

**Yavi sets new records with France win**

Bahraini long-distance specialist Winfred Yavi posted new national and Asian indoor records en route to winning the women's 3,000 metres at the Meeting de l'Eure in France.

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Munich Security Conference could present new hope for Libya

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**Libya peace process on 'the track'**

Munich

Progress towards a lasting ceasefire in Libya that would allow full scale talks between the country's warring factions was backed by a 13-nation meeting of the Berlin Conference process yesterday.

In a joint communique issued after the meeting in Munich, the countries, which included the UAE, Europeans, Russia and the US, resolved to take step-by-step measures toward reconciliation, including an inclusive Libyan political forum to be held in Geneva before the end of the month.

**Tremor strikes Iran island**

Tehran

A 5.8-magnitude earthquake hit Iran's Qeshm island, the European Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) reported.

According to the EMSC, the quake occurred at a depth of 47km, reported Sputnik News.

Tremors were felt in parts of UAE as well, posts on social media suggested.



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## Ivanka Trump praises Bahrain for gender equality

Riyadh

Ivanka Trump has commended Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Jordan for its efforts in empowering women by changing laws to respect women's freedom of movement and access to credit and financial services.

Speaking on the first day of the Global Women's Forum, organised by the Dubai Women Establishment, in Dubai yesterday, Trump, adviser to US President Donald Trump, congratulated the Kingdom and four

other countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region for instituting significant reforms over the past two years.

"Progress ultimately builds upon progress," she said.

"Bahrain has introduced legislation to prevent discrimination in the workplace; Jordan eliminated legal restrictions on women's ability to work at night; Morocco expanded women's land rights; and Tunisia introduced critical laws to combat domestic violence.

"We all need to applaud these



**We all need to applaud these achievements and advancements. And yet, we won't grow complacent.**

IVANKA TRUMP

achievements and advancements. And yet, we won't grow complacent because there is still so much more work to be done."

Trump said too many women continue to face obstacles to entering the workforce, starting their own businesses, reaching their full potential and charting their own future.

In the region, on average, women have only half the legal rights of men, yet their economic equality has the potential to add \$600 billion to the global annual GDP by 2025.

She lauded the courage to shatter the barriers of inequality and blaze a new path of opportunity that gives hope to millions.

# Prisoner trade deal

Warring parties in Yemen agree on major prisoner trade

● The statement came after seven days of meetings between the two sides in Jordan's capital.

● The talks were co-chaired by Griffiths' office and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Amman

Yemen's warring sides have agreed to implement a long-delayed and major prisoner swap, the United Nations said yesterday, in a sign that talks to end the disastrous war between the country's internationally recognised government and the Houthi militia could be making progress.

It would be the "first official large-scale" exchange of its kind since the beginning of the conflict, according to the UN.

The prisoner swap deal was seen as a breakthrough during 2018 peace talks in Sweden.

The Iran-backed Houthis and the internationally recognised government agreed then to several confidence-building measures, including a ceasefire in the strategic port city of Hodeidah.

Implementation of the tentative peace plan stumbled amid ongoing military offensives and a deep-seated distrust between the two sides.



Mr Griffiths, centre, attend a new round of talks by Yemen's warring parties on prisoners swap.

**1,400** prisoners including Saudis and Sudanese will be released as part of the deal.

the two sides in Jordan's capital, Amman.

"Today the parties showed us that even with the growing challenges on the ground, the confidence they have been building can still yield positive results," the UN envoy Martin Griffiths said.

The talks were co-chaired by Griffiths' office and the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC.

Griffiths urged both parties to move forward with the agreed-upon prisoner exchange "with the utmost sense of urgency."

He did not elaborate when they would start the exchange.

Franz Rauchenstein, the head of the ICRC in Yemen's capital, Sanaa, welcomed the step as "encouraging."

"Today, despite ongoing clashes, we saw that the parties have found common humanitarian ground that will allow many detainees to return to their loved ones," Rauchenstein said.

The war in Yemen has also spawned the world's worst humanitarian crisis, leaving millions suffering from food and medical shortages. It has killed over 100,000 people, including fighters and civilians, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, which tracks violence reports in Yemen.

Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdel-Salam said they would release 1,400 prisoners including Saudis and Sudanese.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammed Abdullah Al Hadrami said he welcomed the "phased agreement" to release prisoners, in a tweet Sunday.

TRAGIC END

## Student quarantined in Jeddah hospital for virus test commits suicide

Jeddah

An overseas student, studying at a Saudi university, died early yesterday after throwing himself from the window of the quarantine room at King Fahd Hospital in Jeddah.

A statement by the Jeddah Health Department said the student was admitted to the hospital after he was transferred by the Saudi Red Crescent Authority on Friday.

A respiratory virus was suspected based on the symptoms showing on the patient at the time of his admission to the hospital, the statement said.

But it did not explain whether the virus was thought to be coronavirus.



**By the time the negative results were released the patient had already ended his own life.**

HOSPITAL SOURCES

The patient was treated according to medical norms and all precautions were taken. He was quarantined pending the release of laboratory results.

All samples came "negative" of the virus on Saturday morning, but by the time the results were released the patient had already ended his own life, sources said.