When completed, the Um Al Hail project will produce 2,520MW of electricity and 136 million gallons of water a day.

By Mohammed Iqbal
The Peninsula

DOHA: Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Khalifa laid the foundation stone for the QR11bn Um Al Hail Power Plant of Qatar Electric and Water Company (QEW) which will give a major boost to water and electricity production.

The ceremony at Um Al Hail, south of the country, was attended by Dignitary Prime Minister and Mini- minister of State for Cabinet Affairs H E Abdullah bin Khalid Al Mut- thal, Minister of Energy and Industry HE HE Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, former energy and industry minister and ex-premier of Qatar, Admin- istrator-General and Transparency Authority H E Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, government officials and dignitaries.

When completed, the plant will produce 2,520MW of electricity and 136 million gallons of water a day – a 22 percent increase in the current electricity output and a 25 percent increase in water production – mak- ing the project one of the biggest of its kind in the region. Dr Al Sada said at the ceremony.

The project is expected to be completed in two phases. The first will be completed by the second quar- ter of 2017, with the production of 40 million gallons of water a day. The plant will reach full capacity in the third quarter of 2018. Qatar News Agency reports.

The project will be implemented by Kharouma, Qatar Petroleum and Japanese firm Shihshihah and EPCo National companies will have access to at least 30 percent of the project works.

Dr Al Sada said the projects part of Qatar’s strategic goals of creating infrastructures to support economic development. It aims to develop the electricity and water utility sectors and increase foreign and local invest- ments in both.

The project was chosen based on the availability of oil structures, particularly water and gas pipelines and the salinity of the water near it, Dr Al Sada said.

It is also a water management project to desalinate water to meet future demands.

Dr Al Sada said the project part of Qatar National Vision 2030 which continues to overcome challenges, as evident by four percent growth in GDP despite the decline in oil prices and its impact on many economies.

Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Khalifa lays the foundation stone for the plant, along with other officials.

UN official hails Qatar’s steps to protect workers’ rights

by Sanaa Atishaal
The Peninsula

DOHA: A senior UN human rights official has appreciated the steps being taken by Qatar to protect the rights of foreign workers and its efforts to publicly communicate with overseas workers and their authorities to raise complaints and concerns.

Dr Al Heitham Al Heitham, Director of UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre of South West Asia, had spoken about the importance of taking statistics about expatriate communities in Qatar can appreciate the Ministry of Interior directly to raise complaints.

Dr Al Heitham said an event or offering awareness to the ministry yesterday at Police College associated with the Human Rights Day marked on March 9. The event was held under the theme Human Dignity for All – There is a heavy commitment from Qatar to human rights in general. We have worked directly with the ministry, especially the Department of Human Rights. We have seen some commu- nity openness and transparency. We worked on 3,000 cases. This indicates that there is a growing political commitment and legal rights are integra- ted,” said Al Heitham. He said it is also important that there is possibility for the expatriate community here to have free rela- tionships with the ministry and interact among themselves through cultural activities held by them. “I think this is an amazing opportunity for us,” he said.

Dr Al Heitham added: “We need to build on it with some serious steps towards the development of a human rights policy and focus on human rights initiatives. The work of Police College aims to prepare qualified cadres to implement justice and equality among people of dignity and freedom in Qatar,” said Brigadier Mohamed Abdullah Al Muhana Al Azizi, General Director of the police. “Peace is not possible without human rights,” the Doha States Security Cooperation (GCC) and the human rights, and the work of Police College in this context,” he added.

Hydroponics expo opens

By Mohammed Duman
The Peninsula

DOHA: An exhibition to introduce hydroponics was opened yesterday at the winter vegetable market (WVM) in Umh Salal. Hydroponics is a method of growing plants using mineral nutriti- ous solution. The three-day event is organised by the Agriculture Affairs Depart- ment and the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, with the participa- tion of eight farmers.

Hundreds of visitors to the expo saw the different ways of growing fresh vegetables using plastic bags and pipes that are made from non-toxic material.

The hydroponics, which is a new technique, is used by farmers to produce vegetables. It is a technique that uses plastic bags and pipes that are made from non-toxic material.

Qatar’s Ahmad Yousef Mohamed (left) fights for the ball against Hong Kong’s Alexander Chuang Lan-Ming during their 2016 World Cup Football Asian Zone qualifying match played at the Jasim Bin Hamad Stadium yesterday. Group C leaders Qatar defeated Hong Kong two goals to nil to maintain their winning streak. See also page 23

Qatar mission rejects former French minister’s comments

DOHA: Qatar’s ambassador in France has expressed astonishment over recent critical comments by former French minister Bruno Le Maire about Qatar’s diplomatic relations with Qatar. “Qatar’s political positions remain clear with no ambiguities. The state- ment is surprising because a prominent public figure such as Mr Bruno Le Maire should absolutely respect the friendly relations between Qatar and France which is based on mutual respect and common interests. We should also rec- ognise that both countries are facing the same problems including terrorism and climate change, the embassy said in a statement yesterday.

It said the relations between France and Qatar are strong and both are aware of the risks that come from these relations, which are based on common interests and close cooperation.

The embassy said that some publications have been released with attacking Qatar for personal and political motives. The statement added that the French government has always been supportive of Qatar and has always supported Qatar’s position in the world.

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