

WORLD  
world

**Malaysia, Singapore tensions flare after boat collision**  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A Malaysian government vessel has collided with a ship in waters disputed by Singapore and Malaysia, sparking a fresh flare-up of maritime tensions on Sunday between the neighbours.

Malaysian authorities impounded the Greek-flagged bulk carrier, the Pireas, and detained its crew after the collision Saturday with the Malaysian boat Polaris.

The neighbours have had testy relations since Malaysia evicted the island from the Malaysian Federation in 1965, ending a brief and stormy union of the former British colonies.

Ties have gone up and down over the years but have been shaky since Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad -- who has long had a prickly relationship with Singapore -- returned to the premiership with a shock election victory last year.

Maritime tensions began rising late last year when Singapore accused Malaysia of extending its claims in the strait that separates the neighbours into what had long been accepted as the city-state's territorial waters.

## Yemeni conjoined twins die in Sanaa



A doctor cares for conjoined twin boys, Abdelkhaleq and Abdelkarim (file)

Reuters | Dubai

Newborn Yemeni conjoined twins whose plight sparked a plea for urgent medical treatment overseas died in Sanaa Saturday.

Abdelkhaleq and Abdelrahim were born outside Sanaa around two weeks ago and shared a kidney and a pair of legs but had separate hearts

and lungs.

The head of paediatrics at Sanaa's Al-Thawra hospital, Dr Faisal al-Babili, said his department lacked the facilities to treat or separate the newborn boys and appealed on Wednesday for help from abroad.

Late on Wednesday, the head of Saudi Arabia's King Salman Aid and Relief Centre, Abdullah al-Rabeeah, said he had a team that was prepared to treat them.

Health services have collapsed as the conflict has ground on and most hospitals are not equipped to provide specialist treatment for rare conditions.

Bringing patients out for treatment poses enormous logistical challenges.

The government accuses the rebels of smuggling arms through the airport and Hodeida -- a rebel-held port city.

## Prince Philip, 97, gives up licence after car crash

London, United Kingdom

Queen Elizabeth II's 97-year-old husband Prince Philip on Saturday surrendered his driving licence after causing a car crash that outraged the media and stirred a debate about old age and driving.

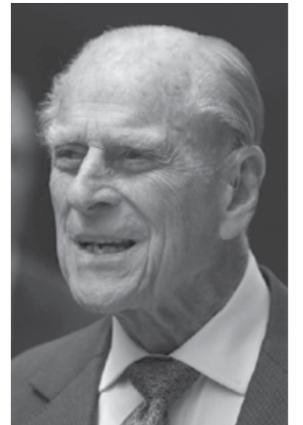
Buckingham Palace said Philip -- formally known as the Duke of Edinburgh -- took the decision on his own after rolling over his Land Rover last month.

"After careful consideration the Duke of Edinburgh has taken the decision to voluntarily surrender his driving licence," Buckingham Palace said in a brief statement.

Police in the eastern part of England where the accident happened outside a royal residence said they had passed Philip's file to prosecutors to determine whether anyone should be charged.

"Norfolk Police can confirm that the 97-year-old driver of the Land Rover involved in the collision at Sandringham ... voluntarily surrendered his licence to officers," said a police statement.

"The investigation file for the collision has been passed to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for their consideration."



Prince Philip

A CPS spokesman said the service "will take this development into account" as it studies Philip's case.

Few royal watchers seriously expect the duke to be punished by the police.

A witness told British media that Philip had emerged unharmed but "shocked and shaken" from the collision with the much smaller Kia hatchback.

Police said a nine-month-old baby in the back seat of Kia was uninjured. One woman in the vehicle broke her wrist and the other cut her knee.

## Mother and child die in French fire

Lyon, France

A woman and a child were killed in a fire in the eastern city of Lyon believed to have been sparked by a gas blast in a bakery, authorities said.

The fire comes days after 10 people were killed in a blaze at a Paris apartment building and a month after a massive gas explosion in the centre of the capital that left four dead in a building that also housed a bakery. The Lyon fire broke out Saturday night after the blast in the bakery on the ground floor of the two-storey building.

"Two bodies were found, that of a woman and a child," Lyon's public prosecutor Nicolas Jaquet said, adding that police were investigating the cause of the blaze.

Witnesses told AFP that a man who suffered minor injuries after jumping from the second floor told the fire service that



Firefighters climb a fire ladder to extinguish a fire caused by an explosion in a bakery in the rue de Vienne, in the south of Lyon

his pregnant wife and child were still inside. Three passersby were also slightly hurt.

"Blue flames several metres high rose up from the bakery and engulfed the upper floors," Chahine Reghi, a man living across the street, said.

Tuesday's inferno in Paris was started by a resident with psychological problems, investigators said. The suspect, who is in her 40s, has been charged over the fire, which was the deadliest in the city in over a decade.

## Turkey building collapse toll rises to 21

Istanbul, Turkey

The death toll from the collapse of an apartment building in Istanbul rose to 21 Saturday, as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said authorities have "lessons to learn" from the incident.

The eight-storey block in the Kartal district on the Asian side of the city collapsed on Wednesday but the cause is not yet clear.

Erdogan, visiting the site Sat-



Rescuers work at the site of a building that collapsed in Istanbul's Kartal

urday, said: "We have a great number of lessons to learn from this. We will take the necessary measures."

Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu, meanwhile, told reporters that the toll from the building collapse had risen to 21 dead and 14 injured.

"We estimate that there were 35 people trapped under the rubble and we have now accounted for 35," he said while stressing that search operations would continue as before.

## Louvre Abu Dhabi introduces Rembrandt and Vermeer



The Louvre Abu Dhabi, the first museum to carry the famed name outside of France, announced Sunday it would roll out works by Dutch masters Rembrandt and Vermeer this month.

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

The Louvre Abu Dhabi, the first museum to carry the famed name outside of France, announced yesterday it will roll out works by Dutch masters Rembrandt and Vermeer this month. Works by the two artists are part of the gallery's first exhibition this year, entitled "Rembrandt, Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age: Masterpieces from The Leiden collection and the Musee du Louvre".

The exhibit, on display in the

United Arab Emirates capital from February 14 to May 18, is dedicated to the famed "fijnschilders" -- fine painters -- of the Netherlands.

"Rembrandt is a master of the Golden Age," museum head Manuel Rabate said.

"He's a universal genius, he's connected to the world."

The exhibition features 95 works, including Vermeer's "Young Woman Seated at a Virginal" alongside Rembrandt's "Portrait of a Man" and "Study of the Head and Clasped Hands of a Young Man as Christ in Prayer".

The museum has also acquired Rembrandt's "Head of a young man, with clasped hands: Study of the figure of Christ" as part of its permanent collection.

The Louvre Abu Dhabi was inaugurated with great pomp in November 2017 -- nearly five years behind schedule -- by French President Emmanuel Macron and Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

The museum has reportedly cost the UAE around \$1 billion, including upwards of \$500 million to use France's "Louvre" brand.