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First with the news and what's behind it

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DOW JONES 12,376 +56 PTS	QE 8,460 -3 PTS
SENSEX 19,701 +281 PTS	CURRENCY Indian Rupee 12.16 Philippine Peso 11.73
WEATHER STRONG WIND HIGH: 00°C LOW: 00°C	

Newsline

Obama launches re-election bid

BARWA Bank's investment banking subsidiary, The First Investor will be co-financing the \$700 million CityCenterDC project in downtown Washington. The project is believed to be the largest downtown development currently underway in any US city, a joint statement from the developers of the project said on Monday. The anchor investor for the project is Qatari Diar. (PG 25)

Qtel bids for Syria mobile licence

US President Barack Obama launched his re-election campaign on Monday in an email to 13 million supporters, calling on them to join forces behind his leadership and the changes he has battled for in a nation riven with hyperpartisan political divisions. Obama said the fight was not finished in keeping the promises that carried him into the White House in 2008. (PG 15)

Barwa Bank arm to co-finance US project

BARWA Bank's investment banking subsidiary, The First Investor will be co-financing the \$700 million CityCenterDC project in downtown Washington. The project is believed to be the largest downtown development currently underway in any US city, a joint statement from the developers of the project said on Monday. (PG 25)

Al Jazeera reporter released

THE Arabic news channel Al Jazeera says Lotfi al Massoudi of Tunisia, one of the network's four reporters who were captured in Libya last month by pro-Qadhafi forces has been released. Three others remain held. (PG 16)

Today in Qatar

- 5:15pm AFC Champions League match between Al Sadd and Al Nasr at Al Sadd stadium
- 6:00pm Sailing at Doha Sailing Club
- 6:30pm Qatar Academy concert at Qatar Academy Auditorium

UP IN ARMS



Anti-regime protesters call for the ouster of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in Sanaa, on Monday. (AFP)

17 shot dead, 280 injured in Yemen

REUTERS
SANAA

POLICE and armed men in civilian clothes opened fire on demonstrators in the Yemeni cities of Taiz and Hudaida on Monday, killing more than a dozen people and wounding almost thrice the number, witnesses said, as a drive to oust veteran President Ali Abdullah Saleh gathered pace.

In Taiz, south of the capital Sanaa, police shot protesters trying to storm the provincial government building, killing at least 17 people and wounding 30, hospital sources said.

The violent attempt to suppress mounting protests inspired by uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia came amid signs that the US was seeking an end to Saleh's 32-year rule, long seen as a rampart against the Yemen-based Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

"The regime has surprised us with this extent of killing. I don't think the people will do anything other than come out with bare chests to drain the govern-

YEMEN VIOLENCE

- Taiz** Police shot protesters trying to storm the presidential government building, killing at least 17 people
- Hudaida** Police and armed men in civilian clothes fired live rounds and teargas at demonstrators, wounding some 250

ment of all its ammunition," parliamentarian Mohammed Muqbil al Hamiri told Al Jazeera. Television showed a row of men, apparent tear gas victims, lying motionless and being tended by medics on the carpeted floor of a makeshift hospital in Taiz.

In the Red Sea port of Hudaida, police and armed men in civilian clothes fired live rounds and teargas at hundreds of demonstrators marching on a presidential palace and some 250 people were wounded, another medical source said.

Saleh appeared defiant. "Just as you gave us your confidence, we will respond to that. We will be steadfast like the mountains," he told hundreds of tribesmen who chanted their rejection of concessions. "We will stay loyal to you, just as you have been loyal to constitutional legitimacy."

Saleh has said he will not run for reelection in 2013 and could step down following new presidential and parliamentary elections within a year.

SEE ALSO PAGE 3

PM to open Golden Pass LNG terminal

PRAKASH JHA
DOHA

FIVE major agreements worth over \$5 billion will be signed at the Business and Investment in Qatar Forum, to be inaugurated by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al Thani, in New York on April 6.

The business investment deals will be for large-scale projects in the fields of real estate, infrastructure, transportation, education and scientific research and development.

The prime minister will also formally announce the opening of the Golden Pass LNG terminal's commercial operations in Houston, Texas, at the New York forum, said Assistant Foreign Minister for Follow-up Affairs HE Mohamed bin Abdullah al Rumaithi.

The Golden Pass LNG terminal, which received the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approval for starting commercial operations in the second week of March, will receive Qatari liquefied natural gas, which will be regasified for distribution in the US.

Golden Pass LNG Terminal and Golden Pass Pipeline are joint venture projects between affiliates of Qatar Petroleum (70 percent), ExxonMobil (17.6 percent) and ConocoPhillips (12.4 percent). The terminal, which started receiving test cargoes from Qatar in October 2010, will start making commercial deliveries of the gas to the national supply grid.

The new investments in Qatar in the next 10 years are estimated to reach \$170 billion, which would make Qatar a regional as well as global business and investment hub, according to a representative of the Qatari Businessmen Association (QBA), strategic organising partner of the two-day event.

Citing a recent International Monetary Fund report, she said Qatar has been witnessing an unprecedented economic growth in the region of over 20 percent, which could turn out to be the highest in the world in

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Qatar's Abdul Rahman for Arab League?

AP
CAIRO

QATAR plans to propose one of its top diplomats to the post of Arab League secretary-general to replace outgoing Egyptian Amr Moussa.

Moussa, whose tenure ends May 15, plans to run in Egypt's presidential election that are expected later this year after a popular uprising toppled Hosni Mubarak in February.

An Arab diplomat at the League said on Monday that Qatar wants Abdul Rahman bin Hamad al Attiyah to head the league.

The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity since official nominations have not yet been announced.

Al Attiyah served as chief of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council until Friday, when his term expired and the position was taken over by Bahrain's Abdullatif bin Rashid al Zayani.



Qatari diplomat Abdul Rahman bin Hamad al Attiyah

Suspense over VIP Gulf buyer of 1st 747-8i

ASHOK K SINGH
SEATTLE

THE red, white and orange-liveried airframe of Boeing 747-8i (intercontinental) jumbo jet, standing majestically at Everett factory in Seattle

acquires a great mystique when one learns that it is to be delivered to a VIP customer in the Gulf, Middle East.

This VIP plane is the first 747-8i going to roll out of the factory, and Boeing officials make it a point to mention that for the first time in the company's his-

tory, the first customer will be a VIP and not an airline. When pressed to identify the VIP from the Arabian Gulf, Joanna Pickup, an official with Boeing's 747 Programme Communications just smiled.

There has been some speculation in the aviation circles that the VIP customer is from Kuwait. Of the total eight new 747-8i earmarked for VIPs, seven have been bought by five VIPs from the Gulf. Two aircraft have been ordered by Qatar, two by Saudi Arabian royals and one by the

QT Exclusive



The Boeing 747-8i (intercontinental) during a test flight in Seattle, US.

Kuwaiti royal family, according to sources in Boeing and Qatar Airways. Sources didn't identify the customers of the other two VIP planes.

But the question hangs who is the first customer? What is certain is that the second customer of 747-8i is Lufthansa which has ordered a total of 20 planes.

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