

**ORCHESTRA**  
New Collection Hyatt Plaza: 4689274

**BOLLYWOOD  
BACK  
WITH  
BIGGIES**

PAGE 40 | CHILL OUT

**MARIA STUNS  
JANKOVIC,  
WINS  
ROME OPEN**

PAGE 42 | SPORTS



**National  
Car Rental**  
Al Saad - 4366881 / 4366771  
Salwa Road - 4283342 • Industrial Area - 4505195  
Ras Laffan - 4748660  
Email: info@national-qatar.com

# Qatar Tribune

www.qatar-tribune.com

First with the news and what's behind it

SUNDAY MAY 9, 2010 JUMADA AL AWWAL 25, 1431 Newsline Nationline Businessline Lifeline Sportline Vol. 4 No. 1343 QR 2

<b>DOW JONES</b>	10,380 -139 PTS	<b>QE</b>	7,374 -41.54 PTS
<b>SENSEX</b>	16,769 -218 PTS	<b>CURRENCY</b>	Indian Rupee 12.49 Philippine Peso 12.51
<b>WEATHER</b>	HOT AND HAZY HIGH: 40°C   LOW: 25°C		

## Newsline

### Philippine polls on Monday



Philippine presidential candidates wrapped up their election campaigns in a festive atmosphere on Saturday, as polling officials raced to bring vote-counting software to remote precincts. Three months of intense campaigning were due to officially end at midnight with 50-year-old bachelor Benigno Aquino looking set to win Monday's election in a landslide and continue the legacy of his democracy-champion parents. (PG 10)

### 52 killed in India storms



At least 52 people were killed and scores injured by heavy rains lashing northern India over the past two days which have destroyed homes, reports quoting police said on Saturday. The worst hit areas were the central and eastern regions of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, where 35 people died and some 50 were injured, PTI reported. The other 17 casualties were reported from neighbouring Bihar state that was also lashed by thunderstorms. (PG 13)

### Clegg in power-sharing talks



Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg held talks with his party's lawmakers on Saturday as he mulls over a power-sharing deal with the Conservatives to solve Britain's political impasse. The Liberal Democrats, the third-biggest party, are responding to Conservative leader David Cameron's "big, comprehensive offer" after Thursday's general election resulted in the first hung parliament for 36 years. (PG 4)

## Today in Qatar

9:00am Arab Energy Conference at Grand Hyatt  
7:00pm Lulu Hypermarket Mega Draw

### EMIR WITH US HOUSE SPEAKER



The Emir His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani with US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, in Doha, on Saturday. (See also page 17)

# Qatar Holding buys Harrods for \$2.2 bn



PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al Thani with Mohamed al Fayed at Harrods, in London, on Saturday. (REUTERS)

### TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK

EGYPTIAN billionaire Mohamed al Fayed has sold luxury London department store Harrods to Qatar Holding, Qatar's investment arm, Fayed's advisers Lazard said on Saturday. "The Al Fayed family trust, owners of Harrods, announces today that they have

sold the Harrods Group to Qatar Holding," Lazard said in a statement. Media reports suggest Al Fayed, who also owns Fulham football club, sold the store for \$2.2 billion (£1.5 billion, €1.7 billion).

Qatar Holding is the prime vehicle for strategic and direct investments of Qatar. It is an arm of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), which was founded by Qatar in 2005 to

strengthen its economy by diversifying into new asset classes.

"What I can assure you is Qatar Holding will do their best to upgrade this monument, to make it even greater and better for the tourism and the British people," Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al Thani told a press conference at the store in London's Knightsbridge area.

Al Fayed will become honorary chairman of Harrods, the new owners said in a statement.

He is retiring after 25 years as chairman of Harrods to spend more time with his children and grandchildren and believed Qatar Holdings would continue to promote it as a luxury brand, the statement said.

"We are happy to acquire Harrods, a unique company that combines an iconic luxury brand and one of the most prestigious retail properties in the world with best-in-class financial metrics," said Qatar Holding's managing director and chief executive officer Ahmad Mohamed al Sayed in a statement.

"This acquisition further expands our global portfolio of world-leading companies," he added.

# QSA mulls quarterly economic indicators

MAYA MANSOUR  
DOHA

THE Qatar Statistics Authority (QSA) is developing a system of short-term indicators to be compiled on a quarterly basis. The move is aimed at helping decision-makers get quicker assessment of the policy decisions for better monitoring of the economic issues.

Talking to *Qatar Tribune*, a QSA official said, "The new methodology is meant to measure growth in various economic sectors more accurately. For example, in the construction sector, data on composite index of cement and steel consumption will help in keeping track of the final output. QSA is also trying to develop an up-to-date business register." He further said that the short-term indicators will be preliminary in nature and would be revised as more information is gathered. "But the final revision of estimates is not likely to be very large," he added.

He said that the need for the new methodology was felt because of major changes in the structure of economy as far as the number of establishments and economic activities are concerned. "For

example, during the 2004-2008 period, the number of establishments declined while the total number of those employed increased, thus tripling the average number of employees in one establishment from 15 to 45. The decline came as small retail outlets were replaced by large shopping centres. The short-term indicators will help policy-makers to get a better perspective of the fast changing economic activities," the source added.

"Even in 2009 when the world economy was in crisis, Qatar's rate of growth was still extraordinary, at 8.7 percent. However, the GDP based on current prices showed a different trend. In 2009 it declined by more than 11 percent due to the decline in the prices of gas and oil, as compared to an extraordinary growth of 37 percent in the period from 2007 to 2008. This was not reflected adequately in the actual GDP. Moreover, with non-hydrocarbon sectors like manufacturing and services playing a greater role in the country's economy, the new system will provide better information of their growth which was not the case earlier," the QSA official said.

### GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN 2004 PRICES

MILLION QR	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Economic Activity	210	209	211	227	214	218
Agriculture	62,708	67,534	77,203	95,178	117,165	126,188
Mining and quarrying	39,210	40,548	44,798	53,573	60,427	61,123
Oil + Oil & Gas Related services + other Mining and Quarrying	23,498	26,987	32,404	41,605	56,739	65,065
Gas	11,995	11,781	13,237	13,542	13,647	12,248
Manufacturing	1,482	1,439	1,533	1,549	1,682	1,721
Electricity & water	6,425	6,615	6,805	16,780	29,693	23,225
Construction	6,148	6,967	7,900	11,199	12,746	15,513
Trade, restaurant, hotels	4,020	6,145	9,019	13,669	19,365	23,381
Transport and communication	9,925	12,783	16,012	19,757	19,461	23,276
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services	1,104	1,126	1,158	1,316	1,572	1,655
Social and personal services	(2,761)	(4,585)	(4,940)	(5,048)	(5,695)	(6,885)
Imputed Bank Service Charges	11,848	11,395	15,844	15,068	20,574	29,470
Government services	987	1,068	1,156	1,346	1,459	1,486
Household Services	114,091	122,479	145,136	184,584	231,883	251,496
GDP at factor cost	7.4%	18.5%	27.2%	25.6%	8.5%	
Growth rate of GDP at factor cost	1,207	1,600	2,024	1,956	2,083	2,698
Import duties	115,298	147,078	147,160	186,539	233,966	254,194
Total GDP		7.6%	18.6%	26.8%	25.4%	8.7%
Growth rate of GDP						

# Sara al Dossari becomes Qatar's first woman futsal referee

CATHERINE W GICHUKI  
DOHA

WHEN Sara Abdulrahman al Dossari qualified as a futsal (indoor football) referee earlier this year, the moment was special for more reasons than one. Not only had the 23-year-old Qatari reached another level in her career as a sportsperson, but had also become the country's first woman futsal referee. The

journey had been a long one though for the 23-year-old who is a coach at the Aspire Multi-sports Skill Development Center (MSDC). But odds were not insurmountable for Dossari who said, "I really love sports. It's in my blood."

All through her years at Al Eyman high school, she had been an active sportsperson. Encouraged by her teachers to pursue a career in sports,

she studied it for four years after high school.

Thereafter, Dossari, who has played for Qatar's national handball team for the last eight years, joined Aspire. At the Aspire Multi-sports Skill Development Center she enrolled for a programme in multi-sports, which gave her a through training in various aspects of a number of sports including volleyball, basketball, hand-



Sara Abdulrahman al Dossari.

### QT Exclusive

**The journey had been a long one though for the 23-year-old who is a coach at the Aspire Multi-sports Skill Development Center (MSDC).**

ball. Finally, she cleared the exam, held at the Ladies Club in the Aspire Zone Foundation between February 28 and March 2 by the Qatar Women's Sports Committee (QWSC) and the Qatar Football Association (QFA). Her first official match as a referee was held on March 4.

When asked about the challenges of a referee's job she said, "You have to be

right and take quick decisions. These get you the trust of the teams as well as spectators. As a referee you don't have friends inside the court everyone is just a player. One should have a very strong personality."

Talking about her first game as a referee, she said, it never felt like being new work. "Perhaps it was so

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15