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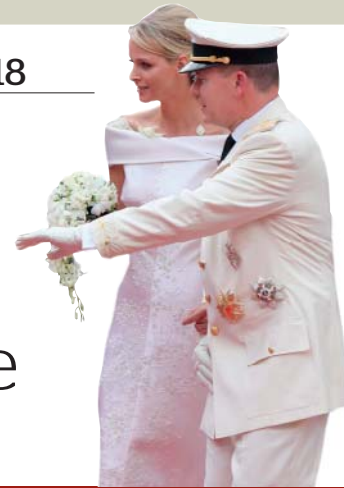
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Greek ban stalls
Gaza-bound flotilla

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Prince
Albert,
Princess
Charlene
say 'I do'



2011

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+1.36%	+0.32%	-0.73%

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GULF TIMES

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In brief

REGION | Healing rifts
Bahrain opens talks on reconciliation

Talks between Bahrain's opposition and pro-government groups began yesterday, aimed at healing deep rifts opened when the state's Sunni rulers crushed protests led by the majority Shia earlier this year. The opposition has expressed doubts about whether the national dialogue, decreed by King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifah, can accomplish anything, noting that it only has 35 of the 300 seats at the bargaining table. Khalifah bin Ahmed al-Dhahrani, chairman of the dialogue and also a speaker of parliament, told the forum: "We start without conditions or limits, our only condition is accepting one another." **Page 9**

ARAB WORLD | Politics
Hezbollah rules out arrests in Hariri case

Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah yesterday ruled out the arrest of four members of his militant group indicted by a UN court for the 2005 assassination of Lebanese former premier Rafiq Hariri. In his first reaction to charges filed by the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL), Nasrallah rejected the verdict along with "each and every void accusation" by the Netherlands-based court, which he said was heading for a trial in absentia. "We reject the Special Tribunal for Lebanon along with each and every void accusation it issues, which to us is equivalent to an attack on Hezbollah," Nasrallah said in an hour-long televised speech.

Kvitova lifts Wimbledon crown



Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic with the championship trophy following her victory over Maria Sharapova of Russia in the women's singles final at Wimbledon in London yesterday. Kvitova stunned favourite Sharapova to win her first Grand Slam title with a 6-3, 6-4 victory in the women's singles final. The 21-year-old eighth seed became only the third Czech woman to triumph at Wimbledon after nine-time champion Martina Navratilova and Jana Novotna. **Page 44**

Qatar is 'perfect for Model Arab League project'

A US-based educational organisation hopes to launch successful and meaningful initiatives in Qatar

By Peter Townsend
Staff Reporter

Qatar's commitment to education and free thought has encouraged the National Council for US-Arab Relations (NCUSAR) to identify it as a major partner for development in the region, according to a senior council official, who explained that the organisation was hoping to implement several programmes specific to the country.

The council is a not-for-profit, non-governmental educational organisation, based in the United States.

NCUSAR runs a number of programmes in the US, designed to educate young people about the Arab world, and to eradicate many of the misconceptions that exist about this part of the world, its people, culture and religion.

The council's vice president, Amy Greenlee, spoke to *Gulf Times* during her most recent visit to Qatar, where she had been meeting with various officials to lay the groundwork for future initiatives here.

The council's flagship project is



Amy Greenlee hopes to introduce programmes in Qatar by next year.

the Model Arab League, similar to the Model United Nations, which encourages high school and university students to learn about various Arab countries and participate in school-wide and then nationwide events.

In the US, some 2,100 students participate in 14 conferences in 11 states, providing children who may not have even left their home state the opportunity to learn about various countries in the Arab world.

Greenlee explained that she would like to see something similar introduced in Qatar, and hopes to see the initiative up and running by the beginning of 2012.

The NCUSAR is also attempting to introduce an internship programme

for students from Qatar, who will be able to travel to the US and work in a variety of institutions.

Greenlee explained that the council currently runs an internship programme, with 35 students in Washington DC coming from all over the world. This year's batch features one student from a Qatari university, but Greenlee said that she would like to see more in the future. She envisions a unique programme for locally based students to visit the US and take part in something similar to the current 10-week programme, and she hopes that this can be launched by the spring of 2012.

To help "lay the groundwork" for the introduction of these programmes, Greenlee has consulted a number of local authorities to gain their support and advice as to how to launch successful and meaningful initiatives here.

And she explained that their response, the initial inspiration from Qatar's leadership and the emphasis on education and unlocking human potential meant that "Qatar is the perfect place to start a Model Arab League."

Greenlee also identified HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser as a great inspiration, and a major figure for the development of US-Arab relations in the future.

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