

## LOCAL NEWSBITES

### Thanks cable for Premier

THE Premier yesterday received a cable of thanks from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in reply to his cable of congratulations on the anniversary of October 6 victories.

### GCC meeting held

GCC pension and social insurance delegations yesterday started their periodic meeting at the Gulf Hotel Convention Centre. Finance Minister and General Organisation for Social Insurance chairman Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa addressed the opening session.

### Focus on Unesco ties

EDUCATION Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi yesterday received Unesco associated school international co-ordinator Siegfried Faydermayer and discussed co-operation.

### Co-operation talks

PREMIER's economic affairs adviser Abdulla Saif yesterday received Kazakh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Khairat Lama Sharif and discussed means of boosting economic co-operation.

### Drivers warned

DRIVERS were yesterday warned against using their vehicles for purposes not specified in the licence. "Violators may be jailed for six months and/or fined BD100," General Directorate of Traffic director-general Major Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Sabah Al Khalifa said. He called on companies to correct their situation before the decision takes effect and said police campaigns would be stepped up to enforce it.

### Envoy received

LABOUR Minister Dr Majeed Al Alawi yesterday received Riyadh-based Australian Ambassador to Bahrain Kevin Magee and discussed co-operation.

### Civic violations

MUNICIPALITIES and Agriculture Minister Dr Juma Al Ka'abi yesterday received Central Municipal Council vice-chairman Abbas Mahfoudh and discussed legal means to tackle municipal violations.

### Marital rights

BATELCO Centre for Family Violence Victims president Dr Banna Buzaboon yesterday delivered a lecture on women's rights in marriage contracts. The Supreme Council for Women organised it as part of a campaign to promote family stability. More than 120 students attended. A second lecture will be delivered today for Shaikh Abdulaziz Boys' School students.

### Lecture on asthma

PROFESSOR Soren Peterson of McMaster Hamilton University, Canada, will deliver a lecture on asthma treatment tomorrow at 9pm at the Sheraton Hotel. It is part of a series of activities lined up by the newly-established Bahrain Pediatrics League, chairman Dr Ali Ibrahim said.

# Isolation wards to avert flu outbreak

THE Premier yesterday instructed the Health Ministry to provide isolation wards at hospitals and health centres to avert swine flu outbreak and cope with future emergencies.

Chairing the Cabinet meeting at Gudaibiya Palace, Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa also issued directives to speed up work on King Hamad General Hospital, Muharraq, so that medical and health care services could be provided for the community soon.

The Cabinet then approved performance review reports by the Quality Education and Training Authority.

They included 12 periodic assessments of vocational training institutions, 20 concerning schools and four of higher education establishments.

The Cabinet approved reports submitted by offi-



■ The Premier chairs the Cabinet

cially who supervised the 2009 national exams and praised the authority's efforts in enforcing educational policies set by the government.

A draft protocol amending the Bahrain-US Free Trade Agreement was discussed. It was submitted by Industry and Commerce Minister Dr Hassan Fakhro

and referred to the legal affairs committee.

Labour Minister Dr Majeed Al Alawi briefed the Cabinet on the employment situation. According to the periodic survey, the rate of unemployment stood at 4.1pc last month, and 5,350 Bahrainis have been recruited since May.



■ The Premier yesterday left for France to take part in the 35th Unesco session. He was seen off at the airport by Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Present were deputy premiers, ministers and senior officials.



■ Interior Minister Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa yesterday received British shadow security minister and opposition adviser for national security affairs Baroness Neville Jones and discussed co-operation. Public Security chief Major-General Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani and British Ambassador Jamie Bowden attended.

## Man acquitted of kidnapping schoolboy

By BASMA MOHAMMED

A BAHRAINI accused of kidnapping a 14-year-old schoolboy was yesterday acquitted by the High Criminal Court.

The charges were also withdrawn by the teenager, who did not present sufficient evidence that the incident took place, according to court documents.

Three witnesses provided the 19-year-old defendant with an alibi, claiming he was dropping his brother to school at the time of the alleged incident.

The Bahraini plaintiff, who alleged that he was also assaulted, did not have

any signs of physical violence on his body to vindicate the accusation, according to the documents.

There were no witnesses to testify the alleged victims' claims that he was dropped off near a cold store after the kidnapping.

The GDN reported last month that the schoolboy was allegedly kidnapped by four men on his way from class.

He was allegedly forced into a car by his attackers after they followed him

from the school gate last December.

The schoolboy claimed then that he managed to escape when the car he was bundled into stopped for a brief moment and called his family who reported it to the police.

However, the 19-year-old Bahraini defendant denied the charges in court.

Prosecutors had earlier claimed that the unemployed defendant, along with three unknown men, followed the victim after he left his school in Isa Town and forced him into their car.

The victim's older brother also

claimed that he was at work when he received a call from him that he was kidnapped by four men.

He claimed that his younger brother left school in the morning because there were no classes and walked to a payphone near the Isa Town Mall to call his mother, when his kidnappers allegedly attacked him.

The defendant was arrested after the boy gave police a description of the car the kidnappers allegedly used, according to court documents.



■ Camerata Ducale regales fans

## Tributes to Viotti

ITALIAN ensemble Camerata Ducale performed last night at the Arts Centre, near Bahrain National Museum, as part of Bahrain's 18th International Music Festival. The orchestra performed classical arrangements composed by 18th century Italian violinist Giovanni Battista Viotti.

The orchestra, founded in 1992 by violinist and conductor Guido Rimondi and pianist and harpsichordist Cristina Canziani, claims its aim is to share its appreciation of Mr Viotti's music with the world. For details on the festival's remaining events, please visit [www.bahrain-tourism.com](http://www.bahrain-tourism.com).

## An evening of musical treat for fans

A TOP politician from the southern Indian state of Karnataka will be chief guest at the Ramee Sangeetha Sanje (Ramee Musical Evening) this weekend.

It will be held by Kannada Sangha Bahrain on Friday at the Delmon International Hotel, starting at 6pm.

Entry is free for Sangha members and all music lovers.

Mr K Abhayachandra Jain, the chief whip of opposition in the Karnataka Legislative



■ Mr Jain, Anuradha and Ganesh ... some of the leading participants

Assembly, will attend. "He is an influential member of the Congress party from

Moodbidri and a trustee of many educational, sports and charitable organisations," said

sponsors are J & N Trading and Mohammed Ali Fruits &

sangha president Austin Santhosh.

The programme will feature artists from the southern Indian cities of Bangalore and Mangalore.

The title sponsors are Ramee International Hotel and the co-

Vegetables.

Well-known singers Anuradha Bhat, Ganesh N and Ester Noronha will entertain music lovers with hit numbers in Kannada, Tulu, Konkani and Hindi.

"We are planning a good mix of modern, classical and cinematic music so that the evening will be enjoyable to everyone," said Mr Santhosh.

For details, contact Mr Santhosh on 39837771.