

# Caring for children with autism

## His Highness Shaikh Khalid visits Dana Centre

Manama

**H**is Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al-Khalifa yesterday stressed Bahrain's commitment to providing permanent treatment and appropriate learning environment to all individuals in the community "especially kids with autism and learning difficulties."

This came as the First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Athletics Association, Honourary President of Bahrain Challengers Sports Federation visited Dana Centre for special education as part of World Autism Day activities.

His Highness attended the classes at the centre with kids as he was briefed by the officials about the programmes offered by the centre using modern teaching methods.

Confirming Bahrain's efforts in this regard, Shaikh Khalid highlighted His Majesty the King's instruction to continue projects to provide the kids appropriate treatment and space.

His Highness appreciated the efforts of the centre and wished them more successes in their endeavours.



# US blames Syria for delaying inspectors

**They are trying to clean up the evidence, says US Defence Secretary**

**U**S Defence Secretary Jim Mattis said on Wednesday that the Syrian government was responsible for delays in inspectors reaching sites of a suspected chemical weapons attack, a strategy they had used in the past.

"We are very much aware

of the delay that the regime imposed on that delegation but we are also very much aware of how they have operated in the past and seal what they have done using chemical weapons," Mattis said before the start of a meeting with his counterpart from Qatar.

"In other words, using the pause after a strike like that to try to clean up the evidence before the investigation team gets in. So it's unfortunate they were delayed," Mattis added.

Mattis had pushed back against a report on Wednesday saying he had unsuccessfully

urged President Donald Trump to seek congressional approval ahead of last week's air strikes in Syria.

Citing anonymous military and administration officials, the New York Times said Mattis had recommended Trump get a green light from lawmakers

before launching Friday's cruise missile barrage against three targets the Pentagon said were tied to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's chemical weapons program. "I have no idea where that story came from," Mattis told reporters.

"I found nothing in it that I

could recall from my own last week's activities." Chemical weapons inspectors are waiting to go into Douma, near Damascus, to probe allegations of a chemical gas attack on April 7 that prompted last week's US-led response. (Al Arabiya)