



Qatar Tribune

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First with the news and what's behind it

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Isha: 7:05 pm

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Business 17
Ecuador eyeing \$10 bn Qatari investment for refinery project



Sports 25
Qatar beat Bulgaria in playoff of World Schools Handball



Chill Out
Paying tribute to Elvis



ooredoo Freedom to roam with Bill Protection!

Qatar preparing for Shura Council elections: FM

Doha calls on UNHRC to end rights violation by siege states

QNA
GENEVA

QATAR is currently preparing the legislative tools necessary for holding Advisory (Shura) Council elections in the framework of promoting popular participation, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al Thani has said.

In his address to the 37th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva on Monday, Sheikh Mohammed said, "The legislative and services structure in Qatar has been developed to provide a decent life to the guests of Qatar who are participating in the construction and developmental projects."

He said Qatar is planning to adopt the National Plan for Human Rights, which will be in accordance with international standards. "Qatar continues its efforts to promote and protect human rights through positive engagement with all countries," he added.

The FM also called on the UNHRC to bring an end to human rights violations committed by the siege countries.

"Stemming from the just legal position of Qatar and to protect its legitimate rights, I call on the Human Rights Council and all its mechanisms, especially special procedures, to shoulder their responsibilities and to work on putting an end to violation of human rights as a result of these unilateral coercive measures. Those who are responsible must be held accountable and victims must be compensated," he said.

Expressing regret over the gross human rights violations



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al Thani addresses the 37th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva on Monday.

'Major sporting events a chance to spread peace'

Qatar views major sporting events as unique opportunities for spreading the values of brotherhood, solidarity, peace and human rights, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al Thani said in Geneva on Monday.

"If there is no fair play, honesty and impartiality, this will result in irresponsibility and violations of the rules and regulations," Sheikh Mohammed said.

"Sport can be a universal language as it has strong po-

in many parts of the world, Sheikh Mohammed said, "The world is facing serious challenges - the proliferation of armed conflicts, increasing unrest due to acts of violent extremism, fanaticism and terrorism, the use of unilateral coercive measures that

terrestrial for the development and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and in a way that can contribute greatly to promoting solidarity, diversity, equality, tolerance and equity at all levels," he said.

The major sporting events prove to be the tools for accelerating economic development. "We always emphasise the need for these sporting events to be organised in a spirit of peace, mutual understanding and friendship," he said. (QNA)

violate international law and human rights conventions. All of which negatively affect human rights and deprive many individuals and societies of their fundamental rights and freedoms."

Continued on page 2 >

Emir affirms Qatar's firm support to unity, security and stability of Iraq



The Emir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani on Monday met Speaker of the Iraqi Council of Representatives Saleem Abdulh al Jabouri and his accompanying delegation at the Al Bahr Palace on Monday. At the outset of the meeting, Jabouri conveyed the greetings of the Iraq President Fuad Masum and Prime Minister Haider al Abadi to the Emir, wishing him good health and happiness and wishing the Qatari people more progress and prosperity. The Emir conveyed his greetings to the Iraqi President and Prime Minister, wishing them health and wellness and the Iraqi people further development and progress. On behalf of the Iraq leadership and people, Jabouri thanked the Emir for supporting Iraq at various levels, especially in the fight against terrorism, as well as the great support that Qatar has pledged for the reconstruction of Iraq at the international conference recently hosted by Kuwait. The Emir affirmed Qatar's firm stance and support to the unity, security and stability of Iraq. The meeting reviewed the strong relations between the two countries and ways to strengthen them. They also discussed latest developments in Iraq and the region. The reception was attended by Speaker of the Advisory Council HE Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid al Mahmoud. (QNA)

QR11 bn Umm Al Houf power plant to open in July: Sada

SATYENDRA PATHAK
DOHA

The QR11 billion Umm Al Houf power plant will become fully operational in July this year, Minister of Energy and Industry HE Mohammed bin Saleh al Sada said on Monday.

Sada, who is also the Chairman of Qatar Electricity and Water Company, said the project is almost 98 percent complete. One of the biggest power and desalination plants in the region, the Umm Al Houf power plant will be 100 percent complete by June.

Once fully operational, the minister said, the plant will have a total production capacity of 2,500 MW of power and 136 million imperial gallons per day of desalinated water, meeting 25 percent of the electricity and 30 percent of water needs in Qatar.

He said the timely completion of the project shows the ongoing siege has had no impact on the water and electricity sector of the country.

All the projects are progressing as per the schedule, he said. PAGE 17



Vodafone selling 51% Qatar joint venture stake to partner QF

ASIF IQBAL
DOHA

VODAFONE Qatar on Monday said that Qatar Foundation (QF) has entered into a conditional share purchase agreement (SPA) with its joint venture (JV) partner Vodafone Europe to buy latter's all 51 percent shares in the JV.

Vodafone Qatar CEO Ian Gray said Qatar Foundation and Vodafone Europe hold 45 percent of Vodafone Qatar through a joint venture, with the rest of the operator owned by the government of Qatar and other investors.

Upon completion of the transaction, the joint venture of Vodafone and Qatar Foundation will be 100 percent owned by Qatar Foundation whose direct and indirect shareholding in Vodafone Qatar will then increase from its current level of 27.05 percent to 50 percent of the share capital of Vodafone Qatar," Gray said without disclosing the amount.

According to Gray, Vodafone Qatar board has agreed to continue its long-term partnership with Vodafone Group by agreeing to a technical support agreement of five years with an option to extend, which will provide Vodafone



Vodafone Qatar appoints Sheikh Hamad as new CEO

DOHA Vodafone Qatar has appointed Sheikh Hamad bin Abdullah al Thani as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Sheikh Hamad will replace Ian Gray who has decided to retire and step down following the company's annual general assembly, scheduled to be held on March 19.

Qatar with access to all services and support it currently enjoys and with Vodafone Qatar continuing as a Vodafone branded company.

Continued on page 2 >



JEWELS & WATCHES WORTH QR5 BN DISPLAYED AT DJWE

Jewellery and watches worth over QR5 billion were showcased at the 15th Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition (DJWE) which concluded on Wednesday. Organisers announced that more than 21,000 visited the unique luxurious exhibition over the six days. The General Authority of Customs (GAC) has played a vital and important role by providing all customs facilities for traders to ensure the quick entry of goods to the exhibition. PAGE 16

MOPH TO STOP ISSUING ANNUAL HEALTH CERTIFICATES FOR LAUNDRY WORKERS

PAGE 2

QATAR AIRWAYS CARGO GETS GLOBAL RECOGNITION

PAGES

Shura Council approves draft law on National Tourism Council

DOHA The Advisory (Shura) Council on Monday approved a draft law on establishing the National Tourism Council after studying the supplementary report prepared by the finance and economic committee. It also approved a draft law on tourism regulation. The council also approved the draft law on business sectors. It decided to submit its recommendations to the Cabinet. (QNA) PAGE 3

'98% citizens happy with govt performance during siege'

QNA
DOHA

ABOUT 98 percent of Qatari nationals are satisfied with the government's performance during the ongoing blockade, while 88 percent believe that Qatar will be able to withstand this crisis for many years, a study by Qatar University (QU) revealed on Monday.

The study was conducted in November 2017 through telephone interviews. A random sample of 889 Qatari nationals (18 years old and above), who are currently in Qatar, provided their points of view about Qatar's

siege from a legal, political, economic and social perspective.

"The study provided a realistic analysis on the economic, social and political reality in Qatar after the unjust blockade. The announcement of the study's results in transparent manner shows that Qatari society lives in an atmosphere of pure freedom," QU President Dr Hassan al Derham said.

As per the study, about 84 percent of Qatari nationals were positive about Qatar's business and trading environment, noting that the sentiment had improved compared to the feedback received during a study in January

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Dr Hassan al Derham, QU President

2016. The expectations of Qatari citizens regarding the future of



business and trading in Qatar were higher (96 percent) after the siege as compared to 72 per-

cent before the siege.

The study showed that 77 percent of Qatari nationals consider that there are many investment opportunities and 34 percent are planning to start an entrepreneurial project.

It revealed that 31 percent of Qataris consider that the product prices are not high as against 27 percent who felt that they had gone up.

About 88 percent of Qatari nationals say the quality of products in Qatar are very high, while 71 percent are positive about their availability.

Continued on page 2 >