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## Bahrain's reforms are on the right track

MANAMA: Bahrain's reforms are on the right track to fulfil its people's aspirations, it was declared yesterday.

They will strengthen the rule of law, enhance its democratic march and spur economic, social and cultural development, according to a communiqué issued after a key meeting between

the GCC and Turkey.

Foreign ministers, meeting in Istanbul, also voiced strong support for positive initiatives by His Majesty King Hamad, including amendments to the kingdom's constitution.

Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa headed Bahrain's

delegation at the meeting. Bahrain looks at strategic co-operation between GCC and Turkey as an important pillar for regional security, he said.

The GCC and Turkey also spear-headed regional condemnation of the Syrian regime for its crackdown, urging Damascus to accept an Arab League plan

to stop the bloodshed "without delay".

The Istanbul meeting comes amid an Arab and European quest to secure UN action over the crackdown. GCC Secretary-General Dr Abdullatif Al Zayani will travel to Brussels tomorrow for talks with Nato and EU leaders. Arab League halts Syria mission - Page 2

**The world this morning**

2AM LATEST BREAKING NEWS



### His Majesty's policies praised

MANAMA: Bahrain is a nation of reforms and development and His Majesty King Hamad's wisdom and sound initiatives have foiled a foreign conspiracy to destabilise the country, former Sudanese president and chairman of the Islamic Dawa Organisation Field Marshal Abdulrahman Siwar Al Dhahab has said. He stressed the need to safeguard security and stability and cement national cohesion and unity between all segments of the Bahraini society. The leader also emphasised that "Bahrain has always been a land of peace, co-existence, tolerance and civilisation, and the democratic march it is currently witnessing is a model in the region".

Full report - Pages 20-21

### Six-car highway pile-up

MANAMA: Three people were left critically injured after a six-car pile-up led to a massive tailback on the Al Fateh Highway yesterday. An American couple has been admitted to hospital with serious injuries while a Saudi national is battling for life in Salmaniya Medical Complex with critical head injuries. Traffic policemen rushed to the scene to clear congestion caused by the pile-up, the Interior Ministry said on its Twitter account. In another accident, a Bahraini man escaped serious injuries after his car crashed into a metal barrier near Adhari Park on the Shaikh Isa bin Salman Highway. Meanwhile, police have named the youngster who died in a buggy crash in Sakhir on Friday as 23-year-old Ahmed Mohammed Ghuloom.

### 'Dr Doom' strikes again!

DAVOS: Economist Nouriel Roubini, nicknamed "Dr Doom" for his gloomy predictions in the run-up to the financial meltdown four years ago, says the fallout from that crisis could last the rest of this decade. Roubini, widely acknowledged to have predicted the crash of 2008, sees tough times ahead for the global economy and is warning that without major policy changes things can still get much worse. Until Europe radically reforms itself and the US gets serious about its own debt mountain, he said, the world economy will continue to stumble along.

Full report - Page 25

# POLICE ATTACKERS FACE TOUGH LAWS

MANAMA: Tough new laws are urgently needed to stop increasing attacks on Bahrain's policemen, warns a top government minister.

Interior Minister Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa last night called for 15 years in jail for those inciting violence against policemen as well as those who attack them.

Safety of policemen and their families is of para-

mount importance, he stressed.

Shaikh Rashid urged legislative authorities to urgently look into the issue.

Rioting over the past few days has seen an escalation and the targeting of on duty policemen, he said.

Policemen have been attacked with sharp objects and firebombs by rioters, the minister pointed out.

Numerous arrests have been made as a result, the minister said.

Shaikh Rashid called upon citizens and residents

to maintain civil peace and not to be swayed by rumours or try to dramatise events.

The ministry, he said, is committed to providing correct information through the Police Media Centre website at [www.policemc.gov.bh](http://www.policemc.gov.bh) and the ministry's Twitter account at @MOI\_Bahrain, to build trust, fight accusations and misleading information that spreads chaos and uncertainty.

Freedom of expression is protected by law, but not if it infringes on the freedom of others or their interests, Shaikh Rashid said.

He said in order to ensure freedom of expression, it is appropriate to allocate certain places away from vital roads where protests may take place. Especially in a small country, traffic jams and road blockages must be avoided, he said.

The minister hoped that the present crisis will inspire people to build a better future - both for themselves and for the next generation.

He also pointed out that policemen on riot duty will be given special training and equipment.

Riot training - Pages 20-21

### Arsonists target another school

MANAMA: Another Bahrain school came under an arson attack yesterday.

Thugs started a fire near the fence of the Aisha Umm Al Momineen Intermediate Girls School in Manama yesterday. The fire was put out before it could spread, *Bahrain News Agency* reported.

The GDN reported yesterday that security is being stepped up at government schools after a string of arson attacks.

### Firebomb scare for Shura member



Dr Al Jishi

MANAMA: A firebomb apparently targeting policemen sparked a fire after landing in the garden of Shura Council member Dr Bahiya Al Jishi's home in Mahooz yesterday.

The policemen called firemen who put out the blaze before it could spread, reports our sister paper *Akhbar Al Khaleej*.

Dr Al Jishi, her family members and the gardener were not at home when the incident happened at about 4pm. But she said it is sad

that innocent people are being terrorised at their homes.

Dr Al Jishi also expressed concern over the security situation in the country.

Several MPs, separately, called for tough punishment for those who use religious pulpits to incite violence and hatred. No one is above the law, they added.

Several jurists also called for stricter implementation of the laws.

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