

# Court renews detention of 14 terrorist cell members

Cell formed by Iran to carry out terrorist activities across the Kingdom

● The court files reveal that the cell was formed by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard with an aim to bring many terrorist organisations under one umbrella.

● The cell members were allegedly in possession of about 42kg of high explosive C4 and TNT, more than 757kg of urea nitrate, Kalashnikovs, pistols, bullets and a number of magnetic and manual bombs.

TDT|Manama  
Ali Tarif

**F**ourteen accused of being part of an Iran-linked terror organisation have had their detention renewed by 30 days.

The suspects were among the 115 accused of running the terror cell dismantled in an extensive operation carried out by in cooperation by various security agencies of the Kingdom.

According to the Interior Ministry, the special operation succeeded in thwarting a number of terror acts along with the arrest of 115 suspects.

The roles of the suspects in the terror group ranged from planning and co-ordinating attacks, manufacturing and transporting explosive devices to rioting at various places across the

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**The cell wanted to target police officers and police patrols as well as other important oil and vital locations in a bid to hit the Kingdom's security and economy.**

PROSECUTORS

to bring many terrorist organisations under one umbrella.

It is believed that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard had been financing and providing training to the members of the organisation apart from supplying weapons and explosives.

The cell wanted to target police officers and police patrols as well as other important oil and vital locations in a bid to hit the Kingdom's security and economy, Prosecutors say.

The cell members were allegedly in possession of about 42 kg of high explosive C4 and TNT, more than 757 kg of urea nitrate, Kalashnikovs, pistols, bullets, a number of magnetic and manual bombs, a number of anti-personnel and armored vehicles shells and mortar shells as well as other deadly devices.

Kingdom, the ministry had said.

The court files reveal that the cell was formed by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard with an aim

Decision-making delay over pension reforms rapped

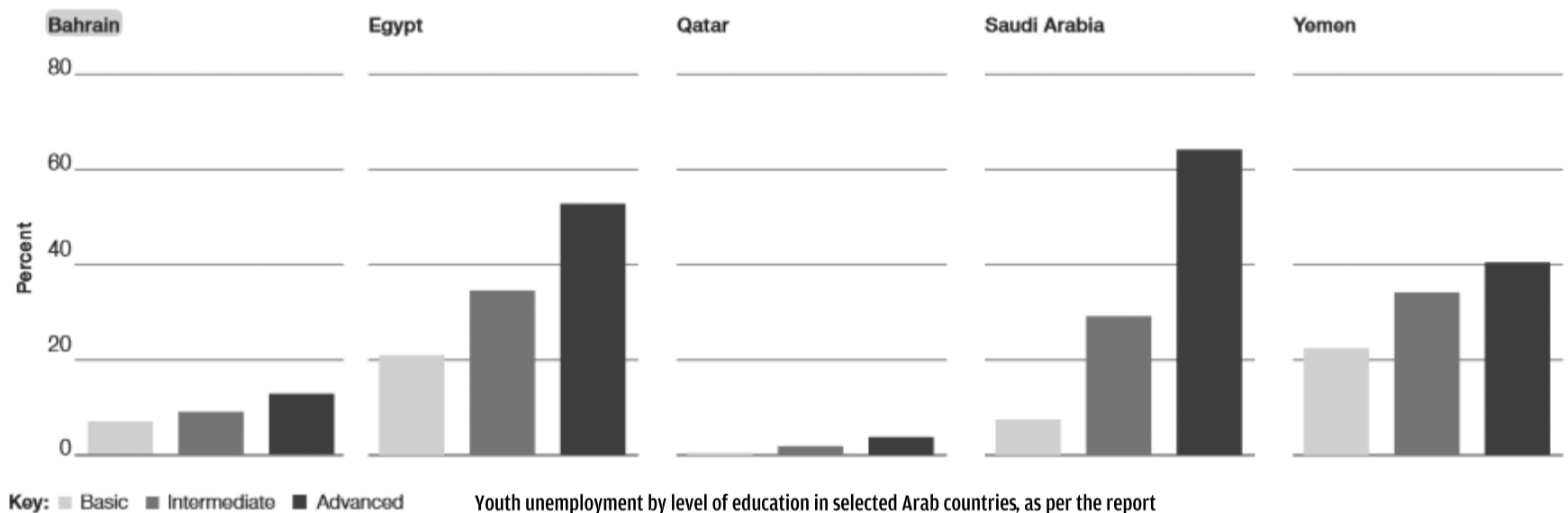
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**A delay in making decisions would badly affect the citizens, especially people belonging to lower-income groups.**

MR FAKHRO

## Business healthy ecosystem study offers high ranking for Kingdom



TDT|Manama

**D**elay in making decisions and devising plans with regard to pension reforms in the Kingdom will affect citizens very badly, opined Shura Council First Deputy Head Jamal Fakhro.

In a statement to our sister paper Al Ayam, he denied that the Shura Council team taking part in the talks to reform pensions asked the parliament team to reconsider their views to reach a solution.

“What we need is a speedy decision-making process. We don't have much time and need to respond to the government's proposals. This is not a personal work but a formal work and we need to act on time.”

He said the team of parliamentarians hasn't put forward any proposals and time is running out.

“A delay in making decisions would badly affect the citizens, especially people belonging to lower-income groups and we should not allow this to happen.”

TDT|Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

**B**ahrain's healthy business ecosystem has received a high ranking in a recently released study.

Compiled by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Economic Forum and the World Bank. The study ranked Bahrain as the fourth best in the Middle East region.

This is according to Arab Competitiveness Report 2018, which analysed countries based on components such as startups' skills, technology use, cultural support, risk acceptance, innovation and human capital.

Apart from the Arab Competitiveness Report, Global Competitiveness Report was also released which ranked Bahrain 44th. In the Arab region, the UAE was ranked first (17th world wide), while Qatar came second (25th globally) followed by Saudi Arabia (30th globally) and Oman (62nd globally).

“Bahrain ranks 44th overall. The country presents a favorable business environment with a good institutional framework (23rd) and modern infrastructures (33rd). Its macro-economic environment (108th, with a large fiscal deficit) is one of its main weaknesses, together with its small market size (90th globally) and the smallest in the region, which is only partially balanced by its openness to international markets,” the study said.

“Technological readiness is the area where the country has improved the most

since 2007, closing the gap with respect to OECD countries. Innovation and higher education and training have also improved significantly and Bahrain has reduced its distance from the most advanced economies globally.

“On the other hand, the situation has deteriorated in terms of financial market development and macroeconomic environment, in line with most other countries in the region,” the report added.

The report praised the initiatives taken by Bahrain such as the Flexi Permit. “In recent years many governments have been implementing additional restrictions on

foreign workers in the form of increased visa fees, larger quotas for nationals, and outright bans in some sectors.

“The two-year flexible work permit (Flexi Permit) implemented by Bahrain represents a positive exception and a step in the right direction. The scheme allows, under certain conditions, expatriates to reside and work in the country for a renewable period of two years without a sponsor; they are thus able to choose one or multiple employers,” the report stated.

Ausamah Al Absi, the Chief Executive Officer of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority said that Flexi Permit empowers

the worker, gives flexibility to the market, “and addresses all the historic shortcomings of a legacy system that has outlived its economic and social relevance in the age of Uber”.

In a joint statement, Børge Brende President, World Economic Forum and Philippe Le Houérou stated that the Arab world is at a critical juncture. “Ambitious economic and social reforms bring great economic promise to the region and at the same time we continue to see fragility and persisting inequalities that can potentially erode social cohesion.

“Within a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape, the world is moving from a unipolar system of governance toward a multipolar and multi-conceptual order grounded in competing sets of values and precarious friction points.

“In this context, much of the hope in the region rests on the imperative of constructing a social contract between the population and the state that is based on a more competitive and open economy, with a dynamic and entrepreneurial private sector offering employment prospects for the region's youth.

“The swiftly spreading Fourth Industrial Revolution—a dramatic change that involves a range of new technologies that are fusing the physical, digital, and biological worlds, impacting all disciplines, economies, and industries—provides new opportunities that can support growth.

“In this context, entrepreneurship and diversification will be key to enabling Arab societies to thrive and prosper in the coming decades,” they said.

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**Flexi Permit empowers the worker, gives flexibility to the market, “and addresses all historic shortcomings.**

MR AL ABSI

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**Entrepreneurship and diversification will be the key to enable Arab societies to thrive and prosper in the future.**

MR BRENDE