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SPORT | Page 12




Qatar unveils new design of Khalifa International Stadium

QATAR | Page 9

Call to lift ban on Brazil beef



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Latest Figure

INDEX

QATAR	3-12, 34, 36	COMMENT	32, 33
REGION	13	BUSINESS	1-8, 14-16
ARAB WORLD	14, 15	CLASSIFIED	9-12
INTERNATIONAL	16-31	SPORTS	1-12

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In brief

QATAR | Weather

Temperatures likely to drop

Temperatures are expected to come down by between 3C and 5C today owing to a ridge of the high pressure extending from the Siberian region, the Met Office said yesterday. The situation is expected to accelerate the North Westerly winds and forecasters expect the sea to experience high tides starting from the morning tomorrow. The emerging chilly conditions are expected to last until the next week.

QATAR | Crash

Driver severely hurt in accident

An Asian driver was severely injured when his vehicle overturned after being hit from behind by another car, local Arabic daily *Arrayah* reported yesterday. The accident took place on the road from Abu Samra to Doha. The injured motorist was transferred to hospital.

BUSINESS | Energy

Oil down 2% ahead of Opec summit

Oil tumbled 2% to near four-year lows yesterday in another volatile session as a meeting of Saudi Arabia and three other nations ahead of an Opec summit ended with no deal to curb crude output. **Business Page 1**

Business @ Qatar

INSPIRING IN A CULTURE OF SAFETY

TODAY'S EDITION INCLUDES BUSINESS@QATAR MAGAZINE DECEMBER 2014

Today's issue of Gulf Times includes

Dining out

MEAL DEALS from 16.00

Dulsiyati

Al-Attayah chairs GCC meeting



HE the Foreign Minister Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attayah presiding over the GCC Ministerial Council meeting in Doha yesterday. The meeting was to prepare for the 35th GCC summit to be held in Doha on December 9 and 10. **Page 8**

1,000-room hotel offshore near Doha is proposed

A \$1.6bn, 1,000-plus-room luxury hotel and conference/ expo centre has been proposed 1.5km offshore near Doha for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

"The Silver Pearl Hotel will literally rise out of the sea to recall the country's seafaring and pearl diving history" according to a statement issued yesterday.

New York-based architectural firm M Castedo Architects designed the complex along with a team of world-renowned engineering firms.

Pending approval, the project will be developed by Katara Hospitality, the premier Qatar hotel developer and operator.

The building will consist of two semi-circular 30-storey towers sepa-

rated by a vaulted, climate-controlled atrium over lush gardens with an open view to the ocean beyond.

An adjacent structure will house a conference and exposition centre as well as a recreational landscaped roof deck to be located above a multi-storey parking facility.

Rooms and suites will be designed to showcase the country's cultural heritage and visual traditions. There will be a broad range of restaurants and high end retail commercial spaces.

Visitors will arrive at the Silver Pearl by means of a four-lane elevated causeway, by private yacht or by helicopter. The entire complex has been engineered to be elevated above the sea bed which will allow for unimpeded currents

and minimum environmental impact.

A major environmental consultant with extensive marine experience in the area will be responsible for making sure that lessons learned on existing projects such as The Palm and The World in nearby Dubai are incorporated in the development of this particular site.

The projected cost of \$1.6bn includes the supporting infrastructure and excludes the interior construction and fit out of the restaurants and commercial spaces.

At night, the building's stainless steel glass exterior will be lit with LEDs, its reflection creating an illusion of a shimmering pearl glowing brightly in the Arabian Sea, the statement added.



An architect's impression of the proposed Silver Pearl Hotel. **PICTURE:** M Castedo Architects, New York.

Qatar to expand public transport

At least 2,000 buses will hit the roads by 2020 for ferrying the growing numbers of passengers, according to the Transport Minister

By Ramesh Mathew
Staff Reporter

Qatar has set an ambitious five-year plan, starting from next year, to develop the public transport sector in a big way. At least 2,000 buses will hit the roads by 2020 for ferrying the growing number of passengers, HE the Minister of Transport Jassim Seif Ahmed al-Sulaiti announced yesterday.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the second UITP Mena Public Transport For Large Events and Showcase and the second UITP Taxi Conference at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

"Qatar is preparing well in advance to meet the travel requirements of not only the large crowds of the visitors expected for the 2022 FIFA world Cup but is also committed to put in place a vast developed public transport infrastructure to meet the growing requirements of its residents," he explained.

While pointing it out that the country's authorities were committed to building about 2,500km of Expressways by 2030, the minister said the Metro network, which is progressing at a remarkably fast pace, would see the laying of 84km of railway lines, featuring 38 stations, by 2019. This is apart from the Lusail Light rail which would have a length of 35km, involving 32 stations.

Al-Sulaiti, who is serving as the chairman of the UITP Middle East, observed that the plan outlay of more than QR157bn in the next eight years for building road and rail networks would bring a massive transformation in Qatar's public transport scenario.

"Even after the hosting of the World



HE the Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani addressing the UITP conference yesterday.

Cup eight years from now, the work on extending the rail network would continue and by 2030 Qatar would have 233km of railway lines, covering 96 stations," he said.

While recalling the ongoing works to expand the Expressway network, al-Sulaiti said Qatar would have about 160 bridges across its major roads in the next decade.

The minister lauded the ongoing QR27bn work for building the New Doha Port on the southern side of the country, the completion of which, he said, would enhance Qatar's maritime connectivity.

In his address, HE the Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani said the hosting of such a prestigious event featuring several acclaimed public transport experts and policy makers would help the region pursue its ambitious efforts of building the massive GCC rail network, covering all six Gulf states.

Qatar Supreme Committee For Delivery and Legacy Secretary General Hassan al-Thawadi said there was a great need for continued co-operation between each stakeholder in a country for the successful execution of any major sport extravaganza.

The hosting of such a major event as the UITP meeting, said al-Thawadi, would make local and regional agencies and institutions understand the country's genuine needs and requirements for achieving success in their area of operations while implementing a major project.

UITP Secretary General Alain Flauch and EPFL Director General Franco Tufo also spoke.

Later HE Sheikh Abdullah opened an exhibition that was being held on the sidelines of the three-day event. A number of regional and local institutions are taking part. **Page 12**



HE the Minister of Transport Jassim Seif Ahmed al-Sulaiti delivering the opening address.

Labour ministers agree on new contract for domestic workers

AFP
Kuwait City

Gulf labour ministers yesterday agreed on minimum terms in the contracts of domestic staff to improve the working conditions of over 2.4mn foreign maids, an official said.

The move comes as labour ministers

of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), home to 23mn foreigners, mostly unskilled workers, are to meet with their Asian counterparts in Kuwait City this week to discuss the conditions of foreign labour in the region.

The new contract entitles domestic workers to a weekly day off, annual leave and the right to live outside their employer's house, the director general

of Kuwait's Public Manpower Authority, Jamal al-Dossari, told AFP.

It also limits the working day to eight hours.

The GCC, comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, has repeatedly been urged by international rights groups to improve the condition of foreign workers, particularly domestic helpers.

"The contract has been approved by the ministers, though some countries said they have laws that are better for workers. The ministers agreed that the contract should be the minimum granted to workers," Dossari said.

Under the contract, domestic helpers are entitled to end-of-service indemnity and overtime pay for extra work for a maximum of two hours daily, in addition to banning employers from

confiscating the workers' passports.

Ninety international rights and labour groups called in a joint statement on Sunday for urgent action to protect migrant workers, especially maids in the Gulf.

GCC countries have also received calls to reform the "Kafala" system of sponsorship which restricts most workers from moving to a new job before their contracts end unless their employ-

ers agree, trapping many workers.

Dossari said that GCC labour ministers and their counterparts from 12 Asian countries at their meeting today and tomorrow would discuss "ways to bridge the gap between the two groups and resolve problems facing workers".

India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, which are the main sources of workers in the Gulf, are among the countries taking part.

QEERI professionals get training at Texas A&M University at Qatar

Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ) hosted a group of Qatari technicians working for Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) for two continuing education courses recently at its engineering building on the Education City campus.

"Seven Qatari technicians joined the Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute recently," said Dr Klaus-Hermann Dahman, chief scientist of the Material Sciences and Engineering Group at QEERI. "We provided an internal training programme at QEERI followed with a focused course on material science at Qatar University and material science characterisation at TAMUQ. This programme will be finalised by a six-month course at the National Institute of Material Sciences in Tsukuba, Japan."

The first course, Electronic Circuits Simulation and Pro-

typing, was conducted by Wesam Mansour, Dr Serlac Bayhan, Dr Ziyad Shafik and Dr Shady Khalil. This training covered the National Instruments design and test platform software, including Multisim, UH-board and LabView, in addition to Eagle PCB software.

"Knowledge and skills refined in Texas A&M at Qatar's continuing education classes can be immediately applied on the job"

The second course, Introduction to Materials Characterisation Techniques, was conducted by Dr Wubulqasimu Yiming, postdoctoral research associate. In this course, participants were trained on general laboratory and radiation safety and the application of the material characterisation tools, and given basic hands-on experience on all equipment, including standard

operating procedures and data analysis software.

Texas A&M at Qatar commits to be an essential partner in the continued development and training of professionals working in the local industry. By providing certification courses, training opportunities and tailored technical programmes to community professionals and industry collaborators, the campus invigorates Qatar's professional community by providing expertise available nowhere else.

"This transfer of knowledge from world-class faculty and state-of-the-art facilities directly supports the needs of industry professionals in Qatar and the wider region by promoting continuing growth and development and applying novel techniques and cutting-edge technology," Yiming said. "Knowledge and skills refined in Texas A&M at Qatar's continuing education classes can be immediately applied on the job."



The trainees with QEERI and TAMUQ officials.



HE the Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani and HE the Minister of Transport Jassim Seif Ahmed al-Sulaiti with other dignitaries at the inauguration of an exhibition held as part of the UITP conclave. **PICTURE:** Jayan Orma

PM highlights role of transport event

QNA
Doha

HE the Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani yesterday expressed confidence that the UITP Mena Public Transport for Large Events and Taxi Conference, being hosted by the Ministry of Transport would facilitate the role of the ministry and its active contribution for the sake of ma-

jeor events, sustainable economic growth and prosperity, as well as the achievement of Qatar National Vision 2030.

The event is being hosted in co-operation with the International Association of Public Transport (UITP).

HE Sheikh Abdullah also praised the UITP's role in promoting public transport, wishing Mowasalat (Karwa) and other transport establishments in the country success in fulfilling their goals. He reiterated

his support to the Ministry of Transport in its quest to develop an integrated transport system in Qatar.

Following the opening session, HE the Prime Minister toured the expo where more than 40 exhibitors, including ministries and other government institutions, are taking part to shed light on the future of the transport sector.

Meanwhile, HE Sheikh Abdullah met yesterday with a number of ministers of trans-

port participating in the event. HE the Prime Minister met with Saudi Transport Minister Jabara bin Eid al-Suraiseri, Jordan's Transport Minister Dr Lina Shabbab, Omani Transport Undersecretary Salim bin Mohamed al-Nuaimi, Djibouti Minister of Transport Musa Hassan and UITP secretary-general Alain Flaussch.

Discussions during the meetings dealt with the topics on the agenda of the conference and matters of mutual interest.



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Officials and dignitaries at the opening ceremony.

Qatar Charity opens school, mosque in Mali

Qatar Charity (QC) has opened a school and a mosque in Mali. The buildings, part of a range of developmental and cultural projects implemented in the country, were opened by Jassim Abdullah Jassim, adviser and representative of the QC CEO, during a recent field trip.

Jassim was briefed on the activities of the QC field office and oversaw the opening of a number of projects designed to improve the standard of living of the people of Mali, including schools, mosques, artisan wells and income-generating projects.

Among the projects that Jassim opened was Hamad Adel Ali bin Ali Al Muslimani School, funded by the Ali Bin Ali Group, in Sokaina village of Nagba Cor Dora, a suburb of the Malian capital Bamako.

The school includes 18 classrooms and an administration room, 17 bathrooms and two boreholes. It comes as part of QC's interest in charitable support for education in Mali, particularly in the poorest areas.

The opening of the school was attended by a number of ministers and officials from the Mali, including the ministers for women & children, education and sports, as well as interna-

tional football player and QC ambassador Omar Kanoute. The school will benefit a number of orphans and other local children.

On the occasion of the school's inauguration, Jassim explained that the project comes in the context of seeking to support education in Mali, especially in areas inhabited by the poorest people, and thanked all those who have co-operated with QC on the project.

Jassim also opened a mosque in the village of Sokaina. The mosque is built on 200sqm and includes toilets, full furnishing and equipment. Kanoute attended this opening as well.

Kanoute, chairman of the Kanoute Foundation, has overseen a number of projects in Mali, including the Sokaina Children's Village. This was their first project for the welfare of children and takes care of orphans in Bamako and the surrounding areas, aged three to 18 years. It accommodates the village's 99 orphaned children in addition to a number of volunteers and supervisors.

The village consists of a school and training centre, a health centre, a mosque, sports and recreational facilities and family homes, each of which can accommodate around 11 children

with a nursemaid. There is also a farm that supplies the village with its products and carries out agricultural training, in addition to being an accommodation for visiting volunteers.

The Ali Bin Ali Group provided funding for the construction and operation of the village and this collaboration came after a meeting between Kanoute and Adel Ali bin Ali, president and chairman of the board at Ali Bin Ali, in the presence of QC ambassador Mohamed Saadoun al-Kuwari.

The collaboration aims to support charitable work in the framework of the Qatar Charity Stars initiative, which has been launched this year.

The school will provide free education for children in the village of Sokaina and its neighbouring villages and includes classes for kindergarten and the first classes of primary school in the first stage of the project. Qatar Charity's Stars initiative also funded Sokaina village's mosque for orphaned children, raising the funds (QR175,000) within 24 hours of announcing its appeal in the local newspapers. The mosque is of great importance within the orphans' village and also expected to benefit five surrounding villages.