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Bale nets winner as Ronaldo is sent off



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DOW JONES	QE	NYMEX
17672.60	11,698.86	45.59
-14160	-150.77	-0.72
-0.79%	-1.27%	-1.55%

Latest Figures

GULF TIMES

SUNDAY Vol. XXXV No. 9613
January 25, 2015
Rabia II 5, 1436 AH
www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

In brief

QATAR | Weather
Rise in temperature likely from Tuesday

Fog is expected to hit life in the early morning from today, Qatar's weather office said yesterday. There will be a gradual rise in temperature starting from Tuesday when the maximum is expected to be 25 degree Celsius. As the mercury is expected to climb further, the maximum temperature in the weekend will be in the range of 26-29 degree Celsius in Doha. The minimum temperature is expected to be between 15-18 degree Celsius. Starting from last night, the country is being affected by high pressure associated with the northwesterly wind, leading to strong wind and high seas.

SPORT | Event
Al-Attiyah expects 'a great' Qatar 2022

Car-racing champion Nasser al-Attiyah yesterday pledged his full support to World Cup 2022. Speaking to Al Kass TV, al-Attiyah expressed his confidence that World Cup 2022 would amaze the world "in all aspects". He said that he expected an "exceptional opening ceremony" for that competition. Al-Attiyah said that Qatar's infrastructure projects in preparation for the World Cup had been admired by the whole world. He added that Qatar had shown its excellence in organising sporting events with the way it is hosting the 24th Men's Handball World Championship. He praised the Qatari handball team for the strong performance so far.

QATAR | Property
Seminar on real estate brokerage draft law

The Ministry of Justice today holds a seminar on the new draft law of real estate brokerage. The seminar, organised by the Department of Real Estate Registration, aims to get acquainted with proposals of the stakeholders in the sector and their opinions to serve the profession and to end practice by unauthorised brokers and the consequent abuses committed by "outsiders".

EUROPE | Tension
EU warns Russia over relations

The European Union yesterday denounced rocket attacks that killed at least 30 people in Ukraine's strategic Marupol port, warning that the escalation in fighting will harm EU-Russia relations. **Page 16**

Deputy Emir and PM offer condolences



HH the Deputy Emir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani offered condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, Crown Prince Muqrin bin Abdulaziz and Deputy Crown Prince Mohamed bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz al-Saud on the death of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz al-Saud in Riyadh yesterday. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani also offered his condolences to the family of the late king. The Deputy Emir and the Prime Minister were received by Majid bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz al-Saud and Qatar's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Abdullah bin Thamer al-Thani, on their arrival at the Riyadh Airbase earlier. **Pages 3, 8**

Top banker 'highly optimistic' about Qatar despite oil drop

By Pratap John
Chief Business Reporter

Qatar's economy is very well diversified and the country's major projects are government's investments into the future, says International Islamic CEO Abdulbasit A al-Shaibei.

"For most oil producers, the number one source of revenue is crude oil. So the oil price drop will obviously impact these countries. But the strengthening dollar will provide some sort of cushion, especially to those countries whose currencies have been pegged to the dollar," al-Shaibei said in an interview with *Gulf Times*.

The drop in oil price, he said, should boost many economies, especially in Europe and the US.

"Europe is struggling. Many European countries face issues relating to growth. But the falling oil price should provide relief to these countries and help grow their economies.

"Similarly in the US, consumer consumption accounts for about 75% of the country's GDP. With lower oil price, there will be a growth in disposable income in the US, which will drive consumer consumption as well as economic growth," al-Shaibei pointed out.



Al-Shaibei: International Islamic CEO

Asked whether the lower oil price would force Qatar to review some of the major projects, the International Islamic CEO said: "I don't think so. Qatar economy is very resilient. It can absorb shocks generated by the lower oil price. Impact, if any, will be very minimal. Also, our government is committed to infrastructure upgrade and other major projects.

"These are not expenses...but are investments into Qatar's future."

Al-Shaibei was "very much optimistic about Qatar in 2015".

He said: "Our economy is very well diversified...we have multiple streams of revenue...from our God-given natural resources and investments.

"In 2008, when the global economy was in turmoil, we were on solid ground. It was great depression at

that time; we did not even notice it."

On International Islamic's proposed expansion plans, the CEO said: "We are still looking at different markets...eager to expand abroad...and are studying few proposals at hand.

"We went to the Central Asia, North Africa and some other countries. That said, we cannot go everywhere, at one go. We are studying a few proposals...and hopefully, will pick up the right one.

"In Qatar too, we are expanding. This year, we are hoping to open five new branches in Qatar. Geographical-ly, we have to be everywhere in Qatar."

Al-Shaibei said he was encouraged by the response to the "second career day" hosted by the bank at the Sheraton last week.

"I have seen many young Qataris, both male and female, attending our Qatarisation drive...and many came with a passion to pursue banking as a career. Many of these young Qataris are graduates.

"We have an excellent career development programme for Qataris, which we do in association with the Ministry of Labour. The society has clearly recognised our Qatarisation initiative."

He said: "Currently we have a Qatarisation rate of about 40% in the top management level and an overall 20%. We wish to increase this further." **Page 4**

Metro 'to ease traffic congestion in Doha'

Qatar which is now in the process of building a massive rail network, including a metro, stands to gain much from the service, according to an expert

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

A metro train can move around 60,000 people per hour in one direction which is equivalent to the traffic on 30 lanes in a road network or the number of passengers carried by some 30,000 cars, an expert in the field said yesterday.

Qatar which is now in the process of building a massive rail network, including a metro, stands to gain much if the service is used properly by the public, he opined.

Speaking exclusively to *Gulf Times*, Jitendra Tyagi, director of works, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, (DMRC), India, said metro rail is safer, cheaper, faster and environment-friendly when compared to road transport in cities.

Tyagi was in town to speak at a technical seminar organised by ANEXC Qatar, an Indian expatriate organisation.

According to him, Doha metro can help in easing the traffic congestion experienced in most parts of the city during peak hours and lead to development of areas far away from the city.

Tyagi said: "A metro has great environmental benefits and can bring down pollution levels in a big way as the engines work on electricity. A metro train can carry around 60,000 people per hour in one direction which in effect will take away thousands of cars and other passenger transport vehicles from the roads, thus cutting down environmental pollution and traffic congestion."

The Indian rail official said that about 2.5mn people travelled by Delhi Metro every day. "The number of cars on the city roads has come down in a big way. If the metro had not been in place, the whole city of Delhi would have come to a standstill now. Because of the metro, traffic congestion in the nation's capital city has been reduced to a great extent. Now, Delhi is comparatively in a better position - transport wise - than Mumbai or other major cities in the country."

The metro train service was introduced to Delhi in 2002.



Jitendra Tyagi: Doha visit

Call to stop targeting media professionals

The Doha Centre for Media Freedom (DCMF) has called for the creation of a safer work environment for media persons after the *Charlie Hebdo* attack and warned against using the assault as a pretext to harass Muslim minorities in the West.

DCMF affirmed that differences in the evaluation of media content should never be used to justify targeting media professionals. Further, it urged media corporations to commit themselves to professionalism and objectivity in their work.

DCMF has recently organised a meeting to discuss the serious consequences of *Charlie Hebdo* incident and the wave of violence

around the world that accompanied it.

The participants at the meeting stressed unanimously that "what happened should not be used as a ruse to incite violence and hatred against a cross section of Arabs and Muslims, living in the West, or deprive them of their valid rights to freedom, dignity and respect".

Accordingly, they decided to form a follow-up committee to call for the building of local and international partnerships with all concerned parties to enhance the culture of dialogue and reject hatred. "Further, media professionals should adopt the language of reason to initiate an open and free dialogue among different people and faiths."

Grace wins Qatar Masters



South Africa's Branden Grace posing with the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters trophy at the Doha Golf Club yesterday. Grace prevailed by one shot over Scotland's Marc Warren after shooting a 19-under par 269 to become the fourth South African winner of the tournament following Darren Fichardt (2003), Ernie Els (2005) and Retief Goosen (2007). To his left is Qatar Golf Association president Hassan al-Nuami, while Alfardan Group chairman Hussein al-Fardan applauds on his right. **PICTURE: Jayaram Sport pages 11, 12**

Thousands in anti-Houthi protests

Thousands of Yemenis took to the streets yesterday in the biggest demonstrations yet against the Shia Houthi group, two days after President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi's resignation left the country in political limbo.

Houthi gunmen shot and wounded four people at a protest in the Red Sea port of Hodeida, residents said. In Sanaa, two intelligence agents were shot dead by gunmen on a motorbike, two security sources told Reuters.

Witnesses said a crowd estimated at up to 10,000 people marched from Sanaa University towards Hadi's home some 3km away and back, repeating chants denouncing both the Houthi group and Al Qaeda. **Page 8**



QBRI in tieup to promote neuroscience in the region

Qatar Foundation Research and Development's (QF R&D) Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI) and the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO) have established the IBRO-Middle East/North Africa (Mena) sub-regional headquarters in Qatar and designated QBRI as the host organisation.

The announcement comes out of a memorandum of understanding signed in Doha by QBRI and IBRO, one of the world's leading global scientific, education and advocacy organisations in neuroscience.

The agreement supports Qatar Foundation's mission to promote a culture of excellence in Qatar and the region, and innovate and build capacity to underscore Qatar's pioneering role as an emerging centre for healthcare innovation in support of the Qatar National Vision 2030. Improved healthcare diagnosis, treatment and preventative approaches for different disorders, including illness relating to the brain, are a key area of focus of healthcare research conducted by QBRI.

The MoU jointly supports planning, organisation and management of high level neuroscience schools, symposia, conferences or any other research and educational activities throughout the Mena region. It further encourages the development of partnership and networking opportunities between relevant regional stakeholder groups, including academia, industry, NGOs and government organisations.

IBRO has pledged financial support and will provide annual funding for IBRO-Mena Committee activities. The committee's objective is to support and promote the field of neuroscience suited to the needs of the Mena region, and Dr Hilal A Lashuel, QBRI executive director, has been named as chair, and Dr Omar El-Agnaf of Qatar Foundation's Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) has been chosen to serve as a co-chair.

Last month QBRI hosted the IBRO-Mena Neurogenetics School, "Genetic Basis of Neurologic and Psychiatric Disease," with the support of IBRO funding where students from Qatar

and across the Mena region undertook theoretical and practical studies in neurogenetics.

Dr Lashuel commented: "This strategic partnership complements and extends ongoing QBRI neuroscience activity and offers unique opportunities for young scientists in Qatar and the Mena region. The partnership aims to create and support education and training programmes that are suited to local needs and promote neuroscience careers for young researchers in the region."

Pierre J Magistretti, IBRO president, added: "We look forward to this very important collaboration with QBRI to promote neuroscience in the region. IBRO very much appreciates the commitment of QBRI to host the Mena-IBRO office, a commitment that is a guarantee for success for this initiative"

As part of its activities, QBRI also has a dedicated research programme focused on the understanding of the genetic causes of diseases and conditions in Qatar with a particular focus on autism, intellectual disability and epilepsy.



Dr Hilal A Lashuel and Pierre J Magistretti shake hands after signing the MoU in Doha.

8 HOURS
FOR YOUR BOSS
30 MINUTES
FOR YOUR BODY

30 DAYS
FREE

THE 30-MINUTE
FULL BODY
WORKOUT

Make your
appointment
NOW!

Combines
strength
training
and cardio

30-mi
workout

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for women

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coaching

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Waab 44699955
Duhail 44217755
Hilal 44552477

ACD envoys call on Foreign Minister



Indonesian Ambassador Deddy Saiful Hadi, who is the current chairman of Asean Committee in Doha (ACD) has paid a visit to Qatar's Foreign Minister, HE Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah. During the meeting, besides introducing himself as chairman of ACD in 2015, Deddy introduced two new Asean ambassadors -- Piroon Laimit of Thailand and Nguyen Hoang of Vietnam. He said that 2015 was a "milestone year" for the bloc which is starting the implementation of the Asean Community that is based on the three pillars of Political Community, Economic Community and Socio-Cultural Community this year. The new era marks the progress of the union as an integrated region where the movement of goods and services, capital and people will be more free and flexible, the ambassador said.

AAB opens new service centre

Abdullah Abdulghani & Bros. Co. (AAB), sole agents for Toyota vehicles, has opened a new service centre at the Al-Nayef Petrol station in Al-Rayyan.

The opening of the new Quick Service Centre, located near Jarir bookstore and Al-Rayyan immigration department, brings the number of AAB service centres in Qatar to eight. The new service centre was officially inaugurated by Osama Abdullah Abdulghani al-Abdulghani, Chairman of AAB, in the presence of Norihiro Yoshida, Project General Manager, Field Operations, Toyota Motor Corporation - Bahrain Representative Office and senior officials from AAB.

Toyota enjoys the highest market share in Qatar. AAB, as part of their policy to provide best after sales service, has opened service centres in different parts of Qatar. With eight units, AAB has the widest service network in the country. The AAB centres are based at the Industrial Area (Main Service Centre), Falcon Petrol Station (D-Ring Road), Madinat Khalifa Petrol Station, Abu Hamour Petrol Station, Al Wakrah, Al Khor, Golf Club and now at Al-Nayef Petrol Station. The service centres at Falcon



Osama Abdullah Abdulghani al-Abdulghani inaugurating the new centre in the presence of Norihiro Yoshida.

Petrol Station, Abu Hamour and Madinat Khalifa are open 24 hours. The new service centre is open

from 7am-6.30pm.

Service appointments can be made by calling the hotline 800

1800, or logging in to their website www.toyotaqatar.com or through Facebook fan page "ToyotaQatar".



AAB and Toyota officials at the opening of the new service centre.

Vodafone launches exclusive plans for youth

Vodafone Qatar has launched the Vodafone Falla Club and Falla plans exclusively for customers under 24 years old, designed for the youth in Qatar and packed with data, local calling, and discounts on lifestyle benefits.

The new Vodafone Falla Club is an exclusive group for all Vodafone customers, which comes free for customers to opt-in and is packed with member benefits.

Benefits include a free 10GB data bonus valid for the first month after joining, a buy-one get-one free cinema ticket and standard snack combo (popcorn and beverage) on every Vodafone Tuesday offer, and exclusive deals on food delivery through Qatar's leading food delivery App - Foodonclick. Additionally, Vodafone Falla Club Members will get to enjoy their favourite



tunes with a free membership to Anghami+. The new Falla prepaid and post-

paid plans offer amazing data and local calling bundles. Postpaid Vodafone Falla customers can choose between two plans: Vodafone Falla M, offering 1,000 local minutes plus 2GB of local data at QR70 per month and Vodafone Falla Postpaid L, offering 5,000 local minutes plus 5GB of local data at QR140 per month.

Anyone buying or upgrading to a Vodafone Falla postpaid plan will also be offered a QR1,000 discount on star number of their choice. Vodafone Falla prepaid plan offers customers 100 minutes plus 1GB of local data for only QR20 per week.

Vodafone Qatar head of Consumer Marketing Luke Longney said: "Vodafone recognises that the needs of the youth are different and we feel that there is a real opportunity to offer something unique

and fun while providing them the chance to stay connected with their families and friends.

"The youth in Qatar have greater use for local data and local calling hence, we decided to upgrade our existing propositions to offer a lot more on that front and ensure exclusive benefits to our young customers for what they love doing such as cinema, food, and Internet."

Vodafone Falla is Qatar's first telcom plan that appeals to the youth with great mobile deals, exciting activities, and direct youth engagement. Longney said Falla is a Qatari expression that means "enjoying the moment" - a feeling that Vodafone wants to create for young people in Qatar.

For more information and terms and conditions, visit www.vodafone.qa/FallaClub.