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# The Peninsula

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Grievaged Indian workers seek embassy help

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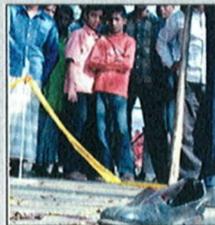


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Police find 5 bombs, arrest over 20 for attacks

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Aid efforts on knife-edge, says UN

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Inzamam joins 8,000 run club; hungry for more

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**News In Brief**

**Emir greets  
AE President**

DOHA: The Emir H H Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani on Thursday congratulated the United Arab Emirates (UAE) President H H Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his country's National Day. The Deputy Emir and Heir Apparent H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani also sent greetings to the UAE President.

**FM in Bahrain  
for conference**

MANAMA: First Deputy Emir and Foreign Minister H E Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabor Al Thani arrived in Kingdom of Bahrain, to lead Qatar's delegation to the second Strategic Security Dialogue, set to open at Ritz Carlton Bahrain hotel, today. The delegation accompanying the Foreign Minister comprises of Minister of State for Interior Affairs H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Thani, Chief of Staff of the Qatari Armed Forces H Major General Hamad bin Al Attiyah, and Assistant Director of Organisations, and International Conventions for Conferences Department at the Foreign Ministry H E Sheikh Al Mayasa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

**Bahrain arrests  
5 for clashes**

MANAMA: Police have arrested 15 youths in a third night of clashes with Bahrainis angry over the alleged abuse of an activist organising protests against unemployment, regional media and activists said yesterday. "Eighty people gathered in the Sanabis district on Thursday night trying to organise a street gathering. After they were told to disperse, they began throwing stones and



The Deputy Emir and Heir Apparent H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani with Nato Secretary-General Jaap De Hoop Scheffer at the Emiri Diwan on Thursday.

## GCC presses Nato for nuclear-free zone

### FM urges solutions to region's problems

DOHA: The head of the Gulf Cooperation Council called on Nato yesterday to press for the elimination of nuclear arms in Gulf region so that it does not become a "sandwich" between Israel and Iran.

"I call on Nato to exercise direct pressure to eliminate WMDs from our region, without exception," GCC Secretary-General Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al Attiyah said.

Attiyah, who was speaking on the sidelines of a conference here on Nato's role in Gulf regional security, said: "We do not want our region to be sandwiched by arms here and arms there." Attiyah said Iran's nuclear programme "has become worrisome for the region and a fundamental concern for all the countries of the world... but we also ask that Israel's arsenal be controlled."

Asked if he was reassured by Tehran's insistence that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only, he said: "We hope so, because that is exactly what we want ... a secure and



First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister H E Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabor Al Thani at the meet.

non-nuclear zone."

Democracy and political reform along with comprehensive development in various fields is vital to ensure economic and political security in the Arabian Gulf region, First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister H E Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabor Al Thani said.

Opening the conference on behalf of the Heir Apparent H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem said: "The political security can not be realised

without economic security, for this reason we should go seriously in the process of democracy and political reform in the line with the process of comprehensive development in different areas."

The main challenge, he noted, was internal, adding: "Some indications explain that the countries of the area have started to face such challenge with different degrees. Regionally, there are challenges represented in chronic and new conflicts waiting for solution. In the first comes the issue of Palestine, dispute in the Middle East, realisation of stability of Iraq with the agreement of all parties, solution for the problem of Weapons of Mass Destruction to be disarmed and the area to be evacuated of the said weapons in this respect, the internal effort should concentrate on the solutions based on the international law, UN compact, international legalism resolutions and principles of justice and fair."

— AFP/THE PENINSULA  
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## Sheikha Mozah opens CNA-Q campus

DOHA: H H Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned, wife of the Emir, underlined Qatar's commitment to develop highly qualified manpower that can meet the challenges of the modern world.

Speaking while inaugurating the new campus of the College of the North Atlantic Qatar (CNA-Q) on Thursday, Sheikha Mozah described the new campus as a "significant step in the course of the educational development process envisioned by the Emir out of the belief that human development is a basis for building up manpower which enjoys the efficiency and capability to face various challenges and positively activate and cope with the scientific and technological progress the contemporary world is witnessing." The function was attended by Prime Minister H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Thani, ministers and dignitaries.

— THE PENINSULA  
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H H Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned being briefed on the new campus of the College of the North Atlantic Qatar (CNA-Q)

## Iran, Russia sign \$1bn defence deal: Report

MOSCOW: Russia plans to sell more than \$1bn worth of tactical surface-to-air missiles and other defence hardware to Iran, media reported yesterday.

Moscow is already at odds with the West over its nuclear ties with Tehran but has sought to use its warm relations with Iran to be recognised as a key mediator between the West and the Islamic Republic.

The *Vedomosti* business daily cited military sources as saying Iran would buy 29 TOR-M1 systems designed to bring down aircraft and guided missiles at low altitudes. The paper, calling it the biggest sale of Russian defence hardware to Iran for about five years, said Moscow and Tehran had already signed the contract.

Interfax news agency separately quoted a source as saying the deal, which would also include modernising Iran's air force and supplying some patrol boats, was worth more than \$1bn. Russia's Defence Ministry declined to comment on the deal. Officials at state arms exporter Rosoboronexport, Russia's state defence supplier, were not available for comment.

The move, likely to irritate Israel and the United States, could strain Moscow's efforts to broker a deal between Iran and European negotiators aimed at breaking a deadlock over Tehran's nuclear programme. Israel in particular is nervous about Iran's military potential after President Mahmoud Ahmadine-

jad said in October that Israel should be "wiped off the map" — comments condemned by Russia at the time.

US Under-Secretary of State Nicholas Burns, visiting Moscow, told Ekho Moskvy radio he had raised the issue of arms sales to Iran with Russia's Foreign Ministry. "For the past 25 years, in our opinion, Iran has supported terrorists in the Middle East, in the United States, and that is why we have very bad relations with them. You can understand why we do not support the sale of weapons to such a country," he said.

Russia is helping Iran build its first nuclear reactor and is preparing to launch it next year.

— REUTERS

## 10 die thre kill

BAGHDAD: Explosions killed 10 marines and more wounded Iraqis today as the operation against the militants continued. The attack occurred in the area of the US military base. The US military said it was the largest attack since the start of the operation. The militants were taking advantage of the chaos in Baghdad to launch their attacks. Some soldiers were taken to the hospital in Ramadi.