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IN BRIEF

Shard of Glass construction set to start

The construction of what could be Europe's tallest tower, the Shard of Glass, is to begin after funding from four Qatari-based investors was secured.

The consortium behind the deal said yesterday that Qatar National Bank, Qatar Islamic Bank, Barwa and QInvest had each taken 20pc stakes in the £2bn scheme. Irvine Sellar's Sellar Property Group is the only remaining member of the original consortium.

Gaming boss back

Peter Dicks, the former Sportingbet chairman arrested in the US in September 2006 at the height of its crackdown on internet gambling, is returning to his old job. He will resume the chairmanship on Feb 1. Mr Dicks, 65, was arrested on a warrant from Louisiana state police. Louisiana backed down in March last year and dropped all warrants against him.

Newbury 'no' to bid

Newbury Racecourse has rejected an improved £11.50-a-share final offer from GPG Acquisitions, its biggest shareholder with 20.7pc of the stock. GPG, which launched a hostile bid after a row over a proposed £45m residential development plan, upped its bid by 50p per share, valuing the Berkshire track operator at about £35m. Newbury shares rose 40p to £10.75.

Investbx first float

Investbx, the West Midlands-based online stock exchange, has floated its first company. Teamworks Karting Group, which uses electric karts on its indoor track in Birmingham, has raised £480,000 from individual investors and is offering another £500,000 of shares to retail investors.