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First with the news and what's behind it

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DOW JONES	12,434 -9 PTS	QE	8,403 -52 PTS
SENSEX	16,152 +82 PTS	CURRENCY	Indian Rupee 14.96 Philippine Peso 11.85
WEATHER	VERY HOT HIGH: 45°C LOW: 31°C		

Time for Palestine: Emir

Recognise rights of Palestinians, Israel told

RAJESH MISHRA
DOHA

THE Emir His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani has said that with a stable government in Israel, the time is ripe for the freedom of Palestine.

He asked Israel on Sunday not to 'miss' the chance as the 'rising generation' of Arab people will not accept "occupation".

"The Israeli prime minister himself dropped the argument that the fragility of the coalition government does not allow flexibility or compromises. He is now required to take the long-awaited step towards achieving peace that is based on the cessation of settlement, the 1967 borders, and the two-state solution", HH the Emir said in his inaugural speech at the 12th Doha Forum and Enriching the Middle East's Economic Future Conference.

"Israel must adhere to the rules of international law, recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, withdraw from the Syrian Golan and Lebanese Shebaa Farms and refrain from practices such as building settlements and Judaisation of Jerusalem, otherwise, it will miss the chance for peace because the rising generation of the Arab peoples will not accept injustice or occupation",



Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al Thani at the Doha Forum, on Sunday.



The Emir His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani at the opening session of the 12th Doha Forum and Enriching the Middle East's Economic Future Conference, in Doha, on Sunday.

he added. The Arab Spring must be accompanied by a spring for a just peace in the Middle East, which was not possible so long as thousands of Palestinians languish as prisoners in Israeli jails or remain besieged in Gaza and other places.

"Israel cannot rely anymore on its friendship with rulers who were overthrown by the Arab spring revolutions, and it should not be betting on others against its own people and the overall opinion, because then Israel will

find itself with no friends at all", HH the Emir said.

The opening was attended by the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al Thani, Chairman of the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority HE Abdullah bin Hamad al Attiyah, President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa and former president of Senegal and Secretary-General of the International Organisation of La Francophonie and a number of other dignitaries.

HH the Emir noted that many events in the Arab region today, had been discussed at the previous Doha forums and had the countries addressed those issues, things would have been different today.

"The Arab uprising was preceded by complete rigidity and ineffective policies of the rulers and the resultant public anger. Some people had ignored these signals then to be surprised by revolutions that exploded later to announce a historic and unprecedented transformation", HH the Emir said.

Arab uprisings won or they are on their way to victory, HH the

Emir noted, but he also expressed regret at the precious blood of innocents which was shed and is still flowing because some regimes are still rejecting immediate reform.

It will soon be clear that transition to democracy cannot be separated from development, reducing the gap between the rich and the poor and creating favourable economic conditions for expanding the middle class, he said.

HH the Emir underlined that transition to democracy had a number of challenges. "The political freedom, which is the foundation of democracy, does not necessarily lead to economic justice if not accompanied by social and humanitarian development and fair social policies. The ultimate objective should be sustainable development, which includes achieving its economic, social, human and environmental objectives."

HH the Emir underlined that Doha Forum will remain a platform for exchanging opinions about regional and international developments and proposing anything that would promote democracy, development and free trade.

Qatar aid to poor nations doubled in 2011

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Emir His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani on Sunday said that while a number rich countries cut their aid to the poor ones in 2011, Qatar had raised it to \$730 million, twice of what it gave in 2010.

He also reminded the world community that 2011 was a difficult year for the poor countries as they faced acute food shortages, decline in investments and exports.

"The government and non-governmental aid (of Qatar) this year is estimated to touch \$990 million and this does not include aid provided by some government agencies", HH the Emir said. He urged rich countries to try to meet the gross domestic product (GDP) to aid ratio suggested by the United Nations.

HH the Emir noted the trend of steep fall in the official aid volume to these countries. Pointing out that the falling trend, paradoxically, was not witnessed even during the economic downturn, he said that its continuation would cause concern.

Underlining the need to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) despite the expected delay, HH the Emir said additional development objectives should be formulated to take into account new developments and significant differences.

HH the Emir also noted with concern the challenges of achieving the MDGs in developing countries. "This applies to the goals associated with securing sanitation and safe drinking water, providing primary education to all, protection of biodiversity, reduction mortality rate among children under five, empowerment of women and reducing undernourishment", he said. (RM)

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Newsline

50 killed in Syria, including 34 in Hama

NEARLY 50 people were killed on Sunday in violence across Syria, including 34 civilians who died in an assault in the restive central Hama province, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Syrian regime forces rained shells on the village of Souran in Hama, it said, describing the deaths as a "massacre" and urging UN truce observers to deploy immediately in the area. (PG 3)

Six dead in twin Italy tremblers, 3,000 people evacuated

ABOUT 3,000 people have been evacuated in northeast Italy's Emilia Romagna region, where a fresh 5.1 magnitude quake struck on Sunday afternoon. The quake hit the zone around Ferrara at around 1300 GMT, forcing the collapse of several structures, already weakened by a magnitude-6.0 quake that struck early on Sunday and killed at least six. (PG 16)

Al Faisal Holding buys Chicago hotel; eyes more properties

QATAR'S Al Faisal Holding Company has bought the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel in Chicago, adding another property to its growing portfolio of real estate assets around the world. By 2020 the group hopes to own 25 hotels in prime cities across the globe and currently has 18 properties in the Middle East, North and South America and Europe either in operation or under development. (PG 25)

Chelsea parades 1st European Cup through London

IN front of tens of thousands of Chelsea fans, the new kings of Europe paraded the Champions League trophy through London's New King's Road on Sunday. The Blues are the capital's first European champions after beating Bayern Munich 4-3 in Saturday's shootout in the competition's 57th season. (PGS 30 & 32)

UCL-Q plans excavations at two locations in old Doha

JOSEPH VARGHESE
DOHA

UNIVERSITY College London in Qatar (UCL-Q) is planning archaeological excavations at two locations in old Doha city, according to a top official of the institution.

Work would start once permission is received and the hot weather settles. UCL-Q Director Prof Thilo Rehren told *Qatar Tribune*, adding the request has been made to Qatar Museums Authority.

"We will be digging in two areas in

old Doha. One area will be next to the mosque near Souq Waqif and the other one in Bidda. Bidda was a separate town from Doha in earlier times and we would like to know the features of that town", he said.

Excavation would be done on vacant land by digging one or two metres deep and five by ten meters wide trenches, he said. "We will locate a clean field and remove one layer of the field after the other and record our findings."

The excavation will examine not just artefacts but also other traces in

the soil, he said. "Looking at the nature of the soil we can tell many of the activities that took place in that particular patch of the land and looking at how deep down the soil, we can say how old it is."

He also said that the areas will be quite small and not impede people's movement in those areas.

Talking about progress of the College on the academic front, he said that the inaugural batch of would start from September with three post-graduate programmes. "These programmes are MA in Archaeology of the Arab and Islamic World, MA in Museum and Gallery

Practice and MSc in Conservation Studies. We have received 58 applications for this academic year."

Research programmes have already started with two students being registered under UCL-Q, he said. "At present, they are pursuing research in London and will be here once the research labs and other facilities are in place here."

Giving a breakup of the applicants, he said 40 percent are Qataris, another 10 percent residents and the rest from different parts of the world. "The quality of the applications especially from Qatari citizens is amazingly high



UCL-Q Director Thilo Rehren

and in some cases higher than the expected."

The application process is open till July. It will be followed by an orientation exercise in the last week of August. UCL-Q intends to start with small groups of around 10 students for each course, he said.

UCL-Q had been brought to the Education City specifically for research programmes, he said and added it had brought a big research programme about Bronze Age in Egypt and another project on Turkmenistan under UCL-Q and that students will be offered opportunities in many of the excavations.

World leaders attend Doha Forum

QNA
DOHA

THE Emir His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani opened the 12th Doha Forum and Enriching the Middle East's Economic Future Conference at the Doha Sheraton Hotel on Sunday.

The opening ceremony was attended by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al Thani, Chairman of the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority HE Abdullah bin Hamad al Attiyah, several sheikhs, Speaker of Advisory Council and ministers, along with heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to the country and guests.

The prime minister met several world leaders on the sidelines of the event. He conferred with leaders such as Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prince al Waleed bin Talal bin Abdulaziz al Saud of Saudi Arabia, Speaker of the Jordanian Senate Tahir al Masri, former Spanish premier Jose Luis, Sudanese Vice President al Haj Adam Youssuf and Leader of Sudanese Ummah Party Sadiq al Mahdi, among many others. During the host of meetings, the leaders discussed bilateral relations, in addition to topics tabled on the agenda of the 12th Doha Forum and Enriching the Middle East Economic Future Conference.



Policymakers hope for 'better' M-E Sri Lanka set to emerge maritime hub: Rajapaksa

RAMY SALAMA
DOHA

POLITICAL and Economic decision-makers were optimistic about future developments in the region at sessions of the 12th Doha Forum on Sunday, with the conflicts in Palestine and Syria being cited as perhaps the most problematic threats to this outlook. "Tunisia is the first instance where Islamists and secularists are ruling together," noted Kamal Ben Younes, a professor at the International Studies Institute in Tunisia, referring to this as cause for optimism in the Tunisian case.

Speaking at a workshop session entitled 'Practical Implications of the New Democratic Movements in the Middle East', he listed both reasons for optimism and unresolved issues in the new Tunisian political landscape, the latter of which included the relative lack of experience of the current administrators, and the fact that 80 percent of Tunisian trade was with Europe, which is currently in dire economic condition.

Emma Bonino, vice-president of the Italian Senate, advised regional decision-



(From left) Vice-president of the Italian Senate Emma Bonino, Swedish Ambassador to Jordan HE Charlotta Sparre and Professor at the International Studies Institute in Tunisia Kamal Ben Younes at a workshop, in Doha, on Sunday. (QT PHOTO)

The Forum offers sweeping overview of issues on democracy, development and free trade in the M-E.

makers to "care for democracy, and build it day by day, and try to find friends and allies. You have to build a regional approach to democratic governance and you should try to avoid reverting to an outdated Nationalism", she added, giving advice to attendees of the session based on her many

years' experience in her former roles as Italian minister for EU affairs and trade, EU commissioner and EU Member of Parliament.

In addition to addressing the North African countries which most prominently manifested the Arab Awakening, reference was made to two separate conflict areas in the Arab world, namely Palestine and Syria. This pattern extended to the third session of the Forum, entitled 'The Future of Peace in the Middle East'.

The moderator, the Arab League's Ambassador to

France HE Dr Nassif Hitti, referred to the issues of Palestine and Syria at the very outset of the session. Discussing the Palestinian situation, Hitti opined that based on current trends, it was more a matter of "management of the conflict rather than of resolving it".

The Doha Forum is an established, world-class event that celebrates its 12th edition this year under the patronage of the Emir His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani, who presided over the opening ceremony earlier in the day. The opening also featured a welcome speech delivered by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al Thani.

The Forum is intended to offer a sweeping overview of issues regarding democracy, development and free trade in the Middle East, the Arab world and globally. More broadly, the international meeting is to discuss critical political, economic, social, financial, strategic and human matters of pressing concern for a region witnessing some of the most substantial changes in its long history.

RAJESH MISHRA
DOHA

SRI LANKAN President Mahinda Rajapaksa on Sunday said that despite having suffered terrorism for 30 years, Sri Lanka, one of the oldest democracies of Asia, was repositioning itself and was all set to emerge as an economic, maritime and educational hub of the continent.

Speaking at the 12th Doha Forum and Enriching the Middle East's Economic Future Conference Rajapaksa, who was the Guest of Honour at the Forum, thanked Qatar for hosting the Forum and said that it provided Sri Lanka an opportunity to sustain and enhance economic cooperation and further strengthen historical ties with the Arab world.

"The Middle East is very important for us. There are around 1.7 million Sri Lankan migrant workers whose contribution to Sri Lanka's foreign exchange is the highest. Sri Lanka also imports its largest amount of energy from this region. We seek to consolidate our historical, maritime



Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

We seek to consolidate our historical, maritime, commercial ties and build on it further.

MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA

commercial ties and build on it further," Rajapaksa said. "Sri Lanka is poised to become self-sufficient in food production with its efforts to build a strong rural economy by investing in a big way in agriculture. Sri Lanka also has an export driven economy. The country is on way to build an aviation hub and a maritime hub with free port

in the southern region, where I come from," he added.

According to the Sri Lankan president, the country also boasted of high GDP growth rate, highest literacy in South East Asia and remarkable progress in IT sector. He said that the country was also working towards construction of more power stations to meet domestic and commercial needs and expanding railways.

Also speaking on the occasion, another Guest of Honour Abdou Diouf, former president of Senegal and currently Secretary-General of the International Organisation of La Francophonie, stressed the need for sustainable development and exhorted participants of the Doha Forum to discuss new approaches.

"The global financial crisis and the Arab Spring call for new approaches towards tackling these issues. The old theories will not do," he said. Diouf also lauded Qatar for its commitment towards regional peace and criticised the bloodshed in Syria caused by a man's egotistic attitude.