



# Darb Al-Saai Newsletter



وَحَلَّتْنا مَصْدَر قُوَّتْنا  
قَمِير بِنْ حَمْد

A daily newsletter by the organising committee for the National Day

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## They were briefed on the cultural and heritage activates held in Darb Al-Saai Presidents of Qatar National Library and Qatar University visit Darb Al-Saai

HE Dr. Hamad Al-Kawari, Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library (QNL), and HE Dr. Hassan Rashid Al-Derham, President of Qatar University, visited yesterday Darb Al-Saai in Umm Salal. Along with HE Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al Thani, Minister of Culture, they toured among Darb Al-Saai and were briefed on a number of heritage and cultural events.

Dr. Hassan Al-Derham, President of Qatar University, expressed his happiness to visit Darb Al-Saai in its new location in Umm Salal, and to learn about the new and distinguished activities. He praised the remarkable organization, as he said: "The first thing that attract my attention was the distinguished planning and the distribution of events and activates are very organized".

He added that Darb Al-Saai this year contains many new activities and ideas that are presented for the first time, appreciating the participation of parents, families and children, citizens, residents, guests and visitors to the activities and events of Darb Al-Saai. He also thanked the Ministry of Culture for what it has provided to the public.

During the tour, the President of Qatar National Library and the President of Qatar University learned about some of the activities such as the events of Al Bidda, Al-Izbah, Al-Nasa, and traditional crafts. They were also briefed on the exhibitions in Art Liwan, in addition to attending a part of the «Poetry and Values» seminar at the Darb Al-Saai Theater.

## World Cup Iconic in Darb Al-Saai

The visit of HE Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Fahad Al Thani, was an added value to the fun vibes in Darb Al Saai, and Sheikh Abdulrahman had become a World Cup iconic after a picture of him spread on the stands during the opening match between Qatar and Ecuador. Chinese accounts on social media platforms widely circulated his World Cup iconic picture while protesting the performance and loss of Qatar national team during the match, while others likened him to the Qatar World Cup iconic “Laib”. A number of visitors to Darb Al-Saai flocked to take photos with him.



## Darb Al-Saai .. Delights World Cup Fans

They participated in many activities, and they praised the Qatari's heritage and culture.

The activities of the National Day 2022 continued in Darb Al-Saai in Umm Salal, under the slogan “Our unity is the source of our strength”, amid a large crowd of citizens, residents and guests of the State of Qatar including fans of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. A group of the World Cup fans visited Darb Al-Saai and they expressed their admiration of the exceptional organization of the world Cup tournament. They also expressed their happiness to visit Darb Al-Saai headquarters, and Qatari generosity and hospitality.

The World Cup fans visited the events and participated in the «Qatari Arda» event (Qatari dance show), and also participated in the «Al Muqattar» event.

They also expressed their hope to repeat this visit to the State of Qatar, and enjoy its distinguished



World Cup stadiums, in addition to its historical landmarks, and its rich culture and heritage.

Mr. Augustinus said: This is the first time for me to visit an Arab country and to see these great celebrations of the World Cup and the country's national day. He expressed great admiration for the heritage activities, explaining that these activities give a glimpse into the Qatari culture, customs and traditions. Through these heritage activities a person can learn about Qatari and Arab society in general, and he expressed his happiness to visit the National Day celebrations at Darb Al-Saai, the largest gathering place of the people





in Qatar where he can communicate with them and learn more about their country's culture.

He praised the stunning organization of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, pointing that all celebrations set for this tournament have the Arabic styled and this is what distinguishes these celebrations, as World Cup fans from different countries around the world can learn about Arab civilization.

Mr. Abe said it was wonderful to watch the National Day celebrations, even if we came to support the national team in the World Cup. He added that I was keen to participate in this visit after seeing the wonderful organization of the World Cup and the warm welcome of the Qatari people, so wherever I'm I can find someone to help. He also expressed his admiration for Al Muqattar and camel riding activities, explaining that it was the first time for him to ride a camel. Mr. Abe said that we lived a new and unique experience in our visit to the National Day celebrations at Darb Al-Saai, and he is looking forward to another visit to any place where the celebrations of the National Day or the World Cup are held.

Mr. Veneto expressed his happiness for obtaining the Arab shemagh and headband, and said that I feel close

to this community when I wear it. He added that the visit to Darb Al-Saai was so special, through which we learned about the country's culture, customs and traditions, and that there are many activities that I liked, such as the Al-Maqtar and «Al-Fajri». Veneto expressed his admiration for the architectural style of Darb Al-Saai, discovering for the first time that this style reflects the old architectural style Qatar.

Fernando said that since his arrival in Doha five days ago, he is very happy to attend the Qatar World Cup 2022, and to enjoy the vibes of the World Cup, amidst the large crowd attending the World Cup, which coincides with Qatar's celebrations of the National Day, that makes it a great opportunity for us to attend Qatar National Day celebrations.



He expressed his great happiness to visit a number of various historical and heritage places in Qatar including Katara and Souq Waqif. Pointing out that he is extremely happy to be among Qataris with all their generosity features.

As for Mr. Cesar, he expressed his great admiration for what he saw in the State of Qatar, since his arrival here on November 20. He said that since his arrival in



Qatar, he has collected some non-forgetful memories, as he will tell his friends about this visit, especially the activities in Darb Al-Saai that reflect the Qatari heritage.

Liu points out that his first visit to Qatar made him adore the country and the generosity of its people. He described Souq Waqif as very wonderful traditional place, with all its cafes and restaurants, as well as handicrafts that reflect the culture of Qatar.

Nicholas expressed his great admiration for what he experienced of heritage and cultural activities in Darb Al-Saai. He also expressed his great admiration for Souq Waqif, and its restaurants that promote the culture of Qatari food, especially the popular ones.

Julian indicates his admiration for the culture and folk art in Darb Al-Saai, which prompts him to repeat this visit several times, as well as to enjoy Qatar rich historical and heritage attractions.

In line with Agustin who shares his opinion by emphasizing his strong love to Qatari culture, and the hospitality of its people, which he notices everywhere

he visits in Qatar. Pointing out that his visit to the activities of the National Day in Darb Al-Saai, will remain in his memory, as it highlights the lifestyle of Qatari people in the past.

He was also impressed by the food culture in Souq Waqif. «This place has impressed me with all its heritage and the nostalgia it brings about», he said.

He said he was amazed by the World Cup stadiums he had seen, which he described as extremely unique. He also expressed his pleasure with the events in the Doha Corniche that he had attended, and the atmosphere after the matches, which had made the Qatar World Cup a historical and special one.

It is worth mentioning that the Ada'am center under the Ministry of Culture has organized visits to fans of the Argentina team, who expressed their appreciation for this initiative, stressing that they will convey their rich experience, their impressions of Qatar and its people to the people in their country, and thanked them for the gifts given by the organizing committee, as a memory of Qatari and Arab heritage that will remain with them.



## Darb Al-Saai welcomes more than 40 thousand visitors per day

The Umm Salal Darb Al-Saai is witnessing a massive turnout of families, Qatari residents and FIFA World Cup visitors. Visitors' number has exceeded 40 thousand daily visitors. Large events such as Al-Muqtar, Al-Qadra and Doha Stadium attracted different groups across the Qatari people, as well as a notable presence of foreign visitors from World Cup fans who came to learn about Qatari culture and heritage. This year's headquarters of Darb Al-Saai has been set up with the highest level of facilities and tools to host a distinctive version that will match Qatar's great achievement in hosting the FIFA 2022 World Cup.



## In the presence of the Minister of Culture, and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.. The Art Symposium "The Pearl of The Sea" in Darb Al-Saai showcases the maritime art

In the presence of His Excellency Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al-Thani, Minister of Culture, and H.E. Dr. Fali Bin Nasser Bin Ahmed Bin Ali Al-Thani, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Music Center of the Ministry of Culture held a symposium on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 titled «Art of Fajri; The Pearl of The Sea» in Darab Al-Saai. The popular artist Khaled Jawhar, Omar Al-Kuwari, Qatari heritage researcher Mohammed Al-Sayegh with the media presenter Adel Abdullah. At the beginning of the symposium, participants expressed their pleasure with the cultural atmosphere and the efforts of the Ministry of Culture in presenting Qatar's heritage as part of the celebrations of the National Day in Darb Al-Saai, to introduce the audience of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 to aspects of Qatar's heritage. Researcher Mohammed Al-Sayegh, author of the book «Al-Fajri and the Art of Work on Board of a Ship». «Fajri Art is an ancient art in Qatar and is rich on many aspects, as it accompanied the profession of diving and pearl excursions constantly, where singing have been adopted to entertain the sailors on duty», he said. He pointed out that, it helped add positive psychological impact on the performance and work of seafarers, when they heard a beautiful voice, it has inspired and given them the ability to complete the journey.





He explained that the Fajri art belongs to the maritime arts, which are divided into two types, the first of which is related to recreational times after returning from work or rest on an island or so, the other one usually takes place on board. He said that the Fajri art has five types; Al-Bahari, Al-Adsani, Al-Haddadi, Al-Khulfi, Al-Hassawi, pointing out that A-Naham is the person performing this art, and he memorises the poems, especially the Zheyreyat, and he has a strong voice and soft at the same time.

Popular artist Khaled Jawhar talked about the history of the art of Fajri and how people associate with it, which always began with the mention of God and the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, noting that these divers have been living at the sea for months, seeking their livelihoods with their simple tools, and carried pottery items for drink and food. Every port had a person responsible for performing the Athan (call for prayers), Pointing out that the Fajri art was the catalyst and the way to ease the tough work, noting the existence of other arts that accompanied maritime arts such as Al-Khatfa and Al-Dowari.

Al-Naham Omar Sultan Al-Kuwari explained the differences between the maritime arts and the special features of each maritime art, with which he presented the band models of the Fajri art in its five basic forms, as well as the arts of the Khatfa, Dowari, and Yamal, using their traditional tools of drums, rows and pottery associated with the art of sound.



## Al-Manar School... a show for the love of the country

On stage, the young girls of Al Manar School performed a show about the homeland for Darb Al-Saai audience. To the tunes of a national song that showcases the country's achievements, the Qatari flags were risen by the young girls, in a performance that caught the attention of the audience and impressed them. The participation of schools in Darb Al-Saai is one of the most important objectives pursued by its officials to strengthen the sense of loyalty and belonging to Qatar and to maximize the benefit of young people from Darb Al-Saai's activities aimed at promoting the Qatari identity.



## Students of Kuwaiti School Balat Al-Shuhada visit Darb Al-Saai



In yet another international visit to Darb Al-Saai, a group of Kuwaiti students arrived at Darb Al-Saai with their school principal Ali Al-Zafiri, who described the visit as A valuable one through which the students learned about the Gulf heritage. In a remark about the buildings present at Darb Al-Saai, Abdullah Zakaria, assistant principal of the school praised the buildings designs and said it reflects the country's past and culture.





His Excellency Sheikh Abdul Rahman bin Hamad Al-Thani, Minister of Culture, Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Celebrations of the National Day, welcomed students and faculty from the school.

Students and faculty members toured the events, cultural activities and Darb Al-Saai's corners, and expressed their joy and pride in what Qatar offers its guests, the extraordinary organization of the World Cup tournament, as well as the events of Darb Al-Saai.

Ali Al-Zafiri commended the warm welcome they received during this visit, adding: «we are not surprised to receive this warm welcome and generosity in our second home Qatar, it is the habit of our brothers and sisters in Qatar»

Al-Zafiri was impressed by Darb Al-Saai, which includes various cultural and heritage activities and events that enhances the educational outcome of the students' visit, where they have the opportunity to learn about Qatari customs, traditions and culture as well as those of the Gulf countries due to their similarity and overlap.

He added: «Our visit to the State of Qatar was special, especially coinciding with atmosphere of the World Cup, and today during our visit in the celebratory spirit of the National Day, we experienced such great spirit with our Qatari friends.

In conclusion, Al-Zafiri extended his congratulations to the leadership and people of Qatar on the occasion of National Day and the successful organization of the World Cup, wishing Qatar further progress and prosperity.

While Abdullah Zakaria, the school's Assistant Principal, said that the visit to the various heritage and cultural events was very important, and described it as enriching to the students' education and culture at the same time, as they were able to learn about particularly the Qatari, and generally the Gulf heritage, and the life of their grandparents in the past.

He was very impressed with the design of the buildings in Darb Al-Saai, which reflects the old architectural style in the Gulf countries, and provides students with the opportunity to learn about the evolution of construction forms in the Gulf countries.





## Pictures from Darb Al-Saai





