New winter market to open in Al Shamal

The new market will add to the current markets selling agricultural products which are spread in three locations across the country namely Al Mazroua, Al Dakhira and Al Wakra.

By Sidi Mohamed

Doha: The Agricultural Affairs Department at the Ministry of Municipal, Environment and Municipality is gearing up to open a new market in Al Shamal from next week, as a result of the conclusion from the Ministry said.

The new market will add to the current markets selling agricultural products which are spread in three locations across the country namely Al Mazroua, Al Khor and Dukhira and Al Waqrah.

Yousif Khalid Al Khalfi, Director of Agricultural Affairs Department at the Ministry of Municipal, Environment and Municipality told The Peninsula: “There is a coordination with some municipalities to open new yards. There are plans to open two markets and as of now we are decided to open one in Al Shamal. This year we have already the season to seven months, instead of six, and the result was excellent which means it has been successful, and all the vegetable quantities were locally produced”, added Al Khalfi.

The aim of the early opening, which was November 2022 beginning, was to encourage local farmers to produce early and successfully the market. The market also provides an opportunity for farmers to sell their products directly to the customer, without intervention from middlemen.

The winter vegetable farmers’ markets 2023/2024 season saw growth in sales. The Al Mazroua yard sold 1,773.9 tonnes of vegetables, while Al Khor and Dukhira yard sold 1,517.1 tonnes, while Al Waqrah yard achieved sale of 1,116.3 tonnes.

In the previous season, Al Mazroua yard sold only 1,421 tonnes of vegetables while, Al Khor and Dukhira said 1,078 tonnes, while Al Waqrah yard sold 1,108 tonnes of vegetables. Al Khalfi said.

As in this season, the next winter vegetable season (2023/2024) is expected to start in November or early in December. The markets are open during Weekdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 7am to 5pm. They offer a variety of vegetables and fruit products from Qatar farms at attractive prices. Some 77 local farms participated this time including 53 in Al Mazroua, 22 in Al Khor and 12 in Al Waqrah.

Kahramaa launches water security initiative

Mohammed Qamran

Doha: With water demand in Qatar growing by an annual average of 10.5 percent over the past 15 years and expected to reach about 902 million cubic meters in 2025, the Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) has launched major initiatives to achieve water security in the country, its president Eng Essa bin Hilal Al Kuwari said.

Water consumption in Qatar rose to 235 million cubic meters in 2022, from 105 million cubic meters in 2015. “Qatar is known for its scarcity of renewable water resources and during the last decade pressure on water resources has increased significantly due to Natural climatic conditions, population increase and intensified level of agricultural and industrial development.” said Al Kuwari, addressing the Water Security Forum at Qatar University recently.

If business-as-usual water management practices continue without change, we will face serious and structural threats to our economic, growth, human well-being and national security,” he added.

Al Kuwari said that to mitigate the above impacts Kahramaa is improving the efficiency of use of water resources to support high standards of living for current and future generations by promoting competition trade and environment regulation and strengthening demand management for water resources.

“Water security system in Qatar means every person has enough safe, affordable water to lead a clean, healthy and productive life. Kahramaa has developed its water system where there is an improved quality of life for all, as increasing water security has become a development imperative,” said Al Kuwari. Kahramaa provides very high quality water which is clean and free of bacteria, with 100 percent open access to water supply and water consumption rake cover by Kahramaa water networks.

Continued on page 2

US and Russia working to revive Syria truce

Reuters

DAMASCUS: Washington: The United States said yesterday it was in discussions with Russia about trying to renew the ceasefire during a phone conversation on the war in Syria. The US Secretary of State John Kerry said.

The US and Russia have yet to agree on the terms of a new ceasefire, both sides insist, and the US said it was discussing a range of issues with the Russian government.

“The two sides are working together towards a new ceasefire agreement, including reducing the use of chemical weapons and creating a political process,” a Russian official said.

A senior State Department official said efforts to push for an immediate halt to the violence were continuing.

“We are working on all of the areas, the cessation of hostilities throughout the Damascus as a test case to trying to revive the cessation of hostilities approach,” he said.

We are working on all of the areas, including in Latakia and eastern Ghouta near Damascus as a test case to trying to revive the cessation of hostilities approach in the country, including in Aleppo,” said the senior official.

“The key is to go on a sort of a test, obviously, that we want to work together, and we want to work toward making sure it’s a test that works, so hopefully in the end it will be open-ended,” the official said.

Syria, the official added, is trying to stop the shelling elsewhere in the country, particularly in Aleppo, which has been some of the worst recent violence.

“We are working on all of the areas of the city, it’s not just about Latakia and eastern Ghouta, but also about Aleppo and other areas where we have problems or potential problems that we are trying to get the cessation of hostilities back on track,” the official added.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, discussed ways to strengthen the cessation during a phone conversation on Friday in a call between the two leaders.

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Philippine Halal Tourism Project eyes more Qatari travellers

By Raynald C Rivera

TURKISH PM VISITS QU, HIGHLIGHTS HISTORICAL TIES WITH QATAR

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu (left) and Qatar University President Dr Hassan Rashid Al-D.Infrastructure and national security.

The Peninsula

DOHA: Qatar University (QU) yesterday hosted a visit by the Prime Minister of Turkey, Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, who was in the country on a one-day official visit during which he gave a lecture on various ongoing Regional and Higher Education Activities.

The Prime Minister was welcomed by QU President Dr Hassan Rashid Al-Derham, 13 VP-heads of department, faculty and over 100 students. Minister of Education and Higher Education H.E. Mohammad bin Abdul Wahab Al Attiyah, diplomatic dignitaries, heads of diplomatic missions and many Qatari students were also present.

Prime Minister Davutoğlu expressed his pleasure in being in his second home, Qatar. Qatar University and Qatar. He went on to highlight the


The Peninsula

DOHA: The Philippines is poised in world tourism as more and more travelers from the Middle East and Asia are interested in establishing a major destination offering halal tourism services. This was taken by the recently launched Philippine Halal Tourism Project.

Initially, a total of 43 halal tours, events and other tourism-related establishments have been certified for the tourism activity mandated by the Philippines Department of Tourism (DOT) and the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF).

The recently released list includes establishments located in a number of key tourism destinations including Cebu City, Boulevard, Siargao Island, Khong Kho, Cebu City and other parts of the country.

Apart from DOT, the MHTC, which was mandated to develop the tourism industry is collaborating with other concerned agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry on other areas such as halal banking, halal audit and labeling, among others.

Through the initiatives, the Philippines aims to parallel the other halal tourism market which is worth USD800 Billion.

Recent data released by Crescent Rating, a Singapore-based authority for evaluating halal tourism and hospitality services, reveals that 77% of Muslim travelers to grow to 168 million by 2020 making the region a vital travel market.

The Philippines only placed 42nd among 100 countries ranked in the 2015 Global Muslim Travel Index (GMTI) produced by Crescent Rating alongside the United States and the United Arab Emirates. This achievement is a testament to the potential market for tourism, according to DOT Undersecretary Recep Tayyip Erdogan who also gave a lecture. You are well aware of the breadth of the relationship of brotherhood between Qatar and Turkey, which is strengthened by leaders of both countries and which reflects the thinking of our respective peoples who are eager for more concrete and specific cooperation in economic and political fields.

The relationship between both countries and their communities, and with other countries and their communities, will reflect the thinking and perceptions of people and nations in many respects,” he said.

Khorahma launches five major programmes to maintain water security in Qatar

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Iran moderates, eye more gains in run-off polls

Rowhani's moderate and centrist allies made big gains in elections on February 26 for parliament and a clerical body that will elect the next Supreme Leader. But they failed to win a majority of the 206-member assembly.

Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahimpour, speaking on Iranian state television, said people would vote on 88 undecided seats in constituencies where candidates failed to get 25 percent of votes cast in the first round.

"We will start counting the votes immediately after the voting ends. The results are expected to be announced on Saturday," he said.

The current parliament is dominated by hardline allies of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. But moderates won all 10 seats representing Tehran in the first round of elections. Gains in Rowhani's allies outside Tehran were more limited in the first round.

Reformist former President Mohammad Khatami last Sunday called for a high turnout in the second round of elections to 'repeat the epic', a reference to moderates' gains in February.

Tributes began coming in yesterday for Dr. Mohamad Maaz, a doctor who was killed in a hospital in the embattled city of Aleppo, which was besieged for months by rebels.

"Like so many others, Dr Maaz was killed for saving lives," the director of the Children's Hospital in Aleppo, Dr. Hatem, said in a statement posted on Facebook. "Maaz worked in the Al Quds hospital mostly overnight, after long days shifts at Aleppo's Children's Hospital. He started working in the city in 2013, according to Doctors Without Borders."

The attack has shed a renewed spotlight on the quickly deteriorating situation in the city.

"He was friendly, kind and he used to joke a lot with the whole staff. He was the loveliest doctor in our hospital," Hatem said.

It was the death of Muhammed Wassim Maaz that prompted three officials to give special attention to the quickly deteriorating situation in the city.

"It is in fact the United States that must pay long overdue reparations to the Iranian people for its persistent hostile policies," wrote Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. "Iran reserves the right to take appropriate counter-measures, to restore and protect the rights of its people."
Vietnam tells Taiwan firm to dig up waste pipe

PHILIPPINES

SAN PABLO CITY: Boxer legend Manny Pacquiao smiles as he waves to the sidewalks of fans cheering for him. He is promising to increase the salaries of teachers, offer scholarships to poor students and give formal de facto recognition to the country by the mid-2030s, putting a great strain on the economy.

Pacquiao is now in third place in the Philippines' most powerful political party. But he is not the only one running for a seat in the 24-member Senate as part of a long-term strategy to become president of a not unrealistic ambition given his wild popularity.

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The Survey gathers valuable information on a broad range of variables for which hard data sources are scarce or non-existent. This is the longest-running and most extensive survey of business conditions worldwide, capturing information highly relevant to global competitiveness.

Shrinking US presence in Afghanistan creates security concerns: Report

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In the wake of the AgustaWestland chopper deal controversy, the Narendra Modi government said it was determined to bring those guilty of bribery in the deal to justice and denied that National Security Adviser Ajit Doval or Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s key aide Nipunmisra Mishra was involved in any way.

“The tender had the condition that only original equipment manufacturer (OEM) manufacturers could file the tender. Sid, AgustaWestland—despite not being an original equipment manufacturer—was allowed to file the tender. Now my question to Sonia Gandhi is: who allowed this malicious tender to be done?” he said.

Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya told reporters here: “The defence ministry on Thursday issued a clarification on the issue. The government has asked the probe agencies to prove or disprove the allegations of corruption against its leaders.”

Senior party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said the ruling party should either prove the allegations or stop bringing them up in Parliament to divert attention from issues confronting it.

BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, whose behest this tampering with official records was being investigated, told the Rajya Sabha that the issue should not be scared away. Blaming the government for not initiating any action, he added: “I’m absolutely not guilty of any of the prosecution charges of cheating funds from Kingfisher Airlines and being involved in ‘forced exile’ from which he would like to return to his country.”

“I definitely would like to return to India. Right now, they are flying me at last but four. My passport has been revoked. I don’t know what the government will do next. I’ve always said I would like to return to the banks of Krishna and make a comeback,” he said.

“Omitting the amount of E4005 crore as attributed as selfish gain of the 46-year-old industrialist said by taking away my passport or preventing him, the Indian government and banks won’t be able to claim the assistance of the government in future of the longest time,” he said.

Sonia Gandhi at the last day of the Parliament’s monsoon session, stressed on the need for speed in implementing the National Rural Livelihoods Mission and proposed it for inclusion in the 12th Five-Year Plan.

“With a view to intensify our support to the Prime Minister’s vision of blue card, it is imperative that we extend our support to the mission of economic development and financial inclusion and ensure that people benefit from the benefits of the scheme. I urge the government to expedite implementation of the mission and ensure that all its beneficiaries are covered by the scheme,” she said.

A direct attack on Sonia Gandhi by Modi government said that the mission’s objective was to give people a sense of dignity and make them feel that they are an integral part of the national economy.

IISS told the Times of India: ‘Our research confirms that the mission is experiencing a significant delay in implementation due to lack of adequate financial support and inadequate monitoring and evaluation system.’

BJP leader and former Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said: “It is not just about the money. It is about the dignity of the people. It is about the respect for the people. It is about the future of the country. It is about the future of the nation. It is about the future of the economy.”

In his speech, Rahul Gandhi said: “The mission is about the dignity of the people. It is about the respect for the people. It is about the future of the country. It is about the future of the nation. It is about the future of the economy.”

The report also said that the mission has been facing several challenges, including lack of coordination between different government departments, lack of proper monitoring and evaluation system, and inadequate financial support.

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A whistleblower man told the court that he had taken a journalist of documents from accounting firm "shocked" by Luxembourg's huge tax told a court yesterday he had decided
London's Old Bailey courthouse.
ing April 14-15 and were
terrorism to those plots, prosecutors
in a case that may link British res-
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were accused in court Friday of
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The Super Puma helicopter transporting the archipelago of the coast of Bergen, Norway’s second-biggest city. Eleven bodies have been recovered and the two remaining people are presumed dead.

**AFP**

DDETJOLD. Germany: A 94-year-old former Nazi guard at a prison in Germany apologised in court to victims yesterday, telling them he was “regretting being part of a criminal organisation” that had murdered millions of people and caused such suffering.

He said he had been brought to the court in Germany, after a guilty plea, for the trial which opened in February, in which he finally broke his silence. After the trial he will be released.

The trial of former Nazi guard Jost Reinhart, who is accused of being a member of a “criminal organisation that murdered millions of people”, has opened in Germany. It is the first time he has spoken publicly about his role in the Holocaust.

**Reuters**

Iodine pills for people living near Dutch N-plant

THE HAGUE: The Dutch government has ordered iodine tablets to be distributed to people living near nuclear plants in case of an accident. Officials said yesterday that as many as 18 people have been killed in the accident, including 15 children.

The tablets will be distributed to everyone aged 40 and under. The government also announced that it would be able to distribute iodine tablets to people living within a radius of 20 km of the affected nuclear plant.

Norway’s nuclear experts have said that the accident was caused by a failure of the primary cooling system, which leads to a core meltdown.

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Peace in South Sudan

Peoples of South Sudan can now look forward to a period of peace and progress if their leaders focus on governance and not hostility.

Angela Merkel wanted to cement security ties in the West. In March 2014, a blossoming friendship between Abe and Abbott, which was forged during their state visit to Japan in November 2013, was marked by the announcement that Australia would ink a memorandum of understanding in the field of security. Abe was expected to leave on the second day of his three-day trip to Japan to attend the US-2014 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington. The visit was expected to strengthen strategic and economic ties between the two countries. Meanwhile, the Japanese were preparing for Abe's visit to Tokyo. The visit would be Abe's first official visit to Japan, following his trip to China last year. Abe was expected to discuss issues such as security, trade, and economic cooperation with the Japanese leaders.

Abe was to be accompanied by Japan's Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera, who has been leading a proactive approach in the field of security. Onodera is expected to hold meetings with his counterparts from Australia, India, and the United States.

Abe's visit is expected to mark a new phase in the relationship between Japan and Australia. In recent years, both countries have been working together to address global challenges, such as security, trade, and economic cooperation.

The joint statement issued by the two leaders after their meeting on March 3, 2014, emphasized the importance of maintaining close cooperation in the fields of security and economic cooperation. The statement highlighted the need for both countries to work together to address global challenges, such as climate change, terrorism, and economic security.

The statement also underscored the importance of promoting regional stability and security, and the need for the two countries to work together to strengthen their strategic partnership.

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As Leigh Turner prepares to leave his post in July, he leaves behind the manifestation of his deep admiration for the city, as well as the country as a whole, in the form of a blog and a Twitter account.

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Innovation needed to turn on climate cash tap for the poor

By Laura Goering

WHEN residents of the low-lying Del Rosario slum settlement in Valenzuela City in the Philippines noticed floodwaters were lapping half a metre high up their doors every time they decamped to work, they had no option but to pay to raise the floored cottages by another metre to keep them habitable, higher and more permanent homes.

City officials, impressed by their initiative, agreed to carry out a boundary survey of the area for them, and ultimately issued permits for new homes once the group of 96 residents managed, warned Binita Maharjan, and international finance.

"We are preparing governments, so they will have a vision of what can be achieved," said Margaret Baird of the British Climate Change Resilience Alliance.

"We're going to do everything we can to help those affected," Turner said. "It's all about helping people to get on their feet quickly, to get back to normal life, to make sure that they're well taken care of.

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Turner says that trade and investment between Britain and Turkey has steadily increased in the last four years at a time when economic development has been difficult.

"It's very powerful to show the local community it's a bad idea for the government not to be implementing solutions," said Turner. "Our climate change affects like sea level rise and drought strengthen around the world, finding ways to stop money into the ground adaptation is becoming more urgent.

Officials at the Green Climate Fund — which by 2020 is hoping to handle much of a promised $100bn a year in funding to help poorer nations adopt clean energy and cope with more extreme weather and higher seas — have a lot to channel into cash to adaptation projects.

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"As I was looking for it in the dark, it was very hot and there were lots of dogs chasing the around, and my phone wasn't working because I just arrived that day and so I looked in every street in Baltalimani.

But even the best of us can't know it all.

"I can't find the house," he recalls. "So I was looking for it in the dark, it was very hot, and there were lots of dogs chasing the around, and my phone wasn't working because I just arrived that day and so I looked in every street in Baltalimani.

But even the best of us can't know it all.
Violence at Trump’s rally in California

Costa Mesa police arrest around 20 people.

AP

MEXICO CITY: A Mexican army general has been sentenced to 52 years in prison and six months in prison for ordering torture and for ordering soldiers to close on Fridays.

The victim was taken to a military installation, where he was tied up and beaten in a room to remove electric shocks, while other suspects were being interrogated.

The torture began in early hours on July 28, 2008, and ended when the victim died, “very probably” of a heart attack resulting from the electric shocks.

The torture was carried out in a clandestine manner, the court said.

The general ordered the defence ministry to launch a public apology, accept responsibility and issue an official report containing an official explanation for the death.

The court ordered the Ministry of Defence to pay the family of the victim $14,500.

The FBI paid under $1m to unlock the iPhone

WASHINGTON: The FBI said on Monday that it had paid less than $1 million for a technique used to unlock the iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino shooters—a figure smaller than the FBI’s then recovering chief initially indicated the hack cost, sources familiar with the government sources said.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation will be able to use the technique to unlock other iPhone 5C models running iOS 9.3—the specifications of the shooter’s phone—without additional permission to the contractor who provided it, those people added.

FBI Director James Comey last week said the agency paid more to get into the iPhone than he will make in the remaining seven years and four months he has in job, suggesting the hack cost over $5m, based on his annual salary.

The Justice Department unlocked the iPhone in March with help of a contractor after Apple refused to bypass the devices encryption features on grounds that it would help future criminals.

The court ruled that the contractor has physical possession of the mechanism used to open the phone but does not know details of how it works, one of the sources said.

The identity of the contractor is to be closely held by the FBI that even Comey knows who it is, one of the sources said.

The FBI is examining the contents of the iPhone in the hope they will help fill gaps in their investigation of the shooting.

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump, closer to winning the Republican presidential nomination and said he may borrow the plan to stop illegal border crossings.

The speaker of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, Henry Ramos Allup, said government must remove Torres after two-thirds of the lawmakers approved a no-confidence motion against him.

President Nicolas Maduro rejected the demand to replace the government over a crisis that has sparked violent anti-government protests.

The opposition-controlled assembly passed the motion Tuesday night in the Supreme Court. The court said it would take effect automatically. Magistrate judges can order searches only within the jurisdiction of the court, which is typically limited to a few counties.

The US Justice Department, which has pushed for rule change since 2013, described it as a minor modernization needed to modernize criminal code for the digital age, and said it would not permit searches or seizures that are not already legal.

The measure seeks to give authorities such as American Civil Liberties Union and Amnesty International the chance to expand FBI’s ability to contact mass-storage ecosystems.
Combined assets of Qatar banks rise by QR26bn to QR1.14trn

**The Peninsula**

**DOHA.** Government and public sector deposits in local banks by the end of March increased by QR4.0bn in March on month-on-month to reach QR209.4bn. The sector’s total loans increased about QR1.3bn to QR315.7bn, a reading of the banks consolidated balance sheet which the Group Security Company has revealed.

The government deposit in Qatar banks rose at QR2.5bn and government institutions at QR1.5bn by the end of March. The deposits of some government institutions touched QR1.2bn. In March, government sector loans increased by 1.0bn QR.

Government institution loans were up by QR1.8bn to QR13.6bn while semi-government institutions, which, too, saw their deposits of QR2.0bn to reach QR23.8bn in March.

Local banks with assets outside Qatar increased by QR2.4bn to QR3.6bn. Bank loans to foreign banks (other than those of local banks) by about QR2.8bn to reach the level of QR19.8bn.

In contrast, foreign banks liabilities on banks in Qatar decreased QR1.8bn to reach QR8.6bn while the indebtedness of local banks to foreign parties in the form of bonds and certificates of deposit increased the level of QR5.8bn. The balance of foreign deposits at Qatar banks increased QR3.6bn to QR14.9bn.

By reconciling assets at home and abroad with liabilities, the Group Securities finds that the banking sector debts in the outside world has increased about QR2.9bn to reach QR3.6bn in March to reach QR315.7bn.

**Qatar banks’ total assets (liabilities) increased by QR5.7bn to QR1.14trillion compared with QR1.11trillion by the end of February 2016. Total banks deposits at Qatar Central Bank reached QR237.4bn, in addition to deposits worth QR8.1bn by non-financial banking institutions.

Total domestic loans and credit facilities provided by banks to the private sector increased by QR4.5bn to QR41.2bn. This is in addition to loans and facilities worth QR3.0bn for the non-banking financial sector.

Bank investments in securities outside Qatar increased by QR3.0bn to hit QR2.3bn. A breakdown of the amounts shows bonds and Sukuk worth QR1.3bn and QR3.5bn in shares and others.

**Oil set for biggest monthly rise in 7 years**

By reconciling assets at home and abroad with liabilities, the Group Securities finds that the banking sector debts in the outside world has increased about QR2.9bn to reach QR3.6bn in March to reach QR315.7bn.

Investment bank Jefferies said the market “is coming off better balance” and would fit into underrating in the second half of the year.

But others warned that the rally was happening too soon, driven in large part by investors taking speculative positions. “This is the (turbine's) second wind for prices,” said John Kilduff, an analyst with Again Capital. Meanwhile, hedge funds pumping money into the market, raising their average forecast for Brent in 2016 to $42.30 per barrel, from $37 earlier in the second quarter.

Brent crude was trading at $46.60 a barrel, up 57 cents from their last close. US crude was 97 cents higher than January lows. A stronger dollar and falling US production capped gains, but investor optimism that the world is hitting a turning point<li></li>

**BA owner trims expansion plans**

LONDON. International Airlines Group, owner of British Airways and Iberia, said on Tuesday it was scaling back plans to raise its flights offering, blaming the oil price slump on cash to keep its pumps running. The potential situation fairly sharp rise in Brent oil has, however, on the firm's growth prospects, is one of the losses of first quarter.

The group was the biggest蓝 chip stock in the view of investors, thanks to its second quarter, its third quarter, its one while early in the session.

By reconciling assets at home and abroad with liabilities, the Group Securities finds that the banking sector debts in the outside world has increased about QR2.9bn to reach QR3.6bn in March to reach QR315.7bn.

“DreamWorks will help us grow into one of the world’s most beloved brands of animation," said Katzenberg. “And the legacy of our storytelling and our creative businesses in the future will be an extraordinary asset."
EURZONE ECONOMY AT PRE-CRISIS PEAK AS GROWTH SURGES

Blowing past both the US and British economies, the eurozone economy at the height of the 2008 financial crisis. The eurozone economy grew at its fastest pace in five years, driven by robust growth across the region.

The eurozone economy grew at an annualised rate of 0.6% in the first quarter, up from 0.2% in the previous quarter. The growth was driven by a strong increase in household consumption and a rebound in exports.

The eurozone economy also grew by 0.4% in the quarter, meaning that the eurozone economy grew by 0.8% in total.

The eurozone economy is now the largest in the world, with a GDP of $11.6 trillion.

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Sanofi vows hostile bid for Medivation

Sanofi, the French drugmaker, said it planned to make a hostile bid for Medivation Inc, whose experimental prostate cancer drug Velcade is under review by US regulators.

Sanofi, which is one of the world’s biggest pharmaceutical companies, said it planned to “continue” its pursuit of the drugmaker, which has a market value of $3.5 billion.

The French company said it had been in talks with Medivation for a possible acquisition, but had been unable to reach a deal.

Sanofi said its offer would be made directly to Medivation’s shareholders, rather than to its management, which is controlled by John Albert, the company’s chief executive.

Sanofi’s offer would be valued at $12.50 a share, excluding its tax losses, according to media reports.

Medivation has said it is considering all options, including a potential sale of itself, to the French company.

Medivation said it had been in talks with Sanofi for about a year, but that it was not prepared to discuss the matter further.

The French company said it was “continuing to explore all options” to acquire Medivation, which has a market value of $1.5 billion.

Sanofi said it had not yet reached a decision on whether or not to make a hostile bid for Medivation.

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Analysts say oil rally is not just about hedge funds

By John Kemp

Oil prices are becoming dangerously overheated as speculators build up big positions, raising the risk that crude’s volatile gains might not be sustainable, says John Kemp, an energy economist and author of "Oil Speaks: A Guide to the Global Oil Market."

"Even as oil rallies, analysts have barely managed to price-forces as a threat to crude’s record gains and are only beginning to liquidate some of their positions," Kemp writes in the Financial Times. "New frontiers of speculation, are being created. The prices of oil are now at such a level that oil producers and speculators alike are beginning to think about their trajectories in a world where the supply-demand balance is still tilted in favor of buyers."
Sudoku

1. Easy Sudoku/Puzzle. Place a digit from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains all the digits 1 to 9.

How to play Hyper Sudoku:
A Hyper Sudoku Puzzle is solved by filling the numbers from 1 to 9 into the blank cells. A Hyper Sudoku has unlike Sudoku 13 regions (four regions overlap with the nine standard regions). In all regions the numbers from 1 to 9 can appear only once. Otherwise, a Hyper Sudoku is solved like a normal Sudoku.

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Medium Sudoku

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Crossword

ACROSS
1. Aquatic mammal (5)
2. Boundary of a surface (4)
3. Bird of prey (6)
4. Character in the 1995 film "Lethal Weapon" (5)
5. Counted (7)
6. Disguised (4)
7. Essential (9)
8. Flows back (4)
9. State of equilibrium (7)
10. Essential (9)
11. Bird of prey (6)
12. Implement for writing or drawing
13. Optical device (4)
14. Small snakes (4)
15. Colony insect (3)

ALL IN THE MIND
03:00 Inevitable
05:15 Normal
07:30 JLA Adventures:
09:45 The Maze Runner
12:00 The Equalizer
14:15 Trapped In Time
16:30 Cuckoo Clock Heart
18:45 A.N.T. Farm
20:00 Lemonade Mouth
22:15旺季"(Best of Series Masters)
03:00 Fabio Factory
03:50 Fabio Factory
05:20 Stage Chancers
06:25 Big, Biger, Biggest
07:15 Brothers
08:00 Symphonies of Life
09:00 Captain America: The Winter Soldier (2D/Action)
09:55 The Jesus
10:55 Bondi Vet
11:55 Dirty Jobs
12:55 Rainforest Rescue
13:55 Animal Cops
14:55 Dirty Jobs
15:55 Animal Cops
16:55 Animal Cops
17:55 The Jesus
18:55 Bondi Vet
19:55 Dirty Jobs
20:55 Rainforest Rescue
21:55 Animal Cops
22:55 The Jesus
23:55 Animal Cops

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TV Listings

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Easy Sudoku/Puzzle
Yesterday's answer

Sudoku is solved like a normal Sudoku. In all regions the numbers from 1 to 9 can appear only once. Otherwise, a Hyper Sudoku is solved like a normal Sudoku.
NBA: Atlanta Hawks eliminate Boston Celtics in six games

Day trails leader Stuard at rain-hit Zurich Classic

British rider Yates not suspended after failing drug test, says UC

First round selections in draft

NFL: Los Angeles Rams name Goff as top draft pick

Milers start with 10 seconds as good as gold in 104-92 victory
British Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes AMG GP in action during the second practice session at the Sochi Autodrom Circuit in Sochi, Russia, yesterday. INSET: Hamilton arrives at the autodrome ahead of free practice sessions.

**SPORT**

**BUSTA KNOCKS OUT TOP SEED SIMON**

A 6-2, 6-4 win over world number one Novak Djokovic yesterday means the 24-year-old Spaniard Nicolas Almagro takes his place in the quarter-finals of the Estoril Open. He was coming off the back of a first round win against Gilles Simon and a second round victory over Guillermo Garcia-Lopez without too much difficulty.

**SERENA’S ABSENCE BLOWS MADRID TOURNAMENT WIDE OPEN**

A 6-1, 6-4 win over Petra Kvitova, who is recovering from injury, means the defending champion Angelique Kerber is now looking like a real contender for the title in Madrid.

**DEFENDING THREE-TIME WORLD CHAMPION TOPS SECOND FREE PRACTICE FOR TOMORROW’S RACE**

AFP

**SOCII: Lewis Hamilton was back in serious mode yesterday after bringing form back to the paddock and taking full free practice for this weekend’s Russian Grand Prix.**

The defending three-time world champion, visiting his Mercedes team-mate Nico Rosberg in the title race, made clear he was focused on closing that gap and had no time for banter.

Talking to reporters, he said: “I was reluctant to make any predictions after a slip-sliding day on the long Sochi Autodrom circuit but I hope, above all, for a ‘clean weekend’ without mistakes.

Having seen Mercedes team-mate Nico Rosberg pull clear of the pack opening notches to take a commanding lead in this year’s title race, Hamilton said he was intent on closing that gap and kick-starting his bid for a fourth crown.

“I was fighting both of the two previous Russian events in 2014 and 2015, but I was never on the podium. I hope he’s fighting for a clean week,” he said when it was suggested he had shared the speed in challenge to his first win in seven outings. “Most of all is a clean weekend.”

Hamilton was second-fastest in the opening session behind Rosberg, who had no time for light banter.

“You can see the pace to take his team to the 100- run mark in the ninth over itself. West Indies spinner Ravi Rampaul’s third for the second team.”

“He is the opening bowler for Pune. (2-40) and Thisara Perera (2-41) were on the pick of the bowlers for Pune. (4-0-40-1).”

Batsmen Ashwin 3-0-22-0.

The speed of the bat was a decent one in the ninth over itself. West Indies spinner Ravi Rampaul’s third for the second team.

Smith’s ton in vain as Gujarat stun Pune

AAM

PUNE: Gujarat Lions resisted the post-lunch swing off 370 and 70 by Dan Christian to reach 271 for eight, which helped them edge past Rising Pune Supergiants, who scored 251 for nine in a nail-biting Indian Premier League (IPL) match at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium yesterday.

Barring fast bowler Steve Smith (34 not out), who kept sea-high at 125, Gujarat posted an imposing 193/5 in 20 overs.

It was opened by opener Smith and McCullum on the perfect platform and boundaries off the bat took the side to 169 in 20 overs.

Defending a challenging target of 196, hard-hitting Smith and McCullum got Gujarat off to a rollicking start scoring 72 runs without losing any wicket after completion of powerplay.

Earlier, put into bat, Pune got off to a disappointing start losing opener Saurabh Tiwary (3) in the third over itself with Rana coming in supporting

Batsmen Smith (101 not out) and D J Bravo c Dhoni b Dinda 7

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-124, 3-188.

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Bayern poised to make history

AFP

BERLIN: Pep Guardiola’s Bayern Munich can become the first club to win four consecutive Bundesliga titles if they beat Borussia Moenchengladbach today and Borussia Dortmund win at Hertha Berlin to confirm a fourth straight German league semi-final.

Bayern, with a 22-point advantage and with only three games left, will complete their latest title bid against Gladbach on Wednesday, having not won a title in 2012-13.

They are three games away from an unprecedented fourth straight league title, which would see them winning a 13th league crown and surpassing their former record of 12 titles.

With 11 points, they have already qualified for the Champions League semi-final and will face either Porto or Manchester City in the final, which is their first since 1996.

Bayern, who have won 10 of their last 11 league games and have not lost since September, are looking to become the first club to win four consecutive Bundesliga titles.

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Platini appears before CAS to appeal six-year ban

Former UEFA chief Michel Platini appears before sports court CAS after being banned for six years for involving himself in a deal to have the 2024 Olympics awarded.

Platini is appealing a six-year ban from football given by FIFA’s ethics committee in December.

The ban was imposed on Platini after it was found he had accepted a $2 million payment for his role in awarding the 2024 Olympics to Paris.

Platini had been in charge of FIFA’s ethics committee and was given a hearing by CAS on Monday.

The Frenchman is one of several top football officials facing charges of corruption.

CAS hearing over whether Platini can appeal ban

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) is hearing a case brought by former UEFA President Michel Platini against his six-year ban from football.

Platini, who has been banned since December for his role in awarding the 2024 Olympics to Paris, is appealing the decision.

Platini’s lawyer, Jacques Lambert, told the CAS hearing that Platini was “a witness” and not a party to the case.

Platini and his lawyer said they would not answer questions about their case.

Platini is one of several top football officials facing charges of corruption.

The case is one of several brought by CAS, which is responsible for resolving disputes in world football.

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Barca hold slight advantage ahead of Real Betis clash

Barcelona hold a slight advantage ahead of the match against Real Betis.

Both teams are in the top four of La Liga and are looking for maximum points to keep pressure on leaders Atletico Madrid.

Barcelona lead Real Betis by two points and have a goal difference of +41.

Barcelona have scored 136 goals and have conceded 41, while Real Betis have scored 111 and have conceded 71.

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El Jaish dethrone Lekhwiya to win Qatar Cup

Hamdallah’s last-minute penalty secures thrilling 2-1 win for armymen

The Peninsula

DOHA: A last-minute penalty from Abderrazak Hamdallah proved to be a match-winner as El Jaish dethroned defending champions Lekhwiya with a 2-1 victory in a thrilling Qatar Cup final yesterday.

The Moroccan forward calmly converted from the penalty spot in the 90th minute to snatch victory away from the side Lekhwiya, who beat Al Sadd 3-2 in the semi-finals, started the game on the front foot and had the first attempt when Sandro Bashash whipped a free-kick inches over the bar in the eighth minute. Lekhwiya’s first chance came in the 13th minute when Mohammed Methnani drifted into the penalty area but had already been flagged offside when his shot rebounded off the post. It was to be the striker’s final contribution before sustaining an injury and being replaced by Alain Dioko.

Shortly after Dioko’s introduction, Jaish stamped their authority on proceedings. The ever-dangerous Khaled Msakni latched on to a cross-field delivery to turn the ball behind for a corner. Msakni calmly saved with his head but his clever dink was brilliantly robbed by Jamil Najj who headed the ball back for a corner.

Just seconds later Lekhwiya almost grabbed a second. Yousef Msakni latched on to a cross-field ball but his clever dink was brilliantly saved by Jaish goalkeeper Alain Dioko as El Jaish goalkeeper Alain Dioko makes an unsuccessful attempt to make a save as El Jaish’s Tunisian midfielder Mohammed Mmethnani (unseen) scores the first goal of the Qatar Cup final yesterday.

Just as it looked as if Hamdallah’s golden opportunity to level. Murad Najj brought down Khalid Muftah and Naji brought down Khalid Muftah and Naji brought down Khalid Muftah and Naji brought down Khalid Muftah to turn the ball behind. And with 12 minutes to go, the clock ticking down, Hamdallah stepped up to score his title in 2013, when they also beat Lekhwiya. The result, however, proves that the disappointing run in the domestic arena continues for Lekhwiya.

Qatar’s Alsaid wins bronze at Asian Weightlifting Championships

Fares Ibrahim Alsaid (right), who won the bronze medal in the men’s 85kg event at the 46th Asian Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, along with the other medal winners. The Qatari lifted a total weight of 356kg, won the silver medal.

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Wealth's rarest parrot enjoys bumper breeding season

In South Africa, 33 lions rescued from circuses arrive wealthy new home

Patients with mental illness fare worse after hip surgery

North Carolina: People with psychiatric illnesses are more likely to have complications after hip replacement surgery, according to a new study. This study builds on previous research suggesting that people with psychiatric illnesses have higher rates of complications post-surgery than those without psychiatric illnesses. The study found that patients with psychiatric illnesses were more likely to have complications than those without psychiatric illnesses. People with psychiatric illnesses are more likely than those without psychiatric illnesses to be younger than 65 years old and to have additional medical problems. These results are important for clinicians and policymakers as they highlight the need for improved care and resources for patients with psychiatric illnesses.