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7/8095

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DIŞİŞLERİ BAKANLIĞI
Siyaset Planlama Genel Müdür Yardımcılığı

ÇOK İVEDİ

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Konu : Yazılı Soru Önergesi/Birgen
Keleş

- 9 Kasım 2009

TBMM BAŞKANLIĞINA

İlgi: Başbakanlığa muhatap 04.06.2009 tarih ve KAN.KAR.MD.A.01.0.GNS.0.10.00.02-7/8095-13622/29471 sayılı yazıları.

İstanbul Milletvekili Birgen Keleş'in Sayın Başbakanımıza yönelttiği ve Sayın Başbakanımızca, kendileri adına eşgüdümünde cevaplanması tensip olunan 7/8095 esas numaralı yazılı soru önergesinin yanıtı ilişikte sunulmaktadır.

Saygılarımla arz ederim.



Ahmet DAVUTOĞLU
Dışişleri Bakanı

Ek: 4 sayfa.

**İSTANBUL MİLLETVEKİLİ BİRGEN KELEŞ'İN SAYIN BAŞBAKANIMIZA
YÖNELTİĞİ 7/8095 ESAS NUMARALI YAZILI SORU ÖNERGESİ**

Soru

16 Mayıs 2009 tarihinde Milliyet Gazetesinde yer alan bir habere göre, Güney Kıbrıs Rum Yönetimi lideri Dimitris Hristofyas bir itirafta bulunmuş ve “Çözümünden sonra Türk tarafını adım adım asimile edeceğiz.” demiş. Söz konusu habere göre, Katar Tribune Gazetesine yaptığı bir açıklamada KKTC’de yaşayan Türkiyelilerin ‘Kıbrıs’ vatandaşı olmalarını da kabul etmeyeceklerini söyleyen Hristofyas “Çözüm aşamasında Avrupa Birliğine üyelik çerçevesinde imzaladığımız özel protokolde, birleşik cumhuriyet ve Avrupa Birliği’nin ‘işgal altındaki bölgeyi’ adım adım asimile etme yönünde gerekli önlemleri alacağız.” ifadesine yer vermiştir.

- 1- Bu haber doğru mudur?
- 2- Hristofyas’ın bu açıklamaları karşısında Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Hükümetinin tutumu ne olmuştur
- 3- Hristofyas’ın açıklamaları karşısında KKTC Cumhurbaşkanı’nın sessizliğini onaylıyor musunuz?

Yanıt

Güney Kıbrıs Rum Yönetimi lideri Hristofyas’ın 5-7 Mayıs 2009 tarihlerinde Katar’a yaptığı ziyaret sırasında “Qatar Tribune” gazetesine verdiği ve 14 Mayıs 2009 tarihinde yayınlanan mülakatın kesiti ilişikte sunulmuştur.

İncelenmesinden de görüleceği üzere, Hristofyas, mülakatın bir bölümünde, “AB bağlamında da işgal altındaki bölgenin statüsüyle ilgili bazı sorunlar olduğunu”, “AB’ye üyelik çerçevesinde imzaladıkları Özel Protokol (10. Protokol) kapsamında, çözüm sonrasında Birleşik Cumhuriyet ve AB’nin işgal altındaki bölgeyi adım adım asimile etmek yönünde gerekli tedbirlerin mevcut bulunduğunu” ifade etmiştir.

Anılan ifade, Rum tarafının niyetleri bakımından ifşa edicidir. Bu itibarla, gerektiği gibi dikkate alınmaktadır.

Öte yandan, Türkiye Cumhuriyeti, malumları olduğu üzere, Rum yönetiminin muhatabının Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti (KKTC) olduğu görüşündedir.

KKTC Cumhurbaşkanı Sayın Talat, Kıbrıs’ta adil, kapsamlı ve kalıcı bir çözümün ilkelerinin belli olduğunu, bu bağlamda Birleşmiş Milletler’in (BM) yerleşik parametreleri doğrultusunda iki kesimlilik, siyasi eşitlik, eşit statüde iki Kurucu Devleti içeren yeni bir Ortaklığın esas alındığını, varılacak çözümün AB içinde hukuki güvenlik ve kesinliğinin teminat altına alınmasının zorunlu olduğunu çeşitli vesilelerle vurgulamaktadır.

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anti-smoking campaign

Verizon, Frontier sign
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skinny diet

Grosjean, Petrov win
for Barwa team

Nation 17 Business 25 Chill Out 33 Sports 41

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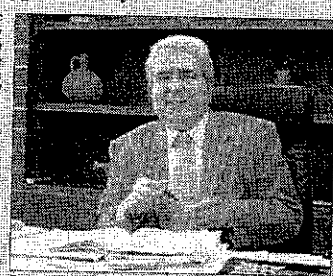


The Deputy Emir and His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani with the Netherlands Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen in Doha on Wednesday.

'Doha looks like Manhattan with its heritage intact'

I am proud that the Emir has accepted my invite to visit Cyprus this year: Christofias

The President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Demetris Christofias, was in Doha recently. In an exclusive interview with Qatar Tribune's Editor Ajit Kumar Jha, and correspondent Jai Narain Pandey, the Cyprus President talked about the increasing friendship between Qatar and Cyprus and the problems facing peace negotiations between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots. Excerpts:



Q: Since this is your first visit to Qatar, what do you think of this country?

A: Qatar is performing miracles on land reclaimed from the sea. Qatar has created a wonderful fashionable city in Doha. It looks like Manhattan. Like that, even with such modernisation, Qatar has maintained its classical architecture in several buildings. That is what reminds all of us of the country's ancient heritage. I am delighted to be here.

Republic of Cyprus President His Excellency Demetris Christofias in Doha recently.

The church in Cyprus is the highest owner of property. In Cyprus, we are a secular state. We have to respect that.

As a Qatari investor, why should I invest in Cyprus?

In Cyprus, you have a very favourable tax system, one of the lowest rates in Europe. Corporate tax rates are as low as 10 percent. Most of the other European countries do not have such a low rate. We are not contrary to the United Nations. Cyprus is a crossing point in the region, a hub between Asia and Europe. It is a very good place for services, sectors, not only for Cypriots but also for Africans.

Exclusive

What were the highlights of the meeting with the Qatari authorities regarding relations between the two countries?

I am grateful to the Emir His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani for inviting me here. He was very kind to me. He is a very open-hearted human being. Politically, we examined the Cyprus problem. We came to a common conclusion that the Cyprus problem must be solved under the UN auspices based on its resolutions. Qatar is the first country in the region with which we have established diplomatic relations. I am proud to be the first president of the Republic of Cyprus to visit the country. I am twice proud that HH the Emir has accepted my invitation to visit Cyprus this year. Doha will be a landmark soon. We have a common position towards the Palestinian problem. I am a friend of the Arab people. There has been a lighter for justice for Palestinians.

T: There is already some investment by Qatar in Cyprus. There is a proposal from Qatar to build a seven-star hotel in the middle of Nicosia.

— Cyprus President Mr. Demetris Christofias.

Asians and Europeans. Cyprus has a vision to become a bridge for peace among the neighbouring countries and the EU nations.

In an April 2007 interview with Qatar Tribune in Nicosia, you had said that since you are a personal friend of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus President Mehmet Ali Talat, if you became the president of Cyprus, the problem of partition of Cyprus would be resolved once and for all. You became the president of Cyprus on 28th February 2008. Despite long peace negotiations the partition still continues. True, the reunification of Cyprus is my will and my vision. The credit, of course, must also go to Talat as he has the same will and the same vision. If we cannot resolve the problems of partition of Cyprus, I wonder who else can ensure the resolution of this historic problem. Fortunately, we have the goodwill of all the Cyprus-Greek citizens and the Turkish Cypriots—for the ultimate resolution. We share a

With one or two parliamentarians will be within the framework of the federation as well. But when they speak about two sovereign states, it is a confederation, not a federation. This is unacceptable to us. This is totally contrary to the high-level agreements between the then Cypriot president Archbishop Makarios III and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktas, or former Cypriot president, Spyros Kyprianou and Denktas.

Since the Turkish Cypriots are in a minority, they must be opposed to the idea of a federation. They perhaps fear the problem associated with the imposition of the majority will on the minority? We never put the condition for a federation. These had been adopted and endorsed in all the UN Security Council resolutions. We simply recommended them to Talat during negotiations. The idea of a

Continued on page 16 See also page 24

DSM surges 4.5 percent to 6709 points

QATAR TRIBUNE'S KISHORE

Doha: Reversing the initial slide of two days, Qatar's main index on Wednesday surged 4.51 percent on strong buying support by retail and individual investors.

The Doha Securities Market (DSM) 20 stock benchmark index jumped 4.51 percent or 299.77 points to 6,709, the highest level since January 5.

Industries Qatar surged nearly five percent to 110.10, the highest level in over six months, as the analysts say of price rebound is likely to boost the company's earnings.

"Qatar market went down on speculation. Our company is among the best diversified and this should be reflected on the stock market," Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) Chairman HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassem bin Mohammed al Thani told Qatar Tribune on Monday.

He said a rebound in oil prices would definitely have a positive impact on the Qatari economy. Crude oil prices surged to \$60.08 a barrel in the intra-day trading on Tuesday.

Qatar's benchmark index that tracks trading of 20 most liquid and diversified scrips listed at the DSM, has surged 5.85 percent since the March 4 low of 4,232. The index is now only 2.5 percent down from the beginning of the year.

Barwa Real Estate Company surged 5.06 percent to 32.90 after the company executives said all its projects were on track. "Works are going on as planned in all the projects that we have announced so far. There is no delay or suspension of work," Youssef Mohammed al Hor, president of strategy and investment at Barwa Real Estate Company told Qatar Tribune on Tuesday.

QInvest ready for diversification

\$250mn private equity fund soon

AMITABH JHA



QInvest's Chief Executive Officer Shahbaz

Doha: QInvest is to increase its presence in the financial sector by making foray into brokerage and wealth management fields.

"We are quite interested in developing brokerage services and private trust management," said Shahbaz Shahbaz, chief executive officer of Qatar's largest investment bank, which also happens to be an Islamic investment bank.

Exclusive

He disclosed that the bank, which has an authorised capital of US\$1 billion and a paid-up capital of US\$500 million, was "looking at a number of other initiatives around funds".

"We will probably be announcing in the next couple of weeks a private equity fund which will invest in this region

and we are also looking at a sector specific fund. In addition to these, we have two other fund initiatives which we hope to announce in the third quarter," he told Qatar Tribune on the sidelines of the Qatar Global Investment Forum.

Asked about the size of the funds, he said, "The size of the private equity fund will probably be in the region of \$250 million to start with. But we have not finalised the size of other funds".

He further said the funds would be invested in the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, Turkey, Malaysia and Indonesia.

In response to another question on the total volume of money intended to be invested through these funds, he said, "We do not have a fixed target for total investment in the region. In fact, it would depend on the opportunities available".

Regarding investment prospects in Qatar, he said they were very good. "The country's economy is still moving ahead. It is among the few countries in the world which are going to grow at a steady rate during this year. Besides the government has been very supportive towards the economy," he said.

He also said investment prospects in the entire Gulf region were by and large good. "The region will recover much faster than the rest of the world because the fundamentals here are strong. Due to the financial crisis and global problems,

Continued on page 16

HH THE EMIR CUP

Gharrafa to meet Rayyan in final

ARJUN RAM



Rayyan Sports Club hat-trick scorer Amara Diane (right) and Qusai Muneer Abdul of Qatar Sports Club vie for the ball during the semi-final of HH the Emir Cup in Doha on Wednesday. (JAMSHID S. JAGANNATHAN)

Doha: Gharrafa Sports Club will meet Al Rayyan Sports Club in the HH the Emir Cup final at the Khalifa Stadium on Saturday.

Both the teams owe their berths in the final to their goalkeepers, as both the matches were decided by tie-breakers at Sadd Stadium on Wednesday.

In the first semi-final, Rayyan beat Qatar Sports Club (QSC) 7-5. The match between the two teams ended in a 3-3 draw after the 90 minutes of regulation and 30 minutes of extra time. In the second semi-final, Qatar Stars League champion Gharrafa edged out Al Sadd Sports Club 9-8 through sudden death as the 120 minutes of play produced a 2-2 draw.

If Amara Diane and goalkeeper Saoud Abdullah al Hajri were the heroes in Al Rayyan Sports Club's march to the final of HH the Emir Cup, Gharrafa owes it to its goalkeeper Qasim Burhan.

Amara kept Rayyan in the match during the regulation and extra times by scoring three goals and al Hajri saved two spot kicks during the tie-break.

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'Doha looks like Manhattan with its heritage intact'

Continued from page 1

... federation does not mean numerical equality between the two sides since we are aware that one community is 80 per cent of the population while the Turkish Cypriots number only 20 per cent. We know of the dangers of one community imposing its will on the other community on issues of governance. There are ways, of course, to solve such a problem. We have discussed them and are open to suggestions.

What are some of the big hurdles on the way to resolution of the problem of partition?

After the recent victory of the Nationalist Party among the Turkish Cypriot community, the situation has become worse for Tait. The main hurdle towards the resolution of the problem is the nationalists in the Turkish Cypriot community. Add to that the expansionist circles in Turkey - the nationalist Turkish politicians and the military. They have criticised Tait for initiating the peaceful negotiations. Only people like Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who want to promote Turkey's accession to the European Union, are not antagonistic to such sections. They realise that Turkey cannot become the member of EU without recognising the Republic of Cyprus. We support Turkey's accession to the EU.

What about the opposition

within Cyprus? The right wing says that you are conceding too much to Turkish Cypriots?

Because, you see, democratically, the right wing party supports my efforts. Of course, within the Republic Party, there are nationalistic and chauvinistic circles. There are some centrists as well who are against the federation.

Cyprus is a member of the EU and Turkey is not. What will happen to the Turkish Cypriots? Will they automatically become EU members after joining Cyprus?

Ipso facto they are already members of EU since they are citizens of the Republic of Cyprus.

But what about Turks who live there?

We will discuss that during the negotiations. It is not possible to accept that 150,000 Turks from Turkey will automatically become citizens of the united Republic of Cyprus. At the moment the Turkish Cypriots are only half of this number living on our island. That means that Turkish Cypriots, outnumbered by the outsiders, will lose their identity. They are Cypriots, different from Turks of Turkey. I have close and friendly relations with Turkish Cypriots since my birth. They don't want the Turks from Turkey to become their masters in the affairs of the island. As far as the EU is concerned, there is a problem with regard to the position of the occupied area. Since we signed the accession treaty with EU there is a Special Protocol which provides that after the resolution, step-by-step, the united Republic and the EU will take necessary measures to assimilate the present occupied part of the united federal republic in the EU.



Cyprus President Demetris Christofias: 'Qatar is the first country in the region with which we have established diplomatic relations'

lem with regard to the position of the occupied area. Since we signed the accession treaty with EU there is a Special Protocol which provides that after the resolution, step-by-step, the united Republic and the EU will take necessary measures to assimilate the present occupied part of the united federal republic in the EU.

What is the Turkish Army's role in the negotiations? Frankly speaking, their presence is a negative. The army does not give the Turkish Cypriots an opportunity to express themselves freely. When I discuss that with Tait, he gets frustrated. Anyway, Turkey could withdraw half of its

troops. The number of national guards is 9,000. There are 40,000 Turkish Army personnel. It is not needed. It does not create goodwill.

The same objection can be raised for Greek troops or the British bases in Cyprus.

Yes, in reaching a solution, we do not need the presence of foreign armies, be it Greek, Turkish or English (in their bases). But surely this is not the time to discuss the agenda of the British base. We cannot open different issues at the same time. Our children will be solving these problems.

What about the relationship

of Cyprus with Lebanon?

Lebanon is a lost friend of Cyprus. We have exchanges in all sectors. If we have fire in Cyprus, they send us the firefighters. If they have some problem, we try to help them. We helped them during the 2007 crisis. We have decided to exchange official visits. We appreciate Qatar's role in diplomatic reconciliation in Lebanon.

How has the present economic recession affected Cyprus?

It has had some impact since we are part and parcel of globalisation. But, Cyprus shows positive results towards development because we introduced

certain safety measures. Our banking system is relatively stable since they do not invest in toxic products. We took measures to minimise the effect of the crisis on tourism. We expected a 4 per cent annual growth in the GDP.

In reality, it has reduced to between 0.5 per cent and 1 per cent. Given that there are EU countries which are facing 4-5 per cent negative growth, we have not performed badly. My government is committed to minimising the effect of the global crisis on the national economy.

In 2007, the construction sector in Cyprus was booming, attracting a large number of foreign investors to Larnaca and its other coastal cities. How are foreign investors looking at Cyprus?

The buyers are more reserved about investments today. They are not buying. As a result prices have come down.

Will it be a big attraction for Qatar investors to invest in Cyprus since the prices have come down?

It's good time to invest. We have to look forward. People investing today are lucky than those who invested in 2007.

Cyprus switched from the Cypriot pound to the euro right before the global economic crisis hit. Mnesia. What impact did the double adjustment have on Cyprus economy?

The world will soon recognise that the global economic crisis is not a disaster but a saviour of humanity. Social justice and peace are pre-conditions for a bright future of the world.

The switching to euro has had a positive impact on Cyprus because euro is a stable currency. We have, however, faced some other problems. We had a severe drought and we were forced to buy water bottles from Greece worth 60 million euros. We could have invested that amount in the social sector. In agriculture, we had to help farmers with 70 million euros, which was not within our regular plans. Such factors have had some negative impact.

Do you have any plans to import gas from Qatar?

We don't rule out the possibility. The minister in-charge will discuss this issue with his Qatari counterpart.

Capitalism today faces a massive economic crisis. Do you think that will spur the world to go back to left-wing and progressive ideas?

If they don't go to these progressive ideas, the future will be bleak. Extreme positions, like unregulated markets full of anarchy, have failed. One must not fear to implement progressive Marxist ideas. In Cyprus, we try to find a middle ground between private and public sector and cooperative sector as well. This is the secret of our success.

The world will soon recognise that the global economic crisis is not a disaster but a saviour of humanity. Social justice and peace are pre-conditions for a bright future of the world.

Row over 93 Afghan kids' death in US strike

REUTERS

KABUL. Ninety-three children and 25 adult women are among a list of 140 names of Afghans who villagers say were killed in a battle and US air strikes last week, causing a crisis between Washington and its Afghan allies.

The list, obtained by Reuters, bears the endorsement of seven senior provincial and central government officials, including an Afghan two-star general who headed a task force dispatched by the government to investigate the incident.

Titled 'List of the martyrs of the bombardment of Bala Bolk district of Farah Province', it includes the name, age and father's name of each alleged victim. The youngest was listed as 8-day-old baby Sayed Musa, son of Sayed Adam. Fifty-three victims were girls under the age of 18 and 40 were boys. Only 22 were men 18 or older.

The US military continues to dispute the toll and a military spokesman said some of the

names could be fake.

The dispute over the number of dead has worsened tension between Washington and Kabul, despite apologies President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made during a visit to Washington by President Hamid Karzai last week.

The Afghan government has endorsed the list, and Karzai went on US television to call for an end to all US air strikes, only to be rebuffed by Washington. Afghan officials say the issue helps insurgents by turning the public against foreign forces.

Since last year, US officials adopted new procedures for investigations of civilian casualties designed to ensure their statements agree with those of the Afghan government.

Nevertheless, Washington has continued to dispute the death toll. US military spokesman Colonel Greg Julian said villagers had an incentive to invent names of dead relatives in the hope of collecting

compensation.

"Well I could give you 140 names too. The problem is there is no evidence of that number of graves. Are those real people? Did they ever actually exist? Can you give a list of 53 girls names with their ages," he said. "There are no birth certificates and there are no death certificates."

"Conditions exist that encourage exaggeration," Julian added.

"If you say that the Taliban killed your family you'd get nothing. If you say the Americans killed your family, you might get assistance, whether they existed or not."

Julian said investigators had been shown 26 individual graves at the site and one mass grave, which he said was not large enough to contain so many bodies. He estimated the overall toll could not exceed 80.

Because of cultural sensitivity, there were no plans to dig up the graves to determine how many were buried inside, he said. The US military blames the Taliban for causing the

deaths deliberately by herding civilians into houses it knew would be targeted by US troops sent to rescue Afghan police and soldiers from an ambush. It also says the Taliban may have killed some of the villagers with grenades.

"Don't forget about who is responsible for this whole thing. This was a deliberate plan to create human sacrifices and then blame us," Julian said.

Karzai told CNN last week that Washington needs to rely on other tactics besides air strikes when it is facing Taliban fighters in villages where civilians might be present.

"The air strikes are not acceptable," Karzai said. "Terrorism is not in Afghan villages, not in Afghan homes. And you cannot defeat terrorists by air strikes."

But White House National Security Adviser James Jones said on Sunday that US forces need air power to protect themselves. "We can't fight with one hand tied behind our back"



Younis Mahmoud Khalaf of Gharrafa Sports Club (centre) is challenged by Mohd Rabbiah (left) and Nasser Nabil Khamis of Al Sadd Sports Club for the possession of ball during the semifinal of Emir Cup at Sadd Stadium in Doha on Wednesday. HANSON K JOSEPH

Qtel launches new collect call service for mobile phone users

FINANCIAL NEWS NETWORK

Doha. Qtel launched an innovative new service for Qatar customers, on Wednesday, which enables people to make collect calls to other mobile customers.

The collect call service has been designed so that customers with low or zero credit can make direct voice contact with Hala or Shafay customers in Qatar. In particular, Qtel's customer research showed that parents wanted a collect call service for their children, so that they can always call home who they need to, irrespective of their credit balance.

With a collect call, the recipient receives a voice message, asking them if they are happy to accept the call. If they accept it, they select to pay for the cost of the call, which will be available at the standard rate of QR55 per minute. As an additional benefit, the

The collect call service has been designed so that customers with low or zero credit can make direct voice contact with Hala or Shafay customers in Qatar.

collect call service will enable customers to receive calls from accepted callers and block out their unacceptable callers, so that they are in full control of who they receive collect call requests from.

The collect call service is the latest in a wave of new innovations for Hala customers, which is Qatar's most popular communications service. Qtel's Executive Director (Group Communications) Aidel Al Muttawa said: 'Collect calls are an important new

option for Hala customers who can use it to stay in touch even when they are low on credit. We believe the addition of the collect call service will help to reassure people that their loved ones will always be able to stay in touch, even when they run out of credit.'

To request a collect call, customers can simply dial the prefix '102' callers number followed by the 4 and press OK. The call can also be requested via the My Services menu, by dialing '100'.

The collect call service has been designed to complement the range of new mobile services launched by Qtel in 2008, including 'Call Me Back', 'Call Back Roaming' and 'My Services Menu'. In particular, collect call works to complement the popular 'Call Me Back' service, which enables customers to send a 'Call Me Back' text regardless of their credit.

'Al Qaeda's No 2 hiding in Pakistan'

LANS

WASHINGTON. Al Qaeda's second-in-command Ayman al-Zawahiri, who is on the run with \$25 million bounty on his head, is hiding near Quetta in southwest Pakistan, a media report said. Al-Zawahiri is considered a master of disguise and meticulous planner of the al Qaeda terrorist network.

The Egyptian-born radical runs freely in the border areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Washington Times said on Tuesday citing Pakistani intelligence officials, who shared their knowledge of al Zawahiri's location with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Al Zawahiri's recent movements have been tracked with some specificity. He was positively identified in North Waziristan in June 2008, and the locations where he conducted high-level meetings have also been established, the report said.

However, subsequent US drone attacks forced him to move to South Waziristan in August 2008.

Gharrafa to meet Rayyan in final

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great reflexes during the match.

Al Hajri gave Rayyan the advantage during the tie-break by saving the very first QSC shot taken by Roger Flores, who otherwise was the hero for QSC during the match. Al Hajri again showed good reflexes when he saved the shot of Youssef Salhi.

With the two-goal lead, all that the Rayyan players had to do was to ensure that their next two shots landed safely in the QSC net. And Amra Diane and Eder Gutierrez Silveria did exactly that. Marcelo Zavares and Saoud Khamis were the other scorers for Rayyan during the tie-break. Sebastian Sorla and Marcelo Jose were the only scorers for the QSC during the tie-break.

The match of ever-fluctuating fortune between Gharrafa and Al Sadd entered the tie-break stage after Khalifa Ayyil al Noudali of Sadd scored the equaliser in the 29th minute of extra time. Earlier, Felipe Jorge of Sadd had missed out a penalty in the 2nd

The match of ever-fluctuating fortune between Gharrafa and Al Sadd entered the tie-break stage after Khalifa of Sadd scored the equaliser in 29th minute of extra time.

minute of extra time. Burhan meanwhile wrested the initiative for Gharrafa in the very first stroke of tie-break when he fired out a shot from Ismael Mathar, whom Sadd had taken on short-term loan from a UAE club.

Mohd Saqr Ahmed drew parity for Sadd during the fourth kick by deflecting a shot from Bilal Mohamed. Shot 7 of the tie-break saw both Hassan Khalid of Sadd and Mohamed Hajj Farnal of Rayyan missing the target.

With sudden death coming into play, Jafar Reehid al Kuwari missed the shot 9 of Sadd and Anas Mubarak Nasib of Gharrafa, coming next, did just what the doctor prescribed for Gharrafa.

Qinvest ready for diversification

Continued from page 1

this region has, perhaps, been less impacted," he said. He identified Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi as places with most promising investment prospects in the region after Qatar at this point of time. He, however, advised 'selective' investment.

When asked about Qinvest's two existing lines of business, including the investment business and the more traditional activity of arranging finance and providing advice to companies, he said both of them were doing well.

In the investment line, "We invest our own capital and create our own products which are either funds or specific transactions. We also bring co-investors to invest with us. Our other activity is arranging finance and providing advice to companies, which need funds for merger or creating new projects or planning to work on other initiatives where we work with them to arrange money for the project and above all advising them."



Cyprus President Demetris Christofias with the First Lady Elsi Christofias in Doha, recently.



Qatar Tribune's Editor AJR Kumar Jha (centre) with the Cyprus president. Also seen in the picture is correspondent Jai Narain Pandey.

'Qatar, Cyprus to exchange visits of players, coaches'

The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) and the Cyprus Olympic Committee (COC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) recently for greater bilateral cooperation in the field of sports. COC Secretary-General Gen. Charalambos Lottas, who was in Doha as part of the delegation of Cyprus President Demetris Christofias, talked to Qatar Tribune's Jai Narain Pandey about the areas of cooperation and future plans of the COC. Excerpts:

Q: What was the highlight of your talks with QOC officials?

A: We have made a very good beginning. We signed a MoU for cooperation in the field of sports.

What are the main features of the MoU?
We agreed to exchange visits of players and coaches, besides holding seminars regarding sports.

Which are the main sport disciplines in which Qatar can support Cyprus?

Qatar is very good in football and it has a quality team in handball. In addition to these two disciplines, I hope we can cooperate with each other in volleyball, basketball, athletics and high jump.



Gen. Charalambos Lottas

Interview

Which are the sports in which Cyprus is good at?

We are proud to have Marcos Baghdatis, a tennis player. He was the runner-up in 2006 Australian Open. We have many talented tennis players. Our shooters are also very good. In Beijing Olympics, we finished in the top 10. We have an equally good high jump and swimming athletes.

How good is the infrastructure in Cyprus?

Infrastructure in my country is excellent and that is the reason why we have good shooters, high jumpers and swimmers. We have modern stadiums equipped with latest technology.

Qatar has hired good coaches to promote its sports. Do you have any such plan?

We have also hired foreign coaches but I do not agree with this trend. This is not good for sports.

Most of the countries are hiring foreign players for their national teams. Do you like this idea?

I am personally against this. We should promote our own players and groom them to become national and international heroes.

Has any country tried to poach any Cypriot player?

Yes, many. Greece has wooed away many of our football players. Our boys are also playing for Germany and France.

Besides Marcos Baghdatis, are there any tennis players who have the potential to make it to the top?

We have very good players at the

junior level who have the talent to make it big in tennis.

What is the expectation of Cyprus from the next Olympics?
At least one medal in any discipline.

What is your government's plan to promote sports and develop infrastructure?

We have about 40 sport federations. The government gives money to all of them.

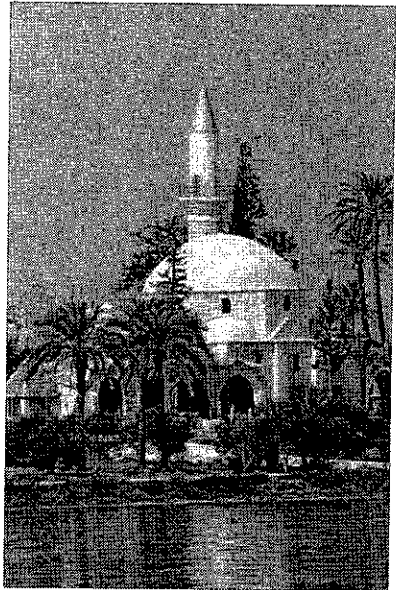
How much is the budgetary allocation for sports in Cyprus?
Not much. We don't get more than 5 percent.

Cyprus has beautiful beaches. What about water and sea sports?
We have beach volleyball and handball teams. We have started water polo and deep sea diving, besides scuba diving.

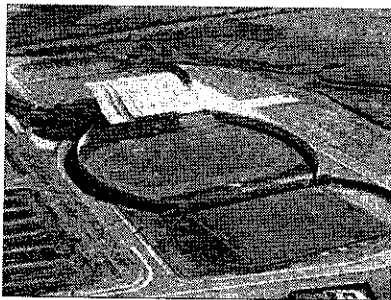
Any plan to host international events in the near future?
In June, we will host the XIIIth Games of Small States of Europe in which countries like Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco and San Marino, besides Cyprus, will be participating. In future, we are keen to organise Commonwealth Games and European Games.



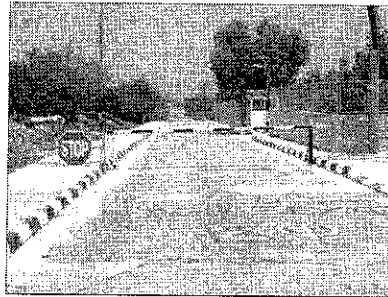
Cypriot Ambassador HE Panicos Kyriacou with his wife Annita Kyriacou.



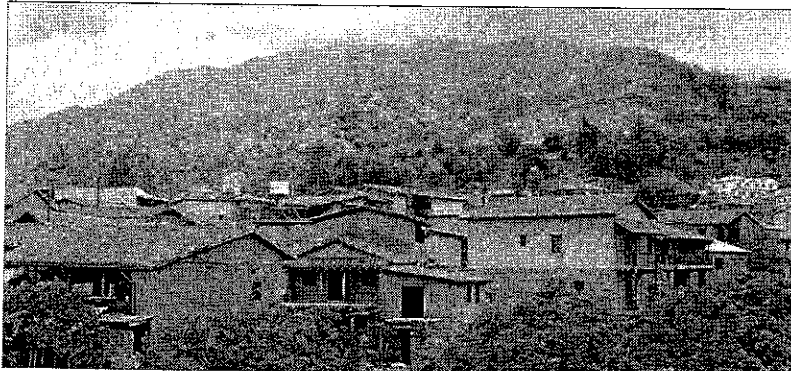
The Haia Sultan Tekke near Larnaca town.



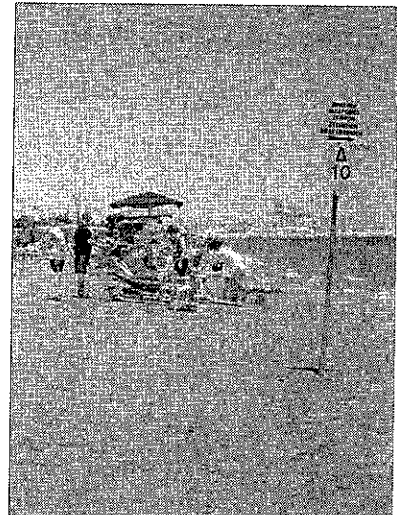
The stadium of Nicosia Gymnastics Club.



The Cyprus border with the 'occupied territory' under Turkish control.



A village on the foothills of Troodos Mountain.



A beach in Larnaca.