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**GULF TIMES** | SATURDAY Vol. XXXX No. 11285 | August 24, 2019 | Dhul-Hijja 23, 1440 AH | www.gulf-times.com | 2 Riyals

Harbaoui shines with a brace in Al Arabi's win over Al Ahli

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**National Museum of Qatar one of World's 100 Greatest Places**  
 Qatar Museums' chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani yesterday tweeted that the National Museum of Qatar has been named by the Time Magazine as one of the World's 100 Greatest Places of 2019.



Visitors to the Summer Entertainment City in the company of a 'Panda'. Supplied picture

# Qatar makes progress in lawsuit filed against UAE

● Illegal trade measures challenged at WTO

Qatar has welcomed the progress made in the dispute settlement procedures for the lawsuit filed against the UAE before the World Trade Organisation (WTO). In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said that the State of Qatar achieved an important victory earlier this month after the UAE withdrew its case before the WTO regarding the UAE allegations of restrictions on imports to Qatar from the UAE. The statement added that a delegation from Qatar met this week with a UAE delegation before the WTO dispute settlement committee to adjudicate the lawsuit filed by Qatar against the UAE for imposing a series of arbitrary trade measures since June 2017. Hearings were held in Geneva for three days at the WTO headquarters. The statement explained that the lawsuit relates to the UAE's violations of the rights of Qatar under the many conventions, where Qatar challenges the UAE's discriminatory measures that prevent import and export from Qatar as well as blocking goods crossing the UAE en route to and from Qatar. Qatar also challenges the UAE's discriminatory measures that affect the ability of commercial service providers to compete with other companies. The statement pointed out that the State of Qatar opposes discriminatory measures of the UAE, which negatively affects Qatari companies related to the protection of intellectual property rights. It stressed that all these measures do not comply with the UAE's obligations as a member of the WTO. The statement noted that the UAE claimed that its actions are not protected by its right to protect national security interests. It also claimed that all its measures were necessary to protect itself from the alleged security risks. The statement stressed that the Qatari delegation strongly rejected the UAE's allegations, which have no basis in truth, as evidenced by the State of Qatar's distinguished regional and global economic and political relations. It added that the delegation of the State of Qatar stressed that the UAE, instead of protecting its security interests as it claims, abuses the national security exception provided for in the WTO agreements by justifying such arbitrary measures, while those measures are in fact an attempt to pressure Qatar to make concessions that contradict with its rights as a sovereign state, adding, the UAE should immediately terminate all illegal trade measures and comply with its obligations under WTO agreements and relevant international laws. The statement added that the State of Qatar will continue to follow up the lawsuit filed against the UAE's illegal measures and will not hesitate to claim its legal rights before all international bodies and platforms, to ensure the withdrawal of these discriminatory measures targeting citizens and residents in the country.

**QNA**  
Doha

## In brief

**QATAR** | Official

### Amir concedes with president of Palau

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani sent yesterday cables of condolences to the President of the Republic of Palau, Thomas Remengesau, on the death of his father, former president Thomas Remengesau Sr.

**REGION** | Politics

### Zarif praises Macron's N-crisis suggestions

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohamed Javad Zarif said yesterday that suggestions by French President Emmanuel Macron about defusing the crisis over Iran's nuclear drive went in the right direction, but that more work needed to be done. "President Macron made some suggestions last week to President (Hassan) Rouhani and we believe they are moving in the right direction, although we are not definitely there yet," Zarif said after meeting Macron for rare talks in Paris. **Page 3**

**EUROPE** | Diplomacy

### Erdogan to visit Russia on Tuesday

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is set to pay a one-day visit to Russia on Tuesday, August 27. Turkey's Presidential office said in a statement, carried by Anadolu Agency, that Erdogan would meet with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. Earlier yesterday, Erdogan discussed with Putin the latest developments in war-weary Syria and Libya.

**LATIN AMERICA** | Environment

### Pressure on Bolsonaro over Amazon fires

France's Emmanuel Macron led a growing wave of international pressure on Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro over the fires raging in the Amazon rainforest yesterday, telling him Paris would block efforts to seal a major trade deal. **Page 11**

## Summer Entertainment City concludes on a high note

By **Joey Aguilar**  
Staff Reporter

The Summer Entertainment City (SEC), which provided an array of performances and shows to around 20,000 visitors since it reopened on August 9, concluded yesterday. Shows such as the bounce fitness and clown, as well as the roaming parades, featuring a 7-8ft high 'Panda', and the Avengers, among others, entertained the crowd at the 29,000sq m facility at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre. "We believe response (of the public) was good if you consider how many people travelled during this season," QSports business development manager Aya Kassab told *Gulf Times*, stressing they served 20,000 more customers since SEC's reopening.

The massive Virtual Reality arena (6,000sq m), which had more than 45 VR and gaming options to keep people entertained, was the most commendable ride/activity at since its initial opening in June, during the Eid al-Fitr holidays. "Moreover, the gigantic ocean ball pit was extremely popular among the children followed by the newly added Jump Kingdom," Kassab noted, while observing that the SEC was considered the centrepiece of the Summer in Qatar (SiQ) programme. SiQ was organised by the Qatar National Tourism Council (QNTC), in collaboration with more than 30 public and private sector partners in hospitality, retail, and entertainment. SiQ 2019, dubbed as the biggest in the country so far, officially concluded on August 16, offering an array of promotions and huge discounts from retailers at various participating

malls, hotels, and other business establishments. SEC, which was organised by QSports, in collaboration with QNTC, attracted nearly 60,000 people between June 4 and July 13 with its "world's largest bouncy castle," Qatar's first InflataPark spread over 1,200sq m, a mini golf course, a 1,200sq m skate park, a large ocean ball for children, mini driving school, and a synthetic ice skating rink, among others. According to Kassab, the reopening of the SEC was aimed at providing more entertainment options for families and children in Qatar and visitors from other countries. Besides entertainment shows and rides, visitors were also treated to a wide range of food options from 45 food stalls inside the SEC, including local dishes, sweets, and drinks. **Page 16**

## Entrepreneur hails progress in workers' welfare in Qatar

● 'Our workers are our family; their welfare is our priority'

Nepali entrepreneur, who established an engineering firm in Qatar in 2004, has witnessed a "remarkable transformation of the urban landscape and a new era in workers' welfare" ever since. In May 2016, Rajendra Kumar Sharma's Pigeon Engineering was appointed as a sub-contractor for the Al Bayt, Al Rayyan, Al Thumama, and Education City stadiums - host venues for the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar, under the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC). "We have been in the manpower sector for a long time and have seen a steady progression and evolution in workers' welfare in Qatar. The 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar has put significant focus on workers' rights and, most importantly, compliance with workers' welfare standards," says Sharma. Sharma believes that awareness,

"The SC Workers' Welfare Standards (WW Standards) are by far the most rigorous in Qatar and we work very hard to maintain them. While complying with these standards, we know we are improving ourselves and the lives of our workers," he notes. The implementation of the WW Standards has resulted in Pigeon Engineering making a huge shift in the area of ethical recruitment. Millions of workers worldwide fall victim to the unethical practice of recruitment fees, which is illegal under Qatari law and prohibited by the WW Standards. Pigeon Engineering was quick to adopt the SC's recruitment fees reimbursement scheme, committing to pay around 2,500 SC and non-SC workers. Following the latest ethical recruitment audit by the SC's external monitor, Impact Ltd, the company achieved a compliance score of 98%, "demonstrating true commitment in implementing the standards set by the SC?"



Construction work underway at Al Thumama Stadium. (Image courtesy of sc.qa)

engagement and training are key to workers' welfare. Together with the SC, the company empowers workers by educating them on their rights and providing them with ongoing training. "We work closely with our contractors to ensure that our workers receive the necessary training as per the SC requirements to protect them both on and off the site. "Our workers are our family; their welfare is our priority. We are working together with the SC to make the World Cup a success and we are contributing to a legacy in workers' welfare that will extend beyond 2022," says Sharma. "We are now cautious about recruitment agencies. We only work with those registered under the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs to ensure our workers are ethically recruited. We directly interview each candidate, to brief them about their rights, job role, contract and Qatari laws," he adds. (Report sourced from sc.qa)