

HMC TO EXPAND EMERGENCY SERVICES



PAGE 17 | NATION

THE QUEEN GOES PLEBEIAN FOR LAUGHS IN ARTHUR



PAGE 33 | CHILL OUT

LUMIJARVI LUCKY TO PIP RAUF'S TEAM



PAGE 41 | SPORTS

www.qatar-tribune.com

Qatar Tribune

First with the news and what's behind it

THURSDAY APRIL 7, 2011

JUMADA AL-AWWAL 3, 1432

Newsline Nationline Businessline Lifeline Sportline

VOL. 5 No. 1676

QR 2

DOW JONES	12,393	QE	8,591
	-6 PTS		+95 PTS
SENSEX	19,612	CURRENCY	
	-74 PTS	Indian Rupee	12.07
		Philippine Peso	11.69
WEATHER	CLOUDY & DUSTY HIGH: 33°C LOW: 21°C		

Newsline

Qatari Diar, two others bid for London Olympic Village

QATARI Diar, a consortium involving the property arm of the Qatar Investment Authority, London-based real estate investment adviser Delancey, and London-based Wellcome Trust were named on Wednesday as the three bidders shortlisted to run part of the Olympic Village once the athletes have left. A final decision on a bidder is expected in the summer. (PG 16)

Mowasalat plans to launch shuttle bus service

MOWASALAT is to launch shuttle bus services to ease the problems of the low-income group commuters. The company will first introduce the service in greater passenger-density areas to help them reach their nearest bus shelters quicker. Speaking at the mass transit summit which began on Wednesday, Planning Manager at Mowasalat's Mass Transit Department Sheldon Cowie said that the shuttle buses will be of great help to passengers, especially during summer when the heat becomes unbearable. (PG 17)

15 refugees from Libya dead, 250 missing in boat mishap

BETWEEN 130 and 250 people were missing and at least 15 appeared to be dead after a boat carrying refugees from Libya capsized south of Sicily early on Wednesday, coast guard officials and aid workers said. Rescuers picked up 47 people after the overloaded boat, which left Libya two days ago, sank south of Lampedusa island. (PG 4)

Rebels enter Gbagbo's house in Ivory Coast

A SPOKESWOMAN for the government of the country's democratically elected president Alassane Ouattara said on France-24 television that pro-Ouattara forces had entered the gates of Laurent Gbagbo's residence. "At the moment they have not yet captured Gbagbo but it will happen soon," Affoussy Bamba said by telephone from Abidjan. (PG 16)

DEPUTY EMIR AT HEJEN FESTIVAL



The Deputy Emir and Heir Apparent His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani presents HH the Emir Sword to the winner of the annual Hejen festival camel race at Al Shahaniya race track, on Wednesday.

Sidra centre to be ready in May 2012

QNA DOHA

New ground

Vice-President, Capital Project and Facilities Management, Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, Saad al Muhannadi said that the construction and equipping of the hospital will cost around QR8 billion.

CONSTRUCTION of the ultra-modern Sidra Medical and Research Center is progressing well and is going to be completed on time in May 2012. The facility is scheduled to start functioning next year.

Giving this information on Wednesday, Vice-President, Capital Project and Facilities Management, Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, Saad al Muhannadi said that the construction and equipping of the hospital will cost around QR8 billion. "Several critical milestones have already been achieved. Right now, planning for the clinical services and research to be conducted at the centre is progressing alongside the building activity," al Muhannadi said.

The initial clinical planning for the centre was completed in late

2005 and the architectural design announced in early 2007, he said adding that a key project milestone, Sidra's schematic design, was completed in the summer of 2008. "The centre will be the only hospital in Qatar to have a bed even in the emergency room unlike other hospitals in the country where patients

have to share rooms," the Qatar Foundation official pointed out. Though designed to have 550 beds, the hospital would have only 390 beds in the first stage.

Planning for a wide range of support services such as digital imaging and radiology, computerised pharmacy, laboratory, food services, laundry, materials management, security and housekeeping is also in an advanced stage to ensure that the medical center provides health care services on a par with the international standards. Al Muhannadi said that the hospital would offer comprehensive care for patients, particularly for women and children. For women, the centre would offer medical care before and after childbirth. The centre will offer a wide range of super-specialty medical services. It will be equipped to perform brain surgery, plastic surgery and treat heart diseases and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ▶▶

Qatar, US sign contract for Lusail rail system

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK NEW YORK

QATAR Railways Company and Qatari Diar have signed a 5-year QR155 million (\$42.5 million) contract with US-based firms Parsons International and Aecom at the Business and Investment in Qatar Forum in New York on Wednesday to manage the construction of the new Lusail Light Rail Transit system.

The contract was signed by Managing Director and Board Member of the Qatar Railways Company Engineer Abdulla Abdulaziz Turki al Subaie and John Dionisio, president and CEO of Aecom who represented the Aecom/Parsons joint venture in the presence of the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al Thani and US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.

The Lusail Light Rail Transit system is part of the Qatar Railway project, a \$30 billion integrated railway network that will cover all major areas in Qatar. It will consist of long- distance, metro and

freight network. The Qatar Railways Company is wholly owned by Qatari Diar Real Estate Development Company.

The contract highlights the growing business and investment ties between Qatar and the United States.

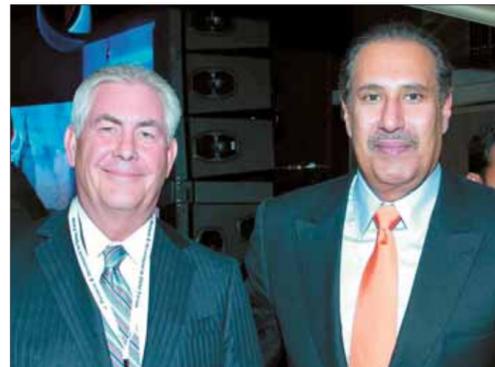
Speaking at the signing ceremony, al Subaie, said, "Qatar Railways Company looks forward to joining hands with Parsons and Aecom to develop the state-of-the-art new light rail system in Lusail. The initiative is symbolic of the strong commitment to Qatar's future that we are committed to secure."

In his remarks, Ray LaHood said: "Such partnership deals reflect the growing commercial cooperation between the US and Qatar and demonstrate the importance of our mutual trade that is working to build economic prosperity in our two countries. We look forward to working closely with the Government of Qatar on these and future projects."

The Lusail Light Rail

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ▶▶

SEE ALSO PAGE 18 ▶



Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al Thani (right) with Exxon Mobil Corporation Chairman and CEO Rex W Tillerson at the Business & Investment in Qatar Forum, in New York, on Wednesday.

Qatar national strategy for review of railway projects

Rail network, Doha Metro to cost \$36.1 bn

RAJESH MISHRA DOHA

THE Qatar National Development Strategy 2011-2016, released recently, has called for a review of the proposed Qatar rail network and Doha Metro project.

The strategy - which targets the review of the Doha Metro system planned in the light of realistic population growth estimate, passen-

ger-traffic assumptions, costs and wider economic, social and environmental impacts - argues that the current design promises to be very costly for the passengers. The \$9.1 billion national rail network of 350 kilometres and Doha Metro estimated to cost around \$27 billion will claim a big chunk of the infrastructural expenses in Qatar in the coming years.

"While the need for improved

urban transportation infrastructure in greater Doha is indisputable, the scale and scope of the project are based on implausibly high population and passenger-traffic projections," the strategy points out. It emphasises the need for reviewing the twin rail projects.

However, the plans for Doha Metro system - expected to be complete by 2025 - are already in place. Qatari Diar and Germany's first steam locomotive company Deutsche Bahn have formed a consortium to manage this mega

QT Exclusive

The \$9.1 bn national rail network and Doha Metro estimated to cost around \$27 bn will claim a big chunk of the infrastructural expenses in the coming years.

project worth \$27 billion. According to the strategy, the

national rail network, which is expected to be completed by 2017, requires greater coordination between Qatar and the other GCC countries on the one hand and among entities involved in road and rail planning including, Qatari Diar, the Urban Planning and Development Authority and the Qatar-Bahrain Causeway Foundation on the other, the document adds.

The national rail network will connect Qatar's main residential and industrial hubs through high-

speed passenger rail and freight services. The network will be connected to the common GCC rail network, also expected to become operational in 2017.

Since Qatar is served by only one and often congested land border crossing to Saudi Arabia, the rail network is expected to improve connectivity of Qatar's hinterland with the GCC countries. Benefits of the network will, however, depend on achieving a good match between demand and supply of services within the region.

Qatari Diar, 2 others bid for London Olympic Village

REUTERS
LONDON

QATARI Diar, a consortium involving the property arm of the Qatar Investment Authority, London-based real estate investment adviser Delancey, and London-based trust Wellcome Trust were named on Wednesday as the three bidders short-listed to run part of the Olympic Village once the athletes have left.

London-based trust Wellcome Trust was invited to submit a final offer for the purchase and long-term management of that part of the village currently owned by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), the body responsible for building the Games' infrastructure.

The other two shortlisted bidders were the international corporation Hutchison Whampoa and Delancey and "The quality of the three shortlisted parties is a vote of confidence in the Olympic Village, demonstrating both UK and international interest in first-class British property," ODA Chief Executive Dennis Hone said in a statement.

Nearly half the 2,818 new homes, to be converted from athletes' quarters after 2012, are owned by the ODA, along with six future development plots in the village with the potential for a further 2,000 new homes.

Triathlon Homes, a joint venture company involving developers and housing

associations, has bought the other half for affordable housing.

Politicians hope the 9.3 billion pounds (\$15.21 billion) invested in the Games will help regenerate what has been one of the most deprived areas of Britain.

The area in Stratford, east London, will also have education and healthcare facilities, new parklands, public squares and open space, as well as good transport connections.

Nearly half the 2,818 new homes, to be converted from athletes' quarters after 2012, are owned by the ODA.

The private homes will range from studio apartments to four-to-five bedroom homes.

A final decision on a bidder is expected in the summer.

Last month, Wellcome said it was giving "detailed consideration" into how it could become an investor in the wider Olympic Park as well as the village, boosting the hopes for the creation of a science and technology centre.

It declined to confirm a Financial Times report that the trust had offered 1 billion pounds to buy up the freehold of the bulk of the Olympic Park, including the stadium, the aquatics centre, the athletics village and the media centre.

Attack on Gbagbo bunker in Ivory Coast repelled

REUTERS
ABIDJAN

FORCES loyal to Ivory Coast presidential claimant Alassane Ouattara launched a heavy attack on Wednesday on the bunker where Laurent Gbagbo is holed up but appeared to have been repelled, a Western military source said.

Fighting raged for a third straight day in the economic capital Abidjan as Ouattara's forces tried to unseat Gbagbo, who has refused to cede power after losing a November election to Ouattara, according to UN-certified results.

The source, who lives near Gbagbo's heavily defended residence in Abidjan, said fighting had died down in the afternoon and Ouattara's forces had regrouped.

"As I understand it, they tried to take Gbagbo residence this morning. The assault failed," said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"They could not break through the resistance from all the heavy weapons still hidden around Gbagbo's residence. They pulled back to rethink and replan."

A spokeswoman for Ouattara denied that his forces had retreated but could not provide any details about the ongoing assault and could not say whether fighting continued.

Residents had earlier reported gunfire from heavy weapons around the residence, which is guarded by youth militias and Gbagbo's presidential guard.



Soldiers fighting for internationally-recognised Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara prepare for an assault on the residence of Ivory Coast strongman Laurent Gbagbo, in Abidjan, on Wednesday. (AFP)

"The fighting is terrible here, the explosions are so heavy my building is shaking," resident Alfred Kouassi told Reuters.

"We can hear automatic gunfire and also the thud of heavy weapons. There's shooting all over the place. Cars are speeding in all directions and so are the fighters," he said.

He could see French tanks in the street but did not know whether they were taking part in the offensive.

The French military said their troops were not involved in the attack, unlike earlier in the week when French and UN helicopter airstrikes backed the rebels' advance into Abidjan.

The fighting resumed early on Wednesday after negotiations led by the United Nations and France to secure

Gbagbo's departure failed, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said.

"The negotiations which were carried out for hours yesterday between the entourage of Laurent Gbagbo and Ivorian authorities have failed because of Gbagbo's intransigence," Juppe told parliament in Paris.

He had earlier said Gbagbo had "no future" and that it was "absurd" for him to hang on.

The former colonial power in Ivory Coast, France has taken a leading role in talks to persuade Gbagbo to hand over to Ouattara and end a four-month standoff over the contested election in November.

Ouattara's forces had earlier tried to storm Gbagbo's residence, but locals said Gbagbo's militiamen put up a stiff resistance, even as most

soldiers from the regular army had heeded a call to lay down their arms.

Despite the fighting, desperate civilians in the north of the city ventured outside to hunt for water and food.

"We haven't slept, we haven't eaten, we've had nothing to drink. We are all going to die," said 17-year-old Mariam.

Gbagbo has ruled Ivory Coast since 2000. Negotiations to persuade him to quit stalled after he resisted international pressure to sign a document renouncing his claim to power.

"If Gbagbo has refused to sign the documents they (UN and France) presented to him yesterday, it is because they proposed something that had no legal and judicial basis," Gbagbo's spokesman Ahoua Don Mello told Reuters on Wednesday.

Gulf states seek to broker deal for Saleh's exit

REUTERS
NEW YORK

QATAR Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al Thani said on Wednesday that Gulf states hope to strike a deal with Yemen's president to step down.

"We hope that we will strike a deal," he told reporters on the sidelines of a Business and Investment in Qatar Forum in New York when asked if the Gulf Cooperation Council had reached such a pact for Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down.

"We (the council) have been meeting for the last few days in Riyadh and we're sending a proposal for him and the opposition and we hope a meeting will be held between his team and the opposition to try to find a way out of this problem," he said.

Ali Abdullah Saleh's at times bloody response to protests, inspired by those in Egypt and Tunisia, against his 32-year rule has tried the patience of his U.S. and Saudi backers.

"The proposal is to have a governing council grouping all the various political parties and tribes for a period that would not exceed three months," one Gulf official told Reuters on Wednesday of a plan to be presented to Saleh and his opponents at talks to take place soon in Saudi Arabia. A date is not set.

"The council will set the way for elections," the Gulf official added, echoing other sources in the region and beyond.

Qatar, US sign contract for Lusail rail system

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Transit system is central to the transportation infrastructure of Lusail City, one of the largest and most ambitious real estate development projects being undertaken in the Middle East and North Africa region. It will feature 30km of track, 7km of which are underground, 24 stations (seven of which are underground), service depots and a viaduct.

Group CEO of Qatari Diar Mohammed al Hedfa said, "Public transportation is absolutely central to Lusail. We are bringing together two world leaders to deliver the best in industry solutions for Qatar."

Sidra centre to be ready in May 2012

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

handle HIV cases.

At present, Sidra has 147 full-time and interim health consultants. The project team is expected to grow to approximately 270 before the hospital opens its doors to patients. And once it gets into operation in late 2012, it will be employing more than 4500 clinicians, technologists, biomedical researchers and support staff.

"The hospital will also serve as an educational centre for the Weill Cornell University students. Sidra is also a research centre, and much of its resources and activities will be geared towards research. This reflects Qatar's desire to accumulate necessary skills in medical research and contribute to the field in the future.

The research will focus mainly on diabetes, particularly among children, its prevention and treatment. The research to be undertaken here will also focus on cancer and the use

of latest developments in genetics to provide medical care to women and children. The Centre will be completely wired with little or no paperwork.

A special feature of the hospital will be the use of robots as well as computers for diagnostic procedures. The Centre will provide complete satisfaction to the patients in terms of security and supervision.

For example, the highly digitalised system in operation in the hospital will warn the doctors if the medicine they prescribe would cause an accidental overdose because it conflicts with another medicine a patient is being administered. "Sidra is a complex undertaking with an advanced level of technology incorporated into the all-digital facility. The technology will include the latest equipment and software applications for clinical, administrative, and research works. The venture is part of Qatar's commitment to make the best medical services available to its citizens and residents," said al Muhannadi.

Qatar Airways reaches its 100th destination

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QATAR Airways began operations to the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, marking the carrier's historic 100th destination. Flight QR430 arrived from Doha to the key economic gateway city to a water salute and airport ceremony on Wednesday.

On board the maiden flight to Aleppo was Qatar Airways' Senior Vice President Commercial Ali al Rais, who led a delegation, including Bashar Samara, Charge D'Affaires of the Syrian embassy in Doha. They were received by senior airport officials and dignitaries, including the Governor of Aleppo Ali Ahmad Mansoura.

Addressing guests on arrival at Aleppo International Airport, Al Rais said, "We are celebrating this momentous occasion for the airline, and we are pleased to share it with the people of Aleppo. Aleppo is an attractive tourist and business des-



Governor of Aleppo Ali Ahmad Mansoura (left) receives a gift from Qatar Airways Senior Vice-President (Commercial Operations) Ali al Rais at the Aleppo airport, Syria, on Wednesday.

tinuation, and is an economic driving force behind Syria's textile, manufacturing and trading industries. The city is also a destination that has long been on Qatar Airways' list

of under-served markets, where we have wanted to expand to. We are grateful to the authorities for their support in welcoming our expansion in Syria."

GONDOLANIA
Theme Park مرکز ترفيهي
VILLAGGIO MALL

THE GRAND OPENING

7 April 2011

Join us on this three days GRAND CELEBRATION that will last until April 9, 2011.

Savour the excitement of magical lights and sounds show.
Share the fun and witness the amazing circus parade and many more.

D'lush Beverage Joint

SECOND CUP

COOL BEER

CINZELO

SHRIMPY

Video Games & Electronic

World Champion

Quiznos Sub

BURGER KING

Gloria Jean's Coffee

NOKIA Connecting People

FRESH JUICE

MAGIC VILLAGE

Clay Arts & Gifts

COLOR FUN

Clay Arts & Gifts

PARTY BALOONS

Baloons & Party

FAMILY ISLAND

Gift, Baloons, Toys

GONDOLANIA THEME PARK, P.O. BOX 4505 VILLAGGIO MALL, AL WAAB ST. DOHA, QATAR
TEL. NO.: +974-4403-9800, FAX NO.: +974-4413-5044, E-MAIL: info@gondolania.com
WEBSITE: www.gondolania.com