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Arab League urged to draft convention on labour rights

Qatar gets gold on first day of championships



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In brief

QATAR | Complaints

Hotline for food safety

Qatar residents have been urged to make use of a hotline to report complaints about unhygienic food in hotels and restaurants in the country. The senior food inspection supervisor and chief of the Inspection Unit at Rayyan Municipality, Majidi Zaidan, said there was a call centre to deal with people's complaints and the hotline number 44266666 was available all seven days of the week. **Page 8**

QATAR | Infrastructure

Rayyan areas to see development works

Large-scale infrastructure development works are to be launched shortly in the fast-growing residential neighbourhoods of Rawdat Leigim and Bani Hajer. **Page 9**

Today's issue of Gulf Times includes



Reception ceremony



HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani with Senegal President Macky Sall during the reception ceremony for the latter at the Emiri Diwan yesterday. They later held a session of official talks. A number of Qatari ministers and members of the official delegation accompanying President Sall attended. HH the Emir hosted a luncheon banquet in honour of the Senegalese president and his accompanying delegation. **Page 2**

Rescuers search for US tornado survivors

Reuters
Moore, Oklahoma

Rescuers went building to building in search of victims and thousands of survivors were homeless yesterday, a day after a massive tornado tore through a suburb of Oklahoma City, wiping out whole blocks of homes and killing at least 24 people. Nine children were among the dead, including seven who died at Plaza Towers Elementary School, which took a direct hit in the deadliest tornado to hit the US in two years. **Page 15**

Emergency workers pulled more than 100 survivors from the rubble of homes, schools and a hospital, and around 237 people were injured. Cadaver dogs sniffed through the scattered planks and bricks of ruined homes yesterday. The 3km wide tornado ripped through Moore on the outskirts of Oklahoma City on Monday afternoon, trapping victims beneath the rubble and tossing vehicles about as if they were toys. On block after block of residential neighbourhoods, there was nothing left but mangled debris. **Page 15**

Qatar Rail project will need 25,000 workers at its peak

A substantial portion of the rail network is expected to be ready by 2019, well before the FIFA World Cup that Doha is hosting in 2022

By Noimot Olayiwola
Staff Reporter

Qatar will be "unrecognisable" by 2019 when most of the infrastructure development projects, including the ambitious rail network now being built, will be completed, a seminar was told yesterday. Up to 25,000 people will be working on the railway project as the construction peaks for a scheduled first phase opening by 2019 and a second phase finish by 2026.

A Qatar Rail official said a substantial portion of the rail network is expected to be ready by 2019, well before the FIFA World Cup that Doha is hosting in 2022. The light rail transit is expected to be completed by 2017.

Qatar Rail is seeking to develop a world-class public transportation system which will provide a competitive alternative to private transport at a cost of about \$40bn.

When completed, the project will comprise a Doha Metro mass transit, a long-distance passenger and freight rail and a light rail linking Lusail and West Bay. Construction of the rail project began early this year.



Leckel: Qatar Rail chief technical officer

"We are already in talks with the Ministry of Interior for procuring the visas for the large number of workforce that would be needed for the various rail projects and the choice of nationalities will be dependent on the contractors who we would be awarding the contracts," Qatar Rail chief technical officer Daniel Leckel said. He was making a presentation at a session on "The future of Qatar transport and infrastructure" at a one-day seminar hosted by Qatar University's College of Engineering-based Qatar Road Safety Studies Centre (QRSSC) in collaboration with the Central Planning Office (CPO) at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning (MMAUP).

"We are in the final stage of architectural branding approval and we have already started awarding contracts. Within the next couple of weeks, we will start signing contracts

with the main designing and building contractors," he said.

The official mentioned that by next year, Qatar Rail would begin to place contracts for operation and maintenance, which is expected to start by 2015 and the testing and commissioning will be done by 2017 while the service is expected to begin by 2019, if everything goes according to plan.

Leckel said that Qatar Rail had spoken to the MMAUP for the easy acquisition of raw materials needed for the construction of the metro, which is estimated to be 800,000 tonnes of steel (equivalent to 100 times more needed for the construction of the Eiffel Tower); some 17,000,000 cubic metres of excavation (7x done to build an Egyptian pyramid); and some 5,000,000 cubic metres of concrete (14x used to build Burj Khalifa).

During his presentation, Leckel explained the plans to provide Qatar with integrated railway services that are reliable, attractive and safe with continual commitment to excellence and sustainability.

Some of the key challenges of the projects, according to Leckel, include keeping the Doha traffic moving while the construction takes place and importing the raw materials.

"By 2018 you won't recognise Qatar as it will be a completely different place to live in - there will be no traffic jams and there will be a good standard of living. **To Page 11**

New 'shopping destination' to feature over 400 stores

By Bonnie James
Deputy News Editor

Qatar's booming retail landscape has got a major new player with the Mall of Qatar yesterday announcing plans to create a "vibrant new regional shopping destination", featuring over 400 stores, fine dining and world-class entertainment.

Work on the QR3bn project being developed by UrbaCon Trading and Contracting, and underway since 2012, is proceeding on schedule for a September 2015 opening at the intersection of Al Rayyan Highway and Celebration Road.

"Our research has shown there is currently a huge untapped demand for quality, integrated shopping, dining and entertainment in the country," Shem Krey, deputy managing director, Mall of Qatar, said.

The project is adjacent to Al Rayyan Sports Club and a proposed FIFA 2022 World Cup Stadium. Celebration of Qatar's FIFA World Cup theme is planned to be a significant part of the design element throughout the Mall of Qatar as a lasting legacy.

"When complete, the Mall of Qatar will cover over 4mn sq ft and will be one of the biggest shopping malls in the country," claimed Donald Weir, general manager.

A key architectural feature of the Mall of Qatar is a three-storey high urban-lifestyle market place running the full length of the centre spine.

"This area, which is three football fields long, with vaulted glass ceiling, opens out into a breathtaking four-storey high, central amphitheatre with a massive domed roof, the Oasis, the heart of the project," Weir explained.

The Oasis will feature themed restaurants, fine dining and fun food experiences on all sides, family entertainment, multiplex cinemas, unique water features, natural landscaping,



An artist's impression of the Mall of Qatar's centre spine.

sidewalk cafes and nightly live entertainment.

Spread over a building area equivalent to the size of 50 FIFA football pitches, the Mall of Qatar will have a major hypermarket, five department stores, 20 international restaurants and an indoor streetscape with double height flagship stores from across the globe. In addition, children's wear, and popular urban lifestyle brands will be clustered into districts.

A two-level luxury court at the south end of the complex will have individually articulated shop fronts interspersed with indoor/outdoor cafes and patios and a premium concierge lounge.

Krey revealed that a major luxury brand hotel is planned, as well as a signature restaurant on the outside surrounded by terraces overlooking the luxury court. The exterior of the whole mall will be animated with storefronts, cafes and extensive landscaping to connect to customers as soon as they drive in.

"In the first year, we are anticipating more than 20mn visitors to enjoy what

will be a superior international destination for retail, leisure and entertainment with something to offer every member of the family. It will be a new lifestyle destination that will energise tourism," he said.

The developers of the mall are working with officials on a master-planned community integrating the project into its surroundings and establishing a strong connection with Al Rayyan Sports Club and the proposed FIFA World Cup Stadium.

UrbaCon Trading and Contracting, which is developing, managing the design and construction of the complex, will operate the Mall of Qatar for the owner. The total project, which is in excess of QR3bn, has been secured with funding from Qatar National Bank.

The Mall of Qatar has been designed by globally-acclaimed architects Chapman Taylor and KEO. McArthur + Company, the world renowned retail specialists, which will market and lease the project, was represented at yesterday's announcement by Furqan Athar. **Page 32**

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