

Families should be first defence against Aids

Qatar Symposium on Families discusses Aids in the Middle East region

DOHA: Thought leaders from Qatar, United Nations organisations, and regional and international NGOs have agreed that in times of regional and international crisis, governments must empower the family to be the first line of defence against the stigma and destructive effects of HIV/Aids.

"Countries in the Mena need to help families mobilise against Aids through education, outreach and helping rise up against the stigma associated with Aids," said Dr Faleh Mohammed Hussain Ali, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Affairs at the Supreme Council of Health.

According to Dr Faleh, research has shown that girls and women in developing countries carry three times the burden of HIV as anywhere else because they are forced to drop out of school or leave work and take care of infected family members. The burden becomes heavier when the girls are orphaned and become the responsible for younger siblings.

Dr Faleh and his counterparts spoke yesterday at the Qatar Symposium on Family, the Millennium Goals and Aids in the Middle East region. Hosted by the Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development (DIIFSD), the Qatar Symposium is organized in cooperation with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/Aids (UNAids) and the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

"Only 14 percent of people who require treatment for Aids in the Mena region receive it," said Hind Khatib, Regional Director for UNAids as she addressed the important role family can play in decreasing stigma, discrimination and new HIV infections in Mena countries.



From left: Dr Faleh Mohammed Hussain Ali, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Affairs at Supreme Council of Health; Richard G Wilkins, Director Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development; Hind Khatib, Regional Director UNAids; Shahida Azfar, Regional Director of Unicef and Sima Bahous, Assistant Secretary-General of Arab League during the conference yesterday. (ABDUL BASIT)

Khatib lauded the region on progress achieved and challenged them to reach the UNAids vision of "zeros" referring zero discrimination, zero new HIV infections and zero Aids-related deaths are achievable in the Mena region.

Arising from the UN Millennium Summit, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) are a series of targets addressing some of the world's human development challenges, including the combat of HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases,

achieving set targets by 2015.

"Qatar was among the first countries to endorse the political declaration and I would like to acknowledge the honourable work and commitment of Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction," said Khatib.

DIIFSD's involvement in this event is in keeping with its mandate to mainstream family approach into policies and programmes, and upholding the commitments of

the Doha Declaration, and is in line with Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) goals of fostering a progressive society and addressing immediate societal needs.

"HIV is not a problem for small and isolated communities...the family must play a central role in dealing with the consequences of this virus which has destroyed economies around the world" Dr Richard G Wilkins, Director of DIIFSD.

According to Unicef Regional

Director Shahida Azfar, despite the gains made during the past decade, significant numbers of women, young people and children are suffering from HIV/Aids in the Mena region.

In 2009, more than 6,400 children aged 0-14 years old in Mena countries became infected with HIV; the number of children living with HIV (aged 0-14 years old) rose to 21,000; and in the same year, young people (aged 15-24) living with HIV were around 94,000.

THE PENINSULA

Mozaic TV offers bout between Pacquiao and Marquez

DOHA: Qtel Mozaic TV will offer boxing aficionados a live telecast of the much awaited welterweight belt fight between boxing legends Manny Pacquiao and Juan Manuel Marquez set to entertain a capacity crowd at the MGM Las Vegas on November 13.

Fighting for the third time, this match considered as one of the biggest this year is anticipated to be a jaw-breaking, knock-out spectacular and it will be shown Live on TFC Pay Per View channel 510 on Mozaic TV.

Marquez and Pacquiao have already fought twice, both fights where controversial with dynamic knock-outs. The rivals have been in training for months, in preparation for this massive 12 round event. Mozaic TV will bring all the excitement to Qatar, LIVE from Las Vegas at 4am on 13 November.

Pacquiao is one of the world's best known boxers of this time and is the first fighter to have won eight world titles in different weight classes. The challenger, Marquez, is keen to see the champion's dream come to an end in knock out style.

Mozaic TV customers can watch all the action by going to TFC Pay Per View channel 510. Viewing for 24 hours costs QR 80 and includes the live telecast and all the repeats during the day. Mozaic customers can book Pacquiao Vs Marquez III, World Welterweight Championship Fight from 3am on 13 November.

The TFC package on Mozaic TV offers all 6 channels; these are TFC, Cinema One Global, ANC, Kapamilya, TAMBAYAN 101.9 and DZMM TELEBAYAN. Existing Mozaic customers interested in subscribing to the new TFC package can call 111 and request an upgrade.

THE PENINSULA

Vodafone launches handset promotion

DOHA: Vodafone Qatar has launched value packed handset offers which suit all budgets, available throughout the month of November. Among the phones up for grabs at Vodafone retail stores and online are: The iPhone 4 32GB (Black) priced at QR2,799 which includes a Welcome Pack, Red 55 & Red 100 scratchcards, 3 Mobile Internet Pro cards (3GB worth QR300) and a Star Number valued at QR 5000.

iPhone 4 16GB (Black) at QR2,549 which includes a Welcome Pack, Red 55 scratchcard and 2 Mobile Internet Pro

cards (2GB worth QR200).

Samsung Galaxy S2 (White) at QR 2,249 which includes a Welcome Pack, Red 55 scratchcard and 2 Mobile Internet Pro cards (2GB worth QR200).

BlackBerry Curve 9360 at QR1,399 which includes a Welcome Pack, Red 55 scratchcard, 1 month free BlackBerry service, 1 App Card and Accessory pack.

BlackBerry Curve 9300 at QR919 which includes a Welcome Pack, Red 35 scratchcard, 1 month free BlackBerry service, 1 App Card.

Vodafone Smart at QR379 which includes a Welcome Pack,

Red 35 scratchcard and 2 Mobile Internet cards (400MB worth QR100)

Samsung 3G Internet (E3210) at QR199 which includes a Welcome Pack, Red 20 scratchcard and 1 Mobile Internet cards (200MB worth QR50)

Nokia 1280 at QR79 which includes a Welcome Pack and Red 10.

Samsung I080 at QR79 which includes a Welcome Pack and Red 10

There are also many more fantastic offers on a range of Vodafone branded handsets starting from as low as QR69.

THE PENINSULA

Safari Mall raffle draw



Safari Mall officials conducting a raffle draw for electronic dream gift for customers as part of the mall's first anniversary. The mall celebrated the anniversary with a slew of activities such as mega promotions, cutting cake with customers and food festival.

QSA workshop on research

DOHA: QSA is organising a workshop in collaboration with Qatar Foundation entitled "Measuring Scientific Research and Development Outcomes" as part of Qatar Foundation Annual Research Forum's activities, to be held from November 20 to 22.

It is aimed at integrating the concept and methodology of scientific research and development measurement into QSA Strategy 2008-2013 and executive project; provoke a national dialogue about the importance of scientific research and development.

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NOTICE

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