Robert the Bruce of Scotland defeats King Edward II of England at Byland, forcing Edward to accept Scotland's independence

George Eastman patents paper-strip photographic film

Nazi Germany announces its withdrawal from the League of Nations



Reagan proclaims a war on drugs

m Accords will stinian issue



cisely how Washington aimed to use the normalisation agreements as a tool to make progress on the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

"Biden administration has started out with a clear commitment to the two-state solution. We continue on with that commitment. We seek to advance as we can, when we can, as best we can," one of the US officials said.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, a nationalist atop a cross-partisan coalition, opposes Palestinian statehood.

Turkey, Ankara said.

The three countries will also

be setting up two new working groups at the meeting, US officials said, with one group focusing on religious coexistence and the other on water and energy

"These working groups will seek to realise that promise to link up to important US partners in the region and find new ways to solve old problems together, in Israel and the UAE but also across the region," one of the US officials



The leaders of Israel, the UAE and Bahrain signed the Abraham Accords at the White House last September. The following month, Israel and Sudan announced they would normalize relations, and Morocco established diplomatic ties with Israel in December, after US President Joe Biden defeated his predecessor Donald Trump in the election.

Tension over Beirut blast probe nudges Lebanon into new crisis

Reuters | Beirut

▼rowing tension over a judicial probe into last year's Beirut port blast threatens to push Lebanon into yet another political crisis, testing Prime Minister Najib Mikati's new government as it struggles to dig the country out of economic collapse.

More than a year since the explosion ripped through Beirut, killing more than 200 people, Judge Tarek Bitar's efforts to hold senior officials to account for suspected negligence are facing mounting political pushback.Ministers aligned with the politicians Bitar has sought to question were expected to press the demand for his removal at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, after the subject disrupted a stormy session on Tuesday.

But the session was postponed until a framework as to how best to tackle the row over Bitar would be agreed, an official source told Reuters.

It is a big distraction that risks undermining Mikati, who took than a year of squabbling over cabinet seats as Lebanon sank deeper into one of the world's picking on certain people. worst economic depressions,



A view shows the grain silo that was damaged during last year's Beirut port blast, during sunset in Beirut, Lebanon,

U.S. State Department spokes- were open for political escaperson Ned Price on Tuesday accused Hezbollah of threatening Lebanon's judiciary, and being more concerned with its own and Iran's interests than with those of the Lebanese people.

office last month after more has called for Bitar to be re-civil strife". placed, accusing him of conducting a politicised probe Lebanon could not bear the loss

analysts say. The row has also Bitar has sought to question, February when a court acceptunderlined the major sway of former finance minister Ali ed a complaint questioning his the heavily armed, Iran-backed Hassan Khalil, said all options impartiality.

lation when asked during an interview on Tuesday whether some ministers could quit.

Khalil is the right-hand man of Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri - the most senior Shi'ite in the state - and a close Hezbollah ally. Khalil told al-Mayadeen TV the path of the probe threat-Shi'ite group Hezbollah, which ened to push Lebanon "towards

Mikati has previously said of a second judge after the first The most senior politician investigator was removed in





¬anada is welcoming 40,000 refugees and we're urging others to step up their support to safely resettle refugees, too. More on Canada's response and the steps we're taking to support people in Afghanistan here: http://bit. ly/3DyRv65

@JustinTrudeau

02



Educating girls doesn't just improve lives, it transforms societies. The UK is a leading supporter of girls' education and I will always campaign to give every girl around the world 12 years of quality education.

@BorisJohnson



Many refugees and displaced people flee from unspeakable violence. This can leave deep scars — not only on their bodies but also on their soul and minds. This is why it is vital that they receive professional psychosocial care.

@FilippoGrandi



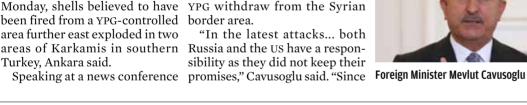
ver a million species of plants & animals are at risk of extinction. We must urgently reverse this destruction & build the world we want. #COP15 is our chance to call a ceasefire in our war

@antonioguterres



on nature.

Countries call for urgent action on biodiversity with 'Kunming Declaration'



guided missile attack on Sunday in Ankara, Cavusoglu said the launched by the YPG, which Tur- United States and Russia had not key says is a terrorist group. On kept their promises to ensure the

area further east exploded in two



at is necessary" after attacks by Syrian Kurdish YPG militia

they are not keeping their prom- has been infuriated by the U.S. ises, we will do what is necessary for our security," he said.

Turkey controls swathes of territory in north Syria with allied Moscow and Washington in 2019, Syrian rebels, after carrying out Turkey halted its offensive in three separate cross-border of- northeast Syria in exchange for fensive into the region against the withdrawal of YPG militants Islamic State and the YPG. Ankara 30 km south of its border.

support for the YPG and demands its NATO ally ceases its backing.

In separate agreements with

In a previous agreement

signed in Aichi, Japan, in 2010,

governments agreed on 20 tar-

gets to try to slow biodiversi-

ty loss and protect habitats by

2020, but none of those targets

nature is a call by the United

Nations for countries to protect

and conserve 30% of their terri-

tory by 2030 - a target known as

'30 by 30,' which the conference

acknowledged though it was

not clear to what extent host

A first draft of the declara-

China backed it.

At the heart of efforts to save

life for murdering



covered at her parents' house, the 28-year-old husband obtained a cobra from a snake handler and threw it at his sleeping wife.

Its poisonous bite killed the 25-vear-old woman.

police said his phone records after the death. showed he was in touch with snake handlers and had watched snake videos on the internet before the killing in March last year

went about his morning routine murder.

the next day when alerted by the woman's mother, said prosecu-

"The mode of execution and the diabolic plan of the accused to murder Uthra, his wife who was bedridden, makes it (the case) fall into the category of rarest of rare," said the public prosecutor, who had sought the death penalty.

Snake handler Vava Suresh said it was possible that Sooraj had "inflicted pain on the reptile to provoke it to bite", the Hindustan Times newspaper quoted him as saying.

Uthra was from an affluent family but her husband, a bank worker, was not well off.

The dead woman's parents became suspicious after Sooraj tried Sooraj pleaded not guilty but to take control of her property

> Their marriage involved a big dowry including a new car and 500,000 rupees (around \$20,000).

According to media reports, in Kollam in the southern state Sooraj's family was charged with conspiracy after some of Sooraj stayed in the room with Uthra's gold was found buried Uthra after the cobra bit her and near Sooraj's home days after the

Declaration urges countries to take rapid

China's willingness to protect 30% of its land still in question

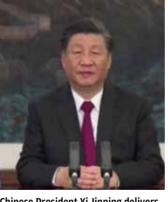
action on species loss

Declaration marred by wrangling over language

Reuters | Kunming, China

Tore than 100 countries More than 100 complete pledged yesterday to put heart of their government decitargets to curb mass extinc-

Chinese Environment Minister Huang Runqiu told delegates to a UN Biodiversity Con-



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech addressing the COP15 biodiversity summit in Kunming

The Kunming Declaration calls for "urgent and integrated sion-making but they stopped the global economy but cruty-friendly supply chains - have sion. been left to discuss later.

for a new pact on saving bio- was retained.

tion, released in August, included political slogans associated the protection of habitats at the action" to reflect biodiversity with Chinese President Xi Jinconsiderations in all sectors of ping, which caused tension and underlined what some critics short of committing to specific cial issues - like funding con- said was China's inexperience servation in poorer countries in shepherding international and committing to biodiversi- agreements through to conclu-After feedback from more

With plant and animal spe- than 40 countries, Xi's slogan ference in the city of Kunming cies loss now at the fastest rate "lucid waters and lush mounthat the declaration they adopt- in 10 million years, politicians, tains" was removed from the ed was a document of political scientists and experts have been text, though the Chinese conwill not a binding international trying to lay the groundwork cept of "ecological civilisation"

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)