

Volume

Din Hasned Al Maktoum bought camels... worth 16.5 million dirhams (4.49 million dollars), including a female camel... for 10 million dirhams (2.72 million dollars)," Hamad bin Kardoum Al Amri said.

Amiri, quoted by the official WAM news agency, made the remarks on the sidelines of the nine-day beauty pageant which opened on Wednesday last in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi.

More than 10,000 camels - including females which are the fastest racing camels - from across the Gulf are competing for prize money totalling around 9.5 million dollars. One hundred cars are also up for grabs.

200 fils, Wednesday, April 9, 2008 / Rabi Al Chani 3, 1429

FTA round the corner

'Common market will serve as catalyst for the agreement'

Early this year is a big positive sign for the FTA. The FTA, in turn, will further contribute to this vital economic integration of the GCC states," he said.

He, however, refused to give a date for the signing.

The signing is not about a few sessions and a signing ceremony. It has been an extremely complex and difficult exercise for all countries and a myriad of issues from time to time. But, this will be a pioneering trade agreement that ensures a win-win situation for all parties. And that is primarily the objective of the FTA," he said.

In 2007, the Sweden's Minister for Economic Affairs, Ewa Björklind said the FTA was signed in the spring of 2008.

The sides had committed to enter into negotiations on the FTA based on the EU-GCC Cooperation Agreement. The negotiations were initiated in 1990 but relegated to the backburner until 1999 when the GCC made its decision to create a

Customs Union by March 2005.

It was later advanced to 2003 at the GCC Summit held in Muscat in December 2001. "It is only after this that negotiations moved into top gear and a much more serious tone," he said.

The GCC, he said, was a strategic 'partner and neighbour' to the EU, which believed that regional integration of GCC nations was crucial for the political and economic stability in the region.

A foolproof framework for investments, public contracts, goods and services was vital to the GCC-EU FTA. While big players from the European Union were already present here, it was the Small and Medium Enterprises that were bound to be the growth engines of the FTA, generating not only mutual investments and revenue but also becoming the main source of employment in the Gulf region.

"In fact, the GCC and European Union were already major trading partners and discussions will be continuous and permanent to ensure that both sides derived the best from the FTA," he said.

Woman in space

Against a clear blue sky from Baikonur cosmodrome, the Korean space official's mother, Jung Kum Sun, let out a piercing scream and fell to the ground before being led away by doctors.

Korean space officials said the 57-year-old later recovered, explaining that she had collapsed briefly because she was "very worried."

A few minutes after the launch, Russian space officials confirmed the Soyuz spacecraft with three cosmonauts on board had successfully reached orbit.



Yi So-yeon ... thumbs up



ANOTHER FIRST: The turbines in motion.

Wind power

BWTC adds another feather to Kingdom's cap

Mahmood Rafique
Business Correspondent

The Kingdom set a new benchmark in environmental architecture yesterday with the inauguration of the world's first integrated wind turbines at the Bahrain World Trade Centre (BWTC).

The three turbine blades measuring 29 metres mounted between the two towers of the Kingdom's landmark project made history when they were operated yesterday, in the

presence of top officials. The turbines are the world's first to be integrated into a commercial development, and is expected to generate power to take care of the twin towers' needs to the extent of 15 per cent when fully operational.

The successful installation of the turbines involved collaboration between Atkins Architects and Engineers and Norwin turbine specialists, who were in Bahrain for the inaugural function.

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World's first integrated wind turbines unvei

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As well as the twin office towers the BWTC incorporates a high end boutique shopping centre, Moda Mall, along with a five-star Sheraton Hotel.

Ole Sangill, Managing Partner of turbine specialists Norwin who have been involved with the project from conception, was present throughout the installation process and at the inauguration, and said: "This was of course a first for Norwin as it was for the real estate world, and we truly have pushed the boundaries of environmental architecture with this project. It is a testament to Bahrain that private developers are investing in sustainability and pioneering design, which is certainly the future of architecture as it shapes the planet in years to come."

Simha Lythe Rao Atkins Project Manager said that the use of established technologies, including type-tested turbines with minimal modifications ensured that the additional cost incurred by incorporating turbines into the project was reduced to around 3.5 per cent of the overall project value, making it not only an environmental-



PIONEERING DESIGN: Ole Sangill (left), managing partner of turbine specialists Norwin, Duaj Al Rumahi (centre) from DTZ Bahrain, with Simha Lythero of Atkins during the launch of the new wind turbines installations at the Bahrain World Trade Centre (BWTC) in Manama.

ly responsible but also a financially

He also explained how the elliptical towers act as aerofoils, funneling and increasing wind velocity between them, and unobstructed prevailing onshore breeze from the adjacent Gulf coast to provide a renewable energy for the building.

The incorporation of large-scale turbines in a building is a world first. During the next 18 months the turbines will therefore undergo analysis and optimization by Norwin to determine their actual electricity generation potential. The turbines are expected to operate approximately 80 per cent of the time.

The project has also been the recipient of national acclaim for its commitment to sustainable development, being awarded LEA for 'Best Use of Technology within a Building' and recently the Arab Construction 'Sustainable Design Award'. The project aims to recognise the achievements of developers and provide a reason d'être is environmental performance improvement, and provide public recognition to individuals and companies who have achieved the highest standards within the design and construction industry.

BIJU HARIDAS