

Levi's
New Collection
Royal Plaza: 4413 1301 - Highland: (The Mall): 44 678 678
Hyatt Plaza: 4468 3087 - City Center: 4483 9997

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Qatar Tribune

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First with the news and what's behind it

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Newsline Nationline Businessline Lifeline Sportline

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DOW JONES	12,401 -14.00 PTS	QE	8,829 -57.00 PTS
SENSEX	15,867 +10.00 PTS	CURRENCY	Indian Rupee 14.47 Philippine Peso 12.10
WEATHER	MISTY HIGH: 25°C LOW: 17°C		

Newsline

Money supply in Qatar grew by 12.7% in November

MONEY supply (M2) in Qatar grew by 12.7 percent year-on-year at the end of November, after a 18.9 percent rise in the previous month, the QCB data showed on Sunday. Bank lending to the private sector jumped by 22.3 percent on an annual basis in November, the fastest pace in 30 months, after an 18.0 percent rise in the previous month. Money supply saw growth rates of around 60 percent in 2008 when inflation climbed to record, double-digit highs. (AP)

Qatar Exchange falls 57 points to 8,829

QATAR Exchange shed 57 points to close the day at 8,829 points, weighed down by Qatar National Bank which fell 1.6 percent. The Gulf state's largest lender is due to report 2011 earnings on Monday. NBK Capital recommends buying stocks which have dipped recently, adding the trend on the index remains up. "We expect a climb close to 9,140-9,300 points," NBK Capital said in a note. (PG 21)

US will respond if Iran blocks Strait of Hormuz: Panetta

THE United States will respond if Iran tries to close the strategic Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf, US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta warned on Sunday, saying such a move would cross a "red line." "We made very clear that the United States will not tolerate the blocking of the Straits of Hormuz," Panetta told CBS television. "That's another red line for us and that we will respond to them." (PG 8)

Non-resident Indians to get voting rights

FULFILLING the long-standing demand of its diaspora, India on Sunday said it would allow Non-resident Indians to vote and participate in the poll process. "Pursuant to the law that was enacted to enable Non-resident Indians to vote in our national elections, the government has issued notifications for registration of overseas electors under the Representation of People Act, 1950," Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said. (PG 11)

PM AT ARAB LEAGUE MEET ON SYRIA



Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al Thani with Arab League Secretary-General Nabil al Arabi (left) at the meeting of Arab foreign ministers, in Cairo, on Sunday.

Arab League Syria mission has failed to stop bloodshed: PM

End violence & allow more monitors, demands Arab League

AP
BEIRUT

THE Arab League repeated its demand on Sunday for the Syrian government to immediately stop all violence and allow more monitors in, as activists reported at least 10 more civilians killed by regime forces including two teenagers.

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al Thani said the ministers did not agree to call for UN experts to join the observers' mission in Syria but they would ask UN experts to train the monitors before going in. "Even if they had called for the UN experts to go in, Syria's regime may well have blocked them," he added.

The prime minister told reporters after the meeting that the League is aware that the mission has not fulfilled its goal of stopping the bloodshed.

"Is what happened, ideal? We want to do more," he said. "We know that the Syrian people have made a decision, but what we want is to lessen the losses, human losses," he said.

Five foreign ministers from the 22-member Arab League, who met in Cairo, also said the 165 Arab League monitors already on the ground in Syria need greater inde-

pendence from the regime.

The ministerial committee called on "the Syrian government and various armed groups to immediately halt all forms of violence and to return to protesting peacefully for the success of the Arab League observers' mission in Syria."

Fierce clashes in the south between government troops and military defectors killed 11 soldiers dead, activists said. The Arab League also called on other armed

Around 450 people have been killed by President Bashar Assad's regime since observers began work in Syria nearly two weeks ago.

parties to halt all bloodshed, an apparent reference to the defectors.

The monitors are supposed to be ensuring Syrian compliance with a plan to end the government's crackdown on dissent. The Arab League plan calls on Syria to remove heavy weaponry, such as tanks, from all cities, free all political prisoners and allow in human rights organizations and foreign journalists. Syria agreed to the plan on Dec. 19.

But opposition activists say around 450 people have been killed by President Bashar Assad's

regime since observers began work in Syria nearly two weeks ago. The opposition charges that the regime is misleading the 165 observers and that the mission had done nothing to resolve the crisis.

Arab League Secretary-General Nabil al Arabi said observers will continue their monthlong mission in Syria, despite claims by activists that the mission is giving cover to Assad's crackdown on protesters and delaying further action from being taken.

According to the UN, more than 5,000 people have been killed since March when mostly peaceful anti-government protests began.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 11 soldiers died in intense fighting in the town of Basr al-Harir in southern Daraa province. More than 20 troops were wounded.

In Homs, seven civilians were killed by troops raiding houses and pro-government snipers on rooftops. A 15-year-old boy was among seven civilians killed, the Observatory said.

The Arab League said it needs more monitors in Syria, but did not name an exact number. Initially, the League had requested to send 500 monitors, but so far Syria has allowed in just 165.

SEE ALSO PAGE 3 ▶

Qatar emerging as tourism hot spot, says WTA founder

AILYN AGONIA
DOHA

STAGING the grand finale to the World Travel Awards (WTA) this year in Qatar presents an opportunity for travel industry's biggest decision-makers as well as international media to create business and partnership opportunities, said WTA founder-President Graham Cooke.

WTA Grand Final to be hosted in Katara on Wednesday will feature 146 categories with more than 1,000 nominees.

"We chose Qatar because it's such an exciting and happening place in the world to be right now, which can only look forward to an even better scenario in the days to come given the developments that are taking place. We can bring the spotlight it deserves," Cooke told *Qatar Tribune* in an interview.

He said the selection of hosts was fundamental to the success of their awards programme. Some of the major international industry destinations where WTA finals were held included New York, Las Vegas, The Bahamas, London, Jamaica, Kuala Lumpur, St Lucia and Turks & Caicos.

"We look for destinations that are driving the industry to new heights through innovation and experimentation. Qatar is rapidly establishing itself as a world-class tourism destination for leisure, business, culture and sport. The country is investing \$25 billion in tourism infrastructure in the build-up to the 2022 FIFA World Cup, so there are a lot of opportunities within the luxury hospitality market, and a lot of fresh ideas being put into practice through the many new projects," Cooke added.

The 2011 Grand Tour featured regional events in Dubai (UAE), Anatolia (Turkey), Sharm el Sheikh (Egypt), Bangkok (Thailand), and Montero Bay (Jamaica). The winners from these have been nominated for the Grand Final in Doha.

The highlights of Qatar-based brands included Doha winning "Middle East's Leading Business Travel Destination" and W Hotel Doha picking up "Middle East's Leading Hotel &

QT Exclusive



Development miracle

WTA FOUNDER-PRESIDENT
GRAHAM COOKE

"We chose Qatar because it's such an exciting and happening place in the world to be right now, which can only look forward to an even better scenario in the days to come given the developments that are taking place."

Residences".

The WTA top boss underlined the strong representation of Middle East brands this year which reflected the significant improvement in the tourism offerings of this part of the world.

He said, "The likes of the UAE and Qatar are in the midst of a development miracle, and future generations will look back on this period as the golden era of evolution."

WTA was launched in 1993 to acknowledge and reward the very best travel organisations in the world. Since its inception, it has been raising the bar of traveller's standards and stimulates competition in the world tourism industry. The eligibility

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 ▶▶

Qatar joins E&Y's Young Entrepreneur award

ASIF IQBAL
DOHA

QATAR will now be a part of the internationally acclaimed Young Entrepreneur of the Year award with the launch of the E&Y Entrepreneur of the Year 2011 award in Qatar. Globally, the event is held in 140 cities across 50 countries and has been running for 25

years. In Qatar, Ernst & Young is collaborating with Enterprise Qatar for this award.

Speaking at the launch of the award on Sunday, the Chief Executive Officer of Enterprise Qatar Noora al Mannai said, "This is the first year of Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in Qatar. The small and medium enterprises

(SME) is playing an increasingly important role in Qatar's economy and Enterprise Qatar wants to support and fuel this."

She said, "Qatar is one of the significant powerhouses of the global economy, with our entrepreneurs acting as crucial pillars of this growth. Launching the Ernst & Young EOY 2011 Qatar award is an

important way to support this advancement."

The Enterprise Qatar CEO further said that the Entrepreneur of the Year is an established award that both acknowledges our country's talents as well as rewards it, while at the same time provides an international dimension and benchmark for success, giving local entrepre-

neurs the means to showcase their achievements and prove themselves globally.

Giving further details about the award, al Mannai said, "To be eligible for consideration, nominees must be owners and managers who are primarily responsible for the recent performance of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 ▶▶



CEO of Enterprise Qatar Noora Al Mannai (left) with Managing Partner of Ernst & Young Qatar Firas Quossous, in Doha, on Sunday.