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QEWC to operate Umm Al Houli project from July

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GULF TIMES

TUESDAY Vol. XXXIX No. 10742
February 27, 2018
Jumada II 11, 1439 AH
www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals



In brief

QATAR | Decision
Health certificates for laundry workers to stop

The Ministry of Public Health announced that the Department of Medical Commission will stop issuing the annual health certificates for laundry workers as of the beginning of March. They will only be obliged to undergo medical examinations at Medical Commission when they enter the country for the first time for the purpose of obtaining a work visa. The decision is in accordance with the recommendations of the concerned authorities in the ministries of public health, municipality and environment, and economy and commerce, since laundry workers' job does not pose a danger in the transmission of infectious diseases.

QATAR | Music
Singer al-Kubaisi wins Golden Panther award

Well-known Qatari musician Fahad al-Kubaisi won the 'Best Male Khaliji Singer Award' at the Golden Panther Music Awards 2018 in New York, US. The artist posted a message of thanks on Twitter along with a picture of him with the award. The Golden Panther Music Awards are described by the organisers as "the world's biggest fan-voted" award show, which pay tribute to "today's most influential and iconic" artists. Besides being a singer, al-Kubaisi is also known as a "record producer, fashion model and human rights activist".



ARAB WORLD | Conflict
Russia calls daily truce in Eastern Ghouta

Russia called a daily "humanitarian pause" in Syria's Eastern Ghouta, bowing to pressure to halt the carnage in the rebel-held enclave where bombardments eased late Monday after hours of deadly raids. A UN Security Council resolution for a 30-day truce had remained a dead letter since it was passed on Saturday, and Moscow, the Damascus regime's main backer, ended up setting its own terms to stem one of the worst episodes of bloodletting in Syria's seven-year-old conflict. **Page 9**

INDIA | Bollywood
Superstar Sridevi died of 'accidental drowning'

Bollywood superstar Sridevi died of accidental drowning in Dubai, the city's police department said yesterday. The post-mortem report showed that the actress died due to drowning in her hotel apartment's bathtub after she lost consciousness. The 54-year-old actress, known simply as Sridevi, died on Saturday. The cause was initially reported to be cardiac arrest. Sridevi was in Dubai to attend a family wedding. **Page 17**

Iraqi leadership thanks Emir for Qatar's support

QNA
Doha

His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday at his office at the Al Bahr Palace with the visiting Speaker of the Iraqi Council of Representatives, Saleem Abdullah al-Jabouri, and his accompanying delegation. At the outset of the meeting, the Iraqi official conveyed the greetings of Iraq President Fuad Masum and Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to the Emir, wishing him good health and happiness and wishing the Qatari people more progress and prosperity. His Highness the Emir entrusted the Iraqi Speaker to convey his greetings to Iraqi president and prime minister, wishing them health and wellness and the Iraqi

people further development and progress. Al-Jabouri also conveyed the thanks of Iraqi leadership and people to the Emir for Qatar's efforts in supporting Iraq at various levels, especially in the fight against terrorism, as well as the great support that Qatar has pledged for the reconstruction of Iraq at the international conference recently hosted by Kuwait. On his part, His Highness the Emir affirmed Qatar's firm stance and support to the unity, security and stability of Iraq. The meeting reviewed the strong bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and ways to strengthen them, besides the latest developments in Iraq and the region. The reception was attended by HE the Advisory Council Speaker, Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid al-Mahmoud. **Page 2**



His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani meeting the Iraqi Council of Representatives Speaker Saleem Abdullah al-Jabouri.

'Major sports events promote peace, human rights values'

Qatar sees major sporting events as unique opportunities for spreading the values of brotherhood, solidarity, peace and human rights, HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani has said. In his opening address at an event titled 'Hosting major sports events: promoting respect for human rights', which was held yesterday on the sidelines of the 37th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, HE Sheikh Mohamed said the absence of fair play, honesty and neutrality results in irresponsibility and violations of rules and regulations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said in a statement. In the absence of accountability for these violations, the "rules are absent and thus the game itself is absent", it was observed. Sports and human rights reinforce each other, he stressed, and sports can become a universal language because it has strong potential for the development and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in a way that can greatly contribute to the promotion of solidarity, diversity, equality, tolerance and justice. **To Page 3**

FM urges rights council to end siege violations

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani yesterday called on the United Nations Human Rights Council to end the violations resulting from the illegal siege and unilateral coercive measures taken by the siege countries against the Qatari people, and to hold accountable those responsible for the violations while compensating the victims. Speaking yesterday during the high-level segment of the 37th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, HE Sheikh Mohamed also stressed the need for the international community to reach a political settlement for the Syrian crisis and provide humanitarian assistance to the people there in order to meet the urgent needs, stress-



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani addressing the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva yesterday.

ing that Qatar would spare no effort in providing assistance. The Foreign Minister said he had briefed the council during its previous session on the repercussions and violations of human rights due to the illegal and unilateral coercive measures taken by the siege countries against the Qatari people. "This was reaffirmed in the last report of the technical mission of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights after visiting Qatar in November (2017)," Sheikh Mohamed said. "It included an objective description of the grave and flagrant violations of human rights by the siege countries against the citizens and residents, be it in Qatar or in their own countries, and this continues to this very day. **To Page 3**

Vodafone Qatar appoints new CEO

Vodafone Qatar has appointed Sheikh Hamad bin Abdullah al-Thani as new chief executive officer and Rashid al-Naimi as managing director. Al-Naimi, who is the chief executive of Qatar Foundation (QF) Endowment and responsible for QF's investment portfolios, has been elected as managing director with immediate effect. Sheikh Hamad will replace Ian Gray who has decided to retire and step down following the company's annual general assembly, scheduled to be held on March 19, 2018. Sheikh Hamad, who holds a BA in Computer Science from the University of Ottawa in Canada, currently holds the role of Vodafone Qatar's chief operating officer. Since joining Vodafone Qatar in 2013, he has served in several roles including senior business development manager, head of public sector sales and sales director. Under his leadership, Vodafone Qatar's enterprise market share grew substantially as did the company's position as an ICT (information communication and technology) and mega projects service provider. Before joining Vodafone Qatar, he held multiple ICT-related roles in the oil and gas sector. "We are at the beginning of a journey that will bring us closer to providing a converged digital ecosystem with smart solutions. I am certain that Vodafone Qatar will play a crucial role in driving the digital transformation in support of the Qatar National Vision 2030," Sheikh Hamad said. **Business Page 1**



Vodafone Qatar's new CEO Sheikh Hamad bin Abdullah al-Thani

Qataris satisfied with govt's performance

As many as 98% of Qatari nationals are satisfied with the government's performance during the crisis and 88% believe that Qatar is able to survive under this crisis for many years, a Qatar University (QU) survey has found. The Social & Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at QU yesterday unveiled the results of the survey on the Qatari citizens' points of view about the Qatar's blockade from a legal, political, economic, and social perspective. Titled "Qatar against the blockade", the survey was supervised by a team of Qatari experts and researchers including SESRI director Dr Hassan al-Sayed, policy department head and

the study's project manager Dr Majed al-Ansari, QU College of Business and Economics dean Dr Khalid Shams M A al-Abdulqader, QU Sociology Programme co-ordinator Dr Fatima Ali Hussain al-Kubaisi, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs official spokesperson Lulwah al-Khater, as well as a number of Qatari research assistants at SESRI. The study was conducted in November 2017 through telephone interviews. A random sample of 889 Qatari nationals (aged 18 and above), who are currently in Qatar, provided their points of view about the Qatar's blockade from a legal, political, economic, and social perspective. From the legal perspective, Dr al-

Sayed noted that the study showed that around 62% of Qatari nationals agree and 17% of them do not agree that the participation of citizens through elected councils does not lead to the fast deterioration of political conflicts between countries. The study revealed that 67% of nationals find that it is important to live in a democratic country. These results show an improvement as they doubled since a recent study conducted a few months prior to the blockade (34%). From the political perspective, Dr al-Ansari observed that 90% of Qatari nationals are interested in watching the news in order to get acquainted with the daily progress of the crisis. HE

noted that 62% of Qatari nationals find that Qatar should achieve full independence of regional alliances, which highlights the lack of trust in the regional environment. In this context, 86% of Qatari citizens find that Qatar should explore alliance opportunities with new countries in the region. Dr al-Ansari also noted that 79% of Qatari nationals consider that Al Jazeera Channel serves the Qatari interests and has played an important role in resisting the "media war" by the media outlets of the siege countries against Qatar. The results also showed Turkey as Qatar's first ally (72%), while Kuwait came second (16%), followed by other countries (12%). **Page 2**

Jewellery and watches show concludes on a high note

The 15th edition of the Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition (DJWE) 2018 concluded yesterday on a high note, recording more than 21,000 visits to the prestigious event over six days at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC). The exhibition, under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Interior

Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani, featured more than 490 international brands, representing a wide variety of luxury watches and jewellery. DJWE 2018 also provided visitors with the opportunity to acquire new knowledge through the first forum, daily sessions and workshops that discussed

topics related to the jewellery and watch industry. "DJWE is a true model of success, sustainability and development. Over the past 15 years, the exhibition has succeeded in reinforcing its position on the global calendar of jewellery events, as evidenced by the attendance of top executives of major brands at

the show," Qatar Tourism Authority's exhibitions director Ahmed al-Obaidli said. "The increase in exhibition area, visitors, side events and sales are all testament to the exhibition's success," he added. "This remarkable performance is thanks to the support provided by HE the Prime Minister and Interior Minister

to business events and the tourism sector as a whole in pursuit of a more diverse national economy." The huge exhibition space at DECC allowed fine jewellery shops in Qatar to showcase their collections in their pavilions, offering visitors a fascinating journey of art, elegance and heritage.

On behalf of Fifty One East, Bader Abdullah al-Darwish, chairman and managing Director, said: "In every edition of the DJWE, since its inception, Fifty One East, the eldest and most prestigious department store in Qatar, has been offering a new touch that enriches the fair." **To Page 8**
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Jewellery show ends on a high note

From Page 1

"The DJWE is now considered as an exceptional platform for the most important events in the world of watches and jewellery despite the current challenging situation. The international brands which we represent are prioritising the Qatari market and they are extremely happy with their participation this year and are looking forward to next year's edition," he said.

"We have been co-ordinating with the organisers to provide all the necessary support to further promote the exhibition and Qatar as a hub for the most prestigious events in the region and the world. I would like to thank them today for their hard work and dedication," al-Darwish added.

Ali Alfardan, president of Alfardan Jewellery, said: "Once again Alfardan Jewellery proved an exceptional presence in the 15th edition of DJWE - pushing boundaries to showcase one of a kind pieces by exclusive high end leading brands in the industry and their very own Qatari-made and inspired magnificent gem jewellery."



Young Qatari designers took the centre stage at DJWE 2018 which concluded yesterday.

"Alfardan Jewellery also introduced several new exciting designers for the first time in Qatar. We thank all our customers and visitors for their part and support in making this year's event a great success," he added.

Sheik Nawaf Nasser bin Khalid al-Thani, said: "Amiri Gems is proud to be part of the DJWE since its inception. This reiterates our commitment towards the national events that contribute in accomplishing a diversified economy and support the

pillars of the 2030 National Vision."

"We will continue to provide the Qatari market with the finest jewels and gems and looking forward for another coming edition of this exhibition to enhance Qatar's leading position in this industry in the region," he stressed.

Promoting and supporting young talents, the exhibition witnessed the return of the Young Qatar Designers (YQD) Initiative, where six Qatari designers

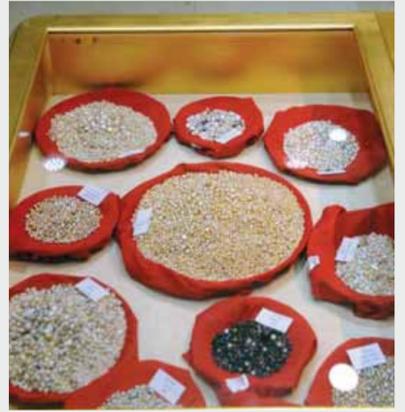
participated and presented their unique, and exclusive collections to the compete with the world's most famous brands.

Nada al-Sulaiti (Hairaat), Nouf al-Meer (Nouf Jewellery), Ghada al-Buainain, Leila Abu Issa (Leila Issam Fine Jewellery), Shikha Mohamed (Al Ghla) Jewellery, and Jawaher and Hissa Mohamed al-Mannai (Ghand Jewellery), had the chance to present their collections along with the world's leading watches and jewellery brands.

Glittering collections catch the eye



This necklace, studded with Colombian emerald was showcased at Indian designer Pannu Bhansali's Gems and Jewels Palace booth at DJWE.



Collection of pearls at Alfardan's Al-Tawashi booth.



(Right) Perhaps one of the most expensive diamonds available in the world today. Housed at Alfardan's Al-Tawashi booth, it reportedly commands a price of QR150mn.

Many Qataris 'buying jewellery and timepieces linked to heritage'

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition (DJWE) 2018 witnessed a huge interest among Qatari clients looking for jewellery and timepieces connected to their culture and heritage, a L'eepe CEO Arnaud Nicolas told *Gulf Times*.

"We have seen Qataris who wanted to buy something that is linked to their country. That was a good surprise because we have products related to their country," he said.

L'eepe showcased different kinds of high-end clocks at the Alfardan pavilion at DJWE, including a Qatar map-shaped piece, a gas derrick-designed item and a number of robot-inspired clocks, among others.

Such exclusive and specially-designed clocks received an excellent response from Qatari clients, Nicolas said. "In fact we had to bring some additional clocks because they were sold out."

"We are only on high end shops. The idea is really to have something special, special for a special person and it is always limited," the L'eepe CEO



L'eepe creates robot-designed clocks.

stressed. L'eepe is creating all its items "in the house" with the movement and design it prefers, such as the Qatar map and gas derrick clocks.

On the true representation of the gas derrick, Nicolas added

that it is something very special and was launched in Doha on the first day of the exhibition. "It is a novelty for this year."

Asked what inspired L'eepe to create such a piece, he said "a crazy idea." "Just when they say

a gas derrick, that is a great idea to make."

About DJWE 2018, Nicolas noted that the event has attracted many local visitors who want to own unique, intricate and bespoke items.



Arnaud Nicolas shows some of L'eepe's unique and special clocks linked to Qatar's history at the DJWE 2018. PICTURES: Shemeer Rasheed

"It was a surprising exhibition because we got very lucky to receive more clients, it is our fourth time here," he said.

Established in 1839, L'eepe, is a unique specialised high-end clock manufacturer in Switzer-

land for more than 175 years.

Under Nicolas' guidance, the company has developed an exceptional table clock collection, encompassing a range of sophisticated classic carriage clocks, contemporary design clocks and

avant-garde horological sculptures launched since the celebration of its 175th anniversary.

Ultra-long power reserves have become a signature of the brand as well as superlative fine finishing.

Chopard showcases unique creations

Chopard exhibited, along with long-time partner Alfardan Jewellery, an array of beautiful and delicate high jewellery, and distinctive timepieces for ladies and gents in a stand-alone booth at the Alfardan pavilion.

Visitors were able to discover a unique selection of stunning high jewellery creations from the "Red Carpet", "Temptations", "Green Carpet" and "L'Heure du Diamant" collections.

The iconic Happy Diamonds collection comprised stunning timepieces and delicate jewellery from the Happy Hearts and Happy Dreams lines.

A variety of watches for men were also showcased, including some Mille Miglia, Superfast and LUC timepieces.

According to Chopard, the DJWE exhibition has become a distinguished event in the regional luxury calendar of the Middle East.

This year, the exhibition exceeded the previous editions in gathering more than 490 internationally renowned brands through multiple exhibitors from many countries. The fair welcomed luxury connoisseurs, collectors, jewellery experts, as well as young professionals and trendsetters.

Chopard is a family-owned company with a resolute emphasis on optimally integrated production. The stages involved in crafting LUC watches and high jewellery models are all performed in Chopard's various production sites in Geneva, Fleurier and Pforzheim.

Movement decoration, product design, gold smelting, stamping and machining of cases, movement components and bracelets, as well as traditional hand-crafted decoration, surface treatment,



Chopard's Happy Sport Watch sold at the recently-held charity auction.

gem-setting, polishing, assembly, adjustment and quality control, are all mastered by Chopard in-house and play a role in the making of each watch and jewellery (the fine jewellery is produced mainly in Pforzheim) or high jewellery creation.

Gold, silver-plated home decor attracts crowds

The showcase at the Arab jewellery section of Alfardan Jewellery at the Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition (DJWE) caught the attention of several visitors during the six-day event which concluded yesterday.

Along with a sizeable number of tempting traditional and classic Arab jewellery, especially bridal collections of different hues and shades, the area housed a large number of attractive home decorations, made of plated gold and high quality silver.

Usually the making of some of the pieces require between six months and one year, and many skillful craftsmen are involved in their manufacturing, mainly in the workshops of some of the family-run businesses.

Such collections, including some with a bearing on the traditions, culture and heritage of the Arab region, have serious collectors in Qatar, it is learnt.

Many of these creations, designed mainly in Italy and other parts of Europe, adorn the shelves of affluent homes of the region's states.

Inquiries found a large number of those collections are priced between QR100,000 and above.



Attractive home decorations and showcase pieces on display at Alfardan Jewellery's Arab jewellery section at DJWE. PICTURE: Shemeer Rasheed