

## Emir meets Jerusalem conference delegates



HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani holding talks with Tunisian Foreign Minister Rafik Abdesslem at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel yesterday. The Tunisian foreign minister was in Qatar to attend the International Conference for the Defence of Al-Quds. They reviewed bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region.



HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani holding talks with a delegation from the Neturei Karta International, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel yesterday. The Neturei Karta International members were in Doha to participate in the International Conference for the defence of Al-Quds.

### In brief

#### Emir greets new Yemeni president

HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, HH the Heir Apparent Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al-Thani have sent congratulatory cables to Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi on his election as President of Yemen.

#### Emir meets Moroccan PM

HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani met Moroccan Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane and the accompanying delegation at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel yesterday. The Moroccan prime minister was in Doha to attend the International Conference for the Defence of Al-Quds. They discussed bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region.

#### Emir receives French politician

HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani met the secretary general of the French Socialist Party Arnaud Montebourg at his Emir Diwan office yesterday.

#### New ambassadors appointed

HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani yesterday issued the following Emir decisions: 1. No.19 of 2012 appointing Saif Muqaddam Saqr al-Buainein as Ambassador to Egypt. 2. No.20 of 2012 appointing Mohamed Abdullah Metieb al-Rumaihi as Ambassador to the USA.

#### Deputy Premier issues decision

HE the Deputy Prime Minister Ahmed bin Abdullah al-Mahmoud, who is also Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, yesterday issued a decision assigning Mehanna bin Ali Thamer al-Nuaimi to undertake the works of the office director of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs.

#### Qatar-Djibouti ties discussed

HE the Deputy Prime Minister Ahmed bin Abdullah al-Mahmoud, who is also Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, yesterday met Ali Hassan Bahdon, Djibouti's Minister of Employment who is in charge of Government Reform, and the delegation accompanying him, in Doha.

They discussed bilateral relations and means of cementing them, particularly in the field of employment and government reform. Secretary-General of the Cabinet Eissa bin Saad al-Naimi and Djibouti's Ambassador in Doha Mumin Hassan Berri, attended the meeting.

#### Chief of Staff meets envoys

HE the Chief of Staff of the Qatari Armed Forces Major General Hamad bin Ali al-Attiyah received an invitation from his Kenyan counterpart yesterday. The invitation was handed over by the Ambassador of Kenya to Qatar Galma Boring during a meeting with al-Attiyah. Talks dealt with bilateral ties. The meeting was attended by a number of senior officers of the Qatari armed forces. The Chief of Staff also received a written message yesterday from Mauritanian Army Chief of Staff Mohamed Ould al-Ghazwani. The message was delivered by Mauritanian Ambassador to Qatar Sheikh Sayed Ahmed Bakay Ould Hamadi.

#### Advisory Council holds meeting

The Advisory Council held its weekly session yesterday chaired by HE the Speaker Mohamed bin Mubarak al-Kholaifi. The council reviewed the floor debate request submitted by several members concerning the medical services and the health care. The council decided to refer it to the Services and Public Utilities Panel for further study. Meanwhile, the Advisory Council's Cultural Affairs and Information Committee held a meeting yesterday chaired by its acting Rapporteur Hadi Saeed al-Kharrat.

# Al-Quds meet adopts Doha Declaration

QNA  
Doha

The two-day International Conference for the Defence of Al-Quds concluded yesterday with the closing session chaired by HE the Assistant Foreign Minister for International Co-operation, Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohamed bin Jabor al-Thani, adopting the Doha Declaration.

The conference saw the participation of representatives of more than 70 countries and organisations.

Addressing the closing session, Sheikh Ahmed said the conference furnished an opportunity for an in-depth assessment of all the measures taken by Israel aimed at obliterating the holy city's Arab and Islamic nature and its human and religious heritage.

The conference produced a declaration and recommendations of four major committees, namely the committee on Al-

Quds and history, on Al-Quds and international law, Al-Quds and the Israeli violations and the committee on the role of civil society organisations in defence and protection of Al-Quds, he added.

Sheikh Ahmed hoped that the recommendations and the Doha declaration would lead to the revival of the cause of the holy city in the hearts of the Arab and Muslim peoples and other peace-loving nations as a national and humanitarian issue.

Sheikh Ahmed thanked the participants, noting that their contribution crowned the efforts exercised to defend the holy city, the eternal capital of the state of Palestine.

He also thanked the assistant Arab League secretary general for Palestine Affairs, Mohamed Subaih, the liaison officer of the conference and the mission of the League, which helped set the ground for the gathering. He lauded the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in Al-Quds, the West Bank and Gaza.

He said the conference has been successful by all standards.

The reports of the four committees and the Doha Declaration were read out at the closing session.

The conference has praised the proposal of HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani calling for approaching the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution on forming an international commission to investigate all the actions taken by Israel since the 1967 occupation in Arab Jerusalem, in order to erase its Islamic and Arabic identity.

The conference also welcomed the Emir's call to prepare a comprehensive strategy for the various sectors and projects needed by the city of Jerusalem.

This came in the Doha Declaration which was released yesterday evening at the end of the conference.

The declaration said: The International Conference for the Defence of Jerusalem was hosted by Doha, the capital of the State of Qatar, from 26 to 27 February,

2012, in implementation of the resolution No. 503 of the 22nd Arab summit held in Sirte on 28/3/2010.

The conference was held under the slogan "Support the steadfastness of Jerusalem", under the auspices and attendance of HH the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, in the presence of the President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas, Arab League Secretary General Dr Nabil al-Arabi, Arab foreign ministers, heads of international and regional organisations and bodies, organisations and federations advocating human rights, clerics, as well as intellectual, legal, political and historical figures who gathered in a historic global mobilisation to express solidarity with the Palestinian people in the city of Jerusalem and their legitimate rights.

The declaration welcomes the invitation of HH the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani to use Jerusalem's freedom as a fulcrum of all Palestin-

ians and an incentive for achieving the reconciliation and ending the division.

The declaration appreciates and supports the proposal of HH the Emir to go to the Security Council to adopt a resolution for the formation of an international commission to investigate all Israeli actions taken since the 1967 occupation of Jerusalem with a view to erase its Arab and Islamic features.

It also welcomes HH the Emir's invitation to prepare a comprehensive strategy for the various sectors and projects that Jerusalem needs, and Qatar's willingness to participate with all its capacities in accomplishing this strategy and putting it into practice.

It emphasises that Israel breaches international laws to forcefully displace the people of Jerusalem through Judaisation schemes, the denial of justice, obscuring history and heritage, land alienation and property confiscation.

It expresses deep concern

about the ongoing Israeli works including excavations and archaeological excavations in Al-Aqsa Mosque and around Old City, which seriously affect the distinctive character of city at the religious, cultural, historical and demographic levels, and are contradictory with the decisions of Unesco and the UN resolutions related to the city's territory and the rules of international law and especially the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property of 1954.

The declaration calls on international powers who remain silent towards Israeli violations to assume their responsibility and compel Israel to implement all UN resolutions relevant to Jerusalem.

The Doha declaration calls on the UN and all its relevant institutions to shoulder their responsibilities towards Jerusalem and its people; to ensure that they enjoy all their civil, economic and social rights in their city; and to preserve the city's sacred sites, historical monuments and human heritage.

## Albanian president arrives



Albanian President Bamir Topi arrived in Doha yesterday for a three-day visit to Qatar. The Albanian president was welcomed at Doha International Airport by HE the Minister of Municipality and Urban Planning Sheikh Abdurrahman bin Khalifa al-Thani, Qatar's Ambassador to Albania Youssef Hassan Youssef al-Saei and Albanian Ambassador to Qatar Ridi Kurtezi.

## Israelis have 'no heritage' in Al-Quds, says panel

QNA  
Doha

The committee concerned with Al-Quds and its history, reviewed yesterday a number of documents that go back to the times of the Ottoman Empire, which clearly reveal that the Israelis have no heritage in Al-Quds.

The committee's members said that as a result, history must be reviewed without "falsification". The members of the committee also said that the claim of Palestine being the promised land was a "trick" that has no basis in history.

The committee included a number of historians, priests and rabbis who exchanged their knowledge of Al-Quds.

They called for displaying the documents to the world to let

the international community to know the real history of the holy city of Al-Quds.

Secretary-General of Arab Archeologists, Mohamed al-Kahlawi, who is also an Archeology professor at Cairo University, told QNA that Al-Quds is an "occupied city", based on all the international documents. He said that there was an Israeli plan that aims at changing the demography of the holy city to isolate its real citizens in favour of Israelis.

He added that the world was witnessing a state of "human and rock extermination", referring to how the Israeli government has sought to obliterate any evidence of the Palestinians right to Al-Quds.

Meanwhile, Italian professor of Arabic History at the University of Palermo Dr Antonino backed claims that Zionists had

little right to Al-Quds. He said that Italy, and the Vatican City in particular, had a number of documents that would complement the ones viewed by the committee yesterday.

Professor Antonino said that he asked the committee to cooperate with the Italian and Arabic universities in order to re-write the history of Al-Quds and counter Zionist's claims that people of Al-Quds were "out of history."

The committee also discussed a number of topics all relating to the means of implementing the resolutions of the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly adopted in favour of Al-Quds. It also reviewed a topic entitled "The sovereignty of Al-Quds, pre and post 1967". The committee also studied the historical development of Al-Quds as part of the West Bank.

# Pakistan premier hosts Qatari delegation

Investments in joint projects in Islamic insurance figured in the talks Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani had with prominent Qatari entrepreneur and philanthropist Sheikh Ali Abdullah al-Thani and QIB chief executive officer Abdulbasit A. al-Shaibei in Islamabad recently.

The two sides also discussed investment prospects in other areas and general investment climate that prevails in Pakistan now.

Sheikh Ali, also chairman of Pakistan-Qatar Company for General Takaful and Pakistan-Qatar Company for Life Takaful, expressed thanks to Prime Minister Gilani for hosting him and

al-Shaibei and said it was clear that the Pakistan Government was "too keen" to boost investment climate in the country.

"Pakistan is a great Islamic country with an outstanding heritage. Pakistan has got strong relationship with Arab countries in general and Qatar and other Gulf countries in particular. The strong and old ties make it easier to further boost the bilateral relationship," Sheikh Ali said.

He said both Pakistan-Qatar Company for General Takaful and Pakistan-Qatar Company for Life Takaful have grown rapidly over the years.

In total, they have some 32 branches across Pakistan with

more than 1,000 representatives spread all over the country. Islamic insurance products through these companies are now available in almost all cities and districts of Pakistan.

Sheikh Ali said the further development of these companies would become possible with the support of the Pakistan government.

Abdulbasit A. al-Shaibei said "great opportunities" for Islamic insurance existed in Pakistan because of a sound Shariah-based financial environment in the country.

He said there are prospects for boosting co-operation between financial institutions in Pakistan and the GCC region.



Prominent Qatari entrepreneur and philanthropist Sheikh Ali Abdullah al-Thani (left) and QIB chief executive officer Abdulbasit A.al-Shaibei with Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani in Islamabad.