



QATAR IN CUBA

Embassy of the State of Qatar-Havana

ISSUE 6

JANUARY / FEBRUARY / MARCH 2019

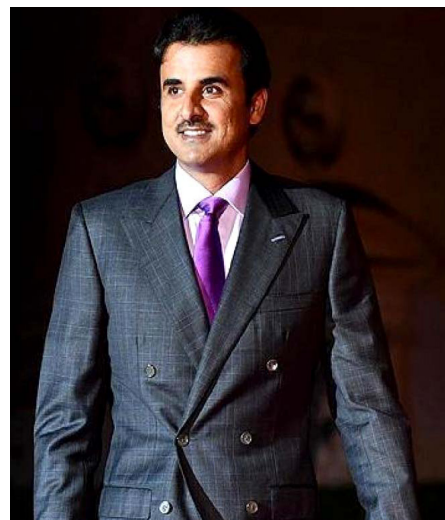
2018
Qatar National Day

H.H. the Amir Participated at the Munich Security Conference (MSC) 2019

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani attended the Munich Security Conference (MSC) 2019, which brings together opinion makers and thought leaders from around the world to debate on critical security issues of our time.

H.H. delivered a speech in the opening session in which he highlighted the EU as an example of an adequate regional governance, where disputes are channelled through dialogue and peaceful arbitration. Also, he referred to the lack of accountability for good governance in the world, as many governments and international powers act with impunity, without regard for human rights. The

Emir claimed that the path for the emergence of extremism has been paved by the incapacity of the Arab States to provide basic needs to its people. Likewise, he spoke on the Gulf crisis, which has been manufactured by Qatar's neighboring countries. Such regrettable situation, the Emir said, has undermined regional security and the economic outlook for the GCC as a strategic bloc. However, H.H. stated, Qatar has not stopped trading with the world, and have preserved its sovereignty. Furthermore, the siege has shown how small states can use diplomacy and strategic economic planning to overcome aggressions from ambitious nations.



H.H. the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.

QATAR INTERNATIONAL

H.H. the Amir Visited Latin America amid Ongoing Blockade



H.H. the Amir and H.E. Jose Valencia, Ecuador's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Last October, H.H. the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani visited South America to work on building new alliances with some countries of the region. The Amir was accompanied by an official delegation.

In a tweet, H.H. said:

I have started a tour in Latin America to strengthen bilateral cooperation with Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay and Argentina, preceded by two tours in 2015 and 2016. New partnership agreements will be signed in vital fields for the interests of our countries.

Qatar seeks to bolster its economic ties with Latin America as part of its 2030 vision, which has been designed to create a sustainable and modern country in the next 10 years.

Doha has been working to build new alliances since a diplomatic crisis broke out in June 2017, pitting it against a bloc led by Riyadh. The bloc accuses Qatar of supporting terrorism and being too closely allied to regional rival Iran. Doha has categorically denied the accusations, adding that the dispute is an attack on its sovereignty.

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قطر مستبقى حرة

So far, There Is No Sign of Breakthrough in the Gulf Crisis

In an interview with US media network (Bloomberg), H.E. the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, said that no movement or further steps have been made since the GCC Summit last December. H.E. stressed, however, that the State of Qatar remains open to dialogue and is still carrying on with its national agenda. Likewise, H.E. affirmed that Turkey, Iran and Iraq are important parts of the region and Qatar needs to have positive and constructive relations with those countries, not because of the blockade, but it is a part of Qatar's strategy to maintain its friendship relations with all countries in the area. H.E. noted that Qatar may have differences and disagreement with those countries, but Iran is a neighboring nation with whom Qatar shares gas



H.E. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani.

fields; in fact, the Persian country opened its skies when the blockading countries closed theirs. Therefore, it is important to engage with all these countries, and Qatar remains open with and without the GCC crisis.

Finally, H. E. expressed the hope that the GCC countries, especially the blockading countries, go back to reason, start to engage with their region and resolve this issue.



H.H. the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani at the Shura Council's opening session.

H.H. the Amir Opened the 47th Ordinary Session of the Advisory Council

H.H. the Amir opened the 47th ordinary session of the Advisory Council at its premises in November.

H.H. gave a speech on the occasion praising Qataris' ethics and their awareness of the country's accomplishments, as well as the importance of national sovereignty and independence under which these achievements have been made possible. Likewise, the Amir referred that despite of the current circumstances, "Qatar's

economic invulnerability against external tremors has been boosted, and the country's self-reliance has increased". In fact, he referred that the World Bank expects Qatar's economic growth rate to reach 2.8% in 2018, and will rise to around 3% in the following years.

The Advisory Council (Shura Council) is the chief legislative body, approves the general policy of the government and the budget.

Qatar Supports UN Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen in 2019

The State of Qatar has announced the support of the United Nations Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen in 2019 with US \$ 27 million. Qatari charities will coordinate with United Nations institutions and agencies, and other humanitarian organizations to finance various aid programs and projects in Yemen. This came during the participation of Qatar in the "High-Level Commitments to the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen"

held at the UN headquarters in Geneva last February.

Besides, Qatar welcomed the conclusion by the Yemeni parties of the Stockholm Agreement and the efforts of the UN in this context. Qatar also expressed its hope that both parties continue to implement the next stages of the withdrawal and cessation of hostilities agreements, which would contribute to facilitating access to humanitarian assistance.



According to UN, there is over 9 thousand dead and 22 million people in need of assistance due to the war in Yemen. Of these 8.4 million suffer famine.



After the opening, H.H. the Amir was given a tour around the water reservoirs.

Qatar Beat Japan to Win Asian Cup!

Qatar secured the biggest soccer prize in its history after it beat the tournament favorite Japan, 3-1, in the Asian Cup final in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

By winning the title, behind two spectacular first-half goals and a late penalty, Qatar secured victory in a tournament in which it overcame difficulties linked to longstanding political tensions in the region. actually, Its players were pelted with shoes and other objects thrown

from the Emirati crowd in their semifinal victory.

Qatar's run to the final was unexpected. The national team is not considered among the region's heavyweights, and it has never qualified for the World Cup. But it swept its rivals in the U.A.E., thanks largely to the tournament's top scorer, Almoez Ali.

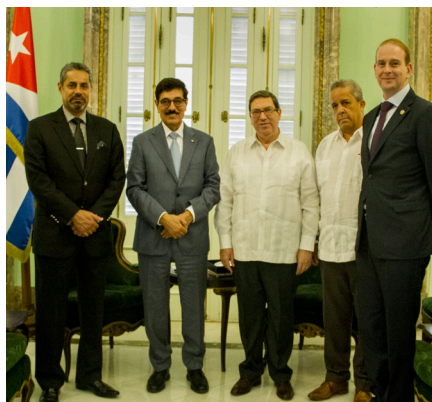
QATAR & CUBA

H.E. Minister of State Dr. Hamad bin Abdul Aziz Al-Kuwari Participated at the Fourth Conference for World Balance

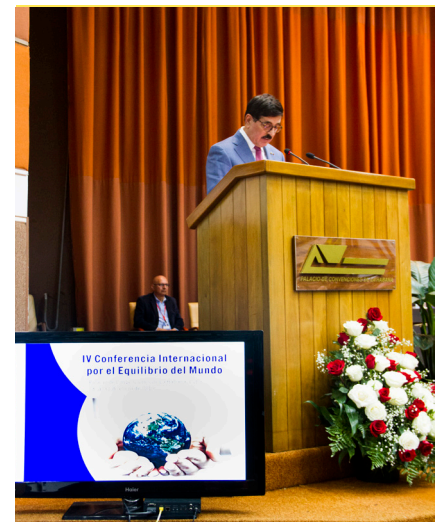
H.E. Minister of State Dr. Hamad bin Abdul Aziz Al-Kuwari visited Cuba to participate at the Fourth Conference of the World Balance, which took place in Havana on 28-31 January. The opening ceremony was attended by H.E. President of the State Council and the Council of Ministers Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Culture.

H.E. delivered a conference on the occasion, in which he highlighted the significance of José Martí and his literary work at a global level. He also referred to the role of cultural diplomacy in spreading the concepts of peace, solidarity, fraternal understanding, mutual respect and equality among all human beings, and Qatar's efforts to achieving peace through culture (for instance, through the organization of the World Cup 2022, and institutions like Qatar Foundation and Education Above All). Likewise, H.E. mentioned commonalities between the State of Qatar and Cuba, such as being small nations

going through an unjust blockade imposed by neighboring countries. During his visit, the Minister of State met with H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla; with H.E. Minister of Public Health, Dr. Jose Angel Portal Miranda, as well as H.E. Mr. Antonio Eduardo Becali, Director of the National Institute of Sport, Physical Education and Recreation (INDER), and H.E. Minister of Higher Education, Mr. José Ramón Saborido



H.E. Mr. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, H.E. Dr. Hamad Al-Kuwari, H.E. Hector Igarza, H.E. Ambassador Rashid M. Al-Mulla, and Mr. Richard Griffiths.



H.E. Dr. Hamad Al-Kuwari during his speech at the Fourth Conference for World Balance.

"Everyone should work to build a world for the benefit of future generations", affirmed H.E. Dr. Hamad Al-Kuwari.

Leidi. The meetings were attended by H.E. Ambassador Rashid M. Al-Mulla, and they focused on bilateral relations and aspects of mutual interest.

The visit of H.E. Minister of State had an extensive local media coverage emphasizing the importance of the Minister, and the relevance of his conference and work in the world of today.

Qatar National Sport Day: Promoting a Healthy Lifestyle

As usually, Qatar celebrated this year National Sport Day 2019, a public holiday, which is commemorated every second Tuesday of February; this time was on 12 February. The day is dedicated to sports and fun activities to promote the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle. Different events took place across Doha and in many parts of the world.

In Havana, the Embassy organized a friendly football match with 2 local primary school teams (Vo Thi Thang vs. Cesáreo Fernández), in coordination with the Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation (INDER). H. E. Mr. Antonio E. Becali, President of INDER attended the match along with officials from the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, representatives of the Provincial



H.E. Ambassador Rashid M. Al-Mulla along with the winners of the football match and some "Glories of Sport".

Government, teachers, students from secondary and primary schools, a large number of guests from the diplomatic community, and several distinguished Cuban athletes known as "Glories of Sport".

H.E. the Ambassador opened the game by thanking the Cuban authorities for their cooperation with the Mission to ensure the success of the event, which had an extensive media coverage.



Cuban Hospital Awarded Again!

The Cuban Hospital in Qatar has been awarded for the sixth time with the Golden Category by the Joint

Commission International Accreditation (JCI). Such recognition acknowledges the quality service provided by the Institution regarding the safety and protection of patients.

Joint Commission accreditation and certification is widely recognized as a symbol of quality that reflects the awarded organization's commitment to meeting certain performance standards.

The Cuban Hospital of Dukham has become a center of reference in the Gulf region due to the professional performance of its staff and excellent services. In fact, it has been awarded twice by Press Ganey since its foundation in 2012.

THE GULF'S PULSE

GCC Fails to Discuss Qatar Blockade

The 39th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit ended last December, in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, without any major breakthroughs to resolve a diplomatic crisis that continues to grip the region. Actually, the crisis was not brought up at the annual summit. A delegation headed by Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, represented Doha at the event.



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Edited and Printed by Embassy of the State of Qatar

Havana, 2018



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