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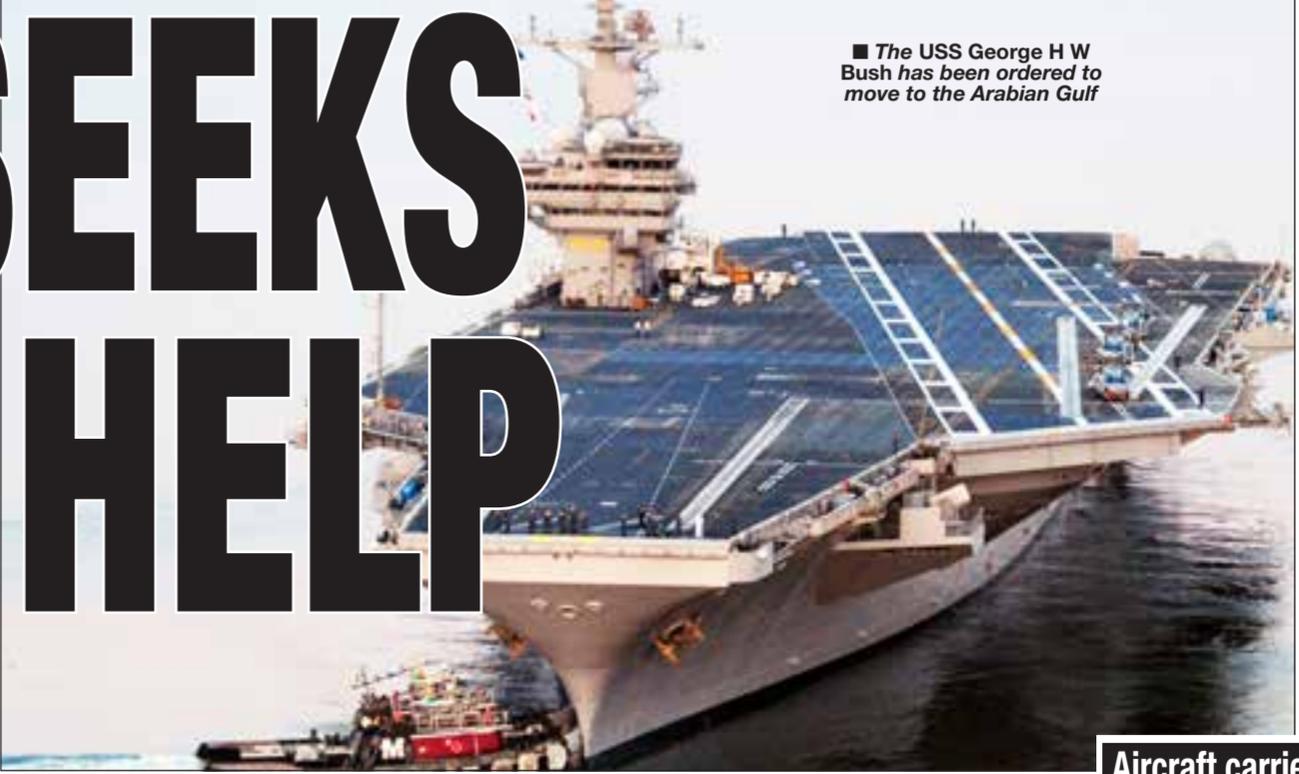
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# IRAN SEEKS US HELP



■ The USS George H W Bush has been ordered to move to the Arabian Gulf

BAGHDAD: Iran offered yesterday to consider working with long-time foe Washington if it takes the lead in helping repel Arab militants who have seized a swathe of northern Iraq.

The offer came as Iraqi commanders said soldiers had recaptured two towns north of Baghdad even as thousands of volunteers answered a call to arms from top cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali Al Sistani, and a US carrier group steamed into Gulf waters.

Prime Minister Nuri Al Maliki visited the besieged city of Samarra north of the capital to rally troops and pray at the Al Askari shrine, a revered site whose 2006 bombing by Al Qaeda sparked a sectarian conflict that killed tens of thousands.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who since taking office last August has overseen a rapprochement with the US, said his government was prepared to consider offering help.

"If we see that the US takes action against terrorist groups in Iraq, then one can think about it," Rouhani told a news conference.

Iraq's Shi'ite premier said the cabinet had granted him "unlimited powers" to reverse the offensive, in which militants swept towards Baghdad after overrunning second city Mosul on Tuesday before losing some of its steam.

Troops found the burned bodies of 12 policemen as they recaptured the town of Ishaqi in Salaheddin province from insurgents, a police colonel and a doctor said.

It was one of the closest points to Baghdad militants reached as they overran a large part of northern and north-central Iraq.

Troops also retook the nearby Muatassam area of Salaheddin, the colonel said.

Police and residents expelled militants from another town in the province, Dhuluiya, witnesses said.

Security forces have also held fast in the Muqdadiyah area of Diyala province, preventing militants from taking the town in heavy fighting, police said.

In Samarra, reinforcements were awaiting orders to launch a counter-offensive against areas north of the city, including Dur and Tikrit, seized by militants earlier this week, an army colonel said.

## Aircraft carrier sent to Gulf

WASHINGTON: Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel has ordered aircraft carrier USS George H W Bush to move from the northern Arabian Sea to the Gulf as President Barack Obama considers possible military options for Iraq.

The order will give the president added flexibility if military action is required to protect American lives, citizens and interests in Iraq.

North of Baghdad, gunmen attacked a convoy carrying the head of Iraq's anti-corruption watchdog, killing nine police, and a convoy carrying the deputy head of the Shi'ite religious endowment was also targeted, killing 10 guards.

Advance slows - page 2

## Bahrain getting hotter as global climate changes



■ A suspect was arrested within 24 hours after stealing half a million Saudi riyals from a company in Manama, police said last night. The stolen cash was confiscated and the suspect referred to the Public Prosecution.

MANAMA: Bahrain is getting hotter, drier and dustier as a result of global warming. Official statistics show declining rainfall and increasing dusty conditions, Transportation Ministry meteorology director Adel Daham told the GDN in an exclusive interview. Bahrain has broken 21 hot weather records since the start of the 21st Century - including hottest month, hottest year and hottest temperature on record. Last month was Bahrain's second hottest May since records began in 1902 with average temperatures of 32.4C, second only to May 2012 when the average temperature stood at 32.8C.

Facing the heat - Pages 4-5

### Queen greeted

MANAMA: His Majesty King Hamad yesterday sent a cable

### Bahrain this morning

of congratulations to Queen Elizabeth on her birthday. His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, sent similar cables.

Jolie honoured - Page 2

### 'Plots' rapped

MANAMA: MPs have criticised the government for "failing" to take action against foreign powers involved in attempts to change regimes in the Middle East, including Bahrain and

Saudi Arabia. They have called for an urgent parliament session this week to discuss a document that reveals "secret" US foreign policies to support the Muslim Brotherhood and other rebellious movements in the region since 2010.

According to weekly publication *Middle East Briefing*, which secured the document through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, the five-page report "confirms the Obama Administration's pro-active campaign for regime change throughout the Middle East and North Africa region".

Full report - Page 15

### Museum vow

MANAMA: Construction of Al Khamis Mosque Museum is set to start this month. HRH the Crown Prince has approved the BD1.5 million

project, revealed Culture Minister Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa to our sister paper *Akhbar Al Khaleej*. Meanwhile, Al Baraka Bank has contributed BD60,000 to carry out maintenance work on the twin minarets of the ancient monument. Preparations are also underway to install at the site night lighting during Ramadan, Shaikha Mai said.

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