Amir congratulates chairman of Sudan’s Sovereignty Council

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani congratulates Sudanese Sovereignty Council Chairman, Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani, on his country’s Independence Day. He congratulated him in a phone conversation and alluded to the strong relations between the two countries.

India drug regulator approves virus vaccine

India’s drug regulator on Wednesday approved a coronavirus vaccine developed by Astrazeneca and Oxford University for emergency use, two sources with knowledge of the matter said. The decision clears the vaccine’s roll-out in one of the world’s largest inoculation campaigns.

US Congress votes to override Trump veto

The US Congress voted Wednesday to override US President Donald Trump’s veto of a defense spending bill, sending it to Trump on the eve of his term’s end.

US coronavirus cases near 200 million

The United States has recorded more than 200 million cases of the coronavirus since the pandemic started in early 2020, Johns Hopkins University said yesterday in a mid-day tally, as the New Year brought another grim milestone: the country’s COVID-19 death toll passed 500,000.

Boat-building thrives in Qatar, showcasing maritime culture

Boat-building is thriving in Qatar, showing the maritime culture. “It might take one to one and half years to complete the whole work to get a boat renovated and ready for use,” Peter Antony, an Indian boat-builder in the country for the past 17 years.

Qatar Airways Cargo takes delivery of three new Boeing 777 freighters

Qatar Airways Cargo has taken delivery of three new Boeing 777 freighters, the world’s leading cargo carrier said in a statement.

Qatar ranks among top 10 international destinations

Qatar was ranked among the top 10 international destinations for 2021 in a survey made by Booking.com in a statement as a result of a report.

Qatar Airways Cargo takes delivery of three new Boeing 777 freighters

With a fleet of 30 freighters, the world’s leading cargo carrier will support logistics around Covid-19 vaccine

The three brand new Boeing 777 freighters received by Qatar Airways Cargo are seen on the tarmac in Doha.

Boat-building thrives in Qatar, showcasing maritime culture

Boat-building is thriving in Qatar, showcasing the maritime culture. The cargo carrier has also worked closely with governments and NGOs to transport essential supplies, pharma-

Spectacular sunrise from two Qatar spots

Gulf Times’ photographers capture the first sunrise of 2021 from Lusail City and the Pearl Monument in Al Wakra.
Qatar apprises UN of Bahraini military boats' violation

The message stressed that Qatar's sovereignty is non-negotiable and it reserves the right to take all the necessary legal measures to protect its territorial boundaries between Qatar and Bahrain, which represent a threat to regional stability and that could destabilise and increase tensions in the region. It also underscored the need to respect the ruling of the International Court of Justice regarding Bahrain's territorial claims, which constitute a violation of Qatar's sovereign and territorial integrity.

Bahraini military boats entered national waters on November 25, 2020, and on December 9 of 2020, escalating tension to the violation of Qatari airspace that this violation, coming close to sovereignty and a threat to its stability, security, and territorial integrity.

MOH reports 141,556 total Covid recoveries

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported yesterday 208 new confirmed cases of coronavirus (Covid-19), bringing the total confirmed cases in Qatar to 141,556. The authorities also announced 151 recoveries from the virus, bringing the recoveries in Qatar to 141,556.

The designated authorities yesterday instructed four people for violating the conditions of home quarantine. The residents are requested to immediately report to the Ministry of Public Health’s hotline 16008 for their safety and the safety of others.

Marmi Festival begins

The activities of the 12th International Marmi Festival, under the patronage of the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Thani, were launched yesterday at the Marmi Festival grounds near the Al Ghanim area in Doha.

Civic committee mulls tighter restrictions on pressed tobacco

Abdullah Al-Voie, Dr Khalid Al-Mahdooj, and Dr Ali Al-Jassim have submitted a proposal to impose restriction on pressed tobacco.

Amir sends greetings to Cuban president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani sent a cable to the President of Cuba, Miguel Diaz-Canel, congratulating him on his country’s Independence Day. The cable sent by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani was also sent to another cable to Prime Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz.

The meeting was also attended by the General Authority of Customs, Dr. Kholoud Ali Abdulla, and officials from the Department of Finance, Kamal, former minister of finance, received the committee’s proposal. The committee adjourned the study of the proposal and appointed a subcommittee to examine the proposal.

Born more than QRL1mn collected from online auction of vehicles

The first online auction of 10 vehicles by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has collected more than QR1 million in revenue. SAI held its first ever online auction of government vehicles on Thursday according to a tweet by Minister Joseph Jouthe.

Minister of Interior Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Saad Al-Thani has sent a similar cable to Prime Minister of Cuba, Miguel Diaz-Canel on the occasion of his country’s Independence Day. The cable sent by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani was also sent to another cable to Prime Minister of Cuba, Miguel Diaz-Canel.

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Qatar Airways Cargo takes delivery of 3 new Boeing 777 freighters

One of the new Boeing 777 freighters of Qatar Airways Cargo seen after its arrival in Doha with the crew of the three aircraft, and support and ground staff.

Experts seek changes in the education sector

Three Qatari education experts have reached various recommendations and proposals to officials in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), in order to overcome the adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Ibrahim Al-Mas, a former headmaster, stressed the importance of selecting well-qualified teachers whether recruited locally or from abroad and that more Qatari men should be inspired to take up the teaching profession.

The experts urged officials to review the current structure of Islamic education at the Ministry to enhance the motivation to learn among students.

They also called for a review of the students' behavioral assessment, and granting more power to the teacher to enhance his role in the educational process. The curricula need to be adapted to new trends, and the curricula must be adapted to continuous professional development for teachers to continue their role in an effective way. They called for relieving the pressure from teachers to perform their role effectively, and ending the random transfer of teachers and school headmasters.

Students' motivation to learn should be strengthened and the educational environment made more attractive for them. The experts stressed the importance of selecting well-qualified teachers whether recruited locally or from abroad and that more Qatari men should be inspired to take up the teaching profession.

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Qatar-Portugal working closely to implement bilateral pacts: envoy

Portugal and Qatar are very much united in their desire to reinforce their bilateral relations in areas such as trade, culture, sports and tourism. They have closely been working together to implement different bilateral agreements.

The bilateral relations between Portugal and Qatar have strengthened over the years and are now at a new level. In fact, the relations are based on strong mutual respect, mutual interest and shared values. The two countries have signed several agreements in various fields, including economic cooperation, education, culture, sports, and tourism.

The ambassador to Qatar, Alves de Carvalho, recently held a meeting with Qatar's minister for international relations and cooperation to discuss ways to further strengthen the bilateral relations. The ambassador said that the two sides have agreed to enhance their cooperation in areas such as education, culture, sports, and tourism.

He also expressed his hope that the two sides will continue to work closely in the future to implement the bilateral pacts that have been signed between the two countries. The ambassador said that he is confident that the cooperation between Qatar and Portugal will continue to grow and that the two countries will be able to achieve greater success in the future.

The ambassador also expressed his appreciation for the warm hospitality that he received during his visit to Qatar. He said that he was impressed by the rich cultural heritage of Qatar and the warm welcome he received from the people of Qatar.

The ambassador also made it clear that the two sides will continue to work closely to implement the bilateral agreements that have been signed between the two countries. He said that he is confident that the cooperation between Qatar and Portugal will continue to grow and that the two countries will be able to achieve greater success in the future.
Teachers at SIS benefit from professional development programme

Teachers at Sharjah-based Indian School (SIS) in Dubai recently took up the remedial practices of SIS, by helping the teachers with understanding the objectives and best practices that were to be adopted for the coming academic year through the school’s professional development programme. Academic Achievement and Enhancement Programme, and Professional Development Programme.

Head teacher Secondary section (head Abid Ali) and team took up the remedial practices of SIS, by helping the teachers with understanding the objectives and best practices that were to be adopted for the coming academic year through the school’s professional development programme. Academic Achievement and Enhancement Programme, and Professional Development Programme.

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Horoscope

1. Community

Wordsearch

Puzzles courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Sudoku

Colouring

Zodiac

Across
1 Being there, have a ball – a couple of hours before midnight? (10)
2 Brisk translation for a politician (7)
3 Name of man responsible for worldwide structures (5)
4 Short dog with a little tail (5)
11 Two instruments for sailors’ use (6)
13 Poor sample of trees (6) 
15 Cleryman moved (6)
18 Chief supporter (4)
21 Stroll round Minehead, a couple of hours before midnight? (10)
22 Disturbance resolved in court (7)
23 The dogs ran wild, being bent (7)

Down
1 The colour of fresh brains (5)
2 Mornin’s wintry salt lake (4)
3 The naval hero in the hold (6)
4 Part of book taken out in theatres (5)
5 Care for teachers is head’s duty and restriction may be holding you back. Take the best of both worlds and come up with a unique plan of attack. You may feel a bit of a strain today as you try to figure out the best approach tells you to let loose, be courageous, and strike out with the scheme of things and fulfill your duties and responsibilities. A close loved one may distract you in subtle ways, one way and pull you another. You may encourage a focus on the collective while others seem too worried about themselves. Yet another force is calling for outdated remedies and traditional structures that is no longer relevant and purposes. Make sure your true heart is going pitter-pat, Gemini, and you’re tempted to escape into a fantasyland in which you play the starring role. The bad news is that your conscience is coming on the scene to remind you that it bring you down.

2. LEISURE/HOROSCOPE

Super Cryptic Chaos

In a grid containing 9 x 9 squares with the same number in have the same letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once.

CUMMINGS
SEGER
HOPE
NEWHART

6

Codeword

Wordsearch

Colouring

Puzzles courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Sudoku

Across
1 Dying, a couple of hours before midnight? (10)
2 Breaking the Law (5)
3 Name of man responsible for worldwide structures (5)
4 Short dog with a little tail (5)
11 Two instruments for sailors’ use (6)
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German president new constitution into law

**AFP**

A German president yesterday signed the country’s new Basic Law constitution into law, thus officially ending the nation’s 13-year transition from a reunified, one-party state to a democracy governed by a governmental system and constitutional court.

The new law was voted into force by a majority of nearly 90% of the nation’s 20 million voters in a referendum held yesterday, marking the end of the country’s historic journey from the end of World War II to the reunification of East and West Germany.

The new constitution, which took effect on Jan. 1, 2021, enshrines a wide range of civil and political rights, including freedom of speech and religion, and guarantees the protection of human rights and freedoms.

It also establishes a constitutional court, the Verfassungsgericht, which will have the power to strike down laws that violate the constitution.

The new constitution replaces the two constitutions of the former West and East Germany, both of which had been in place since the end of World War II.

**France**

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A man is being treated yesterday before being flown for treatment to the Barakat Center in Giza, where it is believed he is in British medical care.
Farmers’ union to announce new plan of action

Kerala Assembly session from Jan 8

India is one step away from its first commercial vaccine, with the nod of the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) needed on the Subject Expert Committee’s recommendation for emergency use of Oxford-AstraZeneca’s Covishield. The approval is expected soon after today’s meeting, which will set the pace for the manufacture and distribution of the vaccine.

The Serum Institute had part-funded the trials of the vaccine in India and the UK, and has been granted emergency use authorisation in the UK. The vaccine was expected to be approved in India on January 2, but the meeting yesterday assessed that the approval will be delayed to January 5 or 6, according to sources.

The Delhi High Court had earlier ordered the DCGI to take a decision on Covishield by January 3. The approval will pave the way for the vaccine’s rollout in India, which has a population of 1.3 billion and has one of the highest numbers of infections in the world, after the US. The rollout will begin from January 6, according to sources.

The UK and Argentina have mostly above the age of 50 years. Workers and 27 crore elderly, healthcare workers, along with the running of vaccine is slated to commence in all the states and Union Territories to equip the common man to celebrate New Year. Everyone! What are you grateful for?...” The actress earlier thanked fans and followers by taking to her social media platform on December 30. Currently, Deepika has 59.2 million followers on Twitter and 137 million followers on Instagram. The actress is currently working on “Pathaan,” directed by Kabir Khan, in Katrina.

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Kerala Assembly session from Jan 8

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One can see the eye-rolling out there: Is this really going to be another editorial about the need to cover one’s mouth? No. 1: Be like the New Year’s resolution that most Americans still have. At least 6ft of distance from others. If that sounds like a scolding before entering a fire, they take appropriate precautions during it. Americans have been exposed to the virus, but it will take months yet for the vaccines to begin to be another editorial about the need to cover one’s mouth.

There is plenty that Biden will be able to do right away. Tax cuts are in the pipeline, the Biden-Harris administration will deliver the additional payments. The Republican-controlled Senate then blocked it. With crucial votes in Georgia’s Senate at hand, Senate Republicans have more than their right kind of help. For them, an additional one-time payment of $1,400 isn’t the right kind of help.

Biden has enormous sway over international organisations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and has the power to decide whether they can receive the Ethiopian’s Okonjo-Iweala’s proposal to expand the size of the runway.

The economic trauma will not heal overnight, and without comprehensive assistance at this critical time of need — including for cash-strapped state and local governments — the path will continue to be steep. The US has far more than $1 trillion of stimulus to spend, including $450 billion in the American Rescue Plan.

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Qureshi: Govt ready for talks on all issues except accountability

From roads to skies: Pakistan's famous truck art goes airborne

Prime minister gives export a push in the right direction - 2021

Pakistan and India share lists of prisoners in each other's custody twice a year, on change lists of prisoners in each other's custody. In a statement, the department said that 20 prisoners from each side are exchanged every year, on a change of lists of prisoners in each other's custody.

PK govt to pay for destroyed temple

Karachi records coldest temperature

Covid-19 variant detected in more people in Sindh

Prime minister gives export a push in the right direction - 2021

France and Pakistan sign nuclear fuel supply deal

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa education minister announce that exams scheduled for March are being de- laid till May and June, while exams ruled for March are being de- laid till May and June, while exams.
The Mahaseel Festival, on its 10th day yesterday, continued to be a crowd-puller. The event has consistently been attracting a large number of shoppers eager to buy local fresh produce since it opened at Katara’s southern area on December 23.

While the annual event is scheduled to conclude today (January 2), the Mahaseel souq will be open during the weekends – from Thursday to Saturday – until March 31.

“We find the vegetables here to be of high-quality, and they are really fresh since they came directly from farms in Qatar,” Filipino expatriate Monica Navarro told Gulf Times. She said that they grabbed the chance to shop at Mahaseel to save money since the prices of vegetables and other items offered by stalls are cheaper compared to the ones being sold at supermarkets.

Navarro, with her colleagues, bought a variety of vegetables such as radish, cucumber, mushroom, squash, and quail eggs. “We are planning to get our veggies here, so for sure we will return next weekend to shop,” she said. “We haven’t bought any meat being sold here, but we will try it as well.”

“W e are also looking at some ornamental plants and flowers.” Indian expatriate Mohammed Meraj, who was with his family and was at Mahaseel for the first time, echoed Navarro’s view, vouching for the quality of vegetables from local farms.

He said that the stalls at Mahaseel offer premium vegetables at reasonable prices – “a value for money.” “The products here are bigger in size, and of course, fresh. I’m planning to return in the coming weekends to explore more items, such as mushrooms,” Meraj said.

Participating farms and companies also lauded the festival, describing it “a very successful annual event, which benefitted all sellers and buyers.” According to Katara – the Cultural Village, Mahaseel serves as excellent platform for Qatari farms and companies to promote and market their products – ranging from fresh vegetables and fruits, honey, sheep and dromedary, ornamental plants and flowers, and farming tools at reasonable prices.

It is learnt that the festival also witnessed a huge demand for a variety of ornamental plants and flowers, giving sellers a windfall, especially during the cold season.

Business is really good at Mahaseel, more people are buying, and our lilies are some of the fast-selling items. Many shoppers found them very appealing and attractive,” said a farm staff. Mahaseel’s latest edition focused on buying and selling of products, having cancelled all workshops and technical activities.

This is in line with the Ministry of Public Health’s directives to limit the spread of the coronavirus and ensure the health and safety of all staff and visitors.

The coronavirus causes the Covid-19 respiratory disease. The festival requires visitors to adhere to Covid-19 precautionary measures, such as mandatory wearing of face masks, social distancing, and showing of Ehteraz mobile app (green code).

No let-up in footfall as Mahaseel fest ends

By Joey Aguilar

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