



Prime Minister holds talks with Tunisian leaders



HE the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al-Thani held talks with Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki, on the sidelines of the 'Friend of Syria' Conference, in Tunis yesterday. The Prime Minister also met Tunisia's Prime Minister Hamadi al-Jebali and leader of Tunisian Ennahda Movement Rashid Ghannouchi. They reviewed the draft agenda of the 'Friends of Syria' conference.

Qatar supports Arab Spring as 'it reflects democracy'

QNA
Doha

Qatar supports the changes currently under way in the Arab world, in order to enhance the democratic process and to support freedoms in the region.

This came in a speech delivered by HE the Assistant Foreign Minister for International Co-operation and chairman of the Standing Committee for Organising Conferences, Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohamed bin Jabor al-Thani, at a meeting of the IEPM - Club de Monaco Conference, which opened in Doha yesterday in the presence of a group of current and former officials, decision-makers and diplomats from a number of countries.

HE Sheikh Ahmed said: "Qatar could not stand with hands folded while seeing people being brutally suppressed simply because they are demanding their

legitimate rights. Therefore, it started to provide all forms of political and moral support."

Qatar supports these changes as they reflect democracy, he said.

He said Qatar believes that the comprehensive political reform processes are a necessity for expediting the pace of participation of the popular majority in taking important decisions concerning their lives.

These changes can only be achieved in the Arab region by starting the development of institutions guaranteeing such participation and the enhancement of areas of human development, especially the youth, the Assistant Foreign Minister said describing them as "the new force in the Arab political scene."

He stressed that Qatar believes that an atmosphere of genuine dialogue, based on the respect of people's freedoms and choices, must be available in the region and the whole world.

The two-day conference,

which is being held at the Four Seasons Hotel, will discuss the developments one year after Arab Spring with specific focus on Egypt, Syria, Tunisia, Libya and Yemen.

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The Israeli-Palestinian peace process and attempts to relaunch it, Iran and its regional ambitions, the nuclear issue, and Iraq after the American forces' withdrawal will also be discussed.

In his opening speech HE Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohamed bin Jabor al-Thani said: "This conference is organised in the light of the policies adopted by Qatar to enhance dialogue between nations and rapprochement between cultures to find solutions

for the problems that threaten security and stability in this vital area of the world."

"Qatar's foreign policy believes in the necessity of peaceful co-existence on the basis of mutual respect and common interests and in accordance with the international law. Qatar believes in the importance of interaction between cultures and civilisations and the necessity of adherence to the values of tolerance, justice, openness and the right of people to live free and dignified in their countries.

"Moreover, Qatar strongly supports settling disputes peacefully and according to the international law. Force as a means to resolve disputes should be discarded. Respecting freedom and human rights, fighting corruption and advocating economic and social development are the pillars of good governance," he said.

Club de Monaco is the Institute for Mediterranean Political Studies.



HE the Assistant Foreign Minister for International Co-operation, Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohamed bin Jabor al-Thani, attending the IEPM - Club de Monaco Conference in Doha yesterday.

Iran wants more talks

Reuters
Vienna

Iran wants more talks with the UN nuclear watchdog, its ambassador to the body said, despite what one Western envoy called "very long and fruitless" negotiations this week on addressing growing suspicions about Tehran's atomic activities.

The relatively upbeat comments by Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were in stark contrast to a terse statement issued by the UN agency on Wednesday after the two days of discussions in Tehran.

"Our position is that we are going to continue the talks for co-operation with the agency and we hope that this process will be successfully going on," said Ambassador Ali Asghar Soltanieh.

"We need a quiet environment, a calm environment to continue our professional work with the agency," he told Reuters late on Thursday.

The IAEA, a Vienna-based UN agency, said no further meetings with Iran are planned, signalling frustration at the lack of progress in two rounds of talks this year.

The setback increased worries about a downward spiral towards conflict between Iran and the West, and sent oil prices higher.

Western diplomats suspect Iran is merely seeking "talks about talks" in an attempt to ease outside pressure on the Islamic state while it presses ahead with nuclear work which the US and its allies believe has military links.

Iran says allegations of nuclear weapons aims are baseless.

"We try to be co-operative," said Soltanieh. "We are dealing with the questions and we are trying to remove ambiguities."

The UN atomic agency said yesterday it has "major differences" with Iran and "major concerns" about its nuclear programme.

"An intensive discussion was held on the structured approach to the clarification of all outstanding issues related to Iran's nuclear programme. No agreement was reached between Iran and the Agency, as major differences existed with respect to this approach," a report on the trip said.

"The agency continues to have serious concerns regarding possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear programme," the report by the International Atomic Energy Agency circulated to member states added.

Blue Salon introduces unique men's watch

Blue Salon has introduced a unique reversible Voyageur men's watch from Korloff at the ongoing ninth edition of the Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition at the Doha Exhibition Centre.

The new model is an extension of the Kalahari model launched in 2010. It comprises two timelines, and therefore two ETA movements with a second read-out at 7 o'clock on one of the dials.

The other dial has a highly original design, with a disk in place of the hour hand at the centre. The minute display is conventional.

Another particularity is that the crown used to adjust the second display is at 4 o'clock.

The dials are steel or black chequered, with one version combining the two.

Finally, as with the Kalahari watch, the strap is black alligator on one side and black rubber on the other and the patented, pivoting buckle give it the reversibility feature.

There are two non-diamond models, and a third which is set with 56 diamonds (1.4 carats) on the bezel itself, sculpted with gadroons all around the watch.



Milan-based jewel maker unveils a dazzling collection

Middle East, in particular the oil-rich Gulf region and China are going to be the major markets for jewels in coming years, according to Italian jewel maker Andrea Broggian.

The Milan-based company has displayed a large number of jewel collections at the ongoing ninth edition of the Doha Jewellery and Watches exhibition at Doha Exhibitions Centre. It has exhibited several pieces identified by the brand Mimi.

Though relatively new in jewels business, Broggian has carved a niche for himself and Mimi in the industry with the introduction of a number of gemstones which have caught the imagination of the connoisseurs in less than 15 years. The company however has been in similar line of activities for more than four decades.

Juliet, one of their prime collections, illuminated with a host of white sapphires, is quite appealing to the region's clientele and inquiries are coming from households across the GCC, said Antonella Scampini, a spokesperson of the company.



Andrea Broggian (left) with his colleagues at Mimi stall at Alfardan pavilion. **PICTURE:** Sami el Thalathini

The company's stone-rich necklaces, and bracelets, all handcrafted are designed with garnets and blue topazes among others.

At Alfardan Jewellery pavilion for the second year running, company officials feel sky is the limit for jewels as far as this region is concerned.

Mimi's white version of neck-

laces, ear rings and a trilogy ring, christened as Leela, stand unique in both design and appearance.

Blanche, the company's rare baroque pearls, are somewhat unique in their appearance.

There are too many uniquely built rings to choose from in the price range between \$2,000 and \$3,000 at the company's stall.

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GCC films on show in Doha



HE the Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari with the artistes honoured at the first GCC Film Festival opening ceremony in Doha. The first GCC Film Festival was launched on Thursday night at Qatar National Theatre. Speaking on the occasion, al-Kuwari urged the cinema industry in the Gulf region to be part of the Arab film world. With the Arab Spring, the cultural arena had been thriving and the film industry, in particular, should be attempt to record the history of the nations, he said. The minister hoped that exchange of experiences and views would enhance the regional film industry and prove instrumental in its further development. The week-long festival features movies from Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and Oman. **PICTURE:** Jayaram