

Fashion icon Karl Lagerfeld dead at 85

Iconic fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld, the creative director of luxurious fashion brands Chanel and Fendi, died here on Tuesday. He was 85. An official statement issued on Lagerfeld's official Instagram account confirmed the news of his demise. **P14**

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Saudi King, Putin discuss relations
Riyadh

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud held a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday. Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said that the two leaders reviewed outstanding bilateral relations binding the two countries, in addition to other issues of mutual interest. They also discussed fruitful cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Russian Federation, towards maintaining the stability of oil markets and spurring global economic growth.

EU-Arab summit to focus on ties
Brussels

European Union High Representative Federica Mogherini expressed her optimism that the EU-Arab League summit in Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt at the end of this week will be a success. "The EU Arab summit is a personal achievement. It always looked strange to me that the EU has held summits with Latin America, with Africa, with Asia and not with the Arab world that is our first neighbour," she told reporters ahead of an EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels.



03 Attempt to smuggle drugs from Iran foiled; 11 nabbed

04 MoU set to further boost tourism statistics system

12 AUB profit up 12.7pc



India rolls out red carpet welcome for Saudi Crown Prince

New Delhi

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman arrived in India yesterday for the second stage of his Asia tour. He was greeted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after his plane touched down at Air Force Station Palam in New Delhi at about 9.15 pm local time. The two men hugged warmly on the tarmac and the crown prince was presented with flowers before being driven away. "India is delighted to welcome HRH Mohammed Bin Salman, the



Modi receives Saudi Crown Prince in New Delhi.

India is delighted to welcome HRH Mohammed Bin Salman, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.

MODI

Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia," Modi said on Twitter. The crown prince is expected to announce a \$1 billion investment in India's infrastructure and farming sectors during his first visit to the nation. He is accompanied by leading

Saudi businessmen and officials. India is hoping the crown prince will announce an investment in its National Investment Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), a sovereign wealth fund that includes private companies and foreign investors. The Kingdom is India's top energy supplier and home to more than 3.5 million Indian expatriates. Saudi Arabia's embassy in New Delhi tweeted a collection of Indian citizens welcoming the crown prince to their country for his first state visit.

Hodeidah pullout deal

Yemen government, Houthis to start first phase of pullout from the port city

● The UN statement said the two sides also agreed "in principle" on Phase 2, entailing full redeployment of both parties' forces in Hodeidah province.

● Disagreement on withdrawal had delayed opening humanitarian corridors in Yemen.

New York

Yemen's government and the Houthi militias have agreed on the first stage of a mutual pullout of forces from the port city of Hodeidah, a key entry point for humanitarian aid, the United Nations said. The Iran-aligned Houthi movement and the government



The Houthis occupy Hodeidah, the main entry point for the bulk of Yemen's commercial and aid imports.

agreed in talks in December to withdraw troops by Jan 7 from Hodeidah under a truce accord aimed at averting a full-scale assault on the port and paving the way for negotiations to end the four-year-old war.

"The parties reached an agreement on Phase 1 of the mutual redeployment of forces," the UN spokesman's office said in a statement without giving details on what was agreed. Under Phase 1, the Houthi

would withdraw from the ports of Hodeidah, Saleef, used for grains, and Ras Isa, used for oil.

This would be met by a retreat of Saudi-led coalition forces from the eastern outskirts of Hodeidah, where battles raged before a ceasefire went into effect on Dec 18.

The Houthis occupy Hodeidah, the main entry point for the bulk of Yemen's commercial and aid imports, while Yemeni

government forces loyal to President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi are massed on the outskirts.

The UN statement said the two sides also agreed "in principle" on Phase 2, entailing full redeployment of both parties' forces in Hodeidah province.

Two sources involved in the negotiations said both sides had yet to agree on a withdrawal timeline or on a mechanism for local forces to take over security at the ports and city.

"The UN is still discussing how to reduce the gap between the two sides on how to choose the forces that will control the city," one source told Reuters.

The parties could decide within 7-10 days on where they would reposition forces, said the other source, adding that Houthi fighters could pull back as far as 20 km from the port.

Disagreement on withdrawal had delayed opening humanitarian corridors in Yemen.

23

million people rely on humanitarian aid to survive in Yemen, according to UN.

TECH WOES

Schoolgirl, 15, buys a £90 copying robot to write homework

Beijing

A Chinese student who got away with using a 800 yuan (£90) copying robot to write her homework for her was only caught because her assignment had been done 'too quickly'. The ninth-grader in Harbin, Heilongjiang province surprised her mother after



The 800 yuan copying robot.

completing all her holiday assignments in two days - with perfect handwriting and zero mistakes, according to Chinese reports.

The mother grew suspicious and eventually discovered the machine - a metal frame attached to a pen - in her daughter's room.

The furious mother broke the copy device and scolded her daughter following the discovery, according to Qianjiang Evening News.

The girl admitted to using pocket money received during Chinese New Year to purchase the robot online, the report added.