The Qatar Airways global network will also accept passengers travelling from five destinations – Luanda (LAD), Angola; Lusaka (LUN), Zambia; and Harare (CPT), Durban (DUR), South Africa; Johannesburg (JNB), Capetown (CPT), Durban (DUR) and Marseille (MRS), France – based on the latest advice from the World Health Organization (WHO). We will continue to review the situation on a daily basis as more information becomes available,” the airline said.

The airline will also continue to suspend flights to or from Belgium, Botswana, Israel and Hong Kong.

On December 28, 2021, the WHO had authorised the new Covid-19 Omicron variant, which was first detected in South Africa. Initially, countries with reported cases saw travel restrictions being imposed, leading to financial market fluctuations. Even though the WHO delayed designating it as a variant of concern, financial market reactions were already triggered.

The country's health authorities continued to review the situation, and traffic curbs were imposed. Qatar Airways announced that passengers from South Africa would not be accepted for travel until further notice.

On December 28, after realizing the new situation, the airline had suspended flights to and from South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. It has since suspended all flights from these destinations, except for the US and UK, as a protective measure.

On January 1, 2022, the airline extended its travel curbs to Botswana, Eswatini, and Zimbabwe, suspending flights from these countries until further notice. It also suspended flights to and from Angola, Zambia, and South Africa, as well as from the UK to Bahrain.

The airline stated that it would continue to monitor the situation closely and take appropriate actions as necessary.
Shura delegation participates in session of IPU Council

The Shura Council participated in the session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Governing Council, which was held in Madrid, Spain. The Council was represented by HE the Speaker of the Shura Council, and HE the chairperson of the Permanent Committee on Human Rights. The Council expressed its support for the work of international institutions and its commitment to the values and norms of international law.

The Shura Council took part in human rights meeting at IPU event

The Shura Council participated in the meeting of the Committee on Human Rights and the Implementation of the International Human Rights Covenant of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The Council expressed its commitment to promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and its support for the work of international human rights institutions.

Contribution of Qatari women highlighted at IPU meeting

The Shura Council participated in the meeting of the committee on the Participation of Women in the Work of Parliamentarians and the Elections of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The Council expressed its commitment to promoting the participation of women in political and public life, and its support for the work of international institutions in this area.

Commercial Bank, first Qatari bank to win “Best in Social Media Marketing & Services” in the World

The Bank dedicates this award to its amazing team members who continuously strive to fulfill its goals, and to its loyal customers for their trust in banking with Commercial Bank.
Kahramaa launches new platform to support cut in energy consumption

The Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (Kahramaa), represented by the National Programme for Conservation and Energy Efficiency (Tarsheed) in co-operation with Japanese company Marubeni, has launched a smart platform for energy efficiency.

According to an official Kahramaa press statement yesterday, the new platform helps Kahramaa subscribers develop an efficient domestic energy consumption pattern to achieve the targeted reduction for each consumer.

In compliance with Tarsheed’s sustainability goals and in order to reduce harmful carbon emissions and conserve electricity resources, the programme helps all subscribers to achieve an efficient domestic energy consumption pattern, work towards energy efficiency and save on their monthly bill. It can be used via the link - https://mytarsheed.com/.

The subscriber only has to enter his/her electricity number in the user name field. The link contains a user guide as well as an awareness film that guides the user step by step to clarify everything related to the platform.

The application is currently available in English in its first phase, and work is under way to launch the Arabic version in the next phase.

Subscribers who use the platform can also collect a number of sustainability points, which they can exchange for incentives and benefits from specific points that Tarsheed will announce later in co-operation with a number of friendly institutions and Tarsheed's partners.

A short text message has been sent from Kahramaa to all its registered subscribers to activate the platform, numbering some 157,000 messages for the residential sector.

The platform comes within the framework of the efforts made by Kahramaa, represented by Tarsheed, to achieve environmental sustainability in accordance with Qatar National Vision 2030, the global sustainable development goals and the Qatar National Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

HE the Assistant Foreign Minister Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met yesterday via video-conferencing with Norwegian ambassador to Qatar Sten Arne Rosnes. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and ways to enhance them, in addition to Qatar’s role in Afghanistan and its continuous support for the Afghan people. The ambassador extended his country’s thanks to Qatar for its role in promoting stability in Afghanistan and its assistance in evacuating Norwegian and Afghan citizens from Afghanistan. The two parties also discussed the incident of encroachment by two Norwegian citizens (journalists) on private property and filming it, without prior permission and without informing the owner of the private property. In this context, HE AlKhater expressed Qatar’s disappointment with the announcement from the Norwegian side, noting that all official statements about the incident did not address the deliberate infringement of private property by the journalist. She stressed the need for the Norwegian embassy in Doha to inform its citizens, who visit the country, about the laws and regulations and the need to adhere to them.
Amir sends message to chief of Ciadienne Military Council

A delegation of Qatar, chaired by HE the Special Envoy of the Foreign Minister for Crisis Management and Humanitarian Affairs, and led by Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, Foreign Minister, arrived on Sunday in Chad, and met on Monday with Lieutenant-General Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, the President of Chad, to discuss the situation in the Horn of Africa and bilateral relations. Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani has sent a message of support to Mahamat Idriss Deby related to bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to support and develop them.

High-level Qatari-Afghan meeting reviews efforts to restore stability

Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, Foreign Minister, met with the caretaker Afghan government on Tuesday at the Qatari embassy in Kabul to discuss the situation in Afghanistan and ways to support and enhance security and stability in Afghanistan.

QFF, QRCS ink pacts to provide aid for Syrians

Qatar Fund for Development (QFF) and Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) have signed two grant agreements, in order to provide essential winterisation aid for tens of thousands of families, and to support the efforts of the Syrian authorities in implementing the QFF’s grant agreements, in order to provide essential winterisation aid for tens of thousands of families, and to support the efforts of the Syrian authorities in implementing the QFF’s grant agreements.

QFF signs MoU with Guatemala for education

Qatar Fund for Development (QFF) signed an MoU with Guatemala’s Ministry of Education in a co-operation with its strategic partner Education Above All (EAA) Foundation to support basic education for out-of-school children in Guatemala.

Qatar reports 155 new Covid cases

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported yesterday 140 new confirmed cases of Covid-19 among the community and 15 new cases among travellers. The MoPH recorded 121 recoveries from new confirmed cases of Covid-19 among the community and 15 new cases among travellers. The MoPH recorded 121 recoveries from new confirmed cases of Covid-19.
WISE addresses world’s critical education issues ahead of 2021 summit

World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), a Qatar Foundation education think tank, has released 10 timely and comprehensive research reports, featuring action-oriented recommendations and policy guidance for stakeholders across the education industry. Produced in collaboration with recognized global thought leaders, the 2021 Research Series was informed by the unique challenges Covid-19 presented to education across the globe.

WISE continues to lead an evidence-based exploration of current education challenges, in line with the priorities of the Qatar National Research Strategy. Its findings, many of which draw on Qatar as one of several case studies, highlighted the central need to place innovation and collaboration at the heart of all efforts to redesign current education models.

Dr Asmaa Alfadala, director of research and content development at WISE, said: “We are immensely proud of the strong collaboration and resilience of our research teams, and of these new reports that have once again produced profound insights into the ever-changing education sector. Global education has been uniquely impacted by the pandemic, including in the way that our youth experience learning. The emerging research ecosystem is marked by an accelerated move to digital platforms and new ways of learning.”

Four of the recently released reports explore education theory, policy, and practice in the context of Qatar’s education system. Hundreds of local education stakeholders have contributed their perspectives, resulting in locally-informed, globally-relevant research findings.

Developed in partnership with Duke University and The Wellbeing Project, the Teacher Wellbeing Report undertook a scoping literature review and case studies in Cambodia, Kenya, and Qatar. It points to new emerging challenges, particularly during and post-pandemic, and aims to make a global contribution to the overlooked issue of teacher well-being.

Revisiting Equity: Covid-19 and Education of Children with Disabilities, conducted with Cambridge University, analyses the impact of Covid-19-related school closures on the education of primary-school-aged children with disabilities. Data collected from over 100 parents and 142 teaching staff across 18 schools in Qatar shows a significant socio-emotional impact on both parents and children. The report advocates for action from policymakers to create more supportive at-home learning environments, ensuring undisrupted and equal access to education for every child. Developing Local Learning Ecosystems in Qatar to Advance Equity, Inclusion and Social Cohesion explores how learning ecosystems may evolve as new drivers of education in Qatar and beyond. By engaging over 250 local stakeholders as well as a selection of global experts, the research indicates that building purposeful collabora-
tive ecosystems can support shared learning goals, as schools are making the transition back to in-person learning.

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Through interviews with selected local stakeholders and experts, the Local Learning Ecosystems project also takes a look at the nature of leadership, collaboration and partnerships that can make impact in Qatar. The report features case studies of key organizations that are developing collaborative ecosystems across institutional boundaries, including Qatar Museums, INJAZ Qatar, Qatar Shell, Generation Amazing, Biocar, as well as Qatar National Research Fund, Renad Academy and HBKU Makers Majlis. The Embedding Innovation Labs in Schools as a Vehicle for Transformation in Education report addresses the challenge of changing education, offering practical insight on how to reap the benefits of innovation labs in schools. "How must we be educating our learners today to prepare for the complex world of tomorrow?" is one of the questions posed. Authors and researchers will come together as part of several research presentations and ‘Meet the Authors’ events during WISE 2021, returning to Doha in a first-ever hybrid edition on December 7 and 9 under the theme ‘Generation Unmute: Reclaiming our Future through Education’.

We convey our deepest condolences and prayers to his bereaved family.
The QIFF returns with its largest edition ever

The 11th edition of Qatar International Food Festival (QIFF) opened on Friday. As for the festival, the QIFF is set to run for three weeks before closing with the start of Qatar’s World Cup 2022.

Qatar Tourism chairman and Qatar Airways Group chief executive HE Akbar Al Baker said: “The QIFF is a celebration of Qatar’s multiculturalism, contributing to the diversity of tourism experiences in the country.”

“This past 11 years, the festival has been instrumental in enhancing Qatar’s tourism offer and continued to set the trend and raise the bar every year,” he said. “Before opening local outlets, many international chefs have tasted the wares at the QIFF, as a local of all experiences.”

“The QIFF is illustrative of our sector and its importance to both the local people to taste new products and experiences and the travelling business,” Al Baker added.

The festival will also host food trucks along a stretch of Corniche Road, for Doha Street Food Festival, which will run until 3pm on the weekends – Thursday, Friday and Saturday – throughout the course of the festival.

QIFF Cooking Theatre

The QIFF will stage a daily cooking theatre with at least two demonstrations, events and competitions every day, aiming to attract all age groups and nationalities from the region.

The entertainment features a mix of local and regional cuisines, including desserts, displays and cooking experiences, cultural games and more.

Multiple local and regional artists will also perform at the festival, including the Music Vibrating Machines, 11 Strings, Sweet Kent, Pablo Escobar, Idris, Talib Khadow, (JEMN), ASCENT Band, and Charlie Porter Quartet.

Each VIP area can accommodate eight people.

Qatar Tourism follows the Ministry of Public Health (MPH)’s hygiene and safety guidelines to ensure visitors a safe and enjoyable experience at the events and festivals.

Opening Hours

Weekdays from 4pm-11pm, and weekends from 4pm-2am. Visitors are advised to access the QIFF website (qiff.qa) in order to access the QIFF at its best.

Numerous performances will take place on three main stages along the Corniche at the 12th Qatar International Food Festival (QIFF) in the presence of local participation and international teams in the tournament.

The festival will be split across five venues, including the Corniche, Katara – the Cultural Village Foundation and three other events at the Corniche.

Special bus service announced to take fans to stadiums

The Doha Metro will provide direct transport to stadiums on match days.

Tickets for the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2021 are still available from FIFA.com/tickets. This includes a selection of affordable category B tickets for fans from the private sector in developing a dinner and rich annual events calendar in order to engage the hospitality and retail sectors, drive domestic tourism and attract regional and international tourists to the country, the statement adds.
Katara to host GPDNet general assembly from tomorrow

The event of the Global Public Diplomacy Network will be attended by hosts Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, and others awaiting the membership.

Professor Khalid bin Shoman al-Attiyah, Kuwait’s ambassador, expressed happiness at Katara hosting the event, noting the foundation’s successes during the meeting. He also highlighted the strategic plan and the launch of an innovative approach based on the development of bilateral relations, specialists, and civil society.

The official pointed out that the establishment of the Global Public Diplomacy Network is a turning point, especially with its ability to promote and engage in the interests of states and societies.

He said: “We have already proved our identity, which evolved from the experience of the group’s membership and the contributions of our partners. The purpose of the meeting will include the implementation of bilateral projects and joint programmes, which would strengthen cooperation and enhance international relations and contribute to deepening cooperation and strategic communication between peoples and societies.”

The seventh General Assembly will present the presentation of new initiatives, most notably the UNESCO Committee of the network into an international organization after the many contributions made by the countries and the network’s structure.

He explained that the network’s seventh general assembly will discuss adopting the digital approach as a new way to reach people on areas such as building housing, community, and promoting sustainable development programmes. “This will help it contribute to increasing the exchange of experiences between member states, in addition to the knowledge, awareness, and exchange programme between these countries,” he said, adding that these programmes will be discussed and adopted during the meeting.

The event will be attended by representatives of the QFZA, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Culture. It will also include presentations from QFZA and companies based in the free zones, including Google Cloud, Taleq and Gaudino, among others to showcase their experiences. The visit also included an introductory tour of the Rafat Business Free Zone and the Business & Innovation Park, as well as a tour of some companies in the free zones to showcase the advanced infrastructure and services offered to investors in Qatar’s Free Zones.

La Boutique Blanche launches new collection

La Boutique Blanche held a ceremony to launch its new collection. It featured new items that paid tribute to the company’s own designs and the brand’s identity. The event was attended by guests including the company’s founder, Leila Elbaoune, and other guests.

The collection included new designs that reflected the brand’s commitment to quality and beauty, and featured refined fabrics following the brand’s signature style. The collection also included an elegant abaya collection. The brand is an expert in image consultation and multi-brand haute couture.

Diti focuses on enhancing cohesion at Gulf Family Policy Forum

Participating in the first Gulf Family Policy Forum, Al-Jazira’s representative emphasized the vital role of family cohesion and ongoing endeavors to enhance cohesion and well-being of Gulf family members. The representative called for the adoption of a pattern for the family, the household, and the employee to improve government policies.

Organised by Diti, a member of Qatar Free Zones Authority, the event is expected to attract experts, officials, and representatives from different Gulf and Arab states.

The following is a summary of the key points discussed:

1. The importance of family cohesion and the role of public diplomacy in enhancing communication between the Gulf states.
2. The need for adopting flexible and innovative solutions to address the challenges of family cohesion.
3. The significance of involving women and youth in family cohesion initiatives.
4. The need for ongoing efforts to enhance family cohesion.

Qatar Free Zones Authority’s (QFZA) delegates’ delegation from Qatar University (QU) led by the president, HE Dr. Hassan al-Emadi, along with vice presidents, deans, and other members of the university. The delegation was received by HE the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. The high-level visit comes as part of the Qatar International Conference on Family Cohesion (QIFC) 2019, which was held in Doha, Qatar. The conference aimed to discuss the role of family cohesion in promoting peace and development in the region.

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Sudan PM sacks police chiefs after post-coup violence

AFP

Hamad, who replaced his old friend Bashir in April 2019, has faced strong criticism over the brutal crackdown on demonstrators outside the military headquarters in Khartoum in June 2019, which left more than 200 protesters dead.

Hamad has been accused of using the same tactics as his predecessor, Bashir, to suppress opposition and maintain control.

The sacking of the police chiefs comes as Sudanese protesters call for the government to account for those who died during the June 2019 crackdown.

The protesters demand a full investigation into the killings and the release of those arrested during the protests.

SA dismayed at ‘punishment’ for honesty over Omicron variant

AFP

South Africa’s health minister said on Monday that he was “dismayed” by the new travel restrictions imposed by some countries following the discovery of the Omicron variant in the country.

The country’s latest variant has been identified as a new variant of concern, with some countries banning flights from South Africa.

The health minister, Dr Zweli Mkhize, said on Monday that South Africa had taken action to contain the spread of the variant.

He added that the country had taken steps to ensure that the variant was contained and that measures were in place to monitor its spread.

Algerians vote in local polls to seal post-Bouteflika ‘change’

AFP

Algerians voted yesterday in local elections as the country prepares to mark the first anniversary of the resignation of Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who was president for two decades.

The elections are seen as a key test for the country’s transition from the Bouteflika era to a new political order.

The government has promised a “historic” election that will mark a new chapter in the country’s history.

But critics have warned that the elections are likely to be rigged and that the political process is fraught with corruption and fraud.

The main opposition parties have called for a boycott of the elections, saying they are not representative of the will of the Algerian people.

Sudan PM sacks police chiefs after post-coup violence

AFP

Prime Minister Abdalhamid Hamad has replaced Interior Minister Hassan Saleh after more than 50 people were killed in a crackdown on protests in Khartoum.

Hamad announced the change of interior minister late Friday, weeks after Sudanese protesters continued their sit-in outside the army headquarters.

The sit-in, a demand for a civilian government, entered its third week on Friday.

The move comes days after the UN-called talks between Sudanese military leaders and protesters failed to reach an agreement.

The talks were aimed at ending the conflict between the military and the protesters, who have been demanding civilian rule and an end to corruption.

The talks broke down after the military said it would not accept a civilian government.

The protesters have vowed to continue their sit-in until their demands are met.

The move comes at a time of increased tensions between Sudanese military leaders and protesters, with both sides accusing each other of failing to meet their demands.

The Sudanese government has been under pressure to end the sit-in, which has been marred by violent confrontations.

The protesters have been calling for a civilian government, an end to corruption, and the release of political prisoners.

Tension

Ethiopia PM Abiyah says military will ‘destroy’ Tigray rebels

AFP

Ethiopia’s prime minister, Abiy Ahmed, has declared he will destroy the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) after the Tigray region declared independence.

Abiy said the TPLF had been “destroying the country” and that the military was preparing to launch an offensive against the Tigray administration.

The TPLF declared independence on September 5, following clashes with federal forces.

Abiy said the military had “clear evidence” that the TPLF was responsible for violence in the region.

Child injured after Burkinabe police fire tear gas at protesters

AFP

A child was injured yesterday after Burkinabe police fired tear gas to disperse protesters in the capital, Ouagadougou.

The protesters were demanding the resignation of President Roch Marc Christian Kabore, who has been in power since 2015.

The protest was peaceful until police intervened, firing tear gas to disperse the crowd.

An injured child was treated at the scene by medics, with the child later being taken to hospital.

The child’s injuries were not immediately known.

The demonstration was one of several that have taken place in recent weeks, with protesters demanding an end to corruption and government repression.

Several people have been injured during recent protests in Ouagadougou, with police firing tear gas and water cannon to disperse the crowd.

The protesters have been calling for the resignation of Kabore, who they say has failed to deliver on his promises of good governance and economic reform.

Kabore is facing pressure from opposition parties and civil society groups, who have called for him to step down.

Tension

UNREST

UNREST

Tension
Johnson sets out more measures to battle new coronavirus variant

**Australians impose virus curbs for travellers from southern Africa**

**World**

Australia imposed new restrictions on Wednesday for people who have been to southern Africa countries amid fears the region is experiencing a new wave of the omicron variant.

The countries are Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Effective immediately, the government said anyone who has been in these countries in the past 14 days must quarantine for 14 days and their close contacts must also undertake quarantine.

These restrictions also apply to anyone who is in Australia who is a national or resident of southern Africa countries who have travelled to another country in the region.

**Modi orders travel reopening on Omicron concern**

**India**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi told officials yesterday to review plans to ease travel restrictions as concerns over the new Omicron variant grew.

The world’s second-largest affected country by the pandemic has had only Friday decided to resume international passenger flights from countries deemed “at risk” of the coronavirus, after charging limited border sources.

In his speech, Modi highlighted the need to transform the travel protocol, adding that a specific focus on testing and quarantine measures is essential.

A government official said a statement on the revised travel policy will be released in the next few days.

**Calm returns to Solomon Islands capital after deadly rioting**

**Solomon Islands**

A police operation and a enforced curfew was the capital, after days of rioting left at least three dead and reduced the southern part of the city to a heap of debris.

For three straight days, angry mobs took out the usually sleepy capital as a sign of the country’s deepening political crisis and anti-government protest movement.

Two years of pandemics — which the region has been hit by a similar three-week lockdown every six months — had already exacerbated the self-sustained status of the Solomons.

For three straight days, angry mobs took out the usually sleepy capital as a sign of the country’s deepening political crisis and anti-government protest movement.

Two years of pandemics — which the region has been hit by a similar three-week lockdown every six months — had already exacerbated the self-sustained status of the Solomons.

The situation is very tense and we are scared to go outside. We don’t know what will happen next,” a shop owner said.

But others pointed to inter-island political tensions. Residents of the fast-developing Musulara and Malaita provinces have long complained that their island is neglected by the central government.

“Some of our members were out doing community work to peel eggs for pollution. In that area, we are not yet out of this pandemic,” a local said, noting the police to get up to 300 rioters back to their homes.

**Australia**

Australian Army soldiers from the Bush Box Group 52212 taking local citizens during a community engagement patrol through the Solomon Islands nation of islands.

**Myanmar-China border crossings re-open for trade**

Two Myanmar-China border crossings opened for trade after the movement of goods was stopped for almost seven months due to Covid-19 restrictions, officials said.

Four shipping containers were unloaded on Monday at the border gate, around from their Chinese counterparts.

“Since the Chinese Administration of the Meechi Rice Wholesales Centre on the Chinese side and the Myanmar Rice Wholesales Centre on the Myanmar side loaded 1,000 bags of rice onto a truck and released it on the other side, the Myanmar Rice Wholesales Centre on the Myanmar side loaded 1,000 bags of rice onto a truck and released it on the other side,” a Chinese official said.

**Selfie time**

A woman takes a selfie in a sunflower field in Lopburi, Thailand.

**WORLD**

**TrIBUTE TO FARMERS**

After overnight genome sequencing, the UK’s National Health Service (NHS) declared the new variant, B.1.1.529, as “of immediate concern.”

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**WORLD**

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The situation is very tense and we are scared to go outside. We don’t know what will happen next,” a shop owner said.

But others pointed to inter-island political tensions. Residents of the fast-developing Musulara and Malaita provinces have long complained that their island is neglected by the central government.

“Some of our members were out doing community work to peel eggs for pollution. In that area, we are not yet out of this pandemic,” a local said, noting the police to get up to 300 rioters back to their homes.

**Australia**

Australian Army soldiers from the Bush Box Group 52212 taking local citizens during a community engagement patrol through the Solomon Islands nation of islands.

**Myanmar-China border crossings re-open for trade**

Two Myanmar-China border crossings opened for trade after the movement of goods was stopped for almost seven months due to Covid-19 restrictions, officials said.

Four shipping containers were unloaded on Monday at the border gate, around from their Chinese counterparts.

“Since the Chinese Administration of the Meechi Rice Wholesales Centre on the Chinese side and the Myanmar Rice Wholesales Centre on the Myanmar side loaded 1,000 bags of rice onto a truck and released it on the other side, the Myanmar Rice Wholesales Centre on the Myanmar side loaded 1,000 bags of rice onto a truck and released it on the other side,” a Chinese official said.

**Selfie time**

A woman takes a selfie in a sunflower field in Lopburi, Thailand.

**WORLD**

**TrIBUTE TO FARMERS**

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In South Africa, the government said it was banning travel from six southern African countries.

**WORLD**

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Global financial system is watchfully waiting the next move of the US Federal Reserve on tapering inflation, with recent official data suggesting price rises may hit 6% for the year past, marking the highest inflation rates since 1990.

The US central bank officials at their meeting earlier this month were divided about the need to act, and a wrong move could be to respond. The Fed’s tapering announcement, when expected, would be a surprise for markets, as no official had hinted at it so far.

But officials also said they would not hesitate to take appropriate actions to reduce inflation pressures that posed risks to its longer-run price stability and employment objectives.

The durability and broadening in price pressures seem to have taken the White House and the Fed by surprise and prompted appropriate actions to address inflation pressures that are the highest inflation rate since 1990.

A number of other policymakers at the Fed’s November meeting were reportedly concerned about whether the durable price pressures that emerged in the aftermath of the pandemic’s easing had begun to accelerate faster than anticipated.

“The durable price pressures that emerged in the aftermath of the pandemic’s easing have begun to accelerate faster than anticipated,” one Fed policymaker said, referring to a Fed policymaker that spoke with Bloomberg.

The Fed policymakers unanimously decided at last month’s meeting to begin reducing the central bank’s $12 trillion in monthly purchases of bonds and mortgage-backed securities, a program introduced in early 2020 to help cushion the economy through the pandemic.

Powell, speaking after President Biden picked him for another four years at the helm, and policy makers “will use all the tools at our disposal to support the economy and a strong labor market, and to prevent higher inflation from becoming entrenched or sustained.”

The minutes showed that officials “generally continued to anticipate that the inflation rate would diminish significantly during 2022” while “many participants pointed to concerns that an increase in inflation pressures that had appeared to have run higher than levels consistent with the Committee’s objectives.”

“Various participants noted that the policy- setting Committee should be prepared to adjust the pace of asset purchases and raise the target range for the federal funds rate.”

Participants currently anticipated if inflation pressures remained elevated, the Fed should be prepared to raise interest rates sooner rather than later.

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Weekend dook
Highs and lows at the Guadalajara International Book Fair

People attend a protest in Madrid against the proposal of a law that will make it more difficult to obtain the abortion.

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is seen during his visit to the Guadalajara International Book Fair in Guadalajara. The Guadalajara International Book Fair will be held this week, with Peru as the new "homenaje".

A man places an advertisement for an exhibitor at the Guadalajara International Book Fair in Guadalajara. The Guadalajara International Book Fair will be held this week, with Peru as the new "homenaje".

Pakistan e-commerce platform aims to beef up
Pakistani e-commerce platforms are expected to experience growth in the next few years as the government aims to boost the e-commerce sector and attract foreign investment. The government has launched several initiatives to promote e-commerce, including tax incentives and regulatory reforms. The growth in e-commerce is expected to be driven by the increasing use of mobile devices and the growing internet users in the country. The government's efforts are expected to attract foreign investment in the sector, which will further boost the growth of e-commerce in Pakistan.
Soul Street dance their way into people’s hearts in Qatar

By Hayam Al-Abed

The audience, made up of people from different backgrounds and nationalities, was seen enjoying the highly engaging performance of the four performers who had come all the way from Qatar to Dubai, to show their skills and highlight the appeal of American culture. They also emphasised their love and admiration for the unique Qatar culture and its traditions.

In conjunction with World Children’s Day, The Soul Street Dance members with Faisal al-Dosari on stage.

The group’s performance blending classical music with hip-hop and break dance, in addition to their natural enthusiasm and entertaining performances, will help raise funds for the “Box of Happiness” initiative, which was launched by Alya Al玛heed and Tamader al-Buainain, both volunteers in community activities.

The idea of the initiative stemmed from Ali’s message of responsibility towards children, especially those experiencing hardship and psychological stress, urging people to donate for those in need.

The activity took place at the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ), in conjunction with World Children’s Day.

The performers during the show.

Both the performers and audience expressed their appreciation for having the opportunity to enjoy such an evening marked by entertainment and cultural exchanges.

The “Box of Happiness” initiative, which is being held under the Qatar-U.S. 2021 Year of Culture initiative.

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They also emphasised their love and admiration for the unique Qatar culture and its traditions.

In addition to giving the toys for development, education, and highlighting a key aspect of American culture.

The group’s performance blending classical music with hip-hop and break dance, in addition to their natural enthusiasm and entertaining performances, will help raise funds for the “Box of Happiness” initiative.

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