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BUSINESS | Page 1



Milaha's first-quarter net profit rises to QR365mn

SPORT | Page 1

Misbah, Younis bolster struggling Pakistan



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GULF TIMES

TUESDAY Vol. XXXVI No. 9706
April 28, 2015
Rajab 9, 1436 AH
www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals



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In brief

QATAR | Motoring
Faulty speed radar removed from road

The Traffic Department has removed a speed radar from February 22 Road after detecting an increase in the number of accidents near the radar, local Arabic daily Arrayah has reported. The radar was located opposite Omar Bin al-Khattab Mosque on the Al Shamal-Doha side of the road. The department removed the radar after finding that it was not functioning properly and was causing problems to motorists by flashing incessantly, the report adds. Meanwhile, a number of users of the Abu Samra-Lusail road have called for curbing traffic accidents caused by excessive speeding by truck drivers. Many of the accidents have reportedly been caused while overtaking, according to the daily.

PALESTINE | Conflict
UN blames Israel for shelter attacks

A UN inquiry yesterday blamed the Israeli military for seven attacks on UN schools in Gaza that were used as shelters during the 2014 war. "I deplore the fact that at least 44 Palestinians were killed as a result of Israeli actions and at least 227 injured at United Nations premises being used as emergency shelters," US Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said in a letter to the Security Council. **Page 9**

SUDAN | Elections
Bashir re-elected with 94% of vote

Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir was elected to another five years in office, results showed yesterday. Bashir, 71, took more than 94% of the vote in the election held earlier this month, the electoral commission said. **Page 10**

ASIA | Phenomenon
Japan gets bigger as new coastline emerges

Crowded Japan has got a little bit roomier after a 300m strip of land emerged from the sea and attached itself to the coast, experts said yesterday.



Business @ Qatar
QATAR BANKS LEAD IN REVENUE GROWTH

TODAY'S EDITION INCLUDES BUSINESS @ QATAR MAGAZINE APRIL 2015

Spanish minister in Doha talks



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani meeting with Spain's Deputy Minister of Trade Jaime Garcia Legaz in Doha yesterday. During the meeting, attended by the delegation accompanying the Spanish minister, they reviewed bilateral co-operation and ways to develop it.

Nepalis spend third night in open as toll passes 4,000

AFP
Kathmandu

Hundreds of thousands of Nepalis spent another night in the open yesterday after a massive quake which killed more than 4,000, as officials warned the final toll could rise sharply once rescuers reach cut-off areas.

With fears rising of food and water shortages, Nepalis were rushing to stores and petrol stations to stock up on essential supplies in the capital Kathmandu, left devastated by Saturday's 7.8-magnitude quake.

Officials say more than 4,100 people are now known to have died, including 4,010 in Nepal - making it the quake-prone Himalayan nation's deadliest disaster in more than 80 years.

More than 90 people have been killed in neighbouring India and China while a further 7,500 people were injured in Nepal.

But senior disaster management official Rameshwar Dhangal said the toll in Nepal could jump once rescuers discovered the full extent of devastation in villages.

"Rescue operations are underway, and in many places where buildings have collapsed there might be people trapped," Dhangal, the home ministry's national disaster management chief, told AFP.

"We are also in the process of getting information from villages, and these will add to the death toll."

Families who work in Kathmandu were packing onto buses, some even sitting on the roofs, leaving the city, many for their home villages to determine the damage there.

Mothers clutching children and men hauling bags were seen bargaining



A woman carries her belongings as she walks over her collapsed house in Bhaktapur, Nepal, yesterday.

with drivers of the many buses clogging the roads out of the capital.

The exodus came as international rescue teams with sniffer dogs raced to find survivors buried in rubble, and teams equipped with heavy cutting gear and relief supplies landed at the nation's only international airport.

Elisabeth Byrs, a spokeswoman for the UN's World Food Programme, told AFP the agency would launch a "large, massive operation" with the first plane carrying rations set to arrive today.

Pledging \$10mn in relief to help the victims, US Secretary of State John Kerry said he had been shocked by the "gut-wrenching" images of the death and destruction.

The US State Department said that four Americans "in the Everest region" were among the dead.

Across the capital, Nepalis were hunkered down for the night in make-

shift tents in parks and other open spaces yesterday, many having lost their houses and others too terrified to return home after several powerful aftershocks.

"This is a nightmare. Why don't these aftershocks stop?" asked 70-year-old Sanu Ranjitkar, clutching her dog and with an oxygen mask strapped to her face as she sat under a tarpaulin.

With just plastic sheets to protect them from the elements, many were desperate for aid and information on what to do next.

"There is just too much fear and confusion," said Bijay Sreshtha, who fled to a park with his three children, wife and mother when the quake hit.

Fears were rising of a disease outbreak in the multitude of tent camps that have sprung up around the city. **Pages 25, 26, 28**

Ambulances get green light at more intersections

With the latest expansion, a total of 80 traffic intersections have been installed with EVPS sensors

By Ramesh Mathew
Staff Reporter

Emergency Vehicle Pre-emption System (EVPS) sensors have been installed at 50 more intersections, mainly across Doha and its neighbourhoods, by the Road Maintenance Department of the Public Works Authority (Ashghal), it was announced yesterday.

With this expansion, a total of 80 traffic intersections have been installed with EVPS sensors, as part of the efforts to considerably reduce the response time to meeting situations arising from varying emergencies.

At a meeting yesterday, Ashghal's Road Maintenance Department's Safety Operations and Traffic Control head and senior engineer Abdul Aziz al-Sada said the significant increase in the number of EVPS sensors at intersections would go a long way in helping the ambulances of the Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) meet emergency situations more effectively than ever before.

"Installation of EVPS sensors at more intersections would not only minimise traffic disruption for ambulances and civil defence vehicles but would also help save as many lives as possible in the event of emergencies," he explained.

Such emergency vehicles also take into account the safety of the rest of the road users by stopping cross streets traffic before they pass intersections, he pointed out.

The Ashghal official recalled that the first batch of 30 EVPS sensors were installed in various parts of Doha, beginning in April 2014. The first phase also saw 15 ambulances and 10 civil defence vehicles equipped with traffic

signals remote control devices.

The EVPS is an advanced system consisting of three units, installed on the traffic signals, described as intersection unit, vehicles (vehicle unit) and the Central Management Software that enables those manning the system devices and units ensure the efficiency of their performance and maintenance.

Those managing and monitoring the system at the main centre and all intersections also generate adequate reports based on their functioning, said al-Sada, while explaining the functioning of the system via GPS/radio antenna devices. The devices, it is learnt, receive green light pre-emption hundreds of metres ahead of a signal on the moving course of an ambulance vehicle/emergency vehicle.

Drivers of emergency vehicles have received adequate training on how to effectively use the new system. A committee comprising officials of the Ashghal, General Directorate of Civil Defence (GDCD) and HMC has been constituted to monitor the functioning of the system, evaluate it and make recommendations and suggestions at regular intervals to improve its performance.

Now apart from the emergency ambulances, the EVPS is fitted mainly in the GDCD fire engines. However, in future, some more ministry of interior vehicles and public transport buses would also be equipped with the system, depending on the growing requirements.

More drivers are being trained on the first batch of the vehicles fitted with the EVPS and on the successful completion of their training, more vehicles would be equipped with the system.

Ministry of Interior official Brigadier Jamal Jafar al-Ajani, HMC's Ambulance Service executive director Brendon David Morris and Ashghal's PR head Abdulla al-Saad were also present.



Brigadier al-Ajani, al-Saad, al-Sada and Morris announcing the expansion of the EVPS system yesterday.

Arab coalition vows two-pronged strategy over Yemen

AFP
Aden

A coalition of Arab states vowed to co-ordinate political and military efforts to restore order in Yemen as Saudi-led warplanes yesterday launched new air strikes on Houthi Shia rebels.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, the Abu Dhabi crown prince and armed forces chief of the United Arab Emirates, said the coalition is now working on military and political fronts to reestablish

the legitimate authority in Sanaa.

The campaign's new phase is based on a "multilayered strategy, including military, as well as politics and development, to re-establish the legitimacy," he said on a visit to his troops in Saudi Arabia taking part in the coalition.

"We have no other choice but to succeed in the test of Yemen," Sheikh Mohamed said, quoted in UAE daily *Al-Itihad*.

In New York, the UN Security Council went into closed-door consultations on the crisis in Yemen and to hear former envoy Jamal

Benomar give a final report.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who was to meet his Iranian counterpart, said he would urge Mohamed Javad Zarif to help ease the violence in Yemen, warning the country's future should not be decided by "external parties".

The Saudi government said yesterday the nine Arab countries that make the coalition want to help Yemen "re-instate security and stability, away from any hegemony or foreign meddling that aims to foment sedition and sectarianism".

Yemen is expected to be the focus of

a meeting of Gulf foreign ministers on Thursday, ahead of a leaders' summit on May 5.

The meeting in Riyadh would cover "issues vital to the operations of the Gulf Co-operation Council and developments in the region, including the crisis in Yemen," said GCC secretary general Abdullahif Zayani.

The latest air raids hit five schools converted by the Houthis into military bases in Ataq, the capital of the southern province of Abyan, military sources said.

Also in Abyan, warplanes targeted rebel positions on the outskirts of Loder, the province's second largest city, they said.

Clashes were ongoing southwest of Loder between rebels and forces that have sided with the government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, the sources added.

Fierce fighting also raged in the central city of Ta'ez, with the warring parties using tanks and rocket-propelled grenades inside residential areas.

The UN says more than 1,000 people have been killed in fighting in Yemen since late March, when Riyadh assembled the coalition in support of Hadi.

Hadi asked for Gulf intervention after the rebels closed in on his refuge in the southern port city of Aden after they had overrun several provinces since September, including the capital.

Saudi Arabia says it has started deploying National Guard troops on its border with Yemen, joining members of the Saudi border guard and army who have reinforced the frontier since late March.

The vanguard of National Guard troops "have arrived in Najran region to participate in the defence of the southern borders... so as to confront any possible threats", the official Saudi Press Agency said. **Page 8**