

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

DIN Hashed 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 Amiri 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 - includ-ing females which are the fasting racing camels - from across the Gulf are competing for prize money totalling around 9.5 million dollars. One hundred cars are also up for

FTA rour ne corner

'Common market will serve s catalyst for the agreement'

early this year is a big positive the FTA. The FTA, in turn, will ther contribute to this vital econie integration of the GCC tes," he said.

He, however, refused to give a or the signing.

is not about a few sessions and ing ceremony. It has been an complex and difficult exercise countries and a myriad issue from time to time. But, this will ly be a pioneering trade agreeensures a win-win situation for arties. And that is primarily the the FTA." he said.

2007, the Sweden's Minister for ade, Ewa Bjoerling said the FTA igned in the spring of 2008.

sides had committed to enter tiations on the FTA based on EU-GCC Cooperation t. The negotiations were initi-90 but relegated to the backill 1999 when the GCC d its decision to create a

Customs Union by March 2005.

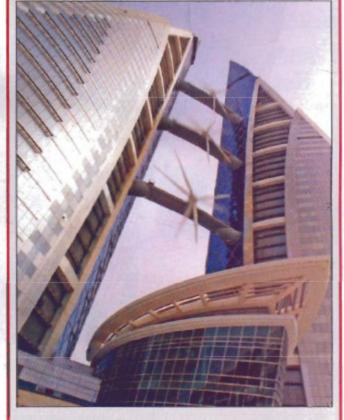
It was later advanced to 2003 at the GCC Summit held in Muscat in December 2001. "It is only after this that negotiations moved into top gear and a much more serious tone," he said.

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.



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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ı in space

ar blue sky from Baikonur cosmodrome, the rean's mother, Jung Kum Sun, let out a piercing eam and fell to the ground before being led away doctors.

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

A few minutes after the launch, Russian space strol confirmed the Soyuz spacecraft with three conauts on board had successfully reached orbit. Yi So-Yeon ... thumbs up



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-



BULL HARIDAS

PIONEERING DESIGN: Ole Sangill (left), managing partner of turbine specialists Norwin, Duaij 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 elliptiers act as aerofoils, funneling and a wind velocity between them, and unobstructed prevailing onshore by adjacent Gulf coast to provide a reneenergy for the building.

The incorporation of large-scale building is a world first. During months the turbines will therefore u analysis and optimization by Norwi their actual electricity generation pol bines are expected to operate approx cent of the time.

The project has also been the reconational acclaim for its commitment development, being awarded LEAI for 'Best Use of Technology within a and recently the Arab Constrest 'Sustainable Design Award'. The recognise the achievements of develoraison d'être is environmental primprovement, and provide public recondividuals and companies who has highest standards within the design a industry.