

'Create nuke free zone in Middle East'

Manama

A top Bahraini official yesterday called for creating a zone free of nuclear and mass destruction weapons in the Middle East.

This came as Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Daij Al Khalifa participated in the 22nd Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention in Hague.

"All countries should join the conventions and treaties related to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and should remain committed to them," Dr Shaikha Rana told the conference which began on 27 November.

She told the conference participants that the destruction of chemical weapons by the Russian



Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Daij Al Khalifa

Federation was a move in the right direction and urged the remaining member states to follow suit.

Earlier, Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, who inaugurated the conference stressed that the international community still faces the problem of the continued and systematic use of chemical weapons,

noting the need of chemical weapons users to shoulder their responsibilities for the benefit of all state parties to the convention.

The conference also discussed the progress made in the clearance of declared chemical weapons stockpiles.

Headed this year by Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki from Morocco, the conference will continue until December 1.

Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs Dep. Chairman gets top honour

Cairo

Egyptian President Abdelfattah El-Sisi bestowed on Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Khalifa, the Order of the Republic for Sciences and Arts-First Class in tribute for his role in serving religious and cultural issues and backing co-existence, moderation and peace.

The honour was conferred on Shaikh Abdulrahman during the annual celebration marking the birthday of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) which was patronised by the Egyptian President at Al-Azhar Conference Centre.

The ceremony was held in the presence of Acting Prime Minister Dr. Mustafa Madbouli, Al-Azhar Al Sharif Grand Imam Sheikh Dr.



Egyptian President during the honouring ceremony

Ahmed Al-Tayyeb, Mufti of the Republic Dr. Shawqi Allam, Endowments Minister and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammed Mokhtar Juma'a, ministers, ambassadors of Arab and Islamic countries and scholars from the Endowments and Al-Azhar.

Shaikh Abdulrahman expressed thanks and

appreciation to the Egyptian President for the honour which is considered as a tribute to Bahrain, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He lauded deep-rooted historic relations between Bahrain and Egypt, stressing the pivotal role of Egypt in serving Arab and Islamic issues.

Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis Conference

Manama

The first regional Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) Conference will be held at the Princess Al Jawhara Center on Friday featuring 17 participants representing countries including Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Oman and the UK.

To be held under the

patronage of Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Health in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the event will bring together Gulf experts who will showcase their experiences in the field of Reproductive Medicine and its latest technologies.

Dr Musallam bin Said

Al-Araimi, Head of Clinical Genetics and Counselling Department at the National Genetic Centre at the Royal Hospital of Oman, will present two papers. Dr Al-Araimi will address the case of a rare genetic disorder which was diagnosed in an Omani child by identifying a specific gene defect for the first time in the Sultanate.

Bahrain US Relations

