

## UK police formally identify 39 bodies found in truck last month



Police move the lorry container where bodies were discovered, in Grays, Essex, Britain  
**Reuters** | London

British police said yesterday they had formally identified the 39 people found dead in the back of a truck near London in October and their families had been notified.

"This is an important step in the investigation and enables us to work with our Vietnamese police colleagues to support the families of those victims," the senior officer in charge of the enquiry, Essex Assistant Chief Constable Tim Smith, said.

## Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan to try to resolve dam dispute by Jan 15

**Reuters** | Washington

The foreign ministers of Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan agreed to work toward resolving their dispute over the filling and operation of a massive dam project in Ethiopia by Jan. 15, 2020, the US Treasury said.

In a joint statement released after US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin hosted talks to work out differences over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, the ministers said they would attend further meetings in Washington on Dec. 9 and Jan. 13 to assess progress in their negotiations.



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## Bolstering ties



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, on a visit to Egypt, is being seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday. HM, the King will hold talks with the Egyptian President, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, on long-standing bilateral relations and ways to bolster cooperation in various fields. The two leaders will also discuss the latest regional and global developments.

# Iran fuels tensions

Tehran resumes uranium enrichment at Fordow plant in a new stepback from the 2015 nuclear deal

● **Resumption of enrichment is Iran's fourth move away from the deal.**

Tehran

Iran resumed uranium enrichment at its underground Fordow plant south of Tehran yesterday in a new step back from its commitments under a landmark 2015 nuclear deal.

Engineers began feeding uranium hexafluoride gas into the plant's mothballed enrichment centrifuges in "the first minutes of Thursday", the Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation said.

The suspension of uranium enrichment at the long secret plant was one of the restrictions Iran had agreed to on its nuclear programme in return for the lifting of UN sanctions.

Iran's announcement that it would resume enrichment at the Fordow plant from midnight (2030 GMT Wednesday) had drawn a chorus of concern from the remaining parties to the troubled agreement.

Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia have been



Under the 2015 deal, Iran agreed to suspend enrichment at Fordow although the centrifuges used for the process remained in place

trying to salvage the deal since Washington reimposed crippling sanctions.

The resumption of enrichment at Fordow is Iran's fourth move away from the deal.

Uranium enrichment is the sensitive process that produces fuel for nuclear power plants but also, in highly extended form, the fissile core for a warhead.

A source close to the UN watchdog said that it has inspectors on the ground in Fordow and would report "very rapidly" on the steps taken by

Iran. French President Emmanuel Macron said Iran had made "grave" decisions and its resumption of uranium enrichment was a "profound change" from Tehran's previous position.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said Britain remained committed to a negotiated way forward but demanded that Iran abide by its obligations.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Iran must roll back its decision to resume uranium enrichment, calling Tehran's action "unacceptable".

## BDF commander opens IMSC command centre



BDF Commander-in-Chief during the inauguration of IMSC centre  
**TDT** | Manama

Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief yesterday inaugurated a command centre for the US-led naval coalition, established in response to a series of attacks on oil tankers, within the US Naval Support Activity.

The facility, International Maritime Security centre, is equipped with modern and advanced systems to support the coalition known as International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC) at warding off any perceived threat to the world's oil supply.

The attacks heightened the risk of disruption to Gulf oil exports shipped through the Strait of Hormuz.

Field Marshall Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa said Bahrain and the United States would continue to intensify efforts to ensure regional stability and security.

"The BDF is continuing its coordination between the two friendly countries at various levels, especially concerning military coordination and defence cooperation," he added.

Shaikh Khalifa praised the "efficient role" of US Naval Support Activity in carrying out various "major and significant" maritime missions.

Vice Admiral James Malloy, commander of US Naval Forces in the Middle East, said Operation Sentinel is a defensive measure aimed at protecting Gulf waters.

"While Sentinel's operational design is threat-based, it does not threaten," he said during a ceremony at the IMSC's command centre.

"We employ capable warships on patrol, but there is no offensive line of effort in this construct, other than a commitment to defend each other if attacked.

"Our commitment to the region isn't short-lived, it is enduring, and we will operate as part of Sentinel for as long as it's needed -- as long as the threat looms."

Defence Minister General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi and Naval Captain Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa were present.

Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Shaikh Sultan bin Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the US Ambassador to Bahrain Justin Hicks Siberell, Lieutenant General Fahad bin Abdullah Al Ghufaili, commander of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces, BDF senior officers and officers from the GCC unified Maritime Operations Centre were also present at the inauguration.

## Shelling out

## Japan crab fetches record \$46,000 at auction

Tokyo

A Japanese bidder may be feeling the pinch after forking out \$46,000 at auction for a snow crab -- a price that "probably set a new world record", local officials said yesterday.

The winter seafood delicacy is in season from this week in the western Tottori region, where the crustacean was snapped up for a final price of five million yen.

"I was surprised it went for such a high price," local government official Shota Inamoto said of the crab that weighed in at 1.2 kilogrammes (2.6 pounds) and measured 14.6 centimetres (5.7 inches) across.

According to Inamoto, the price exceeded last year's record price of two million yen,



The crab beat the record last year

which was registered at the time in the Guinness World Records for most expensive crab.

"The crab this year beat the record price last year, so we believe this is probably the most expensive crab in the world," he said, adding the government will consider applying for Guinness certification again.

The crab was purchased by a local retailer.