

# Saudis to sign initiative to form military ties with Nato

OFFICIAL SAYS COUNTRY HAS OVERCOME INITIAL RESERVATIONS

By DIAA HADID  
Staff Reporter

**Dubai** Saudi Arabia will become a signatory to an initiative which will create military relations with Nato, a senior Saudi official told a meeting of GCC and western ambassadors yesterday.

The Gulf Research Centre and Nato's Division of Public Diplomacy sponsored the meeting, *Promoting Cooperation and Fostering Relations: Nato - Gulf relations in the Framework of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative*.

The Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) was announced last year, to create military relations between individual Gulf states and Nato, and is meant to address WMD proliferation and terrorism through the initiative, said Nicola de Santis, from the Nato Public Diplomacy Division.

## Warning against training

Only Oman and Saudi Arabia have not signed the initiative.

Prince Mohammad Bin Faisal Bin Turki Al Saud, director of the Department



## Dubai deliberations

Prince Mohammad addresses the conference yesterday about his country's reservations about Nato. Many conference participants expressed their reservations about the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI). Habib Toumi, Gulf News Bahrain Bureau Chief, warned against Nato training Gulf military forces that could be used to "quell internal dissent."

of European Affairs at the Saudi Arabia Ministry of Foreign Affairs, did not give a date in the speech but said his country wanted to become a signatory.

He said the country has overcome initial reservations, stemming from Is-

rael's active role in Nato as a partner through the alliance's Mediterranean initiative.

"We can't say no," he said, "even if some others are members, regardless if some people think this is a US alliance under Nato."

The UAE signed the initiative in June but has not began any formal work with Nato, De Santis said. "A dispatch is expected in the next few weeks [from the UAE] to discuss these areas of cooperation."

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ipants expressed their reservations about the ICI, including Habib Toumi, Gulf News Bahrain Bureau Chief, who warned against Nato training Gulf military forces that could be used to "quell internal dissent."

## Qatar and Libya to boost cultural and business relations

Doha delegation to visit Tripoli soon

By BARBARA BIBBO  
Correspondent

**Doha** Qatar and Libya are planning to start cultural, educational and business ventures following the ratification of a series of agreements between the two countries.

The agreements come in the framework of the two countries' keenness on normalising and upgrading ties, following a setback between the years 2000 and 2003 due to *Al Jazeera's* controversial reporting on Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan envoy to Qatar said.

"The ratification of the agreements will lead to an increase in our cooperation in several fields, including culture, education, science and business," Al Mabruk Mohammad Al Ma'adani told *Gulf News* yesterday.

Al Ma'adani said the two governments have recently ratified a series of agreements in the fields of cultural and art cooperation, media, protection of mutual investments, trading exchange and economic and technical cooperation. He said they would be enacted following an official visit of a Qatari delegation to Libya in the coming weeks.

The envoy said Qatar will be the first country in the region to start two joint ventures with Libya in the banking and business sectors respectively.

## Tapping investment

"The two establishments will be co-sponsored by the Qatari and Libyan Governments and will be tasked with tapping investment and business opportunities, financing and development of projects in both countries," he said.

"We shall set up a Libyan-Qatari bank and a company to support multipurpose projects in both countries."

Al Ma'adani said the countries are also exploring ways of cooperation in the energy, mines and petrochemical sectors and would pursue exchange of visits between cultural delegations, students and universities.

He said Libya is also looking forward to attract Qatari investments to the country, especially in the energy, agriculture and tourism industries.

The ongoing cooperation is also a result of the Qatari Emir, His Highness Shaikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani's visit to the North African country in December 2004.

HONOURED

## Kuwaiti to invent special vehicle for handicapped

By MUSTAFA MAHMOUD  
Gulf News Report

**Kuwaiti** inventor Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Hashash disclosed that he plans to invent a vehicle to aid the handicapped.

The 30-year-old was the first Arab citizen to receive the Oscar of Inventions Award 2005 from Exhibition of International Inventions - Geneva in April.

Hashash told *Gulf News* he got the award for his latest invention: 'Airbag Equipped Attire' — a safety device to protect motorcycle riders from severe bodily injury. He added the device is equipped with very accurate sensors which make the bag inflate as soon as the motorcycle leans right or left or the rider is thrown off the motorcycle.

## Top exhibition

"This exhibition is one of the top science exhibitions of the world which was founded 33 years ago," he added proudly.

Hashash pointed out that he was nominated by the Kuwait Science Club to represent Kuwait in the international show. "Some 800 inventions by more than one thousand participants were on show," he says.

"I received the gold medal with the congratulations of the arbitration panel, which only 30 participants received," said Hashash. He explained there are four types of medals; bronze, silver, gold and gold with congratulations of the arbitration panel.

Hashash, who studied communication at the Kuwaiti Institute for Communications and Navigation, works at the Public services

## GCC chief urges end to Israeli 'massacres' in Gaza

Al Attiyah condemns continual air strikes and calls for immediate intervention of international community

**Riyadh** (AFP) The head of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Abdul Rahman Al Attiyah, has called on the European Union, the United States, Russia and the United Nations to help end

particularly the 'quartet' committee, to intervene immediately to stop these Israeli massacres", the state-run Saudi Press Agency reported.

"The secretary general ...

and children with rockets." Al Attiyah also denounced "the resumption of assassinations [of Palestinian militants] and the imposition of a blockade on the Palestinian territories."

Israel bears the sole and complete responsibility for that," he said.

The GCC is made up of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE.

a sustained campaign against Palestinian militants who have fired rockets into southern Israel.

Early yesterday, Israeli aircraft attacked at least five buildings which the

## Saudi executed for murdering compatriot

**Riyadh** (Reuters) Saudi Arabia executed a Saudi man yesterday for murdering a compatriot by running him over with his car, the Interior Ministry said. It said in a statement Fiaz Al Otaibi

convicted murderers, rapists and drug traffickers, usually by public beheading with a sword.

Yesterday's execution brought to at least 68 the number of people put to