hopes that the 35-year-old might return in time for the crucial European clash with their Portuguese visitors have been dashed now, too, with Messi set to miss out again.

But while Galtier confirmed he would be an expected absentee, he suggested that the attacker is close to a return to action, and could well feature in Le Classique on October 16. "Messi felt discomfort in his calf during the first game against Benfica," he stated. "He thought he could take part in



Paris Saint-Germain's French head coach Christophe Galtier (right) and midfielder Vitorinha attend a press conference at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris on October 10, 2022 on the eve of their UEFA Champions League match against Benfica. (AFP)

tomorrow's game, but in the end, he would be limited.

"He is better, but he still has an unpleasant feeling. He preferred to abstain. We will watch his recovery, but it is very likely that he will be present against Marseille."

Galtier acknowledged

losing Messi is a blow, with the Argentinian having rediscovered his form after a difficult first season with PSG following his exit from Barcelona, having scored five goals and added seven assists in Ligue 1 this term.

"We know the importance

of Leo to our game, his form and the connection he can have with the other players," Galtier added. "We cannot be happy with his absence."

"But we will have to find other solutions and other connections where we can bring danger to the Benfica defence."

Ujah gets 22-months ban for failed drug test at Tokyo 2020

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

CJ Ujah has been banned for 22 months after he failed a drugs test at last summer's Olympic Games.

Britain lost their 4x100 metres relay silver medal from Tokyo when Ujah tested positive for two prohibited substances.

However, Ujah, 28, was found not to have breached the sport's doping rules on purpose.

Ujah was tested on the day of the final in Tokyo - August 6 - and his sample contained the prohibited substances ostarine and S-23.

He will be allowed to return to competition when his backdated ban ends in June of next year.

A statement read: "The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) and World Anti-Doping Agency WADA were satisfied that the sprinter's anti-doping rule violation (ADRV) was not intentional as a result of his ingestion of a contaminated supplement and the applicable two-year period of ineligibility was reduced by two months on account of how promptly he admitted the violation."

AIU head Brett Clothier added: "In this case, after a thorough examination of the facts, we were satisfied that Mr Ujah did indeed ingest a contaminated supplement, but he was unable to demonstrate that he was entitled to any reduction in the applicable period of ineligibility based on his level of fault.

"Taking supplements is



Britain lost their 4x100 metres relay silver medal from Tokyo when CJ Ujah tested positive for two prohibited substances at the 2020 Olympic Games in Japan.

“Taking supplements is risky for athletes as they can be contaminated or even adulterated with prohibited substances. Athletes owe it to their fellow competitors to be 100 per cent certain before putting anything into their body. If there's the slightest doubt, leave it out.”

Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) head Brett Clothier

risky for athletes as they can be contaminated or even adul-

terated with prohibited substances. Athletes owe it to their

fellow competitors to be 100 per cent certain before putting anything into their body. If there's the slightest doubt, leave it out."

Ujah was part of the British quartet which missed out on gold to Italy in Tokyo by 0.01 seconds.

Ujah said he would "regret for the rest of his life" the pain his case had inflicted on his team-mates Zharnel Hughes, Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake and Richard Kilty after they were forced to give up their silver medals.

Speaking earlier this year, Kilty said he would never be able to forgive his former team-mate.

"What he [Ujah] has done has been reckless," said Kilty, 33. "Everything has been a team effort to get to that position to be part of the British 4x100 strike four.

"Now he's made that mistake I don't think I'll ever be able to forgive him because me, Zharnel and Nethaneel have lost a medal at the hands of his mistakes.

"CJ is ultimately going to be the one who is going to get banned himself - it is affecting his own career, but again we've worked so, so, so hard.

"We finally reached the pinnacle and won an Olympic medal, and then we lose it because one person has just been sloppy with what's gone into their body. It's heartbreaking."

Britain's men's 4x100m squad finished behind Canada and the United States to take bronze at the World Championships in Eugene in July.



Officials address a press conference ahead of the Qatar Schools Football Festival which begins on Tuesday.

Stage set for start of 4th Schools Football Festival ahead of World Cup

QFA
DOHA

KHALED Mubarak Al Kuwari, Director of Marketing and Communication, on behalf of the Qatar Football Association (QFA), participated in a press conference organized by Al Yarmouk Preparatory School on Sunday to announce the launch of the fourth and final Schools Festival to be held under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Qatar 2022.

The conference was attended by Ibrahim Al Aidan, director of Yarmouk Preparatory School, and Nageeb Saeed Juma Al Hatami, the general supervisor of the initiative which is implemented by the security department under the Department of Security of Facilities and Organizations at the Ministry of Interior, and Ahmad Yusuf Abul Al Fin Al-Khaber Al Turbawi at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

The fourth festival will start on Tuesday at Al Yarmouk School with the participation of 32 schools, which is the exact number of teams featuring at the Qatar World Cup 2022, and it will include many activities that will be offered by the participating organizations with the schools when the World Cup is staged.

"We, at QFA, strive to establish the concept of football - through this festival - among school students, and the presence of this number of schools and students will honour the partnership between the sports and educational sector and the festival as a wonderful opportunity to support our team in the World Cup 2022 as a national obligation for all," Al Kuwari said.

"The festival will be divided into three sections. The first section will involve 32 schools in the football tournament, divided into eight groups similar

The festival will be divided into three sections. The first section will involve 32 schools in the football tournament, divided into eight groups similar to the World Cup groups. The second part is sports presentations, in addition to the guidelines for the World Cup through this initiative to educate students about the security of stadiums and safety procedures.

Khaled Mubarak Al Kuwari, Director of Marketing & Communication, Qatar Football Association (QFA)



to the World Cup groups.

"The second part is sports presentations, in addition to the guidelines for the World Cup through this initiative to educate students about the security of stadiums and safety procedures," Khalid Al Kuwari said during the press conference.

"The fourth festival will end all the activities involving the students. It will be hosted by Ahmed Bin Muhammad High School for Boys in cooperation with the Qatari Football Federation's Referee Committee. The second event was the sports competition "for elementary and model stage" in cooperation with the Qatar Women's Sports Committee," he said.

Raducanu named for Billie Jean King Cup

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

EMMA Raducanu has been named in Britain's team for the Billie Jean King Cup Finals in Glasgow next month despite concerns over a wrist injury.

The British number one has ended her WTA Tour season because of the problem, pulling out of tournaments in Romania and Mexico, but no decision has yet been made about the 12-country event, which begins on November 8 at the Emirates Arena.

Raducanu made her debut in the tournament in April's qualifier against the Czech Re-

public, beating Tereza Martincova but losing heavily to Marketa Vondrousova amid more struggles with blisters.

The 19-year-old is joined in the team by Harriet Dart, Katie Boulter and Heather Watson, with a fifth player to be added at a later date. Britain will take on Kazakhstan and Spain in group matches at the World Cup-style event, with the winner of the pool going through to the semi-finals.

Despite losing to the Czechs, they were awarded a place in the finals as host nation, elevating them to the top level of the tournament for the first time since 1993.



Red Bull found guilty of 'minor' breach of F1 financial regulations

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

RED Bull have been found guilty of breaking Formula One's financial rules.

F1's governing body, the FIA, finally confirmed on Monday that the team, which last year carried Max Verstappen to a deeply controversial championship win over Lewis Hamilton, exceeded the sport's \$126 million budget cap.

Red Bull are in breach of overspending by less than 5%, a so-called "minor" breach of the regulations. But the sporting federation did not provide an exact figure by how much the team failed to comply.

Sources have indicated to the PA news agency that the number is no more than \$2 million. However, the lack of transparency in the FIA's release is likely to anger not just Hamilton's Mercedes team, with the FIA's verdict arriving 302 days after the sport's contentious winner-takes-all finale in Abu Dhabi, but Red Bull too.

The punishments available to the FIA for a minor breach range from a reprimand, to a fine, to a deduction of drivers' championship points. The use of the latter would have an impact on last season's result.

Red Bull were the only team to go beyond the cost cap, with

Aston Martin and Williams adjudged to have made procedural breaches.

A statement from the sporting federation read: "The FIA cost cap administration has issued certificates of compliance to seven of the 10 competitors.

"The review of the reporting documentation submitted has been an intensive and thorough process, and all competitors gave their full support in providing the required information to assess their financial situation during this first year of the financial regulations.

Responding to Monday's verdict, Red Bull said in a statement: "We note the findings by the FIA of 'minor overspend breaches of the financial regulations' with surprise and disappointment.

"Our 2021 submission was below the cost cap limit, so we need to carefully review the FIA's findings as our belief remains that the relevant costs are under the 2021 cost cap amount. "Despite the conjecture and position of others, there is of course a process under the regulations with the FIA which we will respectfully follow while we consider all the options available to us."

Verstappen, crowned champion of the world for a second time at Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix.

LIV Golf Bangkok \$4mn title for Lopez-Chacarra

STATS PERFORM/DPA

EUGENIO Lopez-Chacarra claimed the LIV Golf Bangkok title after carding a final-round 69 to win by three strokes on a weather-affected final day.

The 22-year-old took a five-shot lead into the final round and did enough to hold off late charges from the likes of Patrick Reed and Paul Casey, the latter of whom will be left to rue an opening round of 71 after shooting 65 on both the second and third days.

Nobody bettered Lopez-Chacarra's first and second rounds of 65 and 63 respectively, and he overcame two bogies on the front nine to finish three under on the final day and seal victory, maintaining his focus despite play being suspended for an hour and a half because of a storm in the area.

The Spaniard was a high-ranked amateur before joining the controversial Saudi-backed tour in June and now earns his first professional championship, as well as a \$4million purse.

Richard Bland and Branden Grace formed part of a leading trio with Lopez-Chacarra on seven under after the opening round, but Grace withdrew with injury on Saturday while Bland could not follow up his first-day success, losing pace on the eventual winner to finish joint-third - alongside Casey



Eugenio Lopez-Chacarra during the event.

and Sihwan Kim and a stroke behind second-placed Reed.

Four-time major champion Brooks Koepka was joint-eighth at 13 under, while Bryson DeChambeau ended 14th at 10 under.

Other big names were way off the pace, with Phil Mickelson 10 shots behind Lopez-Chacarra and 2022 Open Championship winner Cameron Smith finishing a disappointing tournament tied for 41st at four under.

'Crazy' not to award LIV Golf players ranking points: DeChambeau Earlier, Bryson DeChambeau said it is "crazy" that LIV Golf players have been denied the

opportunity to earn world ranking points.

Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) on Thursday announced that no points will be up for grabs at the events in Bangkok or Jeddah next week despite a new alliance between LIV Golf and the MENA Tour being formed on Wednesday.

Players on the Dubai-based MENA Tour have been able to earn points since 2016, but OWGR refused to award points for the two remaining LIV Golf events this year as they stated that insufficient notice had been given for a customary necessary review of the changes to be carried out.

That has not gone down well with 2020 US Open De-

Chambeau, who was among the big names to turn their back on the PGA Tour and join the Saudi-backed breakaway series.

"They're delaying the inevitable," the American said after his first round in Bangkok on Friday. "We've hit every mark in their criteria, so for us not to get points is kind of crazy with having the top - at least I believe we have the top players in the world.

"Not all of them, but we certainly believe that there's enough that are in the top 50 and we deserve to be getting world ranking points.

"When they [OWGR] keep holding it back, they're going to just keep playing a waiting game where we're going to keep dropping down in the rankings to where our points won't even matter.

"That's what they're trying to accomplish, and I hope that people can see right through that rather than believe the lies that they've been told. From my perspective, I think we deserve points."

Four-time major winner Brooks Koepka accused OWGR of "sitting on the fence".

"I don't think it [the OWGR statement] really was much of a response," Koepka said. "I just hate when you sit on the fence. Just pick a side. If it's yes or no, just pick one. I'm not a big fan of that."

Qatar ready to host World Judo Championships – Doha 2023

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE delegation of organizing committee of the World Judo Championship – Doha 2023 visited Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to attend the 2022 World Judo Championships in the Uzbekistani capital this month.

The delegation, headed by Eid Al Muraikhi – Chairman of the Sports Committee at the World Judo Championships – Doha 2023, was briefed on the experience of the host city of the 2022 edition to enhance knowledge transfer in preparation for the upcoming event in Doha.

Eid Al Muraikhi lauding the level of the current edition in Tashkent on both organizational and technical levels, said “We were briefed, over the last few days, on Tashkent experi-



A delegation of organizing committee of the World Judo Championship – Doha 2023 visited Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to attend the 2022 World Judo Championships this month.

ence in this event which served as a window through which we have followed all the elements and sections of event organiza-

tion and the visit will help us deliver a perfect edition next year.”

Most notably, the Interna-

tional Judo Federation (IJF) have praised Qatar's preparations to host 2023 edition of World Judo Championships.

The IJF President Marius Vizer confirmed that the IJF will support the Qatar Judo Federation in organizing and

exceptional edition of the world championships, especially after organizing 2021 Judo World Masters in Doha.



Double joy for Pakistan: To host New Zealand for a two-Test tour

ICC

PAKISTAN'S quest to reach the ICC World Test Championship final will go up a gear when the Asia side host New Zealand for a two-match Test series at the end of the year.

The Kiwis will be the third team to tour Pakistan in 2022 when they travel to South Asia in December, following successful series earlier this year against Australia and England.

The Pakistan Cricket Board announced on Monday that the first Test against New Zealand will start on December 27 in Karachi, with the second and final Test in Multan from January 4.

Pakistan currently sit in fifth place on the World Test Championship standings and will likely need to win the majority of their remaining five Test matches this period if they are to feature in next year's final.

Babar Azam's side host England for three Tests at the start of December, before they take on Kane Williamson's team in a pair of Test matches over the New Year.

New Zealand will also play three ODI in Pakistan in mid-January and return to the country in April for a total of 10 white-ball fixtures across a four-week period that are included to make-up for the abandoned tour from September last year.

PCB Director of International Cricket Zakir Khan is already looking forward to New Zealand's return to the country. “New Zealand is one of the



Pakistan players line up for the national anthems during the second Twenty20 tri-series match against New Zealand at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Saturday. (AFP)

SCHEDULE: TESTS, ODIS AND T20IS

First Test: 27-31 December	- Karachi	First T20I: 13 April	- Karachi	First ODI: 26 April	- Lahore
Second Test: 4-8 January	- Multan	Second T20I: 15 April	- Karachi	Second ODI: 28 April	- Lahore
First ODI: 11 January	- Karachi	Third T20I: 16 April	- Karachi	Third ODI: 1 May	- Rawalpindi
Second ODI: 13 January	- Karachi	Fourth T20I: 19 April	- Karachi	Fourth ODI: 4 May	- Rawalpindi
Third ODI: 15 January	- Karachi	Fifth T20I: 23 April	- Lahore	Fifth ODI: 7 May	- Rawalpindi

high-performing sides and the more we will play against the top teams in our backyard, the better we will get as a unit, which is crucial to our objective of featuring inside the top-three across all formats,” he said.

“The New Zealand matches will also provide opportunities to our youngsters to continue to watch and follow their fa-

vourite players in action, something they have missed when we were forced to play our international cricket offshore.”

And it's no surprise that the valuable World Test Championship points are high on the agenda for Pakistan and Zakir.

“Three Tests against England followed by two Tests versus New Zealand over six weeks will give us a chance to

strengthen our claims for a place in the ICC World Test Championship final,” he said.

“The eight ODIs will help us to prepare for September's Asia Cup and October's 50-over ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

“As such, the series against New Zealand will not only be from the top drawer but will also have context, making it something to watch out for.”

Margins are close in T20Is, we respect Pakistan as a team, says Ashwin

ANI
PERTH (AUSTRALIA)

AHEAD of India's blockbuster ICC T20 World Cup 2022 campaign opener clash against Pakistan, veteran Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has said margins are extremely close in the shortest format of the game and both arch-rivals respect each other as teams.

India will begin their T20 World Cup campaign against Pakistan on October 23 at Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

“It is a game of cricket. We do not play them (Pakistan) a lot. This rivalry is big and means a lot to people from both nations. But wins and losses are part of the game. Especially in this format, margins are gonna be close. We respect Pakistan as a team and so do they,” said Ashwin in a press conference after India's practice match against Western Australia.

The spinner said that the game against Western Australia was a good one.

“By the time the first game of the tournament comes, you have to be completely sure about the conditions,” he added.

India defeated Western Australia by 13 runs in the practice match leading up to the World Cup.

A half-century from Suryakumar Yadav (52) and cameos from Hardik Pandya (27) and Deepak Hooda (22) powered India to 158/6 in their 20 overs.

Jason Behrendorff (2/26) was the star with the ball for WA in the match.

Pacers Arshdeep Singh (3/6) Bhuvneshwar Kumar

(2/26) destroyed WA's top order, reducing them to 12/4. Sam Fanning (59) and wicket-keeper Cameron Bancroft (22) did put up some decent scores but the hosts fell 13 runs short of a win.

Ashwin said that the Men in Blue are currently in the process of acclimatization and getting used to bounce and pace in Perth and youngsters and new players in the team will benefit from it.

Asked if previous wins in Australia have given them confidence, the spinner said, “Confidence is a big thing in this game. When you have some good memories in a particular place, you come there backing yourself.”

“The last Test series against Australia here went our way, we will hook on to it, but we also played some good white-ball cricket here. This is something we all can draw from. We will look to make a quick adaptation in Perth.”

“There is no better place than this for that purpose, the bounce is steep and the speed is also quite up there.”

On India's recent woes in death over bowling, Ashwin pointed out that while it is fair to point out the beating Indian bowlers have received in the final few overs, the boundaries in India are closer to the 30-yard circle but they are bigger in Australia.

Ashwin said that the team received a great reception in Perth. “There was an Indian festival happening in the park, near to where we are staying. It is a home away from home to us,” he added.

Quick read

Mandhana becomes second Indian eve to play 100 T20Is

SYLHET (Bangladesh): India's Smriti Mandhana on Monday became only the second Indian player to complete 100 matches

in T20I cricket. Mandhana accomplished this feat in her side's match against Thailand in Women's Asia Cup 2022 at Sylhet. Besides her, Indian skipper Harmanpreet Kaur is the only player from her country to play 100 T20I matches or more. So far, Harmanpreet has played 135 T20I internationals for India and scored 2,647 at an average of 27.28. One century and eight half centuries have come out of her bat in the shortest format. She has also taken 32 wickets for India in this format. In her 100 appearances so far, Mandhana has scored 2,373 runs at an average of 26.96. 17 half-centuries have been scored by this stylish left-hander, with the best individual score of 86.

Most T20I matches have been played by New Zealand veteran Suzie Bates (136), followed by Harmanpreet (135), England's Danielle Wyatt (135), Alyssa Healy of Australia (132), West Indies Deandra Dottin (127). (ANI)

Absorbing action marks Qatar National Sprint Round 5

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Qatar National Sprint 2022 Championship table toppers Mansour Chebli (O1), Abdulla Al Ghedaïd (O3), Nadim Ziade (P1), Maher Serre (P2) and Francesco Fornaciari (P3) extended their leads following victories in the penultimate round of the popular series held at Lusail Circuit Sports Club.

Lebanese driver Mansour won the Open Class 1 while Qatar's Nadim Ziade topped the Production Class 1 to get closer to the Championship titles in their respective classes.

Mansour won the Open Class 1 after clocking a time of 1:13.527 in his Renault Clio while Ziade came second in 1:23.901.

Bassam Chebli was third with a time of 1:44.316.

Driving a Renault Clio RS, Ziade was the fastest in Production Class 1, clocking a time of 1:17.750, ahead of Mansour Chebli and Bassam Chebli who finished second and third respectively. Ziade leads Mansour by just seven points in the standings, with the latter aiming for a double in the final round which will take place on October 22.

Meanwhile, Qatari driver Maher Serre clinched the Production Class 2 title with one



Winners in various categories of Open Class and Production Class of the Qatar National Sprint 2022 Championship in the fourth and penultimate round with their trophies at the Lusail Circuit Sports Club.

more round to go. Driving a Porsche Cayman GTS, Serre clinched his fifth win in a row and took his points tally to 125. His closest rival Aleksandar Jokic sits 25 points behind him after securing the second place

in the fifth round. Jad Alawar won the third place in P2 Class on Friday.

Francesco Fornaciari also secured his Production Class 3 title following his fifth consecutive win which earned him

an unassailable 38-point lead. Abdulla Ali Al Abbasi came second in Round 5 while Hassan Ali Abbasi completed the podium.

In Open Class O2, Amro Abdulla won the contest ahead

of Championship leader Jad Alawar. Ziad Eddin was third.

Al Ghedaïd was the sole contestant in O3. He completed his fastest lap in 1:19.953.

Melina Jokic won the women's event in 1:36.315.



Sir Mo Farah unveils the England bench

Continued from page 1

THE initiative's goal is to demonstrate the importance of mental health and offer advice on ways to promote mental well-being, including through physical activities and sports.

English athlete Sir Mo Farah, whose 10 Olympic and World Championship gold medals make him the most successful male track distance runner ever, inaugurated the England bench, where he was joined by HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, Vice Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation, for a conversation about sport and mental health -- a symbolic recognition of the initiative.

"Meeting Sir Mo and hearing the compelling story of how he left Mogadishu for London as a young boy and the mental health challenges he faced highlighted the importance of sitting down and talking about our mental health," Sheikha Hind said. "I'm proud that Qatar Foundation's global health initiative is among those helping shine a spotlight on mental health in such an innovative and practical way."

The benches project aligns with common goals and campaigns of each of partner organization, including the FIFA-WHO #REACHOUT campaign, the "Are You OK?" project of the MoPH, Qatar, and the groundbreaking Friendship Benches project itself, originally developed in Zimbabwe and supported by WHO.

The WISH event has in the past also been used as a platform to promote the Friendship Benches concept. This

initiative also aims at promoting physical activity as one of the key outcomes of the Sport and Health project. To this end a special feature appearing on each bench are illustrations with advice describing easy and effective exercises that visitors can practice for their physical health.

Minister of Public Health HE Dr Hanan Mohammed Al Kuwari said the benches project was a tangible, lasting symbol of the importance of the Sport for Health partnership and the goals it is striving to achieve for the upcoming FIFA World Cup in Qatar -- the first held in the Middle East and Arab world -- and the legacy WHO and the MoPH are working to leave.

"The bench is a simple yet powerful vehicle for promoting mental health, from park benches where people gather to football stadiums where players and staff watch their teams play for the joy and promise of sport and success," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy Secretary General Hassan Al Thawadi said the benches will provide a permanent reminder of the first World Cup in the Middle East and Arab world, while promoting the importance of mental health in communities throughout the country.

Final locations of each of the 32 benches will be announced shortly. Once installed, information will be shared on how residents of Qatar and visitors will be able to visit their national benches, and others, in a show of support for mental and physical health promotion.

Qatar's diplomatic missions promote FIFA WC Qatar 2022

QNA
DOHA

DIPLOMATIC missions of Qatar have been organising a slew of events abroad to promote the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

In Bern, the Embassy of Qatar in Switzerland held a reception to promote the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, with the participation of a large number of officials, lawmakers, media professionals and athletes, in addition to representatives of the FIFA and the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC), heads of diplomatic missions and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Switzerland, particularly those teams will participate in the championship.

In his speech at the ceremony, Ambassador of Qatar to Switzerland HE Mohamed bin Jaham Al Kuwari stressed the role football plays in building bridges of communication among different peoples and cultures.

The Embassy of Qatar in



Turkey also organised a promotional event in Ankara. The event was attended by Minister of Youth and Sports of Turkey Dr Mehmet Kasapoglu, Ambassador of Qatar to Turkey HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Nasser bin Jassim Al Thani and a number of officials, heads and representatives of the Arab diplomatic corps accredited to Turkey.

The event included various sports activities and other engagements in honour of orphans. In a speech on the occasion, ambassador of Qatar to Turkey expressed his pride in

hosting the championship and stressed that this occasion does not concern Qatar alone, but football fans worldwide, stressing that the world would see Qatar organising a distinguished World Cup.

He added that the events organised by the embassy are part of the promotion of the tournament, inviting the Turkish people to visit Qatar and enjoy the historic tournament.

The Embassy of Qatar in the Philippines held a party in the City of Mandaluyong to promote the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The event was attended by Vice-President and Secretary of Education of the Philippines Sara Duterte, Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Benjamin Abalos Jr., Ambassador of Qatar to the Philippines HE Dr Ali bin Ibrahim Al Malki, Mandaluyong Mayor Benjamin Abalos Sr. and other officials, along with a large crowd of the city's residents. During the ceremony, officials delivered speeches and handed out souvenirs to school students in Mandaluyong. The event also featured various musical shows.

Katara unveils its events for FIFA WC Qatar 2022 season

QNA
DOHA

THE Cultural Village Foundation (Katara) announced on Monday its events associated with FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

General Manager of Katara Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim Al Sulaiti said the foundation is set to organise 51 events, including 300 sub-events with the participation of 22 countries from November 18 to December 18, 2022. The events are distributed among five key branches, including festivals, ceremonies, exhibitions, live presentations and events, he told a press conference.

Katara will attend the global tournament with a wide spectrum of cultural, artistic and heritage innovation, he said. The landmark event, which the State of Qatar is honoured to host as the first Arab and Middle East country, represents an exceptional opportunity to demonstrate the bright side of the Qatari authentic culture and traditions. It would offer the people of the world an opportunity to get a glimpse of the Qatari culture, values and communities. Katara aspires to accomplish this through its events associated with this global tournament, he explained.

Dr. Khalid Ibrahim Al Sulaiti pointed out that Katara will unveil activities and cultural steadfast movements that contribute to highlighting the Qatari culture and its identity to the visitors. He noted that the most



prominent events associated with FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 include the organisation of the second edition of the international festival of Katara's traditional bearings. It represents a vibrant heritage that provides the legacy of grandparents and ancestors, and highlights their life details to demonstrate the cultural repertoire and popular heritage for the tournament guests. Besides, the festival of street arts will be held in all Katara venues to offer an opportunity for the artists, actors and musicians to freely perform in front of the audience, individually or collectively.

He indicated that Katara audience will stay tuned for concerts performed by global musicians from Argentina, the UK and Arab countries, because music is a global common language among all people, adding that Katara will likewise hold artistic exhibitions and events from Paraguay, Dominican, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, Mexico, Indonesia and Iran.

With regard to the Arab

heritage, he indicated that there are exhibitions of ceramics, the Arabic lute, and the arts of Arabic calligraphy, as well as activities for children. He pointed out that Katara has been keen on the presence of books on this international occasion, by launching 22 books about FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 at Katara Publishing House in Arabic and English languages. There will also be book-related events with the participation of all Qatari publishing houses, which will converge under one ceiling, in addition to the activities of the Clock Club, the Novel Centre, Kahraman Centre and others.

Dr Al Sulaiti told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the announcement of the World Book Day in France is expected on October 14, 2022, based on the request submitted by the Cultural Village Foundation in 2016 in coordination with the rest of the Arab countries to provide a pioneering initiative to give the Arabic novel its place in the Arab and international cultural scene in general.

SC, stakeholders organise simulation exercise as WC Qatar preparations are on



TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) and countrywide stakeholders held a simulation exercise in preparation for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The exercise was held to practise and improve communication, coordination and operations integration between countrywide stakeholders ahead of the tournament, which will be held from November 20 to December 18.

Participants were tasked with managing a range of scenarios, including major and minor incidents that could happen during the tournament. They took part in verbal briefings, telephone calls and received written documents. The aim was to simulate a regular match day in real time.

The objectives of the exer-



cise were to practise joint coordination across the tactical-strategic environment, confirm the routine information flow, including issue escalation, processes and thresholds, understand common and agreed event plans, and establish clear roles and responsibilities.

The simulation will be followed by a full debrief for relevant stakeholders.

Eng Yasir Al Jamal, SC director-general, said: "We are now in the final stages of preparing for the biggest sporting event ever to be held in our country and region. The objective of this exercise is to transition from a planning to operations mindset. We thank our valued stakeholders for supporting this initiative as we build up to the tournament."

British Embassy hosts reception to mark Street Child World Cup 2022

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

TO mark the fourth edition of the Street Child World Cup 2022 (SCWC 2022), the British Ambassador to the State of Qatar, HE Jon Wilks CMG welcomed the 28 teams of the SCWC 2022 to a reception held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, on October 10.

Around 500 guests joined the reception, including ambassadors of the qualifying nations, Co-

Founder and CEO of UK Charity 'Street Child United' John Wroe, and representatives from Qatar Foundation, to celebrate the power of sport to provide a global platform for street children.

HE Jon Wilks CMG said: "My Embassy and I have been delighted in recent years to support the fourth Street Child World Cup in Doha. We have been inspired by the participating children from all over the world, impressed with the organisation of the event by UK

Charity Street Child United and honoured by the huge support received from Qatar Foundation and all our Qatari friends who have played a part in making this great event happen.

"The positive impact of the Street Child World Cup on the participating children and advocates of the cause of Street Children I have no doubt will be an important part of the legacy of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. We will be cheering all the Street Child teams on in the next

The SCWC 2022, hosted in partnership with QF, welcomes 28 teams from 25 countries for a week of football, art and child-friendly congress sessions to shine a spotlight on the world's most vulnerable children

few days and wishing them all the best as stars of the future."

John Wroe said: "We say the whole world conspires to make

the SCWC happen and so much of that has to do with the partners that support us.

"From the beginning of our journey to Qatar the British Ambassador, Jon Wilks CMG and his team have been invaluable friends; hosting us, supporting us, and connecting us to new friends. We are extremely grateful for all their support."

The Street Child World Cup 2022, hosted in partnership with Qatar Foundation, welcomes 28 teams from 25

countries for a week of football, art and child-friendly congress sessions to shine a spotlight on some of the world's most vulnerable children.

Countries represented at the SCWC 2022 are Bangladesh, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burundi, Colombia, Egypt, England, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Palestine, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Sudan, Syrian Forum, Tanzania, Uganda, USA, and Zimbabwe.