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TUESDAY Vol. XXXI No. 7912
June 1, 2010
Jumada - II 18, 1431 AH
www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

In brief

BUSINESS | Market

Qatar set to issue QR10bn bond

Qatar plans to launch a QR10bn (\$2.75bn) bond to local banks today, with a tenor of eight years, a person familiar with the matter told Reuters yesterday, adding the coupon had not yet been set. Qatar's plan to issue the bond in riyals will be seen as a benchmark to develop the domestic bond market, and provide a new vehicle to pool the excess liquidity in the Gulf state's banking sector. "This is a sign that the Qatari markets are gaining depth," said one Doha-based analyst. "This is what the market needs. It will help investors get the diversification they need for their portfolios and give them another instrument to trade on." **Page 33**

PAKISTAN | Unrest

Gunmen attack hospital in Lahore

At least four gunmen attacked a hospital in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore early today, killing up to a dozen people and holding several hostages before escaping. "They barged into the hospital building and opened indiscriminate fire," said Javed Ikram, chief executive of Jinnah hospital. He said at least 12 people were killed in the firing while some had been held hostage. However, other accounts put the number dead at five. Dozens of people wounded in Friday's attacks on two mosques of a minority religious group in the city were being treated in the hospital. More than 80 people were killed in those attacks.

INDIA | Tremor

Strong quake hits Andaman Islands

A strong 6.4-magnitude earthquake hit off India's Andaman Islands early today, seismologists said, but no widespread tsunami was expected. The quake struck at a depth of 127km, said the US Geological Survey, with the epicentre 120km from Port Blair on the Andaman Islands, which are located in the Bay of Bengal. The Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said there was a very small possibility of a local tsunami near the centre but no threat of a destructive widespread tsunami.



BIDDING NATION QATAR

Qatar condemns Israel

Israeli commandos stormed a Gaza-bound aid flotilla yesterday, killing at least nine pro-Palestinian activists in a pre-dawn raid that sparked global outrage

AFP, QNA
Doha

HEH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani yesterday condemned Israel's deadly raid against a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, branding it an "act of piracy".

"The crimes that were committed at dawn today... remind all of us that there is an unjust blockade" in place against Gaza, the Emir told the 10th Doha Forum, calling for an end to the lockdown imposed by Israel.

"All those who speak of justice and freedom and democracy are now required to do something to break this blockade," said Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa.

At least nine people were killed when Israeli commandos at dawn yesterday raided the convoy of ships carrying aid to the Gaza Strip.

HE the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al-Thani praised the Emir's call for an end to the crippling blockade of Gaza.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim underscored Qatar's condemnation of the armed attack by Israel's naval forces against the aid flotilla.

The Prime Minister termed the attack as "a premeditated assault on the innocent and a clear-cut violation of the international law and a flagrant breach to the international norms and conventions".

"All those who speak of justice and freedom and democracy are now required to do something to break this blockade"

"Who would pay for the blood of the innocent people killed in that brutal attack," he asked. He held the international community responsible for accounting such "barbaric practices which have grave and negative repercussions threatening and destabilising the security and stability in the region".

Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim expressed Qatar's solidarity with Turkey and lauded its stand supporting justice and right.

Most of the bloodshed in the Israeli assault occurred on the Mavi Marmara, a Turkish passenger ship carrying more than 600 people.

The Prime Minister questioned whether the Arab peace initiative would justifiably continue and to go ahead with the indirect and direct negotiations "especially after it has become clearly vivid that Israel is clearly opposing and rejecting peace".

He wondered for how long the Arab countries and their people would be disregarded.

Arab League secretary general Amr Moussa, meanwhile, has called for a

change in the strategy towards Israel.

Speaking at a session on "Insights on security and global stability", held as part of the Doha Forum, he said the Arab patience was running out.

It is high time that US President Barack Obama took a firm stand on Israel as the 120 days period that he had sought for a solution to the Middle East crisis had already elapsed, said Moussa.

The Arab League chief wondered how safety, stability, security and peace in the region would be possible when Israel was getting away with brutalities.

Later talking to AFP, Moussa slammed Israel's deadly raid against the aid flotilla as a "crime".

"We condemn this crime, taken against a humanitarian mission and people. They were trying to help people. They were not on a military mission. Everyone should condemn this," Moussa said.

He warned that the Israeli action meant "everything" was now left "hanging in the air", including US-brokered proximity talks that only started on May 9 between the Jewish state and the Palestinians.

"This is another message, a very powerful message, that Israel does not want peace, is not ready to enter into peace," Moussa said.

"Lifting the siege (on Gaza) should be part of any confidence-building measures, any preparation for a successful round of proximity talks," he added.

Moussa said he had called a meeting of the Arab League council to be held today to discuss the attack.

"We are all very angry," he said. "Tomorrow, there will be a collective position taken."

The six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) said in a statement that the Israeli attack was an act of "state terrorism" and secretary general Abdulrahman al-Attiyah called on the international community to "hunt the Israelis who were behind this crime, in order to bring them in front of the International Criminal Court".

Kuwait, which has 16 of its citizens on board the aid flotilla, urged the permanent members of the UN Security Council to press Israel to ensure their safety.

The United Arab Emirates denounced the "barbaric aggression", as Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan urged UN chief Ban Ki-Moon to investigate the attack and report back to the United Nations.

Israel knew "what might happen" to the aid convoy and had warned the activists against proceeding, an Israeli minister claimed.

"We were aware of what might happen - we warned them, and we told them that all that they were going to do is provocation," Trade and Industry Minister Binayamin Ben Eliezer told AFP on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum summit in Doha.

Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets in Europe and the Middle East yesterday, clashing with police as they protested against the Israeli raid. **Pages 10, 16, 17, 28, 30**



HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani speaking at the opening of the Doha Forum and Enriching the Middle East's Economic Future Conference at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel yesterday.

UN urges end to blockade

AFP
New York

UN Security Council members yesterday condemned Israel's attack on a humanitarian flotilla for the Palestinians and urged Israel to end its blockade on the Gaza Strip.

In individual statements ahead of a possible official UN Security Council reaction, the 15 council members issued remarks, almost all condemning the Israeli assault in which at least nine people were killed.

"It is clearer than ever that Israel's restrictions on access to Gaza must be lifted in line with Security Council

Resolution 1860. The current closure is unacceptable and counterproductive," British Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant said ahead of the emergency session called after the deadly attack.

"Netanyahu's divisive and destructive policies have invited an anti-Israeli backlash around the world"
Comment Page 30

France, Russia and China also called for the blockade to be lifted and for an independent inquiry.

The US, Israel's traditional ally which often uses its veto power to aid the Jewish state, did not request specifically

that Israel end its blockade on the Gaza Strip. But it hinted that the measure at least should be eased.

US deputy permanent representative Alejandro Wolff said Washington was "deeply disturbed by recent violence and regrets tragic loss of life and injuries. We are working to ascertain the facts".

"Direct (aid) delivery by sea is neither appropriate nor responsible under the circumstances," Wolff added noting that the "situation (was) unsustainable and is not in the interest of any of those concerned."

Israel's UN envoy Daniel Carmon, meanwhile, insisted that the flotilla was not on an aid mission.

The deadly last moments of the Gaza flotilla

AFP
Ashdod

Black-clad commandos can be seen rappelling down from helicopters and then pointing assault rifles, in some of the dramatic footage of Israel's deadly raid yesterday on a Gaza-bound flotilla.

Israel claimed the troops returned fire after they were attacked with live rounds, knives and clubs, but the organisers of the Gaza blockade-busting bid adamantly rejected the claim.

"Under darkness of night, Israeli commandos dropped from helicopters onto the Turkish passenger ship, Mavi Marmara, and began to shoot the moment their feet hit the deck," the Free Gaza group said in a statement.

The passengers "were waving white flags not clubs," it said.

Footage distributed by the Israeli military showed the troops coming under attack, with batons and plastic chairs swung at them.

"I came down and saw madness in their eyes," one of the commandos told journalists.

"The passengers 'were waving white flags not clubs'"

The ships were towed to the southern Israeli port of Ashdod and the hundreds of passengers on board kept incommunicado.

Only limited footage of the pre-dawn confrontation has been broadcast as communications with the six ships participating in the flotilla appeared to have been scrambled during the operation, which the military said left nine passengers dead.

Three choppers and several com-



Israeli Navy troops storming the Turkish aid boat Mavi Marmara, as shown by the Turkish TV channel Cihan News Agency

mando boats approached the flotilla at about 4am (0100 GMT), a senior military official said.

He said about 30 activists, all speaking Arabic, had put up the resistance to the commando operation which took less than two hours.

Images posted on the Internet and broadcast on several television channels showed bandaged men lying on stretchers.

The shaky film footage showed complete chaos aboard the Turkish ship Mavi Marmara.

Indications are that most if not all of those killed were aboard the Marmara, which carried the majority of the more than 700 pro-Palestinian activists who hoped to make their way towards the Gaza Strip.

Armed forces chief of staff Lieut Gen Gabi Ashkenazi claimed the situation aboard the ferry, owned by the IHH Is-

lamic charity, was different from that on the other five ships.

"There was extreme violence from the moment that our forces reached the ship. It was premeditated and included weapons, iron bars, knives and at a certain stage firearms, perhaps in some cases weapons that were snatched from soldiers," he said.

Greta Berlin, one of the land-based co-ordinators of the flotilla, said the last message received before the raid said: "All is calm, the Israeli warships are on our bow, let's sleep."

Then, a message posted on Twitter by the pro-Palestinian activists said the Israeli military had made contact. "Intervention is imminent," a message from aboard the Challenger 1 passenger vessel said.

Next came news from the Mavi Marmara, reporting two people were killed. Eventually, the military put the death toll at nine.

Interdependence key to global peace and stability, says Emir

Every country facing challenges; PM says rule of law takes precedence over rule of might; power equations changing fast

By Ramesh Mathew
Staff Reporter

The 10th Doha Forum and Enriching Future Economy Conference was opened in the presence of a host of heads of states, parliamentarians and representatives of international forums by HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani at Ritz-Carlton Hotel yesterday.

In his inaugural address, the Emir said the latest forum was taking place at a time when the whole world is encountering unprecedented financial challenges in the wake of an economic slowdown and hence no conference or forum would be able to deliver long-lasting solutions to any major issues.

"Each of us needs to follow seriously the deliberations taking place at similar international decision-making conferences as every country is faced with major issues having a bearing on the world security, safety and stability," Emir said.

Even though the world has attained unprecedented levels of scientific and technological advances that ensure the fairly good availability of resources and finances, there are a host of turbulent issues that are giving sleepless nights to citizens of both developed and developing world, he said.

"We have an advanced world whose communities are vulner-



HH the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al-Thani addressing the forum yesterday.

able to apprehensions on their social security and legitimate aspirations of their people," he said.

Stressing that countries needed to depend on one another more than ever before, the Emir felt only such an interdependence could ensure peace and stability throughout the world.

Speaking earlier, HE the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al-Thani highlighted the necessity of rule of law taking precedence over the rule of might.

The Prime Minister said innovative thinking and social interaction give a feeling of security among people, both at the regional and international levels.

Later in the first session on "insights on security and global stability", CEO of the World Economic Forum Claus Schwab said it is high time the world realised the power equations were changing fast and one needs to look at China and India among others what their economies were contributing to the world economy.

"The world order is changing



HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani with Jordan's Queen Rania, Finnish President Tarja Halonen, former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and President of Zanzibar Amani Abeid Karume at the Enriching the Middle East's Economic Future conference in Doha yesterday.

fast and in the wake of the economic slowdown, one needs to evaluate the crisis from the globalisation's point of view," said Schwab.

The economist said the world is heading towards a stage where there are no local, regional or international boundaries. "Each country is reliant on the other and every development in another country would certainly have a bearing on one's own country. The success of each nation depends on the work being carried out by those crisis man-

agers who could provide long-term solutions to perils afflicting economies, said Schwab.

Speaking earlier, Macedonian President George Ivanov said security within one's country is as important as security in a whole region. The speaker said his country housed about 20 ethnic groups and good relations between each of them has contributed considerably to its development in recent years.

Terming Macedonia as "a model for future", Ivanov said the country enjoyed good rela-

tions with its neighbours and his people felt more peaceful and secure than what they used to be.

To a question from moderator David Foster on Greece, Ivanov said the country is suffering from paranoia and is ruining Macedonia's bid to join the European Union despite its good efforts to support debt-ridden Greece.

Speaking earlier, Finland's President Tarja Halonen felt issues arising out of climatic variations were as critical as economic challenges the world is

encountering these days.

The Finnish president said the European nations were doing their best to give better living environs to their citizens.

The speaker felt the initiatives made by US President Barack Obama and Russian Premier Dmitry Medvedev in recent months would help reduce arms race considerably in future. "Being an optimist, I have enough reasons to firmly believe in their promises and commitment to the world," she said.



State of Qatar

Internal Security Force (Lakhwiya)

Announcement for Pre-Qualification

The INTERNAL SECURITY FORCE (Lakhwiya) invites specialized Facility Management Companies to submit their pre-qualification documents for bi-annual Preventive Maintenance Contract.

The ISF has a newly constructed building at Duhail in Doha-Qatar, that has MEP services including electrical, HVAC, Building Management System (BMS), fire detection & alarm, fire fighting system, water & irrigation, agriculture and some minor civil works. All the systems are constantly controlled and monitored by Intelligent Control System through BMS.

Upon Tender, the successful contractor shall undertake the responsibility of preventive maintenance of the existing electro-mechanical services on bi-annual basis. Interested local or international contractors may submit their pre-qualification documents with past experience to the address below on or before 20th June 2010, 11.30 am:

The Chairman
Tenders & Auctions Committee
Internal Security Force (Lakhwiya)
P.O. Box 6799
Doha, State of Qatar

For any further information, please contact
Tel: (+974) 4779505 / 4779254, Fax No. (+974) 4779410;
email: malmansouri@isf.gov.qa



HE the Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Industry Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah with Gregory B Craig, partner in Skadden, Arps, the US law firm, and the former White House counsel for President Obama. Craig is in Qatar to attend the 10th Doha Forum. Talks during the meeting held at the Qatar Petroleum headquarters, addressed issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Ali bin Fahed al-Hajri, Qatar's Ambassador to the United States.



HE the Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Industry Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah with Patricia Espinosa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico at the Qatar Petroleum headquarters yesterday. The Mexican minister is attending 10th Doha Forum. Talks dealt with bilateral relations and means to enhance them. The meeting was attended by Ali bin Fahed al-Hajri, Qatar's Ambassador to the US, accredited to Mexico, and Jorge Alvarez, Mexican Ambassador to Lebanon.

Emir meets conference delegates

HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani met separately at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel yesterday the former Polish president Alexander Kwasniewski, president of the General Assembly of the United Nations Ali Abdel Salam al-Triki, the special envoy of the President of Russia Alexander Sultanov, who are participating in the 10th Doha Forum 2010 and the Enriching the Middle East's Economic Future Conference. Talks during the meetings dealt with key issues on the forum's agenda. The Emir also attended a luncheon banquet held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel on the occasion of the 10th Doha Forum 2010 and Enriching the Middle East's Economic Future Conference.

Al-Attiyah meets deputy PM of Armenia

HE the Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Industry Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah, yesterday met Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Armin Gevorgian and the accompanying delegation on the sidelines of the 10th Doha Forum 2010 and the Enriching the Middle East's Economic Future Conference. Talks during the meeting dealt with relations between Qatar and Armenia and means of bolstering them. The meeting was attended by a number of senior Qatar Petroleum officials.

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'Bold' action sought in central Europe

By Santhosh V Perumal
Business Reporter

The Global Redesign Summit of the World Economic Forum (WEF) concluded yesterday amid calls for "bold" decisions in the central Europe and establishing green trade zones.

The summit, which produced a set of 58 proposals for strengthening international co-operation put forward by more than 1,500 business, government, academic and civil society leaders, however expressed concerns that the urge for reforming the global system may be waning.

"We are facing a problem in Europe. Some bold decisions have to be taken at the central European level," Willem Kok, former prime minister of Netherlands, told the closing session.

The irony with Europe, according to him, was that the region as such was growing but there were certain pockets with high debt problems.

Appreciating the role of the European Central Bank, he however said there should be more decentralised responsibilities and there was a need for better co-ordination among the states' on their monetary policies and public finance.

Stressing that "people need a crisis to really become aware of the necessity for change," Kok said a few regulations were framed but were yet to be implemented.

Moderating the session, WEF vice chairman



HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani with Klaus Schwab, founder and chairman of the World Economic Forum, in Doha yesterday.

Lord Malloch-Brown threw open the idea of establishing green trade zones as part of efforts to address the climate change.

His contention came as the 32nd sessions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change subsidiary bodies began yesterday in Bonn (Germany).

On redesigning the existing institutions and mechanisms of global governance, Patricia Espinosa Cantelano, secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, said: "We can now take this time as an opportunity for innovation to determine how we can move forward."

However, some participants worried that, even though the impact of the

global economic crisis is still playing out, the willingness in the international community to implement significant reforms may be faltering.

"There is frustration that existing institutional platforms cannot deliver the kind of transformational changes that are needed," said Achim Steiner, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Institutions of global co-operation have to become more representative and more efficient, according to Samantha Power, senior director of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the US National Security Council.

"Institutions and frameworks that do not provide for people are not going to be sustainable. Representa-

tion, efficiency and competency can converge. We have to move into that world," she said, adding, "We are so not there yet in knowing how to integrate non-state actors."

Solutions to global problems have to take into account real conditions on the ground, according to Sadako Ogata, president of the Japan International Co-operation Agency and a member of the Global Agenda Council on Humanitarian Assistance.

"The models we are taking are too international. The models of governance (we need) will have to come from within our societies themselves. In development work you have to go down and live with the people," she said.

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