Turkish president meets FM

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with FM before the start of the meeting, in which they discussed the situation in the region, as well as issues related to the security of the region.

The meeting was attended by FM and his delegation, as well as high-ranking officials from both countries. The two leaders exchanged views on a range of issues, including regional security, economic cooperation, and diplomatic relations.

During the meeting, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to working together to achieve common goals and address challenges faced by the region. They also expressed their commitment to promoting economic growth and development in the region.

The meeting concluded with a joint statement, where the leaders emphasized their shared vision for the region's future and the importance of strengthened cooperation and partnership.

Rapid antigen tests linked to Ehteraz at 101 private clinics

Rapid antigen tests are now available at 101 private clinics in the country, as part of the government's efforts to expand access to rapid testing facilities. The tests are being conducted by a team of healthcare professionals, who are trained in the use of rapid antigen tests.

The government has also announced that the rapid antigen tests will be made available to all citizens who need them, regardless of their age or health status.

Attiyah wins Dakar Rally for fourth time

Morten Sylvest of the Dakar Rally won the event for the fourth time, cementing his status as one of the world's top rally drivers. Sylvest, who won the event in 2016, 2018, and 2020, was a comfortable winner of the 2021 edition.

The rally, which started in Dakar, Senegal, and ended in Lima, Peru, covered a total of 5,346 kilometers (3,321 miles) over 15 stages.

Sylvest led the race from the start, and despite some challenges along the way, he was able to hold onto his lead and claim the overall victory. His win is the fourth in a row for him in the Dakar Rally, a record that has never been broken before.

The rally is one of the world's most prestigious off-road events, and Sylvest's win is a testament to his skill and the hard work put in by his team. It is a true indication of the level of talent that exists in the world of rally driving, and a reminder of the immense challenge that the drivers face in these events.
Book fair opens window to history of education in Qatar

Education Ministry participates in Doha International Book Fair, hosts a bouquet of cultural events

1,149 booked for Covid violators

MoPH reports 4,123 new Covid-19 cases

Rain, wind forecast

Which type of mask provides the best protection against Omicron?
**Diplomats laud Doha book fair**

By Joey Apilado

Gulf News

The 35th edition of the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) is offering a wide variety of books that can cater to all sorts of tastes, both for children and adults. Organisers are hoping to attract more than 200,000 visitors from all over the world, including the US, Europe, and the Middle East.

The book fair is a significant event for Qatar, providing a platform for publishers, authors, and readers to connect and share knowledge. The fair features a variety of activities, including book signings, author talks, and cultural performances.

One of the highlights of the fair is the section dedicated to children’s literature. The book fair is a great opportunity for parents to introduce their children to new books and authors. Children’s literature is a crucial part of education, as it helps to develop children’s imaginative abilities and encourage them to explore new ideas.

The book fair also features a wide range of books in English and Arabic, reflecting Qatar’s multicultural society. The fair is a testament to the country’s commitment to literacy and the promotion of reading for all ages.

Shining light on knowledge

The 31st edition of the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF), under the patronage of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, is currently on at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre. The event, held under the slogan “Knowledge is Light”, features literary works of local, regional, and international renowned authors and publishers from 37 countries across the globe. Organised by the Ministry of Culture’s Qatar Cultural and Heritage Events Centre, the fair will run until January 15.

Apart from books, the DIBF also hosts several activities for visitors to enjoy, such as the Children’s Creative Garden, Qatar’s Centre, Youth Festival Centre, and the Video Arts Centre, among others. It is also set to host a series of events and lectures. The fair is the first of its kind to host a series of events and lectures.

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Celebration of winter’s vegetables and fruits bounty

Winter is the time when backyard and kitchen gardens flourish in Qatar. A variety of vegetables and fruits grow and thrive November to March. Cold weather, which the country experiences the least of, enhances the growth of tomatoes, bell peppers, chilli, bitter gourd, long beans and strawberry are among them. Pictures by Gulf Times staff/courtesy: farmers.
Joy from watercolours amid the pandemic

With the Covid-19 pandemic originated from Wuhan in China in December 2019 and rapidly spread across the world, life was hard for the people with borders shut and constraints on movement.

For months on end, thousands of people got stranded across the globe, separated from their loved ones, and the streets were forced to stay and stand strong. It took several months for many to be reunited with their families.

But the actual pandemic was over and the world realized that the world is not as large as it seemed, people gradually got used to the post-pandemic routine. Schools, bars, cinemas and travel started to return to normal, and the world seemed to be in the beginning of a new normal.

The pandemic also forced us to reflect on our priorities and values. Many feared the worst, but many also found new ways to connect with each other. The world slowly began to rebuild itself, and the pandemic became a catalyst for change.

I found myself taking up cross-stitch projects as a hobby during the pandemic, and I found it to be a great way to stay focused and creative. I realized that I could create my own beautiful art pieces by combining my love of embroidery with my love of painting.

The process of cross-stitching has always been a form of therapy for me. It helps me to relax and unwind, and it provides a way to express my creativity in a tangible way. I also discovered that cross-stitching can be a great way to connect with others, as it is a universal craft that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and skill levels.

I am grateful for the pandemic, as it has taught me to appreciate the simple things in life and to focus on the things that matter most. It has also shown me the power of creativity and the importance of community. I look forward to the future, but I am also grateful for the present moment and the memories that I have created during the pandemic.

Joy from watercolours amid the pandemic

Sarah
Two killed, 10 injured in Kuwait refinery fire

Protest against Israeli project

Iran nuclear talks enjoy ‘better atmosphere’ after painful start

Tunisians defy ban to protest against president

Un calls for release of UAE-flagged ship seized by Yemen rebels

Ethiopia lashes out at WHO chief for Tigray war remarks

Malians out in force after junta calls protests over sanctions

RWandans public sector staff told get jabbed or resign

Unrest in Ethiopia as Tigray conflict continues

Two people were killed and 10 others injured yesterday at a gas pipeline explosion in a Kuwaiti refinery.

Protesters were demanding the resignations of President Yameni and Prime Minister Fawaz Al-Fawaz.

Iranian nuclear talks enjoy ‘better atmosphere’ after painful start

Diplomats said a ‘painful’ week had ended with an agreement to resume talks on the nuclear program.

The talks began in Vienna in July and are being held with the aim of reviving the 2015 nuclear deal.

Tunisians defy ban to protest against president

Thousands of Tunisians defied a police ban to protest against President Kais Saied.

The protests took place in the capital, Tunis, and in several other cities and towns.

Un calls for release of UAE-flagged ship seized by Yemen rebels

The United Nations is calling for the release of a ship seized by Yemeni forces in the Red Sea.

The ship, the UAE-flagged Al-Houd, was seized by Houthi rebels in January.

Ethiopia lashes out at WHO chief for Tigray war remarks

The Ethiopian government has criticized the World Health Organization’s chief for his comments on the Tigray conflict.

Malians out in force after junta calls protests over sanctions

Mali’s junta has called for protests over sanctions imposed by the International Community.

The sanctions were imposed over concerns about the junta’s human rights record.

NWKandans public sector staff told get jabbed or resign

Rwanda’s government has announced plans to vaccinate all public sector workers.

The move is part of efforts to control the spread of the coronavirus.

Unrest in Ethiopia as Tigray conflict continues

Ethiopians are protesting against the Tigray Conflict, which has caused widespread destruction and displacement.

The conflict started in November 2020 and has since spread to other parts of the country.
US students stage walkouts to protest in-person classes

Biden to tout peaceful prescription plan following weeks of defeats

Canada expects Omicron to strain health system

Rebirth

Biden to hold peace conference to mark first year in office

US President Joe Biden is to host a peace conference to mark his first year in office at the White House on Thursday. At the conference, which is scheduled for 10 a.m. EST, Biden will deliver a speech on the importance of promoting peace and dialogue. The conference will bring together leaders from around the world, including from the United States, Canada, and other countries.

The conference is expected to focus on issues such as the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, the situation in the Middle East, and the challenges facing the global economy.

Biden's administration has been working to promote peace and stability in the region, and the conference is a key step in that direction. The White House has also been working to strengthen partnerships with other countries in order to address these challenges.

Canada expects Omicron to strain health system

Canada will see a surge in hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19 in the coming weeks, as the Omicron variant continues to spread across the country.

The federal health agency has predicted that the Omicron variant will become the dominant strain by the end of January, leading to increased hospitalizations and deaths. The agency has advised Canadians to continue practicing basic public health measures, such as wearing masks and maintaining physical distance, to help slow the spread of the virus.

The federal government has also announced a new vaccine program for seniors, which will help protect older adults from COVID-19. The program will provide doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to all seniors in Canada, regardless of their income level.

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Top Ohio court strikes down congressional map

The Ohio Supreme Court has struck down the state's new congressional map, ruling that it violates the constitution. The court's decision came in response to a challenge brought by a coalition of plaintiffs, including the League of Women Voters and the Ohio Center for Law and Justice.

The court found that the map was drawn with political intent, violating the constitution. The court ruled that the map was drawn with political intent, violating the constitution. The court ordered the state to redraw the map within 60 days.

The court's decision is a major victory for those who have been fighting against gerrymandering in the state. The map had been drawn by the Republican-controlled legislature, and it was widely criticized for being heavily gerrymandered.

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Spider-Man comic book sells for $3.6 million

A single copy of the Spider-Man comic book has sold for $3.6 million at auction, setting a record for the most expensive comic book ever sold.

The comic book, which features the first appearance of the character in an issue of Amazing Fantasy #15, was sold at a live auction held in New York City.

The comic book was discovered in a attic by a man who had been collecting comic books for decades. The man, who wished to remain anonymous, offered the comic book to the auction house, who then took it to a professional authentication company, which confirmed its authenticity.

The comic book was then put up for auction, and it generated a great deal of interest from collectors around the world. The auction was held at a live event, and it drew a large audience of collectors and media.

The comic book was sold for $3.6 million, setting a new record for the most expensive comic book ever sold. The previous record was held by a copy of Action Comics #1, which sold for $3.25 million at auction in 2011.

The sale of the Spider-Man comic book was a major event for comic book collectors and fans, and it set a new standard for the value of rare and collectible comic books.
North Korea fires missiles in third test of '22

South Korea court exempts teens, supermarkets from vaccine passes

North Korean hackers stole $400mn in crypto in 2021

China suspends more flights over Covid-19, Shanghai cancels tours

Quake hits Jakarta

Hong Kong airport bans transit passengers

**North Korea fires missiles in third test of '22**

North Korea fired three ballistic missiles yesterday, the South Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff announced today. The missiles were launched near the central city of Pyongyang and were detected by the United States and South Korea’s early warning systems. The missiles appeared to be medium-range missiles, similar to those fired in previous tests.

The launch comes at a time of increased tensions on the Korean Peninsula. North Korea has been increasing its missile testing activities in response to what it sees as a hostile US and South Korean response to its recent nuclear and missile tests. The US and South Korea have been increasing their military exercises in the area, which North Korea sees as a provocation.

The missiles are likely intended to demonstrate North Korea’s military capabilities and to put pressure on the international community to engage in nuclear disarmament talks. The UN Security Council has imposed sanctions on North Korea in response to its nuclear and missile tests, but the country continues to ignore the international community’s calls for denuclearization.

**South Korea court exempts teens, supermarkets from vaccine passes**

South Korea’s Supreme Court ruled today that it was unconstitutional for the government to require all South Koreans to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The court’s decision exempted teenagers and those working in certain industries, such as hospitals, from the vaccine mandate.

The ruling is a significant victory for those opposed to mandatory vaccination mandates. The court stated that the government had not shown enough evidence to justify the mandate and that it violated the constitutional rights of individuals.

The ruling is likely to be challenged by the government and may be appealed to the Constitutional Court. However, the Supreme Court’s decision is a clear indication that mandatory vaccination mandates are not constitutional in South Korea.

**North Korean hackers stole $400mn in crypto in 2021**

North Korean hackers have been targeting cryptocurrency exchanges and wallets for years, stealing millions of dollars in digital assets. In 2021, North Korean hackers stole an estimated $400 million from crypto exchanges and wallets, the largest hack in the history of the cryptocurrency industry.

The hackers, known as the Lazarus Group, have been active since 2014 and have targeted exchanges in Japan, South Korea, and other countries. In 2021, they focused on South Korean exchanges, stealing $300 million from Bithumb and $100 million from Coinrail.

The Lazarus Group is known for its advanced hacking techniques, including the use of advanced malware and social engineering. The group is believed to be funded by the North Korean government, which has a history of cyber warfare.

**China suspends more flights over Covid-19, Shanghai cancels tours**

China has suspended more flights over concerns about the spread of COVID-19. The Chinese government has stopped all international flights from countries with high rates of COVID-19 cases, including India and South Africa.

The suspension of flights is part of China’s efforts to control the spread of COVID-19. The country has been successful in containing the virus, but the government is still concerned about the potential for new variants to emerge.

Shanghai, the largest city in China, has canceled all international flights to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The city has been successful in containing the virus, but the government is still concerned about the potential for new variants to emerge.

**Quake hits Jakarta**

A 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck Indonesia on Thursday, causing minor damage in Jakarta. The quake was felt in several parts of the capital, including the city center and surrounding areas.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, but the earthquake did cause some disruptions to traffic. The Indonesian Meteorological, Climatological, and Geophysical Agency (BGK) has issued a tsunami warning for the area.

**Hong Kong airport bans transit passengers**

Hong Kong’s international airport has banned transit passengers from entering the country. The ban is in response to concerns about the spread of COVID-19, particularly the highly contagious delta variant.

The ban applies to all passengers who do not have valid visas or travel documents. The government has also banned all direct flights from countries with high rates of COVID-19 cases, including India and South Africa.

The ban is part of Hong Kong’s efforts to control the spread of COVID-19. The country has been successful in containing the virus, but the government is still concerned about the potential for new variants to emerge.

**People gather outside an office building as they are evacuated following an earthquake in Jakarta, Indonesia.**
Prince Andrew forces Queen to defend ‘crown at all costs’

UK govt apologises to parties on eve of prince William funeral

Seven-day Covid infections drop 29.5% on week before

Bomb found at Delhi flower market

Probe finds India defence chief’s pilot ‘disoriented by weather’

Republic Day parade rehearsal
Cites and the climate-data gap

By Robert Mayhew and carrn Huff

With data collection infrastructure issues and data availability gaps in many places, the challenge of aligning data with climate patterns constitutes a data gap in the study of climate change. This issue is especially pronounced in the case of cities, where climate patterns are rapidly changing due to urbanization and increased greenhouse gas emissions.

Context:

Cities account for around 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions and are responsible for a significant portion of the observed climate change. As a result, understanding the climate patterns and impacts on cities is crucial for effective adaptation and mitigation strategies. However, the lack of reliable climate data in many cities hinders the ability to accurately assess and respond to these challenges.

Data gaps:

1. Data collection: Many cities do not have comprehensive climate monitoring systems, resulting in incomplete or spotty data.
2. Data quality: Existing data may be of poor quality due to various factors such as equipment failure, data processing errors, or incomplete data sets.
3. Data accessibility: Even when data is collected, it may not be accessible to researchers and policymakers due to data sharing restrictions or lack of data management systems.
4. Data standardization: Differences in data collection methods and formats across cities make it difficult to compare and integrate data from different sources.

Implications:

1. Limited ability to assess urban climate impacts: Without reliable data, it is difficult to accurately assess the impacts of climate change on urban systems, such as infrastructure, public health, and economic activity.
2. Hurdles to effective adaptation and mitigation: Cities need comprehensive data to effectively adapt to climate change and plan mitigation strategies, but the lack of data hinders these efforts.
3. Inadequate policy and planning: Policymakers and planners rely on climate data to inform decisions, but the lack of data limits their ability to make informed decisions.

Future actions:

1. Improved data collection: Enhancing the capacity of cities to collect and monitor climate data is crucial. This includes investing in infrastructure and equipment, as well as establishing robust data management systems.
2. Data quality assurance: Ensuring the quality of climate data is essential to make it reliable and useful. This involves implementing data validation processes and quality control measures.
3. Data sharing and standardization: Encouraging data sharing and standardization across cities can help address data accessibility and interoperability issues.
4. Research and innovation: Investing in research and development to create new tools and methods for improving climate data collection and analysis is crucial.

Challenges:

1. Funding: The costs of implementing and maintaining climate monitoring systems can be significant.
2. Technology: The development and implementation of new technologies to enhance data collection and analysis can be challenging.
3. Governance: Ensuring the necessary institutional frameworks are in place to support climate data collection and analysis can be complex.

Conclusion:

Improving the climate-data gap in cities is crucial for effective climate adaptation and mitigation. Addressing the challenges outlined above will require a multifaceted approach involving investment in infrastructure, data quality assurance, data sharing, and research and development. By doing so, we can better understand and respond to the rapidly changing urban climate.
Cyber-attack hits Ukraine as US warns of Russian prepping for invasion

Dutch announce easing of Covid-19 restrictions

Polish exports leave PM's advisory panel

Former Danish minister faces case over state boats

Sweden rolls out tanks on Baltic island over Russian moves

Pakistan launches new security policy

President Ilham Aliyev has visited Tbilisi, where he signed an agreement with Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili to establish a joint economic zone in the Absheron Peninsula. The agreement is expected to promote economic cooperation and trade between the two countries. It also aims to attract foreign investment and enhance the region's infrastructure. 

Ilham Aliyev and Salome Zourabichvili met to discuss various aspects of bilateral relations, including military cooperation, trade, and investment. They also signed a number of bilateral agreements in the areas of energy, transport, and telecommunications. The joint economic zone is expected to boost economic growth and create new job opportunities for residents of the region.

The agreement is seen as a significant step in strengthening ties between Azerbaijan and Georgia, and in promoting regional stability and prosperity. It is expected to attract investments from companies in various sectors, including logistics, tourism, and renewable energy. The joint economic zone will cover an area of 50,000 hectares and will include industrial, commercial, and residential areas.

The signing of the agreement was praised by both countries, with Ilham Aliyev stating that it would contribute to the development of the region and create new opportunities for economic growth. Salome Zourabichvili also expressed her gratitude to Ilham Aliyev for his support and cooperation in advancing bilateral relations.

The joint economic zone is expected to be operational in the near future, with both countries working together to implement the necessary infrastructure and develop the area. The agreement is seen as a positive development for both countries and a step forward in regional cooperation and economic integration.
Knowledge is light

Knowledge is light, a unique exhibition by the Ministry of Culture of Qatar, featuring local and international authors, publishers, and readers from around the world. The exhibition, which showcases the rich cultural heritage of Qatar, runs from January 22 to January 26.