

**Beyonce drops lawsuit over 'Feyonce' items**

A lawsuit brought by Beyonce over the sale of "Feyonce" items to engaged couples has been dismissed at the singer's request, court documents showed on Wednesday | P13

THE DAILY **tribuna**



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**Prince Philip unhurt in traffic accident**  
London, United Kingdom

Queen Elizabeth II's 97-year-old husband Prince Philip emerged unscathed after a vehicle he was driving was involved in a traffic accident that injured two people near the monarch's Sandringham Estate yesterday, according to Buckingham Palace and police.

"The Duke of Edinburgh was involved in a road traffic accident with another vehicle this afternoon," a palace spokesman said.

"The Duke was not injured. The accident took place close to the Sandringham Estate. Local police attended the scene."

A palace spokeswoman confirmed to Britain's Press Association that the duke was driving, alongside a passenger in the vehicle, when the accident happened.

The agency said it was likely the duke was traveling with his close protection officer.

Norfolk Police said officers were called to the estate shortly before 3pm (1500 GMT) "following reports of a collision involving two cars".

A spokesman added that ambulance crews also attended and two people in one of the vehicles suffered minor injuries.

**New envoy stresses need for UN-backed solution to Syria war**

Damascus, Syria

The new UN envoy to Syria ended his first visit to the war-torn country yesterday, stressing the need for a UN-brokered political solution to the eight-year conflict.

Geir Pedersen, a seasoned Norwegian diplomat, concluded his three-day visit and headed to the Lebanese capital Beirut, a UN source said.

The new envoy on Twitter late Wednesday said he had a "constructive meeting" with Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem during his stay in Damascus.

During it, he stressed the need for a "Syrian-led and -owned political solution facilitated by the UN", he added.

Pedersen, who started his new job last week, is the fourth UN envoy to seek a solution to Syria's conflict, after endless rounds

of failed UN-brokered peace talks. After Damascus, Pedersen said he was off to meet the Syrian Negotiations Committee, Syria's main opposition group.

But he "agreed to come back to Damascus on a regular basis to discuss commonalities and progress on points of disagreement", he added.

On Tuesday, Muallem expressed Syria's "readiness to cooperate with him... in his mis-

sion to facilitate Syrian-Syrian dialogue with the objective of reaching a political solution to the Syrian crisis", a foreign ministry statement said.

Pedersen takes over from Stefan de Mistura, a Swiss-Italian diplomat who stepped down at the end of last year over "personal reasons".

Officials in the government of President Bashar al-Assad had set the tone for the new envoy's

tenure shortly after his appointment was announced in October.

"Syria will cooperate with the new UN envoy Geir Pedersen provided he avoids the methods of his predecessor," Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal al-Meqdad said.

De Mistura ended his four-year tenure with an abortive push to form a committee tasked with drawing up a post-war constitution.

**15,000 prisoners for swap, talks continue**

Yemen government, Huthis meet to hammer out major prisoner swap

AFP | Amman, Jordan

Yemeni government and rebel representatives met in Jordan yesterday for a second day to thrash out the details of a major prisoner exchange, a UN source said.

The swap, which could involve up to 15,000 detainees from both sides, was agreed in principle as a confidence-building measure ahead of peace talks in Sweden last month.

But the details were left to afterwards as UN mediators focused on brokering breakthrough truce deals for the aid lifeline port of Hodeida and the battleground third city of Ta'ez.

The talks in the Jordanian capital Amman come as inter-

national donors meet in Berlin to set up a fund to support the fledgling peace process in Yemen.

Representatives of the United Nations, which brokered the swap agreement, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, which will supervise its implementation, are taking part in the Amman talks.

During the first day of talks on Wednesday, the warring parties met separately with the mediators and submitted lists of prisoners they want to see released.

On Thursday, they were expected to meet face-to-face to hammer out the details of its implementation.

The new meetings come after the UN Security Council on



Representatives of Huthis and a Yemen government delegation meet in the Jordanian capital Amman

Wednesday unanimously approved the deployment of up to 75 monitors to oversee the truce in Hodeida, which has largely held despite delays in the agreed

withdrawal of combatants.

**International support fund**

In Berlin, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas pledged

4.5 million euros as the opening contribution to the new peace process support fund.

"The important thing right now is to seize this small but real opportunity and work to ensure that international support for the peace process is as constructive and resilient as possible."

The truce in the largely rebel-held Red Sea port city was the centrepiece of a series of breakthrough agreements brokered by the United Nations in Sweden last month.

But in a sign that much work still needs to be done before formal peace negotiations can begin, UN envoy Martin Griffiths said last week that he had postponed until February a planned second round of talks.



**03** Iran aims to destabilise ME, warns Brian Hook

**04** Court jails three over terror offences

**05** Sandstorm engulfs Bahrain

**Awaiting calm**



Syrian children sit in their tent look out at the muddy path at the Cordoba camp for internally displaced Persons (IDP), close to Batabu town, along the highway leading to the Syrian Bab al-Hawa border crossing with Turkey, in the northern Syrian Idlib province. Following heavy rain storms, the camp has become water logged, flooding the tents and making the the roads muddy and difficult to manoeuvre on.

**FUTURISTIC**

**UAE hyperloop to finish initial construction**

Abu Dhabi, UAE

The company building the world's first superfast hyperloop train system in the United Arab Emirates will complete a first phase of its construction next year, a top executive said yesterday.

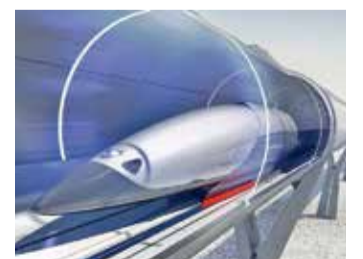
Elon Musk's Hyperloop Transportation Technologies, based in California, plans to build 10 kilometres of a 150-kilometre route linking Abu Dhabi and Dubai next year, company chairman Bibop Gresta told WAM news agency.

Gresta did not give a specific date for the launch but said estimates put the cost at \$3 to \$6 billion.

Last April, Hyperloop signed a memorandum of understanding with Al-Dar Properties, a major real estate firm based in Abu Dhabi, for the construction and operation of the near-supersonic transport link.

The first capsule of the UAE train has now left the assembly facility in Spain to Toulouse, France where it will be tested on a prototype track.

A hyperloop is a shuttle pod



Initial concept designs for Hyperloop Transport Technologies. (Courtesy of PriestmanGoode)

that travels on magnetic rails, somewhat like a train, but which runs in a tube with little or no air.

