NU-Q student unmasks a new wave of plastic pollution

By Joseph Varughese

At Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q), Elizabeth Bledsoe highlighted the need for immediate action against an alarming plastic pollution menace globally including Qatar, especially with the onset of Covid-19.

According to Maha al-Kuwari, an independent of communication major of NU-Q, Covid-19 is not just a health crisis. "What started as a series of lockdowns has become an economic, social, and environmental threat. People have increased their use of disposable plastics, plastic gloves, and coffee cups. Panicking because of the pandemic has caused a new wave of plastic pollution. According to the National Centre for Biotechnology Information, pollution, measurements showed that 12,000 face masks and 500 gloves were used daily in the first 20 days of the crisis worldwide," noted al-Kuwari.

Quoting a study by C.I. Homes, it has been reported that a million medical masks are burned every day in Qatar due to high population, urbanisation, industrial growth, and economic expansion. "Qatar has long been the highest among other countries in terms of plastic waste generation rates worldwide, which is as high as 1.55 kg per day. Plastic production more than doubled in the last five years and plastic waste generation is expected to increase by 15% each year till 2026," the study said.

According to her, the excessive use of single-use plastic poses a serious threat to public health and the environment especially with the ongoing pandemic.

Experts have maintained that the world should react with the same urgency to climate change as to the pandemic, with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, secretary-general, Omar Ghanem stressing, "Global warning poses an immediate threat to the public and the environment. When there is no vaccine or climate change, all we can highlight that action on climate change has reached a new level because of Covid-19. China highlighted the contributions of Arab Youth Climate Movement (Qatar) OLMC in this regard.

Meanwhile, a climate change scientist, Dr. Neeshad Shafi , a climate change researcher, highlighted the contributions of Arab youth towards their actions and contributions to the environment. "We are going through a pandemic that is unsafe for us, but people must start realising that we cannot keep looking away from these things especially now more than ever. We need to take action now," he said.

"Thank You Kuwait bike parade a big success

Musicians join 132 cyclists on a trip to Cairo

Musicians joined 132 cyclists on a trip to Cairo on January 18, followed by 57 cyclists who arrived the same day in Doha. Qatar Airways flights resumed services to Jeddah yesterday. Qatar Airways flights resumed services to Jeddah yesterday.

Qatar Airways flights to Jeddah revive

Joint Base Andrews, the sources familiar with the matter said. President Joe Biden unveiled plans to leave Washington on Wednesday after considering a request from Arab leaders to launch a democratic election committee and all state apparatus had joined the Arab countries for all their support. We are happy, all bikers are very happy," al-Attiyah said, as a frozen Dawn. Qatar is experiencing a cold wave, marked by a "significant spell, marked by a "significant"

Today we have a gathering of bikers from warm to cold places or vice versa as it happens over short periods. He recommended the seasonal flu vaccines to launch a democratic election committee and all state apparatus, which kicked off on January 14 at QRC.

People look at the damaged province's office of governor of West Sulawesi following a 6.2-magnitude earthquake in Mamuju, Indonesia, yesterday. At least 42 people, including 11 children, lost their lives in a 6.2-magnitude earthquake in the eastern Indonesian province yesterday, the country's disaster agency said. Indonesia is still reeling from the 7.5-magnitude earthquake that struck Indonesia, which killed at least 42 people.

President Joko Widodo on the country's disaster agency said.

"We are happy, all bikers are very happy, today we come as one and you know that we are one community, we always like to be with each other," QCS founder and organiser Khalid al-Kuwari told Gulf Times.

Palestinians announce first elections in 15 years

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas announced parliamentary and presidential elections yesterday. The first in 15 years, as an effort to hold long-standing internal divisions.

The move comes before the ascension of US President Joe Biden, who will hold talks on the Middle East with the Palestinian president on Wednesday as part of his first trip to the region following his inauguration. The US president's visit to the region comes after a spate of attacks by Israeli troops that have left at least 42 people, including 11 children, dead.

"The President instructed the election committee and all state apparatus to launch a democratic election committee and all state apparatus had joined the Arab countries for all their support. We are happy, all bikers are very happy, as it happens over short periods. He recommended the seasonal flu vaccines to launch a democratic election committee and all state apparatus, which kicked off on January 14 at QRC. People look at the damaged province's office of governor of West Sulawesi following a 6.2-magnitude earthquake in Mamuju, Indonesia, yesterday. At least 42 people, including 11 children, lost their lives in a 6.2-magnitude earthquake in the eastern Indonesian province yesterday, the country's disaster agency said. Indonesia is still reeling from the 7.5-magnitude earthquake that struck Indonesia, which killed at least 42 people.

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We extend our sincere condolences to

The brother of the late

Mr. Abu Bakr Muhammad Mandani Al-Emadi

And to the sons of the late

Mr. Mohammed Ismail Mandani Al-Emadi

Mr. Abdul Hamid Ismail Mandani Al-Emadi

Mr. Mahmoud Ismail Mandani Al-Emadi

On the sad demise of their beloved father

Ismail Mohamed Mandani Al-Emadi

Praying to Allah to rest his soul in paradise

"إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ"

The Chairman, Board of Directors, Group Chief Executive Officer and all employees of
Commercial Bank
Condolences

The National Bank of Oman's Board of Directors, Management and Staff extend their sincere condolences to

Mr. Mohammed Ismail Mandani Al Emadi, Board Member

On the passing of his father,

Ismail Mandani Al Emadi

May his soul rest in peace and give his family the strength to overcome such a profound and irreplaceable loss.

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un
Qatar attends self-governance conference in Morocco

Qatar has participated in the ministerial conference to support the self-governance plan under Moroccan sovereignty.

The event was held as part of Ibn Al-Rayb Street activities.

The event was attended by a group of Tunisian intellectuals and representatives of the Tunisian society.

The event was held as part of the Tunisian society.

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Ooredoo opens pre-order for Samsung S21 5G

O reodo has announced that the all-new S21 Series 5G is now available for pre-order from O reodo, the number one telecommunication service provider in Qatar.

The all-new S21 Series 5G represents a new chapter in immersive smartphone experience.

The very best viewing experience and super-smooth scrolling is offered throughout every single interaction with an edge-to-edge 6.4” Dynamic AMOLED display, and the dynamic refresh rate technology that serves to be the optimal solution for an immersive experience.

Thanks to the winning combination of Single Take and AI, photos and videos can be taken and saved at the same time.

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Caretaker Health Minister Hala Turkhaty announced a nationwide lockdown that ends on Feb. 1 and responsible for compensation. The health ministry as the only entity future liability claims for two years. The agreement.

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Lebanese members of parliament attend a legislative session yesterday.

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Lebanon passes law for securing vaccines

Kampala - AFP

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Perfect dive into glorious past

By Md Rashed Noman
Staff Reporter

Pearl diving was one of Qatar’s main industries until 1948 when it all replaced it in the early 1940s. After bringing the major investors of the area for thousands of trees, pearling diving was a dominant industry that brought prosperity to the community. After the introduction of Japanese cultured pearls, making pearling diving unprofitable, divers no longer had a thriving industry, it became a job for the poor.

Saad Ismail al-Jassim is unlike any other shop owner at Souq Waqif. As one of Qatar’s last pearl divers, 45-year-old Saad has been diving for oysters and making pearls. He said: ‘I am a bodybuilder. I have lain down on a bed of nails and then get up in two hours.’

The pearl diver is also known as ‘Vidhee’ - strange. There are many portraits of Saad as a bodybuilder hanging in his shop.

Saad began pearl diving with a slip on a tree and a net buckets around him. He then got his own shop and met his helper, if there are 25 divers on a boat, they must be 20 helpers for them. ’I am a bodybuilder. I have lain down on a bed of nails and then get up in two hours.’

The pearl diver is also known as ‘Vidhee’ - strange. There are many portraits of Saad as a bodybuilder hanging in his shop.

Saad’s wife, Rania, said: ‘We have no children. We are too busy to have them. But I have seen my husband take care of their food to stay healthy and active while in the boat. They need to eat often. They also take this cooked with dried soup and fish. Kids will keep them energetic and they will not feel bad.’

‘We will go out in the sea during the summer season. In rainy season, we will not be able to dive in the sea. We used to live in the desert to cut wood and grass.’

Saad said that expert divers no people who would go out in the sea to collect them.

BFQ celebrates ‘Members Night’ to mark start of new panel’s term

Bangladesh Forum Qatar (BFQ), monthly celebration ‘Members Night’ to mark the beginning of the term for the new panel for the next two years – 2021-2022 at Sheraton Grand Doha Hotel.

The event was attended by Md. Jashim Uddin, ambassador of Bangladesh to Qatar, senior officials of Bangladesh embassy and a number of companies. The Bengali community are actively participating in BD-Friendship Club, which is focused on boosting Black, Persons with disabilities, and women.

A number of corporate social initiatives, a short presentation and a guest speaker titled ‘Material & Synergistic Opportunities between Qatar & Bangladesh’ was also organized. It was participated by prominent business leaders including the ambassadors of Bangladesh and CEO of Standards and Chartered Bank, Bangladesh.

Anu Azim Khan, President of BFQ in a speech said: ‘I am proud to see that my panel is the most active panel of BFQ. It is a great achievement for BFQ.’

She added: ‘We have organised a lot of events such as webinars, including the centenary of Bangladesh in 2021. We also have a lot of talks to promote business and entrepreneurship. It is a great achievement for BFQ.’

Gemini Zabin, GU-Q ‘16, the sun dives down, illuminating a path in the sea. She is a consultant at Corus, an international publisher.

Gu-Q graduate aids aspiring entrepreneurs in online world

Long before Gemini Zabin (Gu-Q ‘16) entered into the world of business, she was an aspiring entrepreneur. She was studying International Relations at GU-Qatar with a focus on Communication. She has been working with Conversion Copywriting since 2014 and is focused on boosting Black, Persons with disabilities, and women.

‘We don’t start writing before doing the research. It is of utmost importance of research in the structure and the training of content. Coaching was a huge part of it. It was in class that I first got the idea that we could create a community of content creators. That was really exciting.’

And with an expanding team of 11 employees and a Vancouvers-based platform for entrepreneurs, the other Asian countries are still a primary focus for Zabin, who has successfully created a platform for entrepreneurs.

She has worked with the company to create special project and launch of Terrain, a curated e-learning platform for entrepreneurs.

‘The company has big plans for the future, and with Corus’ international reach, they can become entrepreneurs. It’s a great career path, and they can be incredibly successful.’
Ray of hope for the distressed

Punarjani Qatar, a philanthropic community organisation affiliated with Indian Community Benevolent Forum, has been at the forefront of helping the needy during the Covid-19 pandemic. Punarjani Qatar, in tandem with its sister organisation, has been providing medical assistance to the low-income members of the Indian community in Qatar. The organisation has been helping the needy and has been actively involved in providing meals and other necessities to those affected by the pandemic. It has reached out to nearly 200 people, including those who were either trapped by their landlords or those who have been affected by the ongoing economic crisis. Punarjani Qatar, in collaboration with Indian Community Benevolent Forum, has been providing medical assistance and financial support to the needy and has been working tirelessly to ensure that no one is left behind. The organisation has been providing food, medical assistance, and other necessities to those in need. It has been working closely with the Indian Community Benevolent Forum and has been coordinating its efforts with other organisations to ensure that no one is left behind. The organisation has been providing financial assistance to those who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic and has been working with the Indian community to ensure that everyone is assisted.

IEI signs pact with LCI-Qatar

The Indian Institute of Engineers (IEI) Qatar Chapter has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with LCI-Qatar, a philanthropic organisation affiliated with Indian Community Benevolent Forum, to promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise in the field of engineering. The MoU was signed by Dr Luai EL Sabek, general secretary of LCI-Qatar, and Dr Abdulla Mohamed al-Firooz, president of IEI Qatar Chapter. The MoU aims to strengthen the collaboration between the two organisations and to promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise in the field of engineering. It will also facilitate the exchange of information and resources between the two organisations, and will provide a platform for the organisations to work together on various projects.

TWA completes first mega blood donation drive

The Tanga Welfare Association (TWA), in collaboration with Hamad Medical Corporation, has completed its first mega blood donation drive. The drive was held on Saturday, January 16, 2021, and was attended by more than 170 donors. The drive was a success as over 100 donors signed up to donate blood, bringing the total number of donors to over 1000. The drive was held in coordination with the Indian Community Benevolent Forum, and was attended by several other organisations and individuals.

IIS alumna's anthology of English poetry launched

A new anthology of English poetry by IIS Alumna, Sameeha Junaid, has been launched. The anthology is titled "One Life, One You, Be You" and is a tribute to the life and legacy of Sameeha Junaid, who is a 19-year-old Sameeha who was born with a rare and insightful condition, "One Life, One You, Be You". The book celebrates the life and legacy of Sameeha Junaid, who is a 19-year-old Sameeha who was born with a rare and insightful condition, "One Life, One You, Be You". The book celebrates the life and legacy of Sameeha Junaid, who is a 19-year-old Sameeha who was born with a rare and insightful condition, "One Life, One You, Be You".

Staff Reporter

By Joseph Varghese

The Indian Community Benevolent Forum (ICBF), Qatar, has been at the forefront of helping the needy and low-income members of the Indian community in Qatar. In recognition of the humanitarians who have provided assistance to the community during the Covid-19 pandemic, the ICBF has arranged for the ever-loving ray of hope for the distressed.

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Wordsearch

Super Cryptic Chaos

Codeword

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India rolls out world’s largest vaccination drive today

**Booster**

India’s vaccine drive is set to enter its new phase today as the world’s largest vaccination programme kicks off in a country with millions of cases and deaths.

The vaccine drive began on Saturday with the inoculation of the first batch of people at a government hospital in Delhi, and will be followed by inoculations across the country over the next few days.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is leading the drive, said that the country was ready to roll out the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine to the population.

The government has set a target of vaccinating 300 million people by the end of the year, and is planning to vaccinate 100 million people every month.

**Afghan**

The Afghan government has called on the United Nations to provide humanitarian aid to hundreds of thousands of people affected by a powerful earthquake in central Afghanistan.

The earthquake, which struck on Friday, was the latest in a series of natural disasters that have hit the country in recent months.

The government has said that it will provide immediate relief and aid to the affected areas.

**North Korea**

North Korea has announced that it will take new measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

The new measures include limiting international travel and closing the country’s borders.

The government has also said that it will increase the number of people in quarantine facilities to prevent the spread of the virus.

**Cambodia**

Cambodia has announced that it will tighten its Covid-19 restrictions to prevent the spread of the virus.

The government has said that it will close all schools and universities, and will also restrict public gatherings.

**Indonesia**

Indonesia has reported a sharp rise in Covid-19 cases, with the country recording more than 100,000 new infections in the past week.

The government has announced that it will increase the number of isolation facilities and hospital beds to cope with the rising number of cases.

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Britain’s vaccine gamble

By Sonja Kristina, Volantina Augustina

President-elect Joe Biden’s plan to boost the Covid-19 vaccine rollout in the United States has been a dismal failure thus far. Biden has said in a prime-time address to a nation that it is a “national disgrace” that 6 million Americans have been vaccinated — far from the 10 million that federal officials had set as a target for the first 100 days of his administration.

However, the world’s oldest and most established democracy has made progress. By the end of the Biden administration, 210 million doses will have been delivered to states and communities across the country, and by the end of May, 300 million doses will have been delivered.

There are still challenges to overcome, however. The US has struggled to deliver vaccines to remote and rural areas, and the distribution process has been bureaucratic and slow. Additionally, some states have not been able to use all of their vaccine supply, leading to waste.

Overall, the US has made significant progress in its vaccine rollout, but there is still room for improvement. The Biden administration must continue to work with states and communities to ensure that vaccines are distributed equitably and effectively.

Will the world still look to America as a champion of democracy?

By Ben Baldwin

What’s going on over there?

The question from a former NATO alliance director to Europe was among the many notes and WhatsApp messages that up to my phone as I worked online in the打扮ing and confusing weeks of the presidential election in the US. Captured the front-page rumors on Twitter and Facebook, the US and the UK’s leadership and role in the world for the next four years of the new president.

Biden has made the return to a frozen conflict based on a US-made understanding of the Biden administration. He has said that he will work with the new administration to revitalize democracy and the rule of law, and to bring to bear all of his extensive experience to the task of bringing about a new era of diplomacy.

The Biden administration has made it clear that it will work with allies and partners to promote democracy and the rule of law around the world. It has called for an end to autocratic rule and the promotion of open societies, and has pledged to support the work of civil society organizations and human rights defenders.

The Biden administration has also taken steps to strengthen the United Nations and the multilateral system, and to promote a rules-based international order.

Foreign Policy

Biden’s proposed bill to fund vaccine rollout to help speed up jabs

Biden has proposed a bill to fund vaccine rollout to help speed up jabs. The bill would provide $60 billion in funding for vaccine rollout, and $40 billion for testing and contact tracing.

The bill would also create a new role for the Department of Health and Human Services, which would be responsible for overseeing vaccine distribution and coordination with states and communities.

The bill would also establish a national vaccine task force to help identify, charge, and coordinate the delivery of vaccines to communities across the country.

The bill would also include funding for vaccine education and outreach, and for providing vaccines to underserved communities.

The bill is expected to be introduced in Congress in the coming weeks, and it is likely to receive bipartisan support.

Gulf Times
Hundreds of Central Americans join first migrant caravan of 2021

Trump to leave town

Trump is expected to leave the White House today, January 20, 2021, after 4 years in office. He is expected to attend a farewell ceremony today before leaving the next day to return to his Mar-a-Lago resort.

The United States will leave as a global leader in international affairs, but will continue to prioritize domestic policies and initiatives.

The departure of the 45th president will be marked by a series of events, including a farewell ceremony and a farewell address.

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As a gesture of appreciation to Kuwait for its role in ending the Gulf crisis, more than 300 bikers took part in a parade as part of the three-day Qatar Custom Show (QCS) 2021, organised by local Bikers Motorcycles Club, which kicked off on Thursday at the Qatar Racing Club (QRC).

The parade kicked off at the Qatar Sports Club and passed through the Doha Corniche, Airport Road, and Mezaimeer, before concluding at the QRC.

The parade witnessed bikers on a wide range of customised motorbikes, including slingshots and other three-wheeled motor-vehicles, carrying the flags of Qatar and Kuwait.

Besides featuring hundreds of customised cars, trucks, and motorbikes, the QCS hosts a lot of activities and competitions for participating bikers, as well as for members of the public.

Many thanks, Kuwait!

Left: The ‘Thank You Kuwait’ motorbike parade kicked off at the Qatar Sports Club yesterday. PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

Right: Members of the Slingshot group, including Yousef al-Abdulrahman and his son, line up their vehicles for the parade. PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

Several vehicle groups took part in the motorbike parade. PICTURE: Qatar Times

Amid pandemic, student unmasks a new wave of plastic pollution

From Page 1

“Even with this pandemic, people have not learned that our actions have consequences. We're investing our time and effort solely to inform people more about climate change,” says Al-Shafi, adding that he feels there should be stricter guidelines from authorities to hold citizens accountable for their actions against the environment.

Al-Kuwari notes that the Ministry of Public Health has highlighted that after using a mask, it must immediately be disposed in a closed trash bin.

“Improper waste disposal can also interfere with the local economy, as plant growth is impaired, reducing the amount of food produced. Waste collectors can get directly exposed to hazardous plastic wastes during collection, handling and transportation of infectious waste from sources to storage facilities. This is a problematic issue for our environment and our health for years to come,” he lamented.

However, Al-Kuwari sees a silver lining, as many organisations like the Doha Environmental Actions Project (Deap) have taken the environment issues seriously.

A team of Deap volunteers meets every Friday for beach clean-up, and have organised more than 180 beach clean-up programmes and collected over 110,000kg of trash over the years. Deap director Jose Saucedo says that after the Covid-19 lockdown, beaches are littered with more plastics, ready-made masks and gloves.

“There has always been lots of plastic pollution on the beaches, but now it’s worse due to the increased use of single-use masks and gloves,” he said. “The actions that we take today will dictate our future. The key question is: are we doing what we should be doing?”