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**Charles orders  
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threat** 23



# TAKING THE REINS



His Majesty, the Premier and Crown Prince with members of the new cabinet

**MANAMA:** Bahrain's new cabinet was sworn in last night before His Majesty the King, who urged ministers to help drive the country further forward.

"We assure you that you will find from our side all the support and backing to pave the way to achieving your objectives," he said as he chaired a special cabinet meeting, following the swearing in at Al Safriya Palace.

The King first received Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and

**New cabinet  
is sworn in...**

Crown Prince and BDF Commander-in-Chief Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Then the Premier introduced the new, 23-member cabinet, before being the first to be sworn in and to take the oath, before the King. All the other ministers were then sworn in, led by the two Deputy Premiers, who are Islamic Affairs Minister Shaikh

Abdulla bin Khalid Al Khalifa and Foreign Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

The King then chaired the cabinet meeting, at which he thanked the Premier for his continued honourable services to the country and its people.

Major progress had been made over the years thanks to the Premier's experience and wisdom, said the King.

He stressed his "unlimited confidence" in the new cabinet to carry out all its responsibilities in the continued development of Bahrain and the democratic process.

Freedom vow - Page 3

## Bin Laden praises new terror attacks

**DOHA:** Osama bin Laden hailed the spate of terror attacks in the Arab world and Asia as well as the Moscow hostage-taking, and threatened US allies, in an audio-tape broadcast by Al Jazeera television last night.

"As you assassinate, so will you be (assassinated), and as you bomb so will you likewise be," he said.

He identified the US allies as Britain, France, Italy, Canada,

Germany and Australia". Bin Laden hailed the attacks "on Germans in Tunis, on the French in Karachi, on Australians and Britons in Bali, against the French tanker in Yemen and against the Marines in Fuilaka (Kuwait), as well as the recent hostage-taking in Moscow".

The White House said the voice on the tape will be analysed to determine if it is indeed that of Bin Laden.

## Baghdad defiance 'political theatre'

**BAGHDAD:** Iraq's parliament unanimously rejected yesterday a UN vote culling on Baghdad to disarm, but said a final decision rested with President Saddam Hussein.

Washington branded the vote pure theatre and said it would wait for the decision from Saddam, who has just three days under a UN Security Council deadline to accept the toughly worded resolution or face "serious consequences".

"The Iraqi parliament is

nothing but a rubber stamp for Saddam Hussein," said US President George W Bush.

"There isn't anybody that takes the voice of the Iraqi parliament seriously," US National Security Council spokesman Sean McCormack said. "This is pure theatre."

A war against Iraq could escalate into a nuclear conflict that would kill nearly four million people, according to global health organisation Medact.

GCC call to Iraq - Page 2

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# Cabinet vows to protect freedom



His Majesty at the swearing-in ceremony. Left, the King, the Premier and the Crown Prince receive the new ministers

BAHRAIN'S new cabinet pledged last night to protect the freedom of the nation and the rights of the people.

The vow came as His Majesty the King chaired a special cabinet meeting after the swearing-in ceremony, at Al Safriya Palace, in the presence of Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince and BDF Commander-in-Chief Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The Premier thanked His Majesty for his trust and confidence in forming the new cabinet, which "we dearly appreciate".

"We pledge to God to continue sincerely in the service of the country and Your Majesty, renewing our pledge to protect the freedom of the nation and to preserve the people's rights and interests, within the framework of the principles contained in the constitution," the Premier told the King.

"Your highly appreciated confidence and what we all feel of your keenness in supporting this cabinet with your noble directives, is the



PRIME Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received a cable of congratulations from Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, marking the formation of the new cabinet. The Sultan expressed best wishes to the Premier, wishing him and the government every success.

Top and above, the Prime Minister takes the oath of office before His Majesty the King

biggest incentive to us." The cabinet pledge to work hard to push forward the country's political, economic and social development, he said.

The King, Premier and Shaikh Salman each received similar cables of thanks from all the ministers, for the trust being placed in them.



His Majesty is introduced to the new cabinet members

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