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Land allotted to first private fish farming project

The Peninsula

Qatar has launched first private sector pisciculture project to produce fish with a capacity of 2,000 tonnes per year.

The Ministerial Group for the Encouragement and Participation of the Private Sector in the Economic Development Projects of the State, chaired by Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, announced the launch of the pisciculture project.

The Assistant Undersecretary for Agriculture and Fisheries Affairs at the Ministry of Municipalities and Environment Sheikh Dr Falih bin Nasser Al Thani yesterday said a national company from private sector has been selected to run the first fish farming project.

The company won the bid for which a group of investors competed. It has also been granted land in the Industrial Area of Al Shamal so that it can

The company won the bid for which a group of investors competed. It has also been granted land in the Industrial Area of Al Shamal so that it can run its operations.

run its operations. The company will produce 2,000 tonnes of local fish annually for the local market.

Dr Falih pointed out that Qatar's self-sufficiency for fish will increase after implementation of the remaining two projects. The three will increase the fish production in the country to 6,000 tonnes and the entire stock will be supplied to local markets.

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SPU awards PM Honorary Doctorate in Law

Seanle Pacific University (SPU) of the United States has awarded Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani an Honorary Doctorate in Law, with the Prime Minister receiving the certificate in Doha. SPU President Daniel J Martin said the Prime Minister was awarded the honorary doctorate for "his leadership of Qatar" and "commitment to education," expressing his delight to honour him.

The Prime Minister enrolled at SPU during his educational career. He was entrusted with numerous civil service roles ranging from law enforcement to leading security initiatives.

Founded in 1891, SPU aims to equip people with knowledge to engage the culture and change the world. It is the only private university in the Pacific Northwest to make the 2018 US News and World Report Best National Universities list. Its comprehensive academic programmes serve more than 3,700 undergraduate and graduate students.



New MEC guidelines for AC dealers

The Peninsula

The Ministry of Economy and Commerce issued yesterday new guidelines for dealers and agents of air conditioners (ACs) that aim to safeguard consumer rights.

As per the new guidelines, the warranty will be for one year and it will cover spare parts, labour charge, maintenance and

other expenses including gas.

The circular, issued to dealers and agents of ACs, has specified a time limit of 48 hours from the moment of request given by consumers for providing after sales servicing.

According to the conditions set by the Ministry, the warranty of ACs start from the moment of operation or ACs or according to the agreement between the two

parties, but in both cases the warranty must be written and should be given separately from the bill.

Suppliers and retailers are asked to provide details of maintenance and services that they would provide and it should be approved by the consumers.

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Foundation treaty to be signed at Global Dryland Alliance meet

The Peninsula

The Global Dryland Alliance (GDA) Founding Conference will kick-off today in Doha, a day before the World Food Day is celebrated globally and at a time when the challenges of providing food to the growing numbers of the world's population are increasing.

The high-profile event will see the participation of 25 delegations representing countries from the Middle East, North Africa, Sahel, Central Africa, Central and East Asia, and South America and a number of international organisations.

The conference will witness the signing of the foundation treaty of the new organisation, established to face food insecurities in areas with dryland, and will be headquartered in Doha.

GDA is an initiative put forward by Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in a speech at the 68th UN General Assembly in 2013. The GDA foundation treaty was proposed to the countries that supported the initiative during a ministerial conference in Marrakesh on May 29-30, 2015.

The GDA initiative complements the global efforts to guarantee food security for a population of 3 billion in more

than 50 countries around the world. The initiative is of great importance as the world population grows exponentially, with it expected to reach 9 billion by 2050 and as the global temperatures continue to rise and the ongoing threat of climate change making it more difficult to meet the required food needs.

International reports indicate that global food production must increase by 70 percent in 2050 with dryland nations being vulnerable to food crises and will face harsh cycles of drought, desertification, poverty and hunger.

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