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# AL WEFAQ 'THREAT'

CAIRO: Egypt has denounced "dangerous" pro-Iranian groups – like the Al Wefaq National Islamic Society.

Supreme Council for Egyptian Revolution general co-ordinator Dr Ehab Ammar yesterday hit out at Al Wefaq's "suspicious move-

## ● Pro-Iranian group 'a danger to unity'

ments" in Egypt, stating that the society, in particular, and Shi'ism, in general, posed a threat to the country's national unity.

"Egypt will not allow the spread of Shi'ism on its soil," he said. Dr Ammar urged authorities to

clamp down on Al Wefaq's political activities in Egypt and called for the expulsion of all Bahrainis working for the society.

Bahraini authorities were also urged to stop Al Wefaq leaders' trips to Egypt. "We have closely followed

movements of Al Wefaq secretary-general Shaikh Ali Salman in Cairo. The presence of pro-Iranian agents on Egyptian soil is a threat to the country's unity and the true Islamic religion," the council said, calling for the expulsion of all pro-Iranians residing in the country.

The council also announced a massive summit to "expose the Iranian plot to export Shi'ism" to Egypt and other Arab countries. It will also announce a list of "pro-Iranians who support the expansion of Shi'ism" in the country.

Dr Ammar called for the formation of an Arab popular front to counter the Safavid Shi'ism tide.

He urged all revolutionary entities and political societies to stage a sit-in, in front of Bahrain's Embassy in Cairo, today to protest against the activities of Al Wefaq on Egyptian soil.

The council said it will fight any party that considered Egypt a land to fulfil their aggressive motives against the Arab world, our sister paper *Akhbar Al Khaleej* reported.

## Bahrain is 'role model for region'

By AHMED AL OMARI

MANAMA: Bahrain's progress in protecting the rights of women and children has been praised by the United Nations.

The country has set a positive example in the region in tackling discrimination, said UN Information Centre director for Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE Nejb Friji ahead of the first UN International Day of the Girl Child today.

It plans to launch an international campaign to promote the rights of girls and prevent child marriages, discrimination, violence and abuse.

"Given the high rate of women's education in Bahrain, the UN looks forward to further measures which will prevent any isolated cases," said Mr Friji.

He hailed the example Bahrain has set for the region and hoped that in light of the "Arab Spring" new governments in the region would follow its example and do more to protect women's rights in their countries.

According to the UN, child marriage jeopardises health, increases exposure to violence and abuse, and results in early and unwanted pregnancies.



■ The gutted showroom

## Car showroom blaze mystery

MANAMA: Mystery surrounds the cause of a fire that gutted part of the Motorcity showroom in Sitra yesterday.

Eleven Volvo cars were destroyed in the blaze, which broke out at around 3am, reportedly causing around

BD100,000 of damage.

Sources said a Nepalese watchman was being questioned about the incident, but Interior Ministry officials said it was too early to say what caused the fire.

Full report – Page 3

The world this morning  
2AM LATEST BREAKING NEWS

## ■ Parliament 'will not be dissolved'

MANAMA: Parliament will not be dissolved, chairman Dr Khalifa Al Dhahrani said last night, adding that the door was still open for the "opposition" to return to the representatives' council as their withdrawal did not benefit anybody. Dr Al Dhahrani said His Majesty King Hamad has affirmed on numerous occasions that parliament will not be dissolved. However, he stressed that no one can abuse the principle behind publicly questioning ministers – there are clear guidelines about this. A number of draft laws have failed because the National Assembly has not sat in session, following disagreements between Shura Council and parliament. They will be reviewed again and re-submitted to the assembly. Parliament will step up its support for pensioners and will keep submitting their projects and requirements, until they get all their rights, said Dr Al Dhahrani, our sister paper *Akhbar Al Khaleej* reported.

## ■ Drug dealer jailed

MANAMA: A Bahraini drug dealer who beat up two officers and destroyed a police vehicle has been jailed for 15 years. He was convicted of assault, destroying property belonging to the Interior Ministry and selling hashish, by the High Criminal Court and fined BD5,000. His co-defendant was also jailed for 10 years for selling hashish and fined BD5,000.

## ■ Biggest oil tank farm

MUSCAT: Oman is considering building a facility to store up to 200 million barrels of crude safely outside the Strait of Hormuz, Oman Oil Company chairman Nasser Al Jashmi said yesterday. The proposed facility would be larger than any other tank farm in the world. Working crude storage capacity at Cushing in the US is around 62m barrels. Iran has repeatedly threatened to block the narrow shipping lanes between Oman and Iran through which over a third of all sea-borne traded oil is shipped each day, as tensions with the West over Tehran's nuclear plans have intensified. The proposed facility would be built on the Arabian Sea coast of south-east Oman.

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