



# Census data release slated for October 20

By Pratap John  
Chief Business Reporter

Full details on Qatar's population will become available with the release of the final census data on October 20, a top official of the Qatar Statistics Authority (QSA) said.

The census data will also contain information on the number of buildings, both commercial and residential, and civic amenities in Qatar.

The data was compiled in a 'record time' of three months after the nationwide field survey, said Qatar Statistics Authority adviser Dr Ahmad Hussein.

"About 3,000 people were assigned to gather data on the population and other economic activities. Personal interviews and data collection using electronic channels formed part of the census, which is held every 10 years," Hussein told *Gulf Times* yesterday.

He said October 20 was chosen for release of the final census data to coincide with the World Statistic Day.

Preliminary census data released by QSA in July indicated that the country's population stood at 1,696,563 on April 20 this year compared with 744,029 in



A poster issued by QSA to coincide with the World Statistic Day on October 20

2004, a growth of 128% in six years.

Of the total population, males continued to outnumber females by 4 to 1. There were 1,284,867 males and 411,696 females. The census report attributed the rapid increase in population to the large number of expatriates recruited to work in Qatar's development projects.

Hussein said the official census data

would be released at an event to be held at the Four Seasons on October 20.

On October 21, the Qatar Statistics Authority would hold an 'open day' at the QSA office at West Bay.

Earlier, briefing reporters, Qatar Statistics Authority secretary general Sheikh Hamad bin Jabor bin Jassim al-Thani said QSA would mark the World Statistics Day on October 20 in response to the UN General Assembly resolution no 64/267. The QSA president stressed the importance of official statistics in the country's planning process.

"Numbers, indicators and indexes on economic, social, demographic and environmental sectors are vital in the planning process. Official data gathered by QSA will be useful for the National Development Strategy 2011-2016," Sheikh Hamad said.

The QSA was following internationally adopted methodology for gathering data, which would be used only for statistics purposes, he said.

Sheikh Hamad pointed out that the QSA is on the governing board of the Unesco Institute for Statistics (UIS) and plays a key role in global statistics initiatives.

A major conference on statistics will be held in Doha in December this year.

## Qatar Airways expanding Bangkok service

Qatar Airways will introduce a third daily flight to Bangkok from November 1. The Bangkok service will meet increasing demand from many parts of the world, particularly European and North and South American customers for travel to Thailand. The additional Bangkok service will continue to Vietnam with four of the flights heading onwards to the capital Hanoi and three onto Ho Chi Minh

City. Passengers originating in Thailand or Vietnam can also purchase tickets to fly between Bangkok and both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City on Qatar Airways. Qatar Airways will introduce six flights a week to Phuket via Kuala Lumpur from October 12. With the Bangkok flights, the airline's Thai operations will step up from 21 to 27 flights a week across two destinations. Qatar Airways chief execu-

tive officer Akbar al-Baker said the expansion in Thailand reaffirmed the airline's commitment to one of its most important markets. "Our third daily flight to Bangkok will create further connectivity across our network into Thailand and also allows us to improve our services to Vietnam where we already fly to Ho Chi Minh City and look forward to adding Hanoi to our schedules," he said.

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