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Jewellers look to close the year on a high note

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Nasser is Middle East champ again



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In brief

EGYPT | Constitution

Mursi calls referendum

Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi called a December 15 referendum on a draft constitution and urged a national dialogue on the “concerns of the nation” as the country nears the end of the transition from Hosni Mubarak’s rule. Mursi was speaking after receiving the final draft of the constitution from the Islamist-dominated constituent assembly. “I am issuing my decision to call people for a referendum on the draft constitution on Saturday, December 15,” Mursi said in an address to the constituent assembly that approved its final draft on Friday before handing it to Mursi. **Page 19**

PALESTINE | Settlements

Britain and France censure Israeli move

Britain and France yesterday condemned a plan by Israel to expand settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, saying international confidence in its desire to make peace with the Palestinians was at risk. Stung by a UN vote according de facto recognition to a Palestinian state, Israel on Friday said it would build thousands of new settler homes. The US, one of just eight countries to vote alongside Israel against the Palestinians at the UN General Assembly, said the latest expansion plan was counterproductive to any resumption of direct peace talks stalled for two years. **Page 19**

PHILIPPINES | Dispute

Manila opposes Beijing plan

The Philippines yesterday objected to China’s plan to board and search foreign ships that enter into what Beijing considers its territory in the disputed South China Sea. The plan is part of a new law strengthening maritime control that allows the border patrol in Hainan province to board, inspect, detain, confiscate, immobilise and expel foreign vessels. The Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs urged Beijing to clarify the law, which it called a violation of international laws and “a direct threat to the entire international community”. **Page 27**

ASIA | Missile

US warning to North Korea

The US yesterday urged North Korea to scrap plans to launch a rocket later this month, warning the “highly provocative” move would destabilise the region. **Page 26**

QATAR | Religion

Emir to take part in prayers for rain

In line with the Sunnah (sayings and deeds) of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani will take part, along with worshippers, in the Istisqa (prayers for rain) at the Wajbah Prayer ground on Tuesday.

Hundreds march for climate justice

The march, organised and led by local non-governmental organisation (NGO), Doha Oasis, started at around 7am at the Sheraton Park

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

Hundreds of activists from Qatar and around the world took out a march on Doha’s Corniche yesterday, demanding urgent action to combat climate change.

“Climate justice, climate action now, we have to save our world,” demanded environmental activists at the march, the first one of its kind in Qatar.

The march, organised and led by local non-governmental organisation (NGO), Doha Oasis, started at around 7am at the Sheraton Park and went through the Corniche Street up to the General Post Office roundabout. Hundreds of activists from various world NGOs and youth organisations joined the march, chanting slogans and carrying banners. The road was blocked for traffic by police during the march which lasted for nearly three hours. Paramedics from Lekhwiya accompanied the marchers on their bikes and volunteers offered participants cold water.

“Qatar has been a pioneer in the Arab world in many fields and it has to pioneer environmental protection issues and cut carbon emission levels,” stressed Ali Fakhri, Arab Youth Climate Movement (AYCM) representative in Lebanon and media campaigner with environmental non-governmental organisation IndyACT.

“The marchers are here to ask their

country leaders to act now; there is no time left,” Fakhri said.

“Time is running out to ensure climate impacts do not spin out of control. We only have one environment and one earth. We need ministers and decision-makers to hear civil society voices and push for concrete steps.”

Fahad bin Mohamed al-Attiya, the chairman of the organising sub-committee for COP18/CMP8, took part in the march. He described it as a catalyst for change and an important step for a better future, expressing Qatar’s “serious interest in making positive developments on climate change issues”.

“I am very proud to be here with you today,” al-Attiya said. “It marks a very important moment in our history. We want to be free from fear. Free from all the impacts that climate change can impose upon us.”

He pointed out that Qatar had adopted various initiatives to cut carbon emissions, including the introduction of hybrid buses for public transport and developing infrastructure like railways and metro to reduce dependency on private vehicles. Also, the country has adopted experimental projects of green building to pave way for eco-friendly housing.

Al-Attiya pointed out that Qatar’s traditional values promoted conservation of water and energy resources and the nationals were well aware of the importance of such limited resources.

Khalid al-Mohannadi, a founding member of Doha Oasis, described the march as an “awakening” for Qatar, expressing his delight with the turnout. “I thank you all from the bottom of my heart,” he told activists in the march.

“Doha Oasis, as a local NGO, is aim-



The Doha Corniche march was supported by regional and international NGO networks such as IndyACT, OASIS Doha, 350.org, Climate Action Network, and the global TckTckTck campaign, as well as youth activists who were instrumental in the Arab Spring and are now organised in the newly-founded Arab Youth Climate Movement. Fahad bin Mohamed al-Attiya, chairman of the organising sub-committee for COP18/CMP8 Doha, addressed the activists.



Two activists holding a placard demanding action to combat climate change at the Sheraton Park yesterday.

PICTURE: Noushad Thekkayil

ing at creating a sound balance and harmony between development and the eco-system through raising awareness and planting trees as a practical solution,” said al-Mohannadi.

He said that more than 50 NGO from different countries around the world took part in the march to draw world attention to what was going on at COP18 and that presence of the chairman of the COP18 organising sub-committee stressed the importance of the march.

Activists from more than 15 Arab countries, including Qatar, Mauritania, Morocco, Jordan, Libya, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, Algeria, Sudan, Oman, Egypt and Bahrain, and other parts

of the world called on leaders to make serious commitment towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Hassan Jaja, an expatriate Jordanian from the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature, said the Israeli forces had uprooted around 2.5mn trees in Palestine, damaging the livelihood of the local people there. He said the group had already taken positive steps by planting around 1.4mn trees in Palestine.

Eman Hussein from Bahrain, representing the Arab Youth Climate Movement, said that she aimed at making the voice of the young people heard by their government leaders “to address the issues of climate change in a practical manner”.

Rajiv Sharma, from the International

Union for Green Jobs, India, called for “fair wages and decent living conditions” for construction workers. He said that the workers were building the country and deserved to be protected from any “potential exploitation” through legislation and active enforcement of the law.

Professor Hartmut Wessler, University of Mannheim, Germany, observed that Qatar was taking good steps towards utilising solar energy.

“The march has attracted great media coverage from around the world and this is good to raise awareness about climate issues and would reflect positively on the decisions made (at the Doha conference),” he said.

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Barzan project in Ras Laffan half complete

By Pratap John

Chief Business Reporter

Barzan Gas Project, which will be key to meeting Qatar’s future energy needs, has completed 50% of work and is scheduled to achieve Train 1 start up in 2014.

Barzan project activities, both in Qatar and the offshore facilities being built in Ulsan, South Korea, are currently on plan, both in terms of cost and schedule to achieve start-up of Train 1 in 2014, said RasGas Venture Group manager Nafez A Bseiso.

He was speaking after receiving a

high-level QP delegation that visited the project site at Ras Laffan recently.

The delegation, which toured the site stretching over 3sq km, witnessed the “remarkable achievements” that have been made 22 months into the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) phase of the project.

“When the two new gas processing trains are in operation in 2014 and 2015 respectively, they will combine with other RasGas facilities (LNG and pipeline sales gas) to produce around 11bn standard cubic feet per day (the equivalent of almost 2mn barrels of oil), making RasGas one of the largest single gas processors in the world,” Bseiso said.

“A construction workforce of more than 19,000 comprising of around 50 nationalities has contributed in achieving world-class safety performance and industry leading results, including a total recordable incident rate of 0.05 and lost time incident rate of 0.01 during the project,” said Bseiso.

He said that quality played a critical role in all aspects of the execution of Barzan Gas project, and it was important to ensure that every step, from engineering design, procurement, construction, completion and handover, was done to the highest international standards.

“Barzan project has the highest

number of Qataris working in almost every key discipline on a RasGas single project, thus ensuring that maximum exposure and experience is harvested by national graduates to develop their careers and underpin the role of the future generation of Qatari professionals in the indigenous energy industry,” Bseiso said.

The QP delegation included Mohamed al-Marri, manager (Oil and Gas Surface Development), Tamim Attar, manager (Project Evaluation and Planning), Ahmad al-Amoodi, assistant manager (Common Facilities) and Abdulrahman al-Braik, assistant manager (Transmission and District Engineering).



QP executives during their recent visit to Barzan Gas Project at Ras Laffan.