

RAF helps 1,000 Qatari youth to get married

'AFAF' initiative finances weddings and achieves the target in seven years

The Peninsula

DOHA: In the past seven years, Sheikh Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation for Humanitarian Services (RAF) has financed the wedding of 1,000 Qatari youth, achieving its target.

For the seventh year in a row and as part of the concluding phase of its community marriage initiative, called

"AFAF", 140 youth were selected to tie the knot.

The beneficiaries were provided with financial support and encouraged to attend mandatory pre-marriage counselling to help them have a stable marriage and curb the rising divorce rate in the country.

Registration for the last and final edition of the programme was held between October 25 and December 24, 2015.

The requirements for registration were that the couple had to be Qatari and had to get married within six months.

An additional condition was that the man was getting married for the first time.

The man's salary certificate for the past six months supported by a bank statement was also required.

The programme aimed to facilitate Qatari youth to get married.

Experts are being approached to educate the beneficiaries about how to lead a happy and stable married life.

A week-long awareness programme will be held for the youth selected for the wedding programme.

Experts will deliver lectures on psychological, health and religious and other issues.

AFAF is one of the successful initiatives launched by RAF in the country, said Ahmad bin Mohammed Al Bu Aynain, Head of the project.

This is a national programme in which Qatari youth are targeted as beneficiaries as they are key elements of the community, he added.

The community develops with the youth, he added.



Officials at the concluding event.

The seventh addition of the community marriage programme will achieve the goal set by RAF at the launch ceremony seven years ago, said Al Bu Aynain.

In past six editions, 860 youth were supported to get married. Efforts were made to ensure that the initiative was successful by enabling Qatari youth to make a family

and lead a prosperous social life with mutual understanding and contribute to the development of the Qatari community in its various aspects, said Al Bu Aynain.

Oil 'prices are related more to political decisions'

By Mohamed Osman
The Peninsula

DOHA: Oil prices are related more to political decisions rather than supply and demand.

How could the price of such a strategic commodity come down five times within a short time despite increasing world population and growing demands? wonders Dr Talal Abu Ghazaleh, Chairman, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organisation (TAG-ORG).

"Oil experts think that oil prices depend on supply and demand" but I do not agree with this viewpoint because oil is a strategic commodity which is not included in international conventions which are part of World Trade Organisation (WTO) treaties," Abu-Ghazaleh argues.

He told a press conference here yesterday that oil was not part of any world trade negotiation but as a strategic matter left for countries to take a suitable decision according to political

interests, and not based on demand or supply.

Oil prices can rise any time if it serves the political interests of a super-power concerned. The situation today is quite similar to the one witnessed in the mid-eighties (1985-86) when the then Soviet Union was engaged in a war in Afghanistan and oil prices dropped to \$10 a barrel.

Today, Russia is involved in an ongoing war in Syria and oil prices will recover when the powers concerned agree to settle the dispute about Syria, said Abu Ghazaleh.

"I'm not pessimistic about the decline in the oil prices, because oil is a strategic commodity which can be produced at any time in the future and its industrial value is much higher than its use as fuel," argued Abu Ghazaleh.

Although the drop in oil prices causes short-term harms and confusion in countries heavily dependent on oil revenues, such as the GCC states, the underground commodity will stay there and be used at any time in the long- or short-term and may rule at



Dr Talal Abu Ghazaleh, Chairman, TAG-ORG, addressing a press conference at Crowne Plaza Doha yesterday. Pic: Kammuttery / The Peninsula

satisfactory price levels.

These countries must take decisions that treat oil as an addition material and not the sole basic source of income. The development process should continue without oil and it is an opportunity to reconsider the situation beyond the oil revenues, said Abu Ghazaleh.

Abu Ghazaleh was among 10 Arab personalities who were honoured in a special ceremony in Cairo recently, by Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to Egypt, for their role in enhancing Sino-Arab relations.

The Chinese initiative was considered the first of its kind. The TAG-ORG is the largest global group of professional service firms.

Woqod opens petrol station in Sawda Natheel on Salwa Road

The Peninsula

DOHA: In line with its commitment to meet the fuel and energy needs of Qatar and as part of the company's ongoing expansion plans to grow its network of service stations locally, Qatar Fuel (Woqod) has opened its 32nd service station – in Sawda Natheel area on Salwa Road.

Under the patronage of Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Chairman, Woqod, the new petrol

station was opened by Engineer Ibrahim Jaham Al Kuwari.

The petrol station is spread over an area of about 10,000 square metres and has six lanes that will serve the neighbourhoods of Sawda Natheel.

It will offer round-the-clock services, including Sidra convenience store, Kenar shops, auto wash and repair and sale of LPG cylinders.

Speaking on the occasion, Al Kuwari said: "The new opening reflects our ambitious plans to expand our network and accessibility within Qatar to meet the growing needs of the local

market. "It also reflects our goal to ensure that high quality products and services are available to our customers at their convenience across the country," he added.

This is the first new opening completed by Woqod this year.

The petrol station is equipped with high-speed dispenser for diesel for heavy vehicles.

Seventeen petrol station are under construction and six in tendering and design stages.

Most of these projects are expected to be operational this year.



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