Doha, Capital of Culture in the Islamic World

activities begin today

Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the celebrations of “Doha, Capital of Culture in the Islamic World 2021” will start today and run for a whole year, under the slogan “Our Culture is Dialogue”. The celebrations will be carried out by the Ministry of Culture and Sports, in co-operation with the Islamic World Organisation for Education, Science and Culture (MWISEC), the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, and the strategic partners in the country, namely, the Ministry of Education, Qatar Foundation, Qatar Museums, Katara, and many participating entities in the country. Page 11

FM meets Yemeni counterpart

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdullatif bin Abdulrahman al-Thani met yesterday with the visiting Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Ahmad Awad bin Mubarak. They reviewed the bilateral relations and the latest developments in Yemen. HE Dr al-Khal, expressed his readiness to continue his efforts to preserve the unity of Yemen and achieve its security and stability. He underlined the need to abide by the terms of the latest agreement and political solution, achieve national reconciliation, and return to the outcomes of the comprehensive national dialogue agreed upon by the political forces and all spectrums of the Yemeni people as a basis for ending the crisis. He also called for implementing the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution No. 2216.

Over 327,000 Covid vaccine doses given so far, says MoPH

T he Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has announced that 1,613,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been administered to Qatar residents since the start of the National Vaccination Programme against the coronavirus pandemic. So far, 64% of Qatar’s adult population, which includes those above 16 years of age, have received at least one vaccine dose. It is very important that everyone completes the vaccine by having the second dose to ensure its efficacy,” said HE Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari, Minister of Public Health.

The milestone comes as data shows that more than half the people aged 60 and above among the most vulnerable in the population – have now received at least one vaccine dose. It is very important that everyone completes the vaccine by having the second dose to ensure its efficacy,” said HE Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari, Minister of Public Health. (Page 4)

Home quarantine for ‘kids’ of vaccinated parents

Any child up to the age of 16 years, and arriving in Qatar from a red zone country, will be exempted from home quarantine if both of the following conditions are met: (1) the child is related to the parent who has received both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine and is the protocol announced earlier, according to information available on the Discover Qatar website yesterday. The child, however, will be required to quarantine at home for seven days. Discover Qatar in Partnership with the Ministry of Health. www.discoverqatar.gov.qa (Page 6)

70% of age having received the vaccine

The MoPH stated that in the first six weeks of the vaccination programme, around 70% of people over 60 years of age have received the vaccine.

“Due to the availability of more vaccines and the opening of additional vaccination centres, including the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, and the Luqmi Covid-19 Drive Through Vaccination Centre, we have been able to widen the eligibility to include more sections of our population,” said Dr Abdali Al-Khateeb, Chair of the National Health Strategic Group on Infectious Diseases at Hamad Medical Corporation.

There is growing clinical evidence that more than half the people aged 60 and above among the most vulnerable in the population – have now received at least one vaccine dose. It is very important that everyone completes the vaccine by having the second dose to ensure its efficacy,” said HE Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari, Minister of Public Health. (Page 4)
Qatar hands over presidency of 14th UN Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to Japan

Qatar, the 2022 FIFA World Cup host, has handed over the presidency of the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to Japan.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani delivered a speech at the closing ceremony of the 13th Congress.

In his speech, Al Thani emphasized the significance of the congress and the need for continuous international efforts to combat crime.

He also highlighted Qatar's commitment to upholding the rule of law and promoting justice and human rights.

Al Thani thanked the previ- ous president of the congress, Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Khalid bin Mohammad Al Attiya, for his contributions and efforts in organizing the event.

Qatar's commitment to fighting crime and promoting justice was emphasized through the establishment of the Qatar National Commission for Criminal Justice, which was established under the supervision of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy.

Japan's Minister of Justice Yoko Kamikawa also delivered a speech, expressing her gratitude to Qatar for handing over the presidency.

She emphasized the importance of international cooperation in the fight against crime and highlighted Japan's commitment to promoting justice and human rights.

The closing ceremony was attended by representatives from various countries and international organizations, as well as members of the media.

The 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will be held in Japan in 2022, with the aim of discussing the latest developments in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

Qatar's presidency of the congress is seen as an opportunity to strengthen international cooperation and promote justice and human rights globally.
Minister tours projects of Public Bus Infrastructure

HE the Minister of Transport and Communications, Jassim Seif Ahmed al-Sulaiti, yesterday conducted an inspection tour of the ongoing projects of the Public Bus Infrastructure Programme. Two in Al Wakra and Al Wakra were inaugurated for the public in January 2020. The other two in Lusail and Al Rayyan were inaugurated in Msheireb and Al Gharafa of 2021. Work at bus terminals in Mekhala and Al Guwaha is 3% complete and would be delivered during the first quarter of 2022.

The Programme aims to achieve tender to the most qualified contractor and delivery near 68% completion and ready to open soon.

Work is underway to establish seven bus terminals within the secondary and third packages of the programme. Delivery is estimated in late 2023.

Work to establish the four new terminals in Al Gharafa, Msheireb, Al Wakra and Education City are near 100% complete and will be ready for the public in January 2020.

The fourth package in Lusail, Al Wakra, Education City and Industrial Area and would complete during the third quarter of 2021. Work at bus terminals in Mekhala and Al Guwaha are 3% complete and would be delivered during the first quarter of 2022.

The programme includes establishment of a ferry terminal and parking space (motor taxi) under the fourth package in Lusail, Doha Port, Hamad International Airport and the Pearl. These are in addition to establishing a bus parking space in Lusail, Al Wakra, Education City and Industrial Area and would complete during the fourth quarter of 2021.

The Public Bus Infrastructure Programme aims to achieve integration with public transport systems countrywide and support the development and integration of public transport systems countrywide during FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and beyond. It also aims to increase public transit ridership by offering high-quality service and facilities with world-class technology and best practices.

The programme reflects Qatar’s strategic vision to implement the strategy of switching to clean energy to transport and reduce a carbon emissions of conventional vehicles and improve overall air and climate quality in Qatar. Among key strategy objectives is supporting transit connections during FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 to make Qatar second to none worldwide in using electric, non-fossil fueled vehicles during a FIFA championship, let alone integration with other public transit systems.
QRCS deploys third batch of aid to Lebanon

Under its humanitarian response to the Beirut Harbour explosion, Qatar Red Cross Society (QRCS) mission in Lebanon cleared and deployed the third batch of aid to Lebanon, QRCS’ people. Deployed by QRCS, including 100 medical beds, 50 tonnes of food items and medical supplies. With 50 tonnes of food items, 1,050 families of 2,520 persons will benefit from the relief.

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To celebrate this year’s International Women’s Day, the ambassadors of Austria, Canada, Ethiopia, Greece, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway and the US, and the director of Unesco Qatar, organized the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) office in Doha – all female heads of missions – for a Diploma for a Day initiative. The programme was set up as a unique way to interact with Qatar female students from top universities such as New York University in Qatar, the American School of Doha and encourage them to do diploma life. Each of the missions organized a unique programme that highlighted their mandate.

Students were a shadowing experience for a typical day at work side by side with their head of mission, or participating in various diplomatic activities. Some of the activities comprised meeting with the ambassador to discuss their role, visiting the consular section, meeting interesting with other ambassadors, and organizing meetings on the various policies being implemented, discussing programmes within embassy trade and cultural sections, and visiting the UN and diplomatic missions. Students, participating in technical meetings and attending formal visits, at the end of the day or virtual wrap-up session were organized in all participants to meet and provide feedback on their experience. All deadlines were respected for this day.

“The idea behind this initiative is to provide young women with exposure to some of the work we do, and give them their first-hand experience at the diplomatic office,” said Christina McCallum, Canada’s ambassador. Certain ambassadors welcomed the students behind the female heads of missions. “This experience was very enriching for us, and the energy and enthusiasm exhibited by these amazing students was contagious,” the ambassador of Norway, Marit Geirhofer, who spent the day with Gabriela Garcia, Mexico’s ambassador to Qatar, said. “I attended the University of Georgetown in Qatar’s Ambassador School, I frequently receive students to meet international affairs, to discuss foreign service. But when the opportunity to shadow an ambassador to Qatar presented itself, I decided twice. Being Diplomat for a Day” allowed me to transmit the theory I have learned in Georgetown in practice. Embedding an English student in depth look into the life of an ambassador is something that can oftentimes feel far and foreign to a public major like me. This opportunity is especially rewarding.

To have been able to shadow a successful female ambassador, who saw to it to overcome a lot of issues, is a clear indicator that women can be a real leader in a field, and is an indicator that a value should be placed on the role diplomats are taking leading up to International Women’s Day.


Women across the globe are celebrating their achievements this year and calling for action to support the gender equality goals for 2030.

Women’s Day was established under the theme “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 world.”

Women at QC, both employees and volunteers, have demonstrated their abilities during the current global health crisis, contributing to delivering effective and efficient assistance to fight the coronavirus, according to a source statement on March 7. QC marks International Women’s Day by being celebrated under the theme “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 world.”

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National Tourism Council

QNTC is conducting inspection

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It is a part of a collaboration between the government entities to

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The Diplomatic Club enhances the hospitality services

Adhering to all preventive measures against COVID-19

by a unique location in the heart of Doha. In addition, the club has

Gold Times, November 18, 2021

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Coalition jets pound Sanaa after Houthi drone strikes

The研究指出，Houthi drones targeted with coalition strikes have been used to launch attacks on targets in Yemen. The drones were reported to be capable of carrying bombs and launching missiles.

Over 327,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses administered so far

According to the Ministry of Health's data, more than 327,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses have been administered so far. The Ministry has urged citizens to get vaccinated to help curb the spread of the virus.

MoPH reports 474 new Covid cases

The Ministry of Public Health reported 474 new Covid cases in Qatar, with the number of active cases now at 1,419. The ministry has advised citizens to continue following health guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus.

495 face prosecution for violations of Covid-19 protocols

The Qatari government has announced that 495 individuals have been referred to the judicial authorities for violating Covid-19 protocols. The measures include not wearing masks in public places and not following social distancing rules.

Home quarantine for children of parents who have been vaccinated

The ministry has announced that children of parents who have been vaccinated against Covid-19 will no longer be required to undergo quarantine. This measure is part of efforts to ease restrictions and恢复正常on the local economy.
South Korea, US scale back annual military drill

A year ago, China imposed a tough national security law on Hong Kong, effectively ending the autonomy of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. The law curbed opposition activity and disallowed most political criticism of mainland China.

Hong Kong’s transition from chaos to governance is in full swing and a genuine election system is on the way, said the man in charge of the city’s handover to China – Zhang Chunqyu.

He said that the Chinese central government was committed to ensuring orderly and transparent elections in Hong Kong, and that the city’s citizens would be able to choose their leaders in a fair and open manner.

Zhang also praised the city’s progress in recent years, saying that it had become a major global financial hub and a centre for innovation and entrepreneurship.

He added that the city’s future prosperity depended on maintaining stability and security, and that the Chinese government would continue to support the Hong Kong people in their efforts to build a better city.

The Chinese government is committed to upholding the One Country, Two Systems principle and ensuring the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

Rights groups call for Philipines investigation into killings of activists

Human rights groups have called on the Philippine government to investigate what they say was a local vigilante-style killing.

The incident took place in Marawi, Mindanao, where at least 15 people were killed in a持械冲突.

The government has denied involvement in the killings and has launched an investigation into the incident.

However, human rights groups have demanded that the Philippine government investigate the killings and hold those responsible accountable for the deaths.

They have also called for an independent international investigation into the incident to ensure that justice is done and that those responsible are held accountable.

Coronavirus reaches Russia's far east

A year ago, Russia imposed strict lockdowns and travel restrictions to combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

The country has so far recorded more than 139,000 deaths and over 4 million cases.

However, the recent increase in infections has prompted the government to reimpose some restrictions, including a nightly curfew in Moscow and other large cities.

The state's health authority also announced that it would begin administering an experimental coronavirus vaccine to health workers and teachers from this week.

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China stresses on peace, partnership with India

Chinese President Xi Jinping called on Friday for closer bilateral military ties, saying trust and understanding between the two neighbours would bring peace and development in the region. He was addressing a video conference with US President Joe Biden, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin. The meeting was held via video conference, with each leader speaking at length, before wrapping up the meeting. Xi said the four leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in the four areas of strategic security, economic cooperation, people-to-people exchanges and international affairs. The meeting follows a phone call between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and American Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday, during which they agreed to meet face-to-face in the not-so-distant future. The meeting was also significant as it was the first of its kind between the leaders of the world’s two largest economies and military powers. The meeting comes as the US and China continue to compete for influence in the Indo-Pacific region. The US has been increasing its military presence in the region, with talks of deploying troops to the Philippines and Thailand. China, on the other hand, has been expanding its military capabilities, with the deployment of the new J-20 stealth fighter and the construction of new aircraft carriers. The meeting was also significant as it came at a time when tensions between the two countries had been rising, with both sides accusing the other of provocations. However, the meeting was also seen as a positive step towards resolving the ongoing border dispute between the two countries, which has been a source of tension for decades. The meeting also came at a time when the US and India were looking to strengthen their military ties, with a joint military exercise planned for later this year. The meeting was also significant as it came at a time when the world was looking to China for a stable and responsible global leader, with the country’s role in the global economy and geopolitical landscape becoming increasingly important. China, with its vast population and economic power, is seen as a key player in the global stage, with its influence and influence growing in the years to come.
Enabling flying robots to go past cramped spaces

Flying robots are among the most challenging domains of robotics, but the achievement of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) assistant professor Kevin Yufeng Chen and his team is making news. The researchers have built a new generation of tiny drones, allowing them to move in cramped spaces and withstand collisions. Chen, a member of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Biological Engineering Program, and the Research Laboratory of Electronics, has developed insect-sized drones that can be programmed to move in confined spaces.

The aerial robots are powered by a new class of soft actuator, which allows them to withstand the ground forces of real-world flight. Chen hopes the robots could one day aid human beings in performing recovery operations in cramped spaces.

Chen’s work has appeared in the journal IEEE Transactions on Robotics. Ho co-authors include MIT PhD student Zhijian Ren, Harvard University PhD student An Su, and City University of Hong Kong roboticist Palpyang Charnpisantharak. As it is known, drones require wide open spaces as they are neither nimble enough to navigate through crowded spaces nor robust enough to withstand collisions in a crowd. “If we look at most drones today, they’re usually quite big,” says Chen. “Most of their applications involve flying outdoors. The question is: Can you create something that can move around in very complex, cluttered spaces?” According to Chen, “The challenge of building small aerial robots in massive, post-industrial environments requires a fundamentally different construction from larger ones. Large-size drones are usually powered by motors, but motors lose efficiency as they get smaller and smaller. Tiny drones need to use a different approach.”

Chen says, for insect-like robots “you need to look for alternative power sources. For power in flying small entities, a small robotic actuator built from piezoelectric materials can do the trick. These materials allow the drone to respond to small perturbations in its environment. And that is a problem when building a robot to mimic an insect, considering the fact that insect hoppers endure collisions all about once every second.”

Chen has designed a more resilient tiny drone using soft actuators, made of thin rubber cylinders coated in carbon nanotubes. When voltage is applied to the carbon nanotubes, they produce an electrostatic force that squashes and elongates the rubber cylinder. Repeated elongation and contraction causes the drone’s wings to beat fast. Chen’s actuator can flap nearly 360 times per second, giving the drone insect-like resilience. “You can hit it when it’s flying, and it can recover,” says Chen. “It can do all the challenging moves like somersaults in the air.”

The drone weighs in at just 0.6 gram, approximately the mass of a large bumble bee. Chen says the drone can perform quite big, “most of their applications involve flying outdoors. The question is: Can you create something that can move around in very complex, cluttered spaces?”

Potential applications include artificial pollination of crops or search-and-rescue missions following a disaster. What was science fiction once is now becoming a reality.

It is now up to the UK and the US to create the conditions for scaled-up green investment in the developing world

By Rachael Kyte, Ana Toni, and Bernice Lee

COP26, the United Nations climate conference that is taking place in Glasgow, Scotland, this November, is a major opportunity to demonstrate what a post-pandemic “Global Britain” can do. And if the UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, is as true to his word as the administration promises, it will put the UK’s climate leadership on display. Should the UK take this chance, it could reach its goal of net-zero emissions by 2050; and do so in a way that is resilient to future shocks.

Unfortunately, in my view, there’s a chance the UK could miss this opportunity. As principal researcher at the International Institute for Sustainable Development, I have seen firsthand the kind of ambition that is needed to meet the goals of the Paris agreement.

The stakes could not be higher. In 2021 alone, world leaders will gather at least seven times to address global crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the economic crisis, climate change, food systems, and biodiversity loss. It is all the more important that the UK seize this moment.

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For years after former president Donald Trump pulled the US out of the Paris climate agreement, the Biden administration has now brought the country back in. But ensuring the US is on a path to achieve carbon neutrality by mid-century poses a much greater challenge.

Fortunately, both the climate chief, former Secretary of State John Kerry, recognises that US leadership now depends on a coherent national strategy that bestows on the US its historic role in providing leadership for others.

From the White House Climate Action Team’s (WHT) white paper, it is clear that for the US to play its historic role in providing leadership for others, it needs to create conditions for scaled-up green investment through international cooperation. This will ensure the UK is in a position to lead the world in global cooperation.

World leaders will gather at the COP26 climate conference to discuss how to address the growing threat of climate change. The US and the UK are key contributors to the global climate system, and their leadership will be crucial in ensuring the world reaches its goals.

For both the US and the UK, it is essential to ensure that the world is on track to meet the goals of the Paris agreement. As the UK and the US continue to push back against countries and initiatives that undermine global climate goals, it is critical that they take a leading role in setting and fulfilling ambitious climate targets.

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A new prime minister of France on Monday, March 8, 2021

France tries weekend surge to improve vaccination record

Vaccines are being rapidly rolled out in France, with the government facing criticism at home and abroad over the pace of the roll-out. One target is to vaccinate a million people a day by Easter, but the government has made it clear that this will depend on supplies of the AstraZeneca vaccine. The French have had to wait longer than most European countries for the vaccine, which is one of the key drivers of the surges in many countries.

By the end of the weekend, staff here will be on deck, including the weekend. Nurses, hospitals, everyone needs to be mobilised," Prime Minister Jean Castex told reporters last Thursday. "Mayors, city councillors, everyone needs to be on deck, including the weekend."

"Today’s decision opens old wounds, further exacerbates the principle of legal inequality, and sends a clear signal of exclusion to the Muslim women who are fined," Deltner said. "The proposal denounced the Covid-19 pandemic. It has raised legal challenges to have implementing the ban."

The proposal was condemned by the German Social Union (GdU) on Saturday, as well as by the German government. "We welcome the decision of the Swiss parliament," a spokesperson for the Swiss parliament said. "However, we remain concerned that this decision will be implemented in a way that respects the human rights of those affected.

France banned wearing a full face veil in public during the past three years, a ban that has been widely condemned by human rights groups. The ban, which is in place until the end of March, is one of several measures that France has taken to stem the rise of the far-right. The ban has been widely condemned by human rights groups, who argue that it is a violation of human rights.

It's a similar picture across France where shops were closed on Sunday. It's a sign of the changing times, where people are more likely to shop on a Saturday or a Monday, and where the economy is slowing down. The government has been under pressure to speed up the roll-out of the vaccine, which is key to unlocking the economy.

A A town in Italy's Lombardy region has declared a state of emergency for the first time in the city's history, following a rise in cases of coronavirus. The move by the mayor of the town of Cernusco, near Milan, is the latest in a series of measures taken by Italian authorities to curb the spread of the virus. The city of Cernusco, which has a population of around 2,000, has been under lockdown for the past week.

The city of Cernusco – otherwise famous for hosting the birthplace of the Mathis brothers – has confirmed that they are working to contain the spread of the virus. "We are working to contain the spread of the virus," the mayor of Cernusco told the ANSA news agency.

Nicola Mihos, a senator from the ruling Five Star Movement and head of the party's parliamentary group, said Nicola Mihos was a prime minister of the Mafioso, who had been arrested by the police in Turin.

"Unquestionably, we are hearing of several situations in which the role of law was played to stamp on," Mihos wrote on Twitter, adding that the law was "the great defender of the people, the great defender of democracy, the great defender of freedom."

"It's the same principle, an investment in what is being done to protect the people," the mayor of Cernusco told the ANSA news agency.

The city of Cernusco was one of the last to see a significant rise in cases, with the mayor of the city, Fabio Amoruso, saying that the town was "moving into a new phase, with more cases and more deaths."

A view of a mobile testing unit at a temporary testing centre in Berlin’s Wedding district yesterday amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The German government has said that it plans to vaccinate a million people a day by Easter, but the government has made it clear that this will depend on supplies of the AstraZeneca vaccine. The French have had to wait longer than most European countries for the vaccine, which is one of the key drivers of the surges in many countries.

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LuLu Intersection on D Ring Road partially opens

The opening of LuLu Intersection is the first step in the Al Zubarah D Ring Road development project.

Clean-up drive at Al Zubarah

The Italian and British embassies in Qatar, in collaboration with the GCC Countries and Yemen, organized the ‘Clean-up drive at Al Zubarah' on Qatar Environment Day, which was carried out in coordination with the General Directorate of Traffic.

QBG concludes series of Qatar Environment Day activities

Qatar Environment Day is an especially important occasion for the QCB.

The event raises awareness on the serious damage caused by plastic pollution and littering to the environment and wildlife.