

# GULF Daily News

The voice of Bahrain

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WEDNESDAY, 23rd OCTOBER 2013

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■ HRH the Premier receives members of the delegation

## Germany raps media bias about Bahrain

**MANAMA:** A top German delegation yesterday acknowledged Bahrain's secure atmosphere, slamming biased international media for spreading a distorted image of the kingdom.

"The government has created a solid ground for economic work and investments to bounce back," the Arab-German Friendship Association delegation said.

This came as they met His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday.

"The image spread by international media about Bahrain is distorted and detached from reality," they said. They also stressed that they realised the reality of the situation during their visit.

They paid tribute to the Premier

for initiating successful policies that ensured the kingdom's stability.

The Premier discussed with the delegation ways of bolstering Arab-German co-operation, highlighting the importance of promoting understanding with pivotal countries.

"Building bridges of understanding and confidence between Bahrain, the GCC and Arab states and pivotal countries such as Germany has become a necessity dictated by current developments," he said, commending Germany for its supportive stances.

He urged stronger co-operation between the GCC and Germany to seize favourable opportunities and explore untapped trade and economic fields.

He urged Germany to show more political support to match its economic clout as a pivotal country in the world.

"Bolstering political relations would have a positive impact and make economic co-operation stronger," he said.

He stressed the importance of ensuring that Germany understands the Arab situation for political and economic relations so that more joint interests may be achieved.

He reiterated Bahrain's firm resolve to bolster trade and economic relations with Germany, commending the association's role in strengthening ties.

Investment push - Page 24

## Teenager found dead

**MANAMA:** An investigation has been launched after a rioter allegedly died while planting a homemade bomb that blew up in his face in Bani Jamra last night.

The Interior Ministry said the police operations room received an anonymous call informing them of an explosion in the village and a dead body lying at the site.

Probe launched - Page 2

# SAUDI ANGER

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia's intelligence chief has said the kingdom will make a "major shift" in relations with the US in protest at its perceived inaction over Syria and its overtures to Iran.

Prince Bandar bin Sultan told European diplomats that Washington had failed to act effectively on the Syria crisis and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, was growing closer to Tehran, and had failed to back Saudi support for Bahrain when it helped avert an anti-government revolt in 2011, a source close to Saudi intelligence policy said yesterday.

"The shift away from the US is a major one," the source said.

"Saudi doesn't want to find itself any longer in a situation where it is dependent."

The prince's initiative follows a surprise Saudi decision on Friday to reject a coveted two-year term on the UN Security Council in protest at "double standards" at the UN.

"Prince Bandar told diplomats that he plans to limit interaction with the US," the source said.

"This happens after the US failed to take any effective action on Syria and Palestine.

"Relations with the US have been deteriorating for a while, as Saudi feels that the US is growing closer with Iran and the US also failed to support Saudi during the Bahrain uprising."



■ The Palestine National Ensemble for Arabic Music performs at the Cultural Hall last night, as part of the 22nd Bahrain International Music Festival. It played a selection of classics from the likes of Umm Kulthum, Ismahhan, Layla Morad, Sabah Fakhri and Mohamed El Kasabgy as well as its original compositions.

## King to open assembly session

**MANAMA:** His Majesty King Hamad will today inaugurate the National Assembly's fourth session of the third legislative term, at the Isa Cultural Centre.

## WikiLeaks emails shock

**MANAMA:** More than 25,000 emails referencing Bahrain, which were sent by staff of a US intelligence contractor, have been released by WikiLeaks - revealing real concerns over Iran's backing of opposition groups. The emails cover events that unfolded in Bahrain during 2011 unrest.

Full report - Page 5

## Sport stars for Bahrain?

**MANAMA:** Spanish sporting global superstars like Lionel Messi and Rafael Nadal could be inspiring youngsters in Bahrain if a new project

## Bahrain this morning

gets the green light either by the government or private sector - or both. It is the brainchild of Josep Maldonado I Gili, a leading senator, Cataluna's Consultative Sports Council president, former Nato member and a director of Barcelona Football Club Foundation.

Full report - Page 4

## Clamp in riot-hit areas

**MANAMA:** Public property destroyed by vandalism in the Northern Governorate will not be repaired, despite the government agreeing to carry out maintenance work.

Full report - Page 6

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## HRH Crown Prince receives German-Arab Friendship Association

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06 : 53 PM - 22/10/2013



Manama, Oct. 22. (BNA) -- His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Prime Minister received a delegation from the Arab-German Friendship Association (DAFG) Association's Vice Chairman, Professor Rodenstock, today at Riffa Palace with the Transportation and Acting Chief Executive of the Economic Development Board (EDB), His Royal Highness Kamal Ahmed bin Mohammed.

His Royal Highness expressed his gratitude to the Federal Republic of Germany for its efforts to bolster relations with the Arab region, in particular the contribution of German corporations to Bahrain's infrastructure projects and the presence of investment corporations conducting business from Bahrain and using the Kingdom as their platform in the region, benefiting from Bahrain's unique economic strengths.

His Royal Highness praised the advanced level and diversity of areas of investment in both countries, noting the continually growing opportunities for cooperation. His Royal Highness also described the bilateral Bahraini-German leading example of the steadily growing Arab-European relations across the political, economic and cultural spheres, noting the continually growing opportunities for cooperation.

His Royal Highness went on to express his appreciation for the Association's efforts to boost Arab relations, and praised the advanced level of close cooperation relations fostered by His Majesty King Hamad bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and the German leadership through the exchange of official visits, reflecting the desire to strengthen relations.

His Royal Highness further touched on the issues of security and stability in the Middle East, emphasizing the importance of supporting means for peace and stability in the region.

Professor Randolph Rodenstock expressed his gratitude to His Royal Highness for the meeting and fully appreciated the scope of work undertaken by the Arab-German Friendship Association and its objective to strengthen Arab-German relations.

W H Q

BNA 1524 GMT 2013/10/22

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**Do you expect a quick solution to the Syrian crisis ?**

- Yes
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## HRH Premier receives DAFG delegation

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07 : 33 PM - 22/10/2013



Manama, Oct. 22 (BNA)-- His Royal High Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa today the need to boost understanding, cooperation with pivotal countries, like Germany international system.

He was speaking as he received today a delegation the German-Arab Friendship Association (DAFG) discussed with them ways of promoting Arab

coordination.

HRH the Premier said building stronger relations with Germany by Bahrain, the GCC and Arab countries become a necessity dictated by global developments and the German supportive stances. He urged a more comprehensive approach to bolster the GCC-German cooperation and avail of the existing opportunities to promote trade and economic cooperation between both sides. He added that solid economic relations stronger political ones, pointing out the importance of Germany's understanding of the Arab situation.

HRH the Prime Minister underscored strong ties binding Bahrain and Germany and both countries' relations further cement them mainly in the trade and economic fields. He commended the role of DAFG in furthering Arab-German relations and enhancing understanding and cooperation between both sides. He also commended the government's support to the association's role in working out new cooperation formulae at the bilateral Arab levels.

The German delegation asserted that the situation is stable and secure in Bahrain, stressing the false image disseminated by some international mass media. They also praised the successful policies directed by the Prime Minister to foster security and stability.

A O Q

BNA 1645 GMT 2013/10/22

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PIC BY BUJ HARIDAS

Bahrain was infused with the spirit of German National Day celebrations yesterday which took place at the residence of German Ambassador Sabine Taufmann. More than 500 guests, including Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ghanim Al Buainain, Minister of State for Information Affairs and official Government Spokesperson Sameera Rajab, Foreign Affairs Ministry Undersecretary, Abdulla Abdullatif Abdulla participated in the event. The celebrations highlighted the 'Day of German Unity' and a visiting German trade delegation was also part of the memorable occasion. Above, Ms. Taufmann cutting the cake, in the presence of Ms. Rajab and other top officials and guests.

## Neil Ruddock dinner

A few tickets are still available for tomorrow evening's Neil 'Razor' Ruddock Sportsman's Dinner at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Residence and Spa from 8.30pm.

The event is open to both male and female football fans alike and is expected to be attended by around 350 according to organisers.

It promises to be a hilarious evening as the audience listens to the former professional footballer and reality TV star give a humorous speech and share many anecdotes, some controversial in a career which spanned 17 years.

The evening will include an auction of memorabilia which has arrived in Bahrain of signed, certificated authenticated shirts of Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Wayne Rooney, Robin Van Persie, Steven Gerrard, Jamie Carragher, Ryan Giggs, Didier Drogba (Chelsea shirt), Sir Geoff Hurst (1966 shirt), Jimmy Greaves (Tottenham FA Cup Shirt), Luis Suarez, Paul Scholes, Ian Wright and Tony Adams (Arsenal dual signed) plus signed team balls.

A charity raffle will also be held with all proceeds going to the UK Charity 'Help For Heroes.'

Doors open at 8.30pm and the Dress Code is Smart Casual.

Tickets are BD25 each which includes a gourmet dinner and For more information call: +973 3451 6455 or email sportsspeaker@outlook.com



Al Namal and VKL Group Chairman Varghese Kurian hosted a luncheon reception in honour of the visiting Indian Minister of State for External Affairs E Ahamed at the Best Western Olive Hotel in Juffair yesterday. Attending were Head of Survey and Land Registration Shaikh Salman bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ghanim Al Buainain, Indian Ambassador Dr Mohan Kumar, Customs President Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, members of the Royal Family, top Bahraini businessmen and Indian community leaders.

## Open House at embassy

Indian Embassy will hold its monthly Open House on Friday at its Adliya premises from 9am to 11am. Members of the Indian community are requested to bring along with them complete set of documents pertaining to their respective cases. Any Indian citizen with urgent problem may visit the embassy on any working day without waiting for monthly Open House, said officials.



A group of students from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) visited Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco) Refinery Clinic at the Awali Hospital in Manama. Students were informed on various medical services, processes and latest technologies used by Bapco and those adopted by various refinery clinics worldwide.



Thanking the media for unfailing support and assistance, the American Women Association (AWA) hosted a media appreciation dinner at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel Residence & Spa yesterday. Media personnel from different organisations graced the event and were thanked for helping AWA achieve its goals of community service and public outreach. Awards of appreciation were also handed out to various media groups. Above, guests at the media appreciation dinner.



The Kerala Catholic Association's (KCA) art, cultural and sports festival 'KCA Utsav 2013' was inaugurated by popular South Indian playback singer 'Sheela Mani' at the KCA premises. Inauguration followed a fashion show with around 50 participants. Other activities including skits, parades, vegetable carving, salad making, group songs and sports day events were also part of the festivities. Winners will be awarded KCA Utsav 2013 'Overall Group Championship Award Trophy'. Above, Entertainment Secretary Joyal Jose (second from left), General Secretary Varghese Joseph (third from left), Ms. Mani (eight from left) and President Sevi Mathunny (ninth from left), along with other guests and officials at the inauguration ceremony.

## IN BRIEF

**Timeless music**

The Palestine National Ensemble for Arabic Music yesterday performed a collection of timeless Arabic classics during the third show of the Twenty Second Bahrain International Music Festival, held at the Cultural Hall. Around 30 musicians and singers from Palestine performed Arabic music legends, such as Umm Kulthum, Ismahan, Layla Morad, Sabah Fakhri, Farid El Atrash, Mohamad Abdelwahab, Riyad Sunbati, and Mohamed El Kasabgy.

**Korean exhibition**

Bahrain yesterday hosted Hanbok Korean traditional fashion exhibition at Bahrain National Museum. Over 70 traditional Korean clothes designs were displayed. The show comes as part of the fourth season of Culture Ministry 'Manama, Capital of Arab Tourism' activities.

**Educational evening**

An educational event 'GCE A-level and IB Diploma Information Evening,' organised by St. Christopher's School will be held on November 11 from 6:30pm at the Senior School branch in Isa Town. For more information on the event, contact Steve Keeble on 17788101 or email to seniors@st-chris.net

**Azerbaijani music tonight**

Alim and his daughter Fergana Qasimov will present a special night of spiritual Azerbaijani music Mugham tonight at the Cultural Hall at 8pm. The shows are open for public and will continue until Friday October 25.

**Medical Camp tomorrow**

Indian community relief fund (ICRF) will organise a standard medical camp for workers in Salihya tomorrow at 7pm. Indian Embassy, First Secretary, Ram Singh will inaugurate the camp. ICRF also provides financial assistance to critically ill workers for travel to India for further treatment. For details contact 39224482.

# 'BAHRAIN IS STABLE'

The international media is concealing Bahrain's true face by disseminating falsified and distorted news, said a visiting German delegation yesterday, while confirming that the situations in the Kingdom are stable and secure.

This came as a delegation from the German-Arab Friendship Association (DAFG) led by Vice Chairman, Professor Randolf Rodenstock were received by Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

During the meeting, HRH the Premier urged to adopt a more comprehensive approach to bolster the GCC-German cooperation, stressing that building stronger relations



The Premier during a photocall with the German delegates.

with Germany by Bahrain, the GCC and Arab countries has become a necessity dictated by global developments and the German supportive stances.

The delegates also praised the successful policies drawn by HRH the Prime Minister to foster security and stability.

Separately, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad

Al Khalifa also received Prof. Randolf at Riffa Palace and praised the advanced level and diversity of areas of investment in both countries.

## Enhancing trade ties

**Manama**

**A**ffirming the status of India as a leading world economic power, Bahraini leaders yesterday expressed their keen interest in boosting bilateral trade, investment and political relations with the Asian nation.

This came as Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa held discussions with Indian Minister of State for

External Affairs E Ahamed, on separate occasions, yesterday.

While receiving the Indian minister at the Guidaiya Palace, the Premier noted that the Indian community plays a major role in supporting the development march of the Kingdom.

The Premier, lauding the deep-rooted relations bonding Bahrain and India in all fields, also expressed his keenness to ensure safety and tranquility of all expatriate communities in appreciation of the services they provide for the country.

Prince Salman held discussions with Mr Ahamed at the Riffa Palace, in the presence of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ghanim Al Buainain.

Hailing India as an emerging economic power, the Crown Prince affirmed full support to enhance Bahraini-Indian relations.

He also discussed ways to bolster bilateral relations between the countries in all fields, and reviewed a number of regional and global developments.



The Premier with Mr Ahamed



Prince Salman with Mr Ahamed

**Manama**

**T**he Special Investigation Unit (SIU) will probe the maltreatment allegations raised by Al Wefaq National Islamic Society Liberties and Human Rights department head Hadi Al Mousawi.

The move follows the claims and statistics published by Mr

## Probe on Al Wefaq allegations

Al Mousawi and Yousuf Al Muhafdha on social media websites, citing alleged maltreatment.

Mr Al Mousawi also claimed that he had a list of people who had filed complaints

with Al Wefaq's and Human Rights department.

He, however, said that the credentials of the complainants would not be disclosed, until he secures their approval to lodge complaints with The Special

Investigation Unit (SIU).

The hearing to be held on October 29 would scrutinise the documents and evidence corroborating the allegation, said Prosecutor and SIU Chief Nawaf Abdulla Hamza. To this

end, SIU has ordered the claimants to submit all related documents.

The probe panel have also summoned Yousuf Al Muhafdha to report to the investigation session set for November 5 and submit documents and evidence, as he failed to turn up today.

## Fire guts Tailor shop

**Biju Haridas**

Biju@dt.bh

**A** fire erupted inside a tailoring shop in Gudaibiya last night, while it was closed, left the Bahraini shop owner with losses to the tune of BD20,000.

It was also a close call for the five-expat tailors working at the Al Haram Ladies and Gents Tailoring Shop, who left the shop, at 9pm, just before the incident happened.

Men working at the nearby cold store, at around 10.30pm, first spotted the fire, when smoke started gushing out. They informed the shop owner.

"When Civil Defence team opened the shutter of the shop, there was a big ball of fire," said a witness.

Seven sewing machines, readymade dresses, cloth materials, furniture and electronic items were destroyed in the fire.

Witnesses also told *DT News*

that adjacent to the gutted shop was a gas filling shop.

"Had the fire spread to Sadiq Gas Shop, it would have been a big disaster," a passerby said.

Bahraini Yousif Ahmed Al Haram owns the two-shutter shop, located behind Awal Cinema on Road 823.

Meanwhile, Interior ministry, in a statement, confirmed the fire stating that negligence was the cause.



Fire fighters at the gutted shop.

PICS BY MUHAMMED THASLEEM

# The Business



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## Investment push eyed

### Telecom unit is seeking to complete sale

**MANAMA:** A German-Arab Friendship Association (DAFG) delegation is currently on a two-day visit to Bahrain to discuss investment and co-operation opportunities with both Bahraini businessmen and the public sector.

The delegation includes 11 participants representing various German industrial sectors including optics, engineering, metal and electrical industries as well as representatives of German academia.

The visit is in co-operation with the Confederation of Baden-Wuerttemberg's Employers' Associations, the Bavarian Business Association and the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

During a meeting hosted by Tamkeen at its premises yesterday, the Economic Development Board (EDB) made a presentation to the delegation on the kingdom's investment environment and competitive advantages.

EDB officials showcased key characteristics including the diversified and free economy, flexible policies, and high international ranking in leading global competitiveness indices.

A presentation on Tamkeen's pro-



■ The delegation during a presentation at the Tamkeen office

grammes and initiatives, including financing and consultations, supporting enterprises, detailed the kingdom's Economic Vision 2030.

The plan aims at making Bahrainis to become the first-choice of employers and support the private sector to become the engine of growth for the country.

The presentation also highlighted a number of programmes designed by Tamkeen to improve productivity, creativity, and innovation in the private sector.

The delegation also visited the Bahrain International Investment Park. Trade volume between Bahrain

and Germany was \$542 million in 2011.

Aluminium made up to 73 per cent of the kingdom's exports to Germany, whereas cars accounted for up to 34pc of the kingdom's imports, with machinery, chemicals and food items also being imported.

**ABU DHABI:** Dubai Holding's telecom unit could conclude the sale of stakes in two other telecom firms in the next few months, its chief executive said, part of a strategy by state-linked companies to sell assets to repay the emirate's debt pile.

Emirates International Telecommunications (EIT) is seeking to sell its 35 per cent stake in Tunisia's state-owned Tunisie Telecom and 26pc stake in Dubai-based mobile phone retailer Axiom Telecom.

J P Morgan Chase estimates the sales of the minority stakes could generate \$1 billion in total.

EIT chief executive Deepak Padmanabhan said yesterday that formal sale processes were underway. "The process (Tunisian sale) is still going on. Given the current political climate it would be a few months. The government has been so far supportive but it is the overall political climate that is the challenge," he said. EIT has no plans to sell its stake in Dubai's du telecom operator. "It is a long-term strategic holding," he added.

## One Date, One Venue, Three Exhibitions



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## Officials appointed

HIS Majesty King Hamad yesterday issued a decree appointing Major-General Najji Fahd Al Hashil and Brigadier-General Mohammed Abdulkarim Showeier Public Security deputy chief and Civil Defence director general respectively. Brigadier-General Zouhair Rashid Al Absi, Colonel Maher Ahmed Bouali and Colonel Khalid Mohammed Al Wazzan take over as Muharraq Police director general, exits security director general and Public Guards director general respectively. The King also named Colonel Khalid Mohammed Al Thawadi, Shaikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa and Lieutenant-Colonel Adel Abdulla Amine as Capital Police director general, General Directorate of Traffic director general and Interior Ministry assistant under-secretary for human resources respectively.

## Ambassador received

INTERIOR Minister Lieutenant-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa yesterday received outgoing Turkish Ambassador Ahmet Ulker and lauded his efforts to bolster co-operation.

## Guidance forum begins

THE Second Vocational Guidance Forum opened yesterday under the theme 'Towards insightful, futuristic and productive horizons'. A total of 225 social guidance specialists from the three stages of schooling are taking part. Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi emphasised the significance of maintaining an equilibrium between student needs, aptitudes and dispositions on the one hand and labour market requirements on the other.

## Higher education in focus

A WORKSHOP spotlighting the future of higher education in Bahrain will be held today from 9am until midday. The Education Minister will patronise the event at the Regional Centre. The Higher Education Council is holding the workshop in co-operation with PricewaterhouseCoopers.

## Women's conference opens

THE second national conference for Bahraini women will begin today at the Sofitel Hotel under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty King Hamad and Supreme Council for Women (SCW) President. It will focus on the integration of women's needs in development and is expected to come up with a number of key recommendations for the purpose. Many prominent personalities, including Social Development Minister Dr Fatima Al Balooshi, SCW secretary general Hala Al Ansari, Shura Council member Dalal Al Zayed, Bahraini Society for Strategic Planning chairperson Dr Hala Badir Slaibeekh and UN Women Offices in the Arab States first adviser Dr Shirin Jaber Shukri will present papers.

## 85 draft laws on agenda

EIGHTY-FIVE new draft laws are on parliament's agenda during the fourth session of the third legislative term, which starts today. Chairman Dr Khalifa Al Dhahrani said they focus on services, public utilities, security, combating crime, diplomatic matters and economic and trade agreements between Bahrain and other countries.

## Co-operation pledge

SUPREME Judicial Council head and Cassation Court president Salim bin Mohammed Al Kuwari yesterday received a delegation from the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), led by chairman Dr Abdulaziz Abul. They discussed the role of the council in upgrading judicial performance and expediting resolution of human rights cases. They also emphasised the need for co-ordination between the council and NIHR.

## Allegations probed

THE Special Investigation Unit (SIU) will meet next Tuesday to hear Al Wafaq National Islamic Society's liberties and human rights department head Hadi Al Mousawi and probe his maltreatment allegations. Mr Al Mousawi and Yousuf Al Muhafidha posted statistics on social media websites, citing cases of alleged maltreatment. The SIU at the Public Prosecution launched an inquiry into the claims, Prosecutor and SIU chief Nawaf Abdulla Hamza said. The probe panel summoned the two claimants to submit documents and evidence corroborating their allegations. Mr Al Mousawi claimed at yesterday's session that he had a list of people who complained to Al Wafaq's liberties and human rights department. However, he said he would not reveal their names and numbers until he got their approval. The probe panel asked him to submit documents and evidence at the meeting next Tuesday and lodge complaints to be investigated officially. It also summoned Mr Al Muhafidha to report to the investigation session on November 5 with documents and evidence.

## Elderly honoured

SOUTHERN Governor Shaikh Abdulla bin Rashid Al Khalifa yesterday honoured elderly people who took part in the national event 'Our King Is A Symbol of Harmony' that coincided with His Majesty's visit to the Southern Governorate last April. It was held at the Dorat Al Riffa Social Club for Parental Care.

## Centre discusses plans

BAHRAIN Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies' advisory board will hold a meeting to discuss current strategic approaches and its co-operation with various international organisations. The board will also review its future activities, including the Gulf Strategic Conference to be held in Bahrain on October 29 and 30.



■ His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received Indian External Affairs Minister E Ahmad and discussed bilateral relations. He stressed Bahrain's resolve to bolster political, economic, trade, and investment co-operation, paying tribute to the Indian community for their contribution to Bahrain's development and progress.



■ His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, received the Indian External Affairs Minister yesterday in the presence of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ghanim Al Buainain. He said that Bahrain is looking forward to strengthening its economic and trade ties with India and promised full support to enhance such relations.

## Strong ties are hailed

HRH the Crown Prince yesterday received a delegation from the Arab-German Friendship Association led by its vice-chairman Professor Randolf Rodenstock, in the presence of Transportation Minister and Economic Development Board acting chief executive Kamal Ahmed.

He thanked Germany for its efforts to bolster relations with the Arab region, in particular the GCC. The Crown Prince described



■ HRH the Crown Prince receives the Arab-German delegation

Bahraini-German ties as a leading example of the steadily growing Arab-European relations across political, economic and cultural fields.

He praised the advanced level and diversity of areas of investment in both countries.

The Crown Prince expressed his appreciation for the association's

efforts to boost Arab-German relations and praised the close co-operation fostered by His Majesty King Hamad and the German leadership through exchange of official visits.



■ Deputy Premier Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa yesterday received outgoing Turkish Ambassador Ahmet Ulker and praised his efforts to strengthen bilateral co-operation.



■ BDF Commander-in-Chief Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa yesterday received Minister of State for Interior Affairs Major-General Adel Khalifa Al Fadhel and discussed co-operation to maintain Bahrain's security and stability.



■ Interior Minister Lieutenant-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa yesterday separately received MPs Abdulrahman Bumjeed and Mohammed Al Emadi and discussed co-operation to maintain national security and stability.



■ Shura chairman Ali Saleh Al Saleh yesterday received the Shura Council and Parliament Affairs Minister and discussed co-operation between the legislative and executive authorities.



■ Parliament chairman Dr Khalifa Al Dhahrani yesterday received Shura Council and Parliament Affairs Minister Abdulaziz Al Fadhel and discussed preparations for the opening of the fourth session of the third legislative term today.



■ Top government officials, VIPs and diplomats attended a reception hosted by the German Embassy yesterday to celebrate Germany's National Day. It took place at the home of German Ambassador Sabine Taufmann in Saar, and celebrated the Day of German Unity - which commemorates German reunification in 1990. Above, the German ambassador, fifth from left, Minister of State for Information and government's official spokeswoman Sameera Rajab and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ghanim Al Buainain cut the cake watched by diplomats, officials and guests.

## Car warehouse arson case is adjourned

By NOOR ZAHRA

LAWYERS are due to submit their final arguments in the trial of 13 men accused of torching a car dealership's warehouse in Sitra, causing damage worth almost BD400,000.

The warehouse of Hyundai dealer First Motors, near Sitra Police Station, was stormed by an armed mob which assaulted two Asian guards, tied and blindfolded them and torched the property, destroying 59 vehicles.

The culprits used Molotov cocktails and petrol cans to start the blaze on November 7 last year at around 2.55am.

The defendants have been charged with arson, putting people's lives and properties at risk, assault, taking part in an illegal gathering and possessing Molotov cocktails by the High Criminal Court.

The trial was yesterday adjourned until November 11.

The attack took place less than a month after fire gutted part of the Motor City showroom in Sitra on October 10, damaging 11 Volvo cars and causing around BD100,000 of damage.