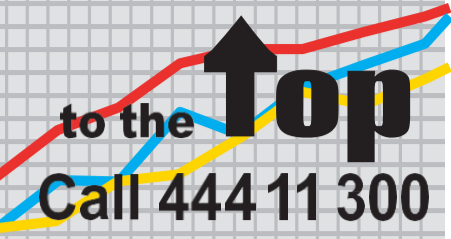


Bring your business



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QFC is eyeing Turkish businesses in a big way

SPORT | Page 1

Barshim in shortlist for top IAAF prize



DOW JONES	QE	NYMEX
23,552.33	8,014.71	57.09
+13.14	-112.18	+1.45
+0.06%	-1.38%	+2.61%

Latest Figures

GULF TIMES

TUESDAY Vol. XXXVIII No. 10630

November 7, 2017
Safar 18, 1439 AH

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In brief

QATAR | Religion

Prayer for rain to be performed on Thursday

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has called on all Muslims in the State to perform Istisqa (rain-seeking) prayer on Thursday (20 Safar 1439 / November 9) in line with the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). In a statement, the ministry called for the performance of the prayer at the State's mosques at 06.01 am.

QATAR | Event

Safety and security

meet kicks off today

Under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani, the First Major Event Safety and Security Conference kicks off today at St. Regis Doha. The two-day conference is organised by the Security Committee of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) in collaboration with Interpol. **Page 7**

QATAR | Education

New QNL building open to public today

The new Qatar National Library (QNL) building in Education City will open its doors to the public for the first time today. QNL contains the latest advances in digital technology in the world of information and libraries. It gives residents access to more than 11m books, periodicals, and special collections, in addition to the heritage library, and a special collections for children and young people. **Page 2**

Emir meets Volkswagen chairman



His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday at the Emiri Diwan with Volkswagen Group Supervisory Board Chairman Hans Dieter Poetsch. The meeting dealt with boosting co-operation ties.

Qatar Airways buys 9.6% stake in Cathay Pacific

• It's national carrier's first major acquisition in an Asian airline

By Pratap John
Chief Business Reporter

Qatar Airways has broadened its global reach by purchasing a 9.61% stake in Cathay Pacific, the national carrier's first major stake in an Asian airline.

Qatar Airways, which is the world's fastest-growing airline, yesterday said it "entered into an agreement to purchase an amount of 378,188,000 shares of Cathay Pacific Airways Limited, being approximately 9.61% of the total issued

share capital. Completion of the transaction is expected to take place later today in Hong Kong."

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar al-Baker said: "Qatar Airways is very pleased to complete its financial investment in Cathay Pacific. Cathay Pacific is a fellow oneworld member and is one of the strongest airlines in the world, respected throughout the industry and with massive potential for the future."

"This investment further supports Qatar Airways investment strategy, which already includes 20% investment

in International Airlines Group, 10% investment in LATAM Airlines Group and 49% investment in Meridiana."

For Cathay Pacific, the Qatar Airways stake will give it a third strategic shareholder behind Swire Pacific Ltd and Air China Ltd and under the terms of the Cathay deal, Qatar Airways will buy about 378.2m shares.

A Reuters' dispatch quoted Hong Kong's Kingboard Chemical Holdings and said it had sold the stake to Qatar Airways for HK\$5.16bn (\$661m), making the Middle Eastern carrier the third-largest shareholder in Cathay. **To Page 4**

New decree offers big incentives to investors

• Emir issues Decree Law No 21 of 2017, amending some provisions of Law No 34 of 2005 on Investment Free Zones

His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani issued yesterday Decree Law No 21 of 2017, amending some provisions of the Law No 34 of 2005 on Investment Free Zones.

The decree law is effective starting from its date of issue and is to be published in the official gazette.

Commenting on the new law, HE the Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani, said the amendments were recommended by the Cabinet based on the Emir's instructions to speed up economic development and investment, besides providing the highest possible advantages to both Qataris and foreign investors. "Accordingly, the Cabinet had worked throughout the past period on the strategy to advance the economic development policy of the country through effective and innovative means and to benefit from the available opportunities."

The premier said the Cabinet evalu-

ated the local, regional and international developments for achieving the nation's economic targets and attract local and foreign investments. The amendments were also aimed at enhancing the business environment in the country and meet the challenges and changes in the economic field. "This would further boost the authenticity of state organisations to attain Qatar National Vision 2030 and its national strategies and economic orientations based on freeing up trade and economy, and give room for the private sector to play a pioneering role in the economic activities in the country."

He said creating a conducive investment atmosphere is a joint responsibility of the State and the private sector.

HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser pointed out that the free investment zones offered excellent investment opportunities and would lead to increase in GDP, the volume of investment and trade, as well as the creation of job opportunities. **To Page 24**

Top fashion school planned for Qatar

By Ramesh Mathew
Staff Reporter

A prestigious fashion school of international standards would be opened in Qatar next year, a top visiting Italian designer has said.

Rome-based Valeria Mangani, who has perfected and created an array of designs in such areas as apparels, bags, accessories and jewels, told *Gulf Times* that "a move in that direction (establishing a fashion school) is going on and the institute is likely to be a reality, most probably in the first half of 2018".

She said a number of "quality and useful" lessons in fashion and designing would be imparted to the country's fashion buffs by well-experienced professionals from Italy. Mangani said she is quite optimistic that Qatar would do

well as a fashion destination in coming years as there is enormous interest in its people.

The famed Italian designer, who has excelled in diverse areas of fashion over the years is hopeful that the school would be offering a series of activities round the year as a number of Qatari men and women are evincing interest in acquiring better knowledge and information in different areas of fashion. "This is becoming more evident from the presence of a large number of top brands in Doha," she said.

Fashion, said Mangani, is a 360-degree umbrella but a large number of people feel it deals only with apparels and costumes. "It also covers such areas as bags and similar personal leather accessories, quality footwear, writing instruments, and jewels among others."

Mangani is extremely happy at the response her session received at the

Heya Arabian Fashion Exhibition being held in Doha (November 3-7). "There was an impressive turnout of young fashion lovers and my inquiries found some of the locals want to deliver specific apparels to suit the needs and requirements of the region's populace. With a little more exposure, experience and better skills the local students could also launch quality costumes that could make a mark even in the international market," feels the famous designer.

While replying to queries about the Italian fashion world, Mangani said though some of the local connoisseurs know it too well that the institutes in Rome are deeply rooted in traditions and culture, they are not exactly familiar with the day-to-day developments in the industry there. "As a result, a perceivable gap exists and that is expected to be bridged with the arrival of a fashion school of international standards in Doha," she said while revealing her plans for a show involving some of the upcoming Italian brands next summer.

The designer said her country had a colourful record in the fashion arena since the Renaissance and its influence is felt all over the European and Mediterranean regions. "Now, more than 2.8m people are employed at different levels in the fashion industry," she said adding that since the early 70s, a large number of modern trends have originated from Milan.

Along with Mangani, Marco Coretti, the Vice-President of the Chamber of High Fashions, is also in Doha. Chamber of High Fashions, run by the Ministry of Economic Development of Italy, is a reputable institution, providing support to people at different levels of the fashion world.

Page 24



Valeria Mangani and Marco Coretti in Doha.

Under The Auspices of H.E. Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim bin Mohamed Al Thani,
The Minister of Economy and Commerce for the State of Qatar

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'Qatar Welcomes the World'



A fleet of taxis branded 'Qatar Welcomes the World' has been stationed around the ExCel Centre in London. The mobile advertisements form part of Qatar's latest destination promotion campaign, encouraging those attending the 37th World Travel Market (WTM) at the ExCel Centre, as well as London's visitors and residents, to discover more about Qatar and its attractions. The fleet will continue to carry the campaign's designs into 2018. The WTM, which kicked off yesterday in London, is the global tourism industry's most anticipated annual event. The three-day event held at the ExCel Centre, brings together more than 50,000 senior travel industry professionals, tourism industry leaders, government officials and international press.

Unique options attract tourists to Qatar shores

QNA
Doha

Tourism in Qatar brings together modern and traditional styles in its architectural designs which visitors to Qatar can see in the old markets, museums, skyscrapers, unrivalled sports venues, hotels and malls. All these reflect Qatar's cultural movement, rich in local identity and open to the cultures of the world.

Qatar is an inspiring land of peace, security and authentic Arabic hospitality that gives a visitor an unforgettable experience.

In the midst of this development and modernisation, cities in Qatar combine ancient past and fascinating present, as visitors who stay in one of the skyscrapers can enjoy visiting the remains of ancient villages and castles in the Qatari towns and contemplate some of its Arab-Qatari-Islamic architecture without forgetting the pleasure of the popular markets, which the state is making great efforts to maintain, as they tell important chapters of the history of Qatar in architecture, art, commerce and old life in general.

Qatar enjoys a rich cultural diversity that gives the visitor a unique experience.

The communities in the country from different nations add more cultural variety, reflecting the depth of communication and openness to different cultures.

In addition to this amazing cultural diversity, museums and archaeological sites in the country add another dimension to tourism.

Qatar Museums actively and effectively enrich cultural tourism and focus heavily on engaging the local community and foreign visitors to enter the world of cultural life by providing self-guided tours to them and offering visitors a personal journey through the museums and galleries of Qatar museums and heritage sites.

For example, historical sites gives a historical view of the past of Qatar and the region in general.

Sitting on the coast of northern Qatar is Zubarah, an ancient town located 100km from Doha. It is one of the most important historical landmarks in the State of Qatar that includes also an archaeological fort that is itself a landmark that tells the history of the city.

Zubarah was once a flourishing port bustling with fishermen and merchants, and was one of the largest trade points in the region, particularly for pearl trade. The area was registered in 2009 as a protected area.

In 2013, the World Heritage Committee inscribed the Zubarah Archaeological Site into the Unesco World Heritage List.

The site includes three major features, the largest of which are the archaeological remains of the town, dating back to the 1760s.

Connected to it is the settlement of Qal'at Murair, which was fortified to protect the city's inland wells. Zubarah Fort was built in 1938 and is the youngest, most prominent feature at the site.

Built in the heart of the desert 110km northwest of Doha is the Rakayat Fort, dates back to the 19th century. A freshwater well sits in the fort and the scattered remains of a village can be found nearby.



A dhow prepares to sail in Doha.

Rakayat is the Arabic word for 'well' and it is believed that the fort was built to protect the essential sources of water in the area.

It is a typical of desert forts, with three rectangular towers and one cylindrical one.

Three sides of the central courtyard are aligned with narrow rooms without windows and doors that open onto the light and spacious courtyard.

There are other ancient forts on the north-western coast of Qatar that can also be visited in Freiha, Ruwayda, Yousufiya, Bir Hussain, Thaqab and Zikrit.

On the eastern coast, there are forts at Al Huwaila, Zarqa and Athba, and in the areas surrounding Doha, at Al Koot, Umm Salal Mohamed and Al Wajbah, Qatar's oldest fort.

The popular markets in Qatar, Doha's Souq Waqif and Wakrah's Souq Waqif provide an unforgettable experience.

They have been restored to preserve historical monuments, and to form spaces for citizens, residents and visitors, but with the taste of Qatar's history and culture.

Doha's Souq Waqif, with its winding stone-paved corridors, and its various restaurants offering dishes from the East and the West, becomes a centre for special souvenirs, or for lovers of carpets and Bedouin textiles, Arab coffee pots, incense burners, traditional copper tools, jewelled jewellery boxes, miniature models for sailboats and artisan crafts.

It is also an art square that hosts musical festivals in different seasons of the year, like Souq Waqif Spring, Eid Al Fitr and Eid Al Adha festivals and other musical festivals by the Arab artists, as well as various bouquets of heritage and entertainment activities for families.

Wakrah, located south of the capital, has its own Souq Waqif traditional market.

There is also an old market in Doha known as the Omani market, containing traditional, and agricultural products such as dates and herbs treated for livestock and others.

Museums in Qatar are another tourist attraction, and another destination for visitors looking for the past.

The Museum of Islamic Art in Doha contains collections and masterpieces belonging to different communities, collected from the houses of princes, kings and ordinary people.

Although the pieces in the Museum's collections are primarily related to Islam, many of them reflect patterns of art.

The museum not only impresses with its possessions, but also its building, designed

by the famous architect I M Pei, visually different offering in Qatar.

The museum features a variety of cultural events and exhibitions throughout the year.

Activities outside the main building extend to the adjacent garden, which is a social venue with activities all year round, including film shows, sports activities, art workshops and other events.

The collection of 'Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art' is a unique survey of 20th and 21st century modern and contemporary art from the Arab World, the Middle East, and wider geographies of Africa, Asia and Europe that are historically connected to Qatar and the Arab Peninsula.

Sports in Qatar have a museum which is Qatar Olympic and Sport Museum, that undoubtedly embodies Qatar's relationship to sport.

Even before its opening, the museum has begun organising temporary exhibitions that present sport in a cultural spirit.

The museum is expected to be a widely recognised national and international centre for sports history, heritage and knowledge, promoting and encouraging academic research.

Qatar's Orientalist Museum is the only institution of its kind. It is dedicated to Orientalism – an influential period in art history, based around Western artists' first experiences and impressions of the 'oriental' East.

All these museums and others reflect the new concept and goal pursued by Qatar Museums Authority (QMA), which is to be a cultural catalyst for a new generation of creators through cultural activities and international art exhibitions.

The Fire Station Artist in Residence sits at the heart of Doha's flourishing art community. It provides the perfect springboard for creativity.

In addition to these cultural monuments and archaeological sites, there is the Cultural Village Foundation – Katara with its unique location on the banks of the Gulf and its unique design that imitates old neighbourhoods. It always hosts cultural and artistic activities. Since the year 150 AD, 'Katara' was the first and most ancient name designated for Qatar Peninsula in geographical and historical maps.

Years ago, Qatar attracted the world by organising the top sports events, and hosting many major tournaments, such as tennis, squash and rally competitions

International peers complement local talent at Heya Fashion expo

International designers are complementing local talent at the 12th Heya Arabian Fashion Exhibition, which concludes today. The event is presenting shopping opportunities from more than 150 abaya and modest fashion brands from Qatar and around the world.

Complementing a wealth of quality Qatari collections, brands from the Middle East, Central America, Europe, Asia and North Africa are participating in the show, including offerings from Kuwait, Oman, India, Turkey, Lebanon, Indonesia, Morocco, Mexico, Spain, Sri Lanka, Germany, Italy, the UK, France and, for the first time, Hong Kong.

New and returning brands from around the world are available to shoppers at Heya, including Bocan and Lale Devri from Turkey; May Sobh Couture and Samar Secret from Lebanon; Doris Dorothea from Indonesia; Nirraamyaa and KD Boutique from India; Caftan lalla Salman and Ayahs Kaftan from Morocco; Pineda Covalin from Mexico; Luma's Abaya, Wlms Cashmere and Soya Eyewear from Italy, and PerretSchaad from Germany.

Responsible for delivering Heya, Design Creationz's spokesperson Esraa Abel said: "As Heya continues to evolve and grow, we have seen a great response from the international community. New partnerships have allowed us to create valuable knowledge-sharing workshops and forums for lively debates on pressing trends and issues across the fashion industry."

The partnerships forged with the Italian, Germany and Mexican embassies presented catwalk shows, and hosted forums and workshops, to help nurture and develop local design talent.

As part of Qatar's 2017 cultural exchange programme – 'Year



Models showcase a German designer's offerings at the fashion show.

of Culture' – with Germany, in partnership with the embassy, German brand PerretSchaad hosted a catwalk show, two workshops and a forum.

The workshops looked at 'Social Media and Fashion; A Powerful Combination' and 'The Rhythm of Fashion, How Does It Work?' The sessions acted as a general introduction to the fashion business, rhythm of seasons and how to work successfully with social media as a fashion brand.

In addition, the forum hosted an energetic debate on 'Trending Now: The 'Perks' of Online Business!'

Berlin-based fashion duo Johanna Perret and Tutia Schaad of PerretSchaad designs commented on their participation at Heya: "We were honoured to be asked to come to Heya 12. We have never been to Qatar and were excited to see the city, meet the people, and see the fashion for women."

Popular Italian collections from Wlms Cashmere and Soya Eyewear were part of the eclectic mix of catwalk shows at the opening of Heya, through the Italian embassy collaboration.

In addition, visitors participated in the forum, 'The Trends in Italian Fashion', by industry veterans Matteo Scarparo and Valeria Mangani.

Haute couture designer Marco Coretti also hosted a workshop this week on 'The Sublimation of Fashion'. In addition, with the help of the Mexican embassy, Cristina Pineda presented its collection at a catwalk show at Heya.

Designer Ricardo Covalin showcased his collection of modest wear, based on promoting Mexico's culture through the production and distribution of pieces inspired by art.

Further, new to Qatar and Heya this year, Hong Kong-based brand Fine n' Rhine hosted a catwalk show offering viewers an insight into the one-stop shop for desirable accessories, clothing, luxury handbags and shawls.

Held under the patronage of HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the fashion event at Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre will ring down the curtain for the public at 10pm today.

Arab world 'benefits' from Qatar initiatives

Qatar has always sought the benefit of the Arab world, whether it's through ventures in arts, language, business or sports, founder of Solanki Mission Group (Mission20) Amanat Solanki said yesterday.

Speaking on Qatar Urdu Radio's live show Haqeeqat, the young entrepreneur and social activist talked about the initiatives taken by Qatar to support entrepreneurs and businesses in the region.

"When it comes to startups for young entrepreneurs, Qatar has not only supported initiatives of people based here but also backed people in other countries, including Egypt," Solanki said, citing Qatar Business Incubation Centre, Qatar Science & Technology Park and the Digital Incubation Centre among the landmark research and development centres in the region. "Qatar is also committed to promote the Arabic language and it is heavily investing in that sector, which shows that it collectively looks at the benefit of the Arab world," he added.

Solanki recalled the time Qatar won the 2022



Amanat Solanki was a guest on Haqeeqat yesterday.

Thursday on FM107. Log on to Qatar Urdu Radio on Facebook and '@QatarUrduRadio' on Twitter for feedback and comments about the show.

FIFA World Cup bid and said Qatar has always maintained this was a victory for everyone in the region.

"From Day 1, Qatar has said the 2022 World Cup is for the Arab people and the region will collectively benefit from the promotion of football here," he noted.

Haqeeqat, which aims to engage and interact with the large South Asian expatriate community in Qatar, is a joint venture of

Gulf Times and Qatar Media Corp Urdu Radio. It is broadcast from Sunday to Thursday on FM107. Log on to Qatar Urdu Radio on Facebook and '@QatarUrduRadio' on Twitter for feedback and comments about the show.

Big incentives for investors

From Page 1

Investments in free zones enjoy a variety of advantages and incentives in accordance with the free zones law, most important of which are: no limits on the the capital, freedom to choose the legal outline of the project, freedom to put price tags for products and profit rates, and the exemption of capital assets, and production, imports and exports from taxes and other charges. Also, the projects at the free investment zones are given various guarantees, most importantly freehold ownership.

He further affirmed that the amendments would create new zones, eradicate all hurdles to capital inflow, allow the entry of modern technology and develop the existing free zones. It would also give special incentives to logistic services and projects that use local components.

He also stressed that the free zones authority would facilitate the issue of licenses to save investors' time and efforts. It would also provide plots equipped with all the necessary facilities to set up projects. The free zones authority will also help in getting visas for investors and the recruitment of the necessary workforce.

The free investment zones in Qatar include the Manateq and Hamad International Airport which are being set up at an estimated cost of QR50bn.

Meanwhile, HE the Minister of Economy and Commerce Sheikh Ahmed bin Jas-



An artistic rendition of a free zone.

sim bin Mohamed al-Thani said the new law would strengthen the economy of the country and attract foreign and local investments. It would also help in developing the private sector in the country.

He stated that in addition to this law, amendments are being made to the law of investment of non-Qatari capital, and

another law would be issued regarding the partnership between the public and the private sectors. He said that all the economic legislations would be reviewed aiming at achieving the desired economic diversification and equip the private sector to face the challenges of low oil prices and the geopolitical and environmental changes.