

homesous  
Enter the stages of  
Live It. Win It.

51 days to go  
Qatar 2015  
Live It. Win It.

World Military Sailing Championship kicks off  
Sport | 27

BIG SALE  
VATEEM OPTICIAN  
www.vateemgroup.com  
Tel: 44323204  
Email: admin@vateemqatar.com.qa

## GCC to discuss joint tourist visa system

Foreign ministers meet in Doha today

**DOHA:** On agenda of today's GCC foreign ministers' meeting being held here are a number of key issues and it includes the proposed joint tourist visa system.

Also on agenda are human resource development in the region, water linkage and security programmes and the proposed GCC railway and customs union.

Today's meeting is being held in preparation for the GCC Summit, which is scheduled to be held here on December 9 and 10.

Yesterday, a committee tasked with drafting recommendations for the preparatory meeting (of GCC Foreign Ministers) met at the Sheraton Doha Hotel.

The recommendations drafted by the committee included the above issues, among others, and will be submitted to the Ministerial Meeting being held today.

These recommendations will be finally referred to the GCC leaders to be discussed by them at their December 9-10 Summit.

Meanwhile, the Advisory Board of the Supreme Council of the GCC States also met today at the Sheraton Doha headed by Abdullah Bishara.

The Board exchanged views on issues (among them, plans for joint GCC tourist visa system) that are to be discussed with the Ministerial Council meeting today.

Significantly, after the drafting committee meeting, senior officials of the GCC met with their counterparts from Jordan and Morocco.

However, exactly what

transpired at the meeting is not known. The joint meeting (between GCC and Jordan and Morocco) was chaired by the Director of GCC Affairs Department at Qatar's Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Youssef Al Jabir, Al Sharq reported yesterday.

As for the Ministerial Meeting being held today, political issues on its agenda include efforts to restore peace in Gaza (Palestine), International Alliance against the Islamic State (IS), Iran nuclear issue and its occupation of the three UAE islands and situations in Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

A joint communiqué will be issued at the end of the meeting.

After this meeting, GCC foreign ministers will meet their Yemeni counterpart. Following this conclude, H E Dr Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah, Qatar's Foreign Minister, will be holding one-to-one meeting with his Yemeni counterpart. They will discuss the GCC initiative for Yemen and the current situation there.

The Advisory Board of the Supreme Council of GCC States will then be meeting the GCC foreign ministers and take up key regional issues.

At the end of the day today, a press conference will be held jointly by Qatar's Foreign Minister, H E Dr Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah, and Dr Abdul Lateef Al Zayani, GCC Secretary-General. They will brief the media about the issues discussed at the preparatory meet and field questions on these and other issues.

THE PENINSULA



The Prime Minister and Interior Minister, H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, viewing a model of the Ras Bufontas project yesterday.

## PM launches SEZ project

**DOHA:** The Prime Minister and Interior Minister, H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, yesterday laid the foundation stone for Ras Bufontas project, one of the three Special Economic Zones (SEZs) being developed to achieve economic diversification.

The land plots for the first and second phases of development of the project will be delivered to investors in the first quarter of 2016.

The project is being developed by Manateq, a state-backed entity, which was specifically created in 2011 to provide the necessary infrastructure, policies, and services required by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

The ambitious Ras Bufontas project, strategically located near the Hamad International Airport, is being developed in an area of

over 4.1sqkm. The specialised zone will be dedicated to companies from communications, infotech, energy, logistics, construction, transportation and other sectors, with an aim to achieve sustainable and diversified economic development in the energy-rich economy.

The Prime Minister told the media that the new project is one of three new economic zones that will represent a big lift to the economy. Sheikh Abdullah added that the new zones are in compliance with Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV-2030).

Ras Bufontas, along with two other SEZs - Abu Nakhla and Um Alhoul - will serve as the base of a home-grown private sector that comprises a complex yet harmonious web of successful SMEs.

He said that the new project includes storage spaces,

exhibitions and a number of factories. He also highlighted the government's commitment to the private sector, in accordance with the directives of the Emir, H E Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in the latest speech made at the Advisory Council.

The ceremony was attended by a number of distinguished guests, ministers and prominent businessmen, including H E Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim Al Thani, Minister of Economy and Commerce; H E Ahmed Amer Mohamed Al Humaidi, Minister of Environment; Dr Hessa Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Information and Communications Technology; Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani, Chairman of Qatari Businessmen Association and Fahad Al Kaabi, CEO of Manateq.

THE PENINSULA  
Continued on page 4

## Iran nuclear talks extended for 7 months

**VIENNA:** Iran and six powers failed yesterday for a second time this year to resolve their 12-year dispute over Tehran's nuclear ambitions, and gave themselves seven more months to overcome the deadlock that has prevented an historic deal.

Western officials said they were aiming to secure an agreement on the substance of a final accord by March but that more time would be needed to reach a consensus on the all-important technical details.

Iranian President Hassan Rowhani, who is trying to win relief from crippling international economic sanctions by patching up relations with the West, said that "many gaps were narrowed and our positions with the other side got closer" at talks in Vienna, state TV quoted him as saying.

US Secretary of State John Kerry gave a more sombre assessment, saying "real and substantial progress had been made but adding that "some significant points of disagreement" remained.

REUTERS  
See also page 7

## Hagel quits as US defence secretary

**WASHINGTON:** US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel resigned yesterday, leaving under pressure as President Barack Obama faces critical national security challenges, including fighting Islamic State in Iraq and Syria and revising plans to exit Afghanistan.

Hagel had privately expressed frustration to colleagues at the administration's strategy toward Iraq and Syria and at his lack of influence over the decision-making process, a source familiar with the situation said.

REUTERS  
See also page 11

## Tunisia poll heads to run-off



Tunisian election officials prepare charts at a counting centre in Ariana near Tunis yesterday. A run-off was expected as veteran anti-Islamist politician Beji Caïd Essebsi looked set to fall short of the 50 percent threshold required to win outright, his campaign team conceded yesterday.

See also page 6

## 500 more taxis to hit roads

**DOHA:** Some 500 new taxis will hit the road soon, as a new private company has been granted permission by Mowasalat to operate taxis on a franchise basis, a senior Mowasalat official said yesterday.

The new company will start operations early next year, Mowasalat CEO Khalid Nasser Al Hail said.

Mowasalat is set to double its by 2022. In another eight years, the number of taxis operating in Qatar would be 7000, said Al Hail.

Currently, a total of 4000 taxis are operating in Qatar. An estimated 3,500 are on the road on a daily basis.

"Now we have reduced the operating fee of franchisees.

Earlier, the franchisee had to pay QR1,510 per cab. It has been reduced to QR1,000. Currently, we do not have problems in getting new franchisees," he said.

Mowasalat will also add more buses. Fifty new buses are expected to be on the road by the end of this year, he said.

THE PENINSULA  
Continued on page 4

## QTA offers sky tours

**DOHA:** Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) yesterday launched a tourism project called Samana (Our Skies) which provides helicopter tours to citizens, residents and tourists to some of the most breathtaking sights in Qatar.

To commence on December 19, Samana provides a 35-minute air tour aboard a Bell 206L3 helicopter which can accommodate up to four people. The tour offers scenic views of the Sidra Medical Centre, West Bay Lagoon, Zig-Zag Towers, The Pearl Qatar and Katara among others.

Initially, three flights will be scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays to take off at 2pm, 3pm and 3.55pm from the Doha Heliport. The route includes Al Shamal Road, Sidra Medical and Research Centre, West Bay Lagoon, The Pearl Qatar, Doha Corniche and back to the heliport.

Each flight, which can take up to four passengers, costs QR3,300. This special launching price is valid until March 31.

QTA has created this attraction with support from Ministry of Transport and the Qatar Armed Forces.

THE PENINSULA  
Continued on page 4

## More recreation and less work for some in Qatar

**DOHA:** The average Qatari spends barely a tenth of his day on income generating activities, while an expatriate slogs two-and-a-half times more.

An official survey shows that the average Qatari devotes only two hours and 52 minutes a day to income-generating activities, which is 11.9 percent of his 24-hours. On the other hand, this average for the expatriate is nearly two-and-a-half times more: Six hours and 42 minutes (or 27.9 percent of his 24-hours).

On recreation and culture a Qatari on average spends much more time (five hours and 17 minutes a day, or 22 percent of his day). The expatriate spends barely three hours and 31 minutes a day, or 14.6 percent of his 24-hour routine, on recreation and culture.

Income-generating activities include working for wage/salary, providing employment to others as well as self-employment.

Recreation and culture include watching TV, reading books, surfing the internet, travelling, pursuing hobbies and visiting relatives.

Qatari men on average spend a little more time on recreation (five hours and 32 minutes, or 23 percent of their day) than their women (who spend five hours and

three minutes, or 21 percent of their day on it).

Qataris spend one hour and eight minutes a day on education and learning, while this duration for expatriates is barely 25 minutes (probably because of large number of single workers).

On household chores like washing, cleaning, cooking, shopping and caring for children and elderly, Qatari men spend two hours 37 minutes a day. This average for non-Qataris is two hours and five minutes. A Qatari on average devoted 49 minutes a day to prayers, while expatriates spent almost half that time (28 minutes) on it.

However, both the categories of the people spent nearly half their day on sleeping and personal care: 11 hours and 18 minutes for Qataris, and 10 hours and 51 minutes for non-Qataris.

A "Time use" survey conducted by the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics reveals the above and other interesting details. The survey was carried out for the first time in the country from September 20, 2012 to September 19, 2013, said the Ministry in its findings. The survey was carried out on a sample of 16,574 people aged 15 and above.

THE PENINSULA

# Seasonal flu cases on the rise

## Change in weather cited as cause

**DOHA:** As temperatures go down, there is a surge in seasonal flu cases. Workers are taking time off and clinics are crowded with people suffering from influenza-like symptoms while teachers are reporting students absent from school.

"For those among us unlucky enough to be vulnerable to such things, the change of season can mean sickness is inevitable," said Awadh Omar, a Sudanese resident.

"I took two days off when I was down with flu and at least half of my colleagues at office have also missed a day or two of work with similar problems."

Health experts say that a rise or fall in temperature can affect our immune systems. With cold and windy weather set to continue across the region, people are being urged to be more vigilant to help halt the spread of the winter virus.

"There has been a rise in the number of flu cases especially among children," said one doctor at a private clinic.

He said there were more cases of flu and influenza during winter months because the heat, which is a natural protector against flu and kills most viruses, has gone away. Secondly, the air is dryer and this thins the lining of the nose and mouth making people more prone to illnesses.

He recommended that anyone who had flu should rest at home and avoid going to work. "Covering the mouth when you cough or sneeze and regular hand

washing are important hygiene tools to minimise the risk of spreading infections."

Young children and those over 65 and pregnant women should protect themselves by getting vaccinated, have a good sleep, take flu remedies such as honey and drinking plenty of fluids, he said. For those down with flu, he recommended a Vitamin C-rich diet, plenty of fluids and paracetamol.

Schools were also feeling the effects of winter virus. Yousef Musoke, a parent, said his two of his children had missed school at least twice in the last two weeks. "There school has sent newsletters advising parents on how to protect their children. The letters mention that parents should keep their children warm," he said.

People living in the city said they were sometimes unprepared for the cooler weather and many did not expect the change in temperatures to be so substantial.

An Egyptian expatriate, Salah Ahmed, believed that people were fooled into thinking that because they lived in a hot climate they would not get flu. "I usually get sick two or three times a year. Right now, for example, I feel I am developing flu-type symptoms. There is always at least one person who calls in sick every two days at my work."

The weather in Qatar was predicted to be cloudy with scattered rain and thundery at some places offshore, according to the Department of Meteorology.

THE PENINSULA

## PM meets Bank of Morocco Governor



The Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani met with Governor of the Bank of Morocco, Abdul Latif Jaouahri, who called on the Prime Minister to greet him on the occasion of his participation at the third Global Finance Conference, currently under way in Doha.

## Doha Youth Forum from April 7

**DOHA:** Qatar Foundation together with the Ministry of Interior and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is organising the Doha Youth Forum from April 7 to 9 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC).

The Forum will be hosted ahead of the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice taking place in Qatar for the first time in April.

The UN Congress will feature high-level policymakers and specialists from around the world, and will focus on current and emerging challenges to governments and law enforcement bodies.

The Forum will follow a parallel agenda, addressing three key themes including the effectiveness of crime prevention and criminal justice systems, both within individual countries and globally, the responsibilities of the general public and civil society in improving

criminal justice systems; and how to identify and combat new types and methods of crime.

Engineer Jassim Telefat, Group Executive Director of Qatar Foundation Capital Projects and Facilities Management, said: "Qatar Foundation is delighted to partner with the Ministry of Interior and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime on this important initiative. Improving the quality of life for all is integral to our mission, and I believe young people in Qatar will make a contribution that will benefit people everywhere."

Dr Khalid Al Khanji, Student Affairs Vice-President, QF's Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), said, "Crime is one of the greatest threats to our security and our freedom, and the nature of crime is changing fast due to globalisation and technological developments. It is vital that the views of young people are heard in this debate, I believe

there will be a strong response to our call for students, as their contributions will help to build a better future for all."

The Doha Youth Forum is open to students in Qatar of all backgrounds and disciplines. Participants will be organised into three groups of 30 to 50 members, and each group will debate and draw up proposals on the three designated themes. A specially appointed team will be on-hand to provide support, offering delegates expert advice and training, as well as the opportunity to present to UN representatives.

Registration is open for students between the ages of 16 and 26 via the Doha Youth Forum website, and the deadline for applications is November 30. Selected participants will be required to attend an orientation event at HBKU Student Centre in Education City on January 14 from 4.30pm to 7pm.

THE PENINSULA

## SEC invites applications for EED Awards

**DOHA:** The Supreme Education Council (SEC) announced that the applications for Education Excellence Day (EED) awards will begin on December 1.

The SEC noted the effective role of the EED awards jury committees which had previously held several meetings and presentations to explain the conditions and application requirements for each category of the award.

The jury committees also communicated with the interested students to compete for the award and explained the terms and conditions for each award category and answered the inquiries and questions of students.

Director of the SEC Communications Office and Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the EED Awards, Hassan Abulla Al Mohammadi, said the SEC readiness to receive all nominations submitted to compete for the EED awards.

He noted that the Board of Trustees has held an introductory meeting to highlight the Education Excellence Day (EED) award, its mission, vision and the different winning categories. Terms and conditions for eligibility for the award were also explained during the meeting in addition to the newly added components.

Al Mohammadi also urged all schools, universities and parents to encourage Qatari students to compete for the EED award and help them overcome all obstacles in order to deepen the concepts of excellence and innovation in education.

The EED award is granted on a competitive basis and aims to celebrate and honour outstanding students. The awards include the Excellence Award for Secondary School Certificate Students, Preparatory and Elementary schools, the Excellence award for University Graduates, the Excellence award for PhD Holders and awards for Excellent Teacher, the Excellent School, and Scientific Research.

The award winners are selected by high-level judging committees made up of a group of academics and educational experts. These committees will examine the works of the candidates and interview them. The committees will also visit schools to verify and check all information and documents submitted, before announcing the final results in due transparency and objectivity.

Application date close on December 31. THE PENINSULA

## Financial system draft law discussed

**DOHA:** The Advisory Council held yesterday its regular weekly session under the chairmanship of Speaker Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khulaifi. The Council reviewed a draft law on the state's financial system. They agreed to hand it over to the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee to study the draft law and present its report.

QNA



People at one of the Lulu Hypermarket branches.

## Lulu, Kulluna launch campaign

**DOHA:** Lulu Hypermarket Group has collaborated with 'Kulluna for Health and Safety campaign' to raise more awareness about child safety. As part of Lulu's current Baby Promotion Campaign, a team of certified child passenger safety technicians trained by Hamad International Training Center, will visit our outlets from Thursday to Saturday to give advice to parents to ensure that they purchase the correct car seat and the seat is fitted in the correct and safe manner.

To ensure that as many as people benefit from this collaboration, we invite all parents to visit the different Lulu Hypermarket branches during the campaign to learn how to keep their children safe. The campaign will run until December 3, 2014. The word "Kulluna", in Arabic, means 'all of us' and is being used for this campaign with the belief that all of Qatar can take action to improve health, wellbeing and safety for ourselves, our families and the community in general.

THE PENINSULA

## Meet on public transport opens today

**DOHA:** An international conference on public transport that will open at the Qatar National Convention Center (QNCC) this evening will discuss safety and security issues related to public transport in large events with a special emphasis on the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

The second UITP (International Association of Public Transport) Large Events Summit and Showcase and the UITP Taxi Conference and Showcase is being hosted by Mowasalat.

The Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani is expected to attend the event. The Minister of Transport H E Jassim Seif Ahmed Al Sulaiti, Vice-President of UITP and President of UITP Mena region will open the conference in the presence of other senior UITP officials.

UITP Secretary-General Alain Flaesch, Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary-General of the Supreme Committee for Projects and Legacy, will address the opening ceremony. Franco Tofu, Director-General of Ongenier Transportation BBPL, Head CITIC, Geneva, will talk about organising big events in Qatar through the challenges and opportunities of transport.

A number of experts in the industry will participate in the three-day event along with 400 delegates, 60 speakers and more than 40 exhibitors. This year, the summit will focus on security and safety aspects in major events of transport. It aims at highlighting the importance of public and collective transport and its role in realizing sustainable economic growth and implementation of key events, said a statement issued by Mowasalat yesterday.

The summit also aims to promote investments in construction of transport networks being the most important factors of success for major events. The youth will be represented through 30 students from Qatar University and from other countries including Kuwait, Oman, Brazil and Europe.

The conference will discuss issues including strengthening relations between the transport sector and other sectors, the core role of transport in empowering major events, the rail and metro and other projects integrated under the umbrella of the Ministry of Transport.

The UITP Taxi Conference and Showcase will cover regulation and organisation of taxi transport in cities, operation and maintenance of taxi transport and technical specifications of taxis, among other topics.

THE PENINSULA

## Now, closer to you than ever.

Al Sadd Branch



Al Rayyan Branch



In an effort by the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, represented by the Registration and Commercial Licenses Bureau, to deliver an improved service to the public, the Ministry announces that as of Sunday November 23rd, 2014, Commercial license holders residing in Doha and Al Rayyan can submit requests at the above mentioned locations on the map for the following activities:

New commercial licenses  
Commercial license renewal  
Commercial license amendment

For more information, please visit [www.moc.gov.qa](http://www.moc.gov.qa) or call the toll-free number 16000 or contact MOC.



Ministry of Economy and Commerce