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## Gulf states to boost cooperation

Foreign ministers meet in Doha

**DOHA:** Putting their differences behind after the November 16 meeting of their leaders, the GCC states have resolved to focus on consolidating their cooperation and unity. Qatar's Foreign Minister, H E Dr Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah, said yesterday that any dispute that the GCC member states had was now resolved.

"We have to focus on consolidating the spirit of sincere cooperation between our countries and move towards a strong and cohesive GCC entity," he said.

Addressing a news conference jointly with GCC Secretary-General Dr Abdulateef Al Zayani, Al Attiyah said that the GCC states were working together on various common projects that signify their close economic cooperation.

The two leaders were speaking to reporters at the meeting of the Council of GCC Foreign Ministers that was held here yesterday. This was a preparatory meeting ahead of the GCC Summit slated to be held here on December 9 and 10.

Al Attiyah said the draft resolutions prepared at the meeting will be submitted to the GCC leaders at their summit.

The Foreign Minister, who is the chairman of the current session of the GCC Ministerial Council, said the Palestinian issue, the Syrian crisis and the situation in Iraq, Syria and Yemen topped the discussions.

He said the meeting between the GCC foreign ministers and their counterparts from Jordan and Morocco discussed all issues related to joint action plans for the period from 2013 to 2018.

Regarding their meeting with their Yemeni counterpart, he said the situation in Yemen was reviewed, adding that the GCC member states reiterated their support to Yemen and rejected any interference in its internal affairs.

He called on all political and social parties in Yemen to uphold the supreme interest of the country and discard sectarianism to achieve the aspirations of the Yemeni people, stressing that Yemen is an



Foreign Minister H E Dr Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah and GCC Secretary-General Dr Abdulateef Al Zayani speaking to media persons yesterday.

important country in the region.

The Foreign Minister said that the GCC Ministerial Council meeting reviewed the views and issues presented by the Advisory Board, and discussed a number of economic, political and social issues of interest to the GCC countries. The meeting also considered the recommendations on economic affairs, and reviewed regional and international developments, particularly the situation in Libya, Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Palestine.

He stressed the position of the GCC and said it rejected religious and political sectarianism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Regarding the position of the GCC countries on a number of issues in the Arab region, Al Attiyah said that they had convergent views on many issues.

"We are working hard with our brothers in the GCC countries to have a unified vision towards all issues, especially those related to GCC security or affecting them."

Responding to a question about

negotiations between Iran and western countries over Tehran's nuclear issue, he said the GCC welcomed the initial agreement between Iran and the P5+1 group and the possibility of finding a solution to the issue of peaceful use of Iran's nuclear programme.

"We support the right of any country to use a peaceful nuclear programme, and we demand, at the same time, the removal of any nuclear weapon, not only from Iran, but from the entire Middle East". He hoped for an agreement to end the nuclear issue in the region.

Al Attiyah stressed that the GCC member states must be a party to any security arrangements in the region.

The P5+1 group is taking clear steps to make sure that Iran's nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes, he said.

Meanwhile, responding to a question about a unified GCC naval force, Al Zayani said there were recommendations and studies on the issue and these would be submitted to the GCC leaders during their summit.

THE PENINSULA

### OPINION

#### It's time to move on

A new year is almost here. It's time to move on.

For six years, I have been associated with *The Peninsula*. It was both challenging and exciting. The daily struggle with news. The competition. Meeting deadlines. Looking back,

I can say with a degree of certainty that journalism in Qatar has changed. We helped redefine journalism. We proved that Qatar has more media freedom than the world thought. We taught our readers to expect more. We inspired others to try harder. We built bridges between the locals and expatriates.

Qatar is changing fast. The past few years were significant in ways we could not have imagined before. Now the world is looking at us. Our stories are being read, monitored by a global audience. I consider myself lucky to have been part of all this excitement and action.

As I move on, there is a sense of fulfilment. Journalism has changed me. It opened up new horizons, redefined my personality, and will redefine my future too.

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all our readers for your support. Without you, we wouldn't have been where we are today.

And I wish my successor all the best.



Khalid Al Sayed  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## Uniform GCC contracts for maids soon 2,000 buses by 2022

**DOHA:** GCC states may soon have a common job contract for domestic workers which would entitle them to a weekly day off, annual leave and eight hours of work in a day.

The workers will also be entitled to end-of-service benefits. They would have the right to stay outside the home of their

employer and would not be asked to put in more than two hours of extra work a day, for which they will get additional payment.

Undersecretaries from labour ministries of GCC member-states met in Kuwait yesterday and agreed on minimum terms in the contracts of domestic workers.

According to Kuwait News

Agency (Kuna), the terms are to be tabled in the form of a proposal at the meeting of GCC labour ministers for approval. Once approved, the terms could be implemented soon, Kuna said, quoting Jamal Al Dossari, director-general of Kuwait's Public Manpower Authority. **THE PENINSULA**

Continued on page 4

**DOHA:** By the time Qatar hosts the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the country will have 2,000 buses on its roads, 8,500km of highways, and internal roads stretching a total of 34,000km, the Minister of Transport H E Jassim Seif Ahmed Al Sulaiti said yesterday. Qatar has allocated QR159bn to develop railway infrastructure,

the minister said at the second UITP Large Events Summit and Showcase and the UITP Taxi Conference and Showcase, which was earlier opened by the Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani.

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# Public transport forum, expo open

Qatar-GCC rail network to mark culmination of Doha's preparations for the 2022: Premier

**DOHA:** The establishment of a rail network linking Qatar with other GCC countries will mark the culmination of Doha's preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani said yesterday.

After opening an international public transport conference and exhibition at Qatar National Convention Center, he said transport constituted a motivating factor in the success of major events and Qatar has attached great importance to it.

"Preparations for the World Cup in 2022 will be completed by the establishment of railway networks linking us with other GCC countries, by expanding our ties with the world through Hamad International Airport and building a well-developed transport network for the future generations," he said.

Discussions during the three-day UITP Large Events Summit & Showcase and the UITP Taxi Conference & Showcase focus on safety and security related to public transport in large events. The event is hosted by Mowasalat in collaboration with International Association of Public Transport (UITP). The opening was attended

by transport ministers from other GCC countries, experts from the Middle East and North Africa, Asia and Europe and representatives of leading Qatari companies involved in public transport.

The Premier said Qatar has been implementing major infrastructure projects in the transport sector, including express roads and streets, air and sea transport centres, and multiple public transport network in support of major events.

He praised the UITP's role in promoting public transport and wished Mowasalat and other transport establishments in the country success in fulfilling their goals. He reiterated support to the Ministry of Transport in its quest to develop an integrated transport system.

The Minister of Transport, Vice-President, UITP, and Mena UITP Chairman, H E Jassem Seif Ahmed Al Sulaiti, UITP Secretary-General Alain Flaesch, Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary-General, Supreme Committee for

Projects and Legacy, and Franco Tofu, Director-General, Ongenier Transportation EBFL Head CITIC, Geneva, also addressed the opening ceremony.

The Premier also opened an exhibition featuring companies



The Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani inaugurating UITP Large Events Summit & Showcase and UITP Taxi Conference & Showcase yesterday.

and products associated with public transport. About 40 exhibitors, including ministries and other government institutions, are taking part, shedding light on the future of the sector.

The Premier also met Saudi Transport Minister

Jabara bin Eid Al Suraiseri, Jordan's Transport Minister Dr Lina Shabib, Omani Transport Undersecretary Salim bin Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Djibouti Minister of Transport Musa Hassan, and Flaesch.

The UITP event serves as a

platform for participants to benefit from networking sessions, meet industry experts, learn policies that will impact the economy and the environment and explore the transport sector's scope for business opportunities.

THE PENINSULA

## Leaders send greeting cables to presidents

**DOHA:** The Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to Klaus Iohannis on his election as Romanian President.

The Deputy Emir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani sent a similar cable to Iohannis.

The Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani also sent a cable of congratulations to the president.

The Emir also sent a cable of congratulations to President Packer Izetbegovic, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on his country's National Day.

The Deputy Emir sent a similar cable to Izetbegovic.

The Prime Minister and Interior Minister also sent a cable of congratulations to the president.

## Al Arabi invited to GCC Summit

**CAIRO:** Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Al Arabi yesterday received a message from the Foreign Minister H E Dr Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah inviting him to the 35th GCC summit in Doha on December 9-10.

Qatari Ambassador to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the League, Saif bin Muqaddam Al Bua'nein, presented the message as he met Al Arabi at the League headquarters. They also reviewed Arab and regional developments.

## Al Marri speaks at Iran varsity

**TEHRAN:** The Attorney General Dr Ali bin Fetais Al Marri met the Speaker of the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly, Ali Larijani, and discussed means of strengthening judicial and legal co-operation to serve the interests of both peoples.

Dr Al Marri also visited the University of Judicial Sciences and gave a lecture on academic and civil society sectors' contribution to implementing the UN convention against corruption in his capacity as a special counsel for the UN to combat corruption. He spoke about governance and the need to educate students on the convention, especially the prevention mechanism.

Iranian officials, Qatari Ambassador Ali bin Hamad Al Sulaiti, Dr Al Marri's delegation and faculty and students of the university were present.

## Supermarket closed down

**DOHA:** The Doha Municipality has closed down a supermarket in the Souq Area for manipulating the expiry dates of some nuts. The products had an expiry date of two months, but the outlet extended it to 2016, according to Al Sharq.

THE PENINSULA/QNA

# QJet officials attend final testing of QA's A380

**DOHA:** The senior management of QJet participated in the final testing of the new Aircraft A380, which is to begin commercial operations from next month.

According to a statement issued by QJet, a subsidiary of Qatar Fuel (Woqod), the event

was part of final preparations of Hamad International Airport (HIA) and Qatar Airways (QA) to ensure the readiness of all services to start commercial flights of the newly-inducted superjumbo from next month.

To ensure full readiness of the company to serve the world's

biggest plane that joined QA fleet at the best-expected level of service, QJet tested refuelling operation of the aircraft from more than one location in the airport by using different trucks.

The final tests, using trucks prepared for this type of aircraft, were attended by officials of the

company — the operations, technical and other departments.

The company did not experience any major difficulties or problems in the final testing, which confirms its readiness to provide the best services to all QA fleet.

Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman

Al Thani, Chairman, Board of Directors, Qatar Fuel, and Ibrahim Jaham Kuwari, Director-General, QJet, participated in a familiarisation tour by QA to provide idea of the new aircraft and display its capabilities, features and equipment.

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## Open House

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## Ooredoo displays up 3D mural



Ooredoo has created a 3D mural at Landmark Mall starring its Brand Ambassador Nasser Al Attiyah and his Ooredoo-branded rally car. The painting, made over two days by Kurt Wenner, is the first 3D work on display in Qatar. It is spread over 5x5 meters on the floor and 5x3 meters on the wall and, through an optical illusion technique, creates the effect that the car is leaping off the floor into the space. It is on display until December 4.

# Training held for Qatari technicians



Officials with the technicians at the event.

**DOHA:** Texas A&M at Qatar (Tamuq) hosted Qatari technicians at Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) for two continuing education courses.

Seven technicians who joined QEERI recently were provided with an internal training programme and a course in material science at Qatar University (QU) and material science characterisation at Tamuq.

It was a vital element in the programme, which will be finalised by a six-month programme

at National Institute of Material Sciences (NIMS) in Tsukuba, Japan.

"Our technicians are eager to go to NIMS and are aware that they are not only representing Qatar Foundation (QF) but also Qatar.

"Upon their return they will manage specialised state-of-the-art equipment at new QF R&D facilities to tackle Qatar's grand challenges within QEERI, in collaboration with Tamuq, QU and our local industrial partners," said Dr Klaus Hermann Dahman,

Chief Scientist, QEERI.

Participants were also trained in general laboratory and radiation safety and the application of material characterisation tools, and provided with basic hands-on experience on equipment, including standard operating procedures and data analysis software.

They were also familiarised with capabilities of specific equipment models at Central Materials Facility and developed an understanding of hazards associated with each equipment.

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